

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

June 2002

www.tehcc.org

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| NEXT TWO MONTHS | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| Description | Rating | Leader | Date | Phone |
| Various Trail Maintenance Trips | | Bill Stowell | | 423-239-7697 |
| Chattooga Paddling | III | Rick Culbertson | June 1-2 | 423-246-7298 |
| Little Stony Creek, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia | C/3/C | Vic Hasler | June 15 | 423-239-0388 |
| A.T.: Hike to Berry Fields | B/3/C | Steve Wilson | June 29 | 423-239-0456 |
| LeConte Creek Hike (Smokies) Warning: off trail and very difficult | A/2/A | Dewey Fuller | July 13-14 | 423-764-7340 |
| LeConte Trail Hike (Smokies) | B/3/C | Steve Falling | July 13-14 | 423-239-5502 |



SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN
Man and the Biosphere Program

Summary: The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Foundation (SAMAB), headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, is seeking interested Trail club members who would like to inventory and monitor certain sections along the Trail for invasive exotic

plants. SAMAB will provide all relevant training, tools, and oversight. SAMAB will assemble all data collected by volunteers and produce maps, charts, and graphs of the results. Club volunteers who participate will receive copies of the results. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about invasive exotic plants and the threat they pose to our native natural heritage. Though this monitoring program does not require volunteers with previous biological or scientific experience, it promises not be a dull exercise. The data that volunteers collect will be utilized and will help in the management of the Trail ensuring that time invested by volunteers is time well spent. If interested, please call Andy Brown, the SAMAB Monitoring Program Coordinator, at (828) 253-6856 or email him at .

Full Text: The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Foundation (SAMAB), headquartered in Knoxville Tennessee, is embarking upon a comprehensive citizen-science based monitoring program in and around national forest and parklands of the southern Appalachians. Plans are for the project to ultimately provide data on a number of environmental quality parameters that will lead to better decision making by individuals, private landowners, local communities, and state and federal agencies as the region attempts to manage growth and development pressures while protecting its quality of life. For Year 2002, monitoring efforts will focus on water quality and invasive exotic plant species.

SAMAB is currently looking for citizen volunteers and civic groups who may have interest in participating in this monitoring program. In the next few months, SAMAB will be providing a guest speaker at a variety of club meetings to more fully introduce the program to the region. A great opportunity exists for those people who might have interest in sampling streams for fish and aquatic insects, measuring stream pH, or collecting data on the location and extent of exotic species as they threaten to invade our native natural heritage. Though this monitoring program does not require volunteers with previous biological or scientific experience, it promises not be a dull exercise. The data that volunteers collect will be utilized, ensuring that time invested by volunteers is time well spent.

SAMAB hopes to complete its monitoring program design by mid May 2002, which will serve to provide protocols, timelines, and other guidelines for the project for the remainder of the year and beyond. By mid June, SAMAB will begin fieldwork with several recruited volunteer monitoring teams. SAMAB will provide all relevant training and monitoring oversight and will provide data outputs such as charts, graphs, and maps to the volunteer monitors as they become available so that each monitoring team can see firsthand the results of their efforts.

For those civic groups and conservation organizations who may have interest in this program, there are other tangible benefits for getting involved. The monitoring program may very well help revitalize the activity level of certain members who are currently inactive. Opportunities will also exist to interface with the larger community, perhaps helping to grow club memberships. And finally, there is no adequate way of describing the internal benefits one receives from contributing to a project like this that has such great potential to enhance and protect the quality of life of our mountain communities and surrounding landscape.

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 III. 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:

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—

—

List up to five rivers you have paddled and their levels (if applicable)

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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)

Spring Wildflower Hike, May 4, 2002

Joe DeLoach reporting

Our hike was supposed to be to Little Hump Mountain in the Roan Highlands, but the rainy morning suggested that we go to a lower, closer place where the rain would have a better chance of clearing out. We drove to Dennis Cove and walked to the shelter, where we waited out the only significant rain on the hike, then back up to the falls and on back to Dennis Cove. The falls were very nice with swirling mists and the deep green of early spring, and we saw many flowers. Among the species were pink lady slippers, bleeding

heart, Carolina rhododendron, Catawba rhododendron, flame azalea, Fraser's sedge, lilies, violets, foamflower, Jack in the pulpit, and rattlesnake weed. Somewhat wet but hopefully happy hikers were Terry Buckner, Pete Dunckley, Carl, Glenda, and Ethan Eilo, Remy Franquinet, Scott Griger, Taylor Pickard, and Joe DeLoach.

Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap, May 12, 2002

Collins Chew reporting

We hiked (8 miles) from Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap on a very pleasant, cool, foggy day. Although distant views were lacking, the wildflowers were out in profusion with Rose Twisted Stalk exceptional. Moosewood, trillium, Spring Beauty, and white fringed Phacelia had quite good displays. We ran into a Smoky Mountain Hiking Club maintenance crew cleaning up blowdowns. There were many flat root balls as big as rooms pulled up by recent tree falls. Hikers were Kim Peters, Taylor Pickard, and Collins Chew.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

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 Iburguen, 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 .



Hike Notice: Little Stoney Creek Falls (Jefferson National Forest), June 15, 2002

Hike Leader: Vic Hasler

Rating: C/3/B (5-6 miles/moderate pace/average terrain - short sections rough and rocky)

Little Stoney Creek Trail in the Jefferson National Forest near Dungannon, Virginia is an easy hike following an old railroad bed up to a pair of very nice waterfalls. This hike was led for TEHCC by Garry Luttrell in 1994 (on which my 4-year old daughter tripped on tree toes alias exposed roots) and by Collins Chew in 2000. Sign at the trailhead says 2.6 mi which matches other estimates. Driving distance was estimated by Mr. Chew to be about 50 miles one-way. Bring lunch, comfortable boots (recommended for the many cobbles on the trail) or sneakers, rain gear and

appropriate clothing. The stout in constitution can try swimming in the cold pool below the upper falls. Meet at the usual spot in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Call hike leader for more information at 423/239-0388.

I've upped the rating a bit from the schedule based on further consideration of the criteria and remembering the cobbles.

A.T. Hike: Double Springs Shelter with Visit to Berry Fields, June 29, 2002

Steve Wilson reporting

We will hike from the A.T. crossing of U.S. Hwy 421 to Double Springs Shelter and then return. Along the way we will explore Berry Fields which is a clearing that the club maintains as an open area. The hike will be a moderate one with a round trip distance of 7 miles. We'll meet in Colonial Heights of Kingsport at 8:00 A.M. Saturday morning, June 29, in the parking lot between McDonalds and Franklin Savings. Bring water, a mid morning snack, and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information call Steve Wilson at 423-239-0456 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: April 23, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 8 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, plus thru hikers John and Smudge)

Total person-hours: 8 X 8 = 64

Smudge who is from England commented that we have real mountains here rather than hills. He and John enjoyed the new trail building experiences. Bruce, the usual chauffeur, drove into the Colonial Heights meeting place and we loaded up. When Ed asked whether Bill was not going today, Bruce exclaimed, "Oh, H __ _!" Bill was still standing at the end of his driveway in Ridgefields just four houses away from Bruce's house. A few cell phone calls to Mary and we were on our way back to pick up Bill. Besides removing some minor rhododendron roots, the primary tasks accomplished today were the improved crossing of three streams and one incline requiring a couple of rock steps. While placing some large stepping stones in one stream, Frank warned Bill and Bruce to stand back. Not heeding his warning, Frank proceeded to drop the rock in the water and drown them. Ed while working on another wet area decided to give himself a mud bath when he tried to chop some roots in a mud hole. Needing a log to build a crib, Carl skillfully felled a tree off the hill so it had to be hauled about 80 feet up a steep slope. And it even turned out to not be a locust!

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: April 30, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 7 (Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 7 X 9 = 63

We had a great day and opened another 978 feet of trail. We also worked on about three spring crossings to channel the water rather than letting it pool and make mud on the trail.

C. B. Willis reporting:

Subject: A.T. Maintenance Report, Old Timers Hiking Club

Date of work: May 1, 2002

Section: 17

Total Person Hours: 9 x 6 = 54 hours

A section of the trail on the North side of Unaka Mountain has been seriously eroding. We dug out from the bank, leveled the trail and placed logs along the side opposite the bank to hold the material. Maybe one word would cover it: rehabilitation. Participants were: Rick Culbertson, Gilbert Derouen, Hueston Fortner, Mike Hupko, Daryl Lloyd, Glenn Marshall, Al Meeks, Bob Spencer, and Clyde Taylor.

