

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November, 1997

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NEXT TWO MONTHS			
Nov. 1	Fall Dinner Meeting (Eastman Lodge)	Fun	J. Mayo
Nov. 1-2	Paddling Trip: Ocoee River	III-IV	M. Morrow
Nov. 8	Hike: Smokies Day Hike	Easy	K. Edgar
Nov. 15	Third Saturday Maintenance: Trail Rehab, Sec. 20	Worthwhile	E. Oliver
Nov. 22	Hike: Bad Branch State Natural Preserve, KY	Moderate	G. Luttrell
Dec. 13	Paddling Trip: Doe or Watauga Gorge	IV-V	M. Morrow
Dec. 20	Third Saturday Maintenance	Worthwhile	E. Oliver

[TEHCC to Hold Election of New Steering Committee Officers for 1998-1999 Terms](#)

Steve Wilson Reporting

The TEHCC will be conducting its annual election of officers to the Steering Committee during the month of November. Our current Steering Committee membership is as follows:

1996-1997 Committee Members:

1. Kathy Hall
2. Ted Malone
3. Steve Wilson (1997 Chair)

1997-1998 Committee Members:

1. Steve Banks
2. Kevin Edgar
3. Jan Mayo

The 1996-1997 Steering Committee members have now completed their term and will be stepping down. The committee will now have three vacant positions which will need to be filled for the next slate of officers for the 1998-1999 term. The Steering Committee will elect its own Chair for 1998 from the current committee membership. Since Steve Wilson is one of the retiring members of the 1996-1997 officers, he will stay on the committee one additional year (three years total) as advisor.

The Nominating Committee has identified two nominees for each of the vacant positions (six nominees total) who have consented to run for these vacant positions as the final

nominees. Balloting shall be conducted by mail in November. The three nominees receiving the most votes will be elected and shall assume their duties of their position on January 1, 1998.

The Final Nominees for the TEHCC Steering Committee for the 1998-1999 terms

are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
William Cook	B-211 Polymers Development
Mary Fanslow	B-150B Information Technology Division
Carl Fritz	B-280 Cellulose Esters Development
Richard Kilby	B-159T Technology Operations (Pilot Plant)
Michael Morrow	B-284 Management Engineering Services
Frank Williams	Retired

Our Constitution requires holding an elected office on the Steering Committee and election of officers to the Steering Committee shall be restricted to current employee members or retirees of the Club. Active or regular membership as defined by Recreation is currently limited to men and women employed by Eastman Chemical Company and Holston Defense Corporation, and retired employees of those companies. So election of any of the above candidates by guests or non-members will not be counted as valid votes.

The election ballot will be mailed out during the month of November and ballots cast will need to be mailed to Becky Bellamy, Recreation, B-89. Becky will count the votes cast and validate the election process through verification of the voters membership status.

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES



Fall Dinner Meeting: Eastman Lodge, Nov.1

Jan Mayo Reporting

The winter dinner meeting will begin at 5:00 pm, with a social hour at the new Eastman Lodge. At 6:00 pm, we'll have dinner prepared by Ed Oliver, followed our program, which includes a short business meeting and a presentation of the TEHCC web site. The highlight will be a slide presentation by Bruce and Mary Cunningham "Camping with the Animals on the Serengeti Plain - An African Adventure." If you missed last month's reservation deadline for dinner or would like to just come for the program, you are welcome to attend without any reservations.



Smokies Hike: Andrews Bald, November 8

Leader: Kevin Edgar

Rating: Easy

This will be a relatively short walk out the Forney Ridge Trail from near Clingmans Dome to Andrews Bald in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It's 1.8 miles each way for a total 3.6 mile hike. Our experience with these early November Smokies hikes is that it's a fine time for a hike with great views, cool (read "Perfect") hiking weather, and no hunter's bullets to dodge. On the other hand, past performance as they say is no guarantee of future results, so we need to be prepared for cold drizzle or even snow, too (we saw snow on the A.T. near Cosby at this time last year). As it is a short

and family-oriented day hike, if the weather is obviously miserable we will postpone. Meet at the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds off Ft. Henry Dr. in Colonial Heights for an 8am departure. Do let me know if you plan to go so I can inform you if we must cancel for weather or other reasons. This should be a good hike for kids who can do this distance. For those who may want more challenge, it will be easy to tack on a short hike from Clingmans Dome out the A.T. either north or south.

Nov. 15th Third Saturday Special Projects Trip, Section 20: Temple Hill Gap Near Erwin

Leaders: Ted Malone and Ed Oliver

This ongoing rehab project is about 60% finished. Excellent plant growth and a lack of observation/action on our part somewhere between the 1950s and the last few years allowed the rhodos to grow over the trail. This gradually forced hikers down the hill and to start a new trail where ever it was the most comfortable. Most of the rhodos have been cut back and the old trail redefined. What is left to do...the grunt work, digging out the old trail and making it wider. With a good turn out we could finish this project. For details contact Ted Malone or Ed Oliver. Departure is from the Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am sharp.

