

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

June 2001

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
June 1-4	Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands		Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903
June 2	Mt. Celo from Pensacola	D	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
June 7,9,10	Whitewater Canoe School	Wet	Mike Morrow	423-245-1201
June 7-11	Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands		Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903
June 17	Laurel Fork Falls	E	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
July 21	Mt. LeConte from Cherokee Orchards (Mt. Elbert training)	D	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

Konnarock Crew Dates!!

Konnarock Crew - Trail Relocation and Rehabilitation in the Roan Highlands

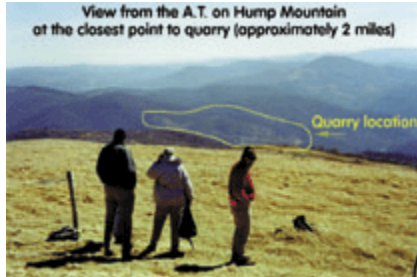
Scheduled: May 24-28, May 31-June 4, and June 7-11, 2001

Leaders: Joe DeLoach (423-753-7903), Bill Stowell (423-239-7697), and Ed Oliver (423-349-6668)

In 2001 we will be fortunate to have five weeks with the Konnarock Crew. That is especially fortunate because we have a lot of work to do! Our primary goal will be to complete the relocation of the Appalachian Trail from Carvers Gap to Round Bald and the rehabilitation of the existing Trail from Round Bald to Engin Gap. We already have the gravel in place thanks to the crews that went out in March. We will also need to rehabilitate the route used to haul the gravel up the old A.T. We may need all three weeks to complete those tasks, but if we complete those early we have several other projects in the area we can begin. The Konnarock Crew arrives at the work site around lunchtime on the Thursday of each week and departs around lunchtime on Monday of each week. Volunteers are sought for each of those days. You'll need to bring work gloves, lunch, water, and clothes for the fickle weather the mountains can have that time of year - everything from sunscreen to sweaters! We will meet at the parking lot near McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM each day, but please call ahead of time so we'll know how many tools to bring and to expect you. Those w

work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. With a good turnout work goes much faster and makes it more enjoyable for all, so hope to see you there!

Putnam Mine Hearing Summary



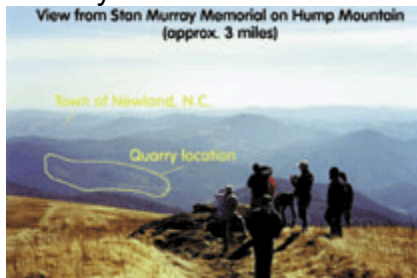
(Steve Perri and Dan Hirschman Reporting)

A North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings administrative law judge ruled in favor of the Clark Stone Company earlier this month, finding that the State does not have the power to revoke the mining company's permit for the Putnam Mine in Minneapolis, N.C.

Judge Owens Lassiter's recommended decision now goes to the Mining Commission for a final agency decision. All the parties in the case (including ATC) will have the opportunity to submit written arguments to the Mining

Commission and to make a short oral presentation when the Commission convenes to consider the contested case. The Mining Commission has not yet scheduled the hearing. ATC, NPCA, and the local citizens opposing the mine will consider their options after the Mining Commission hears arguments and renders a decision.

In her recommended decision, Judge Owens Lassiter found that the State had no authority to revoke a permit based on a provision of the Act that was merely discretionary to begin with. The State may deny a permit for a mine if the mine will adversely effect a public park, but the State is not required to do so... it's discretionary. Therefore, Judge Owens Lassiter reasoned that the State had already exercised its discretion in granting the permit, and therefore, could not revisit that decision. The decision suggests that the only remedy in this circumstance would have been to modify the permit.



The decision is best summarized in the following passage:

"Given that there have been no changes in the permit application or the Putnam mine site, no discrepancies in Petitioner's (Clark Stone) preparation of the site, and the Petitioner has to make substantial expenditures in reliance on the Respondent's (State of NC) issuance, it is now fundamentally unfair and inequitable to the Petitioner, for the Respondent to change its previous exercise of discretion because either its application procedure was flawed or the Respondent changed its mind after they issued the permit. Simply

because the Respondent made a mistake in judgment does not create an opportunity to re-evaluate the case now, nor does the legislature authorize it. To allow the Respondent to reverse its discretionary decision of issuing a permit in good faith under this scenario would create unjust and appalling public policy."

