

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

April 2000

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
April 1	Sand Cave (Ewing, Virginia)	M-D	Steve Perri	349-5091
April 1	Big Moc Creek, Snowflake, Virginia	III	Dane Faulkner	348-7902
April 8	Elk River, Tennessee	III	G. Porter	288-6513
April 8	Family/Beginner Hike: Laurel Falls	M	Steve Wilson	239-0456
April 15	Tax Day Run - Leader's Choice	II-III	Brian Stubblefield	753-7584
April 15	Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell	239-7697
April 22	Leader's Choice	III-IV	John Jefferman	540-669-9597
April 28-30	Backpack: Alleghany Trail (West Virginia)	M	Garry Luttrell	239-9854
April 29	A.T. Hike: Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603)	M	Richard Colberg	288-8333
April 29-30	32nd Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom and Wild Water Championships, Nantahala River, Bryson City, N.C.			
May 6	Wildflower Hike	E	Joe DeLoach	753-7903
May 6-7	Bluestone River West Virginia, XXII	II-III	Terry Dougherty	323-2647
May 13	Family/Beginner Hike: Henwallow Falls (Smokies)	E	Ed Oliver	349-6668
May 19-24	A.T. Day Hikes: Shenandoah National Park	M-D	Kent Wilson	239-7754

May 19-21	Damascus (Virginia) A.T. Days	FUN	www.damascus.org	
May 26-30	A.T. Backpack: Great Smoky Mountains	D	Steve Humphrey	477-2367



Introductory Whitewater School 2000

The 29th annual "Canoe School", sponsored by the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs), will be held June 8th, 10th, and 11th. The school is targeted for beginner and novice solo and tandem whitewater canoeists and kayakers,

and consists of an evening of lecture and videos plus two days on the water. As in the past there will continue to be a strong emphasis on river safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater canoe w/ one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat and helmet, or a whitewater kayak w/ paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. One PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoes should have bow and stern lines. All boats must have air bags. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

Schedule:

June 8th (Thur)	Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Eastman Lodge, Room A2 Eastman Recreation Area, Near Bay's Mountain Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.
June 10th (Sat)	Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM Duck Island Parking Lot Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, Tennessee Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.
June 11th (Sun)	River Trip, class II. 10:00 AM T.B.D.

Note: Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised. Participants must be a member of TEHCC or APE's. Applications will be provided on Thursday night. If you are a member of the American Canoe Association (ACA), please bring your membership card and member number. This will save you \$5.00.

Cost: \$20.00 per student payable at the school. Plus membership fee, if applicable. To register contact Mike Morrow at 423-245-1201 or complete and return the form below and mail it to Mike Morrow at 1028 Surmont Ct. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660 by May 30. Feel free to call for more details.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____
 Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Craft: Solo Canoe ____ Tandem Canoe ____ Kayak ____

Experience: Beginner ____ Novice ____

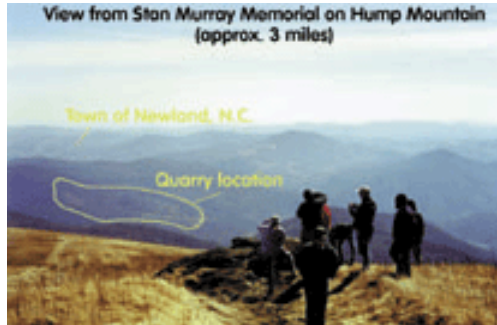
My tandem partner's name: _____ . Need partner ____

List previous clinics taken:

List up to five rivers you have paddled and their levels (if applicable)

Introductory Whitewater School Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed

The 29th annual TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Paddling Clinic is quickly approaching. The clinic is the weekend of June 10th and 11th. Volunteers are needed to help instruct and safety boat. The clinic will only be successful if I have your help. PLEASE volunteer to help at this year's clinic. Call Mike Morrow at (423) 245-1201 if you can help on one or both days. Thanks in advance.



Putnam Mine Locates Near Appalachian Trail in Roan Highlands

Steve Perri reporting

TEHCC recently learned of the operation of a gravel quarry located in Avery County, N.C. between Cranberry and Minneapolis along U.S. 19E. The quarry has been in operation for several months and was brought to the attention of the club through ATC and a number of people in the local community. The A.T. is only two miles from this mine as it traverses the wide open grassy bald on the east flank of Hump Mountain. As hikers walk from the summit of Hump Mountain down hill to Elk Park, N.C., they head directly toward the mine site for approximately one mile, 20-30 minutes of the average hiker's time. The proximity of the mining site to the Appalachian Trail and the unobstructed view of the open pit mine from the trail during all seasons from the balds area is of concern to the A.T. community.