David Gibson reporting:

Subject: Survey Trip

Date: May 2, 2002

Section: Indian Grave Gap

Participants: Rick Coulter, David Gibson

Total participant hours: 2 x 3 = 6 hours

Rick and I examined the trail north of Indian Grave Gap for the purpose of determining whether to place a stile there. We decided that for now we would wait on the stile; he and the Old Timers will schedule a work trip to repair the damaged trail, and then they will monitor it during their regular outings for any new damage. If it continues to be a problem we can place a stile at that time. I did notice that a section of the fence at the Beauty Spot parking area is out. Someone has placed yellow tape across the span, but there are a few truck tracks up onto the open area. It is not too bad yet, but it should be replaced soon. Would this be a club responsibility or something to notify the Forest Service about?

David Gibson reporting:

Date: May 5, 2002

Section: 15

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, David Gibson

Total person hours: 3 x 10 = 30 hours

Bruce ran the weed eater through some thick bramble patches along the top of Roan, while Mary and I started down the south side to finish cleaning out waterbars and pruning to Hughes Gap. At the staircase Mary collected rocks to help firm up the steps (With all the rain they're quite muddy), while I installed 2 new waterbars and a step above the staircase to help divert the water. Bruce joined us along the way and we finished the section. Two wood signs have been torn down since we were out two weeks ago, presumably for firewood. The first one is the old A.T. sign posted at the turnoff to the shelter. There is still a small piece of it up, but most was broken off and has disappeared. The second is a new North - South sign put up last fall on a post at Cloudland. Luckily we set those posts in

concrete. They are still standing.

Darrol Nickels reporting:

Date: Monday, May 6, 2002

Purpose: Annual maintenance - Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

Number of people: 2 (Frank Williams and Darrol Nickels)

Total person hours: $2 \times 5 = 10$

We removed two blowdowns with a bow saw and two others requiring a chain saw. There was very little litter and the tread is in good shape. This section needs a little clipping, blazing and weed-eating. About two-dozen thru-hikers had logged in at the shelter over the previous three days.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Purpose: Continue work on Elk River Relocation

Number of people: 9

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

On May 7, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver, and thru hikers "Jebadiah", "Z", and "Book Worm" continued working on the Walnut Mountain end of the Elk River relocation. We completed about 250 feet of trail.

Four of us worked most of the day filling in a rather large hole in the middle of the new trail while the rest of us dug over 200 feet of trail in a tangle of roots. We hope that we get out of the dense concentration of roots soon. We are now about 1 1/4 miles from Walnut Mountain Road. We met thru hiker "Icarus" at Bob's Dairyland in the morning. We gave him a ride to the U.S. 19E trailhead. He was planning to hike all the way to Bob's place. We convinced him that he would be better off if he let us give Bob his pack so that he could slack pack the section. Bob said that he was very thankful that he met us and took our advice when he got to the hostel.

David Gibson reporting:

Dates: May 9-10, 2002

Section: Cherry Gap Shelter

Participants: David Gibson

Participant hours: $1 \times 14 = 14$ hours

Shelter inspection and to find a route to transport out the old tin roofing that was sitting behind the shelter. There were 6 full size pieces of heavy gauge roofing and 9 smaller pieces of light gauge roofing, some of which had been scattered about in front of the shelter by hikers. On the inspection, I found that the shovel handle is missing, two holes in the concrete blocks (one inside and one out), and noticed about a dozen exposed or improperly buried toilet paper flower clusters in the privy area. I spent the rest of Thursday exploring old roads to find the best way to carry out the tin. Rick Culbertson of the Old Timers had mentioned a road on the Tennessee side. This road was also recommended by Paul Bradley. I walked the road and noticed that it has a lot of erosion, plus about half way down it is now a private property road with a "no trespassing" sign posted. The road also has a private locked gate on it. On the N.C. side I discovered a newer Forest Service road (not on the map) that comes to within about 300 feet of the shelter. This road is gated and

is accessed from Pigeon Roost Road over by Temple Hill.

On Friday I drove to the shelter, carried out the tin, and patched the two holes in the concrete blocks with vinyl concrete patch.

