



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2024

Co-Editors – Terry Oldfield and Sharon Burnette

[TEHCC.org](http://TEHCC.org)

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Hiking with Tools! View from Beauty Spot  
(Photo by Tim Stewart, September 7th)

## TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting, Friday, October 4, 2024

Charles Maynard is an author, storyteller, and United Methodist pastor, involved over the years with Friends of the Smokies, International Storyteller Center (Jonesborough), and United Methodist's Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries. Currently he serves on the pastoral staff at Cokesbury United Methodist Church (Knoxville). Charles will be engaging us about John Muir's walk through Tennessee in 1867 and then his return to the Roan Highlands in the 1880s.

Two special recognitions to be presented during the evening are the Presidential Service Award (for at least 4,000 volunteer hours) to Jim Foster and a 50-Year Golden Award to Jeff Sirola. To thank maintainers of TEHCC's trail section, there are an A.T. vest, a ballcap, and three patches, several America the Beautiful passes, plus club pint glasses.

Dinner is **\$12/person**, which includes the meal, beverages, dessert, and tip. Attending only the program is free. We need a paid headcount to properly size the food order. **Please let Steering Committee Treasurer [Joseph Sengeh](#) know by Tuesday, October 1st, if you plan to attend.** Make checks payable to Joseph and mail to:

Eastman Chemical Company  
200 South Wilcox Dr.  
Building 162, Rm. 132, Attn. Joseph Sengeh  
Kingsport, TN 37660

| Event  | Time              | Details  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Fall Dinner Meeting: October 4, 2024                                   | 5:30 pm           | Eastman Lodge, <a href="#">404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport</a> |
| Happy "Trails" Hour  | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB                    |
| Dinner – Fajita bar, plus tea, lemonade, or water, coffee, and dessert | 6:30pm – 7:15 pm  | Barberitos;<br>Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee   |
| Club Business  | 7:15 pm – 7:30 pm | Update of club activities; ATC Volunteer Awards                  |
| Program: Charles Maynard   | 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm | "Sauntering through Tennessee with John Muir"                    |

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## Letter from the Chair

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Submitted by [Eric Dobbs](#) (2024 Steering Committee Chair)

Happy Fall everyone! With the leaves changing and beginning to carpet the ground, and the sun setting earlier, keeping track of time and the trail, can be trickier; especially on new and unfamiliar trails. As such, it isn't a far cry to assume that many of us can get turned around or lost on a hike, or misjudge times and distances with changes in the landscape. As such, a refresher on what to do if you feel unsure about the trip or if you do get lost is worth a visit.

### Properly Plan

- Make sure others know what you're doing; what you're driving, where you're hiking, who you're with, and when you plan to leave and return.
- Study the trail and associated maps so you know what to expect.
- Bring the right items on the hike to drastically change how a sketchy situation can turn out.
  - More water and food than you think you'll need
  - A compass and map (*know how to use and read them*), maybe a GPS unit as well. Cellphones and GPS can lose signal, so may not be reliable.
  - Flashlight, fire-starting tools, emergency blanket, and extra clothing (socks, jacket, etc.)
  - Proper footwear and clothing

### Pay Attention

- Noting and remembering details of your surroundings while out can not only help you better enjoy the outdoors, it can help keep you oriented and make navigation easier.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and landmarks. e.g. What side of the trail was the stream on going up? Was there a notable rock formation along the way? Was there an overlook where you took a picture? Where was the sun when you were halfway?

### Lost? Remember to S.T.O.P! - Stop, Think, Observe, Plan

- Stop: Stay where you are and remain calm. Panicking is one of the greatest threats to your safety!
- Think: Replay your hike. What landmarks are around? What *should* you be able to see? Don't leave unless you have a surefire reason to move from that spot.
- Observe: Get out your map and compass, and GPS to determine where you are. If you're on a trail, stay on it; even if you don't see a sign or a blaze. Only as a last resort or if you're 100% sure, you can go downhill and/or follow a stream. This can be dangerous and challenging, but can often lead to another trail, road, or populated area.
- Plan: Based on your observations and brainstorming, make a list of plans. Think them through, pick one, and act on it. If you are not VERY confident in your plan, it is better to stay put. If it is nighttime or you're hurt or tired, stay put.