The owner of this quarry has completed the permit process for this mine and the first phase development is in full operation. It is our understanding that some infrastructure development has taken place but mining has not yet begun. The current operation involves about 16 acres of disturbed area and the proposed permitting will allow up to 156 acres. The duration of the project is anticipated to be a very long time - > 50 yrs.

On March 16, a public meeting was held in Newland, N.C. due to a large public outcry to the attorney general of N.C., about the lack of communication to the public and other organizations, since they had no opportunity to comment on this mining project prior to North Carolina granting the initial permits for its construction. Most of the people who addressed a review committee (> 90%) were against the operation of the mine due to its visual impact and close proximity to neighboring property owners and their homes. Since no one was given the opportunity to comment before the issue of the permits, a majority of the people asked the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) to revoke or suspend the permit until further comment could be made from the public. Other organizations wanting to consider protecting the viewshed of the A.T. followed suit including ATC, NPS, NPCA, TEHCC and SAHC. There is some merit to this request as there are requirements for such public meetings as required by the N.C. Mining Act of 1971, and the N.C. Appalachian Trails System Act. A finding in which a significant adverse effect on the purpose of a publicly owned park, forest, or recreation area (in this case, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail) as stated in the N.C. Mining Act and the N.C. Appalachian Trail Systems Act may cause the DENR to reconsider their initial decision.

The DENR is currently reviewing the information gathered at the meeting and will most likely render a decision in 2-4 weeks as to whether the mining permit will be allowed to stay, be suspended temporarily or be revoked.



Special Patch for Thru Hikers

Bob Peoples reporting

During the summer of 1999, members of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC), which has responsibility for maintaining 127 miles of the Appalachian Trail as it crosses northeastern Tennessee, began to recognize that more and more thru hikers and long distance hikers had been taking a few hours off from their hikes to help TEHCC maintain their section of the A.T.

One of the suggestions was to award a special patch to thru hikers and long distance hikers who are willing to show their support of the A.T. by working on trail maintenance. This idea was discussed in June of 1999 while TEHCC maintainers were working with the Konnarock Crew on a reroute near Doll Flats in the

Cherokee National Forest. Two Konnarock members, sisters who had thru hiked in 1998 with their mother and three siblings as "the family", volunteered to design something special. Marty Allen ("the artist") designed and Sara Allen ("Rosey") lettered a "Hiker-Trail Volunteer" patch depicting a crossed crosscut saw and mattock superimposed over Laurel Fork Falls, which is located in the Pond Mountain Wilderness Area.

TEHCC was pleased with the design, and when the final 1999 manpower statistics showed that thirty thru hikers and long section hikers had contributed 159.5 hours of trail maintenance, they went ahead and placed an order for the six-color fabric patches. Beginning with the 2000 hiking season, any thru hiker or long section hiker who is willing to work for eight hours on trail maintenance under the supervision of a TEHCC maintainer will be entitled to receive one of these unique patches. In fact, the first two patches have already been awarded. These went to 2000 thru hikers Ron Batchelor ("Seiko") and Bob Sylvester ("The Slyman"). With this kind of start, TEHCC may have to order more patches before the year is out!

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

Guest River Gorge

March 11, 2000

Collins Chewreporting

Since no one showed up for this rainy day hike, I made my monthly inspection/maintenance hike on the Meadowview Marsh Trail and finished a bird feeder "tree" for my wife Charlotte.

Backpack Trip - Allegheny Trail, April 28 - 30, 2000

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 239-9854

Rating: Moderate

This backpack trip will be on Section 3 of the Allegheny Trail north of I-64, in West Virginia. We'll leave Friday afternoon, April 28, and spend the night in a motel. Saturday and Sunday, we'll hike 22 miles from Watoga State Park to the town of Neola. Contact the hike leader for further details.

A.T. Hike: Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603), Saturday, April 29

Leader: Richard Colberg, 423-288-8333

Rating: Moderate (10.3 miles, 2000 ft elevation gain)

(Note change in location from six-month calendar.) Grayson Highlands State Park is one of my favorite places to hike. Come join me on this hike from Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603). Along the way, we should have excellent views of the surrounding mountains from the balds in Grayson Highlands and the meadows on Stone and Pine Mountains. We'll also hike through pleasant hardwood forests. We should see wild ponies in Grayson Highlands, and possibly horses on Stone Mountain south of Scales. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 7:45am for an 8:00am departure. Call hike leader for more information.

