

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

April 2002

www.tehcc.org

Contents

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting 2002](#)
- [Newsletter Editor Needs Help](#)
- [Designer and Ideas Sought for New Club T-Shirt](#)
- [Canoeing News](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Leader	Rating	Date	Phone
Various Trail Maintenance Trips	Bill Stowell			423-239-7697
Obed Paddle Festival	Richard Guinn		April 6-7	423-477-5711
Nantahala Outdoor Center Spring Sale and Swapmeet	Richard Guinn		April 6-8	423-477-5711
Spring Dinner Meeting	Kim Peters		April 12	
A.T.: McQueens Gap to Damascus	Richard Colberg	A/3/C	April 13	423-288-8333
TSRA Whitewater Rendezvous	Richard Guinn		April 17-21	423-477-5711
Massey Gap/Pine Mountain/Wilburn Ridge Loop (Mt. Rogers area)	Collins Chew	A/2/C	April 27	423-239-6237
Spring Wildflower Hike: Pinnacle Mountain Nature Preserve - POSTPONED FROM APRIL 6	Kathy McDavid	C/4/C	April 27	423-349-4901
A.T.: Springer Mountain to Dicks Creek Gap	Kent and Nancy Wilson	AA/2/B	May	423-239-7554

F/B: Spring Wildflower Hike, Little Hump Mountain	Joe DeLoach	B/3/C	May 4	423-753-7903
Paddling: Bluestone	Terry Dougherty	II-III	May 4-5	423-323-2647
SB6000: Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome	Collins Chew	B/2/B	May 11	423-239-6237

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Spring Dinner Meeting 2002**

When: Friday, April 12th, 2002
Where: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, Tennessee
Agenda: 5:15 p.m. Social
6:00 p.m. Dinner
Program: 6:45 p.m.

Awards: Hiker/Maintainer; Stan Murray Award
Silent Auction of two rental tents: Four-person LL Bean Dome and Two-person Eureka

Mt. Elbert, Colorado Trip, September, 2001 - Mary Ellen Ress

In September, 2001, the Collins Chew Crew set out to climb Mt. Elbert, the highest mountain in Colorado and the 2nd highest in the continental U.S. These slides depict the adventures of these six TEHCC hikers during their week trip in the spectacular Colorado high country.

Bony-Adventure on the Bonaventure River - Richard Guinn

This photographic presentation will follow the adventures of four canoeists paddling the beautiful Bonaventure River through the Gaspé Peninsula of eastern Quebec, Canada. The river begins in the Chic Choc Mountains and flows 85 miles through mostly wilderness to Chaleur Bay in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The water is emerald green and amazingly clear, and the scenery is spectacular.

Menu: Lasagna Buffet including Salad, Bread, Tea, Lemonade and Cheesecake; Catered by Skoby's

Dinner Price: Adults: \$12.50 (Inclusive)
Children 12 and under: \$6.25 (Inclusive)
Social: Soft drinks \$0.50; beer or wine for \$1.00

As always there is no charge for attending the program only.

Reservation Form: Please complete the form below and send it with a check made out to:
Jessica McGee () and mail to:
Terrill McGee - B125 - Eastman

Or
Jessica McGee
937 Childress Ferry Road
Blountville, Tennessee 37617
Reservation Form: Names of all attending (Please print)

Name: _____ Name:

Name:
Name:
Number of Adult

Meals _____ x \$12.50 = \$ _____
Number of Children Meals _____ x \$6.25 = \$ _____
Number of Vegetarian Meals _____ x \$12.50 or _____ x \$6.25 =
\$ _____
Attending Meeting Only: (indicate number) _____

IMPORTANT NOTE

The check and reservation form must be received **by Monday, April 8.**
Drawings for Door Prizes provided by Mahoneys

Newsletter Editor Needs Help

Jan Mayo reporting:

Each month, I mail approximately 30 hard copies of the newsletter to members of our group. I am no longer working directly at the plant site, so I go to B-280 infrequently now. This means that our members are not getting their newsletters as quickly as they were. Another club member provides the mailing labels, and I affix those to large mailing envelopes, insert the printed copies (the print shop in B-280 prints them from the file that Richard sends) and take them to the mailroom where they are mailed, using our charge code through recreation. Someone in B-280 would be ideal, but anyone could drop the envelopes by the mailroom. Please send me an e-mail if you are willing to do or have questions about it. Thanks!