### More Tips

- Fix small problems before they get worse. A hurt leg can rapidly get worse if you keep pushing without attempting to treat it.
- Stop and rest when you are tired.
- Make sure to drink water and eat; dehydration and hunger can make you sick and cloud your judgement.

Hopefully these tips will help you in the unlikely event you get lost on a hike and help ensure you return home from the trail safe and sound. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors, cool temperatures, and fall flowers and have a wonderful fall! Happy trails!

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule).

For additional APEs events and information on APEs/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://www.riverapes.org/events>.

| Date          | Description   | Contact                             | Telephone    |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| September 28  | A.T. Hike: Little Rock Knob, 9 am – 11 am                           | <a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>        | 919-928-4738 |
| October 4     | TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting   | <a href="#">Joseph Sengeh</a>       |              |
| October 5     | A.T. Hike: Roan Mountain, Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, 10 am – 3 pm | <a href="#">Gabriela Brueggeman</a> | 423-440-4773 |
| October 11-14 | ALDHA 42 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Gathering, Abingdon, VA               | <a href="#">See website</a>         |              |
| October 12    | Hiking with Tools! Campbell Hollow Road to Jones Falls              | <a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>         |              |
| October 17    | Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm                             | <a href="#">Eric Dobbs</a>          | 303-915-9208 |
| November 9    | Hiking with Tools! Hampton Blue-Blaze to Laurel Fork Falls          | <a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>         |              |
| November 21   | Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm                             | <a href="#">Eric Dobbs</a>          | 303-915-9208 |

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### **TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Third Thursday of Each Month, Noon to 1:00 pm**

Contact: [Eric Dobbs](#), 303-915-9208

Location: Teleconference

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Teams teleconferencing is used as the committee is spread across the Eastman plant site or working from home. If you want to listen/join in, please contact me.

#### **Johnson City Kayak Roll Practice, Tuesdays, 7:35 – 8:45 pm**

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon, [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), [APEs](#), and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers. Admission to the pool is \$2; rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423-461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility.

#### **Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance, Most Thursdays**

Contact: [Joe Morris](#), 423-571-5201, [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 134-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays. On-the-job training, tools, and protective gear are provided to allow everyone to quickly engage with the trail. Carpooling is available.

#### **Hiking with Tools! Often the Second Saturday of Each Month, March through November**

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#)

Hiking with Tools! is an opportunity to enjoy a day hike on our beautiful section of the A.T. while helping out with some routine maintenance. Typical tasks might include lopping rhododendrons, cleaning water diversions, clearing trail obstructions, painting blazes, etc. All tools will be furnished, and no prior experience is required! All are welcome; so come on out, meet some new hikers and join the fun...and maybe get your hands a little dirty! Email Tim for details and to sign up.

#### **Bays Mountain Park Trail Maintenance, Third Saturday of Each Month, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Contact: [Tony Messina](#), 423-677-6650

This event is family friendly across all of the park trails. We will meet in the mountain-bike parking area by the maintenance shed. Please bring gloves and safety glasses. If the task requires, hardhats and other safety equipment will be provided as necessary.

### Scheduled Events

#### **A.T. Hike: Little Rock Knob, Saturday, September 28, 2024, 9 am – 11 am**

Contact: [Andy Steffan](#), 919-928-4738

Location: Parking at Hughes Gap, 36.136673, -82.141007

Rating: Moderate, 4.4 miles, 780' elevation gain

Join me on a 4 to 4.4 mile out-and-back hike to Little Rock Knob! We will hopefully enjoy beautiful 180-degree views looking west. This hike has an elevation gain of around 780 feet. We might start to see the very beginning of some leaf color change, but no guarantees. Please bring water and snacks. Meet at the Hughes Gap parking area at 9 am. From Johnson City on I-26, it's Exit 32. After a few turns from there, the small parking area will be on the left after ~4.5 miles on Hughes Gap Road.

