

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

July 2002

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
Various Trail Maintenance Trips		Bill Stowell		423-239-7697
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
Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park		Steve Falling	July 18	423-239-5502
Konnarock - Elk River Relocation		Joe DeLoach/ Ed Oliver/ Bill Stowell	August 8-12	
Konnarock - Elk River Relocation		Joe DeLoach/ Ed Oliver/ Bill Stowell	August 15-19	
2002 A.T., Southern Region Multi-Club Meet	C/4/D	Steve Perri	August 30- September 2	423-349-5091

TEHCC Celebrates at the 2002 Spring Dinner Meeting



Steve Perri reporting:

TEHCC club members had a lot to celebrate this year at the April 12, 2002 Spring Dinner Meeting held at the Eastman Lodge. Awards were presented for Annual Maintenance hours by the U.S. Forest Service and the the Eastman Hiking Club, and members were presented with the annual club awards. Candace Allen and Amy Fore of the Forest Service thanked the club for all the work on the Watauga and Nolichucky/Unaka Districts. Club members with more than 50 hours were presented with USFS patches and a letter of appreciation signed by Candace Allen and Terry Bowerman, District Rangers. TEHCC had a record year in 2001 with 10,973 maintenance hours. Bill Stowell presented club volunteers with club patches for volunteers with more than 50 maintenance hours since 1991. The Hiker of the Year Award was presented to Friday and Saturday Hiker Kim Peters and the Maintainer of the Year was presented to David Gibson with 495 hours. The Stan Murray Award was announced as John Thompson, who was not in attendance due to a prior family obligation.



Door prizes were graciously provided by David Ramsey, Manager of Mahoney Outfitters in Johnson City. Decorations were provided by Mary Fanslow and the Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 263. Those scouts participating at this year's Spring Dinner were Amber McClellan, Heather McClellan, Aline Sebantu, Lily Horton, and Brittany Tate. Many thanks to Carl Fritz for coordinating the Silent Auction of the club's rental tents.

The evening program was presented in two parts. Mary Ellen Rees presented a slide show of her trip to Mt. Elbert Colorado last September. Her cohorts on the trip were Kim Peters, Ken and Pat Buchanan, Lee Neely, and Cora Alason. Their trip was presented with all their behind the scenes tours, accommodations, storm highlights, and finale of reaching the summit. Richard Guinn presented the Bony Adventure on the Bonaventure River in Maine. The river experience was one of beauty, clear waters, bottom dragging (bony) but fun filled canoe trip. The evening programs provided a flavor for both hiking and paddling enthusiasts with the wonders of distant places and the first hand experiences of our presenters.

Appalachian Trail Conference Volunteer Trail Crew Needs Our Help!

The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) recruits volunteers for five seasonal volunteer trail crews along the Trail. ATC administers the three southernmost crews and supports the two northern programs, that are directly administered by the A.T. maintaining clubs (Green Mountain Club and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club).

These crews work with local A.T. maintaining clubs to perform much-needed manpower for relocation and treadway rehabilitation projects (such as the [Elk River relocation project](#)). Volunteers come from all walks of life and some have been participating in the crew program for over a decade. Many A.T. club members participate in the program as a way of seeing another section of the footpath. It's an incredible program of crew volunteers (supervised by skilled staff) working to serve the trail construction needs of A.T. club volunteers.

ATC recruits volunteers for over 500 available slots each season, and they need TEHCC's assistance in making sure the word gets out about these unique, educational and enjoyable volunteer opportunities. ATC's website hosts a page about the crew program with descriptive information and a downloadable version of the application form. The address is: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/steward/crews.html>.

The trail crew programs run from May through October. ATC is still seeking volunteers to fill openings for the remainder of this season. Please contact Heidi Hase using the contact information below if you have questions or desire further information.

