



GET Hiking

Great Eastern Trail Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 1, March 2020

By Timothy A. Hupp

Please feel free to print out or copy and distribute this newsletter

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Coronavirus Paralyzes Nation

No, you can't even escape it here. All sports events, concerts, and other events with crowds have been stopped or postponed indefinitely. Even club meetings are cancelled. In some states there is a general quarantine, with authorities requiring people to stay home, even indoors. And the situation changes daily, so what may be true now may not be by the time you read this.

But in other states, one thing you still can do is go hiking. Especially if you go to isolated areas where you are unlikely to meet many other hikers, and this includes most of the Great Eastern Trail. I would recommend hiking alone or in small groups during this time.

Here are some guidelines from PATC:

PATC has adapted the Charlottesville Chapter protocol for hikes as our Club's guidance for best practices for hike leaders and participants:

- The health and well-being of the hiking participants and hike leaders is our top priority.
- Hike leaders have always had the right to cancel a hike for whatever reason they see fit.

- During this time, groups should be limited to 12 or fewer participants. If multiple established hike leaders attend an event, there can be multiple, separated groups of 12 or fewer, preferably divided equally, each led by an established hike leader.
- Prior to the hike, hike leaders will contact each attendee via email or Meetup group messaging and remind them not to attend if they have tested positive for the COVID-19. In addition, any participant whose temperature exceeds 100, or who has a cough or shortness of breath, must not attend the hike.
- Hike leaders should also discourage participation by children under 12, pregnant women, people with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, people who have weakened immune systems, as each of these groups are identified by the CDC as being at higher risk of severe illness.
- Also, at higher risk are people 60 or older, so inexperienced older hikers should be discouraged from joining hikes at this time. Many of experienced hikers fit the older demographic, but are in excellent shape, minimizing the risk.

- Hike leaders should take added input from participants at the trailhead to determine that each is healthy and has brought sufficient water and personal food for their hike. There should be no sharing of food, water or other gear.
- Hike leaders should not bring sweets to share among the group –even though it is a chapter tradition. Hike leaders should strongly discourage such sharing by hike participants who may have brought something for the group.
- Hike leaders should bring hand sanitizer for the group, if possible.
- Hike leaders should be prepared for lower attendance due to last minute cancellations, and should not hesitate to cancel or alter the event if cancellations are so prevalent as to make the event difficult to conduct.
- Hike leaders should confirm that the hiking destination remains open and determine that last minute closures have not occurred due to the COVID-19 virus.
- Hike leaders should remind hikers to maintain a sufficient distance between others on the trail.
- Post-hike events, such as microbrewery or restaurant visits, are discouraged during this time.
- Planning the types of hikes conducted should reflect the added restrictions this COVID-19 situation requires. This should include:
 - No destinations over 1-hour drive time from the pre-trailhead meeting location.
 - Hikes in your local area are encouraged that allow participants to travel individually to the trailhead without the need to carpool.
 - Related, hike leaders should encourage participants to minimize carpooling with people they would not otherwise have day-to-day contact with. This prioritizes public health, despite contradicting a low-impact ethic.
 - Popular high-traffic hiking trails should be avoided. There are many other trails that have few hikers.
 - No overnight outings during this period.

A Short History of the Great Eastern Trail

1. 1969. Stan Murry, Chairman of ATC, suggests a “second Appalachian Trail” in the mountains west of the existing AT.
2. 2000. Lloyd MacAskill, in an article in the ATN, discusses this new trail idea, then called the WAA (Western Appalachian Alternative).
3. 2002. A conference at Unicoi SP in Georgia, hosted by American Hiking Society; the WAA, is discussed as an agenda item. SEFTC is created. Rob Weber of Chattanooga is a central part of the discussion. I send Rob an email supporting the idea.
4. 2003. AHS creates a branch office in Chattanooga with Jeffrey Hunter as the staff member. I email several SEFTC members proposing that the WAA idea be extended north, all the way to New York.
5. In the fall of 2003, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) proposed to the Southeast Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) which had just formed in Chattanooga, that the two organizations begin discussing such a project. SEFTC accepted the proposal and in an executive committee meeting in April of 2004 endorsed it as a central organizing theme and Coalition objective.
6. 2004. SEFTC Leadership Council meeting at De Soto SP, Alabama, discusses the WAA, and it is decided that the southern section, supported by SEFTC, will end at Burkes Garden, and PATC will form a new coalition to extend the trail north from that point. Later that year, Ursula Lemanski of RTCA hosts a meeting between AHS, RTCA and PATC at High Acre cabin in Harpers Ferry to discuss an organizational model for the new trail from New York to Florida. (At the time we thought the GET would co-align with the Florida Trail all the way to the Everglades.)
7. 2005. SEFTC meeting at Table Rock SP, SC; further discussions of the WAA. Later, meeting at Gypsy Spring Cabin, PA; agreement to establish Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition (MAFTC) and recruit northern clubs. I am

