

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

December
2000

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| NEXT TWO MONTHS | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------|
| December 2 | Guest River Gorge | M-D | Collins Chew | 423-239-6237 |
| January 13 | Laurel Fork Falls | E | Kent Wilson | 423-239-7554 |
| January 20-21 | Winter Backpack, Mt. Rogers | M | Garry Luttrell | 423-239-9854 |
| January 20 | Third Saturday Maintenance | | Bill Stowell | 423-239-7697 |
| January 27 | A.T., Va. 603 to Stone Mountain | M | Mary Ellen Ress | 423-349-6536 |

33rd Biennial Appalachian Trail Conference

Preserving Nature's Heritage

July 13-20, 2001 at Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania

The rhododendrons may still be in bloom during the 33rd Biennial Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference, July 13 to 20 at Shippensburg University, Pa. Located southwest of Harrisburg, the campus nestled in the Cumberland Valley overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains. White tailed deer will be in view as you hike along the Appalachian Trail, Tuscarora, and Holly Preserve Wetland Trails, and trails in Pine Grove Furnace, Big Spring State Park, Cowans Gap State Park, Letort Spring and Gettysburg. There are just a few of the fabulous places we will be hiking during the week. If hiking doesn't beckon you, we'd like to introduce you to rock climbing, astronomy, bird identification, Amish culture, stretching & massage for hikers and backpackers, orienteering, tools for trail work, ice climbing, butterfly identification, building a handicap trail, and advanced cable rigging. There is also a Workshop on the straight poop about composting. Take a day and stroll through historic Boiling Springs, Chambersburg, Ephrata Cloister, Old Bedford Village. Think what it must have been like to be a coal miner deep inside the bowels of the earth. Like the Indians before us, canoe the Susquehanna River, or munch on chocolate in Hershey.

Enhancing the conference will be the keynote speaker, Edwin Bernbaum, environmentalist and an authority on mountain preservation. A renowned mountaineer, author, lecturer and scholar of comparative religion and mythology, Bernbaum authored the book "Sacred Mountains of the World". From the Himalayas to the

Sierra Nevada, people around the world look up to mountains as sources of renewal, wisdom, creativity and vision. As a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas of the World Conservation Union, Bernbaum is currently developing environmental programs that take into account the cultural and spiritual significance of mountains.

Volunteers from A.T. maintaining clubs have been working since last year to present hikes, excursions and workshops in a nature filled environment surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Appalachian Mountains. Check out the [A.T. Website](#) for more information, or request a Registration Package from , or call 717 258 5261.

Thanks for Round Bald Relocation

10.26.2000

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club

P O Box 511

Kingsport Tennessee 37662

T E H C

I just today received my October 2000 club Newsletter -- it having come to MO, gone to NC, and then back to MO, as it was dutifully directed and redirected by my various Post Office mail forwarding requests.

FYI: I'm the de facto crew leader of several volunteers -- mostly members of the Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy -- battling the briars on Round Bald. This will put me on various sections of Round Bald upwards of a double-handful of days each summer, these days generally from mid-July to late August. Plus, of course, the usual pleasure jaunts.

This year we all were fascinated and enthused with the progress of the trail relo up the west end of Round Bald. More than once I was queried -- by both volunteers and others -- as to my idea of the man hours represented up to then. Now, I have never been involved in any major trail construction. So I could only say I had no real guess, other than I felt certain there had been many person-hours put in! (At the time, I had assumed the digging of the trail route trench had all been done by hand. Glad you had that machine!)

Ed Oliver's report of sod moving on 09.09.00, and noting the person being pushed up the new trail on a wheel chair, must have been a roundabout "thank you" for all who labored on the relo!

My volunteers are mostly all "seniors" -- myself included. I should tell you people how much less torture it is for us, toting Stihl brush cutters, fuel, and personal packs up and down the new trail as versus those old log steps!

Numerous folk -- my volunteers, my visitors, plus casual day hikers -- have commented to me favorably on the relo. Myself -- I love it!

Congratulations all!

