

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 2002

www.tehcc.org

Contents

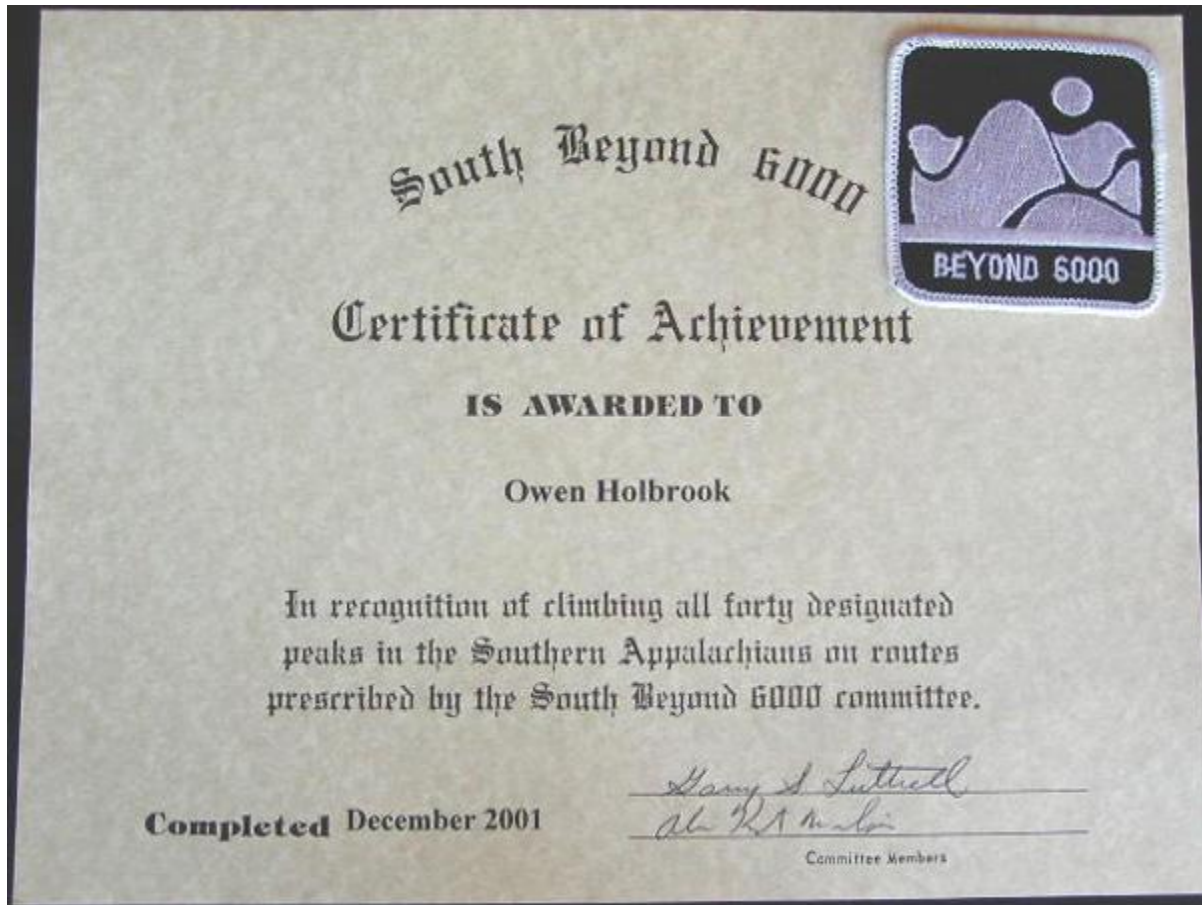
- [Next Two Months](#)
- [South Beyond 6000 Completion - Owen Holbrook](#)
- [Volunteers Needed For Work On Clyde Smith Shelter](#)
- [Designer and Ideas Sought for New Club T-Shirt](#)
- [Ed Oliver and TEHCC receive Volunteer Excellence Awards from Volunteer Kingsport](#)
- [Canoeing News](#)
- [Special 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
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
Chattooga Paddling	Rick Culbertson	III	June 1-2	423-246-7298
Little Stony Creek, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia	Vic Hasler	C/3/C	June 15	423-239-0388
A.T.: Hike to Berry Fields	Steve Wilson	B/3/C	June 29	423-239-0456

South Beyond 6000 Completion - Owen Holbrook

Kent Wilson and Garry Luttrell reporting

Congratulations go to Owen Holbrook, the most recent hiker to complete all 40 peaks in the South Beyond 6000 program. Owen completed his 40th peak on December 17, 2001, and has been awarded a certificate and patch.



