

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

June 2000

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
June 3-4	Chattooga "Deliverance" Section 3	III	Rick Culbertson	423-246-7298
June 16-17	Pearisburg (Virginia) Trail Festival	FUN		
July 8-9	Mount LeConte Lodge by Trail	M	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 8-9	Mount LeConte Lodge by Creek	D	Dewey Fuller	423-764-7340
July 20	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike (Bays Mountain)	Fun	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669



Still Time to Register for Whitewater School! **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 Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM.
(Thur) Eastman Lodge, Room A2
Eastman Recreation Area, Near Bay's Mountain
Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.

June 10th Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM
(Sat) Duck Island Parking Lot
Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, Tennessee
Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.

June 11th River Trip, class II. 10:00 AM
(Sun) 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.

Call for Hike Leaders

Dear Potential/Past Hike Leaders,

Collins Chew has been building our hike schedule for July to December 2000 Hikes, but could still use more hiking suggestions and hike leaders. Please consider leading a hike in the last half of the year: a favorite place, somewhere you've always wanted to go, or someplace you think would be popular with others. We live in a great area with many interesting places nearby. To volunteer to lead a hike, just send Collins an e-mail note or give him a call telling him: (1) what hike you'd like to lead, (2) what day you'd like to lead it, (3) the difficulty rating (he can help you determine this), and (4) your home phone number.

Thanks,

Collins Chew

609 Green Meadow Dr.

Kingsport, Tennessee 37663

e-mail:

phone: 423/239-6237

Thanks from Hikers

Thanks from thruhikers

Steve "The Raven" Humphrey reporting:

Just wanted to comment that Chris "The Tortoise" Niederer, Matt "Tigeray" Dunbar and Michael "No-Name" Floyd hiked the section from US421 to Damascus last weekend and found the trail to be in excellent condition as a result of the numerous maintenance projects that I read about in the May newsletter. We were able to tell a lot of thru' hikers about TEHCC. One thru' hiker in particular, known as "Bud from St.Louis", (who by the way was en route to Nova Scotia by November) enthusiastically praised all the maintenance workers and was extremely grateful for all of the hard work and time that goes into trail maintenance. He said that trail maintenance work is appreciated by thru' hikers more than we realize.

Just thought I would share that and say "thanks". Feel free to share these words of thanks with other members of TEHCC.

Special thanks from...

Hello Carl and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club,

I wanted to drop you a line to thank you for your help with planning our spring break trip from Hampton to Erwin and for providing such a wonderful trail to spend the week on. Trail conditions were very good! Yours is the best maintained section I've been on. The stone work you've done coming up from Laurel Falls was very impressive and the recent reroute climbing to Doll Flats was great too. It's also nice to see that you folks are doing some rerouting of the "old stateline trails" to more contoured routes. You still have a good bit of work ahead of you on that one though. We passed no more than 3 blowdowns on our 70 mile hike which really impressed me. Two of them were in the area of Ash Gap coming off of Roan Mountain. The only area of trail that was not in the best of shape was in the pastures before one gets to 19E when headed southbound. The mud made it very treacherous on the side hill lines, but I imagine that you have difficulty with trail improvements on private land.

Thanks for a wonderful, although wet, week on the A.T. !

Dave Hennel
Chief Advisor
BSA Venture Crew 300
Avon Lake, OH

Special Activity and Trip Reports

For The Record:

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

G. S. Luttrell reporting

Miles hiked: 16, Man hours 190, Participants: Susan Greenwood, Arvell Luttrell, Garry Luttrell
On Saturday morning, after spotting a car at the Jerry's Run exit on I-64, we drove to the Laurel Run Trailhead near the community of Neola, West Virginia. We hiked 7.4 mi. in cool, sometimes sunny, sometimes light showers, type weather to Graham Shelter on Smith Knob of Allegheny Mountain. Just in front of the shelter is a field and a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains, where we viewed a great sunset and sunrise. Sunday, we hiked 8.6 mi. to Jerry's Run in sunny, warm weather. This section of the Allegheny Trail had a good variety of scenery, including ridgetop views and mountain streams.

Scheduled Hiking Opportunities

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.

Mount LeConte Trail Trip

July 8-9, 2000

The Hiking Club will repeat its annual overnight hike to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will hike up on Saturday, spend the night in two small cabins (double bunk beds) and hike back down on Sunday. The distance is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The cost per person is \$83.00. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We only have eight reservations, so call in your request first. Contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502 for details.

Hiking is not just for daylight!