#### **A.T. Hike: Roan Mountain, Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10 am – 3 pm**

Contact: [Gabriela Brueggeman](#), 423-440-4773

Location: Carvers Gap, NC/TN with carpooling from Johnson City

Rating: Moderate 5-mile in/out hike enjoyed over 3-4 hours with roughly 1,100' elevation gain

Come experience one of the iconic hikes of the region with stunning views. The plan is to meet at 10 am to carpool from Johnson City (parking lot behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-26 Exit 24 at intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street) to minimize the number of vehicles at Carvers Gap, which can be crowded on weekends. The hike begins northbound on the Appalachian Trail through a section of red spruce forest then over Round Bald, through Engine Gap, and over Jane Bald to the spur off to the Grassy Ridge highpoint. Bring water for hydration, lunch, hiking boots or good walking shoes (the footpath is rocky), sun protection, and dress in layers appropriate for the weather as it will be cooler up high.

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## Laurel Fork Shelter Update

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*Submitted by Vic Hasler*

As shared in the September newsletter, the Laurel Fork Shelter was burned to the ground on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. About 600 pounds of metal roofing have been taken to a recycle center. The US Forest Service has since performed an assessment of the rock foundation. The primary conclusion was that the foundation appears to have withstood the August 2024 fire with only minimal direct fire and heat damage. However, the October 2016 incident of a pair of trees falling on the structure caused various cracks in the mortar and stone. These cracks should be repaired to prevent deterioration due to moisture intrusion. Also, the front right corner of the shelter has been undermined and will need to be repaired using local stones.

At the September 23<sup>rd</sup> TEHCC A.T. Committee meeting, including Brandon Church of Cherokee National Forest, it was decided to pursue repair of the shelter. The stone and mortar work can hopefully be completed before winter, while March/April 2025 may be the window for special USFS support to haul in new decking and roofing materials. Funding will be requested in 2025 from the Tennessee Appalachian Trail license plate program ([link for more information](#)).



August 2024



October 2016

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## Camping Closure Notice for Roan High Knob Shelter

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*Submitted by Vic Hasler*

The Roan High Knob shelter is now officially closed for repairs to be pursued in 2025 ([link to USFS alert](#)). The building is shifting on its foundation due to several rotting logs, thus closed for safety reasons until extensive repairs can be made next year. The work to stabilize the structure is underway, but the major rehab effort will likely not start until May due to winter ice and could take through October. **Please stay away from the shelter which has its door bolted shut and first floor removed.**

The USFS closure notice also includes a 60-foot buffer for no camping around the shelter; thus, recommendation for backpackers is to use Ash Gap (roughly two miles south on the A.T.). The Clyde Smith Shelter is about ten miles to the south, while the small Stan Murray Shelter is five miles to the north.



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## Mendota Trail and Abrams Falls – Recent Developments

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*Submitted by William Tindall*

Washington County, Virginia, now owns the Mendota Trail and Abrams Falls, and manages these properties as part of their park system, thus ending a 16-year effort to secure public ownership of this spectacular falls. The hoped-for trail connection between the Mendota Rails-to-Trails and Abrams Falls will not occur any time soon. The County was unable to secure access across a private property that lies between.

The Tindall family has signed an agreement with Washington County to provide access to Abrams Falls from the end of Abrams Falls Road. To shelter all parties from liability, access will remain undeveloped and not maintained. Hikers must secure permission to hike, which can be done by cell phone. Instructions are provided on the sign at the end of the road. The parking area at the end of Abrams Falls Road is owned by VDOT and there are no restrictions to parking there.

For additional information on the [Mendota Trail](#) or [Abrams Falls](#), click on the respective link. Note that many websites regarding Abrams Falls, Virginia (not to be confused with Abrams Falls in Great Smoky Mountains National Park) have not been updated, saying the Falls are on private property.