Sincerely,

Bob Harvey

555 Naomi Drive

Florissant MO 63031-5334

When in NC:

1261 Prison Camp Rd

Newland NC 28657-8610

Canoeing News

Chucky Trading Station

I have recently had the pleasure of meeting the new owner of what used to be called the "Chucky Trading

Company" on Hwy 81 between Jonesborough and Erwin. The establishment is owned by Carter Quillen and is now called the "Chucky Trading Station". Carter and his family are down to earth, friendly types who are trying to develop a sustainable business at the site, which includes a campground, general store, and shuttle service for paddlers.

We have made several runs down the Nolichucky from the Trading Station towards Greeneville. This stretch of river is great for beginners and those looking for a leisurely paddle with some occasional excitement. Paddlers looking for a short run can take out at the Jackson Bridge (2 hours of paddling) or make an all day trip paddling to Davy Crockett State Park.

The point here is that the new owners of the Chucky Trading Station are willing to run shuttles in both directions from their location. I would encourage anybody who doesn't want to leave their car parked in an unsecure area to consider a shuttle with Carter. We consider the fees charged to be fair for the level of service we have received. The phone number, 753-6670, isn't listed with the directory assistance so make sure you jot it down somewhere.

Special Activity and Trip Reports

Hike Report: Grassy Ridge Moonrise Hike, Nov. 11

Richard Colberg reporting

Seven people hiked to Grassy Ridge to watch the sunset and moonrise. David Gibson, Kim Peters and Richard Colberg hiked from Carvers Gap, arriving at Grassy Ridge about 1/2 hour before sunset. Frieda Kuo, Leigh Neely, and Kent and Nancy Wilson left Carvers Gap earlier that afternoon to hike to Stan Murray Shelter, and met the rest of us at Grassy Ridge at sunset. Our timing was lucky -- the weather had just cleared that day, and leading-edge clouds on the western horizon from the next weather front created a beautiful, red sunset. The weather was warmer than expected for this time of year, but we all still enjoyed chocolate as we watched an orange, mushroom-shaped moon rise out of the haze. After dark, we hiked back to Carvers Gap, enjoying the light of the full moon shining off the surrounding ridges.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

Hike Notice: Guest River Gorge, Saturday, December 2, 2000

Rating: M-D

Leader: Collins Chew

This is a hike along a Rails-to-Trails old railroad grade beside the rushing Guest River between Coeburn, Virginia and the Clinch River. There are a number of pretty and interesting sandstone cliffs, some with colored beds, that border the trail. If we go all the way to the Clinch River, the round trip is 12 miles but since it is in and back, the trip is only as far as we want to go; the grade is always easy, and the footway nice and even. It is about a 50 mile drive one-way. Trip will be cancelled if roads are icy. Meet at 8:00 AM between McDonalds and the former Burger King in Colonial Heights. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather; bring lunch and water. For information call Collins Chew at 423/239-6237, or email him at .

Mt. Elbert, Leadville, Colorado, August/Sept 2001

Leader: Collins Chew

Several have asked me to repeat a trip like the Mt. Whitney, California trip of 1990. This trip will include doing a hike to acclimate to altitude around Leadville, Colorado (10,160 ft., highest city in the US) and hike up

nearby Mt. Elbert (14,433 feet, highest in Colorado, 2nd highest in the lower 48). This would take about 4-5 days in Leadville (motel or San Isabel NF campground) with day hikes in the spectacular high country interspersed with other local sights/activities such as a scenic railroad, mining museums (home of "The Majestic Mine" of Baby Doe fame), an underground mine tour, shopping in nearby Aspen and Vail, and high scenic road passes. In other words, this should even be attractive to non-hiking spouses although too late in the year for school children. The timing is to miss the crowds, let the snowfields melt, hopefully miss most of the summer thunderstorms but be too early for hard snow. We will pick the exact time later. Mt. Elbert has several trails of about 6 miles one way with a 4,000+ foot climb. It would be a day hike. Mt. Massive, next highest in the country and 12 feet lower, is just across the road and with a somewhat longer and more difficult trail. I plan a loosely organized trip with people doing their own thing but having enough for mutual support particularly on high trails. The trip could be a part of a longer Western vacation. If interested, contact Colli Chew at 423/239-6237 or .

