

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Phone
November 16	Fall Dinner Meeting (change in date)	FUN	Kathy McDavid	423-349-490
November 17	Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell	423-239-769

Southern Pine Beetle Hits the Cherokee National Forest

Steve Perri reporting:

The southern pine beetle (SPB) has made a long lasting impact on the pines in the Cherokee National Forest the last 2 years. If you have noticed a gradual change along the interstate with the natural green associated evergreen pine trees turning brown, no doubt you are observing the secondary effect of the southern pine beetle on the pines in the forest. The most obvious symptom of a southern pine beetle infestation is the discoloration of needles in the tree crown. Needles fade from green to dull green, light brown, and finally reddish-brown before falling. National Forest lands and private property have been over-whelmed by the effects of the southern pine beetle. The southern pine beetle may have up to eight generations a year with four life stages during each generation: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Development of all stages continues throughout the year, slowing considerably in the winter and accelerating in the spring and summer. The beetle usually feeds off the cambium layer beneath the bark, and cuts off the flow of water and nutrients up and down the tree. After a tree is attacked, the impact is spread up and down the trunk over the course of three to five days. The impact of an attack from a distance may not be visible until the following year when the tree dries out in the spring and summer and then turns brown.

The southern pine beetle has also impacted some areas frequented by the general public. These areas include campgrounds, trails, and picnic areas. Areas where trees have been killed by the SPB can result in trees that are potential hazards as falling tree limbs, tops or entire trees may be subject to wind and gravity, and fall to the ground without warning. Trees with these symptoms are called hazard trees. The USFS has begun a pro




stance to inform the public of potential hazard trees and has also begun to cut down dead trees before they potentially become a hazard to people visiting the forests in impacted areas.

A recent affected area by the southern pine beetle is the stand of red fir trees at Carvers Gap (see photos). A segment of the A.T. behind the restrooms adjacent to the parking area was infested by the SPB probably in 2012 but the noticeable dying of the trees wasn't visible until this year. The USFS recently cut down the red fir in a pro-active stance to minimize potential for falling debris upon visitors to this section of trail. This area also contained many campsites. While red fir is rarely a host plant for the SPB, the affect on red fir can be the same as on pine trees but usually the extent of damage is more confined to isolated areas.

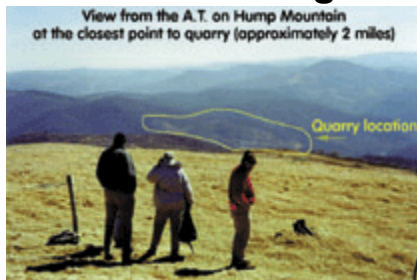
What you can do

Visitors to the Forest should exercise caution and be weary of their surroundings. Make a note of where you are for a break, water or lunch and make sure no dead trees are visible around you. If you have to walk through impacted areas, don't stop among the hazard trees. Make an effort to move through the area quickly so that you can minimize exposure time to potential hazard trees. If you observe any place that may be a common congregation spot by unsuspecting visitors, make a note and notify the local district ranger office.

Click on the small photo below to see a larger photo:

	A segment of the A.T. behind the Carvers Gap Parking Area , with potential hazard trees cut down by the USDA Forest Service (167KB). <i>Photo courtesy of Steve Perri.</i>
	A camping spot behind the Carvers Gap rest rooms , now in a more open area among the remaining hazard trees (173KB). <i>Photo courtesy of Steve Perri.</i>
	A segment of the A.T. near Carvers Gap , where the A.T. crosses several foot bridges among the remaining hazard trees (199KB). <i>Photo courtesy of Steve Perri..</i>

N.C. Mining Commission Upholds Revocation of Permit for Putnam Mine



News release reported by Steve Perri:

Putnam Mine: Victory in front of the Mining Commission!

State Mining Commission Upholds Revocation of Permit for Putnam Mine

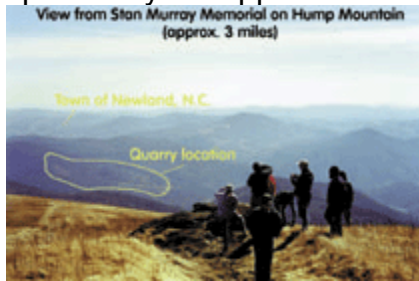
RALEIGH On October 17th, the N.C. Mining Commission voted to reject a recommendation from an administrative law judge (ALJ) to reinstate the mining permit for a quarry within view of the Appalachian Trail in Avery County. The quarry, Putnam Mine, visible from portions of the Appalachian Trail along Hump Mountain in the Roan Highlands, is opposed by the Appalachian Trail Conference, the National Parks Conservation Association, and many local residents.

residents.

