

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

September, 1998

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Sep 4-7	ATC Multiclub Meet	F	C. Chew	423-239-6237
Sep 10	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, B-310, Room 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 19	Third Saturday Maintenance Trip		E. Oliver	423-349-6668
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
Oct 3	A.T. Hike: Spivey Gap - Nolichucky River	M-D	S. Banks	423-288-2646
Oct 8	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, B-310, Room 114	E	J. Mayo	423-349-4244
Oct 10	A.T. Hike: Summit Cut (U.S. 58) - Elk Garden	M	J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Oct 10	Paddling Trip: Lower Gauley	III-IV	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Oct 11	Paddling Trip: Upper Gauley	IV-V	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Oct 17	Third Saturday Maintenance Trip		E. Oliver	423-349-6668
Oct 18	Paddling Trip: Nolichucky Gorge Fall Colors Trip	III-IV	G. Porter	423-288-6513
Oct 24	A.T. Hike: McQueens Gap to Tenn 91	M	E. Middlemas	423-282-6987



TEHCC and the Konnarock Crew Complete the Little Rock Knob Relocation

Joe DeLoach and Ed Oliver reporting

This year, we had four consecutive weeks of Konnarock Crew time for the Little Rock Knob Relocation. The consecutive week scheduling was because we had planned to work on Round Bald, and that is not ideal for our volunteers. Also, there was a lot of rain during the days the Crew was working. Nevertheless, thanks to excellent productivity by Konnarock, we were able to almost complete this relocation while the Konnarock Crew was here.

On Saturday, August 22 Steve Banks, Joe DeLoach, Frank Williams, John Thompson, Bill Stowell, Derrick Stowell, Darrol Nickels, and Ed Oliver completed the relocation. We completed both ends of the relocation and blazed the new trail. We dug several water diversion ditches across the old trail and filled the old trail with brush. The first official hikers on this relo were the Buchanan family from Charlotte, N.C. The second hiker was a thru hiker from Germany who had started in Maine in April. This relo offers a nice hike to a great overlook and is a definite improvement to this section of the Appalachian Trail. This is a beautiful section of Trail, far better than what we are replacing, and we'll have a hike soon to commemorate its opening. One thing that did not go well was the number of Club volunteers who worked. We had 14 Club volunteers which is a little less than what we usually have, but we only had seven after the first three weeks and there were several days where only one or two Club members showed up. We continue to rely too much on a small group of dedicated volunteers to fulfill our Appalachian Trail responsibilities. But many thanks go to the volunteers who did work with Konnarock on this project. These include Pat Buchanan, Joe DeLoach, Neil Dotson, Brian and Kristen Fakes, Dixie and Fred Hoilman, Patricia Lopez, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Bill and Derrick Stowell, John Thompson, and Frank Williams. The Stowells, Ed, and Joe all worked at least five days with the Crew and thus earned the Konnarock T-shirt.

Nominations Open for Steering Committee Members

Steve Wilson Reporting

It is time to gather nominations for new Steering Committee members. We need six nominees for the

three positions opening on the committee. The committee consists of 6 elected members plus the past chair with each member serving two years. The election process is to start gathering nominations in September and hold the elections in November. To nominate someone, one submits his or her name to a current committee member (Steve Banks, Kevin Edgar, Mary Fanslow, Carl Fritz, Jan Mayo, Frank Williams, or myself). Anyone of us would be happy to explain the benefits and responsibilities. Our >700-member club needs some new leaders to step forward. So if you've debated being more active, serving as a Steering Committee member is a good start. You'll learn valuable leadership skills, have an opportunity to shape the club's goals, and contribute towards them. I'm about to rotate off of the committee and as I reflect back on the experience, I recall that serving was more rewarding than I expected. Is it your turn?

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

A.T. Hike: Summit Cut to Straight Branch, Sept. 12

Leader: Bill Stowell, 423.239-7697, Rating: Moderate

This is a 10 mile section above Damascus with a climb in the middle. Moderate rating. We will meet at Burger King to depart at 8:00 a.m. Please call me if you are going.

Paddling Trip: Hiwassee Overnighter, Sept. 12-13

Leader: T. Pridgen, 423-245-5975, Rating: I-II

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

A.T. Hike: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, Sept. 19

Leader: Kevin Edgar, 423.239.5742, Rating: Moderate

This is a classic dayhike for our area, featuring some of the finest examples extant of Southern Appalachian balds and unparalleled views. It will be well-suited to various skill levels, since it is an out-and-back hike and since one can easily turn back at any of the several scenic spots along the way. We will climb Round and Jane Balds, turn off the A.T. at Grassy Ridge, and walk out the ridge to take in the scenery. The total mileage should be between 4-5 miles depending on how far one cares to go. Join us for one of the best dayhikes in our area. We will meet in the parking lot between BK and McDonalds in Colonial Heights for an 8 a.m. departure. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, and sturdy boots. Call the leader for more information or to let him know you're coming.