Judge Owens Lassiter did not address the issue of whether the permit was validly issued to begin with, nor did she discuss the magnitude or significance of the visual and auditory impacts.

So the future is unclear until the N.C. Mining Commission meets, hears arguments, and renders a decision. There are legal options the ATC, NPCA and local citizens are exploring that might offer alternative legal recourse. For now, the mine is not in operation and the future is still uncertain.

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.

Hikes, workshops, excursions, entertainment, and youth activities and general information will all be available to you online. Entertainment tickets are limited due to the size of the 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

Trail Skills Workshops

Bill Stowell reporting:

Here is the list of trail skills workshops put on by the Appalachian Trail Conference for the rest of the year:

Date	Subject
April 28	Drainage
May 5-6	Wilderness First Aid
May 9	Basic Maintenance
May 12-13	Rock Work
June 2	National Trails Day - N.C./Tennessee
June 2	National Trails Day - Georgia
June 23-24	Leave No Trace
July 28	Bog Bridge / Turnpike

These are held at various locations. If you are interested, let Bill Stowell know, and he can give you the full info.

Notice of Aggressive Bear

On April 30th, 2001 a hiker reported an aggressive bear at Abingdon Gap Shelter. A young black bear (approx. 250 lbs) wandered into the shelter area around dusk. He showed no signs of alarm over presence of about 15-20 hikers. He left the area just before dark and returned later and spent the entire night roaming among the tents. He also went into the shelter among the hikers and tore up a water bottle. He also reached into a vestibule area of a hiker's tent and took his platypus bottle for a chew toy.

Hikers tried to scare bear away without success, but the bear showed no fear of them. See our [Bears](#) page for more information on bears.

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 Enthusiasts (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. 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 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 (Sun) River Trip, class II. 10:00 AM
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

Special Activity Report: Kingsport Home Builders Association Meeting, May 1, 2001

Steve Perri reporting:

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri

Time: 3 hours each

Bruce and I attended a Kingsport Home Builders Association meeting since we were invited by Roy Settle from the Appalachian RC&D Council. The meeting was actually sponsored by the Appalachian RC&D Council, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the USDA Forest Service, the Middle Nolichucky Watershed Alliance, and Keep Greene Beautiful. Steven W. Clark, president of Brentwood-based Steve Clark Inc., presented a discussion of balancing design and urban development with emphasis on incorporating trees and other shrubs. This was an informative discussion since there are new developments approaching the A.T. corridor all the time, and he presented many elements to provide curb appeal, low impact, and pleasing design features.

Hike Report: Hiking A.T. from Nolichucky River to Curley Maple Shelter, May 12, 2001

Steve Wilson reporting

We started hiking at the river and made our way up to Curley Maple Shelter at a leisurely pace, then turned around and hiked back. We begin the six mile hike around 9:30 AM and finished at 12:30 PM, allowing plenty of time for the group to stop and enjoy the scenery. This Saturday morning hike had a good chance of rain, so we adjusted the original plans to allow a quick exit in case of a sudden down pour. The wet weather brought out the wild flowers and water loving critters, allowing us to see novel orange and red salamanders next to the trail. Participating in this hike were: Debbie Berry; Jill and Steve Wilson.

Hike Report: Grayson Highlands (Massie Gap) to Fox Creek, May 26, 2001

Richard Colberg reporting:

Eight hikers enjoyed the beautiful weather and scenery offered by this hike. The weather was great (blue sky and puffy white clouds), although the trail was wet (creek-like?) in places due to heavy rains the previous two days. We enjoyed great views from the balds at Massie Gap, stopped for lunch in the meadow just past Wilson Creek, and enjoyed pleasant forests and more great views from the top of Stone and Pine Mountains. Unfortunately, we didn't see any wild ponies, but we're tempted to go back in August when the blueberries are ripe. During the car shuttle at the end of the hike, one car in our group was barely missed another car (not in our group) that swerved across the road. Thank goodness the other car swerved back in time. Enjoying this hike were Debbie Berry, Richard Colberg, Fred and Lenoir Colhoun, Frieda Kuo, Lee Neely, Kim Peters, and Ben Wilson.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail

Maintenance Opportunities

Hike Notice: Celo Knob from Pensacola, Saturday, June 2, 2001

Leader: Collins Chew, Phone: (423) 239-6237, Rating: Difficult

This will be a strenuous hike up Celo Knob from the old railroad grade above Pensacola, N.C., near Burnsville. The hike will probably be about 10 miles with a 2,500 foot climb. The drive from Kingsport will be about 200 miles round trip.