In fact, it's marvelous in moonlight! The TEHCC will again sponsor the Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain this year on Thursday, July 20. We'll need at least twelve - fourteen hikers, to stand at different places on the trail to keep folks from wandering off. We also need people to stand at the beginning, and at the end, to count hikers. Dave Taylor from Bays Mountain will lead the hike and provide refreshments afterwards. It really is a beautiful time to be on the mountain after closing time. Please call Carl Fritz (423-477-4669) or Jan Mayo (423-349-4244) to volunteer.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects



March 5, 2000 - Section 19 (Indian Grave to the Nolichucky River) - Annual Maintenance

Dixie Hoilman reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 11 hours = 22 total hours

Participants: Fred and Dixie Hoilman

The purpose of this trip was to cut blowdowns from Indian Grave Gap to the Nolichucky River.

April 14, 2000 - Section 19 (Indian Grave to the Nolichucky River) - Annual Maintenance

Dixie Hoilman reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 5 hours = 10 total hours

Participants: Kathie and Dwight Lewis

The purpose of this trip was to cut blowdowns from Indian Grave Gap to the Nolichucky River.

April 18, 2000 - Section 16 (Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap) - Improve Drainage Ditches Trail North of Iron Mountain Gap

Ed Oliver reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 10 hours = 20 total hours

Participants: Frank Williams, Ed Oliver

On April 18, 2000 Frank Williams and Ed Oliver improved the water drainage ditches on the Appalachian Trail between Iron Mountain Gap and the orchard trail north of Iron Mountain Gap. We also cleaned out the water between the orchard and Weedy Gap. We then attended a meeting at the Forest Service offices in Unicoi to discuss the logistics of the trail relocation trail north of Carvers Gap.

April 21, 2000 - Section 16 (Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap) - Annual Maintenance

Steve Falling reporting

Total person-hours: 5 people X 7 hours = 35 total hours

Although the weather reports were not encouraging we set out to perform our yearly Appalachian Trail maintenance on the morning of Good Friday. It was a good Friday in more way than one! We enjoyed great hiking weather (cool and dry) and the trail was in such good condition that we finished the work by 2:00. Actually it did sprinkle but only as we approached the cars at Hughes Gap. A chain saw was brought along but it was hardly needed. The biggest need was reblazing. Enjoying the day and the wildflowers were: Bill Stowell, Neil Dotson, Bill Tindall, Jerry Cunningham, and Steve Falling.

April 22, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Determine Location for Water Bars and Treadway Improvements

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Total person-hours: 3 people X 6 hours = 18 total hours

Participants: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver

On April 22, 2000 Bruce and Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver flagged locations for water bars and treadway improvements between McQueens Gap and U.S. 421. A group of students from Appalachian State University were scheduled to help with this work the following Saturday. We were surprised by the weather. We found ourselves knee deep to a grasshopper in ice from the trees.

April 29, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Water Bar Erosion control with ASU

Bill Stowell reporting

Total person-hours: 27 people X 9 hours = 243 total hours

This was another great work trip with Appalachian State University students. We met at Shady Valley and drove up to McQueens Gap and started to install water bars heading trail south. Again, we got a lot of work done installing water bars and water diversion ditches covering approximately one mile. I want to thank Scott Cato (ASU) and his students -David Facende (sp?), James Rich, Matt Wilson, Rob Burns, Candice Dimmette, Louis Whiteheart II, Jena Rutter, Kelli Grinstaff, William Winters, Ethan Sprague, Michelle Love, Charles Lively, Kelle Schleisinger, Melissa Maxwell - for a great effort. Also I want to thank Bob Peoples and the thru-hikers -Krishina Snook "Yetti", Ali Hurley "Morningstar", Jim Hurley "Time Keeper", Bill Maroni "Straightjacket", Yak "Yak", and Wayne "Team Wisconsin"; and the TEHCC people - Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Kevin Odonnell, Joe Deboach, and Bill Stowell.

April 29, 2000 - Section 2 (Backbone Rock Trail to Abingdon Gap Shelter) - Annual Maintenance

Richard Colberg reporting

Total person-hours: 4 people X 8 hours = 32 total hours

PARTICIPANTS: Richard Colberg, Allen Crain, John Thompson, and Steve Perri

After four previous Saturdays of rain, we finally had an opportunity to paint blazes. Richard Colberg joined us at Colonial Heights since no one showed up for his scheduled hike. We dropped vehicles at McQueens Gap and Backbone Rock parking area and started at McQueens Gap. We clipped

and lopped (mostly briars) along the way. We got to about 1.5-2 miles north of the shelter when a severe thunderstorm headed our way. We decided to turn back rather than face the steep and possibly slippery Backbone Rock trail during rainfall. We stopped for cover at the Abingdon Gap shelter (also dropped the logbook and inspected roof) and were entertained by five thru-hikers on their way to Damascus. One more trip will be needed to get the rest blazed. Trail is in good shape otherwise.

