

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

September 1999

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Sep 11	Hiwassee River	W	T. Pridgen	423-245-5
Sep 12	Hiwassee River	W	T. Pridgen	423-245-5
Sep 12	(Sunday) Family/Beginner: Nolichucky River - Jones Branch	E	E. Oliver	423-349-6
Sep 18	Third Saturday Maintenance - ATC Drainage Workshop		J. DeLoach	423-753-7
Sep 25	Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike	M	R. Colberg	423-288-8
Sep 25	Nantahala River	W-III	R. Culbertson	423-246-7
Oct 2	A.T.: Va. 16 (Dickey Gap) to Holston River	M	N. Dotson	423-245-6
Oct 2	Family/Beginner: Max Patch	E	E. Oliver	423-349-6
Oct 9	A.T.: Hump Mountain	D	J. DeLoach	423-753-7
Oct 16	A.T.: Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap	M-D	S. Banks	423-288-2
Oct 16	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	423-239-7
Oct 17	Nolichucky Gorge - Fall Colors	W-IV	G. Porter	423-288-6
Oct 23	Bays Mountain	M	C. Chew	423-239-6
Oct 30	Holston River to Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area HQ	M	N. Dotson	423-245-6

Appalachian Trail Drainage Workshop

Joe DeLoach reporting

The Appalachian Trail Conference is sponsoring a number of workshops for trail maintainers to build their skills. This year, we are sponsoring one workshop on drainage techniques. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 11. It is much easier to prevent erosion on the Appalachian Trail than to rehabilitate it. When new trails are built proper outslopes and dips are important to keep water from running down the Trail, but on older trails more intricate techniques must be used. These include installing rock or wood water drainage ditches, and in wet or badly eroded areas may include other techniques.

to harden the Trail. We will learn about these techniques in a class with Morgan Sommerville from ATC on September 18.

This will be a very good opportunity to learn the right way to stabilize and we have some sections that need some work. The class is scheduled to begin at 9:00, tentatively slated to be held going north from Iron Mountain. We will meet at 8:00 in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights. You must notify Joe if you plan to attend as other people will be participating and we also need to know how many tools to bring. Please contact Joe (Telephone 423-753-7903) to register or if you have any questions.

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

RESCHEDULE NOTICE: This hike was originally scheduled for September 11.

A.T. Hike: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, October 16

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 (west of the surrounding area) and Unaka Mountain, the highest mountain in the vicinity, as well as several smaller peaks before arriving at Iron Mountain Gap. Bring appropriate clothing for the weather, 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 Steve Banks to register or for more information.

Paddling: Hiwassee River, September 11-12

Leader: Tom Pridgen, 245-5975, Rating: Class I-II

The Hiwassee State Scenic River is a 3.5-hour drive from the Tri-Cities area. We will plan to paddle the Apalachia (yes, one "p") Powerhouse to Reliance on Saturday September 11 and probably again on Sunday. The schedule is generating schedule dependent so it is necessary to pre-register with the trip leader at 423-245-5975. Meet to assemble at Gee Creek campground at 11 AM on Saturday. This allows driving down Saturday morning. Drive down Friday and camp at Gee Creek. Ask trip leader for details and directions if needed. The river is suitable for novices and intermediates. As with all moving water, proper respect for safety will be mandatory PFD, boat, paddles, lunch and water. Flotation for the boat is highly recommended. Helmets are not required but welcome. Throw ropes are always appreciated. Leave any bad attitudes at home. A safe and beautiful environment is our goal!

Family/Beginner Hike: Jones Creek Hike, Sunday, September 12

Leader: Ed Oliver, 349-6668, Rating: Easy

This will be an easy hike and is appropriate for beginners, families, and anyone who enjoys a leisurely stroll along the Nolichucky River along Jones Creek. The length of the hike can vary according to the desires of those participating. It is likely to be between about three to four miles in length. We will cross the creek several times (on bridges and fords). Plan to meet at the parking area between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 12:45 p.m. Drive to Kingsport about 6:30 p.m. Contact Ed Oliver at (423) 349-6668 if you have questions.

