

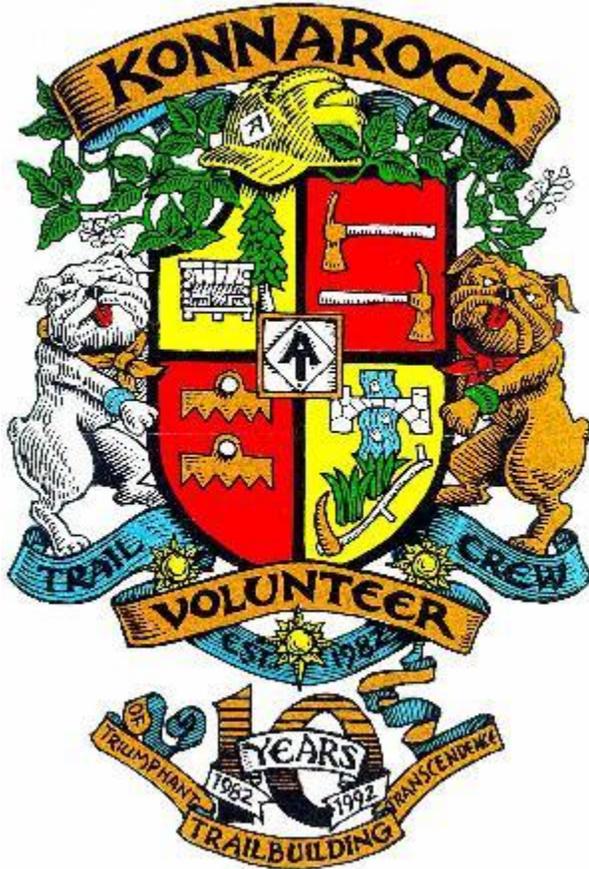
THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August, 1998

Contents

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Konnarock Crew - Little Rock Knob Relocation July 30-August 3, August 6-10, and August 13-17](#)
- [1998 ATC Multiclub Meeting, Sept. 4-7](#)
- [Scheduled Hikes/Activities](#)
- [Konnarock Trail Crew Schedule](#)
- [Bear Watch](#)
- [Club Dues and Fees Change in 1999](#)
- [Activity Reports](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Aug 1	A.T. Hike: Grayson Highland (Va.) - Hurricane Campground	D	R. Colberg	423-288-8333
Aug 1	Konnarock Crew Work - Little Rock Knob Relo	M	J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Aug 8	Konnarock Crew Work - Little Rock Knob Relo	M	J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Aug 13	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, B-310, Rm 114	E	J. Mayo	423-349-4244
Aug 15	Paddling Trip: New River Gorge	III-IV	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Aug 15	Konnarock Crew Work - Little Rock Knob Relo	M	J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Aug 22	A.T. Hike: Iron Mt Gap to Indian Grave Gap	M	N. Dotson	423-245-8316
Aug 29	A.T. Hike: Laurel Creek (Va 615) to I-77	M	C. Chew	423-239-6237
Aug 29	Paddling Trip: Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timers Trip	III-IV	D. Fuller	423-764-7340
Sep 4-7	ATC Multiclub Meet	F	C. Chew	423-239-6237
Sep 10	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, B-310, Rm 114	E	J. Mayo	423-349-4244
Sep 12	A.T. Hike: Summit Cut (U.S. 58) - Straight Branch, Va.	M	B. Stowell	423-239-7697
Sep 12	Paddling Trip: Hiwassee Overnighter	I-II	T. Pridgen	423-245-5975
Sep 26	Paddling Trip: Lower Gauley (26th-27th)	III-IV	S. Ernst	423-282-1010
Sep 26	A.T. Hike: US 421 to Backbone Rock	M	N. Dotson	423-245-8316



Konnarock Crew - Little Rock Knob Relocation July 30-August 3, August 6-10, and August 13-17