Volunteers Needed For Work On Clyde Smith Shelter

David Gibson reporting

We will be working on the Clyde Smith Shelter remodel during the following days, and are looking for club members to participate. The remodeling will take place in conjunction with hiker volunteers from Trail Days, so there will be plenty of labor to carry materials in to the worksite.

We will be preparing the site and doing preliminary work on Tuesday, May 14 and need some help carrying a few posts in to set before the weekend. We will have the hikers and crews working on both Sunday, May 19 and Monday May 20. We need club members with construction experience and tools, members to transport hikers to and from Damascus, to help supervise the work details, and any and all willing grunt labor. Anyone interested in participating on any or all of these days can let me know directly by email () or phone (828-688-4082), or for a local Kingsport number you can contact Bruce Cunningham at 247-1838. Bruce is also in charge of transporting hikers. Anyone interested in driving can contact him directly.

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.

Ed Oliver and TEHCC Receive Volunteer Excellence Awards From Volunteer Kingsport

Steve Perri reporting

Ed Oliver and TEHCC were recognized recently by Volunteer Kingsport's Award for Volunteer Excellence during National Volunteer Week. Kingsport Tomorrow solicited nominations from the Kingsport area to recognize outstanding performance by volunteers who improve the quality of life in greater Kingsport through their service to the community. The categories recognized were the arts, education, health/human services, environment and youth programs. Ed was nominated for an individual volunteer and the club was nominated as an organization under the Environment category. Eastman Chemical Company sponsored the program and provided a luncheon at the Eastman Lodge to recognize approximately 100 nominees.

Ed Oliver was nominated for his outstanding leadership and commitment in overseeing many of our maintenance projects, especially of a 2-year project to relocate a portion of the Appalachian Trail on Round Bald on the Tennessee/N.C. State line near Roan Mountain. The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, under the guidance of the Appalachian Trail Conference, was also nominated for the 2-year relocation project on Round Bald. This project was necessary for both conservation of natural resources as well as improved recreational opportunities for the public on the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail, a sub-unit of the National Park System, is managed and maintained by a coalition of volunteers within the federation of the non-profit Appalachian Trail Conference.

C:\Users\Mitchell\Desktop\TEHCC.org\TEHCCOrg\Restricted

Key Criteria Identified Supporting Ed Oliver's Nomination

Ed has been a major source of experience and expertise to take on any new challenge. Ed has always provided practical ideas to approach situations to balance natural designs while providing ease of installation and long term benefit. Engineering training has been one of Ed's strengths in providing logistics and practicality to almost every project encountered in trail maintenance. The Round Bald relocation project was an daunting task that relied on Ed's vast experience. Several other key people were

involved in this project under Ed's supervision, including Morgan Sommerville from the Appalachian Trail Conference (Morgan secured the funding), David Gibson, Bruce Cunningham, and Bob Peoples; they were always present including operation of the snowcats. Frank Oglesby, our senior volunteer (90 yrs old), provided and operated the front-end loader for Phase I of the project. Ed's leadership and vision provided the guidance and encouragement to see this project through even during the occasions when equipment problems occurred, weather hampered progress, and volunteer's stamina was diminished.

C:\Users\Mitchell\Desktop\TEHCC.org\TEHCCorg\Restricted

Key Criteria Identified that Supported TEHCC's Nomination

Connection building -

The Round Bald relocation project required a large number of volunteers and resources that extended beyond our organization's normal volunteer capability. The Appalachian Trail Conference secured two grants to help pay for supplies and rental equipment for the project. The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club then drew on volunteers and assistance from: our club, the Appalachian Trail Conference, the USDA Forest Service, local residents of Avery County, students

and teachers from Appalachian State College, hikers traveling through the area on their way to Maine, Boy Scouts, and the Appalachian Trail Conference's Konnarock Volunteer Crew.

Ongoing involvement -

Appalachian Trail maintenance is a continual process. Our club has been carrying out maintenance activities since 1947. Our challenge for the Round Bald relocation was how to move greater than 400 tons of gravel with minimal impact to the sensitive environment on Round Bald. We started the trail relocation project on Round Bald in 1999 with a detailed logistical planning process. Our options for moving that gravel included dump trucks, half tracks, a rented helicopter, wheel barrels and buckets. We decided we really needed to experiment to learn the best, low cost approach in the absence of any real experience for such a large undertaking. In 2000 we began the 4-week, Phase I part of the project which involved installation of new treadway from Carvers Gap to a point about 0.5 miles in from the trailhead. Special treadway preparation was made by digging a trail-bed to apply a special material called geotextile to support the finely crushed gravel and prevent it from being pushed down below the surface and from spreading out beyond the trail-bed, while providing adequate long-term drainage. Over 100 tons of gravel was then applied to a thickness of about 4 inches. Gravel was transported in 400 lb loads from the trailhead by rented self-propelled motorized wheel barrels and then dumped and spread with rakes to provide a level grade. Phase II was carried out in 2001 by transporting over 350 tons of gravel from the Carvers Gap Trailhead in winter while the ground was covered with snow and was frozen to minimize impact to the soil on the sensitive balds. In the absence of snow or frozen ground, we would have made damage by leaving deep ruts from digging into the soft soil. Two Alltrack vehicles (snow cats) were rented for a period of three weeks in which volunteers worked from sun up to sundown in March to distribute the 350 tons of gravel in piles along the distance of the trail from where phase I ended. Piles were spaced 20-30 feet apart over a distance of almost 1 mile. When the ground was no longer frozen, Phase III was initiated over several months and involved over 100 volunteers. Phase III consisted of distributing the gravel from 120 2-ton piles (placed on plastic sheets to preserve the grass and other plants after removal of the gravel) in the spring. Phase III continued from about April until June. Over 4,500 volunteer hours went into this project to see the project to completion.

