

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

December 2001

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Phone
Jan 5	Bitter End to U.S. 19E	A/2/B	Mary Ellen Ress	349-6536
Jan 11	Chimney Top		Collins Chew	239-6237
	Various Trail Maintenance Trips		Bill Stowell	423-239-7697

ATC Workshops Available in 2002

Steve Perri reporting:

Each year, ATC helps sponsor workshops to assist clubs with training to carry out their management activities on the A.T. We currently have a list of courses that will most likely be available for A.T. maintaining club members to take at some point next year after they are scheduled. If you are interested in any workshop training, please let Steve Perri (423-229-1484, email) know. Most courses are free with the exception of those courses where an outside instructor will be required. Workshops include:

Standard Training Workshops

Basic Maintenance
 Chainsaw Safety (Training for the A.T.)
 Corridor Monitoring and Boundary Maintenance
 Winch Techniques for Trail Work

Other Training Workshops

Introduction to A.T. Management
 Trail Design
 Drainage
 Rockwork
 Wilderness First Aid
 Crosscut Saw Use and/or Maintenance

Tool Maintenance
 Leadership
 Bog Bridge/Turnpike Construction
 Leave No Trace Education
 Forest Planning
 Natural Diversity Monitoring Training
 Leadership Skills

Schedule for January-June, 2002

The calendar is shaping up quite nicely (much thanks to all who have responded), but there are still spaces in February, March, and June, as shown below, so if you would like to lead a hike, please let me know soon. This is the tentative schedule below.

Thanks!

423-224-0557 (work phone)

423-245-6105 (home phone)

(work e-mail)

(home e-mail)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
Jan 5	Bitter End to U.S. 19E	A/2/B	M. Ress	349-6536
Jan 12	Chimney Top	C/3/B	C. Chew	239-6237
Jan 19	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
Jan 26	TBD		S. Humphrey	
Feb 2	TBD		M. Ress	
Feb 9				
Feb 16	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
Feb 23				
Mar 2				
Mar 9				
Mar 16	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
Mar 23				
Mar 30				
Apr 6				
Apr 13	McQueens Gap to Damascus	A/3/C	R. Colberg	288-8333
Apr 20	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
Apr 27	Massey Gap - Pine Mountain/Wilburn Ridge Loop	A/2/C	C. Chew	
May 4	Spring Wildflower Hike: Little Hump Mountain	M	J. DeLoach	
May 11	South Beyond 6000: Newfound Gap to Clingmans Dome via Mt.	B/2/A	C. Chew	

	Collins			
May 18	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
May 25				
Jun 1				
Jun 8				
Jun 15	Little Stony Creek (Jefferson National Forest, Virginia)	C/3/C	V. Hasler	239-0388
Jun 15				
Jun 22	Third Saturday Maintenance		E. Oliver/B. Stowell	
Jun 29				

Hikes beyond this calendar:

July 13-14: Mt. LeConte Creek Hike, Dewey Fuller (leader)

July 13-14: Mt. LeConte Trail Hike, Steve Falling (leader)

New Hike Rating Codes!

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", but perhaps also would 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" between 1500 and 2500 ft, "C" < 1500 ft, and "D" with virtually no gain (say, the Greenbelt). This is just my off-the-cuff guess - 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**.

Canoeing News



Dewey Fuller running State Line Falls in the Watauga River Gorge. Submitted by Mike Morrow.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

No reports this month.

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

Hike Notice - Bitter End to U.S. 19E - January 5, 2002

Leader: Mary Ellen Ress

Approximately 9 - 10 miles, with a rating of A/2/B. We'll meet in Colonial Heights next to McDonald's at 7:45 a.m. If the roads are too bad (i.e. snowy or icy) to get to Bitter End, but okay to get to the N.C. border, we'll do an out and back from U.S. 19E. Bring water, food, and appropriate clothing. Email me at or call 423-349-6536 for more information or if the weather is questionable. Leader: Mary Ellen Ress

Wilderness Wildlife Week, January 5-13, 2002

G. S. Luttrell reporting

The 12th annual Wilderness Wildlife Week, will again be hosted by the Heartlander Country Star Resort, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Hike Notice - Chimney Top - January 12, 2002

Leader: Collins Chew

We will take the short, steep hike up Chimney Top on Saturday, January 12, 2002. There are nice views from the top and a short, low-level drive to get the trail head at the Faulkner's. This is the little mountain which looks like a volcano south of Kingsport. The hike is about 4 miles round-trip after a drive of about 15 miles. We will meet at 9:00 A. M. at the regular meeting place between McDonalds and the State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. You might bring a snack but we should be home for a late lunch. Bring water and appropriate clothing for a cold, windy stop at the top. Trip will be cancelled if roads are icy. Call Collins Chew at 423/239-6237 for information or e-mail to .

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)

John Thompson reporting:

Date: Thursday October 11, 2001

Section: Watauga Lake to Pond Flats

Purpose: semi - annual maintenance

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

Total person hours: 2 X 9 = 18

On October 11 we checked our adopted section on a cool, sunny day. We removed 13 moderate obstructions including tangles, dangles, and small logs on the foot path. The blazes were adequate and the only litter was small amounts at the bottom and around the spring just south of Pond Flats. No other persons were seen on the trail. (Note: Having heard and seen a rattle snake during lunch at the Flats several years ago, we named the spot "Rattle Snake Point").