A.T. Hike - Shenandoah National Park

*May 19-24, 2000 **Schedule Change!!***

Kent Wilson, 239-7554

The hike I had originally scheduled in early May on the A.T. in Shenandoah National Park has a date change. We will now travel to Shenandoah National Park on Friday May 19 and return on May 24 (Memorial Day). The plan is to day hike each day an average of 11-12 miles (one 14 mile day). We plan to stay in campgrounds in the National Park. If you are interested in this hike please contact the trip leader (Kent Wilson) at 239-7554.

Mount LeConte Creek Trip

July 8-9, 2000

LeConte Lodge sits atop Mount LeConte at an elevation of over 6000 feet and is not accessible by road. There are a number of foot trails to the lodge, but for the more adventurous it can be reached by going off trail and scrambling up one of several creeks flowing off the mountain. Ascending a LeConte creek is more of a climb than a hike. Due to the difficulty of negotiating around waterfalls and crawling through thick rhododendron and stinging nettles, the trip often takes over 12 hours with only short rest periods. This trip is extremely difficult. However, once we reach the top (hopefully, before the dining hall shuts down) we will be served a hot dinner in the rustic dining room at the lodge and have a clean, dry bed to sleep in. We will take one of the foot trails down on Sunday. The cost of the trip is \$83.00 per person and includes lodging Saturday night with dinner and breakfast included.

Contact Dewey Fuller 423-764-7340 for details.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

February 23, 2000 - Section 18 - USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

C. B. Willis reporting

Total person-hours: 9 hours x 1 person = 9

Malcolm Wolf of the Old Timers Hiking Club walked all of Section 18 and a little of Section 17 on Feb 23, 2000. He moved several small blowdowns, cleared brush off the trail, and picked up litter.

February 25, 2000

Purpose: Maintenance Dinner

Number of People : 31

Total person-hours: 31 X 2 = 62

Summary: On February 26, TEHCC had it's annual Maintenance Dinner. We had the usual great meal prepared by Ed Oliver and Mary Cunningham. The new crew assignments were given out. A list of items to be covered on maintenance trips was reviewed. We had two guests from ATC; Morgan Sommerville and Ben Lawhon.

Attendees: Steve Banks, Richard Colberg, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Joe Deloach, Steve Falling, Carl Fritz, Dixie Hoilman, Fred Hoilman, Waylon Jenkins, Ben Lawhon (ATC), Sam Lloyd, Jim Mann, Patty Mann, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Darrol Nickels, Frank Oglesby, Ed Oliver, Neil Ottenfeld, Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Morgan Sommerville (ATC), Wayne Sparks, Bill Stowell, John Thompson, Scott Thomsen, Frank Williams, C.B. Willis, Steve Wilson.

February 26, 2000 - Section 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Bill Stowell reporting

Bill & Marsha Stowell

Total person-hours: 7 hours X 2 people = 14

Summary: Marsha and Bill Stowell drove to Hughes Gap and cut blowdowns and lopped from Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob.

February 26, 2000 - Section 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Open Areas Management

Total person-hours: 14 X 10 = 140

Number of People: (14) Bob Peoples, Darrol Nickels, Jeremy Schewe, Laura Faye Berry, Meaghan Grafton, Mariah Strickler, Amanda Lawson, Evan Krokowski, Michelle Korma, Amy DeCori, Melissa Wicklas, Lewis Cassity, Jordan Hester and Lacy Valen.

Summary: The Orchard at Weedy Gap

Bob Peoples and Darrol Nickels met twelve Warren Wilson College students at Iron Mountain Gap. We proceeded north on the A. T. for about one and a half miles to the "Orchard near Weedy Gap". There we cleared away brush that had been cut on previous trips, repainted the blue blazes to the spring, and used a pole saw to remove dead and broken limbs from the upper reaches of some trees. A bushhog can now go the full length of the orchard without having to dodge stumps, brush piles or uprooted trees. The orchard has a park-like appearance and is a nice campsite. The students were partially fulfilling their 100-hour requirement in the WWC Work Program. They were: Jeremy Schewe, Laura Faye Berry, Meaghan Grafton, Mariah Strickler, Amanda Lawson, Evan Krokowski, Michelle Korma, Amy DeCori, Melissa Wicklas, Lewis Cassity, Jordan Hester and Lacy Valen.