A.T. Hike, Low Gap (U.S. 421) to Backbone Rock, Sept. 26

AT Hike, Low Gap (U.S. 421) to Backbone Rock, Sept. 26

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

Perhaps the first hints of autumnal colors will grace this moderate 12-mile hike along the ridge of Holston Mountain. If not, perhaps some Closed Gentian will be found. In any event, most views will probably be close at hand, rather than the broad panoramas you may have come to expect from my 'Bald Beyond 4000' series; sorry, but this is mostly a walk through forest. There are no great elevation changes in this section, save the nice descent to Backbone Rock at the end. There is the slight possibility that your hike leader, giddy with the whimsy that strikes in early fall, will choose a different location on the A.T. for this date, so give me a call to confirm. As always, be prepared for weather of the inclement sort, bring lunch, plenty of water, and a sense of humor. We will meet in the parking lot

between that Scottish restaurant (McDonalds) and Burger King at 8:00 a.m.

Paddling Trip: Lower Gauley, Sept. 26-27

Leader: Steve Ernst, 423-282-1010, Rating: III-IV
Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

A.T. Hike: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River, Oct. 3

Leader: Steve Banks, 423-288-2646, Rating: Moderate

This section of the A.T. is one of my favorite places to hike. This hike starts at Spivey Gap, at the southern end of the TEHCC section of the A.T. We will ascend along Oglesby Branch, skirt Flattop Mountain, and then slab around the side of No Business Knob before descending along Cliff Ridge to the Nolichucky River. Along the way, we should have excellent views of the surrounding mountains and Nolichucky Gorge. Early fall colors will enhance the beauty of this part of the Southern Appalachians. 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.

Special Announcements



Club Promotional Items For Sale

We have a small selection of club patches and hats still for sale. Contact Steve Falling (423-239-5502) for patches or Ted Malone (423-477-2222) for t-shirts and hats. Prices are as follows:

Club Patches: \$4.00 ea or 3 for \$10.00
Club t-shirts (Large, white, 50/50): \$10.00 ea
Club Hats w/Patch (blue or white): \$10.00 ea



New Newsletter Editor Needed in 1999

It's time for TEHCC to look for a new newsletter editor to take over in 1999 as Steve Perri steps down. Steve has done the newsletter for 2 years and is ready to move on to some new challenges. The newsletter editorship is an excellent way to learn about the club and to develop new skills with desktop publishing. If you are interested or would like more information, please give Steve a call at 423-349-5091.

NEED
TO
KNOW

August Newsletter Delays

The TEHCC newsletter experienced some delays last month which resulted in a two and half week late-delivery. Unfortunately this was the result of our internal mailing list being accidentally erased, with the key people who could regenerate the list either on vacation or sick. In addition, there were other higher priority projects that needed to be mailed before the newsletter. We hope this did not cause any significant inconveniences for anyone. We are working to improve the distribution process to minimize delays in the future.



Donations for the Silent Auction at Radford 99

Collins Chew Reporting

The Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club is one of the sponsors for the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference at Radford University, Va., July 9-16, 1999. A popular feature of these conferences is a Silent Auction where the attendees bid (on tablets) for items on display at the conference. Outdoor gear, craft items, art, books, services (such as guide services) are typical of things offered. The sponsoring clubs obtain donations from various sources to stock the Silent Auction. The name of the donor will be listed with the item. It would be very nice if TEHC people would make some contributions. Handmade craft or art items might be particularly suitable for individuals whereas outdoor/camping gear might be more suitable for outfitters who might get this notice. If you would like to participate by donating items (or by helping put on the auction), please call or contact Collins Chew at 423/239-6237, 609 Green Meadow Drive, Kingsport, Tennessee 37663.

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A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- **May 24: A.T. Maintenance (Dixie Hoilman Reporting)**
Dixie, Fred, and Jeff Hoilman and daughter Kathy Lewis worked to maintain Sec 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mtn Gap. We removed small blowdowns and trash from the shelter.
- **June 14: A.T. Maintenance (Dixie Hoilman Reporting)**
Dixie and Fred Hoilman and Pat Buchanan worked to maintain Sec 19 - Nolichucky River to Curley Maple Gap Shelter. We removed four fresh blowdowns and cleaned around the shelter. The shelter is in good shape.
Dixie and Fred Hoilman also worked on Sec 17 - Iron Mtn Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter and hauled out a lot of trash. Horse tracks were all over the shelter area.