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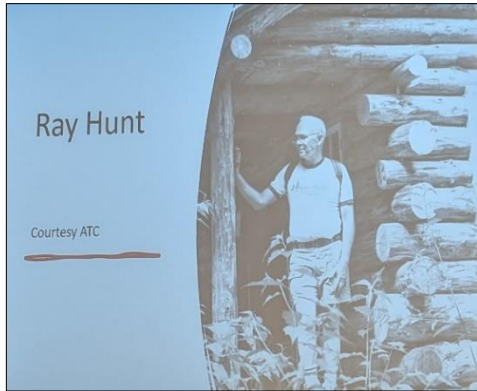
## Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Ceremony

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*Submitted by Vic Hasler*

The 2024 A.T. Hall of Fame class was honored with an induction ceremony on September 21, 2024, at a venue in Carlisle, PA. The group of four included the late Ray Hunt of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club. See our [May 2024 club newsletter](#) for background about his nomination. Bob Peoples accepted the plaque and hiking stick on behalf of Ray.

The Appalachian Trail Museum also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to John “Bodacious” Beaudet for his hand-carved hiking sticks given to each Hall of Fame inductee. A two-time A.T. thru-hiker, Bodacious lives in Flag Pond, Tennessee.



Ray at Roan High Knob shelter!



Bob Peoples



Bodacious

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Travis Ziegler  
Brett McKinnon  
Christian Ayafor

Jill Evert  
Ellie DeGroot  
Isaiah Bowery

John Brooke  
Madison Bird  
Rakshit Amba



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Jon Heidrick

**Date:** 9/2/2024

**Purpose:** Clear summer growth

**Location:** Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E, Buck Mountain ridge line

**People:** Jon Heidrick

**Summary:** I cleared from the top of Buck Mountain down to the old Jeep road with a string trimmer.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/3/2024

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown and weeds

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Scott Huskey, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We cut the weeds on this section; they will be no problem for the rest of the year. We did not find a blowdown tangle that had been reported even though we went a half-mile south of Iron Mountain Shelter. There was another 14" blowdown close to the shelter, but we could have done it with hand saws.



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**Reporting:** Jeff Hatling

**Date:** 9/4/2024

**Purpose:** Cut encroaching vegetation.

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap, Base of Little Hump south along the ridge

**People:** Jeff Hatling

**Summary:** From the base of Little Hump south along the ridge, I weed whacked and cut back vegetation.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 9/5/2024

**Purpose:** Check trail and paint graffiti board

**Location:** Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, removed blowdowns, and picked up trash. At the shelter, I checked the water source and cleaned and painted the graffiti board. It's ready now for southbound hikers or whoever feels artsy.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 9/5/2024

**Purpose:** Transport locust

**Location:** Section 15a, Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Joe Morris, Jayson Vittori, Bill Murdoch, Tony Messina, Jim McGuire, Van Hovey, Tim Stewart, Jeff Hatling, Elzear Lemieux

**Summary:** All the logs required for Roan High Knob Shelter repairs have been moved and staged adjacent to the shelter. The shelter is officially closed.

**Reporting:** Tom Sahlin

**Date:** 9/5/2024

**Purpose:** Remove encroaching vegetation, clear water diversions, and remove trash

**Location:** Section 16b, From Iron Mountain Gap to top of first tallest knob at pinnacle rocks

**People:** Tom Sahlin

**Summary:** From Iron Mountain Gap to the top of the first tallest knob, I kicked out waterbars, removed vegetation falling into the trail, and cut back weeds along the last two-thirds mile which I had not covered in a month. I removed briars as well as stinging nettles close enough to fall into the trail. The section I had not covered was growing together while I was busy on the rest of the trail. It took the most time, but is now clear and hopefully will stay that way until spring. I carried out an old wet trail guide. I saw no hikers, animals, or birds.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 9/7/2024

**Purpose:** Hiking with Tools!

**Location:** Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap, Beauty Spot

**People:** Tim Stewart, Rebecka Powell, Sherri Millard, Kent Gardner, Michael Luedeman

**Summary:** We started off in the rain at Indian Grave Gap. There were plenty of rhodos to contend with close to the trailhead. Since it was raining, we didn't take the battery trimmers, but they would have been useful as we continued up the trail. It stopped raining, but in order to make it to Beauty Spot for lunch, we had to skip ahead. North of the forest service road, much of the trail had been maintained previously. It was very windy on Beauty Spot, but it did clear enough to get some views. On the way back to the trailhead, we continued to lop and use the manual trimmers and swing blades. We found another paper wasp nest, but fortunately we did not disturb it (see photo). It is just North of the road. Despite the rain, it was another good day for trail maintenance. I gave out two patches.