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects



Saturday, November 4, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Complete trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road

Bill Stowell reporting

Number of People: 16 (Fred Waage, Erick Waage, Jonathan Chihouth, John D. Moody, Ben Holland (5 hours each), Susan Stanford, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Bob Miller, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Bob Peoples, Kevin Odonnell, David Gibson, Bill Stowell (9 hours each) , Joe Deloach (10 hours)

Total person-hours: $5 \times 5 + 10 \times 9 + 1 \times 10 = 125$

This work trip was arranged with a group of Science Hill Football players (Fred Waage (father), Erick Waage, Jonathan Chihouth, John D. Moody, Ben Holland). In addition, we were joined by Susan Stanford and Kevin Odonnell from ETSU and Kim Peter, Ed Oliver, Bob Miller, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Bill Stowell and Joe Deloach. We

continued the work at Carvers Gap on the trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. We spent the day carrying logs and gravel to harden various parts of this section. We completed enough of the work to open this new section of the A.T. Part of the group worked on removing the evidence of the old trail by removing signs, blazes and brushing in the old trail and blazing the new one. We will continue next week to put some finishing touches on this section.

Sunday, November 5, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Inspection Hike and blow down removal

Bill Stowell reporting:

Number of People : 2 (David Gibson, Bill Stowell)

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

David Gibson and Bill Stowell hiked from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap to check out the section that David is adopting. David is adopting from the parking lot at Cloudland to Hughes Gap. Several small blow downs

were cut and one spiked down as a water bar. There are some steep sections between the water bars coming down Roan and Hughes Gap that need steps installed. Also two posts near the Cloudland parking lot have been pulled up and are gone. These need to be replaced and should probably be put in with some concrete.

Monday, November 6, 2000 - Section 8 (Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321) - Cut blow downs

Bob Peoples reporting

Number of People: 1 (Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: 1 X 5 = 5

Bob Peoples hiked in from Watauga Lake and cut two blow downs reported on this section.

Friday, November 10, 2000 - Carvers Gap - Trail Maintenance

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Total person hours: 7 people x 5 hours = 35 hours

Darrol Nickels' arctic expedition arrived at Carvers Gap to find 30 degree temperature, 40-50 mph winds, ZERO visibility from low, very wet clouds, up to 1" thick ice on bushes and trees and an unknown but very low wind chill. After waiting several hours, Judy Murray, Ben Lawhon, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Ray Hunt, and Bruce Cunningham voted to abort the mission (Darrol agreed!) We missed Bob Peoples - Ed said he must have been snowed in at Dennis Cove (Smart move, Bob!) On the way home, we cleared two blowdowns that were blocking the highway (our good deed of the day!)

Saturday, November 11, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Finish some touch up on the new relocation

Bill Stowell reporting

Number of People: 8 (ASU) Adam Petrey, Katie Seel, Ben Dickerson, Anna Smith, Matthew Murray, Chris Boyce, Susan Reed, and Frankie Kelly (5 hours each); Black Mountain School: 8, Tom Sherman, Robert Knight, Bryan Patterson, Ben Anderson, Cam Richards, Ben Provsnierer, Chip Rose, Jason, Spence (3 hours each); ETSU: Susan Stanford (2nd trip) (8 hours); TEHCC: 7, Ed Oliver, Craig Haire, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Bruce & Mary Cunningham, and Bill Stowell (8 hours each)

Total person-hours: ASU 8 X 5 = 40; BMS 8 X 3 = 24; ETSU 1 X 8 = 8; TEHCC 7 X 8 = 56; Total = 128

We met another group from ASU (Adam Petrey, Katie Seel, Ben Dickerson, Anna Smith, Matthew Murray, Chris Boyce, Susan Reed, and Frankie Kelly) and Susan Stanford from ETSU for a work trip to put some finishing touches on the new trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. David Gibson had met a group from Black Mountain School the previous day and invited them to help also. BMS students were Tom Sherman, Robert Knight, Bryan Patterson, Ben Anderson, Cam Richards, Ben Provsnierer, Chip Rose, Jason, and Spence. The workers from TEHCC were Ed Oliver, Craig Haire, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Bruce & Mary Cunningham, and Bill Stowell. We hauled in some more logs and more gravel to complete the section.

Wednesday, November 15, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Trail Maintenance

David Gibson reporting

Person hours: 1 x 7 = 7 hours total

I hiked up my section today, Wednesday, 11/15/00, and cleared a couple of minor blow downs. I opened the side trail to the overlook that we stopped at two Sundays ago, and I cut some recent fir blowdowns into foot sections for future use as steps.

