

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

April 2001

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Contents

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Annual Maintenance Dinner](#)
- [15th Appalachian Trail Days Festival](#)
- [33rd Biennial Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference](#)
- [Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting Report](#)
- [Change at Mahoney's](#)
- [Paddling News](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
April 6-8	Tennessee Paddle Festival			
April 7	South Toe Paddling	II-III	Ed Montgomery	423-247-7795
April 14	Marguerite Falls Spring Wildflowers	M	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903
April 21	Train Wreck Site in Smokies	E	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
April 21	4th Annual Trail Fest, Hot Springs, N.C.	FUN		
April 27-29	Allegheny Trail	M	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
May 5	Pinnacle State Park, Virginia Wildflowers (**CHANGE IN DATE**)	E	Kathy McDavid	423-245-6105
May 5	Grayson Highlands	M	Richard Colberg	423-288-8333
May 5-6	Bluestone XXII	II-III	Terry Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 12	A.T. - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River	M	Steve Wilson	423-239-0456
May 18-20	A.T. Days - Damascus, Virginia	FUN		

Annual Maintenance Dinner

Bill Stowell reporting

The annual maintenance dinner was held on Friday, March 2, 2001. Once again, Ed Oliver and Mary Cunningham did a great job preparing soups and sandwiches for all. A summary of the meeting follows. Maintenance reports should include: Date, Section Number, Purpose, Number of People, Total

person-hours: ? X ? = ?. and Summary:

VOF packets were made available to all teams and adopters.

This year we have 10 formal rotating teams assigned to the sections. The other sections are being maintained by adopters.

Items to be noted when doing maintenance:

- Report any sections that need rehab work and/or water bars
- Report illegal ATV, horse, or mountain bike use
- Clean out water bars
- Check shelters and report any repair needs
- Blow down removal should be completed by April
- White Blazing should be done going North (both directions would be great)
 - Blaze a little beyond your section so the transition between sections is covered
 - Blue blaze where needed - this is neglected more than white blazing
- Cut back yearly growth in spring
- Cut weeds on sections that have them by the end of June

2000 Maintenance Accomplishments were summarized and the top 15 maintainers were recognized: Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Bill Stowell, Frank Williams, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Darrol Nickels, Bill Elderbrock, Steve Perri, Mary Cunningham, John Thompson, Craig DeLoach, Frank Oglesby, David Gibbs and Collins Chew.

Projects for 2001:

- Konnarock: Round Bald/Grassy Ridge
- Elk River relo - partially approved for the ASU (Appalachian State University) August Project

15th Appalachian Trail Days Festival

John Reese reporting

Dates: May 18, 19, and 20, 2001

Damascus, Virginia

The 15th Appalachian Trail Days Festival will be May 18, 19 and 20, 2001 in Damascus, Virginia. Damascus, famous "refueling" stop for A.T. through hikers, is known as the Friendliest Town On The Trail. In addition to outdoor equipment manufacturers being on hand to answer questions and help with repairs, Hiker Talent Show and the Hiker Parade are popular happenings at the event. Food and music are plentiful.

John Reese

Chair

Appalachian Trail Days 2001

33rd Biennial Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference

July 14-20, 2001 - Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

Web Page and Registration

In February, the Registration Package became available online for you to download.

Register before May 10 and save \$10 per person. Hikes, workshops, excursions, entertainment, and your activities and general information will all be available to you online. Entertainment tickets are limited due to the size of our auditorium. Enclose your check or money order with your Registration Form and mail it to:

Shippensburg 2001

P. O. Box

20123, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania 18002-0123.