tasked with contacting northern clubs. November, series of conference calls hosted by Jeffrey Hunter results in decision to rename WAA to GET. (Note – this was very controversial, and the Florida contingent left the coalition, which is why the trail now ends on Alabama.) Still later in November, meeting at Blackburn Trail Center to sign the MAFTC Letter of Agreement. It was agreed that a formal connection to SEFTC be established to link the two (north and south) trail sections. In December at an SEFTC meeting in Cohutta, GA, SEFTC forms a committee to liaise with MAFTC.

8. 2006. MAFTC and SEFTC meet in Blacksburg, VA, decide to establish a GET Coordinating Committee.
9. 2007. GETA is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation under Virginia law. In November, GETA holds its organizational meeting at a state park in Virginia.

Subsequently, it is decided that the following organizations will associate, and that each organization will appoint a representative to the GET Board of Directors:

Alabama Trails Association, a GETA member
Alabama Hiking Trail Society, a GETA member
Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association, a GETA member
Cumberland Trail Conference, a GETA member
Tennessee Trails Association
Pine Mountain Trail Conference, a GETA member
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Standing Stone Trail Club
Mid State Trail Association, Inc.
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
West Virginia Scenic Trails Association

Also associating were the following:

American Hiking Society
National Park Service -- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
Green Ridge State Forest, Maryland

Tony Hook, Former CTC Trail Manager Passes Away

Anthony “Tony” Hook, age 56, passed away at his residence on Sunday, September 29, 2019. He was a native of Paducah, KY but has lived in Murfreesboro for the past twenty-eight years. He worked as a mechanical engineer for Fanuc and was a member of World Outreach Church. Tony served his country in the United States Navy.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents Gus and Ona Hook. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ann Hook, son, David (Vanessa) Hook, daughters; Renee (Brad) McGrath and Jessica (Josh) Jones, brothers; Dennis (Renee) Shelton and Donald Hook, grandchildren; Grace McGrath, Luke McGrath and Joel Jones.

Tony started with the CTC in the mid 1990’s as a volunteer. Later he gave up his career manufacturing process engineering to become full time

Trail Manager for the CTC, a position he held until 2014.



Tony Hook, former CTC Trail Manager, waits while tools are collected at the end of ASB 2010. (Photo Richie)

Known for his passion and focus on making the Cumberland Trail a premiere hiking experience, Tony brought his organizing talents to bear, expanding the yearly BreakAway program and successfully bring numerous construction grants to the Cumberland Trail. Tony devoted so much of his energy to the trail – far beyond what was required for the job. This included projects that required multiple over nights on the trail because the build site was so far from a trailhead.

Many CTC volunteers learned much more than the basics of trail construction from Tony. Those who

Gary L. Grametbauer, age 75, of Kingston, TN, died January 29, 2020, after a short illness. Gary was born in Canton, Ohio, and was a graduate of Hoover High School and the University of Akron. He was employed for more than 30 years at the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant, where he was a manager in instrumentation engineering.

From the time he was a child, Gary had an abiding passion for and curiosity about the outdoors and the natural world, and with his move to Tennessee that grew into a great zeal for hiking. He was never happier or more at peace than when he was on the trail, always eager to know what might lie around the next bend. He was for many years an active volunteer with the Cumberland Trail Conference, which he served at one point as acting president. When indoors, he enjoyed doing genealogy research for himself, family members, and friends. He was a

were privileged to work with him learned how to approach technical construction problems with new eyes and see possibilities where none were apparent.

