

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

October, 1998

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Oct 3	A.T. Hike: Spivey Gap - Nolichucky River	M-D	S. Banks	423-288-2646
Oct 8	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, B-310, Rm 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
Oct 31	A.T. Hike: Grayson Highlands State Park Loop	M	G. Luttrell	423-239-9854
Nov 1	Paddling Trip: Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Nov 7	Day Hike: Smokies-Mt. Cammerer	M-D	K. Edgar	423-239-5742
Nov 14	Fall Dinner Meeting: Eastman Lodge	F	J. Mayo	423-349-4244



Fall Dinner Meeting, November 14

Jan Mayo Reporting

The Fall dinner meeting will be held at the Eastman Lodge on November 14th, 1998. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. we'll have dinner prepared by Giuseppe's followed by a short business meeting. This Fall's meeting vendor will be Trail Sports, from Colonial Heights,

providing some of their wares and equipment. The evening program will then begin at 7:00 p.m. Our evening program will be presented by Claude Kelly, entitled "A Walk in the Woods". In an age when we are preoccupied with life's opportunities and problems, we sometimes miss many of the small treasures that are literally laid at our feet. The beauty and intricacy of spring wildflowers; the brilliant hues of autumn leaves; the soothing sound of water rushing over mossy stones; the ice sculptures that Nature carves in the frozen months of winter are all part of a very special slide presentation. Be treated to a symphony for your eyes and ears with Claude Kelly's beautiful montage celebrating the beauty of the four seasons in the Appalachian Region.

The meal will be buffet style catered by Giuseppe's and will include: Stuffed shells, lasagna, stir fried chicken, pea salad, garlic bread, and tea. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. Our home made desserts were such a hit last year that we'll ask members to bring dessert again. So if you have something you would like to bring to the meeting for dessert, please let us know! Coffee will also be provided.

Please Return the form below to:
 Jan Mayo B-280B, or to:
 Frank Williams, 2346 Inglewood Dr. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660, by November 10, 1998.

As always, members are welcome to attend the program portion free of charge if they choose not to attend dinner. Just let us know ahead of time so we can arrange for ample seating. If you would like to bring a dessert, please let me or Frank know what you would like to bring.

Dinner Reservation Form

Name: _____

Number of Meals: ____ X 12.00 = \$ _____

Please Return Form with a check to:

(by November 10)

Jan Mayo, B-280B (349-4244) or

Frank Williams (245-8414),

2346 Inglewood Dr. Kingsport, Tennessee 37664

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

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 Flatop 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.

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, Oct. 10

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

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

A.T. Hike: Summit Cut to US 58 -Elk Garden, Oct. 10

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

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

Paddling Trip: Upper Gauley, Oct. 11

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

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

Paddling Trip: Nolichucky Gorge Fall Colors Trip Oct. 18

Leader: G. Porter, 423-288-6513, Rating: III-IV

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

Hike: Grayson Highlands State Park Loop, Oct. 31

Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854, Rating: Moderate

We'll start at Massie Gap, in Grayson Highlands State Park, hike the A.T. over Wilburn Ridge to Rhododendron Gap, follow a blue blaze trail along Pine Mountain to connect with the A.T. at Scales, and complete the loop by following the A.T. back to Massie Gap. Total hiking distance is about 8 miles. There's several nice campsites below Wilburn Ridge, so if anyone is interested in camping overnight, let me know. This trip will offer the opportunity to do both the loop and an overnight trip. Contact the hike leader for further details.

Hike: McQueens Gap to Tenn. 91, Oct. 24

Leader: Eric Middlemas, 423-282-6987, Rating: Moderate

Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.

Special Announcements



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.

Club Promotional Items...

Still 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

Cumberland Trail BackCountry Outings!!! Obed Wild and Scenic River Gorge, Oct. 15-18th Volunteers Trail Builders Needed!!!!

Cumberland Trail Conference and Middle Tennessee & Harvey Broom Sierra Groups needs your help!! They need trail volunteers!! This year's outings, as 2/4 day projects, offer something for everyone. These outings will take place amongst the Turkey Creek watershed, a tributary of the Obed River. Trail work will include the old Fentress-Morgan County Railroad that ran coal and timber out of this territory through the late 20's, and the bridging of Turkey Creek.

CTC will shuttle folks to the backcountry site on both Thursday and Saturday mornings, thus allowing many of the volunteers to join them for a two-day weekend. They will base camp along Turkey Creek, which is accessible via a cross-country 25 minute walk. Volunteers should be prepared for backcountry camping to include tent, bag, pad, stove, first aid kit, water purifier, and meals. Of course, all participants should bring sturdy work boots, work pants, poncho, and gloves.

CTC welcomes the Harvey Broom Sierra Group as co-host for the October 15-18th outing. If you're interested, please register for this program by calling him 423-533-2620.

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A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- **April 2: A.T. Maintenance (Brian Fakes Reporting)**

I hiked on Section 13 up to the barn then north, pulled blowdowns off the trail and carried out some garbage.

- **June 17: A.T. Maintenance (CB Willis Reporting)**

Old Timer's - Adopters Houston Fortner, Nancy Kinhead, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Wayne Sparks, Bob Spencer, Clyde Taylor, Rita Taylor, CB Willis, and Malcolm Wolf weeded and clipped the entire sections 17 and 18.