For more information, contact Thyra Sperry at .
Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club
Katie Jones, President
504 Highland Court
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-3923
(717) 249-6727

Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting Report

Steve Perri reporting:

Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting Report

Attendees: Bruce Cunningham, Steve Wilson, Ray Hunt, Steve Perri

Dates: March 23-25, 2001

Time: 20 h each, Total = 80 hours

The Southern Regional Management Committee (SRMC) meeting was held again at Camp Cheerio near Stone Mountain State Park, N.C. This is an annual meeting of the Southern maintaining trail clubs, ATC and the other agency partners to review policies, recent events and trail protection/management issues. Several discussion groups were held on: 1) Impacts of Ridgeline and Mountain Top Development, 2) Education Planning, 3) Advertising and Other Off-trail Services Affecting the Trail Corridor, 4) Outfitters and Guides on the A.T., 5) Club Trail Reassignment Procedures, and 6) Exotic Plant Species. Other issues relevant to clubs and ATC discussed were volunteer development and recruiting. This appears to be of concern to almost every club. Friday night there was a special presentation on "Air Quality on the A.T." and a lengthy discussion of what ATC's role in the political environment should be in the future regarding air quality. The NPS is considering a possible role in an environmental program for the A.T. Another issue relevant to clubs and ATC that was discussed was ATC's advertising and corporate donations policies. Many people were concerned that the ideals associated with the Trail and corporate funding need to be carefully reviewed to keep the integrity of the Trail, conference and volunteers from being degraded through corporation requests for joint partnerships. A review of the existing policies will be made by the Board of Managers. Many success stories and recognitions were conveyed during the meeting. Mike Dawson was presented with a special plaque along with other outgoing staff including Ben Lawhon and Jim Hutchins. Teresa Martinez has officially been named as Mike's replacement as the A.T. Central and Southwest Virginia Regional Representative. TEHCC recognized Ben Lawhon for his service in his role for Maintenance of Open Areas and Morgan was recognized for his leadership role in the Round Bald Relo Project. There were many good reports from all the Agency Partners (USFS and NPS) regarding maintenance, special projects, acquisitions of new lands, and construction projects. Lots of changes in staffing are occurring through the USFS as retirements are resulting in temporary reassignments until new positions are filled. Lots of discussion and interest from the USFS regarding the Round Bald relo project and perhaps interest in a formal documentation of the project. Overall, there is a great spirit of cooperation and communication within the partnership and cooperative agreement as a result of this meeting.

Change at Mahoney's



Brady Sleeper has taken over the Outdoor Adventure Program at Mahoney's Outfitters. He is a very dynamic man with a lot of outdoor experience (hiking, white water canoeing, caving, and mountain biking). He was formerly the owner/proprietor of the Erwin Burrito Company. He doesn't have an email address yet, but he does have an answering machine at home and welcome

calls. His home phone number is 423-735-7131, and he works everyday at Mahoneys except Tuesday and Sunday. He is planning an A.T. maintenance trip for the Mahoneys section this month and hopes some TEHCC club members will help him out. Please give him a call to let him know how best to contact you. Mahoneys extends their thanks to TEHCC for help over the years.

Paddling News

Introductory Whitewater School 2001



The 30th annual "Canoe School", sponsored by the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's (APEs), will be held June 7th, 9th, and 10th. 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 with one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat and helmet, or a whitewater kayak with paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. One PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoe 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 7th (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 9th (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 10th 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 APEs. 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 31. 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)

Special Activity and Trip Reports

No reports this month.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

Hike: Train Wreck Site on Clingman's Dome, April 21, 2001

Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854, Easy

Come with us on this easy hike to see what you would not expect to be at an elevation of 6,000 ft: remnant of an old logging railroad, including a boiler, track, and pieces and parts scattered over a wide area. We'll hike 1 1/4 mi. down the Forney Creek Trail from Clingman's Dome parking lot, then 1/2 mi. along the old F... bed to the site. We may hike an additional 1/2 mi. to the views of Andrews Bald. Bring lunch, water, and clothing suitable for the likely cool, windy conditions of the Dome. For more information, contact the hike leader by phone, or .

Hike: Allegheny Trail, April 27-29, 2001

Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854, Moderate

This hike was originally scheduled in March, but postponed to April. On this trip we will camp or stay in cabins at Watoga State Park, West Virginia, and we will spend three days day-hiking on the section of the Allegheny Trail between Meadow Creek and Huntersville, West Virginia. For more information, contact the hike leader by phone, or .

Hike: Pinnacle Nature Preserve, May 5, 2001 (Change in Date!)

