

# Hiking & Canoeing News

August, 1992

## HIKING

### **FUN FEST MOONLIGHT HIKE (Scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 1992)**

*Leader: Steve Falling (Phone: 615-239-5502)*

*Rating: Easy*

Again this year the club will be helping the Bays Mountain Park staff with the Moonlight Hike around the lake (about 2 miles). About 400 hikers turned out last year for this event so it gives the club some good publicity. Volunteers are needed to walk with the crowd and to keep the hikers on the correct trail. The hike begins at 8:00 pm and finishes up about 10:00 pm. If you are willing to help out with this event, please contact Steve Falling as soon as possible at 239-5502 for more information. The volunteer with the closest guess of the number of hikers will be awarded a Bays Mountain T-shirt!

### **SOUTH BEYOND 6000 HIKE - SHINING ROCK WILDERNESS (Scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 1992)**

*Leader: Joe DeLoach (Phone: 615-753-7903)*

*Rating: Difficult*

The Shining Rock Wilderness is an exceptionally scenic area, and in late August hikers have a bonus of thousands of blueberries on the tall peaks. Several of these peaks exceed 6000 feet, so late August will be a good time for a South Beyond 6000 hike to Shining Rock Wilderness. This hike could be a long day trip (13.6 miles, with about 2 1/2 - 3 hour drive each way) or an overnight trip depending on the group's wishes. For a day trip we will leave a car at the Black Balsam Parking Area near the Blue Ridge Parkway, then drive down to the Daniel Boone Scout Camp to embark on the Art Loeb Trail. After 3.8 miles of climbing to Deep Gap on the crest of the Shining Rock Ledge, we will take a 1.4 mile side trip to Cold Mountain (6030'). Then we will backtrack to Deep Gap and pick up the Art Loeb Trail again to Shining Rock (6040'), Grassy Cove Top (6000'), and Black Balsam Knob (6214'). Black Balsam Knob is the highest grassy bald in the Southern Appalachians and has wonderful views. Almost all of the climbing will be done in the initial section, although the trail up Cold Mountain is steep in places. Please contact Joe DeLoach at 753-7903 if you are interested in the trip; this should be a good warmup for those going out West and an excellent trip for blueberry lovers!

### **MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE AT BACKPACK (Scheduled for Sat-Sun, August 29-September 6, 1992)**

*Leader: Gether Irick (Phone: 615-239-5178)*

*Rating: Difficult*

Plans are to leave Kingsport at 5:00 PM on Friday, August 28, arriving in Maine on Saturday evening. We will backpack to Pinkham Notch, NH, passing through some of the most difficult sections of the entire AT (in terms of elevation gain per mile). We will return to Kingsport on Sunday, Sept 6. Total hiking distance 83 miles.

### **KONNAROCK CREW WORK - ROAN HIGHLANDS BALDS CLEARING (Scheduled for July 30-August 3, August 6-10, 13-17, and 20-24)**

*Leader: Joe DeLoach (Phone: 615-753-7903)*

*Rating: Moderate-Difficult*

For the last few years the Konnarock Crew has been involved in clearing some of the balds of the Roan Highlands of blackberry briars and other woody growth. This year the Konnarock Crew will be on the balds every weekend (Thursday through Monday) starting on July 23 and running through August 24. This part of the Konnarock Crew work is sponsored primarily by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy but TEHCC members are encouraged to help as well. Those who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew receive a year's membership free in the Appalachian Trail Conference and a T-shirt. As of this time no organized club trips are planned for the balds clearing, but those interested can park at Carver's Gap and meet the Konnarock Crew there or on the balds. We may organize a trip to clear weeds along the AT on the balds more distant from Carver's Gap; the Konnarock Crew normally concentrates on Round Bald and Grassy Ridge. Please call Joe DeLoach at 615-753-7903 for more information; I can arrange rides and tools for people who plan to work on the balds.

## CANOEING

### **NANTAHALA RIVER, NC. (Scheduled Saturday - Aug. 22, 1992)**

*Leader: Ed Montgomery (Phone: 615-357-8721)*

*Rating: Class II & III*

This river offers excellent class II & III whitewater and good family camping at Lost Mine campground. This trip was originally planned for the South Holston, but the Nannie was selected by several of my paddling cohorts. This river offers a jungle-like setting with very very cold whitewater and several



exciting rapids for novices and intermediates. We may go down early and get a run in on Friday the 21st in order to beat the crowds of ducks & rafts. I will be camping at Lost Mine campground with family and we will meet at the put-in on Saturday at 10:00am. Plan to bring standard safety equipment and some cold weather gear if you're cold natured. Please preregister - 357-8721 or 229-6332.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

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### DEDICATION OF THOMAS KNOB SHELTER - August 14, 1992

- The members of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club have been invited to the dedication of the Thomas Knob Shelter by the Mount Rogers Trail Club. The dedication is to be on Friday, August 14, 1992 at the Thomas Knob Shelter. The shelter is just off the AT near the Mt. Rogers summit: the closest parking to Thomas Knob is at Massie Gap in the Grayson Highlands State Park. This shelter is named in honor of Dave and Nerine Thomas who are residents of Washington Co., VA and are long time supporters of the Appalachian Trail through the Virginia Highlands. Representative Rick Boucher and Dignitaries from the ATC will be in attendance. The alternate rain site for the dedication is the Grayson Highlands State Park picnic shelter.

