

HIKING & CANOEING NEWS

June 1993

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HIKING

KONNAROCK CREW WORK ON POND MOUNTAIN (Scheduled for 3-7 June 1993)

Leader: Joe DeLoach (615.753.7903)

We have two weeks of Konnarock Crew time to finish Pond Mountain. The first will be June 3-7, with the second scheduled for August 12-16. This is our top priority project for the year; there will be no more weeks of Konnarock Crew time for Pond Mountain, so please come out and help ensure we get this relocation finished! Once again, people working at least five days with Konnarock get a T-shirt and their dues for the Appalachian Trail Conference waived for the following year. For more information please call Ed Oliver at 349-6668, Ted Malone at 477-2222, or Joe DeLoach at 753-7903.

NATIONAL TRAIL DAYS (Scheduled for 5 June 1993)

Leader: Joe DeLoach (615.753.7903)

June 5 has been designated National Trails Day in commemoration of the National Trails System Act of 1968. Many events are scheduled around the country to celebrate National Trails Day, and East Tennessee is no exception. There will be several activities going on in the area as part of National Trails Day, with Mahoney's in Johnson City serving as the coordinator for these events. We are sponsoring two activities. The first will be the Konnarock Crew work trip on Pond Mountain which is reported in more detail elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our other activity will be assisting in a cleanup of the Kingsport Greenbelt at the Riverfront Park. If you would like to help in a trail cleanup but don't feel up to digging for the Appalachian Trail, here's your chance. We will meet at the Riverfront Park at 9:00. Please call Joe DeLoach at 753-7903 for more information on this trip or National Trails Day

in general.

DEEP SOUTH '93

(Scheduled for 12-18 June 1993)

Leader: Joe DeLoach (615-753-7903)

A couple of people have inquired about carpooling to Deep South '93 in Georgia. Would those planning to attend Deep South '93 please call Joe DeLoach at 753- 7903 or Ted Malone at 477-2222 and let us know when you are going?

THIRD SATURDAY MAINTENANCE FOR JUNE

(Scheduled for Saturday, 19 June 1993)

Leader: Ted Malone (615.477.2222)

Call Ted Malone (477-2222) or Ed Oliver (349-6668) for details.

LAUREL FALLS HIKE/SWIM

(Scheduled for Saturday, 26 June 1993)

Leader: Gether Irick (615.239.5178)

Rating: Easy/Moderate

This hike will be from the paved road in Dennis Cove along the old railroad grade down Laurel Fork, followed by a short, steep descent to the base of the beautiful, much-photographed Laurel Falls. There is an excellent swimming hole at the falls which we will take advantage of if weather permits. We'll try to work out car shuttles for anyone wishing to take a longer hike in from the parking area near Hampton. Departure will be at 10:00 AM from the parking lot below the Colonial Heights Burger King; bring your lunch and swim gear - we should be at the falls by 12:30, and be back to Colonial Heights by 4:00 PM. Kids with parents are very welcome.

KONNAROCK CREW - DOLL FLATS RELOCATION

(Scheduled for 1-5 July 1993)

Leader: Joe DeLoach (615-753-7903)

Our new Konnarock Crew project for this year will be a series of relocations in the Doll Flats area between Hump Mountain and Highway 19E. There are some steep sections on the existing Trail below Doll Flats that are very dangerous in wet weather. Last year some of the Forest Service supervisors walked that section and were quite angry that the Trail was in such poor shape. We flagged some relocations which will make the Trail much safer while preserving the trailside scenery. This will be a two year project; we have three weeks tentatively scheduled for 1993. Together with Pond Mountain we have five weeks of Konnarock Crew time, more than any other club. This amount of time was awarded to us because of the severity of the problems near Doll Flats, but there were questions about whether we could support this much Konnarock Crew time. Let's show everyone that we can and get a good start on this project in 1993. For more information please call Ed Oliver at 349-6668 or Joe DeLoach at 753-7903.

LECONTE CREEK TRIP

(Scheduled for Sat-Sun, 10-11 July 1993)

Leader: Dewey Fuller (Phone: 615.764.7340)

Rating: Very Difficult

This is an off-trail hike, or bushwhack, up one of the creeks flowing off of Mount LeConte. The trip is very difficult and involves a long steep climb with very little time for resting. Let me know if you would like further information about the trip or to be placed on the standby list to go up a trail.

**LECONTE TRAIL TRIP
(Scheduled for Sat-Sun, 10-11 July 1993)**

Leader: Steve Falling (Phone: 615.229.6621)

Contact trip leader for details.