Heidi Hase ()

Regional Program Assistant
Appalachian Trail Conference
Southwest and Central Virginia
P.O. Box 10
Newport, Virginia 24128
Voice work: (540) 544-7388
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Konnarock Crew - Elk River Relocation

(Scheduled for July 18-22, 2002)

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

The Konnarock Crew is a work crew organized by the US Forest Service and the Appalachian Trail Conference to undertake Appalachian Trail projects in the southern region. This year the Konnarock Crew will work with us for three weeks on the relocation between Campbell Hollow Road and Walnut Mountain Road, which we call the Elk River Relocation. The current location of the Trail passes close to private land, for the most part is not scenic, and has some badly eroded and difficult to maintain sections. The relocation will pass by beautiful Jones Branch Falls, around 100' high, and along the scenic Elk River not far below Elk River Falls. We are constructing mostly a sidehill Trail which will be much easier to maintain and pleasant to walk than the current Trail location. A shelter is planned for this relocation to replace the Don Nelan Shelter which was burned in 1989. The Crew and Club made good progress on this relocation beginning last year and with numerous trips this year. We have three weeks with the Konnarock Crew - July 18-22, August 8-12, and August 15-19. The more volunteers we can get out, the faster the work goes and the more likely we are to receive a good share of the Konnarock Crew's time. Those who work at least 40 hours with the Konnarock Crew will receive the coveted Konnarock T-shirt, this year being the 20th anniversary edition. Volunteers are welcome each day, but especially on the Friday-Sunday when we will work full days. We will meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank in Colonial Heights. Bring work gloves, lunch, and plenty of water; we'll provide the tools, but would appreciate knowing in advance if

you're coming so we can be prepared. Contact Joe, Ed Oliver at 349-6668, or Bill Stowell at 239-7697 for more information or to sign up.

Canoeing News

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

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

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

Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting

This combination backpack (7 days) and day hike (2 days) covered the southern portion of the A.T. from Springer Mountain to Winding Stair Gap (near Franklin, North Carolina). One of the highlights of this trip was the fresh potato salad prepared by a couple of through hikers at Blue Mountain Shelter. We also had excellent views from Tray and Albert Mountains. The weather was generally good and the wildflowers were beautiful. We also observed how the A.T. was used as a firebreak for the recent (March 2002) wildfires in North Carolina and marveled at the extensive fire lines built by the firefighters. Joining us for this hike was Debra Palermo from the Wilmington (Delaware) Trail Club.

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

Hike Leader: Vic Hasler

The group of Debi Berry, Vic and Clark Hasler, and George, Karyn, Nick, and Nathan Cross left Colonial Heights at 8:10 and met Rodney and Emily (age 7) Baker in Gate City, and then arrived at the Hanging Rock Recreation Area by 9:20. Travel distance (one way) was 37 miles. The hike up the old rocky train bed has a very rough tread in many places and could use a clipping of the heavy "woody growth" on the uphill side (which I learned about in the Basic Trail Maintenance course the weekend prior). The spring flood damage (warning sign at trailhead) appears to be undercutting of the trail to a thin ledge in two or three sections, one of which has been repaired. The group enjoyed the clear, comfortable day with much conversation. After lunch at the upper waterfalls, the short section of gravel trail to the upper trailhead and parking lot was

explored. The group leisurely traveled back down the trail while rearranging or hopping between rocks in the creek. Back in Colonial Heights by 4:00. This interesting 5.2 mile hike is recommended for families with some prior experience and should be scheduled again soon.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

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.

Hike Notice: Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park - Thursday July 18, 2002

Leader: Steve Falling, phone 423-239-5502

This year, we are again co-sponsoring the Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This is a popular Fun Fest event with 300-400 participants taking the 2.5 mile hike around the lake. At least twelve volunteers are needed to count the hikers and keep them on the main trail. Volunteers need to be at the Bays Mountain Park dam at 7:30 pm for instructions. The hiking begins at 8:00 and finishes about 10:00. You should bring a flashlight, good shoes or boots (not sandals) and a raincoat if rain is a possibility. The volunteer with the closest guess of the number of hikers will win a Bays Mountain T-shirt. Please contact Steve Falling to sign up to help or for more info.

Hike Notice: Hampton, Tennessee to Laurel Falls - Saturday July 27, 2002

Leader: Steve Wilson

We will hike the blue blazed trail from the parking lot at Hampton, Tennessee to the A.T. and then to Laurel Falls, returning by the same route. Highlights will be the wood bridges across that stream, the rock wall, and the falls. The hike will be an moderate one with a round trip distance of 7 miles. We'll meet in Colonial Heights at 8:00 A.M. Saturday morning, July 27, in the parking lot between McDonalds and Franklin Savings Bank. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information call Steve Wilson at 423-239-0456.

