



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2024

tehcc.org

Co-Editors – [Terry Oldfield](#) and [Sharon Burnette](#)

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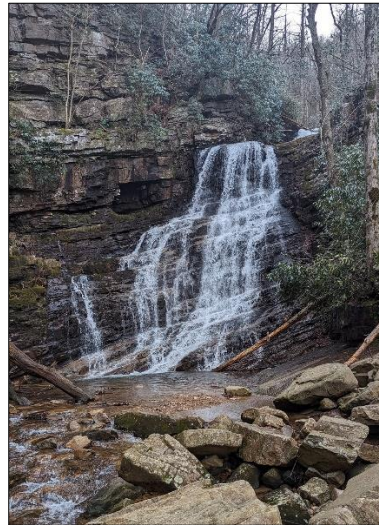
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Margarette Falls

A great hike with many recent trail improvements, thanks to FS and ETTA crew. See [TEHCC Trail Wiki](#).

Photo by
Joe Morris.

Letter from the Chair

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

Hope everyone has had a good beginning to the year and has enjoyed the nice weather as of late. I want to use this article spot for some reminders for this month.

First off, our upcoming Spring Dinner on March 15th. We have a very cool presentation and some delicious food, so please make sure to come check it out and eat some good food and share in some good company.

Secondly, our hiking program will likely be kicking off soon. We encourage anyone with a desire to hike to register as a hike leader and take a group with you! Wildflower season is rapidly approaching, so March and April are wonderful times to get outside and look at the beautiful and interesting flora of our area.

Lastly, we will begin Kayak rentals again starting March 15th! Andy Steffen has an article featured in this edition with more details, so go check it out! With lower water levels on the lakes right now, you might be able to go out and check out areas that will be underwater by summer.

That is all for now, but please email us with any questions, ideas, or concerns in the meantime. I look forward to seeing you all out on the trails this spring!

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TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, March 15, 2024

Make your reservation today! The club would like to invite you to the 2024 TEHCC Spring Dinner.

The Steering Committee decided on Olive Garden catering, which will be **\$10/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 **Monday, March 11**, 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

The club leadership will update attendees on past and upcoming activities; then present recognitions for hiking/maintaining our A.T. section (pint glasses) and Hiker/Paddler/Maintainer of the Year. Also, being shared are ATC's Silver (25-yr) and Gold (50-yr) service plaques. The USFS will hand out service hour strips for 2023.

The program will first review the trail on Holston Mountain where the A.T. used to travel along the ridgeline until the great relocation over to Roan Mountain. The program will then shift to the fate of Southeast Airlines Flight 308, a DC-3 aircraft that crashed into Holston Mountain on the night of January 8, 1959 (65 years ago), while trying to land at Tri City Airport. For a taste of the latter topic, see the [January 2024 Kingsport Times-News story](#).

| Event | Time | Details |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Spring Dinner Meeting, March 15, 2024 | 5:30 pm | Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN |
| Happy "Trails" Hour | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB |
| Dinner – 5-cheese ziti, chicken alfredo, salad, breadsticks, plus tea/water, coffee, and desserts | 6:30 pm - 7:10 pm | Olive Garden Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee |
| Club Business | 7:10 pm - 7:30 pm | - Update of club activities - Awards and recognition |
| <i>Program:</i> Trails on Holston Mtn and the Search for Flight 308 | 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm | Dean Walker (local blogger) |

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule.

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

| Date | Description | Contact | Telephone |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|
| March 9 | Hiking with Tools! Introduction to Trail Maintenance, 9:30 am – 2 pm | Tim Stewart | |
| March 9 | APEs Lower Watauga River Cleanup | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| March 15 | TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm | Joseph Sengeh | |
| March 16 | Hike the TEHCC A.T. – Location TBD | Tim Schaefer | 423-302-0846 |
| March 21 | Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm | Eric Dobbs | 303-915-9208 |
| April 13 | Hiking with Tools! US 421 to Berry Fields, 9:30 am – 2 pm | Tim Stewart | |
| April 13 -14 | APEs Kayaking Fundamentals | Trey Moore | |
| April 18 | Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm | Eric Dobbs | 303-915-9208 |
| April 27 | Garlic Mustard Pull | TBD | |
| April 27 | APEs Boone Lake Cleanup and "Spring Fling" | TBD | |

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Details of Upcoming Events

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

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! 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

Hiking with Tools! - Introduction to Trail Maintenance, Saturday, March 9, 2024, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#)

The first outing for the season will be an 'Introduction to Trail Maintenance'. Inclement weather is frequent in March, so this outing will be at a lower elevation. Plan to meet at Shook Branch Recreation Area on US321 in Hampton, TN at 9:30 am. We'll hike to the former Watauga Lake Shelter site and back while discussing routine maintenance tasks. Regardless of the weather this is an easy hike. Maybe there will be some light snow! Email Tim for details and to sign up.

TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, March 15, 2024

Contact: [Joseph Sengeh](#)

Please let Joseph Sengeh know by **Monday, March 11**, if you plan to attend. [See meeting details above.](#)

Hike the TEHCC A.T., Saturday, March 16, 2024

Contact: [Tim Schaefer](#)

The date is a placeholder. I am thinking of repeating my section hikes of the TEHCC maintained portion of the A.T. The plan is to have enough people and cars so we can "thru hike" each section. If you would like to participate, please contact Tim Schaefer, tim@tehcc.org, so we can begin discussing specific weekends, sections, and plans. For reference you can review [the previous \(non-completed\) 2016 plans](#).

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For the Record

Annual Maintainer's Dinner, Friday, February 16, 2024

Renee Messina reporting

The kickoff meeting for the 2024 A.T. maintenance season was held on Friday, February 16, at the Eastman Lodge. Sixty-one trail maintainers and other individuals interested in helping to care for the Appalachian Trail attended the event. Dinner featured Phil's Dream Pit barbecue with various sides as well as assorted beverages and desserts, including Ed Oliver's famous banana pudding. Following dinner, the program covered topics that included 2023 accomplishments, 2024 major project plans, and discussion of various issues related to TEHCC's trail maintaining responsibilities. In addition, 16 individuals were recognized for having reached milestone volunteer hours during 2023.

Cumulative Hour Award Recipients 2023

50 Career Hours – Jim McGuire, Rick Mulholland

100 Career Hours – Dave Cook, Scott Huskey, Emily Lemieux, Rebecka Powell

250 Career Hours – Saylor Fox, Bill Fuller, Jeff Hatling, Joel Zabel

500 Career Hours – Tom Sahlin

1000 Career Hours – Van Hovey, Elzear Lemieux, Ed Speer

3000 Career Hours – Greg Kramer

20,000 Career Hours – Carl Fritz

It takes a lot of work to maintain 134 miles of the A.T. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who signed up to maintain a section of our trail in 2024, with a special shout-out to our newest section maintainers, Dave Allen, Karen Berry, Jon Heidrick, Rebecka Powell and Annette Vinding.

Attending the meeting were: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird, Josh Banks, John Beaudet, Carl Belcher, Paul Benfield, Jeff Bennett, Ed Brading, Phyllis Cairnes, Richard Carter, Brandon Church, Robin Dean, Dan Firth, Jim Foster, Elaine Frantz, Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz, Matthew Gilbert, Craig Haire, Derek Haire, Tracy Harris, Vic Hasler, Jon Heidrick, Carrie Hovey, Van Hovey, Megan Krager, Betty Kramer, Greg Kramer, Jesse Laramée, Rick Lott, Ted Malone, Jeff Marek, Amy Markwalter, Todd Markwalter, Dick Martindale, Susan Martindale, Jim McGuire, Renée Messina, Tony Messina, Jeff Miller, Wes Miller, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Taylor Neigh, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Dave Polon, Tom Sahlin, Eric Scott, Gerald Scott, Andy Steffen, Tim Stewart, Rolla Wade, Mike Watts, Steve Wilson, Joel Zabel, Joy Zabel

TEHCC Kayak/Canoe Rental Resumes March 15th

Submitted by Andy Steffan



Hopefully, the few warm weather days have peaked your interest to return to outdoor recreational activities; and with all the rain, there's plenty of water to paddle on! The Eastman Bays Mountain Rec Area is reopening in mid-March, which means kayak/canoe rentals will be available again! As a reminder, we have 6 flatwater kayaks and one canoe for rent, with an optional trailer. Paddles and life jackets will be provided. Reservation details can be found at the link below. You can reserve this equipment 3 to 30 days in advance by contacting rental@tehcc.org. Kayak and gear must be transported in a personal vehicle. If there is enough interest, an outing with boat transportation to the location can be arranged.

