

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January 1999

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Jan 9	A.T. Hike: Camp Creek Bald - Allen Gap (POSTPONED)	M	K. Wilson	423-239-7554
Jan 10	Family/Beginner Hike: Greenbelt, Hills Store to Exchange Place	E	N. Wilson	423-239-7554
Jan 23	Family/Beginner Hike: Doe River Gorge	E	S. Perri	423-349-5091
Jan 23	Winter Backpacking Trip (Mt Rogers)	M	G. Luttrell	423-239-9854
Jan 30	A.T. Hike: Tanyard Gap to Hot Springs, NC	E	N. Dotson	423-245-8316
Feb 7	Family/Beginner Hike: Warrior's Path, Devils Backbone	E	N. Wilson	423-239-7554
Feb 13	A.T. Hike: Spivey Gap-Nolichucky River	M-D	P. Cairnes	423-239-6058
Feb 20	South Beyond 6000: Plott Balsam and Yellow Face	D	G. Luttrell	423-239-9854
Feb 27	A.T. Hike: US 25/70 - Allen Gap	M	N. Dotson	423-245-8316

Fall Dinner Meeting Summary, Nov. 14, 1998

Jan Mayo reporting

When we chose the date for the fall dinner meeting, we had no idea it would fall on the day of THE GAME. I told Steve Wilson, "No, you may not have a television," and my son Shaun, "No, you may not wear headphones during dinner." And so we met, with only about 48 people. But what a great evening it was! In addition to our usual crowd, we had several guests who hadn't been with us before. Joe Deloach had invited the crew being led by Fred Lashley, who were working on the A.T. that weekend. It was so good to meet them and to give them such a wonderful supper. And they sure seemed glad to be with us. Giuseppe's catered a meal of lasagna, stuffed shells, and chicken stir fry with wild rice, which everyone enjoyed. In addition to Fred's crew, Tony DeVault, the field representative for Senator Fred Thompson, was there, and we thanked him for his help in meeting our financial needs for buying corridor land. We even had Girl Scouts from Mary Fanslow's troop, who did a beautiful job decorating our tables with fall foliage and squash.

During all this, Shaun was going to the car to get ball-game updates. It was getting pretty tense. . . . We took a break to finish dessert and coffee and to let everyone look over the display provided by Trail Sports, Ltd. Mike provided several door prizes and showed us

different boots and replacement soles. Just as Claude Kelly was finishing the setup for his presentation, Shaun ran back in with the news of the Big Orange victory. (As if there were ever any doubt.) So, on that happy note, Claude began his program.

I wish I could tell the ones of you who didn't see it just what it was like. But all of us were spellbound. Claude's photographs could only be taken by someone who loves the woods as we do. The flowers and plants looked just as lovely as when we flop down in the leaves and lie still and just look quietly. And then there was the background music. We just didn't want it to end. I could get really mushy about it, but let's just say that if I ever get another chance to see it, I will, and so should you. Many thanks to Claude and Cathy.

TEHCC Election Results

The results of the TEHCC Steering Committee elections are final. Congratulations to the new Steering Committee Members!

Mike Morrow

Bill Stowell

Kent Wilson

Mike, Bill, and Kent will begin their term in January 1999 and will serve for two years. Those rotating off the committee after serving their two-year term are Steve Banks and Kevin Edgar.

Jan Mayo will be serving one more term as Past Chair.

Parting Words from the Appalachian Trail Committee Chair

Joe DeLoach reporting

It has been my pleasure to lead our Club's A.T. Committee for the last five years. That's long enough to be in this role, and Steve Perri will take over in 1999. Steve is knowledgeable about our section of the Appalachian Trail and its maintenance and will do a fine job.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our Trail section is in much better shape now than it used to be. But there is so much to do with our long Trail section, both in routine maintenance and in special projects. What hurts us so much is the very small volunteer base we have. Week after week, our maintenance trips are attended by the same people. Much of the work is done by our retirees, many of the most active of whom are in their 70s and even their 80s! The most frustrating thing about leading our A.T. Committee has been sending out project notes to 80 people and getting no response whatsoever, not even a "sorry, can't do it this weekend." In order to continue to fulfill our responsibilities to maintain our Trail section, we MUST have new volunteers.

