

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November, 1998

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Nov 1	Paddling Trip: Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Nov 5-16	A.T. Special Project: Laurel Fork Gorge	E-M	J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Nov 7	Day Hike: Smokies-Mt. Cammerer	M-D	K. Edgar	423-239-5742
<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Fall Dinner Meeting: Eastman Lodge</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>J. Mayo</b>	<b>423-349-4244</b>
Nov 21	Third Saturday Maintenance Project	M	E. Oliver	423-349-6668
Dec 19	Paddling Trip: Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Dec 19	Third Saturday Maintenance Project	M	E. Oliver	423-349-6668

## TEHCC to Hold Election of New Steering Committee Officers for 1999-2000 Terms

*Jan Mayo () Reporting*

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:

<p><b>1997-1998 Committee Members:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steve Banks</li> <li>2. Kevin Edgar</li> <li>3. Jan Mayo (Chair)</li> </ol> <p><b>1998-1999 Committee Members:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary Fanslow</li> <li>2. Carl Fritz</li> <li>3. Frank Williams</li> </ol>
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The 1997-1998 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 1999-2000 term. The Steering Committee will elect its own Chair for 1999 from the current committee membership. Since Jan Mayo is one of the retiring members of the 1997-1998 officers, she shall 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 the duties of their position on January 1, 1999. 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 these companies. So election of any 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-310. Becky will count the votes cast and validate the election process through verification of the voters membership status.



## **Special Appalachian Trail Project - Laurel Fork Gorge Rehabilitation, November 5-16**

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

Laurel Fork Gorge, in the Pond Mountain Wilderness, is a beautiful and rugged place. However, the rugged terrain can make building and maintaining a suitable Trail difficult. Last year, thanks to the generosity of Bruce and Mary Cunningham, we were able to get a special work crew led by Fred Lashley to greatly improve the path leading down to Laurel Falls. This year, again thanks to the Cunninghams the crew will work on improving the Trail leading from the Koonford Bridge (the only intact bridge in the gorge) to the old railroad grade. This is a very steep and rocky stretch that is dangerous and repair is beyond our Club's capabilities. The crew will arrive on November 5 and will work from that day to November 9, then will return and work again from November 12-16. The work involves building rock steps and rock cribbing. It is not as physically demanding as it might sound because much of the work is done with grip hoists and cable. Volunteers are eagerly sought for this project any day. Please contact Joe for more details or if you'd like to help.

# SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

## Padding Trip: Lower Gauley, Nov. 1

Leader: Mike Morrow, 423-245-1201, Rating: III-IV  
Contact Trip Leader for details and meeting location.



## 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 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.

<b>Dinner Reservation Form</b>							
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							

## Special Announcements



### TEHCC A.T. Maintenance Effort Stats for Fiscal Year 1998

TEHCC A.T. maintenance for 1998 (Oct 1, 1997-September 30, 1998):

Watauga Ranger District 2665 Hours

Watauga Ranger District 2665 Hours

Total TEHCC            6160 Hours  
                                  212 Events  
                                  174 Participants



### Newsletter Editor Needed... Still

There have been no takers for the Newsletter Editorship so far. This will be the last call for interested parties to rise to the occasion! The newsletter initially took about 8 h/month to set it up and for me to learn how to use a new program. Actually, I learned several until we found one to convert the newsletter

to html for our website. So now, it takes about 4-5 hrs. A new person could easily use MSWord instead of PageMaker. MSWord now has a tool to convert documents to html, so the task of learning a new program can be very minimal. So, if there are any takers, this is the last call before Plan B!



## **Mt Sports Achieves 17 Year Milestone**

Mountain Sports Limited of Bristol will soon reach a 17 year milestone of business achievement this month. Bob and Alice Cheers founded their business 17 years ago and continue to operate their family business along with their 2 sons. In honor of this achievement they will be offering a 17% discount on all merchandise in the store on Oct 30-31. Best wishes to the Cheers for their continued success and support of all aspects of outdoor recreation in our region!