A.T. Southern Region Multi-Club Meet, August 30-September 2, 2002

Leader: Steve Perri, phone 423-349-5091

The 2002 A.T. Southern Region Multi-Club Meet will be held on Labor Day weekend hosted by the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club at Hurricane Campground. The weekend will be full of opportunities for hiking in the beautiful Mount Rogers area,

bicycling on the Virginia Creeper Trail, and socializing with other maintaining club members. The cost will be \$5.00/person for those 16 years old and above; no pre-registration is required. Hurricane Campground is a USFS Campground located in Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Attendees may camp in tents or RVs or stay in a hotel in nearby Troutdale or Marion. For more information contact:

Kitty Farley (President)
18070 Stone Mill Road
Abingdon, Virginia 24211
276-676-3040
email:

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.

John Thompson reporting:

Date: March 15, 2002

Purpose: Semi-annual maintenance

Number of participants: 3 (John Thompson, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams)

Total person hours: 27 (3 x 9)

Summary: On March 15, Frank Williams and John Thompson checked their adopted section, with the welcome help of Darrol Nickels. We removed about 15 small logs with a large bow saw, some about waist high. The blazes were okay in both directions, and little litter was found. At several places, the trail was narrow due to high side washing down. About 18 hikers passed by.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: May 28, 2002

Section: 13 (19E to Hump Mountain)

Purpose: Repair rail fence at stile

Number of People: 4 (Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 4 X 11 = 44

Summary: We started at Doll Flats and ended on Hump Mountain. We did some minor lopping, refreshed the blazes and reset about ten stepping stones. The first stile and few posts set by the Club were in good shape. The six posts and rails after those and before the barbed wire fence were very shaky. Last spring when we discovered the problem, we temporarily set them with extra posts as braces and used nylon rope to tie everything together. Today we removed the bad fence and tried to dig the holes deeper for the posts. Surprise, all six posts were already down to solid rock. We reset posts and pounded many small rocks in around them. Then using lag bolts we attached the rails to the posts. We set the four extra wood posts as angle braces and nailed them to the posts. Although not a thing of beauty, it should be sturdy for years. The other two stiles across Hump Mountain are in good shape. One blaze post on Hump Mountain was set up again after probably being used as a scratching post by the longhorns. On the return trip, two maintainers were confined to the jump seats in the small pickup. One had three bouts of leg cramps before ibuprofen eased the pain. On struggling to exit the truck, he exclaimed, "At least we only get old once. Thank heavens!"

Date: Saturday, June 1, 2002

Purpose: Annual maintenance - Walnut Mountain Road to Campbell Hollow Road (middle portion of Section 12)

Number of people: 2 (John Dombroski and Waylon Jenkins)

Total person hours: 2 X 10 = 20

We parked at the Campbell Hollow end and did the usual blazing, pruning, weeding, and removal of minor obstructions. We blazed both directions and met a number of hikers, including two from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. There were some recent horse tracks on part of the section (appeared to be just one horse). This section has some steep grades with several places where it appeared that hikers had slipped. However, the trail is generally in good shape. The brush technique wasn't bad, but was messy. We agreed that we should have brought a separate small container into which paint could be transferred in small amounts. We were concerned about possibly losing our paint supply in one accident. It might also be good to come up with a way to carry the paint system on a belt. Otherwise, if we use the brush system again we may use a bucket for the convenience of the handle and because it is a more stable system to set

on the ground while doing other maintenance or taking a break.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Purpose: Install water bars trail south of Clyde Smith Shelter

Number of People: 5 (Paul Winfield, Hueston Fortner, Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver)

Total person hours: 5 X 8 = 40

Summary: We installed about a dozen waterbars trail south of the Clyde Smith Shelter. We then walked to the shelter with the intention of carrying out the lumber that was left from the shelter improvement work. While we were sitting at the shelter and enjoying the breeze that was cooling us off, we decided that we could use the left over materials to install additional sleeping space in the shelter. There was complete agreement not to carry the material out but to use it at the shelter. We plan to go back to the shelter next week and install the additional sleeping space.