**Reporting:** Tom Sahlin

**Date:** 9/8/2024

**Purpose:** Remove encroaching vegetation, check spring, remove fire ring, kick out water bars, and add signage

**Location:** Section 16b, From Iron Mountain Gap to Apple Orchard

**People:** Tom Sahlin

**Summary:** First, I added a laminated cardstock sign at the trailhead reporting closure of Roan High Knob Shelter. I will redo it if the sun bleaches it out. Then I went up the ridge a quarter-mile to where a campsite on the forest service road just off trail, keeps reappearing. There, I removed a fire ring beside a log and under a dead tree that could fall at any time. This campsite was removed last summer under direction of Greg Ritson, the ATC agent over trail maintenance education. I proceeded up the ridge, then on to the Apple Orchard, clearing blackberry vines, greenbriars, stinging nettles, and White Snakeroot hanging in or close to trail. When I came to the orchard, I chopped weeds on the trail from the top of the orchard to the spring. The spring is running okay at about a half-gallon per minute. From above the spring to the A.T., I chopped many nightshade plants, a very toxic plant covered in needle-sharp briars. I also removed those close to the spring to avoid the toxins getting into the spring water. I spent almost 4 hours in the orchard, which is now cut much shorter and wider than before. I also cut the weeds in two tent spaces under the apple trees and around the fire ring. On the return trip, I removed more blackberry vines and removed more weeds hanging into trail.

**Reporting:** Jeff Hatling

**Date:** 9/9/2024

**Purpose:** Mow the old Red Barn site

**Location:** Section 14b, Old Red Barn site

**People:** Jeff Hatling

**Summary:** I mowed the old Red Barn site. I also checked the spring; it has a good flow. I found no trash.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 9/9/2024

**Purpose:** Replace broken handles on sledges and a Pulaski

**Location:** Personal Wood Shop

**People:** Steve Wilson

**Summary:** This report is a compilation of the work hours spent replacing the broken handles on four sledge hammers and a Pulaskis digging tool that were broken during the club trail work this year. Roughly two hours of labor is required for each handle replacement to remove the broken handle and to shape and attach the new handle to the tool head. It's gratifying to see old tools rejuvenated for continued use.

**Reporting:** Tom Sahlin

**Date:** 9/10/2024

**Purpose:** Remove encroaching vegetation, check for blowdowns, and checked spring

**Location:** Section 16b, From Iron Mountain Gap to downed tree, 1.75 miles from Iron Mtn Gap

**People:** Tom Sahlin

**Summary:** From Iron Mountain Gap to a blowdown (1.75 miles), I removed weeds overhanging the trail except for asters and Roan Mountain Goldenrod. I checked the spring in the orchard which is flowing at about a half-gallon per minute. I then went on to the blowdown, an 8 to 9 inch dead red oak. On the return trip, I attempted to remove all White Snake Root near the trail to prevent hikers from breaking them down or stripping them as they walked by. White Snake Root, also known as milk poison, is very toxic. If hikers get the sap on their hands and happen to touch their eyes or mouth, they could have irritation and burning. I am hoping to prevent the plant from reseeding by removing the flowers. I did not see any other hikers and no animals except for one deer after dark. I heard a few towhees, but none came close when I whistled their call.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

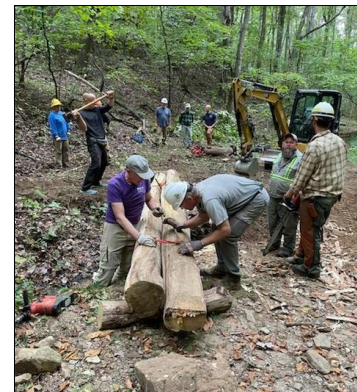
**Date:** 9/12/2024

**Purpose:** Construct bridge and rehab trail

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats, Apple House Shelter site