April 30, 2000 - Section 4 (U.S. 421 to Tenn. 91) - Annual Maintenance

Jim Mann reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 9 hours = 18 total hours

Participants: Jim Mann, James Sutton

Jim Mann and James Sutton (his first maintenance trip) repainted blazes from Tenn. 91 to Double Springs Shelter. We also removed one blowdown. Met nine thru-hikers and all were very happy with Tennessee Eastman section of the Trail. Two reported seeing a man hiking with his pet goat. We also found no real problem with the blazes at Double Springs. We could see the first blaze north from the shelter while sitting at the picnic table. We went again and painted extra blazes in this area to make sure no hikers got confused as to where the trail was when leaving the shelter. We met a thru-hiker in his late sixties who was wearing a shower cap. He stated that we needed no blazes at all. Said that the trail was very easy to follow.

May 5,6,7, 2000 - Section 10 (Hampton Trailhead to Dennis Cove Road) - Trail Rehab

Bill Stowell reporting

Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Pittsburgh	9	9	8
Scott Noble "Grasshopper"	9	9	8
Snowman	9		
Kathrya Weaver "Dare"	9		
Ranger	9		
Dreamer	9		
Data	9		
Gray Jay	9		
Jeff Turner	9	9	8
Dave Hicks "Chainsaw"	9	9	8
John Rollhauser "Redneck"	9		
Bob Peoples	9	9	8
Ed Oliver	9		8
Bill Stowell	9	9	
Bruce Cunningham		9	
Glen Stanford "Trudge"		9	
Ann Stanford "Smudge"		9	
Bear Behind			3

Jamie Blythe "Waterbug"		1	
Rob Fargason "Pict"		1	
Lurch			8
Ol Dirty			8
General			8
Cola Monkey			8
Genesis			8
Silver Tongue			8
Total person-hours	126	86	96
Grand total	308		

Total people: 26

A series of work trips was carried out. Pittsburgh and his crew (Scott Noble "Grasshopper", Jeff Turner, Dave Hicks "Chainsaw") along with several groups of thru-hikers (Snowman, Dare, Ranger, Dreamer, Data, Gray Jay, Redneck, Trudge, Smudge, Bear Behind, Waterbug, Pict, Lurch, Ol Dirty, General, Cola Monkey, Genesis, and Silver Tongue) and TEHCC members (Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, and Bill Stowell), worked Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on the A.T. in Laurel Fork Gorge to repair and rehab the A.T., from where the blue blaze trail to Laurel Fork Shelter joins the A.T. trail north of Laurel Fork Falls down to the stream. This was a steep down hill section that needed a lot of work. The trail was regraded in some places, log/rock cribbing installed, water bars and steps installed in others. A special note of thanks goes to Pittsburgh and his crew for helping for a second year in a row and to the thru hikers who helped on this project.

May 6, 2000 - Section 1 (Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail) - Annual Maintenance

Michael Watts reporting

Total person-hours: 3 people X 8 hours = 24 total hours

Participants: Rick Lott, Gene Daniels, Michael Watts

Rick Lott, Gene Daniels, and I did annual maintenance work on Section 1 on May 6. As retirees cleared blowdowns and repainted blazes on this section just a couple weeks ago, we primarily weeded and clipped. Trail was generally in good condition, although some erosion is visible on north descent from State Line. We saw quite a number of through hikers. No problems reported.

May 6, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Annual Maintenance

Tim McClain reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people x 7 hours = 14 total hours

I finally got to my adopted section for spring maintenance. We covered my entire section: about 2.5 miles north of US 421. We clipped and picked up litter. Joining me was David Fairweather (not a club member but a good helper).

May 6, 2000 - Section 14 (Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap) - Annual Maintenance

Richard Colberg reporting

Total person-hours: 5 people x 11 hours = 55 total hours

Participants: Richard Colberg, Steve Perri, Darrel and Gail Wilder, Kent Wilson

We performed spring maintenance on this section of the A.T. The blazes in both directions were pretty worn. We blazed in both directions except for the last 1/2-3/4 mile northbound from Stan Murray Shelter to Yellow Mountain Barn (we ran out of paint). We cut one small blowdown, and lopped and whacked briars. We installed a new "Foot Travel Only" sign going north from Yellow Mountain Barn (the southbound sign was already there). Stan Murray Shelter needs a new sign (it still says Roan Highlands Shelter) and could stand an interior paint job to cover the graffiti. This section of trail is in pretty good shape, but may need weeding later in the summer. We'll finish the remaining blazes on a weed whacking trip in late June.

