

**THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN**  
**HIKING & PADDLING NEWS**

October  
2000

www.tehcc

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| NEXT TWO MONTHS |                                |        |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| October 7       | Fall Dinner Meeting            | FUN    | Kent Wilson     | 423-239-7554 |
| October 14      | Mt. Rogers                     | M      | Joe DeLoach     | 423-753-7903 |
| October 14-15   | Smokies Backpack               | M      | Garry Luttrell  | 423-239-9854 |
| October 21      | Fall Colors, Nolichucky Gorge  | III-IV | Gordon Porter   | 423-288-6513 |
| October 21      | Third Saturday Maintenance     |        | Bill Stowell    | 423-239-7697 |
| October 28      | A.T. near Watauga Lake         | E      | Steve Wilson    | 423-239-0456 |
| October 29      | Chimney Top                    | M      | Collins Chew    | 423-239-6237 |
| November 11     | Moonlight Hike to Grassy Ridge | E      | Richard Colberg | 423-288-8333 |

**Ed Oliver - Recognition**



*Bill Stowell reporting:*

Every Labor Day weekend, the A.T. maintaining clubs in the South hold the Multiclub Meet. This year it was held at the Appletree Campground in the Nantahala National Forest, and 91 people attended this year. After a business meeting, each club reports on its' maintenance efforts for the year. Also the ATC representatives make reports on various aspects of their work. Teresa Martinez, who works in the Virginia field office of the ATC, recognized **Ed Oliver** as one of two people who worked the most days with Konnarock this year. Ed should be congratulated for his extra effort on the Konnarock project and consistent extra effort throughout the year supporting the effort of TEHCC in maintaining 127 miles of trail.

## **Hike Leaders Needed!**

### **January to June 2001 Hike Schedule Planning**

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. Sometimes we even go to far away places for hiking adventure. At any rate, it's great to lead a trip to a place where you really want to go. If you haven't led one before, there are many of us willing to teach you about ropes. If you aren't up to leading but have a desire for a hike to a certain destination, let me know and I will try to set it up. Of course, we will plan on third Saturday Maintenance as usual. To volunteer to lead a hike, just send me an e-mail note or give me a call telling me: (1) what hike you'd like to lead, (2) what day you'd like to lead it, (3) the difficulty rating (I can help you determine this), and (4) your home phone and e-mail number. Please like your responses by Tuesday, October 31, 2000 so we can prepare the calendar in time for July. Some suggestions for hikes include:

- Appalachian Trail
- Family/beginner hikes (Greenbelt, Warriors Path, Bays Mountain, Buffalo Mountain, Creeper Trail, Grandfather Ridge, Grandfather Mountain, etc.)
- Favorite creekside or waterfall hikes
- Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (SW Virginia)
- Cumberland Gap National Park (SW Virginia)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee/North Carolina)
- Linville Gorge (North Carolina)

Thanks,

Collins Chew

609 Green Meadow Drive

Kingsport, Tenn. 37663

E-mail:

## **ATC Needs Volunteers for monitoring program**

The ATC needs volunteers on the TEHCC section of the Appalachian Trail for the Natural Heritage Monitoring Program. Volunteers will be asked to visit their site at least once a year and check on the populations of plants or animals found there and then file a report. No experience is necessary, only interest and desire. A monitoring packet of information is provided. The N.C./Tenn. section of the Appalachian Trail has the highest density of natural heritage sites along the entire A.T. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact

Valerie Shrader, Regional Assistant

Appalachian Trail Conference

Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee Regional Office

P. O. Box 2750

Asheville, N.C. 28802

Phone: 828/254-3708

Fax: 828/254-3754

E-mail:

# **Special Activity and Trip Reports**

Grotto Falls, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, August 20, 2000

### *Ed Oliver reporting*

On Sunday, August 20, Freda Kuo, Diane Ball, and Ed Oliver enjoyed the easy hike to Grotto Falls in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We walked behind the falls, and Freda and Diane even climbed to the top of the falls. We walked past the falls towards Trillium Gap and stopped for lunch. A light rain developed during lunch and convinced us to turn around and head back to the parking lot. We thought that the hike to Trillium Gap might be a good autumn hike.