Most of the people this newsletter goes to signed up for the Club years ago to rent a tent for the weekend, or maybe you thought going on hikes or paddling trips would be fun. It's important that those recreational activities continue, as that's how our Club got started in the first place. But when you go for a hike on the Appalachian Trail, remember that people are donating their time, in some cases a great deal of it, so hikers in our area can enjoy themselves. Just coming out for the work trips a couple of days a year would really spread the Trail maintenance responsibilities out. The work's not so bad, the scenery is beautiful, and the camaraderie is great. Please help—we need you.

1999 Steering Committee

Chair	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Past Chair	Jan Mayo	423-349-4244
1998-1999 Members		
	Mary Fanslow	423-378-3725
	Frank Williams	423-245-8414
1999-2000 Members		
	Mike Morrow	423-245-1201
	Bill Stowell	423-239-7697
	Kent Wilson	423-239-7554
Appointed Officers		
Events Coord.	Richard Colberg	423-288-8333
Historian	Frank Williams	423-245-8414
Librarian	Steve Wilson	423-239-0456
New sletter Ed.	Shannon Stanforth	423-246-5414
Paddling Coord.	Mary Mathis	423-239-7220
Paddling Sched.	Dewey Fuller	423-764-7340
Records	Jeff Siirola	423-288-4147
Rental Equip.	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
South Bay. 6K	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Web Master	Steve Banks	423-288-2646
A.T. Committee Officers		
A.T. Comm. Chair	Steve Perri	423-349-5091
A.T. Maintenance	Bill Stowell	423-239-7697
A.T. Signs	Steve Perri	423-349-5091
A.T. Guidebook Ed.	Kevin Edgar	423-239-5742
Land Acq. Man.	Ray Hunt	423-288-5182
Konnarock Lias.	Joe DeLoach	423-758-7903
Relocations	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Spec. Proj. Coord.	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
TEHC Gd. Bk. Comp.	Steve Banks	423-288-2646
Treasurer	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Other A.T. Committee Contacts		
Collins Chew		423-239-6237
Bruce and Mary Cunningham		423-247-1838
Cris Moorehouse		423-246-7283
Darrol Nickels		423-239-5442
Frank Oglesby		423-245-5447
John Thompson		423-245-1455
ATC Field Representatives/USFS Contacts		
ATC		
Tenn.-N.C.	Morgan Sommerville	828-254-3708
Va.	Mike Dawson	540-544-7388

USFS		
Appalachian Dist.	Paul Bradley	828-682-6146
Noli./Unaka Dist.	Amy Fore	423-735-1500
Watauga Dist.	Pete Irvine	423-735-1500
Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area	Paul Dore	540-783-5196

Scheduled Activities

Ninth Annual Wilderness Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, January 9-17

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, Phone: 239-9854

"Energize the mind and soul . . . Experience the grandeur of the Great Smokies . . . Over 80 nationally recognized experts. U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, TWRA, Tennessee State Parks, and GSMNP lead you through the Wilderness Wildlife Week series of hikes, field trips, lectures, and photography workshops. Learn about nature and come to understand the fragile environment that makes up the nation's most visited national park. Stay with us a week and get lost in the hazy mystique of the Smokies." The WWW will again be held at the Heartlander in Pigeon Forge. Contact me if you want a copy of the schedule. All the events are free. For more information call 1-800-WINTERFEST; and, for rooms at the Heartlander, 1-800-843-6686, and say *Wildlife*, for special WWW room rates.