- **July 21: A.T. Maintenance (Frank Williams Reporting)**
Frank and Betty Williams cut weeds around Watauga Lake near Shook Branch Recreation Area.
- **June 23: A.T. Maintenance (Kathy Lewis Reporting)**
Kathy and Dwight Lewis worked on Sect 19 - Chestoa to Nolichucky Expeditions. We clipped, weeded and removed blowdowns.
- **July 26: A.T. Maintenance (Dixie Hoilman Reporting)**
Dixie and Fred Hoilman, Kathy Lewis, and Pat Buchanan worked to maintain Sect 19 - Noli. Exped. to Curley Maple Shelter. We removed 3 blowdowns and cleaned up around the shelter. The shelter is in good shape.
- **Aug 2: A.T. Maintenance (Dixie Hoilman Reporting)**
Dixie and Fred Hoilman and Pat Buchanan worked to maintain Sect 20 - Spivey Gap to Chestoa. We cleared half a dozen blowdowns. We also cut green briars and lopped. We cut weeds at the new hostile going up hill and where the trail first intersects the road on Temple Hill. The trail needs blazing from shelter north. Saw signs of bear. Horse tracks between Spivey and Canalot access. This section is in excellent shape.



- **Aug 1-2: Konnarock Trail Work (Joe DeLoach Reporting)**
Konnarock - Little Rock Knob Relocation
Joe DeLoach and John Thompson (Aug 1), Joe DeLoach (Aug 2). It poured down rain on Thursday and Friday, but Saturday and Sunday were good days for Trail building. We turned onto a ridge that leads to the top and got a good ways past that. It is possible, though I think unlikely, that the Crew will finish next week but in any event, they should be able to complete the project in the next two weeks.
- **Aug 8: Konnarock Trail Work (Steve Perri Reporting)**
Konnarock - Little Rock Knob Relocation
I worked with the crew Saturday continuing the Little Rock Knob Relo. The crew was a "skeleton

crew" of 5 members, so we didn't get very far compared to the amount that a full crew would cover. Dana estimated that it will require about 2 weeks to 2.5 weeks to finish the job. I told her we should have a good turn out next weekend. They are pretty good workers and careful with rock moving; more so than other crews. I brought them some vegetables from my garden, which they seemed to appreciate. Weather was great, low 70's, sunny blue skies.

- **Aug 9: Konnarock Trail Work (Frank Williams Reporting)**

Konnarock - Little Rock Knob Relocation

On Sunday, August 9, I worked with the Konnarock Crew on the relocation near Little Rock Knob. The crew is almost past the thick rhododendron thicket. I doubt that the crew with help from TEHC will be able to complete this relocation this year unless there is an overwhelming turnout from the club next weekend.

- **Aug 22: Konnarock Trail Work (Ed Oliver Reporting)**

Post-Konnarock - Little Rock Knob Relocation

On Saturday, August 22 Steve Banks, Joe DeLoach, Frank Williams, John Thompson, Bill Stowell, Derrick Stowell, Darrol Nickels, and Ed Oliver completed the relocation trail north of Little Rock Knob. The Konnarock Crew with help from the hiking club had completed most of the work in the previous four weeks. We completed both ends of the relocation and blazed the new trail. We dug several water diversion ditches across the old trail and filled the old trail with brush. The first official hikers on this relo were the Buchanan family from Charlotte, N.C. The second hiker was a thru hiker from Germany who had started in Maine in April. This relo offers a nice hike to a great overlook and is a definite improvement to this section of the Appalachian Trail.

- **Aug 10,20, 25 A.T. Maintenance (Bill Fritsch Reporting)**

Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob

Aug 10 - Bill Fritsch

Aug 20 - Bill, daughter Carmen and her husband Fernando Marzan

Aug 25 - Bill and wife Etta

We inspected the erosion problem and looked for blowdowns on the Roan High Knob Section. We found four that will not survive the next snow storm and might fall in the Trail. On our second and third trips we observed hikers having a problem staying on the trail on the top of Roan Mt near the old hotel site where the trail turns left heading trail north towards Carvers Gap. We removed some briars and weeds that seemed to help. We will install two posts to help with the routing problem to inform hikers of this sharp turn in the trail.

Hike Trip Reports



Hike Report: Garden Mountain to Poor Valley, July 26

Collins Chew Reporting

The threatening rain and actual drizzle stopped as we began a pleasant hike along Garden Mountain after quite a long car shuttle. The clarity of the air allowed only hazy views of the farms of Burkes Garden. A number of wildflowers were in bloom with turk's cap the most outstanding and frequent.

Conversation was also most pleasant for the full 10.8 miles. Hikers: Kent and Nancy Wilson and Collins Chew.

Hike Report: Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek, August 1

Richard Colberg Reporting

A cold front passed through the area the day before our hike and we enjoyed perfect hiking temperatures and only partly cloudy skies. We didn't see the wild ponies (they must have been higher up Wilburn Ridge), but we did see the not-so-wild horses and cows near Scales. We enjoyed good views for the balds in Grayson Highlands and on Stone and Pine Mountains, and pleasant walks through hardwood, fir and hemlock forests. While it was still a little early in the berry season, we did sample some wild blueberries and blackberries. ("Who needs lunch?") Overall, a very pleasant hike enjoyed by Richard Colberg and Neil Dotson.

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

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