**People:** Michael Watts, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Jim McGuire, Sheri Millard, Carl Fritz, Benjamin Feliksiak, Bob Peoples, Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Bill Murdoch, Van Hovey, Dave Allen

**Summary:** USFS cleaned out a culvert south of the old Apple House Shelter site. Two new footbridges were started, and water diversions were staked. Up the mountain toward Doll Flats, four steps were installed (two-stone and two-locust) and 90 feet of trail was rehabbed.



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**Reporting:** Scott Huskey

**Date:** 9/12/2024

**Purpose:** Replace fence rail

**Location:** Section 4b, TN 91 handicap parking area

**People:** Scott Huskey

**Summary:** I replaced another fence rail, this one was next to the handicap parking area.

**Reporting:** Joel Zabel

**Date:** 9/14/2024

**Purpose:** Hike, but became maintenance

**Location:** Sections 5, 6, and 7, Between TN 91 and Wilbur Dam Rd

**People:** Yong Li, Adam Bean, Joel Zabel, Ed Brading

**Summary:** The Johnson City Hiking Club had scheduled the 16.2-mile hike between TN 91 and Wilbur Dam Road. When we have done it in the past, due to its length, we have not done maintenance. It's just too long a day for some of our hikers. We didn't plan to do maintenance this time either, but a couple of our members were carrying handsaws in their packs, and they came in handy. If we had known ahead of time that we would do work, we would have informed the TEHCC maintainers for those sections, Greg Kramer and Scotty Bowman, of our plans.

Section 5 from TN 91 to Iron Mtn shelter was clear. But Section 6, from Iron Mtn Shelter onward, distances as follows:

1.0 mile: Cleared three 6" blowdowns

1.3 miles: Cut numerous small and medium branches where two treetops had fallen along the trail. We left one log still across trail because it was not safe to cut with the larger tree resting on it.

1.8 miles: Cut a 4" blowdown

2.0 miles: Left three 8-10 inch trees across the trail. It would have taken a long time to cut through with our small saws and limited crew. This can be crawled over, but it is more than waste-high across the whole trail.

2.3 miles (just south of Turkey Pen Gap): Cut multiple 2-3 inch branches from the trail.

After the above work, the 3 maintainers were falling far behind the rest of the club hikers; so to speed up, we didn't document what we were doing, but focused on clearing things quickly.

From Turkey Pen Gap to Vandeventer Shelter, we did as much work as documented above. We made many cuts up to 8 inches to clear several tree tops causing reroutes. We cut and rolled one 16" tree laying lengthwise on the trail. We left two 16" trunks on the ground that are step-overs/arounds, and several other blowdowns 10" or less that we just didn't have time for. With a Katanaboy (which we were not carrying this time) and more time/crew, we could have got them.

On Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd, only one 5" was found and cleared.

**Reporting:** Scott Huskey

**Date:** 9/18/2024

**Purpose:** Fix gate

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm, Gate next to the "AT" barn

**People:** Scott Huskey

**Summary:** I received a report that subject gate was not closing correctly and cattle were entering the 'forbidden zone.' Using what tools I had on hand, I believe I fixed it, but not as good as it should be. Later, I will return with some material that will allow me to fix it better.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 9/19/2024

**Purpose:** Work on stabilizing shelter

**Location:** Section 15a, Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Joe Morris, Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Jim McGuire, Scott Huskey, Bob Peoples, Sherri Millard, Bill Murdoch, Dean Baird, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, Olga Hunter, Van Hovey, Dave Allen

**Summary:** The Thursday crew started the process of stabilizing the Roan High Knob Shelter, bolting supports to the sides of the shelter. Olga Hunter completed her first TEHCC volunteer day and received the club patch.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Dates:** 9/19 thru 9/21/2024 (3 days)

**Purpose:** Brush trail and remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 6, Vandeventer Shelter/Spring Trail to 4 miles north