Designer and Ideas Sought for New Club T-Shirts

Several club members have expressed the desire to have available new club T-shirts. Previously we had designed shirts for the 50th Anniversary of the club. Many of those shirts are worn out and so there is now an opportunity to create a new shirt available to the general club membership. Anyone interested in providing volunteer time, designs, or ideas are welcome. To contribute, please contact Steve Perri (423-349-5091, email:).

The design volunteer will be awarded a free t-shirt and dinner at an upcoming Club Dinner Meeting.

Canoeing News



Introductory Whitewater School 2002

The 31st 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 6th, 8th, and 9th. 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 6th (Thur) Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM.
Eastman Lodge, Room A2
Eastman Recreation Area, near Bays Mountain Park
Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.

June 8th (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 9th (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 by May 23rd (make checks out to Mike Morrow, see address below). Plus membership fee, payable at Thursday evening's lecture.

Registration: complete and return the form below and mail it to Mike Morrow by May 23rd at 1028 Surmont Ct. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660. Feel free to call for more details.

Questions: Contact Mike Morrow at (423) 245-1201.

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)

Introductory Whitewater School

Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed

The 31st annual TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Paddling Clinic is quickly approaching. The clinic is the weekend of June 8th and 9th. Volunteers are needed to help instruct and safety boat. The clinic will only be successful if I have your help. PLEASE volunteer to help at this year's clinic. Call Mike Morrow at (423) 245-1201 or e-mail if you can help on one or both days. Thanks in advance.

Additional Swift Water Rescue Practice Sessions

I have scheduled additional Swift Water Rescue (SWR) practice sessions for May through July. The dates for the sessions are: 5/1, 5/22, 6/12, 7/10, and 7/24. All of these sessions will be at Warriors Path State Park. We will meet at the Duck Island Parking area near the swimming area. The sessions will begin at 6:30 and go to 8:30 or whenever people want to leave. The sessions are free and open to all. You do not have to have previous SWR training to attend a session. We will practice rope work, z-drags, cinches, knots, etc. Think of it as roll sessions for SWR skills. Please bring a throw rope and any other safety equipment that you have (prusiks, carabineers, pulleys, tubular webbing, etc.). Also bring your paddle and life jacket. We can use a few boats to demonstrate pins and have something to tug on with the mechanical advantage systems. Please call me (423.245.1201) or e-mail me () to sign-up for the practice sessions. I just want to know how many to expect or whether or not to show up myself. Also, plans may change, so I need to be able to contact you if you are going to be there.

Looking for to practicing SWR skills with you,
Mike

APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course

Course Dates: Saturday and Sunday, June 22nd and 23rd 2002

APE's and TEHCC are offering an ACA Format Swiftwater Rescue Course. This is a full weekend course and covers a lot of topics in Swiftwater Rescue tailored to recreational paddlers. This course should be a must take for anyone who regularly paddles our streams and rivers. The course is very physically demanding. So, you must be fit enough to participate. I guarantee that you will be tired and winded even if you think you are in shape.

Location: Saturday's session will be at Eastman Chemical Company's Lodge at Bays Mountain. Sunday's river location will be determined Saturday and depends on water level.

Description: This is an intensive course involving classroom instruction, dry land practice and in water drills. The topics covered are: Accident Prevention, Rescue Philosophy, Rescue Equipment (ropes, carabineers, pulleys, rescue pfd, etc), Swimming Skills in rapids (You will learn to ferry, catch eddies and peel out without your boat.), Wading Skills,

Rope Handling, Foot Entrapment Release Techniques, Mechanical Advantage, Tag Lines, Stabilization Lines, Zip Lines, Releasing Boat Pins and some useful Knots.