Impact -

Response from the project has been overwhelmingly positive from many hikers of the Trail who have experienced the change from old to new. Last year, the USDA Forest Service Regional

Forester, Elizabeth Estel, visited the project site for a routine visit to thank the club and other volunteers for executing the project in a low-impact way. Round Bald has numerous rare plant species that dictated the final location of the trail after several early proposals were rejected due to the potential for human disturbance. Joe McGuinness, a USFS biologist, worked closely with the club to approve the final location, design, and implementation of the project. The old trail, which was badly eroded, had developed into a series of 3 parallel trenches 2-3 feet wide. These trenches were filled in with soil and native grass and rhododendrons were planted to revegetate the impacted area. The trail has now been replaced with a more gradual grade. In fact, the change in elevation has been such that even some differently-abled individuals are able to traverse this section of trail in a wheel chair. Whereas previously, steps over logs made traversing this section of trail very cumbersome. Erosion of the bald has been fixed, the old trail rehabilitated, and the new surface will be in place for a longer period of years than the previous trail design.

Innovation -

The Round Bald Relocation Project brought together a variety of people to accomplish very imposing challenges in consensus, logistics, environmental sensitivity, scale and duration. We approached the project with careful planning and ingenuity to tackle the project in phases with the ability to learn as we completed various stages. We used specially designed polymeric materials of geotextile and geo-webbing as a means of containing the gravel and used the gravel to solve the need for hardening the trail surface to be able to provide a more durable surface able to withstand the impact from human traffic, freeze and thaw conditions, and rain. The new trail is a natural design with a more natural appeal than pavement. We used a variety of tools we normally would not use such as human transported 5-gallon buckets, the motorized wheelbarrows and Alltrack vehicles. We used the minimal impact methods by taking advantage of driving over the newly built trail to provide a firm surface to handle the weight of the vehicle carrying gravel with minimal impact to the terrain while the ground was still frozen. We also used a wider range of volunteers beyond our trail club to bring the high degree of human effort to bear on completing this project in a brief period of time while keeping the trail open during the execution of the project.

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)

Southern Regional Management Meeting (SRMC) - March 22-24, 2002

Steve Perri reporting

The 2002 Appalachian Trail Conference Southern Regional Management Meeting was held at Camp Cheerio in Roaring Gap, N.C. This meeting brings together the 11 Trail Maintaining clubs from the southern region to meet with our agency partners and ATC to provide input on many management issues and to share common goals. The weekend was full of many opportunities for discussion of topics including recreational fees on USFS land, time constraints on A.T. field representatives, and a discussion panel on the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The agency partners gave summaries of positive things and challenges happening on the forest and park lands. Many reflections and ideas were presented on the "A.T. in the Future", and past A.T. visions. Lectures were presented by Ed Zahniser from the NPS on the "Recognition of 2002 as the International Year of the Mountains," and Taylor Barnhill from the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition on their "Conservation Vision." TEHC was mentioned many times for its accomplishments and contributions. Joe DeLoach served on a discussion panel for the NEPA 101 session. Informally, the clubs and ATC discussed the challenges of fundraising, membership drives, and marketing of the A.T. for ATC funds. Many ideas were gathered to hopefully lead to some localized projects with business support and donations.

Those attending the meeting were: Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, David Gibson, Ray Hunt, Steve Perri and Steve Wilson.

Hike Report - Shining Rock - March 23, 2002

Kent and Nancy Wilson leading

Nancy Wilson reporting

It was a gorgeous day for hiking in the Shining Rock area. The sky was so blue. There was not a cloud in the sky all day. The views were great and we could see 3 or 4 mountain ranges in the distance. We ascended 4 peaks over 6000'. They were Black Balsam Knob, Tennent Mountain, Grassy Cove Top and Shining Rock. Most had trails off the Art Loeb trail and two peaks were right on the trail, so no bushwhacking this trip. We took the Ivestor Gap Trail, an old railroad trail back. We hiked a total of 10 miles, then enjoyed a nice dinner at Canton. Making the hike were Kim Peters, Freda Kuo, Harold Haile, Carolyn and Bill Bauer, and Kent and Nancy Wilson.