The trail is along the old switchbacks of a logging railroad to Deep Gap and along the Black Mountain Ridge to Mt. Celo. The trip was designed to show those planning to climb Mt. Elbert how much training they will need to do but may also be used by Beyond 6000ers to climb Celo Knob (6,327), Gibbs Mountain (6,224) and Winterstar Mountain (6,212). Anyone else interested is welcome. We might return the same way but we have always taken a bushwhacking short cut down through an old mica mine down to another branch of the road. Bring appropriate clothing (13 degrees cooler on top), sturdy boots, lunch, raingear, and water. Meet at the regular place near McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 7:30 A. M. on Saturday, June 2, 2001. For information contact Collins Chew 423/239-6237 or .

Hike Notice: 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).

Hike Notice: Mount LeConte Creek Trip, July 7-8, 2001

Leader: Dewey Fuller

Rating: Extremely Difficult

The LeConte Creek Trip is an off-trail ascent of Mount LeConte via one of several LeConte creeks. This trip involves scrambling up and around very steep cascades as well as lots of bushwhacking through thick undergrowth, stinging nettles, and blowdowns. Typical trips take from 8 to 12 hours with very little time for resting. Once at the top, hopefully before dark, the group will be staying at LeConte Lodge, a rustic inn with cabins, real beds with clean sheets, and a dining room. For more trip details contact Jon Mather at 239-6766. The \$85.17 per person cost includes overnight accommodations at the lodge, dinner Saturday evening, and breakfast the next morning. Confirm your reservations for the trip by sending a check, payable to me, Dewey Fuller. Mail to Bldg-216A or 608 Vance Drive, Bristol, Tenn 37620. Often, all of the reservations are not taken by those wishing to go up the creek. If you would like to go on the waiting list for the trail, let me know and I will contact you before June 11 if there is an opening.

Hike Notice: Mt. LeConte from Cherokee Orchards, Saturday, July 21, 2001

Leader: Collins Chew, Phone: (423) 239-6237, Rating: Difficult

This is the second training hike for the September, Mt. Elbert, Colorado hike but all hikers are welcome. This will be a difficult hike up Mt. LeConte in the Smokies starting from Cherokee Orchards and return. It is the only nearby hike I know that will be much like the one in Colorado except that it is 8000 feet lower. We will hike up the Rainbow Falls Trail and probably return by the Bullhead Trail. These are both very nice and interesting trails. The roundtrip hike should be about 13 miles with a climb of about 4,000 feet. Since it will be a long day, I would like to leave from our regular meeting place in Colonial Heights near McDonalds at 6:30 A. M. in the morning. (I hope to leave earlier than this in Colorado.) Bring lunch (and snack), water, comfortable boots, raingear, and appropriate clothing (13 degrees cooler on top). It will be a long day. We might eat supper in Gatlinburg. For more info, call Collins Chew 423/239-6237 or email to .

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports



Bob Peoples reporting:

Date: April 13, 2001

Section: Blue Blaze trail from Hampton to Laurel Fork Gorge

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Number of people: 3

People: Isis, Jack Rabbit (the bare foot sisters yo-yoing home), and Gary (section hiker) 5 hours each

Total hours: 15

Cleared the blue blazed trail from U.S. 321 to the A.T. in Laurel Fork Gorge. Cleared trash and 6 blowdowns with bow saws. The blowdowns ranged from four to eight inches in diameter.

John Thompson reporting:

Date: April 14, 2001

Section: 9

Purpose: Adopted section check

Number of People: 2 (Frank Williams, John Thompson)

Total person-hours: 2 X 9 = 18

We removed seven small blowdowns and low overhead branches, and Frank lopped lots of trail-side saw briars between Watauga Lake and Pond Flats. In addition we placed several large stepping stones in the spring outflow across the trail at the top. The blazes and trail otherwise were in good shape.

