

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

February 2002

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Leader	Rating	Date	Phone
Various Trail Maintenance Trips	Bill Stowell			423-239-7697
A.T.: Low Gap (U.S. 421) to Damascus (Virginia) Hike	Mary Ellen Ress	AA/2/B	February 2	423-349-6536
Doe River Gorge Hike	Steve Perri	C/4/D	February 9	423-349-5091
A.T.: Garenflo Gap to Hot Springs, N.C.	Kent and Nancy Wilson	B/2/C	February 9	423-239-7554
A.T.: Sams Gap to Devils Fork Gap ** Change from original schedule **	Steve Humphrey	B/2/C	February 16	423-943-3573
SB6000: Leader's Choice	Garry Luttrell	A/2/A	February 23	423-239-9854
Maintenance Dinner	Bill Stowell	Fun	March 1	423-239-7697
SB6000: Shining Rock Wilderness	Kent and Nancy Wilson	A/2/B	March 23	423-239-7554

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**

## Maintenance Dinner

This years Maintenance Dinner will be held on Friday March 1 starting at 6:00PM. It will be at the [Eastman Lodge](#) (note change in location). The cost should be \$3 each. Dinner will be lasagna, and a fish lasagna will also be available for non meat-eaters. Ed Oliver and Mary Cunningham are preparing the dinner. Bring a dessert if you like.

Let Bill Stowell know if you are coming so we can plan on how much food to prepare.  
Bill Stowell, 239-7697 (home), 229-5163 (work).

## TEHCC Safety Training: Standard First Aid and CPR Courses

*Steve Perri reporting*

ATC has initiated a new training program to make funding available for trail clubs to be reimbursed for CPR and First Aid courses. Last year, several individuals who do trail maintenance opted to take the opportunity for this training. However, the CPR course is certified for only 1 year. So those of us who took the classes last year are good for First Aid, but not for CPR. Those who are interested in CPR, will need to be certified on an annual basis. Fortunately, ATC has provided support to provide \$250 for each trail club to reimburse members for getting certified in these courses at a local American Red Cross during 2000.

To be certified in Standard First Aid, the cost is \$21.00 which includes the book (if you have a book already, it is \$14.00). If you want to take just the CPR portion of the training, the cost is \$18.00 (if you have a book already, it is \$12.00). For just CPR or Standard First Aid, the length of the course is one evening. If you need both CPR and Standard First Aid, the courses are offered 2 evenings. Considering the reimbursement, this is a good opportunity to receive the training since it is good to have not only on the trail but at home, at work, or in the community. So if you're interested in training for CPR, Standard First Aid or both, let me know and I'll try to schedule a class in the next month or so. If you can't make a class we do as a group, you can join any other class that meets your schedule needs and forward your receipt to me so you can be reimbursed. In the event we have more than 10 people sign up, I'll divide up the overall cost on a per/person basis to subtract out the ATC funding so that the cost is spread out and minimized across the board for all who receive the training. Please sign up by Feb. 15 so we can get scheduled as soon as possible.

To sign up, just drop me an email ( ) or give me a call at (W) x-1484, (H) 423-349-5091 to let me know what class(es) you are interested in. In the event you don't sign up with our club, you can schedule a class directly with the American Red Cross in Kingsport, call 378-8700.

## 2002 Trail Skills Workshops

Volunteers in the southern region are invited to participate in a wide array of workshops that provide the necessary skills to properly maintain trail. Although the sessions are primarily oriented for A.T. volunteers, others are welcome to participate. See

[http://www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/steward/south\\_wkshp.html](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/steward/south_wkshp.html) for more details.

## Canoeing News

Watch for March newsletter - paddle events on the way! Check the schedule on the web if you can't wait.

## Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

**A.T. Hike Report - Saturday, January 5, 2002 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E**

*Mary Ellen Ress reporting*

We had a beautiful day for this hike, although the cool temperature, the many ascents

and descents, and going in and out of the sun demanded frequent taking off and putting back on layers of clothing. The shuttle proved easier than usual because Tom Dosser met us at 19E and took 4 hikers in his car - he wanted to see how to get to Bitter End. It was cold as we started south on the A.T., following the new relocation, which is GREAT (many thanks to the maintainers!). Collins had his wheel to map this section, so we had frequent check points for wheel, altimeter, and two GPS readings. After lunch on a hill top, in the sun, with a view (these were the requirements put forth by some of the group), we found out why there is another relocation planned for the southern end of this section. That long steep uphill has got to go! The hike leader was feeling a little under-the-weather and that climb about did her in. When we made it back to 19E we were happy to find all cars/windows intact. Hiking the 10.4 miles were Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Freda Kuo, Kim Peters, Rodney Baker, Matt Fields, Collins Chew, Kent Wilson, and Mary Ellen Ress.