Hike Report - Lost Cove - March 29, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of Friday, March 29, was from Poplar, N. C., on the wild and scenic Nolichucky River, to the abandoned community of Lost Cove, also in North Carolina, but close to Tennessee.

Soon after we got started on the hike the skies cleared and the weather from then on was nearly perfect. The trail to the cove is far from ideal, steep in parts and worse than that, occasionally running right along in little watercourses filled with loose rocks. Once we got to the cove, though, we forgot all that and looked around at the old dwellings and the open areas with interest. The farthest we got was the knoll that the cemetery is on, and that was our lunch spot. On the way back through the cove I used my GPS to accurately locate the site of the former schoolhouse, appropriately named Mountain View School, and found that the only sign that it had ever been there was a set of concrete steps.

We got back to the parking lot at Poplar around three o'clock and on the way back to Kingsport we stopped in the headquarters of the Forest Service for a most interesting visit.

Hikers were Billy Baxter, Bob Harvey, Terry Oldfield (a first timer), Kim Peters, Kay Ryan (another first timer), Ray Tarpley (yet another first timer), and Brenda Whitt. The distance we covered was around 8-1/2 miles.

TVA Reservoir Operations Study Workshop - April 11, 2002

Steve Perri reporting

I was asked to attend a public workshop at Central High School on the TVA Reservoir Operations Study by TVA representative Nancy Fraley. This workshop is analogous to the USFS National Forest Plan in terms of how they are seeking public input for managing the system. This was the first time TVA has sought public input to help determine the framework for priorities in managing and operating the system. However, the tools used were a lot higher tech than what the USFS uses. Amy Fore, from the USFS Watauga District of the Cherokee National Forest was taking notes since they are used to using flip charts and writing everything down manually. TVA brought in Group Solutions, a consulting group out of Atlanta, Georgia. They provide group software to facilitate public information to help document and sort data. Upon arrival, we registered and were given a packet of information. Cookies and soft drinks were then provided for those of us arriving right after work. Attendees were given an opportunity to use 1 of about 50 Dell Laptops to fill out a survey of about 24 questions with as much or little detail as the user wanted. Some questions were also multiple choice. We also gathered in the auditorium of Sullivan Central to fill out a more public survey. They handed out remote key pads to about 100 people (everyone) in the audience to select their choice of responses to about 35 questions on a projection screen of the group software. After each question was answered by the audience, the software would compile the responses and display the distribution of responses so that everyone could see what the general responses were as a percentage of the overall votes. Most of the questions were centered around assessing the priorities for managing the top 6 benefits of the system including: flood control, navigation, power production, water quality/supply, public land use and recreation. This was a pleasant meeting and one worth attending to represent the club's interest in using public land. There are more meetings scheduled throughout the State. This one was the closest in Blountville. For more information on the community workshops, contact TVA at 888-882-7675.



Hike Report - Iron Mountain Trail - April 12, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of Friday, April 12, was along the crest of Iron Mountain from the unnamed gap where Tenn. Route 91 crosses the mountain to Sandy Gap, where U. S. 421 goes across. We began by hiking 0.4 mile on the Appalachian Trail, then 0.8 mile on a paved road, then 5.0 miles on the Iron Mountain Trail, which is Forest Service Trail Number 54. This trail is carefully maintained by the Mid-Appalachian Trail Club and from the looks of it, they have only

recently removed some big blow-downs.

The Friday Hikers Association usually has good weather for its hikes. Our luck ran out on this one, though; we got rained on for an hour or so and had to dig into the packs to bring out the parkas and umbrellas.

There is only one good all-season vantage point on this part of the trail and I took the attached picture from it. The view is to the southeast, and the valley is the one that Tenn. Route 67 is in -- it's the road from Hampton to Mountain City. Hikers were Anne Cosby (a first-timer), Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo and Nancy Wilson. The total distance hiked was 6.2 miles. Collins says he'll be able to lead the next hike, and we'll look forward to getting our instructions from him at an early date.

A.T. Hike Report - April 19, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting

Webmaster's note - some very nice photos and captions were submitted, but no trip report.



10:07AM: View to the south from the Overmountain Shelter near Yellow Mountain Gap



10:23AM: We have just met "Del Doc," the interesting A.T. mapper with the highly-advanced GPS. The location is Yellow Mountain Gap on the A.T.



