

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August 1999

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
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. Stowell	423-239-7697
Aug 28	A.T.: Va. 603 to Va. 16 (Dickey Gap)	M	N. Dotson	423-245-6105
Sep 11	A.T.: Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap	M-D	S. Banks	423-288-2646
Sep 11	Hiwassee River	II	T. Pridgen	423-245-5975
Sep 12	Hiwassee River	II	T. Pridgen	423-245-5975
Sep 12	(Sunday) F/B: Nolichucky River - Jones Branch	E	E. Oliver	423-349-6668
Sep 18	Third Saturday Maintenance - ATC Drainage Workshop		J. DeLoach	423-753-7903
Sep 25	Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike	M	R. Colberg	423-288-8333
Sep 25	Nantahala River	II-III	R. Culbertson	423-246-7296

## Konnarock Crew Project Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

Our 1999 Konnarock project was one of the most successful we've ever had. We had four consecutive weeks of Konnarock Crew time to work on the Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation, a project to take the Trail away from the river to eliminate some steep and eroding sections. Four consecutive weeks is not ideal for us, as we tend to rely on a large number of volunteers. But thanks to good Club turnout and good Konnarock Crews, we completed the project. It involved almost a mile of new Trail construction including steps, rock cribbing, and a particularly difficult rock cliff in addition to the normal Trail digging. The relocation goes mostly through a rich cove hardwood forest reminiscent of the Smokies, with some very tall tulip trees and nice patches of showy orchids and other species. No more will hikers be walking past signs saying "No Trespassing" and our favorite, "Beware of Shootgunners".

Club members who worked a total of 77 person-days or 747 hours on the project, and were bolstered by 7 recruited by Bob Peoples. So, altogether we had record totals of 32 volunteers, 87 person-days, and 824 Konnarock Crew! Nine Club members worked at least five days with the Konnarock Crew and earned a T included Ed Oliver, the leader with 10; Bill Stowell, Joe DeLoach, Bruce Cunningham, Frank Williams, Bob Cunningham, Derrick Stowell, and Darrol Nickels. Many thanks to all the volunteers, which in addition to the included Carl Fritz, Kevin O'Donnell, Craig DeLoach, Steve Perri, Jim Eikenberry, Steve Banks, Rick Lott Williams, John Thompson, Steve Falling, Neil Dotson, Dave Nebeth, and Steven Banks plus thru-hikers Tom Chuck, Molly Jacobs, Thomas Kornack, Edina, Thera, Caroline, Jeff, and Ben.

## The 1999 Multi-Club Meet

*Steve Perri reporting*

The 1999 Multi-Club meet will be held from September 3-September 6, 1999. This year's event held on a weekend will be hosted by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club at Unicoi State Park near Helen Georgia. provides an opportunity for the southern A.T. maintaining clubs to get together for a weekend of hiking, re friendships, meeting new friends and having fun with people who like to hike and maintain the Appalachia Opportunities for hiking and other excursions will be available. Saturday night will offer an optional barbecue entertainment. On Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. the general meeting will be held for a report from each of the

The cost associated with the meeting is as follows:

\$10.00/adult for registration fee (children under 12 are free)

\$12.00/person camping fee (children under 12 are free)

\$10.00/person barbecue on Saturday (Optional)

Check-in will be on Fri. 3-10 p.m. and 8-1 p.m. on Saturday

Registration Deadline is August 10.

For a copy of the registration or more info, contact Steve Perri of TEHCC (423-349-5091) or Debra Beas (404-648-8761) or Van Hill of GATC (770-339-7748).

## 32nd ATC Biennial Meeting: Radford '99

*Carl Fritz - reporting*

The 32nd Biennial meeting of the ATC was held at Radford University in Radford, Virginia from July 9-16. helping with Staff functions were Steve Wilson, Steve Banks, Steve Perri, Garry Luttrell, Carl Fritz and Ted and Luttrell also gave workshops that had standing room only. Almost 1000 members had pre-registered fifty as no shows. Late registration started on Friday at noon and was steady until Sunday. The meeting started Saturday morning with Robert G Stanton, Director of the National Park Service being the keynote speaker had nothing but praise for all the volunteers who work so hard for no pay and sometimes little recognition for Appalachian Trail open and safe. The meeting also included the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Appalachian Trail in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This MOU describes the specific underlying working relationships among the six government agencies, the ATC, and the nine volunteer A.T. clubs. This achievement since Virginia has over one fourth of the A.T. Sara Davis was named an Honorary Member Business meeting and several resolutions were presented, voted on and passed. Our Club was responsible Workshops, which ran from Saturday until Monday. A special thanks to Ted Malone for spending the last planning and coordinating over 40 different workshops offered at the conference. Hikes and Excursions over week. The next biennial meeting will be in Pennsylvania in 2001.