Bill Stowell reporting:

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2001

Section: 14

Purpose: Work on trail relocation

Number of People: 15 (Thru Hikers: John Hammond, Jason Hartford, Stephanie Apostolides, April Duncan, Melissa Lin, David ILer, Michael Libero, Marc Apostolides; TEHCC members: Bob Peoples, Bill Murdock, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Steve Perri, Kevin O'Donnell, Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours: 15 X 8 = 120

We continued to work on the gravel portion of the Round Bald relocation. We started on the back side where the previous work group left off and completed the portion going down towards Engine Gap. We got a lot of trail built. We might get the back side done before Konnarock arrives.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: Friday, May 11, 2001

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

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

Total Person-Hours: 2 x 8 = 16

Clipped and cut weeds between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. Posted routed wood mileage sign on a tall stump near the shelter, and left a new broom there. The shelter and spring are both in good shape. We returned to McQueens Gap, and cut weeds and clipped south to the emergency shelter. We r

lots of through-hikers (Seattle and dog Seven; Tortoise and Hare; Lady Bug and Pac Man; Wordsworth; Cheryl, Jason, and Cameron; Beeman; Catwoman; Brother; Shadow and Yellow Rose; Orphan and Ill Pac and Travis), all heading to Trail Days in Damascus. We spent the night at the Mountain Laurel Inn B&B in Damascus to celebrate Mary's birthday, and saw several of the same through-hikers the next day.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: May 12, 2001

Sections: Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

Purpose: Clip branches and freshen blazes

Number of People: 4 (Joe Herbert, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Tim McClain)

Total person-hours: 4 X 7 = 28

Cleared trail and blazed both ways. Several blowdowns were removed with bow saw. We reset some of blazed posts, which had been pulled out near the north end of Hump Mountain. Also, we temporarily repaired the log fence. Some of the posts need to be set deeper into the ground. There were no views that day with the clouds rushing by in the high winds.

Garry Luttrell reporting:

Date: May 15, 2001

Section: Backbone Rock Trail

Person Hours: 1 x 8 = 8 person hours

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Distance Hiked: 6 miles

People: One - Garry Luttrell

Hiked up the Backbone Rock Trail with a chainsaw and removed the two blowdowns (16" - 20" diameter) just trail north of the Va./Tenn. state line. Met several through hikers, and most were planning to be at Damascus for A.T. Days. The weeds on this part of the A.T. were not bad at this time, but look out later in the summer.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: May 15, 2001

Section: White Rocks

Purpose: Flag some trail relocations near Moreland Gap Shelter

Number of People: 2 (Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz)

Total person-hours: 2 X 12 = 24

Cleared trail from the fire tower to Moreland Gap Shelter. Flagged trail relocations both north and south of shelter to remove the steepest grades. We learned that White Rocks is appropriately named with all the huge rocks we ran into while exploring potential trail sites. This completes the flagging of relocations from White Rocks to Bitter End.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: May 19, 2001

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance - McQueens Gap to Spring

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

Total Person-Hours: 2 x 8 = 16

Clipped, cut weeds, and blazed from McQueens Gap south 1.5 miles to the spring that marks the southern end our adopted section. While I was finishing up the weeds, Steven went to Abingdon Gap Shelter to retrieve the shelter log, so we could check on reports of an aggressive bear in the area. However someone had already replaced the log with a new one.

Jeff Sirola adds:

Actually our Section 2 maintenance team replaced the trail log earlier Saturday morning. The retrieved log referenced above belongs to a thru-hiker and is in the mail to Bill Stowell, and indeed includes accounts of the bear....

Bill Stowell reporting:

Damascus Trail Days Work Project

May 20-21, 2001

Sunday - Carl Fritz, Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver Kim Peters, Bob Peoples "Half Track", Bruce Cunningham, Tom Regelsperger, Emily Anderson "Keebler", Forest Phil, Heather Ricks, Rod Lamb, Aaron Lamb, Steve Highland, Mary Peiffer, Amy Sternheim, The Amazing Dolphin Boy, Bryan Serrell "Sherpa", Kenley Smith "Khaos", Emma Scott, Mary Wanberg, Robert Dunthorne "Ox", Doug, Jamie Compas "Duct Tape", Paul Sohn "CR", Cory Zelmer "Singe".