Leader: Joe DeLoach, 423-753-7903, Rating: Moderate

Konnarock Crew season is about to begin with TEHCC supporting 4 weeks in a row of crew time. The Forest Service was not able to get the necessary approvals and work out the logistics for the Round Bald Relocation, so we have Little Rock Knob as a backup. Working with the volunteer crew is an excellent opportunity for club members to learn how to do special rock reinforcement projects if ever you need to do some related rock work around the yard at home. We also could use the enthusiastic club workers to help get the work done! With a good club turn out, we might be able to finish up this project this year. Remember, 5 days working with the Konnarock Crew earns you a designer t-shirt. The Konnarock Crew arrives Thursday afternoons, works all day Friday-Sunday, and leaves Monday afternoon. While volunteers are encouraged to help any of those days, we'll have organized trips on the Saturdays and Sundays. These leave from the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water; we supply the tools. Contact Joe if you're interested in helping or for up-to-date information on the project.

1998 ATC Multiclub Meeting, Sept. 4-7



TEHCC Contact: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237, Rating: Fun

The annual Multiclub Meeting of the Southern Appalachian Trail Maintaining Clubs will be held at Sherando Recreation Area, near Waynesboro, Virginia on Labor Day weekend Sept. 4-7. The meeting this year will be hosted by the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club. Come join with other trail maintaining club members to enjoy the fellowship, good hiking and camping for this weekend. Other activities associated with the event include children's hikes, excursions to the Virginia Wildlife Center as well as other nearby attractions. Hikes and outings to nearby attractions are planned for Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday night will be at 7 p.m. (followed by entertainment) and a general meeting will be held Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. Other lodging accommodations in nearby Waynesboro are available as well as restaurants.

Registration fees are \$10/adult (children under 16 free), plus \$6.50/person for Saturday night dinner (optional). On site registration is available Friday 3-10 p.m. and Saturday after 8 a.m. but pre-registration is necessary by August 10 in order to reserve the dinner. Pre-registration forms are available by contacting Steve Perri (423-349-5091) or call Collins Chew at 423-239-6237 for more information.

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

A.T. Hike: Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603), Aug. 1

Leader: Richard Colberg, 423-288-8333, Rating: Moderate (10.3 mi, 2000 ft elevation gain).

Grayson Highlands State Park is one of my favorite places to hike. Come join me on this hike from Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603). [Note: I've shortened this hike from the one (from Grayson Highlands to Hurricane Campground) originally announced in the six-month calendar]. Along the way, we should have excellent views of the surrounding mountains from the balds in Grayson Highlands and the meadows on Stone and Pine Mountains. We'll also hike through pleasant hardwood forests. We should see wild ponies in Grayson Highlands, and possibly horses on Stone Mountain south of Scales. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Call for more information.

Paddling Trip: New River Gorge, Aug 15

Leader: Mike Morrow, 423-245-1201, Rating: III-IV

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

A.T. Hike: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mt. Gap (Unaka Mt. Section of A.T.), Aug 22

Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-245-8316, Rating: Moderate

Late August at Beauty Spot should mean plenty of ripe blueberries and blackberries around the edges of the bald, so please join us for this 10.8-mile hike on the A.T. complete with mid-morning snack. The plans are to hike from Indian Grave Gap (3360 ft.) to Iron Mt. Gap (3723 ft.) to hit the bald in the morning rather than in the more crowded afternoon. After some picking time at Beauty Spot, we plan to conquer Unaka Mt. (5180 ft.) and see if Little Bald Knob is any balder (or littler) than the so-called 'Little Bald' in the Sams Gap - Spivey Gap section of the A.T. We plan to meet in Colonial Heights between Burger King and McDonald's at 7:30 a.m., to allow for picking time. Be prepared for any weather, bring lunch, plenty of water, and a container or two for berries if you wish. For more information, call Neil Dotson at 423-245-8316.