Prerequisites: The course is open to ADULT members of APE's and TEHCC. All paddling skill levels are welcome. Remember, this will not be a paddling weekend. It is a physically strenuous weekend so you must be fit and be able to swim competently. By the way, did I mention we are going to have a lot of fun! You will be amazed how much fun you can have swimming in rapids.

How to Register: Please mail information about yourself (name, address, phone numbers, e-mail) and a check made out to Mike Morrow for the amount of \$60.00 to Mike Morrow, 1028 Surmount Ct., Kingsport, Tennessee 37660. I am limiting the course to 10 students. I will start a waiting list if needed. If you do not get into the course, I will return your money. You are registered when I receive the items listed above. Also, provide me with information about your paddling history (number of times you paddle per year, do you paddle in the winter or warm weather only, class rivers you paddle). Also, include any health related information I need to be aware of while you are taking the course. I must have your registration information no later than 06/01/02.

I will mail you a packet of information about the course. If you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact me, Mike Morrow, by phone at (423) 245-1201 (evenings before 10:00pm, please) or by e-mail at .

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Hike: A.T. - Garenflo Gap to Hot Springs, N.C., February 9, 2002

Nancy Wilson reporting

On Feb. 9th, eight hearty hikers made the trip from Garenflo Gap to Hot Springs, N.C. on the A.T. The day was a perfect 65 degrees with sunshine. We had good views of the river and the town of Hot Springs as we approached. Six of us took advantage of the hot tubs as we entered the town and then enjoyed the Bluff Mountain Outfitters store while the shuttle was being run to get the car. Enjoying the hike and day together were Lee Neely, Freda Kuo, Claudia and Mark Donald, Brenda Whitt, Larry Miller and Kent and Nancy Wilson.



Hike: South Beyond 6000, Yellow Face and Waterrock Knob, March 9, 2002

G. S. Luttrell reporting

This hike was originally scheduled for February 23rd, but was rescheduled for March 9th. After a hearty breakfast at the Waffle House at Canton, we drove to Soco Gap, and found that the Blue Ridge Parkway was open. Since there was a threat of rain in the afternoon, we spotted a couple of vehicles at the Waterrock Knob parking area, and then returned to Soco Gap to hike Route #2 listed in the South Beyond 6000 booklet: a climb of 2000 ft. and 4 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. The old road part

of the hike ended shortly after as we got onto the ridge top, and at least two thirds of the route to Waterrock Knob required bushwhacking, sometimes up steep slopes. We had a few marvelous views early, but the rain started when we got within a quarter mile of Waterrock Knob. Most of the day was spent hiking in clouds, so we used GPS's, compasses, and maps to safely find our way to our destination. After crossing our first peak and shortly after we got on the trail to Yellow Face, the rain stopped. We finished the day with a steakhouse meal (with hot coffee, hot tea, and hot soup to remove the chill), and returned to Kingsport by 8:30 pm. Hikers included Kent and Nancy Wilson, Kim Peters, Harold Haile and his dog Dakota, and Garry Luttrell. The attached photos showing the hikers and Dakota were taken at the end of the hike in the Waterrock Knob parking lot. Total hiking distance based on Kent's GPS readings, was near 8 miles.



Hike: Little Mountain, March 15, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting

Our Friday hikers group hike of Friday, March 15, was

successful on all counts. The weather was ideal, we got to our destination without making any false moves and we didn't fall in the creek. Further, we enjoyed a longer-than-usual lunch, since we had some time to spare.

The hike was in Scott County, Virginia, from the lower end of

Straight Fork of Stony Creek up the south side of Little Mountain to Forest Service road no. 237, which runs along the crest of the mountain. We walked along this road through the deserted community of Cox Place, then took a right on the road that goes to the dam of the Big Cherry reservoir, and it was there that we ate this leisurely lunch.

For the return trip we retraced our steps and got back to the cars a few minutes before three o'clock, and we were back in Colonial Heights a little after four.