## FOR THE RECORD

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### 1992 CLUB PRESIDENTS' MEETING, HARPER'S FERRY, W. VA. - June 6-7, 1992 *(Dan Sand reporting)* -

The 1992 Club Presidents' retreat of the Appalachian Trail Conference was held at the Stephen Mather Training Center in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia on June 6 and 7. The meeting was well attended by presidents of the maintaining clubs for the Appalachian Trail as well as officers and staff of the Appalachian Trail Conference. The keynote address was given by Mr. John Davis, Associate Director or Operations for the National Park Service. Mr. Davis reported that 97% of the trail is fully protected and only 35 miles of trail remain to be purchased or leased on a long-term basis. In 1991, Mr. Davis stated that 130,000 hours of volunteer effort was expended for the trail. This effort was divided into three categories: (1) maintenance of the trail, (2) monitoring of the trail and (3) advocacy for the trail. In addition to the volunteer effort, NPS is spending a considerable amount of money reclaiming property that has been recently purchased. Reclamation includes the clean-up of hazardous waste dumps, renovation of dams on rivers and creeks, asbestos removal in buildings that have been purchased as well as radon monitoring in those buildings. The National Park Service has two programs to increase involvement with the trail from a broader range of socioeconomic groups. These two programs are the Youth Opportunity Program and Urban Youth on the Trail. Outreach programs were a major topic of discussion throughout the weekend. The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club is trying to establish several outreach programs. These include allowing middle school students to receive credit for a school- led hike,

a club sponsored internship with ATC and a Youth Opportunities Program for a part time staff position for the club. The thinking behind these programs is that maintainers of the AT and club officers are drawn from the pool of people who are interested in hiking and an effort should be made to keep expanding that pool of talent and energy. There was also considerable discussion about the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) and Volunteers in Forests (VIF) program led by Mr. Bob Proudman, Ms. Theresa Duffey and Mr. Roy Graybill. In general terms these two programs provide workman's compensation and liability coverage for volunteers who provide services to the National Parks Service or the National Forest Service. The coverage is tied to meeting a few regulatory requirements. In particular workers must be signed up with their organization or the NPS/NFS as a volunteer doing work prior to the time the work takes place. This means that the individual must sign up with the trip leader before leaving to go to the maintenance location. A second item was that the use of power equipment without certification is prohibited. The last major item covered at the meeting was a preview of the next general meeting for members. This is DEEP SOUTH '93 and will be at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, GA from June 12 through June 18, 1993. The sponsoring clubs are the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, the Georgia ATC, the Nantahala Hiking Club, the Carolina Mountain Club and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. There will be speakers, exhibits, hikes and workshops. Ted Malone is the organizer for the workshops and these will include a broad range of topics. This is sure to be an exciting and fun meeting.

### SOUTH BEYOND 6000 HIKE, ROAN MTN. - June 27, 1992 *(G. S. Luttrell reporting)* -

This trip was originally advertised as a South Beyond 6000 hike to the Black Mountains; but, since there was a good chance of rhododendron blossoms on Roan, the trip was changed. Starting at Carvers Gap we hiked to Grassy Ridge Bald, returned to Carvers Gap, then hiked to Roan High Knob and Roan High Bluff. This proved to be a good choice, because the flame azalea were beautiful on Round Bald, and the rhododendron were fully developed on Grassy Ridge. The blossoms in the Roan High Knob gardens were not as developed as those on Grassy Ridge. On Round Bald the experiment to utilize goats to control undesirable plant growth was underway, and an SAHC person was present to give explanations. Participants in this hike included Ken Wilmoth, Emmett Dougherty, Molly Carrico, Kay Luttrell, Dr. Arvell Luttrell, and Garry Luttrell.

*To contribute an article or hike notice to the TEHCC News, contact the editor, Eric Middlemas, B-231, TED, Home Phone - (615) 282-6987. All contributions should be received by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.*



## **MONSTER BLOWDOWN BITES THE (SAW) DUST -**

**July 3, 1992** (*Ray Hunt reporting*) - On orders from the biggest AT boss (Paul Worsham) and the next biggest boss (Ted Malone), on July 3 Dick Burow and Ray Hunt cut out what was probably the biggest blowdown on the AT since the great ice storm of 1987. It was near the Watauga Lake Shelter. A tall oak tree two feet in diameter had fallen diagonally across the trail, felling three or four trees in front of it, also across the trail. This blocked the trail for about 100 feet.

This blowdown nest was not old, perhaps a few months at the most. Other workers before us had cut a way through most of it, and there were several impromptu paths around it. We got the rest of it. The hardest part, of course, was that two-foot diameter tree. It was harder because we followed our standard procedure and got the saw stuck in one of the cuts. Afterwards, we cut out six other blowdowns between US 321 and the big one.

The people part of these trips is always interesting. On the way in, we walked through two family campsites on the trail, with their boats anchored on the shore nearby. When we came back, they were in virtually the same spots: boats, tents, people. Near the start of our trip, we met a backpacker hiking in the opposite direction. We asked him if there were any big blowdowns ahead, and he said he could not remember any. This puzzled us greatly, and we are still thinking about it. While we were standing at the big blowdown, Ed Schell and a friend came up. We did not recognize each other at first because it was in the middle of a drenching downpour and nobody looked normal. Ed said he was glad that we liked that kind of work because he didn't.

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