Leader: Kathy McDavid, 423-349-4901, Rated B3C

Please join me for a wildflower hike in the Pinnacle Nature Preserve near Lebanon, Virginia. There are towering cliffs, sheer limestone ledges, waterfalls, and several types of wildflowers in this beautiful wooded park, including (if our timing is right) Carey's Saxifrage, Smooth Cliff-brake, American Harebell, Tufted Hairgrass, Canby's Mountain Lover, and White Camas. Be sure to bring water, lunch, rain gear (just in case!!), wildflower books, camera (and tripod, if you want to do some serious photography!!). We'll meet at the parking lot near McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 7:45 for the ~1.5 hour drive. We'll plan to be back by 6 p.m. unless the group decides to stop to eat on the way back. Please let me know if you plan to come so I can send you a map and more information. Kathy McDavid, 349-4901 or .

Hike: Grayson Highlands to Fox Creek (Va. 603), Saturday, May 5, 2001

Leader: Richard Colberg, 423-288-8333, Moderate (10.3 mi, 2000 ft elevation gain)

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 all hike through pleasant hardwood and hemlock forests. We should see wild ponies in Grayson Highlands, possibly horses on Stone Mountain south of Scales. Please bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. We'll meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and the former Burger King in Colonial Heights at 7:45 AM for an 8:00 AM departure. Call hike leader for more information.

Hike: Laurel Falls, Sunday, June 17, 2001 (note change in date)

Leader: Vic Hasler

After taking ten TEHC hikes, I've decided to "step up" and lead one. (Challenge to other new members: share your favorite jaunts as a leader!) Laurel Falls is the most popular club hike according to my simple database of newsletter items. Date change is due to wedding of family friend. We'll now meet at 12:45 in Colonial Heights on Fathers' Day for a good family hike (and wading at the falls).

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports

Bill Berry reporting:

Dates: February 17 and 24, 2001

Person hours: 12

Section: Spivey Gap to No Business Shelter

Summary: The Trail from Spivey Gap to No Business Shelter is in good shape as of February 24. Will be working on the Trail from Temple Hill Gap south to No Business Shelter, hopefully on March 10.

Collins Chew reporting:

Date: March 1, 2001

Hours away from Kingsport: 8

Miles Hiked: 8.8

Purpose: Maintenance/(Recreation)

Blowdowns Left: N to S

12" step over, 1 mile from Hughes Gap (fHG)

14"-16", diagonal, 2 miles fHG

12" chest high, 3/4 miles South of Clyde Smith Shelter, 3.5 fHG

Huge, double blowdowns with level trail around it, 1 mile South of Clyde Smith Shelter, 3.8 miles fHG.

6"-8" minor obstruction, 1/2 mile South of Greasy Creek Gap, 5.4 fHG.

Large, step over in trail, 1 1/2 miles South of Greasy Creek Gap, 6.4 mile fHG.

6" -8" diagonal head high, 2 miles South of Greasy Creek Gap, 6.9 mile fHG.

2' across trail, long level walk around. 2 1/4 mile South of Greasy Creek Gap, 7.3 fHG.

14" step over 100 yds. North of end of road, 7.4 miles fHG.

Jim Mann reporting:

Date: March 3, 2001

Participants: Ed Oliver, Jim Mann

Total Person Hours: $5 \times 2 = 10$

Summary: Ed Oliver and I hiked to Laurel Fork Shelter to take a shovel, rake and broom to the shelter. Heavy rain had been in the weather forecast, but we only had an occasional sprinkle. I braved the rain forecast to offset a serious case of cabin fever. After taking the tools to the shelter, we had an enjoyable visit with Bob Peoples and 4 thru-hikers at Kinchora Hostel.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: Sunday, March 4, 2001

Section: 15

Hours: 7.5

Summary: Worked from Hughes Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter. Cleared blowdowns, cleaned out water bars, and took new TEHCC Shelter Log to Shelter.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Roan Mountain Rock Hauling Report

