

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

September 2002

www.tehcc.org

Contents

- [Next Two Months at a Glance](#)
- [Appalachian Trail Conference Volunteer Trail Crew Needs Our Help!](#)
- [Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Hosts Leave No Trace Master Educator Program](#)
- [Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Canoeing News](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

| NEXT TWO MONTHS AT A GLANCE | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Description | Rating | Leader | Date | Phone |
| 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 |
| Third Saturday Maintenance (log cribbing on Round Bald) | | Bill Stowell | September 21 | 423-239-7697 |
| Laurel Fork Gorge | C/3/C | Steve Falling | October 6 | 423-239-5502 |
| Bays Mountain | C/3/C | Steve Perri | October 6 | 423-349-5091 |
| Olinger Gap to Roaring Branch (Stone Mountain Trail) | B/3/B | Rodney Baker | October 12 | |
| South Beyond 6000: Blackstock Knob | A/2/B | Kent and Nancy Wilson | October 19 | 423-239-7554 |
| Holston Mountain Trail - Fire Tower to Flint Rock | B/3/C | Joe DeLoach | October 26 | 423-753-7903 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Sand Cave/White Rocks | B/3/B | Collins Chew | October 26 | 423-239-6237 |
| | | | | |

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 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 ()

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Appalachian Trail Conference
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**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.

Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send Richard Colberg () an e-mail note with your home e-mail address (if you have e-mail at home) as well as your home street address. We prefer to send the newsletter via e-mail to save us time and money, and so you can receive it (and any late hike notices) in a more timely manner. However, we would also like your street address so we can still reach you if your e-mail address changes. Thanks.
Richard Colberg

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Kimberly Alvis | Melinda Arrington |
| Richard Carter | Rebekah F. Dotson |
| Donna Ashby | Michael Carrier |
| Wendell McDavid | Joseph L. Roberts |
| Stephen Stroupe | Jason Dickens |
| Anthony L. Lawson | Pamela Leonard |
| Jerry Matthew | Alvin McConnell |
| Sharon Burnette | Michael Huffstetler |

Each of these new members is eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting!

Canoeing News

No paddling news received this month.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Hike Report: Hampton Blue Blaze Trail to Laurel Falls and Dennis Cove, July 27, 2002

Steve Wilson reporting

We started hiking at the Forest Service parking lot in Hampton, Tenn. at 9 AM and hiked along the blue blaze trail until it connected with the A.T., then followed the A.T. to Laurel Falls. The recent rains created a good flow of water and the falls were rather scenic. At first we were the only hikers enjoying the falls, but during our lunch other people arrived and we decide to continue hiking. It was such a nice day for hiking that we decided to extend the trip and continue to Dennis Cove parking lot, and then visited with Pat and Bob Peoples at Kincora Lodge before hiking back to the cars in Hampton. Participating in this pleasant 9-mile hike were: Joy and Jeff Markman and Steve Wilson.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

(Future)

No trip notices received this month.

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

For the Record - 2002 Konnarock Crew

Joe DeLoach reporting

This summer we had three weeks of Konnarock Crew time to work on a relocation of the A.T. down to and along the Elk River. The existing A.T. between Campbell Hollow Road and Walnut Mountain Road passes through a narrow corridor of public land, goes through numerous steep ups and downs with no views, is eroding badly in places, and is generally not scenic or pleasant to walk. The relocation goes past 100' high Jones Branch Falls and follows gradual sidehill grades which are much more stable towards erosion to the river, follows it for about a mile through a scenic area, and climbs gradually along old roads and dug sidehill trail to Walnut Mountain Road. With the three weeks this summer we completed an estimated three miles or more of new Trail! This is a bit misleading because at least half of that distance required no more than lopping brush and weeds, but still we got a lot of work done. With last year's Club and Crew work and numerous Club outings in the last year outside of Konnarock, we are only about a mile from completion of this project which is probably 7 miles altogether. We had excellent Club support this year, the only problem being continued dependence on a small group of people. We really need more TEHC members to help with our Trail maintenance efforts, especially some younger folks as our average age of the top 17 volunteers is around 60. A total of 27 volunteers worked 126 person-days or 1323 hours on this project. Seventeen volunteers worked at least 40 hours with the Konnarock Crew and thus earned T-shirts, with David Gibson, Bob Peoples, Craig DeLoach, and Ed Oliver each working over 100 hours. Other volunteers include Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, Joe DeLoach, Frank Williams, John Thompson, Darrol Nickels, Kim Peters, Frank Oglesby, Bill Stowell, Paul Benfield, Ian Brown, Steve Newman, Hueston Fortner, Bill Murdoch, Steve Perri, Ron Davidson, Pat Peoples, Tim Wilson, Gary Beagles, Adair Murdoch, Gary Stergiades, Brian Stergiades, and Pat Hagan. Thanks to all for your contributions to this project!!

