

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August 2002

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NEXT TWO MONTHS AT A GLANCE				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
Tuckasegee River	II+	Deb Briscoe	August 2	423-538-5987
Nantahala River	II-III	Deb Briscoe	August 3-4	423-538-5987
Konnarock Crew (Elk River A.T. Relocation)		Joe DeLoach/ Ed Oliver/ Bill Stowell	August 8-12	423-239-7697 (Bill) 423-349-6668 (Ed) 423-753-7903 (Joe)
Pigeon River	III	Mike Morrow	August 10	423-245-1201
French Broad River	II-III	Bill Fritsch	August 10	423-943-9530
Konnarock Crew (Elk River A.T. Relocation)		Joe DeLoach/ Ed Oliver/ Bill Stowell	August 15-19	423-239-7697 (Bill) 423-349-6668 (Ed) 423-753-7903 (Joe)
Third Saturday A.T. Maintenance		Bill Stowell	August 17	423-239-7697
APE's Picnic, Nolichucky Gorge	III-IV	Dewey Fuller	August 17	423-764-7340
Roan Highlands Summer Winged	Moderate	Allan	August 17	828-688-4382

Wonders Hike		Trently		
Ocoee River	III+	Daryl Crisp	August 24	276-523-7706 (days) 276-523-8617 (after 6 pm)
2002 A.T., Southern Region Multi-Club Meet	C/4/D	Steve Perri	August 30- September 2	423-349-5091
A.T.: Connecticut/ Massachusetts	A/2/C	Kent and Nancy Wilson	September 14-22	423-239-7554
Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike	B/3/C	Richard Colberg	September 21	423-288-8333

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 (including the Konnarock Crew; [see the article below](#)) work with local A.T. maintaining clubs to perform much-needed manpower for relocation and treadway rehabilitation projects. 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. Please ask anyone that you think might be interested to consider this opportunity. The work performed by these Crews is very helpful to TEHCC, and a lot of fun too! 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

Fax work: (540) 544-6880

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Hosts Leave No Trace Master Educator Program, September 16-20, 2002

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) is hosting a Leave No Trace Master Educator Workshop September 16-20, 2002 at the Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains. The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) will teach the course with assistance from master educator members of the GATC. The cost of the program is \$700 for the 5 days plus \$64 for Sunday overnight accommodations at the Hike Inn. Additional information, registration forms, and scholarship applications are available on the web at <http://www.lnt.org>. You may also call the NOLS program coordinator Michael Cheek at (307) 335-2213.

Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park is the workshop host site.

This Leave No Trace program is open to people who are actively teaching others backcountry skills or providing recreation information to the public. The 5-day course is a practical exercise in the Leave No Trace skills and ethics with a 4-day backpacking trip on the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail and the Benton Mackaye Trail.

Konnarock Crew - Elk River Relocation

Scheduled for August 8-12 and August 15-19

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

Report of TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Whitewater Clinic (A.K.A. Canoe School), June 6-9, 2002

Mike Morrow reporting

The 31st TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Whitewater Clinic was held on 6/6, 6/8 and 6/9. Eight students attended and there were many APE's assisting.

Although small in size, the school was a big success. Thanks to all of the instructors and safety boaters that volunteered their time. These folks gave up a precious weekend of doing their favorite runs in order to help out.

The school had a format of a Thursday evening lecture, Saturday morning basic lake work, Saturday afternoon lake roll instruction and a full day river trip on Sunday. We usually do not teach rolling but there was a lot of interest in rolling techniques expressed by the students. We decided to have one class with all eight students and safety boaters.

We met at the Nolichucky campground on Sunday. The plan was to run to Sawmill. The water was too low (600 ish) to go any further. However, even at the low level, this stretch gives some interesting class II rapids for beginners. I was a little apprehensive having such a large group in one class. After a brief review of strokes, river maneuvers and safety, we headed downstream. I led the students down the first rapid and watched them as they ran it. They were grinning from ear to ear. Obviously, they were having a great time. At Cowbell, we spent time practicing river maneuvers. Here we had our first student swimmer. But, she was smiling the entire time and jumped right back into it after being rescued. We also had a safety boater swim at this rapid. I will withhold the name to protect him from being hounded to death. I am sure his paddling buddies already know about it anyway! Headrock Rapid was used as an opportunity to learn scouting skills. There was no carnage as we approached the dreaded Devil's Looking Glass Rapid. This is becoming known as the school's massacre rapid. In the past, bodies, boats and paddles were separated and running the rapid individually. I used to feel bad about this but have conceded that it is part of the whitewater experience. Beginners might as well find out early if they can hack it. All were smiling at the bottom. It is only a short paddle to the take-out where once again food ended the trip. I heard many newbies talking about buying their own boats at the end of the day. So, I figured the clinic was a success. Watch the newsletter for details on next year's clinic.

