

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

July 2000

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| NEXT TWO MONTHS | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 15 | Watauga - Below the Dam | II | Ed Montgomery | 423-247-7795 |
| July 15-16 | New River Gorge | IV-V | Mike Morrow | 423-245-1201 |
| July 20 | Fun Fest Moonlight Hike (Bays Mountain) | Fun | Carl Fritz | 423-477-4669 |
| July 20-24 | Konnarock! | | Joe DeLoach | 423-753-7903 |
| August 3-7 | Konnarock! | | Joe DeLoach | 423-753-7903 |
| August 10-14 | Konnarock! | | Joe DeLoach | 423-753-7903 |
| August 19 | First Timers, Nolichucky Gorge | III-IV | Dewey Fuller | 423-764-7340 |
| August 20 | Grotto Falls | E | Ed Oliver | 423-349-6668 |

Plan for Konnarock Crew time this summer!

Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands Relocations

(Scheduled for July 20-24, August 3-7, and August 10-14 2000)

Leader: Joe DeLoach (Telephone 423-753-7903)

Each year the Konnarock Crew, a summer work program sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conference and the U. S.

Forest Service, works with Appalachian Trail-maintaining clubs on Trail projects. We have no shortage of projects to work on and thanks to Konnarock have been able to complete a number of major relocations in the last few years, including Pond Mountain, Doll Flats, Cliff Ridge, and Little Rock Knob to name a few. One of our sections that's needed work for awhile is the Roan Highlands, where the combination of soft soil, high precipitation, and heavy use has led to significant erosion. The Forest Service has approved relocations of the Trail from the south side of Carvers Gap (towards Roan High Knob) to the north side of Grassy Ridge, near the Stan Murray Shelter. We have three weeks of Konnarock Crew time this year and in all likelihood will be working on a relocation from Grassy Ridge heading north towards the Stan Murray Shelter. This is a very steep and badly eroded section that can be treacherous to descend in wet weather with resource damage due to the erosion. The planned relocation reduces the steepness and will be a sidehill trail to prevent erosion.

The Konnarock Crew starts working on Thursday afternoon and works until Monday morning. Volunteers are sought any of those days but we'll definitely have trips on the weekend days and probably the Fridays. On those trips we'll meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonald's and where Burger King used to be at 8:00 AM. Bring water, lunch, and work gloves. Tools will be provided, but PLEASE let us know if you're coming so we'll have enough tools and will be looking for you. Those who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew receive a highly coveted T-shirt. The work's fun and we really accomplish a lot for the Trail on these trips. To sign up or for more information, please contact Joe.

Special Activity and Trip Reports

For The Record: Day Hikes through Shenandoah National Park, May 19-28

Kent Wilson reporting

Nancy and I met Pat Humphery (Athens, Ohio) at Matthew's Arm Campground for a series of day hikes. Since we arrived early in the afternoon, we were able to add the section just north of U.S. 522 from Va. 638 to our itinerary. We hiked the following distances on the days indicated (May 19 - 5.8 miles, May 20 - 12 miles, May 21 - 13 miles, May 22 - 10.4 miles, May 23 - 12.7 miles, May 24 - 14.4 miles, May 25 - 11.5 miles, May 26 - 14 miles, May 27 - 9.5 miles, and May 28 - 9.9 miles) covering the A.T. from Va. 638 in the North to Rockfish Gap (I-64) in the South. We were also joined by Duane and Earlene Scott on May 27 and hiked the 3.3 mile loop to South River Falls. They joined us for the final A.T. hike on May 28. Most days we hiked in the rain at least part of the day (only 1 day totally without rain). We also were caught in a thunder and hailstorm on the Pinnacle. The trip wasn't a total wash out with excellent views from Mary's Rock, Hughes River Gap, and Sawmill Run Overlook. We saw a variety of wild flowers including both pink and yellow lady slippers. The mountain laurel were in full bloom and very beautiful. We were joined for dinner one evening by a mother bear and her cubs in the campground at Matthew's Arm (they seemed to be more interested in the bugs under the rocks than our food). In addition we also saw 3 other bears, 3 wild turkeys, and a grouse family while running the shuttles. All totaled we did 113.2 miles on the A.T. and the 3.3 miles to South River Falls. Participating in all hikes were Kent and Nancy Wilson, Pat Humphery participated in most of the A.T. hikes and Duane and Earlene Scott participated in the last day and a half of hikes.

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



Tuesday, May 30, 2000 - Section 12 (Bitter End to U.S. 19E) - Biological Studies for Relocation Approval

Ed Oliver reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 9 hours = 18 total hours (for Derrick and Ed)

Derrick Stowell and Ed Oliver from TEHCC worked with Joe McGuinness and Stephanie Horn from USFS on the biological studies for the proposed trail relocations between Bitter End and the vista at Upper Laurel.