A.T. Hike, US 52 at I-77 to Va. 615, Brushy Mountain, Saturday Aug 29

AT Hike, US 52 at I-77 to Va. 615, Brushy Mountain, Saturday Aug 29

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237, Rating: Easy

This will be another in a series of hikes on the A.T. in Southwest Virginia. It will start on at U.S. 52 at I-77 and follow Brushy Mountain to Va. 615. The hike will be 7 miles with little climbing on relatively gentle slopes. Although the mileage is long, all but the car shuttle is on Interstates I-81 and I-77. There should be less than 1,000 feet of climbing. Total driving distance should be around 240 miles. Bring adequate clothing for the weather, lunch, and water. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights. For more information, call Collins Chew at 423-239-6237.

Paddling Trip: Nolichucky Gorge First Timers Trip, Aug 29

Leader: Dewey Fuller, 423-764-7340, Rating: III-IV

The Noli gorge is a spectacularly scenic class III-IV run through mostly National Forest. This time of year, barring any heavy rains from hurricane activity, the river should be at a nice (lower) level suitable for those looking for something a little more challenging than class III water. Experienced gorge runners are of course also welcome. Please call Dewey Fuller 423-764-7340 for details.

Special Announcements

Konnarock Trail Crew Schedule

Little Rock Knob Relo:

Week 1: July 23-27, Week 2: July 30-Aug 3, Week 3: Aug 6-10, Week 4: Aug 13-17

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Bear Watch

A few bears have been reported along our section of the A.T. If you happen to see one or any signs of one, please let Ted Malone know (423-477-2222,) so we can monitor the number of occurrences and their location.

Club Dues and Fees Change in 1999

The Steering Committee has reviewed our budget and our budgeted items for this year, and for what we are projecting in 1999. Because we have lost the service of having the newsletter printed by the company print shop, a large percentage of our operating money has had to be diverted to paying the cost of having the newsletter printed outside. We've also been notified of a postal increase early in 1999 which will tax our resources a bit more for mailing to retirees and adopters who cannot use our intraplant mailing system. Therefore, we've passed a motion to raise dues by \$2.

On January 1, 1999, dues will increase from \$3 to \$5 for employees, and the fee for mailing to retirees and adopters will increase from \$5 to \$7. This additional money will be used to cover printing costs, mailing costs, and to replenish our trail equipment maintenance fund, which has been reduced to the point that we must address it now, or implement Plan B. Plan B involves no repairs to structures and trails or convincing trees to blow over in a more efficient manner, so no trail is obstructed by unsightly roots and trunks....

If you are concerned over this increase, or would like to discuss our budget, please call Jan Mayo, 349-4244.

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A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- **June 17: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell Reporting)**
The day was spent trying to rehab the blue blaze trail to the shelter in Laurel Fork Gorge. The area worked on was a rock face, trying to sledge hammer a wide enough place to make a decent trail.
- **June 20: A.T. Maintenance (Steve Banks Reporting)**
Steve Banks cut the weeds on his Adopt-A-Trail section, from McQueens Gap south about 1.5 miles to the point where Ed Oliver and Tim McClain cut from U.S. 421 north.
- **June 24: A.T. Maintenance (Derrick Stowell Reporting)**
Derrick Stowell and Ed Oliver completed chiseling the rock away on the blue blaze to the shelter in Laurel Fork Gorge. Also a steep section just after the first old trestle crossing was cut down to a lesser grade. The blue blaze to the shelter is now in good shape.
- **June 25: A.T. Maintenance (Joe DeLoach Reporting)**
I continued looking for places for the Konnarock Crew to stay when they work on the Little Rock Knob Relocation, starting July 23. I started last night with Limestone Cove Campground in which Olin Mason said the Crew could stay. He said it was about a 20 minute drive to Hughes Gap; it's more like 35. When I got there the gate was closed and the campground was empty. I then drove up to Hughes Gap, in hopes that the site of the house that used to be just on the NC side of the gap could be used. A lot of trash has been dumped out at the driveway, which has three tank traps. The area seemed too gravelly for a good campsite. I then drove up to Roan to look at the Balsam Road, where the Crew camped when they mowed blackberries. That road washed badly during the January floods and the van could only be able to make it a little ways behind the gate. There was no place to camp there (though I did see some bear tracks almost as big as my hand!). Finally, I went up some hollows above Burbank hoping to find a gated road the Crew could park behind. No luck there either.