The collection of houses at Cox Place makes up a sort of mountain-retreat village, and I'd guess that plenty of people are in residence during the summertime.

We had never been on the greater part of the trail that goes up the mountain and we were surprised to find that this unknown part of it was often as wide as a highway. And, the grade is mostly easy with only one or two moderately steep places.

The hikers were: Mike Alley, Olin Babb, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Larry Miller, Kim Peters and Lee Neely. We probably covered a total of 9.5 miles.



Hike: Blanton Forest, March 15, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of Friday, March 22, was in the Blanton Forest, a 2500-acre tract of mountainous land near Harlan, Kentucky. It was 2-1/2 miles of well-marked trail, and except for a few steep places, it was laid out on an easy grade. The halfway point of the hike was the aptly-named Knobby Rock. My impression had been that it would be on top of Pine Mountain, but it wasn't

anywhere close to the top, and there wasn't any obvious trail continuing on up. So, we ate our lunch on Knobby Rock and because of the clear air we had fine views to the south and west. The name of our lunch location, we found out as soon as we got there, comes from the innumerable wart-like bumps on the otherwise smooth surface of the rock, and I guessed the size at nearly an acre. The rock tilts downhill to the south at about 30 degrees.



Because the hike was short, and also because we didn't linger at lunch -- it was cold on that bare rock! -- we got back to our cars at Camp Blanton early. Several of the hikers voted to use the extra time to go home via Middlesboro and take a look at the WWII P38 airplane now in the last stages of restoration in a hangar at the airport, and the rest of us went along with the plan.

The hikers were Olin Babb; Billy Baxter, the newest member of the FHA; Bob Harvey; Freda Kuo; Garry Luttrell; and Larry Miller. Two pictures of the hike are attached. One shows Knobby Rock and the other, expertly taken by Billy Baxter, shows the hikers, thoroughly chilled and ready to start moving again after a short lunch break.

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

AT. Hike and Maintenance Trip: Damascus to McQueens Gap, April 13, 2002

Leader: Richard Colberg, 288-8333

Rating: Moderate (11 mi, 2500 ft elevation gain)

When I volunteered to lead this hike, I didn't know that I would be assigned ~5.5 miles of this section for annual maintenance. So I plan to try to kill two birds with one stone: annual maintenance and a nice spring hike. Because of the required trail maintenance, this will be slow-to-moderately paced hike. The leaves should just be coming out at this elevation and several wildflowers should be in bloom. This hike starts with a moderate climb at Damascus, and then follows mostly level ridge top to McQueens Gap. (I'm responsible for maintenance between Backbone Rock Trail and Abingdon Gap Shelter.) If you are new to trail maintenance and want to give it a try, we always need people to help clip weeds. And for you more experienced maintainers, we do have several reported blowdowns. We'll meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 7:45 AM for an 8:00 AM departure. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Please call hike leader in advance so he'll know how many tools to bring.

Hike Notice: Massey Gap - Wilburn Ridge Loop, April 27, 2002

Leader: Collins Chew

This will be an 11 mile hike, mostly on the A.T., in Grayson Highlands State Park in Virginia. This is one of the most scenic hikes in the area with miles of open grasslands with beautiful views and many spectacular exposures of the old volcanic rock. The climb is moderate (1500 ft.). We will start from Massey Gap and loop back to that point. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for high country at this time of year. Round trip drive about 200 miles. Meet at 8:00 A. M. on Saturday, April 27, 2002, between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. For information, call Collins Chew, 423/239-6237, email .