C. B. Willis reporting:

Date: June 7, 2002

Sections: 17 and 18

Total team hours: 133

Members participating: 19 x 7 hours each: Culbertson, Rick; Derouen, Gilbert; Fortner, Hueston; Guinn, Howard; Hupko, Mike; Kincheloe, Carl; Lamberts, Frances; Marshall, Glenn; McMillan, David; Meeks, Al; Mumpower, Waymon; Ottenfeld, Neil; Perry, Sandra; Ramsey, Pat; Spencer, Bob; Talley, Ken; Taylor, Clyde; Willis, CB; Wolf, Malcolm

Summary: We walked the entire trail, removed small blowdowns, clipped laurel, weeded, picked up litter on trail, shelter, the trailheads and trail crossings. Due to time restraints, we left a short stretch of weeds at Deep Gap and the last mile going south to Indian Grave Gap. We also left a large blowdown between the Cherry Gap Shelter and Low Gap. We will go back and take care of this work within the next two weeks. We also have plans to review and refresh all blazes this summer. This includes obliterating unnecessary blazes. We also need to replace the mileage and Hiker Only signs going north at Indian Grave Gap.

This isn't meant to be defensive but we want to explain the extra roofing panels at the Cherry Gap Shelter which was discussed in the most recent TEHCC bulletin. Several years ago our members removed the privy. It was full of trash and it was either remove it or move it to another location with the chances of it filling up again soon. The TEHCC agreed with our decision to remove. It was the only privy on the Eastman section of the A.T. We buried most of the materials, sawed up the wood for the hikers to use and decided to place the roofing panels in the back of the shelter. For all these years, they have never been bothered. Until now, of course. We would guess they will not soon be bothered again if left where they are. This is only meant to be explanatory.

C. B. Willis, Secretary

Old Timers Hiking Club

Steve Perri reporting

Date: June 8, 2002

Purpose: ATC Basic Trail Maintenance Workshop

Total person-hours: 8 hours each for all listed below except 10 hours for Steve and George Statzer and Morgan Sommerville (110 h total)

The Appalachian Trail Conference sponsored the ATC Basic Trail Maintenance Workshop hosted by TEHCC on June 8th. Morgan Sommerville, our Southern Region Trail Representative was our course instructor. We had a cross section of trainees from State of Franklin Group Sierra Club, Tusculum College, Tusculum College Earth, TEHCC, and two trail enthusiasts from Norton, Virginia. We decided to work on the section of trail from Watauga Dam Road north into Big Laurel Branch Wilderness. Class started with a tailgate presentation of the theoretical aspects of design, tools and methods. After our one hour class portion we took to the trail. We walked the section trail south of Watauga Dam Road to show what to look for on a side hill trail with encroaching rhododendrons and the design of the trail for water drainage. Then we went to work on the trail north side of Watauga Dam Road. We devoted a fair amount of time installing water ditches on the steep segment of trail going up Iron Mountain. We also talked about low impact methods used for campsites and how to prune with a more natural effect and not leaving stem stubs. We had lunch part way up to the ridge and worked another hour until we reached the hemlocks on top of the ridge about one mile in. With the new training, our participants will be able to view the design elements of existing trails with a more critical eye and know how to manage plant growth and water drainage.

Those in attendance include: Steve and George Statzer (Norton, VA), Alex Dydal, Thomas Ishi, Barbie Ricker (Tusculum College), Randy Rivers, Jennifer Wilcox (Tusculum College Earth), John Arwood and Jim Von Bramer (State of Franklin Group Sierra Club), Paul Benfield, Vic Hasler and Steve Perri (TEHCC) and Morgan Sommerville (ATC).

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: June 11, 2002

Section: 16

Purpose: Complete Clyde Smith Shelter modifications and install waterbars

Number of People: 10 (Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, Frank Williams, and thru hiker "El Toro" Paul)

Total person-hours: 10 X 9 = 90

Summary: We installed two 4 x 7 bunks using left over materials, and expanded the normal sleeping capacity of Clyde Smith Shelter from six to ten people. We also finished the painting. One metal roof seam on the porch roof is gapped slightly and will require one additional trip by David and Paul to complete all the shelter repairs. About sixteen waterbars and several ditches were installed in the blue blaze trails to the shelter and to the water. NOTE: With all the waterbars that have been installed over the last couple of years, all maintainers should be wary of cutting out all down logs on the trail. Some may be waterbars!