Thanks to the following Instructors and Safety boaters: Mike Morrow, Cory Wells, and Richard Guinn. Watch out for these newbies on the area rivers: Brad McCracken, Bill Fritsch, Jamie Grillo, Rebekah Dotson, Glenda O'Neal, Mike Walcher, and Stephanie (a.k.a. iron balls) and Veronica Shafer.

S.Y.O.T.R.

Mike Morrow

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)



Hike Report: Gregory Bald - Flame Azaleas, June 21, 2002

G. S. Luttrell reporting

Lunch on top of Gregory Bald, cool temperatures, low humidity, sunshine with clouds, Flame Azaleas at their peak - what a way to spend an afternoon! We spent over two hours wandering over the Bald, finding and taking pictures of the Flame Azaleas ranging from deep orange to white. We hiked the 4 1/2 mi. route up from Parson's Branch Road, and returned the same way. We started with a Waffle House breakfast, had a Buddy's BBQ dinner, and arrived back in Kingsport after dark. Hikers were Olin Babb, Jerry Cunningham, Pat Buchanan, and Garry Luttrell. Webmaster's note: two more photos from this hike - white azalea and bee on the left, unknown wildflower on the right.



A.T. Club Presidents Retreat, June 21-23, 2002

Kim Peters reporting

During this weekend, I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 29 of the 31 A.T. maintaining clubs, members of the board and staff of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service staff, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' National Conservation and Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This biennial retreat, sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conference, provides the only formal opportunity for officers of the various A.T. maintaining clubs to exchange concerns, insights, and plans. The meeting started with a brief history of the Appalachian Trail followed by an address from National Park Service Associate Director Dick Ring who provided that agency's views of the work priorities for the next few years, as well as the Bush's administration's priorities for national parks. The Appalachian Trail is a unit of the national park system and one of only a few "natural resource parks," because of its extraordinary numbers of rare, threatened, and endangered species. After Director Ring's remarks, the participants were divided into groups and spent most of the weekend discussing what their vision of the Appalachian Trail would be like a decade from now. The goal of developing this vision is to better prepare responses to the various encroachments on the A.T. corridor and the effect they have on the trail experience. As was pointed out to us, the A.T. has the high ground and everyone wants the high ground. Examples of encroachments are cell phone towers, power lines, wind farms, ski areas and housing developments. I am not sure any monumental decisions were arrived at, but I know the ATC Board and Staff now have plenty of fuel for thought as they wrestle with defining the vision and mission for the ATC.

This was a great opportunity to meet other members of the various trail maintaining clubs. Not all the time was spent in meetings however. There was plenty of opportunity to socialize over meals, morning hikes or evening volleyball sessions.



Hike Report: A.T. - U.S. 421 to Double Springs Shelter, June 29, 2002

Steve Wilson reporting

We started hiking at the road crossing of Hwy 421 and hiked into Double Springs Shelter and then back. This Saturday morning hike had surprisingly wet weather because of an early morning rain and it seemed like we were hiking in the clouds all the way to the shelter - a rather pleasant

experience. We started hiking the 7-miles round trip around 9:00 AM and reached the shelter around 11:30. The atmosphere at the shelter was quiet and peaceful for about 15 minutes, then a boy scout troop with 15 boys and 3 adults arrived. We soon left to find the solitude of the trail. The hike out was mostly down hill and we were back at the vehicle at 1:30 PM. Participating in this hike were: Cherlene Reasor, Steve Woody, Jill and Steve Wilson.



Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

Roan Highlands Summer Winged Wonders Hike, August 17, 2002

Leader: Allen Trently

Join members of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) and Ornithologist Allan Trently, on Saturday, August 17 at 9:00 a.m. for an interpretive eight mile (moderate) roundtrip hike of Little Hump and Hump Mountains - two of Roan's most beautiful and remote grassy balds.

Begin at the head of Roaring Creek with a short stroll along the National Historic Overmountain Victory Trail to the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Climb to the crest of Little Hump and Hump Mountain and enjoy views of North Carolina and Tennessee. Return via the A.T. through Doll Flats to Hwy 19E where cars will be waiting. Learn about butterflies (possibility of seeing Early hairstreaks, and Indian skippers), late summer wildflowers, birds, and enjoy 360 degree views.