3rd Saturday Maintenance, Appalachian Trail Drainage Workshop September 18

Leader: Joe DeLoach, 753-7903

See article on page 1.

A.T. Moonlight Hike: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, Sept. 25

Leader: Richard Colberg, 288-8333. Rating: Moderate (5 mi.)

September 25 is a full moon, and hopefully will offer clear weather. We plan to hike from Carvers Gap, en route to Grassy Ridge, and hike back in the dark. We'll meet at the parking area near McDonald's and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 3:45 PM, for a 4:00 PM departure. Bring appropriate gear (including a rain jacket, cool and windy after dark), flashlight and batteries, water and snacks, and boots (trail is rocky). This hike is weather dependent since we can't see the moon in the rain (and the hike leader doesn't want to risk a group hike in the rain). Call hike leader for details.

Hike: A.T.: Dickey Gap to the South Fork of the Holston (Va. 655) October 2

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

Come join us for an early fall hike northeast of Mt. Rogers! This 6.6-mile section of the A.T. is mostly down to the river (starting at 4000 feet and finishing at 2450 feet), ending at the fine footbridge that crosses the South Fork of the Holston River. We'll do some mileage (and climbing) by taking the side trail up to High Point (4040 feet), for some views of the Mt. Rogers area to the south of us) and our destination: Rye Valley, through which the river (more a creek at this point) runs. But we'll have good weather and foliage, of course - and we hope the latter will already be showing colors. We'll meet at the parking area near Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights) for an 8:00 a.m. departure.

Hike Report: Backpack Trip on the Allegheny Trail, April 16 - 18

G. S. Luttrell reporting

We drove to Pearisburg, Va. Friday afternoon, 4/16, got rooms at Linda Lorraine's B & B, then met with Susan Kay, Bob, Emmett, and me on a 4 mi. loop hike to a beautiful waterfall in the Cascades Area near Pembroke. On Friday night, Gary and Chris arrived, got rooms in a motel, and ate dinner with us. On Sat. morning we met Owen and nine of us spotted a car at Va. 635 at Pine Swamp and drove on to spot a car at Gap Mills Rd (in case of an emergency). We began the hike at WV County Rd. 20 near the community of Laurel Branch, the northern terminus of the final section of the Trail, Section 4. The first 8.3-mi. of the trail follows an easy grass-covered firebreak road route to Gap Mills Rd. We filtered water from a pond, plugging several filters in the process, to carry to our dry, overnight campsite. As we approached the Hanging Rock area, the fierce, cold wind with snow showers reminded us that winter might be here yet. We entered the Hawk Migration Observatory, and decided that it would be much safer to spend the night in the shelter-like facility than drafty tents on top of the ridge. The 360-degree view was gorgeous, and we observed a snowbird. On Sunday, since we stopped a little short of our intended campsite, we hiked 11.7 mi. on a mostly old and often non-maintained, with lots of blowdowns, trail, to the A.T.; then, on to the Pine Swamp parking area. This was a backpack trip for Kay, and she deserves special merit for persevering 25 mi. of hiking over 2 days. Those who went were: a new trail: Arvell and Kay Luttrell, Gary and Chris Dinkel, Emmett Dougherty, Owen Hollbrook, Bob Miller, and Garry Luttrell.

Hike Report: Moon Light at Bays Mt., July 22

Carl Fritz reporting

This annual Fun Fest event brought out 297 people. Except for one individual losing his glasses for twenty minutes, the event went smoothly. Numerous animals and birds were discovered lurking in the shadows around the lake. We

by a full moon on this warm night as we returned to the Planetarium. Dave Taylor from Bays Mountain Park and Kevin Jones assisting. Thanks to these folks for assisting Bill, Marsha, and Derrick Stowell, Jan and Shauna, Mary Jane Fritz, Ed Oliver, and Frank Williams. A special thanks for the co-ops who assisted: Mike Buko, Ted Moore, Carsten Starke and Suzanne Steeves.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

July 11 and 23, Trail Maintenance

Dixie Hoilman reporting

Barbara Brown, Fred Hoilman, and Dixie Hoilman worked on trail maintenance from Indian Grave Gap to the Chestoa Bridge. The section from the Nolichucky River to the Chestoa Bridge will need to have some drainage work in the future.