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## **For the Record - Cherokee Forest Plan Revision**

*Joe DeLoach Reporting*

The Cherokee National Forest is managed according to a plan that is established once every 10-15 years. Currently this plan is up for revision, and a session was held in Greeneville on October 1 to discuss where the revision stands. Darrol Nickels, Steve Perri, Frank Williams, Steve Wilson, and I attended this meeting. The USFS revision team has identified four management themes for the Cherokee National Forest: 1) managing the Cherokee primarily for the benefit of people, especially in the neighboring communities, 2) restoring the Forest to pre-industrial conditions, 3) minimal management with establishment of several new Wilderness areas, including four along our Appalachian Trail section, and 4) focusing on production of goods (particularly timber) from the Forest. The revision team has generated maps to show how different areas of the Forest might be managed according to these themes. The interest of TEHCC is to insure that the Appalachian Trail is protected and properly managed, which means specifically that we are opposed to timbering and motorized recreation in close proximity to the Trail. Also, given the Forest Service's restrictions on Wilderness, we are opposed to new Wilderness areas along our Trail section, since we believe that these restrictions are more detrimental than beneficial to our Trail section. There is much for the revision team left to do, but we will convey these interests to the Forest Service in writing, at an upcoming meeting, and throughout the Forest Plan revision process.

## **A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects**

- **Sept 13: A.T. Maintenance (Jeff Hoilman Reporting)**  
Section 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Chestoah Bridge.  
Kathy Lewis, Jim Bailey, Jeff and Diana Hoilman, Nancy Steadman clipped and did annual

maintenance on the entire section. We also removed 8 blowdowns and some trash from the shelter.

- **Sept 19: A.T. Third Saturday Special Project Trip (Ed Oliver Reporting)**  
On the Third Saturday Work Trip for September, Bill & Derrick Stowell, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver installed water bars and ditches across the trail. We worked on the section trail south of Hughes Gap. We installed 18 water bars and/or drainage ditches. We have at least a dozen more water bars to install on this section of trail. The turnout for the third Saturday trips is not very good. We could use help from more club members. If more club members don't feel that the third Saturday work trips are worthwhile, perhaps we should stop scheduling them.
- **Sept 20: A.T. Maintenance (Fred Hoilman Reporting)**  
Section 20 - Near No Business Knob Shelter.  
Dixie & Fred Hoilman and Pat Buchanan had heard about the "big" blowdown near the shelter so she, Fred and Pat went to take it out. There was a big leaner south of the shelter that would eventually go someday so thinking this was it, Fred went prepared. It turned out not to be the big leaner but a huge chestnut oak that took about five other monster trees with it. Fred needed all his equipment. He estimated the big oak to be about 300 years old and a big hemlock that got in the way had 150 rings. On the way out, Fred and crew removed the leaner.
- **Sept 26: A.T. Maintenance (Ed Oliver Reporting)**  
Bill and Derrick Stowell, Mary Cunningham, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver installed twelve waterbars and five wooden steps on the section of the Appalachian Trail located trail south of Hughes Gap. This completes installation on waterbars between Hughes Gap and Little Rock Knob with the exception of three or four waterbars that are needed on the section of trail between the two relocations trail south of Hughes Gap. It would be nice to reduce the size of the parking area at Hughes Gap by putting bolders at the end of the parking area.
- **Oct 6: A.T. Maintenance (Ed Oliver Reporting)**  
Darrol Nickels led a group which included Bruce Cunningham, Frank Oglesby, Frank Williams, John Thompson, and Ed Oliver from TEHC and Ben Lawhon from ATC to work on improving the open area located about 1.2 miles trail north of Iron Mountain Gap. We removed the small trees that had been cut previously and cut the stumps even with the ground. We cleared all the area that had been mowed earlier in the year. This open area is at the old orchard near the trail. Another trip would be useful later in the fall or winter to clear additional space around the apple trees. This area will be mowed every year or every other year.
- **Oct 11: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Fritsch Reporting)**  
Section 15 - Carver's Gap to Roan High Knob.  
Adopter Bill Fritsch and cousin Marilu Vencill went to check on Bill's adopted section from Carver's Gap to Roan High Knob. Bill had done some major reblazing in the area as well as installing 4x4 posts at some of the troubled spots. Fresh Sears Extreme Weather paint put on about two months ago had really taken a beating and was in need of another coat. Bill blazed both directions. They also picked up about 3 pounds of broken beer and soft drink glass that had been lying across the trail. Deep erosion on the lower section, caused by spring downpours, is causing hikers to make side trails. There are six large trees leaning across the trail that may fall with the winter storms.