- **Aug 14: A.T. Maintenance (CB Willis Reporting)**
 Old Timer's -Adopters Bob Miller, Wayne Sparks, and CB Willis cut weeds at Deep & Iron Mtn Gap, picked up trash at Beauty Spot.
- **Aug 26: A.T. Maintenance (Hueston Fortner Reporting)**
 Old Timer's - Adopter Hueston Fortner hiked section 16 and lopped and carried out a bag of garbage.
- **Sept 3: A.T. Maintenance (Ed Oliver Reporting)**
 Ed Oliver & Darrol Nickels conducted rare plant inventory & clipping on Section 19.
- **Sept 5: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Fritsch Reporting)**
 Bill & Henrietta (Etta) Fritsch -installed 2- 4x4 posts and blazed the trail on Roan Mt.
- **Sept 5: A.T. Maintenance (Joe DeLoach Reporting)**
 Craig and Joe DeLoach made the second weed-cutting trip of the year (first in May). They were pretty bad. The weeds are especially bad just south of Bear Branch Road and just south of Buck Mountain Road, though they are not briars, stinging nettles, or any other really troublesome weed. We only had a swing blade and couldn't make much of a dent in them. Maybe long-term we can relocate those short sections to less weedy areas. I don't know if I'll get a chance or not before the weeds die off, but I'll try to flag something on the former (and cut them with a scythe/weedeater). We painted blazes with oil-based paint south to north. It was pretty heavily overblazed, so we took many of the blazes out (only south to north). We didn't completely obliterate all of them, and hopefully this won't be confusing to hikers. No blowdowns, no rhododendron clipping needed, but treadway could use some work in many sections.
- **Sept 7: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Berry Reporting)**
 I blazed the trail on Section 20.
- **Sept 7: A.T. Maintenance (Steve Banks Reporting)**
 I measured the Little Rock Knob relocations. The two relocations, around the "second summit" and on Little Rock Knob itself, added 0.97 miles to the A.T. The trail is in excellent shape on this section.
- **Sept 9: A.T. Maintenance (CB Willis Reporting)**
 Old Timer's Hiking Club - Adopters Sam Kinley, Dick Lewis, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Clyde Taylor, and C.B. Willis worked on trail rehab on Section 17.
- **Sept 10: A.T. Maintenance (Ed Oliver Reporting)**
 Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver removed obstructions from Jones Branch trail north of Nolichucky Expeditions on Thursday, September 10. Blowdowns and other materials had partially blocked the stream and had caused the stream to flow in another channel during periods of high water. The new channels were about to cause damage to the trail. We removed the blowdowns and assorted materials at two locations so that the stream will not be diverted to

another channel at high water flows. We put the material that we removed from the stream into the new channel so that the creek would be less likely to move to the new channel. In other words, we spent the day being "beavers".

- **Sept 12: A.T. Maintenance (Garry Luttrell Reporting)**

We met Bill Stowell at the Burger King in Colonial Heights and he decided to change his hike from the Damascus area to go with us to the Hump. We drove to the parking area above Elk Park and hiked the blue blaze trail to Houston Ridge to connect with the A.T. About 1/2 way up to Houston Ridge, the owners of the private land next to the blue blaze trail are constructing a road to access that area for development. We painted blazes across the Hump, then cut weeds from Bradley Gap to Little Hump. It's dry up there and lots of hikers were asking where to find water.

- **Sept 12: A.T. Maintenance (John Thompson Reporting)**

I hiked up Hump Mt. to check the posts and blazes on the 1.6 mi. bald-portion over Hump Mt. to Bradley Gap. All 16 locust posts installed in 1991 were in place plus a number of resin/fiberglass lathes installed earlier. Some of the posts were loose and were retamped. Several of each were reblazed. Afterwards, I helped Garry Luttrell cut weeds (bad) South of Bradley Gap.

Hike Trip Reports

Hike Report: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mt. Gap, Aug. 22

Neil Dotson Reporting

I had found last year that Beauty Spot in late August affords blueberries and blackberries. Thus: the perfect time for a hike on the AT from Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap. After a short climb from Indian Grave Gap, we made it to the bald, saddened to discover that we were a bit late from the berries - until the keen eyes of Patricia López spied a blueberry bush (tree, I would have said) still full of berries. 2 - 3 pints of blueberries were picked, enjoyed in diverse ways over the next week. (Only a handful of blackberries could be scared up.) The views from the bald were excellent: Roan of course dominating the eastern view and, due south, the tower atop Mt. Mitchell visible in the binocs. We continued trail north to enjoy lunch at the top of Unaka Mountain. I would say the rest was downhill, but no, not quite - I think it may be a rule that places with names like 'Little Bald' are neither. The weather, if on the warm side, cooperated nicely. The hikers were Neil Dotson, Donald Kreh and Patricia López.

Hike Report: I-77 to Va 615, Aug. 29

Collins Chew Reporting

This was a relatively easy 7.7 mile hike on the A.T. along Brushy Mountain on a pleasant day. We met several other hikers and a couple of side-hill diggers from PATH who were doing a great job. Hikers were Tom Dosser, Bob Harvey, Judy Middlemas, Bill and Derrick Stowell, Kent and Nancy Wilson, and Collins Chew.

Hike Report: Elk Park to Houston Ridge, Sept. 12

Bill Stowell Reporting

Nobody really wanted to hike in Virginia so we followed Gary L. to Elk Park where he was going to do maintenance. He showed us a new access point from Elk Park to Houston Ridge. It was a forest

service trail 2 miles up to Houston Ridge near the northern stile. We then hiked up to Hump Mt. and ate lunch. We then returned by the same route. The weather was great although it was a little hot. Along for the hike were Mary Jo Robbins, Derrick and Bill Stowell.

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

Steve Perri
180 Peppertree Drive
Kingsport, Tennessee 37664
Ph. 423-349-5091