Michael Watts reporting:

Date: May 11, 2002

Section: White Rocks to Bitter End

Participants: Mike Watts, Rick Lott, Missy Wright

Total person hours: 33 hours (3 x 11)

We repainted blazes north to south, clipped, weeded, and removed trash from Moreland Gap shelter. Removed one small blowdown. The Trail was generally in good shape. I tried the new "peanut butter jar" paint method. I personally prefer the spray paint. For a small crew, the big disadvantage of other methods is that the person painting blazes can't help with any other tasks. With the spray paint, you can put the paint can in the utility belt between blazes and still help with clipping. We saw numerous hikers - some through hikers and others out for shorter trips. We ate lunch with a group of three women at Moreland Gap Shelter. They were day hiking over a long weekend, and spending evenings at hotels or B&B's. One lady said her brother was in another group a couple days ahead. He reported there was a farmer (?) who had blocked a section of trail, and they had to make a long detour. She wasn't sure of the location, but thought it might be in the Watauga area. Have you had any other reports of this nature? Participating were Mike Watts, Rick Lott, and Missy Wright. Scotty Myers injured his back the previous week, so he helped with transportation.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2002

Purpose: Work on Elk River Relocation

Number of people: 22 (Bruce & Mary Cunningham, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, and hikers "Pittsburg", "La Tripper", Sean "Shamrock" MacDonald, Amy "Juicy Shoes" MacDonald, "Antre'", "Prairie Dog", "Captain", "Neighbor", "Baltimore Jack", "Hey Bob", Leon Whaley, Corey Parker, "Quinn the Eskimo". "Red Beard", "Grumps", and "Mouse Bait")

Total person hours: 22 X 9 = 198

On May 11 we continued working on the Walnut Mountain Road end of the Elk River relocation. Thanks to the great turnout of thru-hikers, we were able to complete about 800 feet of trail. We have now reached what we think is the middle of the relocation from the Walnut Mountain Road end. We had great weather and a good time talking to each other as we worked on the trail. More than one of the thru-hikers was heard to say "I didn't realize how much effort goes into constructing trail". A special note of thanks goes to all who helped.

Steve Perri reporting:

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2002

Purpose: Work on Team Trail Section from Bitter End to Walnut Mt Road

Number of people: 2 (John Thompson and Steve Perri)

Total person hours: 7 X 2 = 14

Bruce Cunningham helped John and I by spotting our car at the end of our section at Walnut Mountain Road. John and I lopped and cleaned blazes as needed on this section hiking from Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road. We also made notation changes for

Collins Chew to update the trail guidebook. This section didn't need much work due to the relo trail north of Laurel Fork. This is a really big improvement and a nicely laid out trail. Blazes were in good shape since many were done last fall. We put the hurt on the saplings in Nickels vista trail south of Upper Laurel. Lots of thru-hikers were coming through (maybe 10). We met a group of about 8 women from the Winston-Salem Ladies Hiking Club section hiking. We chatted with them and they took pictures for their newsletter. The trail through the creeks in Upper Laurel is still under pre-relocation status to move the trail out of the multiple drainages.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: May 13, 2002

Purpose: To purchase building materials for Clyde Smith remodel and transport them to Paul Benfield's house, near the staging area for the work project.

Participant hours: Ed Oliver - 3 hours; Bob Peoples, Paul Benfield, David Gibson, hikers Jim Marsh and John Chambers - 6 hours each.

Total hours: 33 hours

We met at Hampton with 3 pickups to head off to Home Depot to gather our supplies. Ed Oliver joined us along the way, a good thing, as he ended up having to secure the materials for us with his Visa card. (Remodel materials \$890.00. Bags of cement \$20.00. Being able to walk out the door with the items you just spent 2 1/2 hours selecting, "Priceless".) We were able to get everything we needed for the project, and managed to stay under budget as well. Thanks to the two hikers Bob brought who helped load and unload all the lumber and roofing supplies.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: May 14, 2002

Sections: 16 and 12

Purpose: Prepare Clyde Smith Shelter for modification, install waterbars and flag trail reroute for Elk River

Number of People: 16 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, plus thru hikers John Stoddard "LJ", Eric and Bryan Grove "Hammock Brothers", Adam Gough "Geo", Jonathan Moskow "Harpo", Jim Marsh "Marshy", and "Turtle")

Total person-hours: 14 X 9 + 2 (Darrol & "Turtle") X 7 = 140

Many thanks to Bob for bringing six vigorous and skilled thru hikers. The seventh thru hiker, "Turtle", was in Clyde Smith Shelter when we arrived and volunteered to help. David, Carl and most of the thru hikers worked at the shelter and installed the six 4x4 posts, cut off a large stump, and relocated the fire ring. Those fellows dug through stone and stumps to set those posts. Bruce, Bill, Hueston, Darrol, Frank and "Turtle" cut down a tree right behind the shelter, set twelve water bars and cut twenty more for installing this coming weekend. Only one tree hung up that took about 90 minutes to finally get to the ground. Bob and Ed scouted out a change of a switchback on the Elk River relocation so that the switchback would less likely need to be cut.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: May 16, 2002

Purpose: To accompany the Forest Service archeologist, Bob Noel, on a survey of the Clyde Smith Shelter remodel site.