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Section: 5, Cross Mountain

Purpose: Visit Osborne Tract with USFS, ATC, and The Nature Conservancy to begin developing a management plan

Number of People: 7 (Morgan Sommerville, Seiko, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nichols, Carl Fritz)

Total person-hours: 2 (Bob & Seiko) X 5 + 1 (Morgan) X 8 + 5 X 7 = 53

Summary: On a cool and blustery day we met with a Nature Conservancy Representative, a local logger and twenty one USFS representatives to start suggesting options for managing this newly acquired property. Since it was obtained primarily for relocation of the Appalachian Trail, protection of the viewshed in Shady Valley, and protection of a cranberry bog, these elements will have high priority. The many buildings and structures were inspected and discussed for possible uses and/or removal. A poplar log house with cut nails, which are pre-Civil War, is a unique structure which is eligible for National Register of Historic Places. Most options considered would continue to maintain the open areas by cattle grazing. The potential views are fantastic. TEHCC representatives will be meeting with ATC and USFS representatives to lay out a proposed location of the trail. This will tentatively happen on

November 28. (USFS suggested one of the best wood preservatives is 1 oz. of paraffin and 1 oz. of varnish in one gallon of mineral spirits.)

David Gibson reporting:

Date: October 30

Section: Watauga Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

Participants: Bob Peoples and David Gibson:

Total hours worked: 20 (2 x 10)

We began at Watauga Dam Road and immediately encountered a significant number of large blowdowns, many in clusters. One right after another until about an hour and a half into the morning and ten or twelve cleared blowdowns later, we discovered we weren't actually on the A.T. Bob designated it an official side trail. Once on the A.T. we cleared six large blowdowns with the crosscut saw and numerous smaller ones between the road and the shelter.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: November 7

Section: Bitter End Relo Work Trip

Participants: Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Bill Elderbrock, David Gibson

Total hours worked: 40 hours (5X8)

Summary: We continued digging new trail on the relo segments south of Bitter End. After running into some difficult rocks along the cliff on a new switchback, Bob and Ed came up with an ingenious solution and found the way. We completed about 150 feet of new trail, cut a number of locust logs for steps and waterbars, and transplanted several rhododendrons to deter hikers from cutting a switchback.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: November 14, 2001

Section: 12 - Bitter End - Trail South

Purpose: Trail Relocation

Number of People: 4 (Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 4 X 8.5 = 34

Summary: On this warm, T-shirt day in mid November, we continued digging the trail relocation. Bob and David finished the steps down around the cliffs. Fortunately, many dead locust trees were nearby for supplying the steps, waterbars, and side berms for building around obstacles like large tree roots. We have moved along the bottom of the cliffs and are now moving away towards the existing trail. After all the rocks and duff, Frank said he is even looking forward to the normal sidehill digging and rhododendron patches. This section of trail is very scenic with the boulders and cliffs.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: November 21, 2001

Section: 12 - Bitter End (Trail South) + Campbell Hollow

Purpose: Trail Relocation near Bitter End and Blazing near Campbell Hollow

Number of People: 3 (Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: 3 X 9 = 27

Summary: On this very warm November day, we completed this new section of trail back to the A.T. Because of the many boulders, we had to crib, fill and relocate a lot of

soil. Bob had his Wheaties this morning and within a half-hour pulled a head off a pulaski and broke a pair of loppers. By 4 PM we had run low on energy, but were determined to finish. We blazed this new section and removed the blazes from the old trail. We also went to Campbell Hollow Road. Trail south through the pine trees and beyond was confusing because of grading and a USFS burn plus some road cuts to harvest some of the pine trees by the root ball. Since we checked about three weeks ago, someone (maybe USFS) has installed additional posts and did much blazing. We added a couple of more blazes. More trees were already bundled and ready for harvesting, so this area should be inspected again in December.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: November 28, 2001

Section: 5, Cross Mountain

Purpose: Flag a proposed trail route on Osborne Tract

Number of People: 11 (Bryan Combs, Seiko, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Frank Williams, Darrol Nickols, Derek Ibarguen, Morgan Sommerville, Delce Dyer, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz)

Total person-hours: $10 \times 9.5 + 1 \text{ (Bryan Combs)} \times 15 = 110$

Summary: On this T-shirt day, we explored the recently purchased Osborne tract to determine where to locate the trail. Thanks to the many alternatives suggested by participants and some healthy debates, we flagged a proposed trail that we are very pleased with. It takes advantage of almost all the open area close to the ridge. It crosses Tenn. 91 just north of the driveway and proceeds immediately to the open field. It passes northeast but close to most of the existing farm buildings. A 5% grade was maintained to the high point on the farm. The proposed trail continues through the open areas until it picks up the old road near the back of the property. Near the property line an easy path to the existing trail was chosen. Without question the views from this trail are superb. Except for the stiles to get through the fences, this trail should be easy to build. Bryan Combs, who just completed the A.T. a week ago and resides in Charlotte, drove all the way over the mountains to help.