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**People:** Scotty Bowman, Michael Lowry, Lindsey Lytle, Kacy Hirschfelt

**Summary:** We hiked in from Wilbur Dam Rd and north to Vandeventer Shelter, on Wednesday September 18 and hiked out Sunday the 22nd. During our time out there, the weather was almost perfect. There were 5 SOBOs, 10 section hikers, and 3 who were finishing in Damascus. As of this date, the spring 3.3 miles north of Wilbur Dam Rd was dry. The Vandeventer spring was flowing slowly. The Iron Mountain Spring and the spring 3.8 miles north of Vandeventer were dry. We brushed out 2.8 miles north of Vandeventer. We also logged out 4 miles north of Vandeventer and the spring trail: 10 trees total with five trees in the 8-14" range and five trees in the 18-24" range. One tree, we cut a step out of rather than cut; it had a severe side bind and would have rolled into the trail. I am still planning to clear the trees between Iron Mountain Shelter and Turkey Pen Gap in the next week or so. Water will be an issue, so to clear those, will most likely be in-and-out days.



**Reporting:** Rick Lott

**Date:** 9/20/2024

**Purpose:** Cut weeds along trail

**Location:** Sections 12d and 13, US 19E trailhead, South 0.25 mile and North one mile

**People:** Rick Lott

**Summary:** I weeded the trail from the US 19E trailhead south approximately 0.25 miles. I still had some fuel left; so I weeded about a mile of the trail north of US 19E until I hit the first bridge on the other side of Bear Branch Rd. The section was reasonably clear except for the areas right by Hwy 19E and Bear Branch Rd. I notified the section adopter that I had done the weeding.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 9/21/2024

**Purpose:** Clear reported blowdowns

**Location:** Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter - Nolichucky River, Chestoa

**People:** Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

**Summary:** I received a report of several blowdowns on the section. I decided to get the ones on Chestoa right away. There were 2 blowdowns: one 8" steppover and one 14" complex about chest high. The rest of the Chestoa section is clear; however several areas are in need of work. Cheers.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 9/23/2024

**Purpose:** Clear reported blowdowns

**Location:** Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to USA raft

**People:** Van Hovey, Peggy Cantrell

**Summary:** We accessed the A.T. via Martins Creek. We checked north 0.25 miles for any issues; none were found. So we proceeded to the shelter. I will return to paint over some wall graffiti and clean the graffiti board. Other than that, the shelter is in good condition. The water source is good. We then started south and encountered multiple trees down in a tangle: oak, maple, and of course rhodies. One hour and twenty minutes later, we had them cleared. (See before and after photos below.) We continued on and cleared another four 8-10" step-overs and a few small stragglers. We had to leave behind a 36-40" oak, as it was too large for the 18" bar and two people. I will address that a bit later, as it is passable. Peggy was a huge help swamping. We met several hikers, both NOBOs and SOBOs. I believe the trail is clear to Indian Grave Gap per info from a SOBO hiker, but ...who knows? It was a rather humid day to be out, but enjoyable just the same. Cheers. (See photos next page)

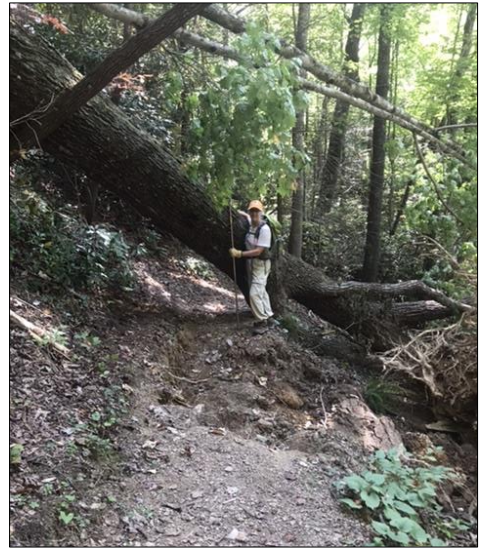
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Before



After



Huge Blowdown