### **A.T., Iron Mountain Gap - Indian Grave Gap, September 9, 2000**

#### *Bill Stowell reporting*

Ernest Smith, Claudia Rogers from Raleigh, and Shelton Thompson met us at the trail head at Iron Mountain Gap. We shuttled two cars to Indian Grave Gap before starting the hike. Kim Peters, Lee Neely, Freda Kuo, and Bill Stowell were along completing the hike crew. The weather was good except for the humidity. We saw many wild flowers; white rattle snake root, golden rod, and turtles head. We ate lunch on top of Unaka Mountain among the huckleberries of which many were picked. We returned to Kingsport around 7:00PM.

### **Little Stoney Creek, Virginia, September 23, 2000**

#### *Collins Chew reporting*

Saturday, 9/23/00 was a beautiful day for a hike up Little Stoney Creek to see several falls. They were quite pretty although the flow was low. We also enjoyed wildflowers, seeing several turkeys, eating wild grapes and raspberries, and shared conversation. Hikers were Bob Cassell, Freda Kuo, Lee Neeley, and Collins Chew. Hike: 6 miles.

## **Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities**

### **Mt. Rogers Crest Zone Hike, Saturday, October 14, 2000**

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

*Rating: Moderate*

The Mt. Rogers/Grayson Highlands area is one of the prettiest and most unique places in our nearby mountains. These are the highest mountains in Virginia (Mt. Rogers is 5729'), but are mostly rounded, geologically summits interspersed with rock outcrops and extensive fields. The area is popular and honeycombed with both hiking and horse trails. We'll be hiking what is called the Crest Loop, which utilizes the Appalachian Big Pine Mountain Trails for an 11 mile loop trip which passes through many of the most scenic areas. Highlights are the mountain meadows, the wild ponies used to keep the balds open, and the spectacular rocky knobs of Wilburn Ridge. If the weather cooperates, the fall foliage especially on the drive from Damascus to Grayson Highlands is some of the best around. The hike is a little long for the Moderate classification but the grades are quite gradual. Those wishing a shorter hike will have the option of walking Wilburn Ridge and turning around, about 3-4 miles total. It's a fairly long drive to Grayson Highlands State Park, so let's meet at Colonial Heights at the parking lot between McDonalds and where Burger King used to be at 7:30 on the morning of October 14. Bring lunch, water, and layers of clothing including rainwear and warm clothes - the weather can be pretty fickle up there. Please call Joe for more information or to sign up for the hike.

### **Backpack Trip in the Smokies: Kephart Shelter, October 14-15, 2000 - Change in campsite**

*Leader: G. S. Luttrell (423-239-9854)*

*Rating: Moderate*

We'll start the backpack trip at Newfound Gap and hike 5.4 mi. to Kephart Shelter following the A.T. and the Sweat Heifer Creek Trail. Then on Sunday we'll hike 11.3 mi, mostly downhill, to Smokemont, with a possible

side trip to Charlies Bunion. Reservations are required, and group size will be limited to the sites available at the shelter. NOTE: due to lack of reservations available in Kephart Shelter, this backpack trip has been changed: we'll descend 2400 ft. from Clingmans Dome, following the A.T. and Goshen Prong Trail 7.5 mi. to Camp Rock Campsite. Then on Sunday, we'll descend 1100 ft., 5.5 mi., following the Little River Trail to Elkmont. The group size will be limited to eight backpackers. Contact the hike leader for further details.