February 26, 2000 - Section 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Repair treadway and clip growth trail south of Indian Grave Gap

Number of People: 5 (Bruce & Mary Cunningham, John Thompson, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver)

Total person-hours: 5 X 8 = 40

Summary: On February 26, Bruce and Mary Cunningham clipped back the rhododendron and other growth for about a half mile starting about 1.5 miles trail south of Indian Grave Gap. John Thompson, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver continued the treadway repair trail south of Indian Grave Gap. We repaired about 300 feet of trail. We also improved a vista about 0.5 miles trail south of Indian Grave Gap. We will need one more trip to complete the treadway repair on this section of trail.

February 29, 2000 - Section 9 - U.S. 321 to Hampton Trailhead

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and repair trail

Number of People: 2 (John Thompson, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 2 X 8 = 16

Summary: John Thompson and Frank Williams repaired the trail where a blowdown and root ball had destroyed the treadway.

February 29, 2000 - Section 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Complete flagging of trail relocations on White Rocks Mountain

Number of People: 2 (Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: 2 X 10 = 20

Summary: On February 29 Ed Oliver and Bob Peoples completed flagging a relocation at White Rocks Fire Tower. Also trail at the Canute Place was adjusted to make it easier to follow. Also the blue blaze to the spring was painted and the spring cleaned out.

March 1, 2000 - Section 2 - McQueens Gap to Backbone Rock Trail Junction

Steve Perri reporting

Participants: Ed Oliver, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, and Frank Williams

Hours: 11 ea. X 5 = 55 total

Summary: The clearing of blowdowns and significant rhodo clipping was carried out on Section 2 from McQueens Gap to Backbone Rock trail junction. About 12 large trees were cleared from this section. Two very large trees about 3 ft or more in diameter (Dick Burow Trees) were left but can be walked around, as these were too big for the small saw. One tree about 0.1 mi. trail south of the Backbone Rock trail junction needs to be finished up for a step. The group ran out of time cutting a wedge out, so hopefully this piece may be removed by an AX (maybe 10 minutes worth) or a chainsaw to finish it up.

March 4, 2000 - Section 12 - Elk River area

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Check out private purchase of land in Elk River area

Number of People: 2 (Ed Oliver, Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours: 2 people X 6 hours = 12

Summary: Ed Oliver and Bill Stowell Drove to Elk Falls to check into a proposed property purchase of land near where the relo will come down Jones Branch and then left along the Elk River. The proposal is for four structures to be built so as to minimize the impact on the A.T. The owners would like to get an easement on most of the property to protect the area from further development and of course a tax break for themselves. We felt that this is doable and will work with them to provide protection for the A.T.

March 4, 2000

C.B. Willis reporting

Bob Spencer was on a fun hike with friends from Low Gap south to Cross Mountain by Double Springs Shelter and spent some time in maintenance during the walk. Bob carried out two bags of litter, mostly from the shelter. The shelter area is still not clean but Bob was not equipped to do anymore. He was especially upset to find people had been drinking whiskey and leaving their bottles there. He also did casual clipping and removing winter debris from the trail. He noted that cattle are using the trail area from south of the shelter almost to Hwy 91. Bob said this makes very messy walking. Please give Bob Spencer credit for 8.0 hours trail maintenance.

March 5, 2000 - Section 19 - Curley Maple Shelter

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Trail Rehab and Lopping

Number of People: 4 (Bruce & Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours: $4 \times 9 = 45$

Summary: Bruce & Mary Cunningham clipped from the side trail to Curley Maple Shelter. Ed Oliver and Bill Stowell completed the trail rehab between Indian Grave Gap and the side trail. This section is now in great shape.

March 7, 2000 - Section 2 - Backbone Rock Trail Junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Number of People : 2 (Dick & Suzanne Burow)

Total person-hours: $2 \times 7 = 14$

Summary: Dick & Suzanne Burrows went in to cut 2 larger blow downs that had been reported from an earlier trip. Between Backbone Rock Trail and Abingdon Gap Shelter, they cut three 8-12 inch blow downs and two 36 inch diameter blowdowns.

March 8, 2000 - Section 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Number of People : 3 (Bob Peoples, Seiko, Slyman)

Total person-hours: $3 \times 7 = 21$

Summary: Bob Peoples, and thru hikers (Seiko, Slyman) drove to Bitter End and went trail-north cutting blowdowns. One large blowdown consisting of 2-3 poplar trees had a large root ball that made a hole in the trail. The trail was repaired.