More details on options, prices, and rental details can be found here:

<http://tehcc.org/rentals/paddling-equipment/>

TEHCC Welcomes New Member

Kenneth Cassell

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A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Bettye Fox Boone

Date: 1/31/2024

Purpose: Prepare for and attend Roan Highlands VUM Facilitation Meeting

Location: Home

People: Bettye Fox Boone

Summary: I prepared comments on Step 7 of the Roan Highlands VUM (Visitor Use Management) and emailed them to Tara prior to the Facilitation meeting. I virtually attended the VUM Facilitation meeting.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/1/2024

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Dean Baird, Van Hovey, Bill Murdoch, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Bob Peoples, Tom Sahlin, Dave Allen

Summary: The Thursday crew rehabbed the blue-blaze access and water trails adjacent to the Laurel Fork Shelter. Several stone steps were installed. An additional trip is required to finish the water access trail. Part of the crew removed a hazard tree on the north side of Koonford Bridge. Some rehab was done on the high-water bypass trail and additional opportunities exist for improvement. A large blowdown was removed by the USFS 1/2 mile north of the shelter on the A.T.



Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 2/2/2024

Purpose: Cut back azaleas and rhododendron

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to half mile south

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I adopted Section 20b three years ago, thus the primary purpose today was to again clear the woody growth above the trail. Jerry and Joe completed a walk-thru last week, a pair of slack-packers from out west, which verified five large blowdowns north of No Business Knob Shelter and snow on the trail at Spivey Gap. Since the blowdowns require chainsaw use, I am hoping the USFS crew will remove them before the thru-hiker bubble starts arriving in March. Back in 2021, I had demonstrated that 0.5 mile of lopping is a good day's work; thus that is what was performed. Granny Lewis forest road still could benefit from boom mowing on the uphill side. I observed several sets of deep ruts where a truck veered into the soft roadway shoulder to avoid the remains of blowdowns. I removed a couple of the problems to reduce further damage. I also retrieved many beer and soft drink cans from the forest road for recycle.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/2/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap, 0.29 mile from Uncle Johnny's

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We removed the reported blowdown.

Reporting: Jim McGuire

Date: 2/3/2024

Purpose: General Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 15c, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap

People: Jim McGuire, Cindy McGuire

Summary: We traveled to Hughes Gap to look for blowdowns and I found them! Cindy and I climbed up to Ash Gap from Hughes Gap. When we arrived, there was no where to park. Ten cars were parked at the trailhead. We met 2 SOBO day hikers. There were just a few tracks in the snow, so the crowd from the cars must have gone north. I cleared more than 20 small-to-medium

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blowdowns and cleared many branches from the trail. There were two trees too big for me to clear. I will probably need the chainsaw crew. I'll send pictures and location. It is not difficult to get around them. The snow was about 8 inches deep on top of Beartown Mountain. I checked the water source just north of Hughes Gap. There was no water coming out of the pipe, but I adjusted it and got a good stream.

Reporting: Joel Zabel

Date: 2/3/2024

Purpose: JCHC club hike, that became maintenance

Location: Sections 16a and 16b, Iron Mtn Gap to Hughes Gap

People: Jim Foster, Denny Samuel, Josh Banks, Ed Brading, Adam Bean, Luke Carter, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel

Summary: We brought handsaws on our scheduled JCHC club hike, in case we found blowdowns to clear, and we were not disappointed. For section 16a, Iron Mtn gap to Greasy Creek Gap, we cleared 6 blowdowns in the 7-9" range, 17 that were 4-6", and dozens more that were smaller than 4". From Iron Mtn Gap 3.5 miles, a 26" tree had blowdown (see pics). Fortunately, it was rotted enough to saw and break through the middle to reopen the trail. It was a similar blowdown situation from Greasy Creek Gap to Hughes Gap. We removed a 13", 14 that were 4-6", and dozens smaller. In the 3.4 miles between Clyde Smith Shelter and Hughes Gap, we left 8 blowdowns for chainsawing. Jim Foster will go back as swamper, with Yong Li as sawyer, as soon possible. Much of the trail was covered with up to a foot of snow, which limited the clearing of water diversions.



Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 2/3/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs

People: Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Summary: We walked in and out from US 421 after a report of multiple blowdowns. We cut out 16 blowdowns with a chainsaw and lopped briars and other branches. We encountered about 15 hikers. Among them were Craig Haire and Eric Middlemas from the Mid-Appalachian Trail Club. They too were doing some trail clearing. Southbound hikers reported no blowdown obstructions south of McQueens Gap, but more north of there for a few miles. We'll look for another time to go north from McQueens Gap. The water is flowing well this time of year at the spring. The waterbars north from US 421 will need to be cleared out in another trip.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/4/2024

Purpose: Clear reported blowdowns

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey, Breanna Trauffer, Bobby Trauffer

Summary: Objectives for the day were threefold: Remove reported blowdowns, cut back encroaching rhodies, and introduce our new maintainers Breanna and Bobby Trauffer to various aspects of trail maintenance. In summary, it was a longer and more productive day than anticipated. The expectation was for 3 blowdowns, however we encountered: 2 - 18", 1-16", 1-14", 1-12", 1 double consisting of a 6" and 10" hung up over the trail, and perhaps a half-dozen others of numerous sizes ranging from 4-6". We also inspected and cleaned the shelter (in good condition) and cut back some sizable rhodies overhanging the trail. We met a few NOBOs slack-packing and a few day hikers. Breanna and Bobby were a big help and will be good additions to our trail maintenance community. The trail is clear as of this date. Cheers.



Reporting: Richard Ritter

Date: 2/5/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and encroaching branches

Location: Section 18, From Indian Grave Gap, 5 miles North to Unaka Mountain Rd "hairpin"

People: Pat Kenney

Summary: After the last big wind storm, Pat went up by himself and cleared our A.T. section. It is passable now till we can get through the gate and do more extensive clearing.

****Also,** Monday, February 19, the Old Timers hike was from Walnut Mtn Road to Bitter End (Section 12a). As we hiked, multiple people removed blowdowns. This short section is now clear.



Reporting: Dave Allen

Date: 2/6/2024

Purpose: Scout section for needed work

Location: Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Dave Allen

Summary: I hiked up Backbone Rock Trail, through Section 1 to TN/VA line. My purpose was to scout out my new section for needed work. I removed a few small blowdowns, and found 5 large blowdowns needing chainsaw work: two with large step-overs, 2 completely blocking the trail, and one large overhanging, broken tree. Backbone Rock Trail also had about a dozen blowdowns needing removal. I scheduled a followup chainsaw visit with Tony Messina (2/14) and another followup trip on 2/18 to take care of Backbone Rock Trail (no chainsaw work needed).

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/7/2024

Purpose: Clear reported blowdowns

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap - Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We received a report of 3 blowdowns on the middle third section SOBO from Indian Grave Gap. We drove 1/2 mile in on FS road and walked to mile 350.1. Along the way, we encountered and dispatched the 3 blowdowns, all step-overs, nothing larger than 10" in diameter. We met two NOBO section hikers. It was a nice day to be out.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/8/2024

Purpose: Rehab water trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Van Hovey, Dave Allen, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tom Sahlin

Summary: The Thursday crew split into two teams. This group started the rehabilitation of the water trail at Laurel Fork Shelter. Two stone steps, 4 locust steps, and 126 feet of trail rehab were accomplished.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/8/2024

Purpose: Clear water diversions and check for blowdowns

Location: Sections 4a and 4b, TN 91 to US 421

People: Carl Fritz, Scott Huskey, Bill Murdoch, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cleaned water diversions from Berry Fields to Double Springs Shelter; then cleaned water diversions from Berry Fields to US 421 well enough to last several months. Tim is planning a 2nd Saturday "Hiking with Tools" to clean those some more. We cleared a number of small blowdowns. One major double blowdown remains within 0.3 mile of Double Springs Shelter. We cut a reasonable path around it, so there is no hurry. The shelter and water source looked good. A log book is needed. The trail

looked to be in good shape. Trail dug by Ed Speer close to the shelter made walking much easier. We rehabbed some rock and log water diversions. There is still some snow at the shelter.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/9/2024

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Yong Li, Jim Foster



Summary: Yong cut over 20 blowdowns while I helped clean trail and assisted him. It was a terrible weather day, but we made it happen. The section between Hughes Gap and Clyde Smith is free of obstructions.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 2/9/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, South of US 19E

People: Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: A short distance south of US 19E, we cleared two large blowdowns (the top half of a hemlock tree and a locust) and two small blowdowns. We picked up trash at 19E. We met two early thru-hikers from Louisiana. They started their hike on December 27 (skipped the Smokies due to weather).