July 16, Section 17, From mile 4.0 to 6.4 (A.T. Guidebook) across Yellow Mountain

C.B. Willis reporting

Hueston Fortner, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Wayne Sparks, Clyde Taylor, and C. B. Willis worked on the trail where needed. We also cut a wide swath through the laurel on the south side (we had done the same on the north side last year). The group removed several little blowdowns, freshened the blazes where needed, and covered a few old blazes. It would be good to install a new PVC pipe for the spring, which runs on the trail on the north side. We plan to do that as well as work on the spring. Total: 63 hours.

July 17, 3rd Saturday Maintenance

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Bill and Derrick Stowell drove to near Yellow Mountain Barn and spread out to do maintenance on Yellow Mountain Gap going trail south to Stan Murray Shelter. We got back to the gap a little early so we did some work north from Yellow Mountain Gap to the trail intersection on Yellow Mountain. We got a report from hikers that the trail was bad between Stan Murray and Carvers Gap. Also two backpackers saw a bear on the trail near Roan High Knob. They said the bear wouldn't move so they had to take a wide detour around him. Total: 44 hours.

July 18, Section Maintenance US 421 at Low Gap

Tim McClain reporting

Tim McClain, Peggy McClain, Emily McClain, Eriika McClain, and Lisa McClain performed maintenance on the trail section (from US 421 at Low Gap north about 2.5 miles). We cut weeds, clipped, and blazed in both directions. The trail was in reasonably good shape. There is one blowdown about 1 mile in from 421 (its about 8 inches in diameter and is suspended) that the hikers are walking around without any problem. Also, it appears that the old route immediately north of the road is still being used. The trail was relocated and reblazed a couple of years ago but the old route is still being used. Ed Oliver and I talked last year about this and felt like a relocation on the south side of the road that would go more directly across from the new north side would help. Total: 43 hours.

July 20, Steps and Culvert Installation at Campbell Hollow

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Derrick Stowell installed steps and a culvert at the stream crossing on the trail at Campbell Hollow relocation. A 12-inch culvert was installed in the streambed and the trail bed was built up to get rid of the streambed areas. Also 12 steps were built on the steep section of trail approaching the stream going trail north. The work was a great improvement. The work looked so good that if it had been a painting we would have signed it. Total: 43 hours.

July 24, Cut Weeds at Hughes Gap and between Cloudland Hotel and the Roan High Knob Shelter

Waylon Jenkins reporting

I cut weeds and dodged thunderstorms at Hughes Gap and between Cloudland Hotel site and the Roan High Knob Shelter.

Total: 5 hours.

July 1999, Web site maintenance

Steve Banks reporting

During July 1999, I spent 32 hours maintaining our web site.

August 10, Paint Blazes And Clip Growth From U.S. 19E To Doll Flats

Ed Oliver reporting

John Thompson and Ed Oliver painted the blazes on the Appalachian Trail between U.S. 19E and Doll Flats. We painted the blue blazes in both directions. We also painted the blue blazes to the water source at Doll Flats. We clipped the trail and repaired a few short sections of treadway. We were surprised that we met between twenty and thirty sections of trail. There are a few more sections of treadway that will be worked on in the future. Otherwise the trail is in good shape. Total: 18 hours.

August 14, Flagging for Water Bars - Low Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Bill & Derrick Stowell went in at Low Gap and started flagging where the water bars are needed. On the Third Saturday. Also we cut and moved to the trail 45 six-foot long logs for water bars. We estimate an additional 17 hours needed to complete the effort on the section from Low Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter. Total: 32 hours.