March 8, 2000 - Sections 17 & 18 - Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

C. B. Willis reporting

Worked entire trail from Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

Purpose: Routine Spring maintenance

Total person-hours: 18 people x 8 hours = 144

Work accomplished:

1. Checked entire trail.
2. Clipped growth.
3. Cleared winter debris and small blowdowns. We will return to Low Gap, 150 yards north, to clear two large blowdowns, as we didn't carry chainsaws today.
4. Picked up litter on trail and at shelter.
5. Replaced the journal at the shelter and removed the old one (I will give it to TEHCC at the dinner on 3/17.)
6. Picked up litter at Iron Mountain Gap, the A.T. crossing of USFS 230, at Beauty Spot and at Indian Grave Gap.
7. Replaced water signs at Deep Gap and "Walking Trail Only" signs at Iron Mountain Gap and

Indian Grave Gap.

8. We need a new sign for Indian Grave Gap, listing distances to Beauty Spot, Cherry Gap Shelter, and Iron Mountain Gap. The sign placed last year has been stolen.
9. Freshened blazes and removed redundant markings from above Deep Gap to Beauty Spot. We now need to do this from Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap and from the top of Unaka Mountain south to the Deep Gap switchback.
10. The biggest job today was reworking the springs on the north side of Unaka Mountain. They flow all over the trail. We have made it better by taking out the old rusted iron pipe and replacing it with a 12' plastic pipe. There are so many springs here it is hardly possible to prevent some of the excess flow on the trail. The new pipe assures a good steady flow of water sufficient to fill water bottles easily. We made a great improvement but this is a problem we will have to live with. It really isn't much of a problem anyway.
11. It appears we need to do aggressive trail rehab for about 1/2 mile on the north side of Unaka Mountain. We will schedule this later.

Participants: Carolyn Collins, Rick Culbertson, Gilbert Derouen, Hueston Fortner, Howard Guinn, Nancy Kinkead, Dick Lewis, Sam Lloyd, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Wayne Sparks, Bob Spencer, Clyde Taylor, C.B. Willis, Malcolm Wolf

March 8, 2000 - Section 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

Number of People: 3 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ed Oliver)

Total person-hours: 3 X 7 = 21

Summary: This is Craig Haire's section from Chestoa to Temple Hill Gap. Craig is on a 10 month hike so Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, and Ed Oliver went to do normal maintenance for Craig in his absence. Ed reported this section was in excellent shape. They did cut some blow downs, did some clipping, and painted blazes.

March 15, 2000 - Section 12 - Elk River Area

Bill Stowell reporting

Purpose: Review private purchase of Elk River Property with USFS

Number of People : 3 (Ed Oliver, Derrick Stowell, Ray Hunt)

Total person-hours: 3 X 6 = 18

Summary: Ed Oliver, Derrick Stowell, and Ray Hunt met Kathy Ludlow, Landscape Architect with the USFS and Dwayne Stutzman, Regional Trails Specialist with the Division of Parks and Recreation for North Carolina to look at the property purchase on the Elk River near where the new A.T. relocation will come down Jones Branch to the Elk River. The proposed property owners are looking to get a property easement to protect the area. The group concluded this is feasible with some attention to landscaping, house design, and colors. Also an additional short section was flagged along a rock face just past the site where an old picnic shelter is located along the river.

March 18, 2000 - Section 4 - U.S. 421 to Tenn. 91

Neil Dotson reporting

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

Number of People : 3 (Steve Falling, Bryan Shackelford, Neil Dotson)

Total person-hours: 3 X 8 = 24

Summary: We worked on the above section, clearing blowdowns and making pre-emptive strikes on greenbriars, as well as hauling out some trash (not too bad) and putting some brush at both ends of the southern relo to make it clearer where the trail goes (there were double blazes but virtually no brush to further reinforce the point). There was only one blowdown that really requires a chainsaw that we couldn't handle. It is approximately 2.5 miles from U.S. 421, and we carved an X on it. Is there the possibility that someone can take care of this? A longer term issue is a section of significant sidehill slough just before reaching the shelter. One other issue: about 1-1/4 mile from U.S. 421 (just as you get to the skirting of the cleared field) is what Steve Falling said was a non-standard sign indicating water down a trail toward Shady Valley. Is this mentioned in the trail guide?

March 18, 2000 - Section 12 - Walnut Mountain Road to Campbell Hollow Road

G. S. Luttrell reporting

Total person-hours: 6 x 8 = 48

Miles: 3.5

Six of us - Bill Elderbrock, Collins Chew, Bob Harvey, Chester Bruner, Charles Beggerow, and Garry Luttrell - clipped, blazed, and cleared blowdown from Walnut Mtn. Road to Campbell Hollow Road, on a sunny, cool day. We blazed in both directions, and left one 18 in. stepover blowdown, about .5 mi. from Walnut Mtn. Road.