Participants should meet at Bob's Dairy Land at 9:00 a.m. in Roan Mountain, Tennessee, on Hwy 19E just east of the Tenn. 143 junction and should bring lunch, sturdy hiking shoes, hat, drinking water, sunscreen, rain gear, camera, and binoculars.

To obtain more information and to make reservations for this moderate hike, please call the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy's Seasonal Ecologist at (828) 688-4382.

* * *

The mission of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to protect the world's

oldest mountains for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, this volunteer-based, nonprofit organization works with individuals and local communities to identify, preserve and manage the region's important lands. During the past 28 years, the Conservancy and its 1,500 members have been responsible for protecting approximately 15,000 acres in the Roan Highlands along the North Carolina/Tennessee border, and for preserving hundreds of acres along the borders of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

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 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 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.

We have been asked to spend 5 minutes at the Sunday evening meeting to brag about all the great stuff that has happened since last Labor Day. This has been recommended to be organized in a "success/challenge" format. We can then comment on our most successful efforts and what we consider to be our greatest challenges (or problems).

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.

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: June 23, 2002

Section: 8

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Number of People: 2 (Bob and Pat Peoples)

Total person-hours: 2 X 2 = 4

Summary: Removed eight inch blowdown reported by Bruce Cunningham on his last trip.

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: June 25, 2002

Sections: 12 and 13

Purpose: Cut weeds

Number of People: 5 (Paul Benfield, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: 5 X 8 = 40

Summary: Using scythes, weed eaters and loppers, we cleared weeds and growth from Isaac's Cemetery to Buck Mountain Road including several hundred feet trail south of the road. We also cut on both sides of Campbell Hollow Road. Finally, we cleared from Apple House Shelter trail north across 19E to the bridge over Bear Branch. We picked up and removed about five bags of trash at Bear Branch Road. Also, we removed a three-foot diameter tire from Apple House Shelter.

Steve Wilson reporting

Date: June 29, 2002

Purpose: Recreation/Trail Maintenance

Person-hours: 1 person x 7 hours = 7 person-hours

Cut briars and small tree branches with hand loppers during a hike on the trail between Hwy 421 to Double Springs Shelter. The trail was clear with no blowdowns, but the footpath needs some attention on some side hill sections, especially near the shelter. The weeds are up to waist high in a few spots and there are some faded blazes that need paint. The shelter's roof and sleeping platform looked good, but the rake and shovel have broken handles. I plan to lead a crew to address these concerns within a few weeks.

David Gibson reporting

Date: June 29, 2002

Section: 15

Participants: David Gibson

Total participant hours: 1 x 5 = 5 hours

Summary: Scythed weeds from Hughes Gap about a mile in, going trail north.

David Gibson reporting

Date: Monday, July 1 (Canada Day)

Participants: Paul Benfield and David Gibson

Total work hours: 2 x 5 hours = 10 hours

Summary: We enjoyed a nice hike up to Clyde Smith Shelter on this warm, 90 degree day to caulk some of the seams on the new roof. Also, Steve Banks has posted a number of photos from the remodel project on the website's Clyde Smith shelter page - <http://www.tehcc.org/ClydeSmithShelter.htm>. I would encourage people to take a look, and thanks Steve.

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: July 3, 2002

Section: 14

Purpose: Cut Weeds

Number of People: 7 (Paul Benfield, David Gibson, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams and hiker "Jeff")

Total person-hours: 6 X 10 + Jeff X 5 = 65

Summary: We went in at Yellow Mountain Gap where yesterday's storm brought both hail and rain. Quarter inch hail was still in piles up to six inches deep where it had been washed. Hikers in Overmountain Barn indicated that an inch of hail was everywhere last evening. Trees and weeds were riddled. Carl, Bob and Jeff cut the weeds and blackberries north to Bradley Gap and replaced the destructed water signs at Bradley Gap. Paul, David, Ed and Frank cut weeds to about a half-mile trail south of Stan Murray Shelter. Appropriately for July, we saw over two dozen hikers in Roan Highlands and got soaked in afternoon thundershowers.

Steve Perri reporting

Date: July 5, 2002

Activity: Cut Weeds on Section 12 (Bitter End to Walnut Mt Road)

Participants: Steve Perri

Time: 5 hours total

Summary: I cut the weeds on our section of trail from Walnut Mountain Road to Laurel Creek. Not much of a problem with the exception of the area just south of Laurel Creek at the Nickels Vista. Talked with a few section hikers briefly hiking trail north. Trail is in good shape.