Monday - Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Lane Monroe "Pepe", Teresa Pfeifer "Bluebird", Patti Schlatter "Survivor", Becky Moyers "Never Again", Pam Kunse "Deputies", Jamie Vandenburg, Lewis Moyers "Camo", Jo Jo Koby "JoJo", Forest Phil, Cory Zelmer "Singe", Emily Anderson "Keebler", Jamie Compos "Duct Tape", Amy Sternheim "Bookworm", Mary Peiffer "Indian Summer", Rob Lamb "Tell you What", Steve Highland, Mary Wanberg, Bryan Serrell "Sherpa", Kenley Smith "Khaos", Emma Scott, Heather Ricks, Alan Buhtz "Highlander", Karen Bareford "Deep Sea", Cindy Olsen "Tender Heart", Aaron Lamb "You Know That's Right", Tom Regelsperger "Too Obstuse", Lash Briggs "Lash", "Isis", "Jackrabbid", Sue Gerber "Skunky", Mark Gerber "Fester".

Come let me tell you a story about a man named Forest Phil .. I was on a section hike with my son Derrick back in March. We had just climbed Albert Mountain, and sitting there enjoying the view was Jack Coriell and a thru hiker call Forest Phil. We got to talking about hiking and maintenance and he had read about the Round Bald project work last year. I told him about the hiker patches and to contact Bob Peoples when he got to this area. Well he did and has worked on multiple trips on Round Bald and enjoyed it so much he organized a Trail Days "two-day" work trip to help TEHCC with a trail project. As a result we had 27 people on Sunday, May 20 and 34 people on Monday, May 21. We needed to harden the trail on the Hack Line side of Carvers Gap where it was getting muddy during wet periods. The project included putting logs on the downhill side of the trail and putting geotextile, and in places geoweb, and then carrying gravel by the 5 gallon bucket load up to the project site. This was accomplished by forming a bucket brigade. In two days nearly 15 tons of gravel were transported and placed on the trail with pure person power. This is an awesome accomplishment. Phil hopes the two-day work trip will become an annual Trail Days effort to help various clubs with projects. Many thanks go out to Phil and the thru hikers, Ed Oliver and Bruce Cunningham and Bob Peoples for their efforts in getting this project together, transporting hikers, and the normal hard work that goes into this type of project. Also I would like to thank the TEHCC members who came out and supported this project.

Bob Peoples reporting:

Date: May 24, 2001

Purpose: Clear blowdowns between the bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge

Number of People: 2 (Pepe, Slider) Thru Hikers

Total person hours: 3 x 2 = 6

Cleared two large bags of trash and bow sawed 2 blowdowns approximately 8" in diameter in Laurel Fork Gorge reported by David Gibson on his thru hike.

Bill Stowell reporting:

Konnarock Week

We had a good Konnarock crew this week led by Josh Adams who always does a great job. We completed the gravel work almost to the Round Bald sign. The crew with two Georgia Buggies rehabbed some of the

lower section also. If we have a good turn out and good weather this coming week, we should complete the Round Bald gravel project and be ready to work on the Grassy Ridge section the third week of Konnarock
Thursday, May 24, 2001

Frank Oglesby Sr., Frank Oglesby Jr., Bob Peoples, Paul Benfield

Friday, May 25, 2001

Frank Oglesby Sr., Frank Williams, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield

Saturday, May 26, 2001

Ed Oliver, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Bill Stowell, Steve Perri, Joe and Craig DeLoach, and Paul Benfield,. Also Thru Hikers (Anaka, Paul, and Tim)

Sunday, May 27, 2001

Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Frank Oglesby Sr., Steve Perri, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, 10 hours each, Jeff Alt 7 hours, and 3 Boy Scouts from Burnsville, NC (Brian Schwock, Keith Schwock, Nick Peragine)

Monday, May 28, 2001

Bob Peoples, Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bill Stowell, Thru Hikers("Tinkerbell", "Shotgun Willy", Rand Fulweber "Caboose", and Paul "Spyro" Graf)

Bill Berry reporting:

Date: May 26, 2001

Participants: 1 (Bill Berry)

Section: Spivey Gap to Flat Top Mountain Road

Hours: 7

Cut annual growth from Spivey Gap to Flat Top Mt. Road. Also transported an injured hiker, fifty three year old "Lucky Duck" from Massachusetts to the hostel at the Nolichucky bridge.