The Cumberland Trail is a better place for his work, passion and technical skill. Trail building is a way to leave a lasting legacy – Tony Hook has left a legacy all hikers should celebrate. (*Ed.*)

classical music lover and an accomplished pianist.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William J. and Doris Flad Grametbauer, and by his stepfather, Clement Kramer. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Carol; stepsister, Susan (Dennis) Bragg of Richmond, VA; stepbrother, Bobby Kramer of Chicago, IL; and his cousins Nancy (John) Kaufman of North Canton, OH; Jeffrey (Michelle) Grametbauer of Massillon, OH; Ann Thomas of Tempe, AZ; and Judie (Robert) Krempel of Dunnellon, FL. Also survived by sisters-in-law Phyllis Pirie of Westerville, OH, and Amy Lindenberger (Kurt Harsh) of North Canton, OH; and brothers-in-law Michael Lindenberger of Tucson, AZ, and Thomas (Beth) Lindenberger of Akron, OH, along with nieces, a nephew, and great-nieces and -nephews.

Trail Updates

Pennsylvania:

PA Turnpike crossing area/Aliquippa Gap update (7/14; 8/19): North of Ashcom Rd - Trail CLOSED on private land due to heavy construction starting 8/12/19. MST at the Earlston Furnace Cinder Piles (south end of Section 3, Snake Spring and West Providence Twps, Bedford County, South side of Aliquippa Gap south of Everett) will be

CLOSED due to heavy construction for an indeterminate period. This affects the part of the trail that's wedged in between the Turnpike and Raystown Branch Juniata River. Follow Ashcom Rd/Bike Route S under the Turnpike at Earlston.

When the path is open: The Cornell Road bridge over the PA Turnpike (I-70/76) was permanently removed. With the gracious help of a nearby private landowner, SB hikers can continue on old RR bed

between Turnpike and river to Ashcom Rd, turn left to *narrow* Ashcom Rd underpass and walk compass-east to **new trail** appearing on right, just on the south side of the turnpike. There is a pull-off parking area between Turnpike and quarry on Ashcom Rd, south side of Ashcom Road and just north (compass west) of Turnpike underpass. No parking elsewhere on narrow shouldered Ashcom Rd. See temporary map/guide revision [<http://www.hike-mst.org/images/pdfs/News/2014-07-18aliquippagap.pdf>] Marking has been restored (orange Carsonite posts) through the Earlston Furnace Cinder Piles, north of the former bridge site. If Black Valley Creek is high, one may need to hold onto the fence to cross. Check back here for updates, especially for further trail detours when the Turnpike widens the highway and eventually also the Ashcom Rd underpass.

MST alternate route Blue Triangle trail is now off road through the entire industrial park on the north side of Everett. Northbound, look for blazes opposite the end of Dew Street (not to be confused with the nearby New Street) - turn your back on Dew Street and look to the right of the fire hydrant. In either direction, crossings of the lanes through the industrial park are slightly offset so with summer growth you may need to look closely to find the path. Distance slightly shorter. (6/17) Total distance of alternate route 4.71 km

On the Standing Stone Trail, a two-year trail relocation up the side of Jacks Mountain south of the trail town of Mapleton is now complete.

Kentucky:

Problems with route-arounds of private property on the Birch Knob Trail persist. The trail is not blocked, but navigation is more difficult. The National Forest Service, because of budget cutbacks, is severely backlogged on issuing permits. Some progress on the new Cable Gap Shelter, but mostly stymied for a lack of a special-use permit to access the property, as it is surrounded by NFS properties.

Some additional miles added to the Little Shepherd Trail this last year. Probably a year away from opening that section to the public.

We did manage to build a mile or so of trail on the far south end of the Pine Mountain Trail. Kentucky State Parks made available a tract near Pineville where we can build maybe 6 or 7 miles of trail and a shelter.

Tennessee:

Arch Mountain Section closed

Due to a storm and many blowdowns, the Arch Mountain Section of the New River Segment, just north from Frozen Head State Park, is closed.

Bird Mountain Segment

(The Garden Spot to U. S. Highway 27 in Wartburg): Trail is complete (and has been for a long time) through Frozen Head State Park. Gary Darnell and some other local volunteers have built about 1.5 miles of trail near the Wartburg end that sees use by the locals. The holdup seems to be with a needed land purchase on Bird Mountain. The Sheltopee Trace out of Kentucky is expected to intersect the Cumberland Trail in this area.