A.T. Hike: Camp Creek Bald to Allen Gap, January 9

Leader: Kent Wilson, Rating: Moderate (7 miles)

This is a relatively easy 7 miles (generally downhill) from the top of Camp Creek Bald to Allen Gap on Tenn. 70 southwest of Greeneville. We will meet at the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights with a planned departure time of 8:00 a.m. Come dressed appropriately for the weather (this is January, you know). Please contact trip leader (home phone 239-7554) in case of bad weather. If you have a 4-wheel-drive, please bring it, because it will be useful in getting to Viking Mt. (trip leader will assure that there at least two 4-wheel-drive vehicles). This should be a very enjoyable winter hike. Hope to see you there.

Hike: Greenbelt, Hills to Exchange Place, January 10

Leader: Nancy Wilson, Rating: Easy (4.5 miles)

Come enjoy a Sunday afternoon walk in the park as we work off some of the holiday goodies. We will meet in the parking lot behind Hills at 2:00 for a round-trip walk to the Exchange Place. There are a couple of hills in this 4.5-mile hike, and it will be a good introduction for those who want to hike more in 1999.

Hike: Doe River Gorge, January 23

Leader: Steve Perri, Phone: 349-5091. Rating: Easy

Doe River Gorge is a relatively easy hike for beginners and is a relatively secluded place. The Gorge is on private property, but guests are allowed to hike in the Gorge as long as they register. The Gorge is traversed by an abandoned railroad grade that was used years ago for logging purposes. The trail actually is the railroad bed and as it turns out is very level. The views this time of year consist of the river on one side and the steep Gorge wall on the other side, with icicles cascading from water-seepage cracks. Our trip will be about

5 miles, with passage through two short tunnels. This is a nice hike for getting out of the house in the winter, and we'll be back by 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. Be prepared for weather (e.g., snow), and pack at least snacks and something to drink. Or maybe we can eat at the Classic Malt Shop in Elizabethton to finish up a cold walk in the woods. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds at 8:00 a.m. Call for more info.

Winter Backpack Trip: Mt. Rogers, January 23-24

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, Phone: 239-9854. Rating: Moderate

We'll hike to Thomas Knob Shelter for this midwinter backpack trip. Gear for extreme cold, windy conditions required for outdoor exposure at 5000+ ft. elevations. Contact the hike leader for further details.

A.T. Hike: Tanyard Gap to Hot Springs, NC, January 30

Leader: Neil Dotson, Phone: 245-8316. Rating: Easy

Tanyard Gap is where the A.T. crosses US 25/70; heading trail-south from there, it is 5½ miles downhill (mostly) to Hot Springs. Toward the end of this hike there are excellent views of the French Broad River valley from Lover's Leap. (In February a companion hike north from Tanyard Gap to Allen Gap is planned.) Be prepared for weather (e.g., snow), pack a lunch, and leave your postmodern angst at home, thank you very much. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds at 8:00 a.m.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

Nov. 18, Third Saturday Trip

Bill Stowell reporting

The Third Saturday project for November was to complete the trail rehab from Laurel Fork Gorge going up toward Pond Flats. We built a new trail around a deep depression on the railroad grade and made a new switchback where there was a steep rock and uphill section. We also completed cleaning up other smaller sections that needed some work.

Participants: Phylis Carnes, Bryan Fakes, Dana Eglington (Sierra Club), Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Bill Stowell. Total: 54 person-hours.

Nov. 27, Trail Rehab Project

We worked on trail rehab between Watauga Dam and the Watauga Lake Shelter. We began repairing the treadway. Further work is needed. Participants: Ed Oliver, Joe Deloach, Frank Williams, Bill and Derrick Stowell, Rick and Vicky Lott. Total: 50 person-hours.

Dec. 1, Trail Relocation Project

On Tuesday, December 1, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver began flagging the relocation between Campbell Hollow Road and Big Pine Mountain. This relocation will take the Appalachian Trail by Elk River Falls. We were able to flag the portion of this relocation between Elk River Falls and Campbell Hollow Road. The trail will be at 10% grade and should be relatively easy to construct. We estimate that we completed flagging about a third of the total relocation. Total: 33 person-hours.