May 7, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Annual Maintenance

Steve Wilson reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 10 hours = 20 total hours

Participants: Steve Wilson, Jill Wilson

Jill and Steve Wilson lopped tree limbs, cut three blown down trees with a bow saw, and painted blazes from Carvers Gap to the top of Roan Mountain. The trail was in good shape except for the washed-out section near Carvers Gap parking lot. The Roan High Knob Shelter is in good condition, but the metal sign with the shelter's name and history is missing. We lopped several branches on the blue blaze trails leading up to the shelter and down to the spring, plus we repainted the blue blazes.

May 8, 2000

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Total person-hours: 2 X 2 = 4

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock

Collected used wood for use on A.T. projects. (Stored at Bruce's house)

May 10, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Install Water Bars

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Total person-hours: 4 people X 9 hours = 36 total hours

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

Installed 18 water bars from McQueen's Gap toward U.S. 421. Roughly 1 1/2 miles of water bars still have to be installed at the 421 end. Also some treadway rehab work needs to be done.

May 14, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Renovate Treadway

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 8 hours = 16 total hours

Participants: Ed Oliver and Bruce Cunningham

Starting at U.S. 421 (Low Gap) going north, renovated the treadway on one large section and several smaller sections. Posted a "WATER" sign and blue-blazed the trail to the spring.

May 15, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) -

Annual Maintenance

Bill Fritsch reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 8 hours = 16 total hours

Participants: William R. Fritsch Jr and C. E. Daniel

We began a sweep of this section, pausing to repaint the blazes and pick up trash along the way. There was a single blowdown that was hung high above the trail that we will return to cut down in 14 days. It is located between the Knob and the Cabin, and poses no immediate problem. We retrieved a half bag of trash, mostly from the shelter and in the areas adjacent to the Cloudlands location. We picked up some broken glass just after the left turn down the trail (north bound) off the Knob, but there is plenty more left. It seems that every year we grow a real crop of sharp glass slivers right in the middle of the path. We will work on these in two weeks time. It was good to meet eleven thru hikers, of which all had begun in Georgia, and nine were under 25 years old. Everyone was determined to make the entire journey, and all seemed in good shape and very self-confident. No major problems were reported by any of these folks. We visited the USFS toll booth when we started back down and were greeted with the usual warm welcome and enthusiasm. It was good to be back on the trail after four months of "medical leave".

May 20, 2000 - Section 14 (Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap) - May 3rd Saturday

Bill Stowell reporting

Total person-hours: 9 people X 9 hours = 81 total hours

For 3rd Saturday we worked trail south of Bradley Gap on a section that was eroded and had a boggy section. We parked at Yellow Mountain Ranch and had a beautiful hike across Yellow Mountain and Little Hump Mountain. Darrol hiked on to check out the split rail fences and stiles on Hump Mountain. Some repair work needs to be done on a stile to shore it up. Many water diversion ditches were put in place above and below the boggy area. Two water diversion ditches were dug to channel the water above the trail into two 6 inch culverts that were placed across the trail. The boggy area was then turnpiked using some old logs and filling the center with rocks and dirt. This section of trail from Bradley Gap to the spring is now in great shape. Along for the day which turned out to be beautiful were Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Bill Murdock, Joe Deloach, Craig Deloach, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, Derrick Stowell, and Bill Stowell.

May 21, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Annual Maintenance

Steve Banks reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people x 8 hours = 16 total hours

On May 21, Steve and Steven Banks left Kingsport at about 8:15 a.m. and drove to the trail crossing at McQueens Gap. We weeded, clipped, and blazed both the A.T. and the blue-blazed trail between the shelter and the spring. The weeds on the A.T. were thick and tall as usual. At the shelter we met thru-hikers Blue Duck, Screwie Squirrel, and Yogi B, and on the way back to McQueens Gap we met about seven more hikers; all of whom had good things to say about our section. The shelter and A.T. are in excellent shape.

May 27, 2000 - Section 16 (Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap) - Repair stone steps around cliff

Bill Stowell reporting

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

As a result of a report the stone work around a cliff near the top of the relocation to Little Rock Knob needed repair, Derrick and Bill Stowell hiked up and repaired the section with some rock. Two steps were installed and the side was brushed in to keep hikers from going the wrong way. Also we cleaned out the water bars on the way back to Hughes Gap and rebuilt the spring near the ramp field that a tree had taken out.

May 29, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Annual Maintenance

Steve Banks reporting

Total person-hours: 1 person x 11 hours = 11 total hours

Left Kingsport at about 7:30 a.m. and drove to the trail crossing at McQueens Gap. Cut a blowdown about a half-mile north of McQueens Gap, then cut weeds and clipped south of McQueens Gap to the spring. The stinging nettles along most of this section were not quite as bad this year, but the greenbriars were worse, and I spent a lot of time on them. Returned to McQueens Gap at about 5pm. Someone has installed waterbars on this section, and a very nice routed wooded sign at the spring. Met several thru-hikers who reported a large blowdown about a mile north of U.S. 421.