Spring Wildflower Hike - Little Hump Mountain - May 4, 2002

Leader: Joe DeLoach (telephone 423-753-7903)

Rating: Moderate

After last year's hiatus we'll resume the spring wildflower hike, this year to a location that has many flowers, historical sites, and excellent views. We'll start at the end of Roaring Creek Road in North Carolina where there is a large bed of fringed Phacelia which forms a white carpet of exquisite blossoms. From there we'll follow Bright's Trace, the route of the Overmountain Men on their way to the Battle of King's Mountain, and then turn into the woods to begin climbing towards Little Hump. Expect numerous red and white trilliums, possibly some trout lilies and Dutchman's Britches near the top, and many other flowers that bloom much later at 5000' than along the streams. The climb is mostly gradual with one fairly steep stretch but nowhere is it dangerous; we'll take our time and enjoy the flowers. After about 2 miles in the woods we'll break into the open meadows of Little Hump, elevation 5459', with outstanding views in all directions. The rocks near the summit make a great place for lunch. We'll take the A.T. back to Yellow Mountain Gap and stop at the barn for more views and say hi to the thru-hikers. Altogether the hike is around 5 miles and should be suitable for the whole family. We'll meet at 8:30 in the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank in Colonial Heights; bring lunch, water, and rain jackets in case the weather changes.

LeConte Extravaganza!

Leader: Chris Fox

Saturday, May 25, 2002: Rainbow Falls - Bull Head Trails

We will hike up the Rainbow Falls: 6.5 miles, rocky, steep 4000' elevation change, and will

return using the Bull Head Trail: 7.5 Miles gradual, and a nice trail for descending 4000' elevation change. Both have the same parking lot at their trailheads. Total for the day is about 14 miles.

Sunday, May 26, 2002: Brushy Mt/Porters Creek - Trillium Gap Trails

We will hike up the Brushy Mt/Porters Creek trails: 7-8 miles, and will return using the Trillium Gap Trail: 6.5 miles. 3500' elevation change, and a beautiful walk under Grotto Falls. Total for the day, is about 15 miles.

Monday, May 27, 2002: Alum Cave Bluff - Boulevard Trails

We will hike up the Alum Cave Bluff Trail: 5.5 miles, and is the shortest, fastest, steepest and the most scenic. 2700' elevation change, and will return using the Boulevard Trail: 8.8 miles. Total for the day, including the additional short walk to Newfound Gap is about 16 miles.

Contact Chris Fox at for further information or call him at 731.686.4577 (work).

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

Help Wanted:

Kim Peters reporting

Have you ever thought volunteering for Trail Maintenance, but can't seem to find the time? Or perhaps you are not really fond of clipping weeds and painting blazes, but still would like to help out. Well, here is your chance to contribute from the comfort of your own chair! If you are interested, read on

We are seeking volunteers to help develop and/or maintain a database useful in keeping track of the maintenance needs over the 127 miles of the Appalachian Trail TEHCC maintains. Such a system would make it easy for hikers or maintainers to record observed problems along the trail. It should provide the many maintenance leaders and workers a quick view of what needs to be done on any section of trail that they are going out on. Also, maintainers could check system to see whether someone else had corrected a need before proceeding to the field. Some desired characteristics of the system are:

- Several people can write to the system
- Key maintainers and team leaders, including non-employees, can at least read the system
- System is not available to general public
- System easily associates an identified need with a trail location
- Easy to print out a certain trail section with its needs for easy portability to field
- Can incorporate both long-term needs, such as water bars, and short-term needs, such as blowdowns.

If you are interested in taking on this challenge please contact Kim Peters or Bill Stowell.

Do you have questions about A.T. maintenance?

Click on this handy link, provided by Steve Wilson, for stories and advice:

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/pubs/register/index.html>. For even more accounts involving our own club, read the reports below.

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: March 5, 2002

Sections: Various

Participants: Listed below

Bruce Cunningham, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams

4 X 10 hrs. = 40 hrs.

Section 12: Walnut Mountain Road to Campbell Hollow Road

(Waylon Jenkins)

- 6 large and many small blowdowns removed
- some clipping done - trail open
- blazes OK - some need refreshing
- replaced old broken bridge in Sugar Hollow with large stepping stones.