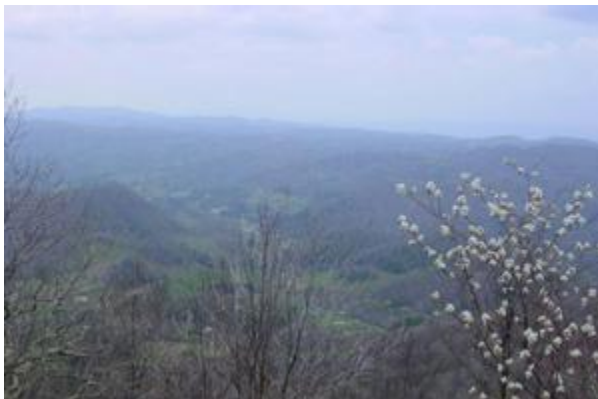
12:16PM: A scenic view to the west, with Roan Mountain on the right and Grassy Ridge on the left. The viewpoint is at the Stan Murray memorial tablet site on Hump Mountain.



12:31: Lunchtime at the Stan Murray memorial site. Pat Buchanan is on the left, Del Doc is in the middle, and Collins Chew is at the right. At the extreme left, wearing blue, is a part of Ken Buchanan.



12:57: Fierce-looking but docile Texas longhorns, one of them lying right on the A.T. We didn't take any chances with them and spoke to them in soothing tones.



2:18PM: This is a view from an overlook on the steep descent from Doll Flats. In the left center of the picture you just barely can make out highway U. S. 19E.

Hike Report: SB6000 Hike from Newfound Gap to Clingmans Dome, April 20, 2002

Nancy and Kent Wilson reporting

Nine hikers braved the forecast of rain to come out for this relatively easy hike to qualify Mt.

Collins and Clingmans Dome. We met many thru hikers heading North and Nancy quickly exhausted her supply of apples she was giving away. We saw lots of spring beauties and trout lilies. The day was beautiful and we had excellent views from Clingmans Dome. We all met in Gatlinburg after the hike for a well deserved Mexican meal. Participating in this hike were Freda Kuo, Larry Miller, Hugh and Marilyn Thompson, Tony Clark, Shirlene Reasor, Kathleen (Storywalker) Gill (New York), and Kent and Nancy Wilson.

Hike Report, Grayson Highlands Loop Hike, April 27, 2002

Collins Chewreporting

This was a very pleasant hike on a cloudy, breezy, cool day in the Grayson Highlands State (Va) Park and adjacent Jefferson NF land. It was an 11 mile loop from Massey Gap on the A.T. over the peaks of Wilburn Ridge, across Pine Mountain back to the A.T. and on it back to Massey Gap. Many hikers, horsemen, and backpackers were out this day. We met a backpacker from Quito, Ecuador, a very nice coincidence since I was there last month. He said this was the first place that he had seen in the US that reminded him of Ecuador. That was interesting as Wilburn Ridge is 750 million year old volcanic ash and the area around Quito is recent volcanic ash. The wildflowers were a bit disappointing but the rocks and scenery otherwise were as spectacular as usual with sharp views of all the mountains to the horizon. Hikers were: Carol Broderson, Phyllis Cairnes, Larry Miller, Kim Peters, Mary Ellen Ress, and Collins Chew.

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

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.

A.T. Backpack - Springer Mountain to Winding Stair Gap - May 4-12, 2002

Leaders: Nancy and Kent Wilson

We plan to backpack the A.T. from Springer Mountain 107 miles to Winding Stair Gap. We may leave a car at Dick's Creek Gap (68 miles) for resupply and a back-up if it looks like we

will not make it to Winding Stair Gap. Call (423) 239-7554 if you are interested in this trip.

Hike - Clingmans Dome - May 11, 2002

Leader: Collins Chew

We will hike from Newfound Gap on the A.T. for 7.9 miles to the highest peak on the A.T. and in the Smokies and hike down 0.5 to the Parking lot there. This will require a long drive, of course, and we will spot cars at Clingmans Dome Parking Lot. This will be about 150 miles one-way. Unless they changed the rules, this should get two Beyond 6000 peaks, Mt. Collins and Clingmans Dome. Climb should total about 2000 feet. We will leave the regular meeting spot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 7:30 A. M. We might return about 7:30 P. M. after eating supper on the way. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing. Remember that is the date of last frost here and it may be 17 degrees cooler on top. For more info, call Collins Chew 423/239-6237 or e-mail .

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).