Dates: Wednesday, March 7 thru Sunday, March 11, 2001

Purpose: Haul gravel from Carvers Gap to Round Bald

Summary: We worked on hauling gravel from Carvers Gap to the Appalachian Trail between Carvers Gap and Engine Gap. We worked on this project from Wednesday, March 7 thru Sunday, March 11, 2001. We have taken at least 64 loads of gravel up the mountain at this time. Each load was about 5000 pounds of gravel. Two snow cats were used to move the gravel up the trail. The gravel has been dumped onto pieces of plastic near the trail. We would have moved more gravel if the track on both of the snow cats had not come off. One came off on Saturday and the other one on Sunday. Once the tracks are put back on the machines, it will take two to three days to complete this work. The following people have helped with this work: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Bob Miller, Bill Elderbrock, Frank Williams, Garry Luttrell, Freda Kuo, Lee Neeley, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Ron Davidson, David Gibson, Frank Oglesby, Jamey Donaldson, Ben Lawhon, Morgan Sommerville, Bob Peoples, Larry Miller, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson, Steve Banks, Steve Falling, Sutton Brown, Collins Chew, and section hikers Larry Baker, Wes Allen, John Schneider, and John White from Nashville, Tennessee.

Bill Berry reporting:

Date: March 10, 2001

Section: Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap

Total person hours: 9 (one person)

Summary: The Trail from Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap is clear and in good shape. Had several dead trees down and by the looks of things we will have lots more! Who ever put the wire on the bridges going north of Spivey Gap did a GREAT job. No matter what is on the bridges I feel that they are now safe to walk on. Good job!

If any of the Trail from Temple Hill Gap north toward the Nolichucky comes open I would like to have it also

Bill Stowell reporting:

Date: March 10 and 11, 2001

Purpose: Attend the ATC Leadership Skills workshop

Number of People: 2 (Kathy McDavid, Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours: 10 (2 hours drive plus 8 hours class on Saturday) + 5 (2 hours drive plus 3 hours class on Sunday) = 15 per person or 30 total

Summary: We attended a ATC sponsored leadership skills workshop. It was presented by Ed Clark, founder of the Virginia Wildlife Center and focused on developing and enhancing clubs and members. It included leadership style, adapting style to meet your followers needs, and the 7 habits of highly effective

club leaders. It was an excellent workshop.

Jim Mann reporting:

Purpose of trip: Spring Maintenance of Adopted Section

Dates of trip: Saturday March 10-Sunday March 11

Total Hours: 12 x 7 people = 84 hours

Summary: Combined an overnight backpacking trip from Highway 19E to Double Springs Shelter with trail maintenance for 2 leaders and 5 scouts from Boy Scout Troop 285 of Mount Carmel. During this trip I demonstrated how to do spring maintenance and let the 5 scouts and 1 other adult leader participate in the work (fun). Participating were: Jim Mann, Paul Kindle, Josh Kindle, David Mann, Steven Jarrett, Dustin Dishner, and Tyler Fugere. We cleared numerous blowdowns, clipped rhododendron, and cut back green briars. We also carried rocks to make stepping stones in a swampy area along the road where ATVs have created a large muddy area hikers have to walk through. The group finished off a day of maintenance by spending a cold night at Double Springs Shelter. The shelter is in good shape but may have some leaks in the roof indicated by numerous patches of duct tape. I will keep an eye on this situation. Hopefully this Scout Troop can be used in further trail maintenance.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: March 11, 2001

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance - McQueens Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Number of People: 2 (Mary Banks, Steve Banks)

Total Person-Hours: 2 x 6 = 12

Summary: Cut a blowdown a few hundred feet north of McQueens Gap, and another one about 30 feet north of the shelter. The second blowdown was the former location of a mileage sign for northbound hikers; the sign is now inside the shelter. I will put it on another tree on the next trip. It appeared someone had already cut blowdowns (and several standing trees) on this section a month or two ago - in one place, cut-up logs were neatly stacked next to the trail. The shelter is in good shape though the broom is missing - I will take one in on the next trip. We carried out a bag of trash from the shelter, and picked up another bag full at McQueens Gap.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Roan Mountain Rock Hauling - Week #2 Report

