

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

December 2002

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
Chimney Top	C/3/B	Collins Chew	December 7	423-239-6237
Titanium Chef 2002		Chris Fox	December 7	731-586-4744
Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver	December 21	423-239-7697, 423-349-6668
Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver	January 18	423-239-7697, 423-349-6668
Laurel Fork Falls	B/3/C	Collins Chew	January 25	423-239-6237

## Open Invitation

*By: Kim Peters*

This is a reminder to all TEHCC members, that they are welcome to attend any meeting of the TEHCC Steering Committee. If you have an issue that you would like the Steering Committee to address, you can either contact a committee member or bring it up yourself at a meeting. If you are wondering just what it is exactly that the Steering Committee does anyway, then come to a meeting and find out. Steering Committee meetings occur on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm, and are held in the Employee Center.

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

*By: Kim Peters*

Gary Bridges

Jeff T. Williams

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

### Titanium Chef 2002

The second annual backpackers challenge cookoff (Titanium Chef 2002) will be held the first Saturday (12/7/02) in December, here in Tennessee, not far from Knoxville. Last year (the first time ever) we had 46 people compete, and it was such a success we knew we had to do another this year. Last year, we had people driving in to compete from Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Ohio, and Massachusetts. We have no doubt we will see even a larger response this year.

What makes our competition different (and extremely fun) is that you can cook anything (we make a joke that someone will enter roadkill) you choose to enter into the event, but the location of the event is two miles from any road. (Yes, that's why we call it a backpackers challenge cookoff.) We will have categories that will include everything from appetizers to desserts. You can use any method, any skill, any equipment, but it must all be carried in using whatever cleverness you can devise.

The location of the event is the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It is a huge place in Tennessee, right between Jamestown and Oneida. There is a great campground there, but we don't plan to use it. The location of the event will be Charit Creek Lodge.

There is no need to sleep on the ground. Through a special arrangement with Charit Creek Lodge, we can utilize the indoor camper rate of \$14.00 plus tax per person. We will pack in sleeping bags or bedrolls and prepare our own meals, but you want to use the kitchen, and may do so at no extra charge. In addition, Charit Creek Lodge will also prepare meals (if needed) at a nominal charge.

Escape to the mountains without the hassle surrounding the Smoky Mountains. Come to the new National Park, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Our location is easily accessible from several major interstates. No waiting in traffic to start enjoying the privacy of a new log cabin with the scenic beauty of an untamed wilderness at your back door. We can't give you the whole world....just the best parts....

- \* Sunrise from a front porch swing
- \* A myriad of wildflowers blanketing a hilltop
- \* A blazing carpet of fall colors beneath a clear blue sky
- \* A relaxing train ride through the wondrous outdoors
- \* Stepping back in history to a simpler time
- \* Catching the "big one" that got away
- \* The gentle mist of a cascading waterfall cooling your face
- \* Sunlight dancing on a crystal stream.

If you have any interest whatsoever, please contact me -- email, phone, smoke signals.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Titanium Chef 2002

c/o Chris Fox

300 Cary Drive

Bruceston, Tennessee 38317

(731) 586-4744

(888) 866-7667

### **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.

### **Hot Springs Trailfest 2003**

Trailfest 2003 in Hot Springs, North Carolina has been scheduled for April 11-12 next year. Trailfest is a low-key approach in □celebration for A.T. hikers and friends□ with music, food and fun. Hot Springs is the first trail town for northbounders and a nice respite after their first few weeks on the trail - as well as a really nice mountain town.

Come join the town of Hot Springs and help spread the word to our fellow hikers, trail alumni, club members and friends. For more info contact Jack Dalton (Pipsissewa -□93) at 828-622-3704 or .

### **T-shirt Orders and Temporary Recall**



Medium  
Large  
X-Large

For those of you who purchased the new T-shirts at the Fall Dinner, you may have experienced a problem with the ink coming off the shirt in pieces. Screen Acres has agreed to fix the problem and will be making up a new batch of shirts. So if you purchased a shirt, please send yours back to Steve Perri or Kim Peters and we will be providing you with a new one in expected to be available in Mid-December.

If you haven't purchased one yet, we have the following sizes available. Shirts have been reduced in price to \$6.00 each. The shirts are forest green with a tan image of the club patch on the front and the A.T. symbol on the sleeve. Contact Steve Perri if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt.

### **Canoeing News**

No paddling news received this month.

### **Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)**

No reports received this month.

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

**Hike Notice: Chimney Top, Saturday, December 7, 2002**

*Leader: Collins Chew*

Chimney Top, the sharp-topped mountain southeast of Bays Mountain as seen from Kingsport, will be the goal of this hike. The hike is about 3 miles with a climb of about 1,400 feet. It is rather steep with a little rock scramble at the top. We will snack at the beacon site which has a nice view. Meet at 8:30am on Saturday, December 7, between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. Bring snack, water, and appropriate clothing. For more information, call Collins Chew 423/239-6237, or send an email to him at .

**Hike Notice: Laurel Fork Falls, January 25, 2003**

*Leader: Collins Chew*

This is an opportunity, I hope, to see the beautiful ice that bedecks Laurel Fork Falls most winters, and ice-covered beaver ponds in the gorge. We will drive to Hampton and hike the blue-blazed trail and A.T. to Laurel Fork Falls and on into Dennis Cove and return. The hike is 7.4 miles round trip with a climb of 700 feet. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for a cold outing. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive at 8:00 A. M on Saturday, January 25, 2003. The hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For more info, call Collins Chew, 423/239-6237 or e-mail .

I guess the rating is B3C although there are a few narrow, rocky, and tricky spots along the creek that can be a bit hard to negotiate, particularly on ice.

