

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

July 1999

www

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Jul 9-16	Radford '99 National ATC Meeting	Fun	C. Chew	423-239-6237
Jul 10	Nantahala River	II-III	E. Montgomery	423-247-7795
Jul 10-11	Mt. LeConte Creek Hike (Smokies)	D!	D. Fuller	423-764-7340
Jul 10-11	Mt. LeConte Trail Hike (Smokies)	D	L. Byrd	
Jul 17	Low er Watauga River	II	D. Ingram	423-282-5856
Jul 17	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stow ell	423-239-7697
Jul 22	(Thurs) Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	E	C. Fritz	423-477-4669
Jul 24	New River Gorge	III-IV	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Jul 25	New River Gorge	III-IV	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Jul 31	Leader's Choice	III-IV	P. Champeau	423-232-1960
Aug 7	Leader's Choice	II-III	S. Gubser	423-854-8907
Aug 14	Family/Beginner Hike: Laurel Falls	E	S. Wilson	423-239-0456
Aug 14	Nolichucky Gorge - First Timers	III-IV	D. Fuller	423-764-7340
Aug 21	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stow ell	423-239-7697
Aug 28	A.T.: Va. 603 to Va. 16 (Dickey Gap)	M	N. Dotson	423-245-6105

Radford '99 ATC

Ted Malone reporting

It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off a conference like the Radford '99 Appalachian Trial Conference. Most be needed on the weekend of July 10th and 11th as people arrive. Excursions will run all week. Volunteer for traffic control, the RV/camping area, and leaders for excursions. If you can help out, please contact Jim Lucien Metayer. Thanks everyone.

Open Letter from A.T. Hikers: Thanks to al

Trail Maintainers

Mr. Fritz,

On behalf of my friends and family who just spent the past weekend hiking from Roan Mt. to 19E, I write you this note of thanks to you to share with your club. We had the good fortune to meet Ed Oliver as he headed to A.T. Friday evening from his day of relocation work. He graciously offered to assist us with our transportation to the end of our planned hike, should our initial arrangements fall through. Then on Sunday, as we were finishing up, we met Ed and the crew working on the relocate just before 19E heading North. That Sunday afternoon afforded the opportunity to be the first to hike the new section, just before it was blazed. The whole crew enjoyed to see their days of labor being enjoyed by our group. Believe me when I say that it was an honor, not lost to us, and first time hikers, not to mention the respect we all have for the amount of effort that goes in to maintaining the trail.

I should mention that in our group were three first time backpackers, my wife Shirley, and 16-year-old Gwendolyn and a friend of hers from school. They are hooked and ready to go back as soon as possible. Much enthusiasm is due in part to the beautiful section of the A.T. we walked, as well as the wonderful folks we met at the Eastman club, and the hikers we met on the trail.

Please pass on our heartfelt appreciation to your group, the relocation crew, and Ed in particular. We appreciate the section of trail you have, and what a fantastic job your group does maintaining it.

Thank you again,

Jim - for our group from Fuquay-Varina, NC

TEHCC Website

Steve Banks reporting

During May 1999, we had 1,208 visitors to our web site. Some of the information added during May included photos from the bog bridge project on Cross Mountain; the Winter Dinner Meeting in March; some photos of the A.T. contributed by thru-hikers; a new page describing how Jane Bald got its name; and changes to our equipment page. As always, please contact Steve Banks if you have any additions or changes to our club website.

Electronic Version of the Newsletter

Shannon Stanforth reporting

TEHCC is reviewing options for converting to electronic distribution of the newsletter in order to improve it in several respects. The printed copy distribution method has several problems associated with cost, production, and delivery schedule.

Printing the newsletter costs TEHCC approximately \$2,000 a year. Eastman then pays an additional cost for distribution through plant mail. Some hard copies of the newsletter would still be printed for those without access to electronic media. However, converting to electronic distribution would save the majority of the expense to TEHCC and Eastman. An additional reduced cost would be environmental impact. By switching to electronic newsletters, TEHCC would participate in the first and most important step of the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" approach to resource management.

Hard copy distribution also involves unavoidable time delays in production and delivery schedule. The typical time from a finished newsletter through printing to delivery to club member is five days. Occasional but inevitable equipment malfunctions can make the time frame even longer. These delays often negatively affect notices for the next weekend trip. Electronic distribution reduces the time from days to minutes. Members would be notified when the newsletter had been updated, and they could access it as needed.

Current plans include a transition period where both electronic and traditional printed copies would be available. We realize that not all TEHCC members have access to computers, and we do not want to exclude anyone.