Dates: March 12,13,14,17 and 18, 2001

On March 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18, 2001, we continued the task of hauling gravel from the parking lot at Carvers Gap to the Appalachian Trail on Round Bald. We spent Monday and Tuesday repairing the two snow cats. We had to replace the track on both vehicles. We now have the knowledge of how to replace track as well as how to prevent the track from coming off. We started hauling gravel again on Wednesday. We achieved a record number of loads moved up the mountain on Wednesday. We moved at least 35 loads of gravel on Wednesday. The rain on Thursday and Friday delayed us until Saturday. We completed the work on Sunday. We moved over 350 tons of gravel in the two weeks that we worked on this project. If we count the 240 plus tons of gravel that were used on this project last year, we have now moved almost 600 tons of gravel to the trail between Carvers Gap and Engine Gap. Let's hope that this work is all worthwhile and that it will control erosion and be accepted by the hikers who use the trail. A special note of thanks is due to all the people who helped and offered to help on this project. A special note of thanks goes to Dave Gibson and Bob Peoples who worked every day and to Morgan Sommerville without whose help and encouragement we might not have attempted or completed this project. The only thing remaining is to spread the 350 tons of gravel on the new trail and to repair some of the old trail. Those who helped one or more days during the second week of this project were Frank Williams, Garry Luttrell, Bruce Cunningham,

Mary Cunningham, Bob Elderbrock, Ed Oliver, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Morgan Sommerville, Ben Lawhon, Ron Davidson, Kim Peters, Bill Murdoch, Larry Miller, and Steve Perri. Also, Frank Oglesby, Jr. helped during the first week of this project.

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: March 13, 2001

Section: Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

Total person hours: 14 hours (2 x 7)

Participants: Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: Cleared 4 blowdowns. Cleaned up and re-engineered 3 springs and adjusted pipes. Cut drainage ditches for some wet spots. Trail open and in good shape from Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter. Special note: White blazes were terrific - someone did a real great job!

C. B. Willis (Old Timers Hiking Club) reporting:

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Sections: 17 and 18 (Iron Mountain Gap - Indian Grave Gap)

Total person hours: 97

Summary: Work performed: clipped laurel, removed small blow downs, cleaned debris off trail, raked leaves and accumulated matter off water bars, removed litter from trail heads and Beauty Spot, cleaned shelter, and left broom and rake at shelter as well as new journal. There are three leaners, too large for bowsaws. We will go back and remove at a later date. Members working and hours worked: Rick Culbertson - 8 hours, Ed Schell - 8 hours, Daryl Loyd - 8 hours, Bob Miller - 8 hours, Clyde Taylor - 7 hours, Howard Guin - 7 hours, Glenn Marshall - 7 hours, Bob Spencer - 7 hours, Gil Derouen - 5 hours, Wayne Sparks - 5 hours, Dick Lewis - 5 hours, Sam Lloyd - 5 hours, Neil Ottenfeld - 5 hours, Loretta Arnold - 6 hours, C. B. Willis - 5 hours.

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: March 27, 2001

Section: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Total person hours: 10 x 4 = 40 hours

Participants: David Gibson, John Kiefer, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: Mission - clear blowdowns. Accomplished except for one HUGE blowdown about a mile south of the Clyde Smith shelter. 3 HUGE (about 5' across) trees in a jumble. Very passable trail has been opened around south side of blowdown - so not critical to cut out. May want to just leave it as is and let nature take its course. I have called Dick Burow and asked him to take a look and decide if this mess is even too much for him.

Comment: Trail crew took "old (?)" trail out of Greasy Creek Gap (old road to the right of the new trail). Cleared all 5 blowdowns. Didn't recognize that we were not on the new trail until they came together. Walked new trail up and back to Gap. David checked blazes at Gap and said hikers could easily take either trail. In fact, we met five hikers on the old trail and it was obvious by the wear and tear on the trail that many others had used the old trail. No evidence of vehicles. Having walked both trails back to back, both David and Bruce were strongly of the opinion that the "old trail" was vastly superior to the new trail and should be reopened and used!!! Have since talked to Ray Hunt and the reason for the "new trail" (land ownership) is no longer valid so could go either way. Ray and Ed will talk more. In the mean-time, there is no problem as either trail will get you there.

Comment: In the "new trail" about 1/4 mile from the Gap going north, there was a blowdown where a rootbait was taken out of the Trail. This spot needs a little pulaski work to re-cut the trail and fill in the hole. Should be done ASAP as it is slippery and could be dangerous.