### **Hiking the A.T. near Watauga Lake, October 28, 2000**

*Leader: Steve Wilson*

This will be an easy hike on the Appalachian Trail around Watauga Lake near Hampton, Tenn. We'll start at the road crossing of Hwy 321 and hike around the lake to the dam - round trip is about six miles. The trail is mostly level and we should be finished around noon. Bring water, comfortable boots or sneakers, rain gear and appropriate clothing. Meet between McDonald's and the former site of the Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM on Saturday, 10/28. Call Steve Wilson for more information: 423/239-0456 or e-mail at [steve@hike.com](mailto:steve@hike.com)

### **Chimney Top, November 4, 2000 (Note - change in date)**

*Leader: Collins Chew*

This will be a short, moderate hike to Chimney Top, the striking peak that looks like a volcano to the South of Kingsport. Round trip hiking distance will be about 4 miles mostly on the side of the mountain with just a bit of scrambling at the top. Total elevation change is about 1,600 ft. Driving distance is about 25 miles round trip. Bring snack, comfortable boots or sneakers, rain gear and appropriate clothing. Meet between McDonald's and the former site of Burger King in Colonial Heights at 1:30 PM on Sunday, 10/29/00. Call Collins Chew for more info: 423/239-6237 or e-mail at [collins@hike.com](mailto:collins@hike.com). (The hike was originally scheduled for November 4.)

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



**For the Record - 2000 Konnarock Crew**

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

This year we tackled the most involved project we've ever undertaken, with outstanding participation and results. We relocated a stretch of the Appalachian Trail which formerly led about 1/4 mile very steeply up

steps from Carvers Gap towards Round Bald. This project was the first installment of extensive relocation and Trail rehab planned in the Roan Highlands. The work involved digging the Trail route (done mostly by machine - whew!), laying down geotextile along the route, and then placing gravel over the geotextile in addition to replacing sod on the old Trail. This extent of construction was necessary because of the high use of the area, the soft soils, and the high precipitation which all led to serious erosion on the existing Trail (made worse because hikers wouldn't stay on the steps). Thanks to the hard work (including planning) of a LOT of people, we made a Trail that looks great! We completed the relo to the large rock about 2/3 way up Round Bald, and hope to complete the rest to Engine Gap (including rehab of the existing Trail from Round Bald to Engine Gap) in 2001.

TEHCC volunteers really answered the call on this trip which was essential in getting the project done. We had 42 volunteers who worked a total of 1017 hours and 115 person-days in the three weeks we worked with the Konnarock Crew - all records for us! Nine Club volunteers earned T-shirts for working at least five days with the Konnarock Crew; these will be presented at the Fall Dinner Meeting. Club volunteers included Ed Oliver, Frank Oglesby, Bill Stowell, Bob Peoples, Joe DeLoach, Frank Williams, Darrol Nickels, Addy Wygeman, Craig DeLoach, Diane Furry, John Thompson, Jeff and John Sirola, Steve Perri, Carl Fritz, Bill Fritsch, Thru-Hikers Sonya and James, Rachel Monderer, Mary Fanslow, Steve Banks, Tim McClain, Bob and Michael Hembre, Kim Peters, Freda Kuo, Lee Neeley, Jarda Luprich, Danny and Joshua Mellons, Jonathan Ellis, Lee Williams, Buddy and Brad Bounds, Alan Bagley, Alex Thurston, David Kappa, Garry Luttrell, Shari Galiardi, Dave Hutchison, John Newland, and Marielle Diaz. We especially want to recognize Frank Oglesby, who became the "most experienced" volunteer to ever work five days with the Konnarock Crew! Thanks to all who helped, and let's see if we can finish this next year!



**Wednesday, August 23, 2000 - Build Bridges for the Carvers Gap Relo**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of People: 6 (Bill Elderbrock, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Bill Stowell, and Frank Oglesby)

Total person-hours: 36 (5 hours for Bill Elderbrock and Frank Williams, 11 hours for Darrol Nickels and Ed Oliver, 2 hours for Bill Stowell and Frank Oglesby)

Darrol Nickels and Ed Oliver purchased the materials for the bridges for the relocation trail south of Carver

Gap. Bill Elderbrock and Frank Williams then helped construct the bridges in Darrol's driveway. Bill Stowell and Frank Oglesby came over and loaded the bridges for delivery to Carvers Gap.