TEHCC OFFICERS		
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 Coordinator	Richard Colberg	423-288-8333
Historian	Frank Williams	423-245-8414
Librarian	Steve Wilson	423-239-0456
New sletter Editor	Shannon Stanforth	423-246-5414
Paddling Coordinator	Mary Mathis	423-239-7220
Paddling Schedule	Dewey Fuller	423-764-7340
Records	Jeff Sirola	423-288-4147
Rental Equipment	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
South Beyond 6000	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Web Master	Steve Banks	423-288-2646
A.T. Committee Officers		
A.T. Committee 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 Editor	Kevin Edgar	423-239-5742
Land Acquisition Management	Ray Hunt	423-288-5182
Konnarock Liasion	Joe DeLoach	423-758-7903
Relocations	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Special Projects Coordinator	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
A.T. Guidebook Data Compiler	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		
Tennessee-North Carolina	Morgan Sommerville	828-254-3708
Virginia	Mike Dawson	540-544-7388
USFS		
Appalachian District	Paul Bradley	828-682-6146
Nolichucky/Unaka District	Amy Fore	423-735-1500
Watauga District	Pete Irvine	423-735-1500
Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area	Paul Dore	540-783-5196

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

Fun Fest: Bays Mountain Moonlight Hike, July 22

Leader: Carl Fritz, 477-4669. Rating: Easy

This is the annual stroll around the lake at dusk. The hike starts at 8:00 PM. Usually, some animals are seen. It is a great hike for children. Refreshments are usually served after this pleasant outing. We need about 10 volunteers to insure that no one wanders off in the dark. The volunteers hiking at the front of the line accompany the volunteer standing guard at each connecting trail until all others have passed. Call the hike leader if you can't make it.

Third Saturday Maintenance

The 3rd Saturday projects for July and August will be leader's choice, depending on who wants to go and how many people we get to come out and help. If you are interested contact Bill Stowell 239-7697 or Ed Oliver 349-7697.

Hike Report: Mouse Creek Falls, June 5

Ed Oliver reporting

On Saturday, June 5, seventeen people enjoyed a leisurely hike to Mouse Creek Falls in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We walked on the old railroad grade from the Big Creek parking area to the bridge about 1.5 miles beyond Mouse Creek Falls. We saw wildflowers, butterflies, and beautiful scenery along the creek. We were accompanied by a group of young folks who were diving off the rocks at the Midnight Hole. Some of us even went wading. Those enjoying this hike were Maggie Stamey, Nancy Wilson, Eric, Judy, Sylvia, Erin and Eleanor Middle Miller, Bill and Priscilla Little, Freda Kuo, Vic, Clark, and Ben Hasler, Bill and Virginia Elderbrock, and Ed Oliver.

Hike Report: Thunderhead Mountain (Smokies Dayhike), June 1

Neil Dotson Reporting

Lead Cove Trail begins with a pleasant creek-side walk, and upon leaving the creek, to ascend to the ridge. A nice preview of the wildflowers we would continue to see on our climb: wild hydrangea, galax, pipsissewa, and others the identities of which were debated between the two hikers, myself and Freda Kuo. The Botevina Trail is actually - would hardly be called the prettiest walk in the park, but it does its job admirably: taking you straight to the ridgeline to Spence Field. And Spence Field is quite a pleasant place, with many of its open grassy fields reclaimed by forest. Well-known Rocky Top is a mile and half along the A.T. heading trail north from Spence Field. Sure enough, there are no signs of corn cultivation. From Rocky Top and the balds of Spence Field, one can see Fontana Lake, Cades Cove, Rich Mountain, the tower atop Shuckstack, and the mountains in the Nantahala Forest barely visible in the haze. We did conquer the rhododendron-covered peak of Thunderhead Mt. (5,000 feet), the highest point in the western part of the park, and 2 miles from Spence Field. All along the A.T. we enjoyed

the flame azalea, the laurel and the rhododendron. Animals spied on this hike were 3 deer (2 bucks) on the trail, a few toads, snakes, and of course the ubiquitous red squirrels - and a snapping turtle crossing Laurel Creek before we even made it to the parking spot! Despite the ominous name of this mountain, and the clouds that gathered on the peak around lunch-time, the entire 12.5-miles were hiked without rain.

Hike Report: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, June 19

Steve Perri reporting

Reverse psychology worked for preparation of rain on this trip as the weather for this annual hike turned out to be wonderful. A high pressure system dominated the area and brought cool temperatures and clear skies to the area for part of this week. Since this was a relatively short hike of about 5 miles round trip, we tested a alternate departure time of 10:00 a.m. to encourage sleeping in later and this appeared to work out well. Three new Eastman interns were on the hike indicating that it would have been less likely for them to go if we had an 8:00 a.m. departure time. Our hike was for the blossoms and the other festivities of the Rhododendron Festival. We enjoyed our lunch on Jane B. and then continued to the southern terminus of Grassy Ridge where we observed nice views of Sugar Mt, the Humpback Mt. and Yellow Mt. Significant debate broke out over the observed light colored objects on Yellow Mt. We debated out whether we saw sheep, cattle or rocks... but we did see some things that resembled any of them. Those things on this outing were: Summer Interns - Kari Fossier, Jennifer McGuire, Hong Chen, Steve, Mary, and Steven B. Denise, and Lexi Walker, Beth Lancaster, Donna Vaden, Frieda Kuo, and Steve Perri.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

May 1, Hughes Gap to parking area on top of Roan Mt

Waylon Jenkins reporting

Waylon Jenkins, and Carol Jenkins worked on annual maintenance between Hughes Gap and the hotel parking area on top of Roan Mountain. Total: 10 hours.