By voting to reject the ALJ's recommendation, the commission upholds a September 7, 2000 decision by the Division of Land Resources to revoke the mining permit for the quarry, known as Putnam Mine, located about 3 miles from the Appalachian Trail. Reasons for revocation include visual effects and significant noise from the mining and crushing operation that would thwart the purpose of a public park and violate the state Mining Act. The commission also concluded that the ALJ had interpreted the agency's revocation authority in the Mining Act too narrowly.

When the Division of Land Resources issued the original permit, dated May 13, 1999, to the mine owners Clark Stone, staff was not aware of the quarry's visibility from the trail. Charles Gardner, director of the N.C. Division of Land Resources thoroughly evaluated information collected through several studies and two public meetings held by the division in March and August in Newland before making his decision to revoke the permit.

Gardner determined that the operation of the mine violates the state Mining Act because it has had and will continue to have a significant adverse effect on the purposes of a publicly-owned park, forest or recreation area, specifically the Appalachian Trail.



In May of 2000, Gardner notified Clark Stone of his intent to revoke the permit. He provided the company with an opportunity to propose modifications to the permit to minimize the operation's noise and visual impacts on views from the trail. In response to Gardner's letter of intent to revoke the permit, Clark Stone submitted proposed changes in June and in late August.

"I have carefully considered these proposals," Gardner said in his letter to Clark Stone. "Unfortunately, in my judgment Clark Stone's proposals do not provide a reasonable assurance that the significant adverse effects on the Appalachian Trail, especially the adverse visual effects, would be sufficiently mitigated."

The state Mining Commission, a nine-member rule-making panel for mining activities in North Carolina, makes decisions on contested case petitions. Commission members are appointed by the governor.

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Fall Dinner Meeting 2001

When: Friday, November 16th, 2001

Where: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, Tennessee

Agenda: 5:30pm Social 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Program

Program: *Twenty Eight Days in a Tent on the South Island of New Zealand - Bill Tindall*

The south island of New Zealand has the geographical diversity of the U.S., shrunk to a size that can be explored in a month. Stunning beaches, towering peaks, rain forest and barren mountains are within a day's drive from one another. While we didn't cover every road on the island, we traveled many of them and many of what we traveled were gravel. In addition to the pictures of the island's geography, the presentation will cover topics that will be of interest to persons contemplating a trip to the south island, such as driving on the wrong side, gravel roads, one lane bridges, dealing with sheep, campground cooking, foraging for local food, seeking advice and **rain**.

Menu: Mixed Lettuce, topped with Chopped Raw Vegetables and seasoned croutons; served with Ranch, Blue Cheese or Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Chicken Breast Italiano (Baked Chicken Breast topped with Parmesan) over Fettuccine with Marinara Sauce
Vegetables Stir Fry

Rolls
Dessert
Coffee/Tea
(Catered by Jane's Lunch Box)

Dinner Price: Adults: \$15.00 (Inclusive)
Children 12 and under: \$5.00 (Inclusive)
Social: Soft drinks \$0.50, beer or wine for \$1

Reservations: As always, there is no charge for attending the program only.
Please fill out the form below and send it and a check made out to TEHCC to:
Jessica McGee, B-280, send to

Or
Jessica McGee
937 Childress Ferry Road
Blountville, Tennessee 37617

Reservation Form: Name: _____
Number of Adults' Meals _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Number of Children's Meals _____ x \$5.00 = _____
TOTAL = _____

Attending Meeting Only: (indicate number) _____

IMPORTANT NOTE

The check and reservation form must be received by Monday, November 12.

Canoeing News



Photo submitted by Mike Morrow, taken at Pillow Rapid on the Gauley River in West Virginia.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

No reports this month.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)

Hike Leaders Needed!

Neil Dotson reporting:

It's time again to assemble the hiking club calendar. So, please think about an old favorite hike, or one you always wanted to do, be it an extreme hike or an easy family/beginner outing, look at a calendar, choose a

weekend, and volunteer to lead a hike. Just send me (Neil Dotson) a note telling me:

- what hike you'd like to lead
- what day you'd like to lead it
- the difficulty rating (as I said, I will try to help if you're baffled on this one), and
- your home phone number and e-mail address (if you have one).

[Please respond](#) by the end of November.

Hikes on days [other than Saturday](#) are also welcome. Hikes on third Saturdays are welcome, but may go with [the usual](#) maintenance trips for attendance. Recall that we have a new hike rating system (borrowed Georgia Mountain Club). As to where to hike, choices are plentiful as you know - narrowing it down is the fun. For those of you who are new: even for Saturday hikes we go to places as far-flung as the Smokies (even the western part of the park), Cumberland Gap, the Mt. Rogers area, Grandfather Mountain, and Linville Gorge, as well as places as near by as Bays Mountain or the Kingsport Greenbelt. Since this is the winter-spring schedule, in the colder months some lower-altitude hikes might be preferred for the family type events, whereas the higher altitude hikes might be more aimed at hearty souls who wish to tell stories of grand adventure in years to come (with your help cooperating). Wildflower hikes are always appreciated in the spring.