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#### **Saturday, August 26, 2000 - ASU Work Trip**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Total Person Hours: 1200 hours (must be a new record for one day!)

For their fall freshman orientation, the Watauga College of Appalachian State University decided to try an Appalachian Trail construction project with TEHCC. As a result 88 students and faculty from ASU showed up at Carvers Gap on Saturday, August 26, 2000 ready to go to work. This group was assisted by 15 TEHCC volunteers and Morgan Sommerville, Ben Lawhon, and Andrew Moores from the ATC. We worked all day moving sod to cover the old trail up on Round Bald, building new steps to the old entrance through the fence going up Round Bald, carrying in bridges for the new relocation and doing some bridge installation, and digging new trail on the trail relocation project from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. We accomplished a great deal totaling 1200 person-hours in one day. Since we had such a large number of people I will not list all the names. I do want to express my gratitude to all from ASU for a great effort that will help us get a long way into completing this project. I would also like to thank all the TEHCC people who helped coordinate the effort and Morgan, Ben, and Andrew from ATC for all their assistance and tools, and the USFS for loaning their tools for this work.

*(More photos below)*

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**Tuesday, August 29, 2000 - Install Bridges trail south of Carvers Gap**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of People: 5 (Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and thru hiker "Single Track")

Total person-hours: 5 X 10 = 50

On August 29, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and thru hiker "Single Track" installed four bridge trail south of Carvers Gap. There are two more bridges to installed. We installed wire on two of the bridges.

**Saturday, September 2, 2000 - Install bridges trail south of Carvers Gap**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of people: 5 (Bill Fritsch, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, & Roy (a thru hiker))

Total person hours: 38 (6 hours for Bill Fritsch, 8 hours for everyone else

On Sept. 2, Bill Fritsch, Bob Peoples, Frank, Ed, and Roy, a thru hiker, installed the rest of the bridges on relocation trail south of Carvers Gap. We also installed the wire mesh on the bridges. We dug water diversion ditches across the Relocation to prevent EROSION. We determined what else needed to be done in order to open this relocation.

**Monday, September 4, 2000 - Cut weeds between Tenn. 91 and Iron Mountain Shelter**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of people: 1 (Ed Oliver)

Total person hours: 1 X 10 = 10

On September 4, Ed Oliver cut weeds and removed all blowdowns between Tenn. 91 and about 1/2 mile north of Iron Mountain Shelter. This section could use a few water bars.

**Tuesday, September 5, 2000 - Side Trail Measurement for Guidebook Revision**

*Collins Chew reporting*

Number of People: 2 (Charlotte and Collins Chew)

Total person-hours:  $2 \times 5 = 10$

We measured the side trail from the A.T. to Roan High Bluff on September 5, for use in a new A.T. Guide Book Revision. It is 1.4 miles from the A.T. past the Rhododendron Gardens to Roan High Bluff. Miles hiked 2.8, miles driven: 100, hours away from Kingsport: 5

**Tuesday, September 5, 2000 - Cut logs for steps for Carvers Gap relo**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of people: 3 (Bill Elderbrock, Bob Peoples, & Ed Oliver)

Total person- hours:  $3 \times 6 = 18$

On September 5, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Peoples, and Ed Oliver, cut enough logs for about forty steps. The steps will be used on the relocation trail south of Carvers Gap. We were going to move some of the sod to the old trail. However, a rain shower convinced us to wait for a drier day to move the sod. One of the workers was heard to say that we might not have worked eight hours but that we definitely put in eight hours of work.