Before



After

Reporting: Joel Zabel

Date: 2/10/2024

Purpose: JCHC club hike, but became maintenance

Location: Sections 20a, b, and c; Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

People: Yong Li, Denny Samuel, Josh Banks, Ed Brading, Jeff Miller, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel

Summary: Johnson City Hiking Club hiked from the Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap. Based on many blowdowns on hikes in the past weeks, we brought the Katanaboy saw and personal handsaws. The section from the Nolichucky to Temple Hill Gap was well maintained with only one 7" blowdown, that we removed. From Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob Shelter, we saw evidence of recent clearing of blowdowns with fresh sawdust, but still found many new ones. We removed many under 6" diameter and several more up to 10". The biggest was a tree with multiple branches requiring cuts of 12", (2)10", 8", about 1/2 mile north of the shelter. South from the shelter, we removed most everything under 10", but ran into some big stuff and left a few as rain picked up on the way to Spivey. The ones that we left that are best handled by a chainsaw are listed, with the distance (miles) north from Spivey Gap and the largest diameter cut needed (though some require multiple cuts): (0.15) 10", (0.7) 12", (3.6) 18" tricky dead hemlock? (see pics), and (4.7 or 0.2 from NBK shelter) 14".

Reporting: Dave Allen

Date: 2/14/2024

Purpose: Chainsaw work to remove blowdowns

Location: Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail and Backbone Rock Trail

People: Dave Allen, Tony Messina

Summary: We hiked up Backbone Rock Trail to approx 0.2 miles to TN/VA line to remove large blowdowns requiring chainsaw work. We removed a total of 12 blowdowns, 6 requiring a chainsaw, on A.T., and an additional 2 large blowdowns on Backbone Rock. The remaining blowdowns on Backbone Rock were left, due to a long day, for a scheduled follow up on 2/18.



Reporting: Jennifer Baird

Date: 2/14/2024

Purpose: Check trail conditions

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Jennifer Baird

Summary: I headed up the south side of Pond to check trail conditions. I cut the top portion of a blowdown that had fallen at the intersection of the Hampton Blue Blaze and A.T. The other portion, as you start up Pond, was too big for me to cut. I would need help removing it. I brushed in a trail shortcut in the same area, and removed multiple limbs and branches off the trail. There are five blowdowns that I wasn't able to get. Dean and I will go back tomorrow to remove them. The spring on top is running well and the pond has water in it after the recent rains. I packed out a small bag of trash that was in a campsite up trail from the spring. I saw a total of five people and two dogs.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 2/15/2024

Purpose: Replace graffiti board and shelter log at NBK Shelter. Remove trash.

Location: Section 20c, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap, NBK Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We met USFS team Brandon and Jesse at the "Kan Lot;" then hiked to the shelter, with them noting potential rehab locations along the way. They removed two very large and complex hazard trees, as well as several blowdowns on the trail.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/15/2024

Purpose: Rehab

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Tim Stewart, Joe Morris, Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Scott Huskey, Mike Hicks, Bill Murdoch, Dave Allen, Bob Peoples, Tony Messina, Tom Sahlin

Summary: The crew split into two groups near Laurel Fork Shelter and finished the rehabilitation of the shelter's water trail and improved a ledge on the blue blaze. Six steps, substantial locust cribbing, and 84 feet were rehabbed.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 2/15/2024

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: Today's mission was to remove blowdowns that Jennifer had found on her trip to South Pond yesterday. We used one of the TEHCC crosscut saws, with some axe and Silky assistance, to remove 5 logs at 4 blowdown sites (one was a double). The logs that were cut were in the 12"- 15" range. The crosscut saw performed very well. We also removed one approximately 12" blowdown from the trail at the base of the large staircase just inside the Pond Mountain Wilderness boundary en route to South Pond. After today, the trail on South Pond is in very good condition. We saw one NOBO through hiker (and his wife, who was hiking with him for a short while) and one SOBO flip-flopper who had started at Harper's Ferry. We also saw 3 other hikers. This was a beautiful day to be working on the trail.

Reporting: Rick Lott

Date: 2/17/2024

Purpose: Remove two blowdowns

Location: Section 15c, Hughes Gap to 2.8 miles north of Hughes Gap

People: Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: Mike and I hiked from Hughes Gap toward Ash Gap and cut one 18" blowdown near the top of Beartown Mtn and one 12" blowdown near Ash Gap. The 12" blowdown was laying parallel on top of the trail for about 15 feet with a multi-branch canopy. Both trees were cut uneventfully. We did encounter a little bit of snow on the north side of Beartown Mtn. We also encountered 4 section hikers going from Hughes Gap to Hwy 19E; and a female trail runner from Roan Mtn who was training for the shortest time for a supported, female thru-hike of the A.T. She was trail running from Iron Mtn Gap to Hwy 19E (31 miles) that day.