- June 27: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell Reporting)**
 Brian Stubblefield, Frank Williams, Bill and Derrick Stowell cut the weeds and lopped growth on the Sierra Club adopted section from US 321 to Laurel Fork Gorge. We also cut a blowdown just on the temporary blue blaze trail at the A.T. intersection on the railroad grade.
- June 27: A.T. Maintenance (Garry Luttrell Reporting)**
 I parked at the end of Roaring Fork Road and cut weeds trail south of Yellow Mountain Gap to the bald at Yellow Mountain
- June 28: A.T. Maintenance (Joe DeLoach Reporting)**
 The third time was the charm to find a place for the Konnarock Crew to stay. I first stopped at Limestone Cove Recreation Area, which was still closed. I'm going to check with the Unaka RD if this campground will open at all this summer. If it stays closed and we get the FS to turn the water on, this may be a good option for the Konnarock Crew. I then found a gated FS road about 1.4 miles down the Tenn. side from Iron Mt. Gap. This road is on the left as you're heading up the mountain from the Tenn. side; you can easily drive past it in that direction. The road is grassy, not steep, and there was no sign of human activity. It looked to me like a great place, with the exception of no water at the site. There is a creek near the gate that can be accessed. After no luck on the Tenn. side of Hughes Gap, I went up Greasy Creek past the gate. This is about 5 minutes closer than the gated road in Tenn., but the road is considerably rougher. There is a decent campsite not far behind the gate, and there is a creek running nearby, but there was some trash, vehicle tracks, and general signs of human use. I believe the road in Tenn. will be the best option, with the campground a possibility and a place to get water. I'll follow up with the Unaka RD on these options, and communicate to ATC.
- July 3: A.T. Maintenance (Collins Chew Reporting)**
 Bob Harvey, John Thompson, Frank Williams, and Collins Chew went over the 6 mile section between Shook Branch and Laurel Fork Gorge trimming weeds, rhododendron, and young trees and removing a number of new blowdowns.
- July 2: A.T. Maintenance (Steve Falling Reporting)**
 Steve Falling, Jerry Cunningham, Neil Dotson and Steve Perri carried out annual maintenance on Section 1 from Backbone Rock to Damascus. On the way up the blue-blaze from Backbone Rock, we encountered a group of trees uprooted on the trail. We cut a route around the pile since chainsaws and lots of digging would be required at a later time to open the original route up. This area is now passable. On the A.T., we carried out blazing and cutting back rhododendron and some minor weeding. This section is now in good shape.
- July 3: A.T. Maintenance (Steve Perri Reporting)**
 I finished cutting the weeds on our Section from U.S. 421 to Tenn. 91 after the Cunninghams started trail south from 421. I cut from the point where they stopped and continued to the shelter with a scythe. It is now easily passable. The trail south of the shelter along the roadbed does not have many weeds so I stopped here.
- July 18: A.T. Maintenance (Ed Oliver Reporting)**
 For the third Saturday special project trip for July, Bil decided to clear the flag line for the relocation

that the club and the Konnarock Crew will be working on later in July and August. Bill Lancaster, Ted Mowery, John Thompson, Frank Williams, Bill & Derrick Stowell, Carl Fritz, and Ed Oliver managed to cut back the laurel, rhododendron, and other growth from the route of the new trail near Little Rock Knob. We should have enough trail cleared for the first week of the Konnarock Crew. We made sure that the flagline is correct. We found a couple of potential vistas that would give hikers a good view of Beartown Mountain and Roan Mountain.