Basic Trail Maintenance Workshop (Rescheduled)

Steve Perri reporting

DATE: May 25 or June 8 (TBD)

LOCATION: Iron Mountain/Watauga Dam Road, Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

Anyone interested in taking the basic trail maintenance workshop with TEHCC and ATC is welcome to attend to learn the fundamentals of trail maintenance. Tentative dates are May 25 or June 8. If you can make any of these two days, let us know. This includes trail drainage, cutting back growth, blazing, etc. We'll meet in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am in the parking lot below McDonalds and carpool to Iron Mountain at Watauga Dam Road to meet up with Morgan Sommerville and Derek Ibarguen, our local ATC representatives. Bring lunch, water, gloves, and other appropriate clothing. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Steve Perri by May 15th so we can arrange/coordinate supplies, transportation, and equipment. Steve can be reached at 423-349-5091 or

Mount LeConte Hike, July 13-14, 2002

Leader: Steve Falling, phone 423-239-5502

Rating: Moderate

The Hiking Club will repeat its annual overnight hike to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will hike up on Saturday, spend the night in three cabins (double bunk beds!) and hike back down on Sunday. The distance is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The cost per person is \$88.43. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have reservations for twenty, so call in your request before sending money. Anyone interested in hiking up the creek instead of the trail should call for more information.

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 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.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: March 27, 2002

Section: 12, near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 10 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams plus thru hikers "Pine Nut" Travis Bradey, "Wild Hare" Todd Lange, and "Dynamite" Gordon Winner)

Number of Dogs: 2 (Nick and Olive)

Total person-hours: 10 X 9 = 90

With the weather in the 30's plus strong winds encouraging activity and with the helping hands

of the fit thru hikers, we had another day of accomplishment. Bob, "Wild Hare", and "Dynamite" installed three steps suitable for our front yards. They also dug and chopped out a very large stump. Ed flagged a reroute of the original flagged trail that had a steep area and a wet spot. Then Bill and Bruce cut it out. David, "Pine Nut" and Carl just kept their heads down and dug. With the help of the others later in the day, 526 feet of new trail were prepared.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: March 29, 2002

Section: 3

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

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 did clear out the waterbars and picked up trash at McQueens Gap. We also encountered a "hiker" who had numerous bags of clothing and food that he was shuttling in piles towards Damascus; at his rate of travel it will take several more days to get there. Steve Perri was already aware of this individual, and will follow up with the Forest Service.

Date: March 29, 2002

Purpose: Cut Blowdowns on Section 1 (Damascus to and along Backbone Rock Trail)

Number of People: 4 (Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola, John Thompson, Steve Wilson)

Total hours: 4 X 10 = 40

On March 29, Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola, John Thompson, and Steve Wilson removed all of the blowdowns from Section 1 noted by Collins Chew in his 2 February report, as well as all major blowdowns on the access trail from Backbone Rock. Extensive clipping and trimming was also performed. Section 2 was also inspected to the point cleared by another team from the south the previous week and contains no major blowdowns. There is evidence of increased water damage on a 400-yard section between about three-quarters and one-half mile north of the Tennessee-Virginia state line (just south of the side trail to water, between about elevation 2800 and 3040). Water is running down this steeper section of the trail and has removed significant soil to expose rock. This section is in need of water control measures which might include dips, trenches across the trail and through the berm, and waterbars.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: April 2, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 13 (Bruce Cunningham, Ron Davidson, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Dan Miller, Frank Williams, "Forest Phil" and fiancée, Kim, plus thru hikers "Potato Man" and "Lost & Found")

Number of Dogs: 1 (Ballast)

Total person-hours: 13 X 9 = 117

With the weather in the 70's plus sunshine, we wilted by mid afternoon. However, we did dig sidehill and removed many rhododendrons in a very tough section to prepare 340 feet of trail. "Forest Phil", who worked with us last year and organized the Damascus Trail Days crews earned and received his 50 hour maintenance patch. Yesterday he proposed to Kim in Laurel

Fork Gorge while they were on a blowdown removal trip with Bob. We were also pleased to have Dan Miller from Mountain Harbour B&B along with his gentle Great Dane, Ballast. They made an excellent rhododendron removing crew. "Potato Man" and "Lost & Found" learned trail-building skills and earned their hiker patches.

Dick Burow reporting:

Date: April 3, 2002

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Robert W. Miller and I cut two blowdowns about 1 mile trail north of Nolichucky Expeditions along Jones Branch. They were on a narrow section of trail with very steep sides and high enough that it was very difficult for me to get over, and no room to go under or around. They weren't very big - pines - one about 8" and the other 6". We were gone from home from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM - 5 hours. My son and grandson hiked from Hot Springs, N.C. to Carvers Gap last week and they told me about these blowdowns. Otherwise, they said the trail was good except for bad erosion down Unaka Mountain to Low Gap and the relocation above the road from the Nolichucky River bridge to Nolichucky Expeditions needed help.