They are too big and at too acute an angle to cut safely at this time.

## **Hike Trip Reports**

### **Hike Report: A.T. Hike from US 421 to Backbone Rock, September 26**

*Neil Dotson Reporting*

What color was in the leaves was more due to lack of rain than impending autumn. But far more colorful - and profuse - were the advertised Closed Gentian; these blue-purple blooms were constant companions all along the hike. We also saw the odd Clinton's Lily, Pipsissewa and Galax, along with plenty of Goldenrod, Rattlesnake Plantain and White Snakeroot - but no actual reptilian snakes, only well-camouflaged toads. This is a pretty easy hike, as evidenced by the fact that we did the 12-odd miles in 6 hours, even with the break for lunch at Abingdon Gap Shelter. The weather cooperated nicely, if a bit warm for the beginning of autumn, and after the steep descent to Backbone Rock, feet were cooled in Beaver Dam Creek. Participating in the race along Holston Mt. were Debbie Berry, Neil Dotson, Mark and Donna Schwenk, Ron Thornburg, and Shelton Thompson of Erwin.

### **Hike Report: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River, October 3**

*Steve Banks Reporting*

This was a perfect day for a thoroughly enjoyable hike. We were too early for fall colors, but enjoyed great views of Unaka Mountain, Nolichucky Gorge, and the surrounding mountains. The weather cooperated very nicely, with temperatures in the 60's, and no rain. On the climb from Oglesby Branch to the shoulder of Flattop Mountain, I saw that a minor relocation had been completed, and another minor relocation had been completed just north of the gravel USFS road; two more updates for the guidebook. We saw two southbound A.T. thru-hikers, and checked out the new hostel ("Nolichucky Hostel") right on the A.T. at the south end of the Chestoa Bridge. Enjoying the hike were Greg Kramer, Graham Kramer, Roy King, Steve Woody, and Steve Banks.

### **Hike Report: A.T. Hike from U. S. 58 to Elk Garden, October 10**

*Joe DeLoach Reporting*

We had a gorgeous fall day for this seven mile hike. Although the fall colors weren't as vivid as they were in past years, the woods were very pleasant walking and the views from our lunch spot, Buzzard Rock on the side of White Top Mountain, were spectacular. The only controversy was that one hiker thought we were going to a different Elk Garden, near her home, and wondered why I was driving the wrong way. I don't think she was too disappointed! Participating in this hike were Debra Berry, Joe DeLoach, Denise Hardin, Pam Shelton, and Hugh and Marilyn Thompson.

### **Hike Report: A.T. Hike in Georgia, October 10 - 12**

*G. S. Luttrell Reporting*

Gether put this hiking trip together to revisit some of the lovely sections of the A.T. in Georgia. We camped in Vogel State Park at the base of Blood Mtn., and day-hiked different sections of the A.T. each day: Unicoi Gap to Tesnatee Gap; Springer Mtn. to Cooper Gap; and, Addis Gap to Unicoi Gap. To reach Addis Gap, we had to spot a car about a mile below and bushwhack to the A.T. because FS

26 road was gated prior to entering Tray Mountain Wilderness. We had gorgeous weather with temperatures in the 70's, beautiful blue sky days, and the fall colors were emerging. The oranges were especially brilliant on the Georgia ridges, at least to me. Enjoying the A.T. again in Georgia were Gether Irick, Owen Hoolbrook, and Garry Luttrell. Gether and Owen continued hiking through 10/14.

**To Submit an article for**

**the newsletter, contact:**

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