March 18, 2000 - Section 13

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and repair trail Doll Flats to 19E

Number of People : 2 (Bob Peoples, Seiko)

Total person-hours: 2 X 9 = 18

Summary: Bob Peoples and Seiko started at Doll Flats. Two 24 inch beech trees were cut in this area. Continued cutting blowdowns hiking towards 19E until they ran out of gas (for the chain saw that is). Worked some where a large oak root ball pulled the trail out on the new relocation section leaving a 4 foot deep by 14 foot long hole in the trail. Further repair is needed.

March 18, 2000 - Section 15

Purpose: Cut blowdowns from Hughes Gap to the top of Roan High Knob

Number of People : 2 (Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver)

Total person-hours: 2 X 10 = 20

Summary: Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver cut blowdowns and clipped from Hughes Gap north to the top of Roan High Knob.

March 18, 2000 - Section 16

Purpose: Cut blowdowns from Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

Number of People : 3 (Frank Williams, Kevin Odonnell, Ajay Kalra)

Total person-hours: 3 X 9 = 27

Summary: Frank Williams, Kevin Odonnell, and Ajay Kalra drove to Iron Mountain Gap and cut blowdowns reported by a thru hiker to Greasy Creek Gap.

March 18, 2000 - Section 16

Purpose: Cut blowdowns from Greasy Creek Gap to Hughes Gap

Number of People : 3 (John Thompson, Bill Stowell, Derrick Stowell)

Total person-hours: 3 X 10 = 30

Summary: Mary Cunningham dropped off John Thompson, Bill Stowell, and Derrick Stowell at the gate on the road to Greasy Creek Gap. We cut blowdowns, clipped, and refreshed some blazes from there to Hughes Gap.

March 21, 2000

Ed Oliver reporting

Purpose: Repair trail south of U.S. 19E and choose privy site at Yellow Mountain Barn

Number of People: 6 (Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, and Ed Oliver from TEHCC, Seiko and Mr. Boo (thru hikers), and Lee Thompson from USFS)

Total Person-hours: 5 X 8 = 40

Summary: Bruce met Lee Thompson and selected several privy sites at the Yellow Mtn Barn. We now have permission to install the privy whenever we can. Bruce found out that the Forest Service has an Older Americans Crew that picks up trash at the barn on a regular basis. Bruce suggested and they agreed to put one or two drums at the shelter for trash. The rest of us worked on repairing the 14 foot section of trail on the newly relocated trail south of 19E. A tree fell and the root ball took out the trail. We built a crib wall and filled behind it with rock and soil. Two hikers reported that there are at least six trees down between Roan High Knob and Carvers Gap.

March 22, 2000 - Section 3 - McQueens Gap to U.S. 421

Steve Banks reporting

My son Steven and I posted a Foot Travel Only sign just north of Low Gap (U.S. 421), and cut a blowdown there. We then drove to McQueens Gap, and cut briars and four blowdowns between there and the spring at the southern end of my section. We cut another another blowdown in the next section south of the spring before returning to McQueens Gap, where we picked up a bag of trash before returning to Kingsport. Participants were Steve and Steven Banks.

March 24, 2000

Jim Mann reporting

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

Number of People : 3 (Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, and Jim Mann)

Total person-hours: 3 X 9 = 27

Summary: Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, and Jim Mann removed blowdowns from Tenn. 91 to a point 2.3 miles north of U.S. 421. Inspection of the Double Spings Shelter showed it to be in excellent shape.

March 25, 2000 - Section 2 - Backbone Rock Trail Junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Purpose: Painting and Clipping

Number of People: 2 (Bruce and Mary Cunningham)

Total person-hours: 2 X 11 = 22

Summary: Bruce and Mary Cunningham clipped and blazed from Backbone Rock Trail to Abingdon Gap Shelter

March 25, 2000 - Section 15

Ed Oliver reporting

Purpose: Cut blowdowns from Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob

Number of People : 5 (Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Seiko, Crowdad, Raphael)

Total person-hours: $5 \times 8 = 40$

Summary: Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Seiko, Crowdad, and Raphael drove to Carvers Gap and cut blowdowns from there to Roan High Knob. Two dozen trees were cut. After that they drove to Walnut Mt. Road and cut one blowdown reported trail south of the road.