Brady Mountain Is a Thru Hike Again

Brady Mountain Section runs from TN 68 south to Jewett Road in Cumberland County and had been reduced to a 6.6-mile hike, or 13.2-mile round trip. With the conclusion of new land arrangements, the trail is open again the full length.

Upcoming Events

** Due to the restrictions resulting from the coronavirus outbreak, many of these events are cancelled or postponed **

ASB 2020 is March at Head of Sequatchie

Alternative Spring Break – also known as BreakAway – returns for the 25th year! Email the CTC office for dates and lodging information. Please consider working with the amazing college students who pay their own way to come and work on the CT.

This year, base camp will be at the CTSST office site at Head of the Sequatchie.

Space available on certain weeks for additional colleges to participate as well. To volunteer or participate, here is the contact info:

Phone: (931) 456-6259

Email: [ctcoffice2014 @ gmail.com](mailto:ctcoffice2014@gmail.com)

April 17-19, 2020: KTA Spring Hiking Weekend
Wellsboro, PA – *rescheduled to October 2 – 4.*
<https://www.kta-hike.org/spring-hiking-weekend.html>

April 17-19, 2020: GETA Board Meeting
Wellsboro, PA – *to be rescheduled.*
jspieslp@gmail.com

May 28 – 31: Trail Care BTM
MID STATE TRAIL, Tioga Region
Tioga State Forest
Leader: Pete Fleszar
tioga@hike-mst.org
717-583-2093
C:717-576-3112
Camp: Organized Group
Tenting Area at
Hills Creek State Park

June 25 – 28: Trail Care BTM
MID STATE TRAIL, Woolrich Region
Bald Eagle State Forest
Leader: Tony Robbins
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com
570-437-0065
Camp: Ravensburg State Park

August 6 – 9: Trail Care BTM
MID STATE TRAIL, Everett Region
Buchanan State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Teneley Park, Everett

Sept. 18 – 20: Trail Care
TUSCARORA TRAIL
Buchanan State Forest
Leader: Ben Auer
auer.ben@gmail.com
608-772-1715
Camp: PATC cabin at
Little Cove
Fri. & Sat. only

How Many GET miles have you hiked?

An awful lot of people still have **not** reported their GET miles—unless no one has hiked much of the Mid State, Standing Stone, Tuscarora, Pinhoti, and other constituent trails that make up the GET.

Here's the breakdown of the constituent trails, GET miles only:

Crystal Hills Trail	48 miles
Mid State Trail	322 miles
Standing Stone Trail	84 miles
Tuscarora Trail	132 miles (now 125)
Allegheny Trail	41 miles (plus gap)
Appalachian Trail	19 miles
Pine Mountain Trail	44 miles (trail only)
Cumberland Trail	138 miles (so far)
Pinhoti Trail	214 miles

If you have thru-hiked any of these trails, you have this many miles of the GET.

There are also segments of combined shorter trails:

Headwaters Section	165 miles
TuGuNu Section	100 miles
Lookout Mtn. Section	87 miles
...plus a few others	

I'm trying to give credit for those who have hiked significant miles of the GET. If you have hiked at least 50 miles of the GET, please report it to me at the email address given at the end of the newsletter.

You may include miles of exploring for GET routes, and if it has two branches, you may count the miles hiked on both. Count only the trail miles—if you've done a section twice, you don't double the miles. Also, do not count side trails, but if you hike a close parallel trail, you may count that if you go that way instead of the main trail.

Hikers and Total GET miles hiked

Jo Swanson "Someday"	1774
Bart Houck "Hillbilly Bart"	1774
Kathy Finch	1774
Dan Bedore	1093
Mark Sleeper	1033
Stuart Hickey	915
Taylor Pannill	800
Tim Hupp	763
Sue Turner	720
John Calhoun	632
Lois Ludwig	561
Bill Shaffer	545
Dixie Greer "Star Left"	495
Marcie Schubert	443
Doug Schubert	443
Rick Guhse	437
John Stein	437
Jim Sims	429
David Frye	386
Tom Johnson	382
Lloyd McAskill	321
Garrett Fondaule "Shepherd"	258
Bill Amonette	240
Meredith Eberhart	
"Nimblewill Nomad"	235
Burgess Smith	232
Marty Dominy	211
Warren Devine	205
Carol Devine	187
Jane Thompson	168
Nancy Ruggles	163
Sam Goldsberry	142
Faith Schlabach	129
Shad Baker	124
Christa Neher	123
Michael Seth	97
Chad Churchman	97
Linda Clark O'Brien	90
Malcolm & Lynn Cameron	89
Mary Huffer	76
John Spies	71
Brian Hirt	71
Kathy Dickenson	58

So get out and GET Hiking!