- **July 19: A.T. Maintenance (Steve Wilson Reporting)**

My 17-year-old nephew, Daniel Casad, came out for a visit and agreed to participate in some trail maintenance. We cut limbs and blowdowns from Temple Hill Gap to the No Business Knob Shelter, removing 10 fallen trees. The trail and shelter are in good shape. Highlights of the trip were some wild turkeys (a hen and 6 chicks), deer, and a tee-shirt soaking rainstorm. Tennessee Mountains are quite an experience for a Kansas teenager.

- **July 21: A.T. Maintenance (Dewey Fuller Reporting)**

I cut weeds in the field located about 1 mile south of the firetower. This was really grown up mainly with grass but some blackberries. The scythe worked well; it was easier to carry and was quieter than a string trimmer.

Hike Trip Reports

Hike Report: Gregory Bald, June 27

Neil Dotson Reporting

We missed the peak of the azalea bloom on Gregory Bald by about 10 days, but even so the remaining amount and variety of colors were amazing - white, pink, orange, red. No blue ones, but there were blueberries already ripe and delicious. We climbed to this peak (4949 ft.) via the Gregory Bald Trail, rather than the Gregory Ridge Trail (as advertised), thus cutting 2 miles from the hike and 700 ft. from the ascent, though missing the giant tuliptrees and the creekside hiking. This shorter route was made possible by the providential re-opening of the Parson Branch Road just a few days before. Lunch was eaten at Sheep Pen Gap, just shy of the summit - both by the hikers and by the flies, who (much to our dismay) feasted on us royally. The weather, though, cooperated nicely, the day being clear if hazy: from the bald, Cades Cove could be seen below us to the north, and the tower atop Shuckstack to the southeast, but one had to strain (imagine?) to see Rich Mountain and the mountains in the Nantahala National Forest. Enjoying this 9-mile hike were Patricia López and Neil Dotson.

Hike Report: Mt. LeConte Trail Hike, July 11

Jessica D. McGee Reporting

The day was warm and humid, but Shelton Thomas of Erwin, Jessica & Terrill McGee of Blountville and Dexton and Kendra Eller of Knoxville tackled the Alum Cave Trail (5 mi). This is a beautiful trail with excellent views of the "Smokies." The bluff is a good resting place and if you have children along, then can play in the sand. The hike is rather difficult if you are not in good physical condition. As we increased in elevation, we experienced the cool and refreshing mountain breezes and experienced the smell of clean mountain air. Upon our arrival, a mist settled around LeConte with cool breezes - enough to put on the extra clothing. Sitting in the rocking chairs on the porch of the lodge, reflecting,

dozing and conversing with other hikers, was very enjoyable.

Dinner was a treat - country style service and plenty of food. The most spectacular scene was sunset from LeConte. This alone made the trip worth it. The mountains, the beautiful colors, the haze clinging to the mountains and the sun were exceptional.

After a breakfast of pancakes and eggs, our group made their descent on the Boulevard. This is a longer trail (8.3 miles) but a moderate trail that we did in 4 1/2 hours.

Hike Report: Mt. LeConte Creek Hike, July 11

Jon Mather Reporting

An enthusiastic group of five hikers ascended Mt. LeConte via creek and spent the night at Mt. LeConte Lodge. The day was started after a hearty breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Pigeon Forge around 9:30 a.m. and the start in Rainbow Falls Creek after lunch. We spent several hours traversing under fallen logs, over fields of mossy boulders, around many smaller waterfalls, and bushwacking through blackberry bushes. By late afternoon, we had reached the trail leading to the lodge. The weather cooperated with temperatures in the 80's. The food and shelter at Mt. LeConte Lodge were fitting rewards for such a tiring hike! Creek hikers were: Lynn Byrd, Tim Dawsey, Steve Dick, Jon Mather, and David Skotty. Others who took the Rainbow Falls trail and met the creek hikers were Sador Black, Paulette Byrd, M'Liss Mather, Seth Mather, David Mather, Jennifer Riddlen, Judy Slaughter, and Sharon Slaughter.

To Submit an article for

the newsletter, contact:

Steve Perri

180 Peppertree Drive

Kingsport, Tennessee 37664