## Introductory Whitewater School

*Mike Morrow reporting*

The 28th annual TEHCC/APES Introductory Whitewater School (a.k.a. Canoe School) was held the week of June 10-12. And even though this was the first school run by a kayaker, things seemed to go as smooth as usual. A total of 12 students finished the school. Six students were kayakers and six were canoers. This is the official count and the first in school history that kayakers matched canoers. And the kayakers almost outnumbered the canoers, but our canoers took out after Chestoa rapid on Sunday. Of course, I think this streak of open boater dominance may have led to the name of the school for the first 26 years. Maybe we should call it Kayak School for 26 years and see how it turns out.

All kidding aside, the school started with lecture and fun on Thursday at Eastman's Lodge. On Saturday, the school began at Warriors Path State Park. We then did a stretch of the North Fork of the Holston. Everyone did a good job. Even the rookies were even surfing by the last rapid. On Sunday, we ran the Lower Nolichucky putting in at Chestoa and taking out at Big Rock. We had an early take-out set at Sawmill. Most of the students took out Sawmill. The rest of the students took out to Big Rock. As usual, there were many student swims. I stopped counting at six. There was even at least one open boater swim. At the end of the day all were smiling and even talking about how they are looking forward to next year's school.

A big thanks goes to all of the instructors and boaters. Without their help, the school would not be possible. Thanks to: Steve Perri, & Mary Mathis, Rich Ruhlon, Gary Kilpatrick, John Heffernan, Nathan Coggins, Cory Wells, Wayne Lemon, Jim McDarmot, and Randy Pasqua.

## **TEHCC Members Complete CPR/First Aid Training**

*Steve Perri reporting*

Several members of the club are now certified in CPR and standard first aid thanks to a grant from ATC. In late June several of the club's members signed up for 2 evening sessions to complete the certification course at the American Red Cross in Kingsport. So now we are more updated on our training as we are certified for 2 years on CPR and 2 years on the first aid. Those present for the training were: Steve Banks, Richard Colberg, Ed Monty, Ed Pierce, Kathy McDavid, Shannon Stanforth, Steve Perri, Bill and Derrick Stowell.

## **Scheduled Activities and Trip Report**

### **Laurel Falls Hike, Saturday, August 14**

*Leader: Steve Wilson, 239-0456, Rating: Easy to Moderate*

The hiking trails leading to Laurel Falls have been substantially improved in the past few years. Some of the improvements are the rock steps down to the falls and the new wooden bridges on the blue blaze trail from Hampton. During the hike we will explore these improvements while hiking from the Hampton trailhead to the Dennis Cove trailhead. Bring your own rain gear, and a camera. We will meet and depart from the parking lot between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM.

### **A.T. Hike: Fox Creek to Dickey Gap (Va. 603 to Va. 650), August 15**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-245-6105, Rating: Medium*

The hardest work for this 8.5-mile hike will be over quickly: an 840-foot ascent of Iron Mt. in the first couple of miles. After that, it's mostly downhill or level, apart from a little climb at the end after a respite at the small waterfall of Coney Run. This section of the A.T. is south of Marion, Virginia, and just northeast of Mt. Rogers - so the drive is a little over 2 hours. We'll meet at the usual spot (between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights) for an 8:00 AM start.

## **A.T. Hike: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, September 1**

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

This hike starts at Indian Grave Gap, near Erwin. We will travel north on the A.T., crossing Beauty Spot (with views of the surrounding area) and Unaka Mountain, the highest mountain in the vicinity, as well as several other peaks before we arrive at Iron Mountain Gap. Bring appropriate clothing for the weather, lunch, and water. Meet at the intersection between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Call Steve at 288-2646 for more information.

## **Paddling Trip: Nolichucky Gorge**

### **First Timers Trip, August 14**

*Leader: Dewey Fuller, 764-7340, Rating: III-IV*

The Nolichucky Gorge is one of the premier whitewater runs in the southeast with spectacular scenery and class III-IV whitewater. Usually by August the flow is below 700cfs making the run less pushy and more suitable for doing it for the first time. If you have been doing lots of class III water and feel like taking on something a little more challenging this might be the trip for you. Of course veteran gorge runners are also welcome. Contact Dewey at 764-7340 for details.

## **Hike Report: Old Timers Hiking Club**

*C. B. Willis reporting*

This was a fun hike for the Old Timers Hiking Club from Hwy 321 south to Laurel Falls. One member of the club, Fortner, took along loppers and clipped greenbriar and laurel as he hiked. He also took a litterbag and carried it to the top. Heuston should have credit for six hours of trail maintenance work. The trail up the new switchbacks is clear of weeds. However, weeds, including stinging nettles, are very thick for the first 1/2 mile going north on the A.T. trail in Laurel Gorge. The weeds and laurel are encroaching on the trail. After the first 1/2 mile there isn't much more. We also observed about 3-4 large blowdowns during the hike. All can be stepped over or easily walked around.