Section 12: Campbell Hollow Road to 19E

(Collins Chew)

- 3 large and several small blowdowns removed
- some clipping done - trail open
- blazes need attention - some missing (old trees with blazes down, bark with blaze falling off, etc.)
- Frank and Bruce voted that the section just north of the Bear Branch bridge needs to be relocated (redone) as the trail is steep and in bad shape. (Ed Oliver is aware and has it in his plans for sometime???)
- large fir tree near the 19E trailhead has pulled roots up and is leaning against other trees (still living). Does not interfere with Trail today but could fall onto the Trail - watch and wait!

Section 13: (19E to almost Doll Flats)

(Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Frank Williams)

- Trail bed - excellent
- Blazes - excellent
- Clipping in great shape
- One large dead tree removed plus several small ones

Collins Chew reporting:

Section: US 19E to Bishop Hollow

Date: March 9, 2002

Participants: Charlotte and Collins Chew

Total participant hours: 5(2) = 10 hours

Charlotte and Collins Chew blazed the A.T. from U.S. 19E to Bishop Hollow and collected two bags of trash at the Bear Branch Road Crossing. This only cleared the A.T. as all of Bear Branch Road is heavily littered. The rest of this section was recently blazed and cleared by others. We checked some blazing at Isaacs Cemetery and found it had been improved in the last week or so; I think by Bob Peoples and someone else.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: March 13, 2002

Section: 16

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Number of People: 4 (Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: 4 X 10 = 40

We all went in at Greasy Creek Gap. Ed and Hueston went trail south to Iron Mountain Gap and cleared about a dozen smaller blowdowns. Bob and Carl went north to Hughes Gap. We cleared about nine blowdowns with several being large and with multiple trees. Just

north of Greasy Creek Gap there are a couple of minor needs to do some pulaski work. One is an old down log where trail is sloughing off below it. The other is where a root ball took out most of the trail. We met eight section hikers and two thru hikers today. It was a misty and rainy day. The thru hikers had wet gear and one was cold. They gladly took up Bob's offer to be transported to his hostel for a hot shower and be returned to Hughes Gap in the morning.

Steve Wilson reporting:

Date: March 16, 2002

Section: Little Hump and Hump Mountains

Purpose: Inspecting Potential Relocation of Putnam Mine

Number of People: 4 (Steve Wilson, Steve Perri, Morgan Sommerville, Jay Leutze)

Total person-hours: 4 X 6 = 24

Morgan, Jay, Steve, and I met a representative from Clark Stone (James Vance) at the Putnam Mine site to review a proposal for moving portions of the mining operation to the backside of the mountain. Currently all of the mine is situated on the side of Bellview Mountain above Cranberry Gap and creates a significant visual and acoustic impact on the A.T. as one hikes over portions of Little Hump and Hump Mountains. The new proposal is to move the mining site and the primary crusher ("Jaws") to a site not visible to hikers on the trail. The new site is over Bellview Mountain in an area bracketed by the mountain's ridge above Cranberry Gap, Hartley Gap, and Briggs Hollow stream. The processing and sales areas would remain in their current location and connect to the new mining site by a ¾ mile work road. We toured the new site via a gravel road and agreed that the new site appears to meet the goal of being not visible from the trail. The movement of the jaws would also be quite an improvement, since sounds from the rock crushing operation should be significantly reduced to hikers. Note that there would still be sounds from the dumping, conveying, and sorting of rock, plus the general noise of truck and machinery. The proposal is worthy of consideration and plans are to review it with the other interested parties.

Steve Banks reporting

Date: March 29, 2002

Section: 3

Purpose: Cut blowdowns on my Adopt-A-Trail section

Number of people: 2

People: Steve Banks, Steven Banks - 7 hours each

Total hours: 14

We walked our adopted section, north and south of McQueens Gap. We found that the one reported blowdown south of McQueens Gap had already been cut. We cleared out the waterbars and picked up trash at McQueens Gap. We also encountered a man who had numerous bags of clothing and food that he was shuttling towards Damascus; at his rate of travel it will take several more days to get there. He did not seem to be a danger to anyone except possibly himself. Steve Perri is aware of this person, and will follow up with the Forest Service.