Participant and hours: David Gibson, 1 x 5 = 5 hours

Due to some error the project had been approved without the archeologist having signed off on it. Luckily there were no problems and we can proceed as planned. Bob also surveyed possible privy sites to save him a trip if the club decides to build a privy here. He is quite knowledgeable and he pointed out several historic and prehistoric sites along the A.T. we walked. We also explored some ruins, and found a disturbed place where a large bear had recently settled down for a nap. At one point we came to a saddle area, and Bob announced that this was a Native American campsite and within a minute had collected 3 stone chips laying right on the A.T. that had been worked by man. In addition, we found the road from the N.C. side that we had looked for on previous outings but had been unable to find. It comes up to the A.T. very near the shelter turnoff and goes down about a mile to Hughes Gap road, crossing private property on the way. All in all it was a very adventurous day.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: May 16, 2002

Section: 3

Purpose: Cut weeds between Abingdon Gap Shelter and Spring

Number of people: 1

People: Steve Banks

Total hours: 10

Cleared weeds between Abingdon Gap Shelter and the spring at the south end of my adopted section. The shelter is in good shape, with the broom, rake, and shovel all present. Did not find a trail register in the shelter, and left a new TEHCC-provided register. Posted a Foot Travel Only sign south of McQueens Gap. Met about 20 thru-hikers, heading to Damascus for Trail Days.

There are two blowdowns just south of the shelter; will remove them on the next trip.

Waterbars are needed in a few places north of McQueens Gap. Someone has left a large appliance and a carpet at McQueens Gap that need to be removed.

John Arwood reporting:

Date: May 18, 2002

Section: A.T. north from Iron Mountain Gap through Big Laurel Branch Wilderness to Vandeventer Shelter (approximately 4.5 miles x 2)

Participants: Sara Jane Schmeltzer (SOFG) Sierra Club, David Gibson (TEHCC), John Arwood (SOFG) Sierra Club

Participant hours: 10 hours each x 3 = 30 hours

Cleared 5 blow downs. Lopped invasive limbs. Replaced 10 foot section of shelter gutter (10 foot gutter & 77 in.x1in.x6in. fascia board still needed). Patched holes in shelter concrete block. Measured distance from shelter to water source trailhead for new shelter signs. Swept shelter roof and cleared rear gutter. Dug trench to disperse shelter gutter run off. Removed candle wax from shelter sleeping platform. Flattened unused shelter fire grate supports. Removed trash from around shelter and under sleeping platform. Hauled out a large amount of trash including 2 sections of old gutter and 2 sections of old roofing.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: May 19 and 20, 2002

Sections: 16 and 12

Purpose: Remodel Clyde Smith Shelter, install waterbars, and dig trail on Elk River Relocation

Number of People: 66 on 5/19 and 63 on 5/20 with 80 individuals

Total person-hours: 1159

Hikers and Guests:

A#1, Ashley, Baltimore Jack, Beerman, Big Dig, Blister Sister, Bookworm, Breakfast Enema, Cameo, Cheesehead, Chicken Man, Crumbsnatcher, Damascus High Schooler #1, Damascus High Schooler #2, Doug, Duct Tape, Ear Wax, Forrest Phil, Kim Abruzzese, Gayle, Geo, Girl Next Door, Glenn, Greenman, Gurney, Hammock Brother (Bryan Grove), Hammock Brother (Eric Grove), Harly (Dick Pottenger), Hattie Mae, Hawkeye, Hitch Hiker, Hoss, Iron Horse, J.J., Jeff, Jester, Kali Frodo, Load Bearer, Lori, Lug Nut, Macgyver, Mandy, Miracle Mike, Miracle Mike's Girl Friend, Moonshine, Mountain Laurel (Lori Pottenger), Never Again, Otto, Phlegm, Pilgrim, Pop Tart, Pushing Up Daises, Queen of Hearts, Road Dog, Rover, Sasquatch, Seiko, Shutter Bug, Snot Rocket, Sunshine, Teatree, Trail Yetti, Turtle, Vagabond, Weathercarrot, Phil Edmundson.