CANOEING

**CANOE SCHOOL
(Scheduled for 3, 5-6 June 1993)**

Leader: Dewey Fuller (615.764.7340)

The twenty-first Hiking and Canoeing Club School of River Canoeing will be held June 3, 5-6. The course includes classroom instruction Thursday night, June 3, and river trips the following weekend with on the river instruction. Participants will be responsible for providing their own equipment and transportation. For additional information contact Dewey Fuller at 615.764.7340 Bristol, Tennessee.

ADVANCE TRIP NOTICE - GRAND CANYON TRIP

Leader: Bruce Cunningham (615.247.1838)

A May - June, 1994 trip is being planned around a 6 day rafting adventure down the GRAND CANYON (Lee's Ferry - Big Ten Ranch). Tentative plans are to spend about six days on the raft trip down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon and a week or so, either before or after the rafting trip, exploring near-by National Parks/Monuments such as Zion, Breaks, Arches, Bryce, Canyon Lands, etc. The trips to these locations will include day hikes. Participation in all or part of these activities is possible. Since it is necessary to make reservations well in advance, anyone interested in this adventure should immediately contact Bruce Cunningham (247-1838) or Gordon Newland (246-8845). If you can't get either of these, call Ed Oliver (349-6668).

FOR THE RECORD

KEEPING THE TRAIL OPEN

(Ted Malone reporting)

1992 total hours: 3995

Hours this report: 809

1993 hours to date: 1886

THURSDAY, Mar 18: Met with Damascus town officials to determine if the Club could help erect an information sign and install a shake roof on the Deep Gap shelter now located in the

park. Anyone willing to help contact Ray Hunt at 288-5182. (RH, DN, BC)

SATURDAY, Mar 20: Scout Troop 36 Johnson City (TRAIL ADOPTER) cleared '93 storm debris and opened the Trail from Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Shelter. (DD, DD, RM, JPM, JB, JB, RH)

SATURDAY, Mar 20: THIRD SATURDAY MAINTENANCE TRIP, cut blowdowns from Tenn. 91 to Shook Branch at Watauga Lake. (FW, EO, DF, JM, TM, SP, JD, MC, BC, JY, RT, MR, PW)

SUNDAY, Mar 21: Blowdown hunting from Rat Branch to Shook Branch near Watauga Lake. (JY)

THURSDAY, Mar 25: Blowdown removal at Rat Branch, part of Pond Mountain and Laurel Fork Gorge. (FW, BC, JY, JK)

THUR, Mar 25 & SAT 26: Bill Berry (TRAIL ADOPTER) clear, cut vegetation and rehabilitate Trail from Devil's Creek Gap to No Business Knob shelter.

SATURDAY, Mar 27: Regular Trail maintenance from Campbell Hollow Rd to Bitter End on Section 12. (GK, BM, TF)

SUNDAY, Mar 28: Worked with TRAIL ADOPTERS Dee and Luann to cut blowdowns on Trail near Nolichucky River. (DM, LM, DN, JK, MC, BC, EO, FW, JT, SP, TP)

THURSDAY, April 1: Cut blowdowns in Laurel Fork Gorge. (MC, BC, JK, FW, JY)

THURSDAY, April 1: Delivered hiker survey forms to Nolichucky Expeditions (TM)

SATURDAY, April 3: Install stile south of Isaac's Cemetery and cut blowdowns. (MC, BC, JY, EO)

SATURDAY, April 3: Regular Trail maintenance from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap (in the snow) on Section 15 with blowdown removal. (DB, OH, DC, GI)

SAT, April 3 & Sun 4: Attend the Southern Regional Management Committee meeting in Reidsville, North Carolina. (JD, RH)

WEDNESDAY, April 7: Repair Apple House Shelter, cut blowdowns from U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain, rehabilitate Trail from Doll Flats to Hump Mountain. (DN, FW, JY, JK, JT)

THURSDAY, April 8: Work on Pond Mountain Relocation. (MC, BC, EO)

SATURDAY, April 10: Trail inspection (in the rain) at Shook Branch, bridge inspection in Dennis Cove, inspection and rehabilitation at the Nolichucky River. (MC, BC, EO, JY, TM,

CM)

THURSDAY, April 8: Regular Trail maintenance on Section 5 from Turkey Pen Gap to Tenn. 91. (CM, TM)

FRIDAY, April 9: Meeting at Darrol's house to review and reprioritize the Work/Things To Do List. (DN, FW, MC, BC, JK, PW, EO)

FRIDAY, April 9: Regular Trail maintenance on Section 9 from U.S. 321 to Laurel Fork Gorge. (GL)

THURSDAY, April 10: Regular Trail maintenance on Section 5 from Turkey Pen Gap to Tenn. 91. (BC)