Thanks much!

New Hike Rating Codes!

Neil Dotson reporting:

Distance

AA over 13 miles

A 9-13 miles

B 5-9 miles

C under 5 miles

Pace

1 very fast (2.5+ mph)

2 fast (2-2.5 mph)

3 moderate (1.5-2 mph)

4 leisurely (<1.5 mph)

Terrain

A very strenuous

B strenuous

C average

D easy

(This rating appears to incorporate both elevation gain and roughness - climbing up a mile would be an "A" hike, perhaps also would be a nasty irritating knob hiking - pointless up-and-downs - without an elevation gain. A good starting point, just with regard to elevation gain, would be to consider "A" to be >2500 ft elevation gain, "B" to be 1500 and 2500 ft, "C" < 1500 ft, and "D" with virtually no gain (say, the Greenbelt). This is just my off-the-cuff - other suggestions or corrections would be welcome!)

Thus an AA/1/A hike would be a bit on the tough side, while an extremely easy one would be C/4/D.

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Part 1)

Bill Stowell reporting:

Date: September 29, 2001

Section: 12 (Bitter End to U.S. 19E)

Purpose: Work on Elk River relocation with Lees McRae College group

Number of People

TEHCC: 9 (Joe DeLoach, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Frank Williams, Bill Murdock Cunningham, and Bill Stowell)

Total TEHCC person-hours: $9 \times 9 = 81$

Lees-McRae College: 20 (Nodiya Vouk, Josh Applegate, Peter Holmes, Cooper Kahlenberg, Zack Bridg Candace Edwards, Jessica Minch, Jessica Rasmussen, Kyle Haupt, Joseph Brown, Greg T. Redding, Ra Clay, Kristen Perkins, Charles Broadway, Lee Morris, Hilda Smith, Tray Evans, and Nan McAden, Stewart Gene Spears)

Total Lees-McRae College person-hours: $20 \times 7 = 140$

Grand total person-hours: 221

Summary: We met a group of Lees McRae students at Elk Falls, and continued work on the Elk River re We completed another 450 feet of trail. This was another good group of students who worked very hard. measured all the trail built at this site since Konnarock started this summer and we have put down about 4 Very impressive!

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Section: 12 - Bitter End - Trail South

Purpose: Install steps and relocate trail

Number of People: 12 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Pe Frank Williams, and thru hikers: Phil Prudich, Devin Macrostie, Matt Burney, Ryan Cavs, and Ryan Potter)

Total person-hours: $12 \times 8 = 96$

Summary: While Bruce, Bill and Bob installed eight steps out of a drainage, the other nine cleared and d 500 feet of side hill trail. Bruce, Bill and Bob also fixed some blazes at High Point where northern bound h were getting confused. Unfortunately, the three B's disturbed a white bull that thought they were chasing h Therefore, Bill was posted on bull watch! The south bound thru hikers were in excellent shape and had ple endurance even after digging trail. To prove it four of them hiked the 10 miles to Kincora Hostel in slightly two hours.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Section: 12 - Bitter End - Trail South

Purpose: Install bog bridges

Number of People: 6 (Jim Davis, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: $6 \times 7 = 42$

Summary: We installed two new bog bridges, one 18 feet and the other 16 feet. We covered both with e metal to improve foot traction. We also covered an existing bridge with expanded metal. We relocated a bridge and doubled its width. Everyone took turns with the two sledgehammers trying to drive the rebar in bed to support the 6x6 bases. One dead white pine beside the trail was felled since it was already leaning root ball would have uprooted the trail.

Bill Stowell reporting:

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2001

Section: 12 (Bitter End to U.S. 19E)

Purpose: Water Bars and trail relocation

Number of People: 15 (ETSU: Kevin O'Donnell, Susan Stanford, Cory Brown, Ajay Kalra, TEHC: Jeff Si Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, D

Gibson, Bill Stowell, Hiker: "Roy")

Total person-hours: 15 X 9 = 135

Summary: Well, October 3rd Saturday has come and gone. If you missed it you missed a great outing. No one comes out for 3rd Saturdays anymore but 15 people did. We installed water bars trail north of Bitt Road and some trail south. We also completed 720 feet of new trail opening another section of trail around and closing the old trail. Not bad for one day's work. Those who came to help were from ETSU: Kevin O' Susan Stanford, Cory Brown, Ajay Kalra, and from TEHC: Jeff Siirola, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver Peters, Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Bill Stowell, and hiker "Roy"