### **Trip Report: Chimney Top, January 12, 2002**

*Collins Chew reporting*

A host of hikers (16) took advantage of the beautiful winter day, late departure hour and gracious hospitality of the Faulkners to hike up Chimney Top on Saturday, 1/12/02.

This was a joint hike of TEHCC and the Friday Hikers. All made it up through the cliffs to the beacon and most went on to the dilapidated firetower which provides a panoramic view of pine needles from three feet away in all directions. Views from the beacon area were much better and we picked out many mountains and other features in the distance. Most seemed to agree that the promise of a steep hike was fulfilled.

Since it is a short hike with short drive, we returned to Colonial Heights by 1:30 P. M. Hikers were: Olan Babb, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Rodney Gray, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Bob Miller, Larry Miller, Pam Babb Orton, Brenda Whitt, Allan, Kent, and Nancy Wilson, Steve Woody, and Collins Chew.

### **Hike Report - Devil's Bathtub, Scott County, Virginia, January 18, 2002**

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The lack of recent rains would mean that creek crossings on our Bathtub and Beyond hike wouldn't be anything to worry about, I said in my earlier notice. That was wrong. Evidently the weather in that part of Scott County has been somewhat different from the Kingsport area, because the creeks were up and the crossings were formidable. It's good to be able to report, though, that we made the crossings without incident. I have just checked the USGS map of the area and I see that the trail we took crosses Straight Fork twice and Devil Fork five times. Those of us who took the hike know that there were at least a dozen of them.

This hike was along Devil Fork of Straight Fork of Stony Creek, and the main object was to see Devil's Bathtub. This natural wonder isn't easy to find -- the casual hiker would go right past it, which is what we did on our earlier outing. Collins knew about where it was supposed to be, though, so he scouted around and located it for us. It's a scoured-out basin of the creek bed, which is at the base of a stair-step cataract. The size is about sixteen feet long by six to eight feet wide and I'd guess that it's eight or ten feet deep. There were several other deep pools along Devil Fork and no doubt they would be attractive swimming holes in the dead of summer. This time of the year it's good enough just to look and admire. Following our brief inspection of the bathtub, we continued our hike and got high up on the south side of Little Mountain, where the

terrain is considerably different from the steep hollow we had been in -- gently rolling slopes. The innumerable stream crossings had taken considerable time and it meant that we couldn't take the proposed side trip up to the crest of the mountain and back. As it was, we completed the basic hike, which was a big loop of about 7 to 7-1/2 miles in length.

The weather was pleasantly cool. There had been some snow in the area which hadn't melted off the trail where it was shaded.

It was gratifying to have such a large number for this hike. Those who went were: Charles Beggerow, Collins Chew, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Larry Miller, Kim Peters, Glen Smith (his first time with the FHA) and Brenda Whitt.

After we got back, Freda e-mailed me to say that she had gone into her files and found a picture of Devil's Bathtub which had come out in the Kingsport paper a while ago. She compared it with what we saw on Friday -- and they weren't the same! The paper's photographer must have found and shot one of the other pools. It's bound to have been easier to take a picture of than the genuine article!

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

**A.T. Hike - Low Gap (U.S. 421) to Damascus (Virginia) - Saturday, February 2, 2002**

*Leader: Mary Ellen Ress*

*Rating: AA/2/B*

We'll hike from Low Gap on 421 to Damascus, 14.8 miles. If the road conditions don't allow that, we'll hike south on the A.T. out of Damascus as far as we want or as far as the weather permits (I've been turned back by DEEP snow drifts on this hike before). Meet at Colonial Heights at 7:45 a.m. Call 349-6536 for different meeting point or more information, or email

**Hike - Doe River Gorge - Saturday, February 9, 2002**

*Leader: Steve Perri*

*Rating: C/4/D - Easy*

This is a relatively easy hike since it fairly flat. Total distance is about 3 miles round trip. The gorge is usually lined with icicles dangling along the rock walls for some beautiful scenery if the winter weather has been cold and wet. This year, it's any ones guess what the walls will be like. There are two railroad tunnels we pass through and several overlooks with views of the river. The property, located just outside of Hampton, Tennessee, actually belongs to a youth camp - we ask for permission and sign a release to walk the gorge. Over the years the railroad has been renovated and the facilities more developed. This time of year there usually is very little going on. Dress appropriately and bring snacks and water. Current plans are to meet in Colonial Heights between McDonalds and the State of Franklin Bank at 8:00 am, the standard departure time and place. Keep an eye on the weather; inclement weather or hazardous roads may be cause for postponement or cancellation. We can enjoy lunch

on the way back at the Classic Malt Shop (now something else) in Elizabethton. We will most likely be back early in the afternoon. Call for more information (423-349-5091).