And report your miles!

Various News Items

GETA Board Meeting

In 2019, the Great Eastern Trail Association Board Meeting took place in Talladega, AL on May 18. Those present included Marty Dominy, Pete Fleszar, Jim Garthe, Jeff Hayes, Tim Hupp, Tom Johnson, Lloyd MacAskill, and Bob Williams. The various clubs presented the trail conditions of each section.

Also present was Steve Barbour, representing the Sheltopee Trace Association, a 323-mile-long trail in Kentucky which connects to the John Muir Trail in Tennessee. The STA is planning a connector trail to the Cumberland Trail/GET between Rugby and Wartburg, TN.

After trail reports, there were proposed changes to the GET Concept Plan, bringing things up to date. These changes were approved.

As had been announced at the 2018 GETA meeting, this was the final meeting with Tom Johnson as president. New officers were chosen:

President: John Spies

Vice President: Tim Hupp

Treasurer: Pete Fleszar

Also, Bob Williams remained Secretary.

After the meeting, we headed down to Flagg Mountain, the southern terminus of the GET. After looking around, we found M.J. “Nimblewill Nomad” Eberhart, and did a short hike to the summit.



(l. to r.: Tom Johnson, Jim Garthe, Bob Williams, Lloyd MacAskill, Marty Dominy, M.J. Eberhart at Cabin area on Flagg Mountain, AL)

Standing Stone Trail Association News

We are investigating new ways for hikers to cross the busy U. S. Route 22 near Thousand Steps. There are some new land owners, and the possibility of locating a safer hiker crossing is our goal.

A recent PennDOT study noted that 35,000 visitors per year frequent the Thousand Steps. Our club is working with PennDOT and Brady Township supervisors as they plan to upgrade the parking area to handle 50 cars safely.

SSTA has been doing a great deal of rock work to create switchbacks for the Fox Trail. The Fox Trail is a side trail linking the Standing Stone Trail and the Tuscarora Trail near Cowans Gap State Park. The Fox Trail is now about 85 percent complete, making a nice 6.5 mile loop hike from Cowans Gap.

We have been circulating the ever popular new Trail Guide put together by Tom Scully in 2018. It and the Sweet Sixteen Trail Challenge have brought in several hundred dollars of donations from the public.

SSTA provided trail rest stop support during the Snowfest 2020 trail run held at Greenwood Furnace State Park. We also led hikes on New Year’s Day at Greenwood.

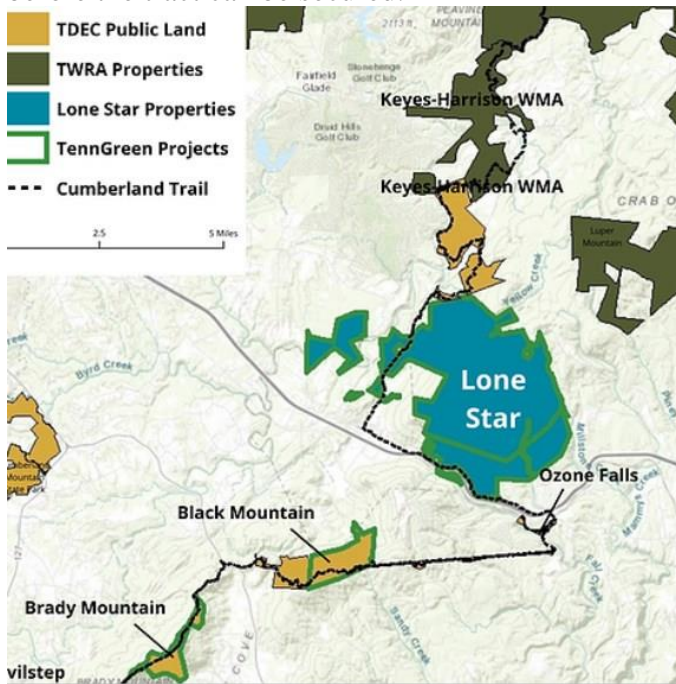
Membership is rising rapidly, currently over 100 to date.