Hike: Bad Branch State Nature Preserve, Kentucky, Nov. 22

G. S. Luttrell, Rating: Moderate

Bad Branch State Nature Preserve is described as a 1640 acre naturalist's dream. The plan came together when several owners of land in the area worked together in a partnership to make the largest nature preserve in the state of Kentucky. Does this sound like similar efforts in the Roan Area? The partners include the Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and some private individuals. It's a mile hike to a 60 foot waterfall, then 3.1 miles following a 1000 foot drop cascade in less than three miles to High Rock. The preserve has stream pools and riffles, boulder-strewn creek edges, wet rock faces, talus areas, sandstone cliffs, open woodland, and the state's only known pair of nesting ravens. This preserve has just been opened up for hiking and is located near Whitesburg, Kentucky. Contact the hike leader for meeting time and place. Note: Nov. 22 is the date the VOLS play the Wildcats in football in Lexington. Orange will be the color of the day, but if you must wear blue, you are still welcome to join us. The South Beyond 6000 hike that I originally scheduled for Nov. 22, has tentatively been set for Dec. 6, 1997.

MALING REMINDER

Renewal of your 1998 newsletter subscription needs to be made before the end of November to assure continuation of your subscription. Retirees or Guests: \$5.00/yr

**Mail your renewal to: Becky Bellamy
B-89 Recreation
Eastman Chemical Company
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662**

Center For Appalachian Trail Studies Goes On-Line!

The Center for Appalachian Trail Studies has the following free services available on-line for people interested in long-distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail:

1) Appalachian Trailplace <http://trailplace.com>

An interactive website for A.T. Thru-hikers and Future Thru-hikers, with 27 searchable databases covering every aspect of A.T. thru-hiking, with four mailing lists, and four chat rooms. Includes A.T. Hiker Database, Advice from Former Thru-hikers, Future Thru-hiker Registration, Journals from 1997 Thru-hikers, Journals from 1998 Thru-hikers (after March 1, 1998); special sections for Women Only and High School Teens; more than 100 ways to participate; features for anyone interested in the Appalachian Trail, A.T. Club members and maintainers, outfitters, gear manufacturers. Hosted by seven-time thru-hiker Dan "Wingfoot" Bruce, author of The Thru-hiker's Handbook, the best-selling guide used by 99% of the people who hike long distances on the Appalachian Trail for the past seven years.

2) Four Majordomo Mailing List for discussing the A.T. and hiking

ATML () for general A.T. discussion

WATL () for women-only A.T. discussion

AT98 () for 1998 thru-hikers only

ATTEENS () for high school age teens

3) Four chat rooms (each associated with a mailing list above)

4) Planning Information and consultation, referral to thru-hikers who will talk to prospective thru-hikers in their area, about: weather, road, and trail condition contacts along the A.T.

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A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- **August 28: Meeting with Unaka District of USFS**

Steve Banks met with Vern Maddux (Assistant Ranger of the USFS Unaka District) to discuss the vandalism at US 19E. Steve reviewed TEHC's strategy of enlisting the support of USFS, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff's Department, and the Carter County Commission. Vern said the USFS will be supportive of our efforts, and is willing to write a letter of support to the Commission. Vern said USFS would be willing to go with us to a Commission meeting as well. However, USFS law enforcement personnel have no jurisdiction in this matter; the crimes take place on the highway right of way which is not USFS property, and USFS has jurisdiction only in damage to forest resources, not in crimes against people or property.

- **August 30: US 19E to Buck Mountain Road**

Steve Banks posted a sign warning about the vandalism at US 19E on the north side of

the highway. The sign on the south side is still there and in good shape. Steve then clipped along the trail from 19E to Buck Mountain Road and return. There are several blowdowns between Bear Branch and the bottom of Bishop Hollow; one is difficult to step over. There are weeds between 19E and Bear Branch Road; also, between the top of Bishop Hollow and Buck Mountain Road, the weeds are so high that the A.T. is difficult to follow in a few areas. Finally, the A.T. needs some rehab work in a few places between Bear Branch and the bottom of Bishop Hollow.

- **September 16: Oglesby Branch Relocations Trail Work, Section 20**

Ed Oliver and Frank Williams worked on the north side of the Oglesby Branch relo. They finished the rock work (mostly crush and fill) and are now back into the dirt part of the relo. Ed estimated they are 1/3 finished but would not commit on how many more trips it would take.

- **September 20: Rehab Trail Work, Section 20**

The September 3rd Saturday trip was to work on rehabing the trail between Temple Hill Gap and No Business Knob Shelter. Ed Oliver, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Bill and Derrick Stowell, Bryan Weitzel, and Frank Williams worked rehabing around 960 feet of trail.

- **September 23: Rehab Trail Work, Section 20**

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Bruce Cunningham, and John Thompson clipped and rehabed another 350 feet of trail between Temple Hill Gap and No Business Knob Shelter in addition to clipping an additional 350 feet for the next trip. Some small trip over rocks turned out to be icebergs under the surface. Once these were removed the cavities were filled with rock and dirt.