May 15, Roan High Knob shelter to Hughes Gap

Waylon Jenkins reporting

Waylon Jenkins, Alan Jenkins, and John Dombroski worked on annual maintenance between Roan High Knob and Hughes Gap. Total: 30 hours.

May 19, Doll Flats & Flag Elk River Relocation

Ed Oliver reporting

Bill Elderbrock, Darrol Nickels, and Frank Williams cut the rest of the trees at Doll Flats and placed them in a pile. The purpose of this work is to make it easier to mow the field at Doll Flats so that this area can be kept open. Cunningham and Ed Oliver adjusted the flag line near Campbell Hollow Road and at Walnut Mountain Road. This is part of the Elk River relocation. Total: 40 hours.

May 21, Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Kevin Odonnell worked with (Over Fifty) Konnarock Crew building new trail on Wilder Mine Hollow relocation. Total: 27 hours.

May 23, Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, and Derrick Stowell worked with (Over Fifty) Konnarock Crew building new trail on Wilder Mine Hollow relocation. Total: 33 hours.

May 26, Fun/Maintenance Hike, Walnut Mtn Rd to 19E

C.B. Willis reporting

One member (Sam Lloyd) of the Old Timer's Hiking Club made it a point to carry a litter bag and he removed the entire hike. There was nothing else we could do on a casual basis. The laurel had been recently clipped and looks good except for the slippery and steep places which no one can help. Total: 8 hours.

May, Laurel Fork Gorge Maintenance

Bill Stowell reporting

Arthur Smith, Dana Eglinton, Ruth Gutierrez, members of the Sierra Club, went into Laurel Fork Gorge to work on their section. Some blow downs still remain above the railroad grade near the top. Total: 18 hours.

June 5, Campbell Hollow Rd. to 19E (Section 12)

Steve Perri reporting

John Thompson and I completed the last leg of our trail section for maintenance. We blazed, lopped, and fixed some of the overblazing by removing extras too close together along the way. There appears to be a stile at Highpoint using the old part of the A.T. The lower stile at Bishop Hollow had a broken piece you climb over with a piece of wood through the fence and posts so the cattle would not jump over it. It should be fixed soon.

June 11, A.T. Sections 17 and 18

C. B. Willis reporting

In order to get a head start on the weeding of the entire adoption, three members of the Old Timers Hiking Club, Perry, Wayne Sparks, and C. B. Willis cut weeds for the 1/2 mile south of Iron Mt Gap and the part of the trail on F/S Road 239 at Deep Gap. In addition, we refreshed blazes in these areas and picked up litter at the Highpoint and at the Beauty Spot. Our scheduled work day to complete our entire trail is Wednesday, June 16th. Total: 18 hours.

June 12, Bridge Installation

Ed Oliver reporting

Steven Jarrett and members of his scout troop completed the installation of the bridge located about 1/2 mile south of Tenn 91. They constructed, then disassembled the bridge at home, carried it to the site and installed it. Total: 12 hours. This is the first Eagle Scout Project, and the second Eagle Scout Project completed on our section of the Appalachian Trail.

June 18, Section 18 Maintenance Trip

C. B. Willis reporting

Hueston Fortner, Carl Kincheloe, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Wayne Sparks, C. B. Willis, and Malcolm Wolf weeded, clipped and renewed blazes from the switchback on the south side of U.S. 91 to Indian Grave Gap. All the trail looks pretty good as weeds aren't growing as fast this year. Total: 63 hours.

Doll Flats Maintenance

Darrol Nickels reporting

TEHC volunteers participated in 3 work trips to Doll Flats. The brush and stumps have been cut and stacked. Additional trees have been cut on the upper (more level) area and the open area has been extended down to the lower area 100 feet. Doll Flats looks like a meadow. However, by early July the weeds and sprouts may be waist high.

Summary of Konnarock Crew

Bill Stowell reporting

Twenty members of TEHCC participated in the Konnarock Crew relocation of the Wilder Mine Hollow section. Other hikers also contributed. The project was completed and the trail was opened on June 13. The full list of TEHCC volunteers: Steve Banks, Steven Banks, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Craig Deloach, Eric Deloach, Neil Dotson, Steve Falling, Carl Fritz, Dave Nebeth, Darrol Nickels, Kevin Odonnell, Ed Oliver, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Bill Stowell, Derrick Stowell, John Thompson, and Frank Williams. Total: 724 hours.

To submit an article for the newsletter, contact:

Shannon Stanforth
1122 Catawba Street

Kingsport, Tennessee 37660
423-246-5414