Ed Oliver reporting:

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2002

Purpose: Work on Elk River Relo

Number of people: 3 (Seiko, Bob Peoples, and Ed Oliver)

Total person hours: 3 X 6 = 18

Summary: We cut a tree as requested by the Konnarock Crew leader, installed a water bar that did not get installed on Monday, and inspected the next section of the relo that the crew will work on when they return in August.

Ed Oliver reporting:

Date: Sunday, July 28, 2002

Purpose: Inspect proposed ASU project site

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

Total person hours: 2 X 5 = 10

Summary: We drove to the parking lot on the top of Roan Mountain and determined the distance from the parking lot to the proposed work site and the distance of trail to be repaired. We determined that we can probably use two groups of students at the site. One group will work trail south from the high point of the trail near the old hotel site and the other group will work trail north.

Steve Perri reporting:

Date: July 26, 2002

Section: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge

People: Steve Perri, John Thompson

Time: 2 x 5 = 10 hours

Summary: John Thompson and I installed 2 signs and inspected the trail from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge. We installed 2 signs: 1) warning hikers to stay on designated gravel trail - located above Collins Rock where new trail intersects old trail, 2) directional sign - pointing to A.T. and Grassy Ridge Trail junction. Several photos of the spreading gravel were taken along the way. We also noted that SAHC has been active in the last few days cutting weeds. We saw several groups inspecting and carrying in supplies for more work to be done Saturday. The backside of Round Bald towards the north edge of the bald was cut with the track mower. It looks like it does a good job.

Tim McClain reporting:

Date: July 27-28, 2002

Section: U.S. 421 North 2.5 miles (adopted section)

Purpose: Cut Weeds

Participant: Tim McClain

Participant hours: 1 x 13 = 13 hours

Summary: Cut all the weeds and briars from U.S. 421 north to the spring. Weeds were fairly high but everything else on the section is in reasonably good shape.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: July 30, 2002

Section: 11- Dennis Cove to Bitter End

Purpose: Check flag lines for trail relocations

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

Total person-hours: 5 X 12 = 60

Summary: The U.S. Forest Service is going to contract out the biological study of our proposed trail relocations on this section over about the next 45 days. Bob drove us all up to the now nonexistent White Rocks Tower. The road has been improved to install a law enforcement communication tower but it will have two locked gates. Bob and Hueston checked all the flag lines that had been previously marked near the tower and cut some weeds. Ed, Frank and Carl walked on to Moreland Gap Shelter to check a couple of old flag lines and install a couple of new ones. The shelter was clean and had no graffiti. At Bitter End, we met up with Bob and Hueston and checked about seven flag lines in that area. We figure there is enough trail work in this section to occupy the Club for four years. Bob rediscovered that long pants are needed when bushwhacking.

Bear scat was abundant and one rattlesnake spotted.

Steve Banks reporting:

Date: August 3, 2002

Section: 3

Purpose: Trail maintenance between Abingdon Gap Shelter and Spring

Number of people: 1

People: Steve Banks

Total hours: 11 hours x 1 person = 11 hours total

Summary: Weeded between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter, and from McQueens Gap south about one mile. I had not done any weeding since May 16, so the weeds were very high. Met two southbound thru-hikers; both were from New England. Removed the top of a tree that had fallen across the A.T. just south of McQueens Gap. The dryer and carpet at McQueens Gap are still there; will follow up with the Forest Service.

John Arwood reporting:

Date: August 3, 2002

Section: A.T. from Iron Mountain Gap to northern boundary of Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

Participants: Wendy Shaver, Kay Peiris, Justin Montanti, Emma Peiris, Emily Lance, Jessica McNutt, John Arwood

Participant hours: 7 x 10 = 70 hours total, 11.8 miles total

Summary: Cleared weeds from trail, removed poison ivy from trees, and removed trash from trail and shelter.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: August 6, 2002

Section: 14 - Round Bald

Purpose: Install logs along gravel trail to retard gravel from sliding off

Number of People: 8 (Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, hikers - Steve, Pat, Ian and Virgil)

Total person-hours: 6 X 11 + Ian X 6 + Virgil X 2 = 74

Summary: David Gibson with some scout help had already moved some locust logs from Carvers Gap to Round Bald. We moved additional logs and worked on techniques to rake gravel back onto path and install logs along lower side with rebar. We did get 27 logs installed for about 300 feet of trail. The bottleneck will be getting the logs up the mountain. Three sections totaling about 300 additional feet of barbed wire fence is needed to deter some short cutting which is taking place. Fortunately, most of this fence will not be very visible from trail.

David Gibson reporting:

Date: August 19, 2002

Section: Carvers Gap

Participants: Paul Benfield, Robin Fought, David Gibson

Participant hours: 3 x 3 = 9 hours

Summary: We prepared another load of logs, by pre-drilling them, for the Round Bald work, and drove them up to Carvers Gap in preparation for the college group coming out on the 27th. We noticed that some of the logs we had stashed at the gap had been

pulled out from the brush and were leaning against the fence. I counted that 2 of the logs were missing, the remnants of which were found at the fire ring behind the privy. We may want to make future deliveries of logs closer to the work day to prevent pilferage.