Saturday, June 3, 2000 - Section

11 (Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End) - Improve spring at Canute Place and Flag Relo

Ed Oliver reporting

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

On June 3, 2000 John Thompson, Bob Peoples, and Ed Oliver cleaned out the spring at Canute Place on White Rocks Mountain, installed a water sign, and flagged a relocation trail south of the Canute Place.

Friday, June 9, 2000 - Sections 12 and 13 - Cut Weeds

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Number of people: 3, Bruce Cunningham, "the weed-eater wielder", Darrol Nickels "the mower-man", and Ed Oliver, "scythe specialist".

Total person-hours: 3 people x 11 hours = 33 total hours

Part 1: Weed eradication along Trail from Isaacs Cemetery north to woods behind the pond in relocation north of Campbell Hollow Road.

Part 2: Weed eradication from Bear Branch Bridge south across Highway 19E and to the point where Trail enters the woods and starts up the hill to Apple House shelter.

Part 3: Joined Bill Stowell and Bob Peoples on Roan Mountain to work with group from Appalachian State (see Bill Stowell's report).

Friday, June 9, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Install Water Bars

Bill Stowell reporting

Total person-hours: 14 people X 8 hours = 112 total hours (Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickel hours listed in Bruce's report)

Once again TEHCC teamed up with Appalachian State University. This time it was a summer program for educators entitled "Student Affairs in the Great Outdoors". This trip was coordinated by Shari Galiardi from ASU. As a part of this program a field trip was set up to do some trail maintenance with us. We met the group along with SAHC summer ecologist Allan Trently at the parking lot at the Cloudland Hotel site. We installed water bars continuing from where we left off last November going towards Ash Gap. We have offers from two instructors at ASU to bring student groups back this fall. Those participating were: Allan Trently(SAHC) , ASU - Shari Galiardi, Ute Jamrozy, Marta Palmquist Cady, Tina Aldrich, Amber Rhoades, Susan Monahan, Megan Riordar, Michelle Wisdahl, Mike Proffitt, Ellen Masters, Jonathan Bono, TEHC - Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Bob Peoples, and Bill Stowell)

E-mail from Shari Galiardi to Bill Stowell and Judy Murray (SAHC)

Hi Bill and Judy-

I have been in NY City on business for the past week...so I am sorry that I wasn't able to send you this sooner. Boy, it sure was a culture shock to be on Roan Mtn one day and walking the streets of Manhattan the next!! Let's just say that our trip was great, but I am glad to be back in Boone.

Anyway, I just wanted to say thanks again for working with us to set up the service project on the A.T. last Friday. Your crew was just fantastic -- please pass our thanks on to them, too! The participants talked about their experience all the way home -- the work that they did, the unparalleled commitment of the folks who taught us how to install the water bars, etc. Participants from the area are interested in working with you further, while the others are interested in incorporating such work into their existing outdoor related programs in their own areas. Either way, I think that the experience had a great impact on them!

Take care and keep me posted about future service projects. -Shari

P.S. Bill, I will let you know what we decided about helping out in late July. Most of my staff is on vacation right now, so it will be a couple of weeks before I know more info.

Photos courtesy of Bill Stowell (click on the link to view the photo):

- [Group photo in parking lot on Roan High Knob](#) (50KB)
- [Taking a break for a photo](#) (84KB)
- [Happy trail maintainers](#) (41KB)
- [Nice panoramic shot of the Roan Highlands](#) (80KB)
- [More happy trail maintainers](#) (57KB)
- [Carrying water bars](#) (71KB)
- [Metal diamond A.T. sign in the Roan Highlands](#) (59KB)

Saturday, June 10, 2000 - Section 13 (U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain) - Cut Weeds

Ed Oliver reporting

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

On June 10, 2000 Joe DeLoach and Ed Oliver cut weeds between U.S. 19E and the shoulder of Hump Mountain. We also removed two blowdowns.

Saturday, June 10, 2000 - Section 16 (Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap) - Cut Weeds

John Thompson reporting

Number of People : 4 (John Thompson, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, and Bill Stowell)

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

Bruce and Mary cut weeds from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap, and later for 100 yards north of Hughes Gap where Bruce said they were head high. Mary also cleaned leaves from the water bars at Hughes Gap. Bill and John cut weeds, which were thick, from Greasy Creek Gap to Hughes Gap, and repainted blue blazed trails to the Clyde Smith Shelter and two springs. We met seven thru hikers and a group of 25 high-schoolers from Erwin.

Monday, June 12, 2000 - Section 12 (Bitter End to U.S. 19E) - Biological Assessment for Elk River Relo

Ed Oliver reporting

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

On June 12, 2000 Ed Oliver from TEHCC and Joe McGinness and Stephanie Horn from USFS continued the biological assessment of the proposed Elk River Relocation. We had to adjust the flag line to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of the relocation on some sensitive areas. We are making good progress on this part of the approval process.