Pine Mountain Trail Club News

The Breaks Canyon Hike Bridge is getting more likely. The Breaks Park superintendent publicized a timeline for construction to begin this fall and completion spring of 2021. Early designs have the suspension bridge at 760 feet and maybe 150 feet over the river. Nine feet width accommodating hikers and mountain bikes. Cost is maybe \$750,000 and most of the money is available.

Lone Star Purchase Fills a Gap

As of November 30, 2019 the state of Tennessee continued to move forward with the acquisition of over 6,600 acres of land in Cumberland County adjacent to Interstate 40. The purchase effort, largely through TennGreen requires over \$6 million before the tract can be secured.



The Cumberland Trails Conference had approached Lone Star Properties numerous times over the past eighteen years in an attempt to get a land easement for the trail with no success. Then in 2018, legislation was passed banning further installation of power generating wind turbines in Tennessee. The property was at that time under consideration for an array of twenty-two turbines. Lone Star, unable to conclude the turbine contract, made the land available for purchase by the state for preservation.

Acquisition of the land provides a crucial link and closes a huge gap in the 300 mile corridor of the Cumberland Trail between Daddys Creek and Ozone Falls State Natural Area.

When complete, the CT will gain 45 miles of trail with one gap of less than two miles.

In 2016 a new trail section was opened from [Keys-Harrison Road](#) south to Hebbertsburg Road totaling 7.5 miles. The trail crosses Hebbertsburg Road at

Long Rockhouse Branch and continues in a U shape, crossing DeLozier Branch, returning to Hebbertsburg Road near the TVA power line trace.

Getting from Daddys Creek to Ozone Falls

Through hikers face a daunting 8 mile road walk to get to the next link on the Cumberland Trail. When the Ozone Falls Section opens sometime in 2020, the 8.4 mile road walk from Hebbertsburg Road trailhead to Black Mountain will be eliminated. If the Lone Star property is not acquired, through hikers will still face a dangerous 8 mile road walk to get to [Ozone Falls](#) on US 70, four miles east of Crab Orchard.

Once the land is acquired formal scouting and trail design can begin. The new route will diverge somewhere near the DeLozier Branch bridge and begin an ascent to the Pine Ridge / Barnes Mountain saddle. From there the route will likely hug the ridge overlooking I40. It then will descend into Grapevine Hollow and climb again over Spencer Ridge before descending toward Fall Creek. After that is a road walk of less than a half mile to Ozone Falls SNA.

Headwaters and Viewshed Preservation

Part of the mission for both the CTC and the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail is the preservation of watersheds and the scenic value of the wilderness.



Crab Orchard Gap greets travelers as they get to the top of the Cumberland Plateau on I-40 West. Lone Star property acquisition will preserve this view and prevent it from being clear cut or surface mined.

Streams originate on Lone Star land

Baker Branch, Steep Bluff Branch and DeLozier Branch to name a few originate in the Lone Star Creek flows north and eventually joins the Obed River in Morgan County.

On the east side of the ridge lines Mammys Creek, Millstone and Berks Creek among others have sources in the Lone Star property. They all feed Fall Creek which joins Whites Creek and eventually emerges in the Tennessee River in Rhea County.

Multi-Use Land

Naturally the CTC and the CTSST hope that the corridor selected for the Cumberland Trail will be

property and feed into Daddys Creek. Daddys

over suitable terrain and include opportunities for scenic views. But the vast majority of the property will become state managed land under Wildlife Management status, State Natural Area status, or some combination.

Contribute to the Cause

If you hike, or just want to see wilderness preserved for the future, consider making a donation to TennGreen for the acquisition of the Lone Star property [HERE](#).

YouTube Video series of hiking the Standing StoneTrail

Note- there are many Youtube videos of trail hiking. Other sections of the GET have been or are planned to be shared in coming issues.