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

**Submitters Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance Date:** October 30, 2002

**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E

**Location:** Trail North and South of Walnut Mountain Road

**Purpose:** Trail Relocation

**Number of People:** 6

**Total Person Hours:** 48

**Names of People:** Bruce Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed

Oliver, Frank Williams

**Summary:** Bruce, our ever optimistic driver, left home and then quickly returned to get his sunglasses. He counted on needing them on the drive home. Unfortunately, it drizzled or showered all day. Had we worked an extra 90 minutes we might have had sunshine on the return trip. Darrol and Hueston cleared about 300 feet of trail. Bruce, Frank, Ed and Carl dug 240 feet of sidehill. The junk truck blocking the trail at Bear Branch Road is still there. Perhaps we could blaze it in the spring!

**Submitters Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance Date:** October 30, 2002

**Section:** 13 - U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain

**Location:** U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Number of People:** 2

**Total person hours:** 2 x 8 hrs, 16 hours

**Names of People:** Bob Peoples, hiker - Rock Dancer

**Summary:** Earlier this week, hiker Rock Dancer reported some trail blocking blowdowns between Hump Mountain and 19E. He and Bob Peoples spent today hiking the entire section with a chainsaw and cutting out six large blowdowns. They also drained water off the trail in several locations.

**Submitters Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Maintenance Date:** November 2, 2002

**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E

**Location:** New trail north of Walnut Mountain Road

**Purpose:** Clear brush etc. so new trail can be installed

**Number of People:** 2

**Total Person Hours:** 20

**Total person hours:** 40

**Names of People:** Mary and Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** cleared about 1300 ft. and picked up 2 1/4 bags of trash plus some old bed springs at Walnut Mountain Road trail head.

**Submitters Name:** Edward Oliver

**Maintenance Date:** November 4, 2002

**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E

**Purpose:** Work on Elk River Relocation

**Number of People:** 8

**Total Person Hours:** 72

**Names of People:** Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Greg Walters a.k.a. Weather Carrot, Rock Dancer, Strider, Sandia

**Individual Person Hours:** 9 hours each

**Summary:** On November 4, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Greg Walters a.k.a. Weather Carrot, and hikers Rock Dancer, Strider, and Sandia worked on the Walnut Mountain Road end of the Elk River Relocation. Greg installed six or more rock steps. The rest of us dug sidehill trail. We will need to install three or four more steps to complete the short section of the overall relocation. A special note of thanks goes to Weather Carrot for volunteering to do the rock work. He did his normal

good job. Also, thanks to the hikers who were willing to help with this work. This is the third or fourth day that Rock Dancer has worked with us.

**Submitters Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance Date:** November 6, 2002

**Section:** 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

**Location:** About three quarter mile trail north of Iron Mountain Gap

**Purpose:** Reflag trail relocation

**Number of People:** 3

**Total Person Hours:** 18

**Names of People:** Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Individual Person Hours:** 3x6 hrs

**Summary:** In preparation for the possible work trip on November 3rd Saturday with Warren Wilson students, we reflagged the trail relocation since it had been about four years and many flags were missing. On a day that was to be clearing, we enjoyed swaying trees in 30 mph gusts with rain and sleet!

**Submitted by:** David Gibson

**Date:** November 7, 2002

**Number of people:** 1 (David Gibson)

**Total person hours:** 4

**Summary:** Trip to Clyde Smith Shelter to finish up a few small items before the end of the year, including caulking of a couple of seams.

**Submitted by:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** November 8, 2002

**Purpose:** Trail assessment meeting

**Number of people:** 5 (Morgan Sommerville, Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver)

**Total person hours:** 5 X 4 = 20

**Summary:** On November 8, 2002 Morgan Sommerville, Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, and Ed Oliver met to update the trail assessment for the TEHCC section of the Appalachian Trail. The original assessment was done almost ten years ago. We were able to update the document. Several of the items had been completed. We changed the dates on other items, and even deleted some items which no longer pertained to the Trail. Thanks to all of the people who helped with this update.

**Submitted by:** David Gibson

**Date:** November 8, 2002

**Number of people:** 2 (David Gibson, Robin Fought)

**Total person hours:** 10 (2 x 5)

**Summary:** Trip to Curly Maple Shelter to perform a little painting touch up from Boy Scout outing earlier this summer and to perform a repair of platform section that had popped up.

**Submitted by:** David Gibson

**Date:** November 10, 2002

**Number of people:** 2 (David Gibson, Robin Fought)

**Total person hours:** 12 hours (David and Robin - 5 hours each) (2 hikers, 1 hour each)

**Summary:** Trip to Roan High Knob Shelter to install new shutters and to patch missing chink between logs where a brisk, cool wind was entering the shelter on the main floor. The gate is now locked for the year and the USFS has changed the lock to one that the club doesn't have a key for. Robin and I were assisted by a southbound hiker, Shadow and '98 thru-hiker, Felix and dogs Turbo and Richie.

**Submitters Name:** Edward Oliver

**Maintenance Date:** November 13, 2002

**Purpose:** Work on Elk River relocation

**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E

**Location:** Walnut Mountain Road

**Number of People:** 7

**Total Person Hours:** 56

**Names of People:** David Gibson, Paul Benfield, Jimmy Baliff, Bob Peoples, Hueston Fortner, Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver

**Individual Person Hours:** 8 hours each

**Summary:** On November 13, we worked on the relocations near Walnut Mountain Road. We constructed about 200 feet of the relocation on the trail north side of the road. Part of the group continued the work on the rock steps on the trail south side of the road. David Gibson estimated that it will probably take 5 to 6 more hours to complete the rock steps. We had a new maintainer, Jimmy Baliff, join us for this work.