Dec. 5, Trail Relocation Project

On Saturday, December 5, eight people showed up at Burger King in Colonial Heights to help with the flagging of the relocation at Elk River Falls. Nine people said that they were planning to go, but one canceled early. Three of the eight people decided that the rain was going to keep up all day and decided to go back home. That left five dedicated souls who did not know any better than to head toward Elk River Falls and hope that the rain would stop. We lucked out and actually saw some blue sky. In fact, we saw blue sky several times. We also had some drizzle, but not enough to get us wet. We were successful in flagging more of the relocation. It will take two or three more trips to finish flagging the relocation from Campbell Hollow Road to the top of Big Pine Mountain. The five people on this trip think that the relocation should go by the falls and then along the river for a ways before it starts the climb up Big Pine Mountain. We saw a couple of sites that might make suitable shelter locations. Participants: Bill and Derrick Stowell, Frank Williams, Carl Fritz, and Ed Oliver. Total: 50 person-hours.

Dec. 9, Trail Relocation Project

Ed Oliver reporting

Darrol Nickels and I scouted out options for the relocation near Elk River Falls. We would like to have the trail go near the bottom of the falls (with a short trail to the falls) and then continue downstream to the ford on the trail that the Older Americans constructed. We also thought that including some of the meadow below the point where the Sugar Hollow stream enters the river would be desirable. We found a water source for a new shelter and some possible shelter sites. More flagging and scouting will be needed for this relocation. Total: 18 person-hours.

Dec. 12, Trail Rehab Project

Bill Stowell reporting

We continued with trail repair between Watauga Dam and Watauga Lake Shelter by completing the repair of a steep uphill section. Several more trips will be needed to complete the work to the shelter. Participants: Bryan Fakes, Joey Wilson, Neil Dotson, Ed Oliver, Bill and Derrick Stowell, and Frank Williams. Total: 61 person-hours.

Dec. 15, Trail Rehab Project

Ed Oliver reporting

On December 15, Frank Williams and I continued working on trail repair between Watauga Dam and Watauga Lake Shelter. A couple more trips will be needed to complete the trail repair on this section. Total: 18 person-hours.

Dec. 19, A.T. Work Trip

We continued working on the trail rehab between Watauga Dam and Watauga Lake Shelter. We worked until the rain convinced us to go home for the day. Participants: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver. Total: 28 person-hours.

Dec. 26, A.T. Work Trip

Bill Stowell reporting

We continued the trail rehab from Watauga Dam to Watauga Lake Shelter. Six log steps were installed, along with a lot of trail digging. It looks like one more trip should complete this effort. We also celebrated Bruce C.'s birthday by singing "Happy Birthday" and eating some cake. Participants: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bill and Derrick Stowell. Total: 40 person-hours.

Freestyle Canoeing

A videotape of the 1998 Interpretive Freestyle Canoe Exhibition held at the 1998 Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous in Houston, Texas, is now available. The tape was produced and is being distributed at cost as a service to the paddling community. It includes individual performances by members of the Freestyle Committee, a group "flash" number, and a demonstration of Greenland kayaking skills. Send a note saying you'd like a copy and a check for \$20 to Marge Cline, 1343 North Portage, Palatine IL 60067.

Mount LeConte Reservations

Steve Wilson reporting

Unless the Park Service changes its mind, starting in the year 2000 the priority reservations system that enables those who already have reservations to renew them for the same date the following year will no longer be in place. This mandate was handed down to the concessionaire (Wilderness Lodging) by the Park Service. In the past the Eastman Hiking Club has had standing reservations, about 20 total, for the second weekend in July, and we have traditionally had a Creek Trip and Trail Trip to LeConte for more than 20 years. If this new policy goes into effect, it will be very difficult to maintain this tradition, since starting in 2000 reservations on this date (or any other, for that matter) will be very uncertain. If you would like to comment on this change in policy by the Park Service please contact:

Superintendent Karen Wade
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738
Phone 423-436-1201; fax 423-436-1224

To submit an article for the newsletter, contact:

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1122 Catawba Street
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660
423-246-5414