Standing Stone Trail: Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1wk5v315Q8>

Standing Stone Trail: Part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Usz8Eq_soul

Standing Stone Trail 84 Mile Thru-Hike

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iheNPth5pk>

Standing Stone Trail NOBO Thru-hike, Spring 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gydLf23sW1o>

Web addresses & emails:

GET website: <http://www.greateastertrail.net/>

GET Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatEasternTrail/>

GET Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Gethiking>

Email: GET Newsletter: Hupp_Tim@msn.com

Email GETA President John Spies about Great Eastern Trail: jspieslp@gmail.com

Construction on the Cumberland Trail



Green – areas under construction 2020

Daddys Creek Section Construction Continues

Less than two miles remains to be built for the six-mile trail from Devil's Breakfast Table south to Peavine road. Peavine Road north 2.2 miles to the bridge at McGinnis Creek is open for a nice, moderate in and out hike. When finished, a primitive camp site will be available. Please be aware this section passes through a wildlife management area and hikers should wear blaze orange hat and/or vest at any time of the year.

DADDYS CREEK SEGMENT (Devil's Breakfast Table to I-40 at Crab Orchard): This segment saw much construction work done in 2016 and 2017, but only a little was done in 2018. Most of the construction is complete over the eight plus miles

The **Ozone Falls Section** links Ozone Falls State Natural Area near Interstate 40 with Black Mountain. When open, it will create an uninterrupted 17 mile hike from Ozone Falls SNA to Jewett Road. The last mile of trail from Jewett Road to Head of the Sequatchie Ranger station is still in the planning stages.

Below are a few images from the final push on each section. The last mile to Ozone is on a very steep, high side slope over Fall Creek. It works its way down to the bottom of the falls through a jumble of huge boulders and must all be done by hand. Trail Boss, Shauna Wilson describes the work as "the most technical and probably the most dangerous build in the last ten years on the trail."

While much of both sections were roughed out with trail equipment, final grooming is always hand done. And some sections can only be done by hand. Devil's Breakfast Table Section is no exception.

from Devil's Breakfast Table to Peavine Road (just east of Fairfield Glade). However, a 0.4-mile gap and a 0.8-mile gap have not been finished. Crews must work around the Catoosa WMA access restrictions to finish these segments. The State of Tennessee expects to purchase property near Daddys Creek soon. This will allow a bridge to be built across the creek. Without it, there is a nearly two-mile road walk get across the creek. On the east side of the creek, there are over seven miles of trail complete to Hebbertsburg Road. For the foreseeable future, there will be several miles of road walk into Crab Orchard.



Near Ozone Falls. Before picture on steep side slope high above Fall Creek. September 2019. (Wilson)



Finished trail on 42 percent side slope above Fall Creek. Ozone Section nears completion October 2019. (Wilson)



Huge boulders must be moved to provide stable ground for trail alongside slope near Ozone Falls. Construction continues on a steep section for the last half mile of the Black Mountain to Ozone Section. (Wilson)

The Cumberland Trail Club has quarterly meetings, plus there are meetings of the Trail Building Committee, where reports of the work crews are detailed.

Currently there are three paid crews working on sections of the Cumberland Trail, called the North, Central, and South crews. In general, the North crew has been working on the Devil's Breakfast Table/Daddys Creek segment, the Central crew has been working on the Black Mountain-Ozone Falls segment, and the South crew has been working on the Hinch Mountain-Stinging Fork segment. In addition to the paid crews, larger groups of college students are working each spring and sometimes in the fall.

Here are some excerpts from the trailbuilding reports:

“Completed 9.4 miles / we projected 9.8 miles at this point. Finished week 23, estimate was 47 weeks at 200 work week. A short discussion was held about building Campsites along the route – # of pads and a fire ring, etc. The State Park Rangers have provided specifications on the camp site requirements. We discussed progress has been satisfactory at this point. We are averaging about 5 ft per man hour. “

“In the past 2 weeks 800 feet of trail has been constructed including 6 stone steps, 5 rolling grade dips and a 2 stone step across a drainage. We worked in the hand build areas that were too rocky and steep to be machined in section D2. 900 feet of trail was machined in D2 this week.”