Club Members and Affiliates:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Benfield, Bruce & Mary Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob & Pat Peoples, Kim Peters, Bill Stowell, Frank Williams

Dogs: Bear, Merlin, and Raven

Summary: Wow! The 2nd annual Damascus Trail Days Hard-Core was a great success! Hikers transported themselves from Damascus or were shuttled by Bob Peoples, Bruce Cunningham and Frank Williams. By the time they arrived at the improvised trailhead, all the materials (concrete, plywood, metal roofing, lumber, hardware and tools) were awaiting them to be carried the two miles up the mountain to Clyde Smith Shelter. And carry the hikers did. Even 80 lb. bags of concrete went right up that mountain on backs or shoulders. While awaiting the materials, Club members removed the old roof. The hikers then carried all the old shingles back down the hill before picking up a second load of materials to haul up the mountain. A welcome sight in mid afternoon was two hikers carrying a large cooler of ice and soft drinks up that mountain. Since a limited number of skilled carpenters could work on the shelter, everyone else worked for a couple of hours installing about 30 waterbars trail north and trail south of the Clyde Smith Shelter. At the shelter, the new rafters were installed for the new porch and holes dug for the benches. The evening ended with a dinner of barbecue, pasta salad, baked beans and strawberry shortcake complete with ice cream thanks to the generosity of Bruce and Mary and the catering of Mary Cunningham, Pat Peoples, and Mrs. Benfield. Can you believe that probably fifty hikers stayed at Bob and Pat People's Kincora Hostel both Sunday and Monday evenings? Porches were full, as were fields and even truck beds. On Monday Bill Stowell and David Gibson, who had camped at the shelter the night before, were joined by Darrol Nichols, 8 returning hikers from Sunday, and 5 new hikers who had hiked into the shelter the night before and decided to stay to help with the project. (They had offered to stay for a couple of hours but ended up working the entire day.) Monday was spent installing the new roof, poly-carb windows, plywood wall extensions, setting the bench posts, and painting the shelter until the paint ran out. The entire crew of 16 kept hopping all day long and the shelter is more than 85% done after only three days of work. Thanks are due to the hikers who hauled about two and a half pickup truck loads of lumber, tin, and

concrete uphill to the shelter site. And, special thanks to the skilled hikers who labored tirelessly to put the new Clyde Smith Shelter together.

Also on Monday, Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, Hueston Fortner and Carl Fritz took about 43 hikers to the Elk River Relocation to dig sidehill trail. With the energy of fit hikers, about 675 feet of fairly difficult trail was installed. This evening ended with a dinner of lasagna, tossed salad, bread and dessert provided by Bob and Pat at Kincora and prepared by Baltimore Jack and Blister Sister.

Special green and yellow patches signifying Damascus Hard-Core were given to each participant. Probably the greatest long-term benefit of this effort was the exposure of the hikers to trail maintenance. Many had much enthusiasm about getting involved with similar efforts in their states. Many thanks are owed to the Club Members and Affiliates who planned, organized and executed this major event. Just some of those include: David Gibson for his leadership of the entire Clyde Smith Shelter renovation; Bob and Pat Peoples for coordinating, transporting, feeding and providing overnight quarters for the hikers; Bruce and Mary Cunningham for transporting and feeding the hikers; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Benfield for transporting hikers and providing a staging area for materials, people and vehicles.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Section: Clyde Smith Shelter

Participants: Forrest Phil, Kim Abruzzese, Paul Benfield, David Gibson

Participant hours: 4 x 11 = 44 hours

Summary: Forrest Phil and his new bride Kim Abruzzese joined Paul Benfield and David Gibson on a work trip to finish up a few of the loose ends of the Clyde Smith remodel. We installed the seat tops for the benches; the step; and several pieces of old, damaged and/or rotted trim were replaced. The shelter is now about 99% completed. I think one more trip of 4 or 5 volunteers to finish the trim replacement, complete the painting, and load up the old shingles at the base of the mountain will finish the job.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: May 23, 2002

Section: Clyde Smith Shelter

Participants: David Gibson, Paul Benfield

Participant hours: 2 x 9 = 18 hours

Summary: Finished trim work on Clyde Smith Shelter and did more painting. All that is left now is to do some painting.