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

"PANIC" + GOOD LUCK + HARD WORK =

GREAT A.T. 3rd SATURDAY MAINTENANCE DAY

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2002

Participants: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri,

hikers: Maud, V.Q., Twenty (Kevin), Toe Nail (Matt), and J.C.

Hours: 9 X 10 hrs. = 90 plus 1 X 1 hr. (J.C.)

B = 91 hrs.

Destination: Nolichucky River north and south

6 AM: Mary and Bob arise (at their respective homes), check weather, do odds and ends until they feel it is OK to alert Bruce

7:10: Bob phones Bruce and informs him that between 5 and 7 hikers from the hostel will be joining the work trip. Bruce "panics" as there aren't enough tools for the enlarged group.

7:15: Bruce phones Ed Oliver - message left on his answering machine

7:18: Bruce phones Carl Fritz - message left on his answering machine

7:20: Bruce phones Steve Perri - Steve, go by Ed's house.

7:25: Mary phones Toy Reid Employee Center and message informs her it is not open on weekends.

7:30: Bruce phones Darrol Nickels and finds he has an assortment of tools which might be borrowed. Bruce pacing the floor!!!

7:45: Carl returns Bruce's call and says he thinks he can gain entry into Ed's house.

7:50: Cunninghams and Steve Perri depart from their respective homes bound for the usual gathering spot in Colonial Heights.

8:10: Bruce departs for Darrol's and returns with three tools.

8:25: Carl arrives with the back end of his truck loaded with tools which he retrieved from Ed's house. Tools loaded in Steve's SUV and he drives the Cunninghams to the agreed rendezvous spot, the Forest Service Center in Unicoi.

9:00: Bob and four hikers arrive first, then the Perri car followed by David in his truck.

Plan of action determined as follows: David, Maud and V.K. drive to Indian Grave Gap, proceeding south to repair about five stretches of treadway which have sloughed off.

Other two vehicles drive up 19W to the Forest Service Road which leads to access trails to Devil's Creek Gap and Temple Hill Gap. Bob and Twenty start up to the Trail to begin work locating the reported Large multi-tree blow down. On reaching the Trail, "BOB TURNS SOUTH - NOT THE DIRECTION OF THE BLOWDOWN." (So what else is new!!!!) Steve deposits the Cunninghams and Matt near Temple Hill Gap and returns to Devil's Creek to find Bob and Twenty.

11:45: Cunninghams and Matt proceed north, finding the pine blight has caused about twelve pines to lodge across the Trail or close overhead. All cleared plus several sections of very "sloughed" tread repaired. Steve reaches Bob and Twenty and J. C., a northbound thru hiker, who stops to assist. Extensive trail rebuilding required where the blowdown had been.

2:45 PM: Bruce reports that, except for the major blowdowns, the Trail was found to be in excellent shape - blazes outstanding. Several low priority projects would be to install water bars particularly on the hilly top ridge and fix several short sections which are beginning to slough off. Cunninghams and Matt reach the north end of Chestoa bridge on foot. Thirty seconds later the two cars from Devil's Creek arrive. Twenty and Matt head north on the Trail toward Nolichucky Expeditions to make sure that the Indian Grave Gap crew was not on that section. Bob and Bruce drive to Nolichucky Expeditions and when Twenty and Matt arrive, they volunteer to hike up toward Curly Maple Shelter to find David and the girls. (Miss Janet warned us that we shouldn't send

David out in the woods with two girls!)

3:00 and afterwards: Those at the Nolichucky Expeditions pile many rocks around the bridge supports for Bridge #1. Bob's deadline for departing for Mass comes and goes - still no sign of life coming down the hill.

About 5 PM: The happy hikers appear, having made slow but thorough work of fixing the first four problem stretches. Quality of work: top notch. They started hiking down when time ran out and met the "search party" at Curly Maple Shelter. Shortly after that: Bob and the hikers take David to his truck and Steve heads back to Kingsport. "WOW!!! - WHAT A DAY!!!"