“Completed 109 feet of trail. EOT location is 41 feet past the intermittent stream. This is about 90 feet past the rocky area.”

“Fall Branch is not identified as needing a bridge but we have seen the creek at nearly 15 feet wide. Recommend CTSP look at site when flagging remaining work to be done near Ozone Falls. We delayed adding large stepping stones until determination or dryer weather is encountered.”

“Right now, they are moving 3 ft per man hour. No obstacles between Peavine Road to Devil's Breakfast Table other than no hiking trail – all bridges have been built.”

Piney River Bid:

At the September 3, 2019 Trailbuilders meeting, Gary Darnell discussed projected conclusion of Hinch Mtn contract – 32 to 34 more weeks, which aligns well with BA 2020. This timing makes moving into Piney River Bid a very good possibility for the CTC trail crew. Anthony Jones stated he is in progress of designing this next segment; about 1.5 miles have been designed so far. Anthony believes the trail design could be completed by end of the year – expecting the bid to be released around end of year 2019 or early in 2020. This section is considered to be more rugged, technical, etc., thus will cost more to construct. Backcountry outings will be necessary for this section – this will require some re-tooling and new equipment for this.

The Piney River work would extend south along Piney Creek from the present Piney River segment.

Photo Gallery



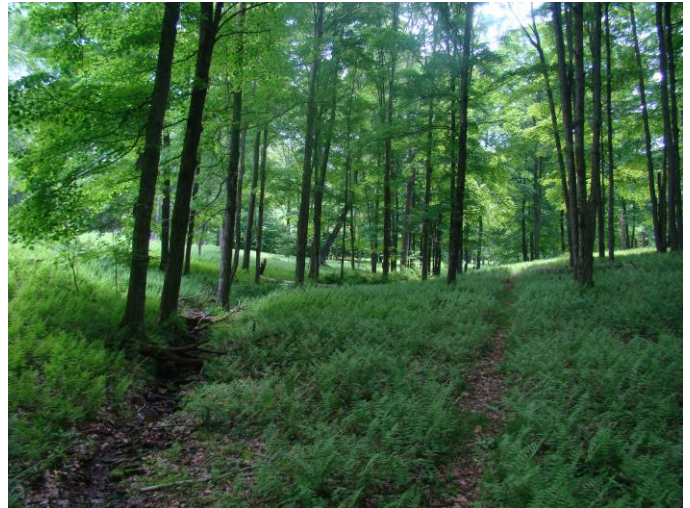
View SW from Pinnacles view along Tuscarora Trail/GET on VA/WV border.



Pete Fleszar presented Tom Johnson with Johnson Cliff sign, to be placed over Blackwell, PA



Stone tower at Flagg Mountain, AL summit.



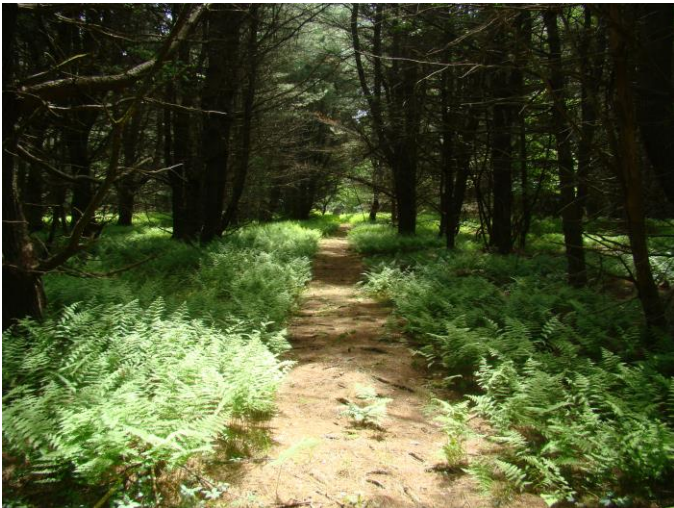
Ferny swale along Mid State Trail/GET in Pennsylvania.



View SW from Gillespie Point, looking down on clouds over Pine Creek.



Lower Moss Run Falls



Mid State Trail/GET in White pine forest.



Outside Woolrich, PA on the Mid State Trail/GET.



Norway Spruces in Woolrich, PA.



Forest road on Shenandoah Mountain/GET in VA/WV.