Garry Luttrell reporting:

Date: April 5, 2002

Section: 16

Purpose: Annual Trail Maintenance

Number of People: 4 (Kim Peters, Freda Kuo, Mike Alley, and Garry Luttrell)

Total person-hours: 4 x 11 = 44

We spotted a car at Iron Mountain Gap and began the day's work at Hughes Gap. It was chilly, but the warm sun on the trees allowed painting of white blazes and all blue-blazes to water sources. One of the water sources near Greasy Creek Gap had a sign saying "Water Not Tested, Boil or Chemically Treat All Water Before Using". We clipped and cut back intruding growth, along the entire 9.5 mi. length of the section; and, used the pulaski to repair the trail at a tree root-ball damage site near Greasy Creek Gap. We met several thru-hikers including Blackhawk, Squaw, Iceman, Ant, Balance, Stonewall, Pinecone (Pinetree, his Dad is behind him on the trail), Pingo, Tree Fontaine, Leaf, Sid, D Fly, and two who did not have trail names. Thanks Kim, Freda, and Mike for your help!

John Arwood reporting:

Date: April 6, 2002

Section: A.T. just North of Iron Mountain Gap in Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

Purpose: Trail Maintenance Report - State of Franklin Group - Sierra Club

Number of People: 1 (John Arwood)

Total person-hours: 2 hours (including 1 hour travel time)

Cleared 4 Blowdowns

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2002

Purpose: Move Privy at Yellow Mountain Barn and Install Waterbars near Yellow Mountain Gap

Number of People: 10 (Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Hueston Fortner, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, and hikers: Tim Freeman, Travis Dunn, and "Pack Horse")

Total person-hours: 10 X 8 = 80

On April 6, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Hueston Fortner, David Gibson, Bob Peoples and hikers; Tim Freeman, Travis Dunn, and "Pack Horse" moved the

privy at the Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter to a new location, filled in the old site, and installed eight waterbars trail north of Yellow Mountain Gap. We also put the new register in the barn. A special thanks to all the new members of the "PRIVY COUNCIL" for help in moving the privy. Also, thanks go to David for bringing the waterbars and convincing us to carry them the mile or so from the gate to where we installed them. The metal sign at Yellow Mountain Gap was down. The post had rotted. We brought the sign back and will repair it and return it along with a new post to the gap on a later trip. The blazes going north from the gap are very faint and will be painted when we install the repaired sign.

Richard Colberg reporting

Date: April 13, 2002

Section: 2

Purpose: Annual Maintenance

Number of People: 6 (Jason Anderson, Michelle Baker, Erica Clark, Tony Clark, Richard Colberg, Cherlene Reasor)

Total Person-Hours: 6 x 11 = 66

On a pleasant spring day with only occasional, scattered showers, six people hiked from Damascus to McQueens Gap and performed maintenance from the Backbone Rock trail junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter. We painted blazes, lopped and clipped weeds, and cut one small blowdown. Overall, the trail is in pretty good shape. There are a couple short sections of sidehill about 2-3 miles south of Backbone Rock trail junction that could use some attention, but I know there are other sections of trail in worse need than this. Unfortunately, only one club member showed up to help maintain this section. Fortunately, this was an advertised hike, and the threat of light trail maintenance did not scare off potential hikers. We attracted hikers/maintainers from as far away as Kingston, Tennessee, and Big Stone Gap and Blacksburg, Virginia.

David Gibson reporting

Date: Saturday, April 14, 2002

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Bill Stowell, David Gibson

Total person hours: (48 hours □ 4 x 12)

We began at Carvers Gap, placing 3 new signs at the trailhead (1 for mileage, 1 for the water supply, and 1 foot travel only sign). Bruce and Mary started the climb, painting white blazes for both north and south travel. They also painted blue blazes for the shelter side trail and water trail and for the water trail at Ash Gap. Bill and I performed much needed pruning along the way. At the shelter we noticed that hikers have been pulling off the wood shingles; we assume to burn in the fire pit as fire wood is scarce here. The broom handle is long gone for the same reason. We are looking for alternate suggestions for repair as we feel that new shingles would be pulled off as well. Unless they were asbestos, Bruce pointed out. The shutters on the lower level of the cabin are falling apart. Bruce performed a temporary repair with some of the nails left over from the sign hangings. We are proposing to replace the shutters with polycarbonate windows in a wood frame, as the lower level of the cabin is near pitch black when the shutters are closed. Bill already has the polycarbonate on hand, and Ed Oliver has volunteered to build the frames. (Bill, can you get the polycarbonate to Ed?) We continued to prune and also to clean out waterbars. We noted that Roan could probably use a few more waterbars and perhaps even that dirty little 'G' word - gravel, as parts of the trail are nothing more than muck. On the south side of Roan, Bill and I cleared two blowdowns, and hung a 'Vista' sign at the

tremendous view side trail at Beartown Mountain. We ran out of time before completing all the pruning and waterbar clearing in this section, and are planning a second outing in the near future to finish up, and hopefully install the new shelter windows.