SATURDAY, April 10: Regular Trail maintenance and TRAIL ADOPTERS Explorer Post (Kathy McDavid) included clipping the entire Section, some rehabilitation work, blowdown removal and water drainage improved. (KM, SM, RC, JS, JS)

SATURDAY, April 10: Regular Trail maintenance on Section 14 from Yellow Mountain Gap to Bradley Gap. (TM, WM)

TUESDAY, April 13: Cut blowdowns from Iron Mountain Gap to FS 230 and inspect Cherry Gap shelter. (DN, BC, FW, JY, JK)

48 MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, Bruce Cunningham, Don Dennis, David Dennis, Rick Maczka, JP Maczka, Joe Bagatti, Joey Bagatti, Richard Heath, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Dewey Fuller, Jim Mann, Ted Malone, Steve Perri, Joe DeLoach, Mary Cunningham, Jack Young, Roby Thillippi, Mike Rice, Phillip Webb, John Keifer, Bill Berry, Greg Kramer, Bob Mynhier, Tim Frederick, Dee Drinkard, Luann Mack-Drinkard, John Thompson, Tisha Perri, Don Baker, Owen Holbrook, Doug Cox, Gether Irick, Ted Mowery, Carl Mowery, Cris Moorehouse, Theona Moorehouse, Bill Cook, Paul Worsham, Garry Luttrell, Kathy McDavid, Stephanie McDavid, Richard Colberg, John Siirola, Jeff Siirola, Wendy Malone.

BEYOND 6000 SMOKIES A.T. BACKPACK

17-18 April 1993

(Gether Irick reporting)

Like a similar hike in January, this 22-mile backpack started at Cosby Campground, ascended via the Snake Den trail to Inadu Knob and then followed the A.T. to Tricorner Knob Shelter. There were several major blowdowns, but the nuisance of these was offset by the beauty of hoarfrost covered vegetation above 5000 feet. We removed packs, followed the Balsam Mountain Trail to where we could see the ridgeline containing Mount Hardison and Marks Knob, and proceeded to crash through brambles, evergreen thickets and very thick blowdowns over the summits of these two >6000 foot peaks. Note - Marks Knob has two peaks and the farthest one is the "true peak". This was a very tough 3.5-hr bushwhack! After an 18-degree night in the shelter (2-degrees colder than our bags were rated for), we rose to

frozen water bottles and a beautiful sunny day. We continued south/west on the A.T. to Mount Chapman, bushwhacked up to the peak (40-minute round-trip), and returned to Cosby Campground. Excellent hiking weather, crystal clear views of the Blacks/ Plott Balsams, LeConte and Clingmans Dome, good food, no bugs, and a superb aerobic workout...what more could one want? Enjoying this not-too-heavily attended trip were Gether Irick and Owen Holbrook.

A.T. MAINTENANCE, DENNIS COVE TO BITTER END

17 April 93

(Kevin Edgar reporting)

After the great March snow it was a bit frightening to contemplate the number of blowdowns we'd encounter on this 10 mile section. We were so relieved over only finding a couple of dozen on the whole section that we hardly noticed our extremities turning blue and falling off. The day started grey and cool and turned white and bitter as we reached the higher elevations. The thin coating of snow and the frozen fog made our lunch stop at White Rocks Mountain firetower enchanting but brief. We encountered numerous through-hikers (one pair started at Springer in February; at the rate they're going, will make Maine in time for ski season), several dogs, and some deposits kindly left by an equine creature so we could follow his path from Dennis Cove to the firetower. The trail was in very good shape, the sun came out late in the day to illuminate the early wildflowers, and Darrel patiently taught some of us the difference between a birch and a locust. The weather had completely cleared by the end of the day, and the views as we drove off the mountain of the Roan Highlands with a high-altitude dusting of snow were overwhelming. Enjoying the perfect end to a fun and productive day were Wayne Catron, Bob and Shawn Tonnies, Darrel and Gail Wilder, and Kevin Edgar.

A.T. MAINTENANCE - WATAUGA LAKE TO LAUREL FORK

(G. S. Luttrell reporting)

The trip up the mountain was cold, windy, some sleet, and there was some snow on the ground, but, the sun broke through, and it was warm and pleasant down to Laurel Fork. We cut quite a few blowdowns and cleared the corridor of limbs and briar growth. We met two through hikers, one's trail name was Strider, from N.H.; and, another hiker we met, from Niagara Falls, was hiking from Erwin to Damascus. A few wildflowers were making an appearance at lower elevations: Jack and Frank identified Trailing Arbutus, Bleeding Heart, Rue Anemone, and a few others. Thanks to those who participated on this trail maintenance trip: Frank Williams, Jack Young, Dale Blakely, Lowell Toof, and Rodney Umberger.