Tuesday, June 13, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Cut Blowdowns

Tim McClain reporting

Total person-hours: 2 people X 3.5 hours = 7 total hours

On June 13, Steve Banks and Tim McClain removed 3 blowdowns from the section just north of U.S. 421. All three of the blowdowns were within one mile of 421. The worst blowdown was about 1 mile in and had occurred recently.

Tuesday, June 13, 2000 - Section 3 (Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421) - Cut Blowdowns and Weeds

Ed Oliver reporting

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: 5 (Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, & Ed Oliver from TEHCC, Jenna Susewitz from HURON OUTDOOR CHALLENGE CLUB, & THRU HIKER Randall Barnes)

Total person-hours: 3 people x 11 hours + 2 x 3 = 39 (11 hours for Bruce, Bob and Ed)

On June 13, 2000 Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, and Ed Oliver cut the blow downs and weeds between Iron Mountain Shelter and the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness. Thru Hiker Randall Bares stopped to help remove the blow downs. Jenna Susewitz who was hiking this section of the

Appalachian Trail with the Huron Outdoor Challenge Club from New Boston, Michigan volunteered to help paint the blazes from near Turkey Pen Gap to the wilderness boundary. This section is in fairly good condition at this time. Some additional work is planned for this fall. A special note of thanks is in order for Jenna and Randal.

(Webmaster's note: access to the A.T. at Turkey Pen Gap has been CLOSED).

Wednesday, June 14, 2000 - Section 9 (U.S. 321 to Hampton Trailhead) - Cut Weeds around Watauga Lake near Shook Branch

Ed Oliver reporting

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

On June 14, 2000 Frank Williams and Ed Oliver cut weeds around Watauga Lake near Shook Branch. We also cut the weeds at the point where the trail leaves the paved road and starts up Pond Mountain. This section is in good shape now.

Wednesday, June 14, 2000 - Sections 17 and 18 - Spring Maintenance

C. B. Willis reporting

Total person-hours: 21 people x 9 hours = 189 total hours

We organized into five teams and swept the entire length of our adoptive trail, Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap. We clipped laurel, cut weeds, repainted blazes in places, cleared blow downs, cleaned the Cherry Gap Shelter, carried out litter, cleaned all trail heads, road crossings and the Beauty Spot parking area of litter, and inspected the springs.

We will still have to go back and clear blow downs in the Low Gap area and cut weeds on the south side of Unaka Mountain. This is being planned for Monday, June 19th. The team working this section today did not have power tools.

The following Old Timers worked 9 hours each for a total of 189 team hours:

Carolyn Collins and Friend Sandy, Rick Culbertson, Gilbert Derouen, Hueston Fortner, Doris Fortner, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Dick Lewis, Sam Lloyd, Glenn Marshall, JoAnne Marshall, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Wayne Sparks, Bob Spencer, Reta Taylor, C. B. Willis, Malcolm Wolf.

Saturday, June 17, 2000 - Section 2 (Backbone Rock Trail Junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter) - Cut Weeds

Steve Perri reporting

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

John Thompson and I worked from McQueens Gap to the Backbone Rock Trail junction. We cut weeds and clipped some minor growth. We finished blazing from the point Bruce Cunningham marked as his ending point. John also blue-blazed down the access trail to Backbone Rock.

Saturday, June 17, 2000 - Section 14 (Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap) - Cut Weeds

Bill Stowell reporting

Total person-hours: 5 people X 10 hours = 50 total hours

For June Third Saturday we decided to help Richard Colberg with the cutting of weeds on his section. Richard and Frank started at Yellow Mountain Gap cutting towards Stan Murray. Bill hiked in to Stan Murray Shelter and cut weeds back towards the other two. Ed and Carl cut weeds from Yellow Mountain Gap to Bradley Gap. Thanks to the number of people, we got this section cut and it is in good shape. Richard also blazed a section from Buckeye Gap headed trail north to Yellow Mountain Gap. Those along for the fun were Richard Colberg, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Frank Williams, and Bill Stowell.

Monday, June 19, 2000 - Sections 17 and 18 - Cut Weeds

C. B. Willis reporting

Number of People: 5 (OLD TIMERS HIKING CLUB: Gil Derouen, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, Wayne Sparks, C. B. Willis)

Total person-hours: 5 people x 8 hours = 40 total hours

We cleared weeds from Deep Gap north to the summit of Unaka Mountain and also the blue trail to the spring at Deep Gap. We cleared two blow downs north of Low Gap and removed a dead leaner threatening the Cherry Gap Shelter. Because of heavy rain we had to leave two blow downs a little south of Low Gap and will remove them later. They can be easily stepped over.

Watch this space for Konnarock reports next month! Be sure and volunteer.