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: April 16, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 17 (Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, Aswh and Abbey ("Little Bit") plus thru hikers Tricia Shepherd, "Rawhide", "April", "Tripping Ant", "Light Bright", "Lizard", "Sparrow", "Gunslinger", and "Tin Man")

Number of Dogs: 1 (Bert)

Total person-hours: 17 X 9 = 153

What a fantastic day! Ed woke up 30 minutes into the ride to the trailhead and realized he had failed to bring the buckets. Within a few minutes he recovered splendidly, as usual. He had us stop at a friend's house and borrow some. Bob had his truck filled with nine thru hikers who were in-shape. In addition, ex thru hikers "Little Bit" and Aswh, who currently live in Damascus joined us. They, Frank and Bruce cleared trail sections that still had rhododendron stumps. The rest of us spent all morning putting in about forty feet of trail. A steep ramp and water seep areas had to be conquered. Several locust logs were pinned, geotextile placed, several hundred buckets of rocks were hauled from the creek and finally soil was mined and placed as a top layer. Now being no slouches, we were able to dig about 400 feet of sidehill trail in the two afternoon hours. About 463 feet of trail was put in on this record warm day of 87 plus.

David Gibson reporting

Date: April 17, 2002

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Paul Benfield, David Gibson

Total person hours: 3 x 5 hours = 15 (Bruce Cunningham, Paul Benfield, David Gibson)

Paul led us on an exploratory mission to find a back way in, to transport materials to Clyde Smith Shelter for the upcoming remodel. We walked a route from the Tennessee side that led to Greasy Creek. This route was slightly longer than the route from the N.C. side, but much more gradual. At Greasy Creek we discovered a small wood sign on the A.T. for a new hostel on Greasy Creek road. On the return trip Paul showed us another side trail which joins the A.T. just a half mile south of Clyde Smith Shelter. This second route seems the most promising so far, as we can drive to within a quarter mile of where this side trail meets up with the A.T., then walk the A.T. the half mile to the shelter. We plan one more trip to explore two more side trail possibilities, and to review the plans at the shelter site.

On the way home I stopped at the new hostel to introduce myself to the hostel owners, Phil "Pack Rat" and Connie "CC" Edmondson, a very nice couple originally from S.C. They recently bought the last home on the left at the end of Greasy Creek road, and are in the process of converting one of the outbuildings into a bunk house. They have showers, ice cream, food and other hiker supplies for sale as well internet access for the hikers. They expressed an interest in adopting the section of trail from Iron Mountain Gap to Hughes Gap. Their email address is .

David Gibson reporting

Participants and people hours: 4 x 6 hours = 24 hours (Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, David Gibson)

We hiked in to Clyde Smith Shelter to finalize details for the upcoming remodel. Bob and Bruce explored for alternate shortcuts in an effort to find the best possible way in (shortest) for transporting materials. Ed noted about 18 places where we could use waterbars in the area. If the hiker volunteers get done carrying materials we will keep them busy with the waterbar project.

David Gibson reporting

Date: April 20, 2002

Participants and person hours: 1 x 4 □ David Gibson

Picked up 8 trash bags full of garbage at Buck Mountain Road.

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: April 20, 2002

Section: 12 - Bitter End (Trail South)

Purpose: Trail Relocation near Bitter End

Number of People: 9 (Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Wendy Shaver, Jeffrey Yount, Joe Hardin, Emma Peiris, and Ashley Vollmar)

Total person-hours: 9 X 9 = 81

On this 3rd Saturday outing, we were pleased to have four University High School students, Jeffrey Yount, Joe Hardin, Emma Peiris and Ashley Vollmar plus their instructor, Wendy Shaver, join us for their first trail maintenance outing. Since we only had two fire rakes, Emma and Ashley demonstrated how to bend at the waist and rake the litter and duff away with their hands. The rest of us did not pick up that technique! Jeff and Joe became the root and stump removers. We completed this 480-foot trail relocation with a switchback trail south of the bridge. The students blazed the new trail and three thru hikers used this new section before we left. This removes a steep section of the trail.

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Date: April 27, 2002

Participants and person hours: 3 x 8 =24, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Houston Fortner

Completed another 150' of new trail on Elk River section.

David Gibson reporting

Hours for 2 day rock work and winch technique workshop and travel time 1 x 22 = 22 hours

This year a remodel at Chatfield Shelter was the worksite for the 2-day seminar sponsored by ATC. They are building a short wall 15 feet out from the front of the shelter to level up the ground there, building rock steps up to the privy on the hillside behind the shelter, and adding steps and check dams on the A.T. both north and south of the shelter site. So there were plenty of different projects for the students to try their hands at over the weekend.