A.T. MAINTENANCE - CROSS MOUNTAIN TO TURKEY PEN GAP

17 April 1993

(Cris Moorehouse reporting)

Armed with a new log book and an UNSHARPENED pencil we arrived at Iron Mountain Shelter around 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 17th (sorry, Ted, I just had to include that as part of this report). The 6.5 miles from Cross Mountain to Turkey Pen Gap was a relatively easy hike except for snow, sleet, 30 degree temperature, and 20 mile an hour winds! We cut Saw Briar which had begun to creep onto the trail but blow downs were few and trash was non existent - probably covered by the snow. Even though we were a little less than adequately

prepared for the rough weather, the snow capped mountains were beautiful. Rime covered trees on the windward side of the mountain were more beautiful than a fairy tale scene. Long needle pine trees looked as if they were sprayed white and ready to be decorated. However, yellow violets peeping through the snow reminded us that spring is near.

Even though some of my crew wanted to return to Kingsport rather than hike in the rough storm, I convinced them to begin with the promise that if the weather was unbearable we would turn around and come back. Nobody wanted to turn around and once we were back in the warm vehicles, we all agreed it was a marvelous day. Participants were Joe and Paulette Hall, Theona and Cris Moorehouse, Dean Webster, Alan Crain, Tim and Wendy Beavers.

(Webmaster's note: access to the A.T. at Turkey Pen Gap has been CLOSED)

LOWER NOLICHUCKY RIVER TRIP

25 April 1993

(Ed Montgomery reporting)

This trip was originally scheduled for April 24th on the South Toe, but due to low water on the South Toe and other conflicts it was moved to Sunday on the Lower Nolichucky. We arrived at the put-in (Chestoa) under sunny skies with the Nolichucky running around 1500 cfs. Big B was tempted to run the Gorge, but decided to honor us with his presence on this old standby run. We made our way down the first few rapids without incident. At RTR, Big B cut out a small strainer on river right and we all played until our arms hurt. The group was getting hungry and we moved on to the famous Nolichucky waterfall for some lunch and scenery.

Our next stop was at Cliff Rapid, and Big B again performed some excellent river maintenance by cutting a large strainer on river left. T said it looked like a battle ship as it made it's way down the river. We awarded B with extra points for the good work. We were all impressed with his special river saw cloaked in a piece of black foam pipe insulation causing it to resemble a blunderbuss.

The final few miles were tough, but an unusual tail wind and a wildlife show by an osprey and a vulture kept things interesting on the way down to Big Rock. Big Rock was hopping and the scenery was again excellent. Some indigenous humanoids (locals) apparently discovered fire near Big Rock Rapid, which resulted in the local Fire Department responding. Most of the our group discovered fire at Chucky Trading Post and was forced to drown it out with some cold brews. Those river paddlers enjoying a nice long day of paddling included Tom "T" Pridgen, Mary "M" and Dale "D" Mathis, Brad "B" Dayvolt and Ed "E" Montgomery (we stayed up late one night coming up with these nicknames).

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

(Ted Malone reporting)

New Adopters for our adopted part of the Appalachian Trail program are from Johnson City and call themselves the "Old-timers Hiking Club". They have adopted sections 17 and 18 from Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap for a total of 10.8 miles. This section includes Beauty Spot. Members are: C.B. Willis, Robert Danford, Don Frederick, Jim Widner,

Charles Hendrix, Robert Frazier and Richard Fields. These guys go hiking somewhere every Wednesday. Thanks fellows, the Club really appreciates your time and efforts.

TEHCC SPRING PICNIC

8 May 1993

(Joe DeLoach reporting)

May 8, 1993 was a perfect day for our spring picnic. We had bright, sunny weather, lots of wildflowers were in bloom, and...we had three people show up! Attendance at the spring picnic has been low the last few years and if we are going to continue to have this activity we need to know what people would be interested in attending. Would people rather go a little farther away and have a day outing? Would an evening picnic be preferable to a lunch picnic? Please contact a member of the Steering Committee - Joe DeLoach, Mary Mathis, Ed Montgomery, Steve Perri, Jeff Siirola, or Frank Williams - if you have any suggestions on the Spring Picnic.

To contribute an article or hike notice to the TEHCC News, contact the editor, Bob Tonnies, B.65, TED (Home Phone: 615.477.8126). All contributions should be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

**TERC HIKING & CANOEING CLUB
P.O. Box 511
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662**