**AT. Hike - Garenflo Gap to Hot Springs, N.C. - Saturday, February 9, 2002**

*Leaders: Nancy and Kent Wilson*

*Rating: A/2/B*

We will have an easy hike with a descent of about 1200 feet over 6.6 miles as we hike from Garenflo Gap into the town of Hot Springs. The views of the town should be good as we descend. There will be an optional trip to the hot tubs and to the outfitter after the hike. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing for the weather, and a towel to enjoy the relaxing dip at the end. We will meet at 8:00am between the bank and McDonalds in Colonial Heights. Call 239-7554 for more information.

**AT. Hike - Sams Gap to Devils Fork Gap - Saturday, February 16, 2002**

*Leader: Steve Humphrey*

*Rating: B/2/C*

This is a very nice winter hike with a moderate difficulty level. It affords some nice views in the wintertime from High Rock and Frozen Knob. Meeting time will be 7:45a.m. between the McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. This is necessary to meet some other hikers at the Kroger's off Exit 31 in Johnson City at 8:30. Bring lunch, water and layers of warm clothing.

**Hike: South Beyond 6000, Yellow Face and Waterrock Knob, February 23, 2002**

*Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854*

*Rating: A/3/A*

This will be a full day trip, with an early start and late return to Kingsport. We'll drive to Soco Gap and hike Route #2 listed in the South Beyond 6000 Booklet: A climb of 2000 ft. and 3 mi. following an old road and then the ridge crest to Waterrock Knob; then, another 2 mi. to Yellow Face and back to the parking lot at Waterrock Knob. We will complete the loop by following the Blue Ridge Parkway 4 mi. back down to Soco Gap. Gear for winter conditions is required. Contact the hike leader by phone or for further information.

**Hike - South Beyond 6000, Shining Rock Wilderness: Art Loeb Trail - Saturday, March 23, 2002**

*Leaders: Nancy & Kent Wilson*

Note that the date for this hike has been changed from March 9. Details in March newsletter.

## **Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (*Past*)**

*Carl Fritz reporting:*

**Date:** January 4, 2002

**Section:** 12 near Campbell Hollow Road

**Purpose:** Assemble Bog Bridge

**Number of People:** 3 (Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

**Total person-hours:** 3 X 3 = 9

**Summary:** We assembled a bog bridge to replace the washed out culvert near

Campbell Hollow Road. This bridge will be hauled to the site as a complete unit. Also, we started assembly of a stile that will be located nearer 19E. We are going to try using the expanded metal for traction rather than wood crosspieces. Both of these will be installed when the ground is not frozen.

*Carl Fritz reporting:*

**Date:** January 15, 2002

**Section:** 12 near Campbell Hollow and Walnut Mountain Roads

**Purpose:** Install Bridge and Cutout Trail Relocation

**Number of People:** 6 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams)

**Total person-hours:** 6 X 8.5 = 51

**Summary:** On a beautiful day for mid January, we installed a ten-foot bridge at the stream just north of Campbell Hollow Road. Last year the plastic culvert pipes were washed out. We repaired the stream banks with rock and cleaned the stream. Then we moved to Walnut Mountain Road to start clearing more of the trail relocation at Elk River. With bow saws and loppers we cleared over 1800 feet. Because of the many old roads that this trail will follow in this area, there will be only a limited amount of digging required to open it.

*Carl Fritz reporting:*

**Date:** January 22, 2002

**Section:** 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

**Purpose:** Cutout Trail Relocation

**Number of People:** 8 (Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdock, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams)

**Total person-hours:** 8 X 8.5 = 68

**Summary:** We continued clearing more of the trail relocation. With bow saws and loppers we cleared almost exactly one mile of trail. We got just beyond the unnamed falls. The trail will be about 40 feet below the falls with a side trail to the foot of the falls. Because of our great progress with clearing, we will be rewarded with digging tools on the next trip.