Ed Oliver reporting

Date: Monday, July 8, 2002

Purpose: Install post and sign at Yellow Mountain Gap

Number of people: 2 (Bob Peoples and Ed Oliver)

Total person hours: 2 X 6 = 12

Summary: On July 8, 2002 Bob Peoples and Ed Oliver installed a new post and sign at Yellow Mountain Gap. The sign was removed from the gap in late winter and was repaired and returned. The original post had rotted. This is the sign that states the significance of Yellow Mountain Gap and gives the directions to the Over Mountain Shelter. We also

packed soil around the Forest Service sign at the gap and reset one post closer to the shelter. The Forest Service sign needs a new support. We will return in the fall to put in a new support.

C. B. Willis reporting:

Date: July 8, 2002

Section: 17

Participants: Rick Culbertson, Howard Guinn, Daryl Lloyd, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Wayne Sparks, CB Willis

Total participant hours: 7 x 9 = 63 hours

Summary: We freshened the blazes from Iron Mountain Gap almost to the switchback on the south side of Unaka Mountain. Two teams worked blazing and clipping laurel. We ran out of paint one-fourth mile short of the switchback. We still need to do blazes for this stretch as well as on down to Deep Gap. Actually we have finished the blazing for the entire adoption except for this about one and a fourth mile part.

We spent time freshening and also, using brown paint, obliterated a lot of redundant blazes. We tried to follow the A.T. policy regarding blazes and probably interpreted them liberally.

We did paint even more blazes in the spruce woods on top of the mountain. Anyone who has hiked there knows how difficult it is to keep on the trail. We painted the blazes so one could be seen from anywhere near the A.T. in the spruce woods.

One team had brought in PVC pipe, which they installed at the Deep Gap spring. The spring was so low a hiker could not fill his water jug. Now the spring is flowing freely through the pipe. An intake was installed in the spring with rocks protecting it. This should certainly improve the water situation here. This team also removed a recent blowdown a little north of Deep Gap.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: July 10, 2002

Section: 13, 19E to Hump Mountain

Purpose: Cut Weeds and Repair Bridge

Number of People: 5 (Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 5 X 10 = 50

Summary: We cut the weeds from Hump Mountain trail north to 19E. Also, we cleaned the waterbars above Apple House Shelter and placed a new logbook in the shelter. One of the support logs on the bridge near 19E had sunk about six inches. We raised it and supported it with rocks and 4x4 timbers.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: July 12

Participants: Paul Benfield, David Gibson

Total participant hours: 9 (Benfield - 3 hours; Gibson - 6 hours)

Summary: Prepared locust logs for Round Bald by pre-drilling holes for rebar.

Transported logs to Carvers Gap in 2 trips.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: Monday, July 15, 2002

Section: Carvers Gap

Participants: David Gibson

Total hours: 1 x 6 = 6 hours

Summary: Went to meet the scouts for their service project. They were to carry logs up Round Bald for the rehab. Not sure what time they were to show up - I waited about 6 hours, but they never arrived. During that time I was able to make 10 trips up the hill with logs, so there are a few up there ready to go.

Steve Wilson reporting

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2002

Purpose: Trail Maintenance near Double Springs Shelter

Barry McDavid and I cut weeds and briars with a scythe, plus cut tree branches with loppers on the trail between Hwy 421 road crossing and Double Springs Shelter. We dug 150 feet of trail on a steep side-hill section near the shelter. The shelter's shovel and logbook were replaced. I plan to paint faded blazes next month.

Person-hours = 2 x 10 = 20

David Gibson reporting:

Date: July 18

Section: Carvers Gap

Participants: Larry Grauvogel, Scout Master; Dave Niswonger, Assistant Scout Master; scouts Will Grauvogel, John Niswonger, Robert Winding and Peter Zwerneman; and David Gibson)

Participant hours: 7 x 3 = 21 hours

Summary: Met scout group, LaSalle Council Troop 325 from South Bend, at Carvers Gap to haul log posts up Round Bald. SAHC was also there cutting brambles and the SAHC seasonal ecologist gave the scouts a tour of some of the rare species on the Bald. Scout Master Larry also reported that the scouts had enthusiastically removed a dozen or so small to medium blowdowns between their starting point of Spivey Gap and Carvers Gap over the last few days.

John Arwood reporting:

Date: July 24, 2002

Section: A.T. through Big Laurel Branch Wilderness, Iron Mountain Gap to Vandeventer Shelter

Participants: Frances Lamberts, Russ Harrison, John Arwood (all from the State of Franklin Group of the Sierra Club)

Participant hours: 3 x 7 = 21 hours

Summary: On this 9 mile round trip hike, we cleared weeds from the trail corridor, picked up litter from the trail, removed trash from the shelter, and cleared overhanging limbs.