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

### **May 16, Trail Maintenance North of McQueens Gap**

*Steve Banks reporting*

Steve Banks cut weeds on the A.T. between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter, and posted two "Travel Only" signs near McQueens Gap, and a description sign in the shelter. The shelter and A.T. are in excellent condition. Total: 7 hours.

### **June 29, Work On Open Area About One Mile Trail North Of Iron Mountain Gap**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Darrol Nickels, John Thompson, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver from TEHC, Ben Lawhon from ATC and four other volunteers and scout leaders from Nashville, Tennessee helped improve the open area at the old orchard about 1.2 miles north of Iron Mountain Gap. The objective of this work is to return this area to an open area. The old apple trees were cut and removed from the field but the other trees were cut and removed so that it will be easier to mow this field.

Total: 73 hours.

### **July 3, Trail Maintenance Watauga Dam to Vanderverter Shelter**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Derrick and Bill Stowell cut weeds from Watauga Dam Road to Vanderverter Shelter. Since this is a wilderness area we had to use scythes. Derrick and I hiked to the shelter and started cutting back from the shelter and Frank. The weeds were pretty bad, in some places they were shoulder high.

Total: 40 hours.

### **July 6, Campbell Hollow Road Relocation**

*Carl Fritz reporting*

Ed Oliver and I flagged the temporary relocation from High Point through the recently purchased Forest Service land to Campbell Hollow Rd. This will eliminate the road walk and hopefully will be close to the trail's permanent location. Total: 20 hours.

### **July 6, Cut Weeds South of McQueens Gap**

*Steve Banks reporting*

Steve Banks cut weeds from McQueens Gap south to the top of McQueens Knob, on a very hot and humid day. Total: 7 hours.

### **July 7, Campbell Hollow Road Relocation**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

John Thompson, Bob Peoples, Derrick Stowell, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver worked on the relocation of Campbell Hollow Road. This relocation will move the Appalachian Trail off of Campbell Hollow Road and onto a recently purchased by the Forest Service. We were able to complete about half of the relocation. We plan to re-open the road on Saturday and open it at that time. This re-lo will eliminate the last significant section of road walking on the trail.

Total: 54 hours.

### **July 9, Annual Maintenance Section 17**

*C. B. Willis reporting*

Sandra Perry, Dick Lewis, Carl Kincheloe, Neil Ottenfeld, and C. B. Willis completed annual maintenance on Cherry Gap and Low Gap. The group performed all the necessary weeding, brush and laurel trimming, and renews needed and obliterated unnecessary blazes. Carried out bag of litter from Cherry Gap Shelter and dug out rocks to improve the flow and pool. We carried in electric drill with screws and installed 15 more screws in the picnic shelter in order to assure it would hold up. Regret the broom we had left has apparently been removed but a handled shovel is on its third year. No journal could be found and suppose we should wait until the spring when most through hikers have already moved on.

We were very, very lucky in that the large, dead magnolia tree at the front of the shelter has fallen since our group had argued about cutting the tree down but decided it could stand and provide homes for wildlife for another year. Also we doubted our ability to fell the tree and avoid the shelter and the table. Well, the wind did its job well between the table and the shelter, a hand span from the table and a foot or two from the shelter. After we felled the tree, it makes a fine bench sufficient to hold numerous hikers, right at the fire ring.

The erosion for 1/2 mile or so south of the shelter into Low Gap is getting worse and we will have to do so something ASAP. We will discuss this problem and report later. If Ted happens to visit to check the shelter or anyone from TEHC is in the area, your advice would be appreciated.

Total: 35 hours.

### **July 10, Complete Campbell Hollow Relocation**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Bill & Derrick Stowell, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and thru-hiker "Preacher" completed the relocation of Campbell Hollow Road. This relocation moved the trail off of the road and eliminated the last significant road walk on our section of the Appalachian Trail. The relocation is about a mile in length and replaces about 1/2 mile of road walk and 1/2 mile of trail walking in the boggy section at Jones Branch. We need to go back and cut out a few more posts across the new trail. We also need to install a post trail south of Campbell Hollow Road to make the trail more obvious. The relocation is the approximate route that the trail will follow long term. There are a few short sections that will change after the Forest Service has a chance to do the necessary approvals. These modifications will be done on a grade in two places.

Total: 54 hours.

**July 13, 1999, Campbell Hollow Relo & Cut Blowdowns Trail South Of Watauga Dam Road**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Frank Williams and Ed Oliver installed a post with a blaze on it trail south of Campbell Hollow Road. We t  
trees that were across the new relo at Campbell Hollow and improved the trail across the wet area about  
through this relo. We then drove to Watauga Dam Road and cut out all the blowdowns between Watauga  
Watauga Dam. Total: 16 hours.

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

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