- **September 25: Highway 321 to Laurel Fork Gorge**

John Thompson, Ed Oliver and Frank Williams, Adopters of this section, have been working on a sluffing problem about 1.5 miles trail south of the Cemetary Rd. Sluffing occurs when dirt, leaves and small rocks slide down the bank and lodge in the corner of the trail. If too much of this debris fills the trail, it will force the hiker to use the outside edge of the trail causing another set of problems. Ed Oliver helped with this outing and the three members cleaned out about 300 feet. More of the trail on the front side of Pond Mountain needs work. If anyone is interested in helping John or Frank, call John at 245-8414.

- **September 27: Rhododendron Clipping, Section 11**

Bruce and Mary Cunningham have been doing extensive cutting of rhodo trail south of Moreland Gap Shelter. They estimate about one more mile before their project is finished.

- **September 30: Flagging Proposed Trail: Section 14**

Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Morgan Sommerville flagged the proposed route from Carvers Gap to almost Round Bald with stakes that Ed had prepared. The plastic ribbons we normally use is not very effective against the cold temperatures and wind of the Roan. The group pounded in 110 stakes (all they had) and actually needed one more.

- **October 3: Trail Rehab: Section 20**

Ed Oliver, John Keifer, and Frank Williams worked on the Temple Hill to No Business Knob trail rehab. About 450 feet of trail was repaired.

- **October 4: Trail Rehab: Section 18**

Joe Deloach rehabbed a few places close to and Trail south of Indian Grave Gap where the Trail has sloughed off and needs redigging. After the rehab work, he drove up on Unaka Mountain to check on reports from hikers of difficulty finding water sources. There are three springs listed in our guidebook for that area. The southernmost is 0.2 miles Trail north of Beauty Spot. There is a stile there where the Trail comes very close to the Road. There are water signs in both directions there, but the blazes have become very faded. Joe repainted them going to the spring, which is only about 50 yards across the road on a rocky path. He fixed the signs and blazed from the A.T.

- **October 5: Trail Rehab: Section 20**

Ed Oliver, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, and Bill Stowell continued trail rehab between Temple Hill and No Business Knob completing 400 feet of trail. This completes about 1/2 of the distance that needs reworking.

- **October 6: Bridge Location Inspection: Section 20**

Ed Oliver and Darrol Nickels went over and inspected the two sites for the bridges on Oglesby Branch. The lower bridge is not in really bad shape but will have to be replaced in the next 2-3 years. It was decided to go ahead and replace it since with just a little more effort you could build the two almost as easy as one. Measurements were taken and cribbing areas noted. They may go back on the 8th to remove the bridges and crib the landings.

- **October 8: Trail Rehab: Section 20**

Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, John Kiefer, Derrick Stowell rehabbed about 550 feet of trail between Temple Hill Gap and the No Business Knob Shelter. This ongoing project is now, about 60 percent complete.

- **October 4: Spring Check on Section 18**

Joe Deloach and Rachel Monderer located a third spring on this section of trail between Beauty Spot Gap 11.2 miles Trail north of the Nolichucky River. There are metal signs in both directions on the A.T. pointing out this spring. However, there is no trail leading from the A.T. and the few blue blazes are almost gone. They did find the spring, but it had very little water in it. It is about 100 yards from the road and about 200 yards from the A.T. Due to the distance from the A.T., the lack of a blue-blazed trail, the difficulty in marking a side trail through the field (and within a Wilderness), the low flow, and the presence of two other good springs in close proximity and closer to the A.T., it was advocated to delete this spring from our guidebook.

- **October 14: Bridge Prep Work: Section 20 - on Oglesby Branch**

This bridge crew of Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams picked up the materials and started putting the bridge together. They made a trip to the site of the lower bridge and drilled holes in the rock for the foundations.

- **October 15: Bridge Prep Work: Section 20 - on Oglesby Branch**

Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Derrick and Bill Stowell met at Darrol's house to prepare bridge components for the installation on Oct. 18th at Oglesby Branch.

Hike Report: Elk Garden to U.S. 58, September 6

Ed Oliver Reporting

Ruth Ketron, Bill and Derrick Stowell and Ed Oliver met for the hike to Ramsey Cascades in the Smokies. Since the sky was relatively clear and since we had received very little rain

lately, we figured that the cascades might be low on water and we would rather be up high where we could get nice views. We had a nice walk from Elk Garden to Whitetop, Buzzard Rock and on to U.S. 58. We not only enjoyed the views but enjoyed the blueberries and blackberries also. We'll plan to hike to Ramsey Cascades another time.

Hike Report: Carver's Gap - Grassy Ridge, October 4

Steve Wilson Reporting

The weather was nice for this 5-mile hike with clear skies and great views. The hike consisted of following the A.T. across Round Bald and Jane Bald, then following the trail along Grassy Ridge. We had lunch on a rock outcrop just past the plaque. We saw 2 hikers as we hiked in and 55 hikers while we hiked out. Enjoying the hike were Sandra Wenigar, Jill and Steve Wilson.

**To submit an article for
the newsletter, contact:**

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