**Wednesday, September 6, 2000 - Cut Weeds near McQueens Gap and Watauga Lake**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of people: 2 (Frank Williams and Ed Oliver)

Total person-hours:  $2 \times 8 = 16$

On September 6, Frank Williams and Ed Oliver cut the weeds between Abington Gap Shelter and McQueen Knob. The weeds were three to four feet high and were bending over the trail. We then drove to Shook Branch and cut weeds around Watauga Lake. These sections are in good shape now. The section between McQueens Gap and the shelter could use water bars.

**Thursday, September 7, 2000 - Side Trail Measurement - Guide Revision**

*Collins Chew reporting*

Participants: Mike Alley, Olin Babb, Charles Beggerow and Collins Chew

Total person hours: 6 hours  $\times$  4 people - 24 hours

We measured the A.T. from Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321, for use in a new A.T. Guide Book Revision. Present length is 4.2 miles. The day was beautiful. Miles hiked 4.2, miles driven: 100, hours away from Kingsport: 6.

**Saturday, September 9, 2000 - Move sod on relo trail north of Carvers Gap**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Number of people: 4 (Bob Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Ed Oliver, and Frank Williams)

Total person-hours:  $4 \times 8 = 32$

On September 9, Bob Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver moved sod on the lower section of the relocation trail north of Carvers Gap. We got all the sod on the lower section moved. We filled in the sod on the lower part. We had enough sod to fill in some of the areas around the steps on the old trail. While we were doing this work, we saw something that we never expected to see. We saw a young man in a wheelchair being pushed up the new trail.

**Saturday, September 16, 2000 - Cut Weeds**

*Tim McClain reporting*

Participants: Steve Woody, Tim McClain

Total person hours:  $2 \times 7.5 = 15$  hours

On September 16, Steve Woody and Tim McClain cut weeds on Tim McClain's adopted section of trail (2 mile section immediately north of U.S. 421). This section was in pretty good shape. Weeds were not too bad. There are a few small blowdowns that are easy stepovers, and a few others were pulled from the trail.

**Saturday, September 16, 2000 - Section 15 - Work on Trail Relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Number of People : 20 (ASU: Wayne Williams, Travis Fuller, Marshall Nicoloff, Jason Nester, Wesley Bea, Dennis Berndt, T. J. Massie, John Bell, Sara Lemberg, Jennie Wells, Stephen Gable, Dean Bradshaw; TEHCC: Ed Oliver, John Thompson, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Joe and Craig Deloach, Bob Peoples and Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours:  $20 \times 9 = 180$

The project for third Saturday was to continue the work on the trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road that was started by the ASU Freshman group in August. We were joined again by two groups from ASU; Wayne Williams' outdoor recreation class and a group lead by Sara Lemberg from the Watauga College of ASU. We broke into three groups. The first group hauled logs from the Round Bald side up to Hack Line Road for steps and log cribbing. This group completed and opened the top section of trail from the Hack Line Road to the existing A.T. The second group also hauled logs and built steps in the switch back area on the lower section. The third group worked on log cribbing and hauling gravel for a section of trail that needed a gravel bed instead of the normal digging method. We got a lot of work done with the assistance of another great group from ASU.

**Tuesday, September 19, 2000 - Section 20 - Install wire mesh on two bridges at Oglesby Branch**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Number of People : 4 (Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham)

Total person-hours:  $4 \times 7 = 28$

On September 19, Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Bill Elderbrock, and Bruce Cunningham installed wire mesh on both bridges at Oglesby Branch near Spivey Gap. Also cut out one blow down and cut out the trail relocation planned near Spivey Gap.

**Thursday, September 21, 2000 - Side Trail and A.T. Measurement**

*Collins Chew reporting*

Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey and Collins Chew measured the Holston Mountain Side Trail and the A.T. from Double Springs Gap to U.S. 421, for use in a new A.T. Guidebook Revision. Total mileages did not change but the description needed revision. ATV tracks on the Holston Mountain Trail got us a mite bewildered for a while and we connected to the A.T. by an "alternate route". Miles hiked: 13, miles driven: 100, hours away from Kingsport: 9.