Before



After

Reporting: Dave Allen

Date: 2/18/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdowns on Backbone Rock Blue Blaze

Location: Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail, Backbone Rock Blue Blaze

People: Dave Allen, Ben Allen, Reagan Doner, Dawn Allen

Summary: We cleared 10 blowdowns on the bottom 2 miles of Backbone Rock Trail, and cleared rhodos on the bottom 1.5 miles of Backbone Rock Trail. I gave new-trail-maintainer patches to Dawn Allen and Reagan Doner.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 2/18/2024

Purpose: Inspect and clear trail

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road, North portion of section

People: Craig Haire

Summary: This was a Club hike from the church on Buck Mtn Rd to Jones Falls side trail. I removed debris and rotten blowdowns and cut back some encroaching vegetation. There were several easy step-overs, but some were fairly large. Going south from Jones Falls, there was a large blowdown about 5 minutes from the spur, a combination duck-under at about 7 minutes, a leaner at 10 minutes and a smaller duck-under at 15 minutes. The pics (next page) were taken looking south, and a 12" folding saw is included for size comparison. In addition to these four, there is a very large rotten pine sticking into the road bed near the third creek crossing north of Buck Mtn Rd, and a 15" step-over at the first creek crossing north of the church. This last one is probably between Buck Mtn Rd and Campbell Hollow Rd.



Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/19/2024

Purpose: Clear reported blowdowns

Location: Section 20c, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap, Oglesby Branch

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: Our objective was to clear reported blowdowns 0.15 mile and 0.7 mile north of Spivey Gap. We expected 2 and found 3. There was an additional one at 0.35 mile north of Spivey, which was actually the more time consuming of the group (see pic). We also lopped random rhodies in and out.

Reporting: Dave Allen

Date: 2/20/2024

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 1, Upper 1 mile of Backbone Rock Trail and A.T. to TN/VA stateline

People: Dave Allen

Summary: I removed 8 blowdowns on the upper one mile of Backbone Rock Trail, and 3 blowdowns on the A.T. I also cut back rhodos on the southern most 0.5 miles of the A.T. Section 1.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 2/21/2024

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter, Double Springs Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Lori Krause

Summary: This was the first maintenance visit to my new shelter, Double Springs. We picked up a lot of trash (plastic tarp, plastic bags, 3 books, socks, glove, beer cans, plastic milk jugs, a big enameled coffee pot, and more). We gave 3 coats of paint to the graffiti board. We also dispersed big logs from the fire ring and carefully picked out many shards of broken liquor bottles, and then shoveled ashes. We replaced logbook, and next time will carry in a new broom and remove the two old ones. It was a gorgeous day to be out. The shelter definitely looked better than we found it. We also reported 2 blowdowns on the way in from TN 91.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/21/2024

Purpose: Deliver new trail registers to shelter and perform routine maintenance

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I delivered the new shelter registers and did a lot of cleaning and cutting back vegetation encroaching on the trail. Unfortunately there's still blow downs at the shelter turn off, but that's another trip.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/22/2024

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20c, No Business Knob Shelter to Devils Creek Gap (Can Lot)

People: Joe Morris, Van Hovey, John Beaudet, Tim Stewart, Tony Messina, Elzear Lemieux, Bill Murdoch, Carl Fritz

Summary: It was a great day of trail rehab between Devils Creek Gap and No Business. The Thursday crew rehabilitated 400 feet of trail and added 3 stone steps. At least two more visits are required to tidy things up between Devils Creek and MM 337.0 North.

Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 2/24/2024

Purpose: Trail Maintenance



Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to 0.5 miles south of Wilber Dam Road

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We removed two blowdowns and cut back several bushes and other vegetation along the trail. We also identified maintenance areas to be worked on in the future. At Mile 433, there is a large hole adjacent to the trail that is a hazard. We also flagged approximately 45 feet of trail that needs cribbing.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/25/2024

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

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

People: Yong Li, Jim Foster

Summary: We finished cutting the rest of the blowdowns on the south end of the section.

Reporting: Jon Heidrick

Date: 2/26 and 2/27/2024

Purpose: Inspect trail, clear blowdowns

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Jon Heidrick

Summary: I cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, and removed blowdowns. The blazes didn't need painting. The entire section is now cleared. I had to redirect a small stream and removed a large blowdown in the center of the section.