C. B. Willis reporting:

Date: June 17, 2002

Sections: 17 and 18

Total participant hours: 48 (8 x 6)

Participants: Gil Derouen, Howard Guinn, Daryl Lloyd, Glenn Marshall, Waymon Mumpower, Clyde Taylor, C. B. Willis, Malcolm Wolf

Summary: We divided into four crews; one crew cleared four blowdowns requiring chain saws in the Cherry Gap/Low Gap area. Two crews renewed blazes and clipped laurel. One crew weeded the trail at Deep Gap and from the F/S Road crossing of the A.T. to Indian Grave Gap. This was work we didn't get to finish on the June 7th work day.

We have now weeded the entire trail adoption and cleared all known blowdowns. The blazes have been refreshed from Deep Gap to Indian Grave Gap. We painted over many redundant blazes and tried to restore the blazes to what they should be.

We plan to finish the blaze work within the next 30 days. In addition, we want to install a pipe at the Deep Gap spring. Right now the spring is no more than 2" deep and a hiker would have trouble filling his bottle.

Since we received the request from TEHCC to consider a horse barrier at Indian Grave Gap we have checked the trail north of the gap several times over 5-6 weeks, including a thorough inspection today. We have seen no evidence on any of our trips of the trail being used by horsemen. We do not feel a barrier to be necessary or needed.

We need to reinstall signage at Indian Grave Gap. Someone wanted a souvenir.

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: June 17

Section: 8

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, John Thompson

Total participant hours: 3x10hrs = 30hrs

Summary: Cut all weeds, freshened all blazes, clipped as necessary---trail in good shape except for one 8" blowdown just south of the dam which BOB PEOPLES PROMISES TO REMOVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. Before too long, some widening of the trail needs to be done at the culvert and the open area just to the south. Weeds, etc. are closing in the walking area---need big time removal!!!!----BOB PEOPLES-COULD THIS BE A PROJECT FOR THRU-HIKERS????????? -- near by and not a very large project?????

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: June 18, 2002

Section: 12**Purpose:** Continue digging trail on Elk River Relocation**Number of People:** 11 (Paul Benfield, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Bob Peoples; female thru hikers: VQ, Texas Tea and Lingo; male thru hikers: Load Bearer, Delirious and Red)

Dog: Black Lab "Slick"

Total person-hours: 11 X 10 = 110**Summary:** We entered at Elk River and found that it is becoming a very long walk to the work site. We spruced up several sites that we had not finished on the last trip here. Then we continued on towards the A.T. junction. The thru hikers learned trail-building skills rapidly and even got into cribbing and back filling. Someone who the author refuses to identify forgot the bow saws in the truck. A twelve-inch locust for cribbing was felled with a hand pruning saw. One light day of work for a crew of five remains for completing the last switchback and intersecting with the A.T.*David Gibson reporting:***Event:** Curly Maple Shelter painting**Participants:** Scout Troop 303 from Huntsville, Alabama and club member David Gibson. (Kyle Fit, Eagle: Jimmy Cook, Star; David Cook, Star; Patrick Flanagan, Star; Richard Zappe, 1st Class; Charles Bendall, Tenderfoot; leaders - Gordon Pruitt, David Cook, Dan Fugit: 2.5 hours each. David Gibson 11 hours)**Total participant hours:** 9 x 2.5 hours = 22.5 hours + 11 hours (33.5 hours total)**Summary:** Out on a 50 mile trek, Troop 303 hiked in from No Business Knob Shelter where they camped the night before. They arrived between 3:30 and 4pm and were met by David Gibson, who had hiked into the shelter with paint, brushes, and scrapers in the A.M. to begin the tedious task of scraping the roof. With the arrival of the troops the work was quickly accomplished and was only momentarily delayed by a pocket storm front that harried the workers. The shelter is now shiny and clean. One more trip is planned to recaulk the nail heads on the roof, as it was discovered that most of the old caulking has peeled up.*Steve Banks reporting:***Date:** June 22, 2002**Section: 3****Purpose:** Trail maintenance between Abingdon Gap Shelter and Spring**Number of people:** 2 (Carl Fritz and Steve Banks)**Total hours:** 2 x10 hours = 20 hours total

Cut two blowdowns just south of Abingdon Gap Shelter, and put in four waterbars between McQueens Gap and the shelter. Blazed and clipped the A.T. on both sides of McQueens Gap. Another weeding trip is needed, even though they were cut on May 16; the weeds are very prolific on most of this section. The large appliance and carpet are still in McQueens Gap; will follow up with the Forest Service.

