

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January 2003

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
A.T.: Va. 601 to Elk Garden and return	A/2/B	Mary Ellen Ress	Jan 11	423-349-6536
Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge (various hikes from easy to difficult)	---	Garry Luttrell	Jan 11-19	
Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver	Jan 18	423-239-7697, 423-349-6668
Laurel Fork Falls	B/3/C	Collins Chew	Jan 25	423-239-6237
A.T.: Va. 603 to Pine Mountain and return	A/2/C	Mary Ellen Ress	Feb 1	423-349-6536
Third Saturday Maintenance		Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver	Feb 15	423-239-7697, 423-349-6668

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

*By: Kim Peters*

Laurie A. Heard

Each new member is eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting!

## **Club Training Opportunities for 2003**

### **ATC Sponsored Workshops**

There are several workshops coming in 2003 sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conference. TEHCC has expressed interest in two specific workshops to be held close by. These are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Back Country Sanitation - Feb. 14, 2003, Sugar Grove, Virginia

Crosscut Saw Training - March 14-15, 2003, Elizabethton, Tennessee

Check the website above for schedule changes and other updates.

### **CPR/First Aid Training**

Maintaining CPR/First Aid training is a requirement in order to be USFS and ATC certified for Chainsaw and now Crosscut Saw certification. If you are need of getting either CPR or First Aid certification, please let me know and the club will organize some training opportunities during the Jan-March time frame. ATC usually has picked up these costs up to \$200 per club. So if you have interest in getting trained to be certified, turn in your request to Steve Perri (phone 423-349-5091, email , along with your specified need for First Aid and/or CPR by Feb. 1.

## **Hot Springs Trailfest 2003**



Trailfest 2003 in Hot Springs, North Carolina has been scheduled for April 11-12, 2003.

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**



*By Steve Perri:*

All the TEHCC t-shirts that had the problem with the ink coming off the shirt in pieces have been collected. We are providing replacements starting in mid-December. If you haven't purchased a t-shirt yet, we have them available now (without the ink problem mentioned above!) in the following sizes. 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 at 423-349-5091 or send an email to him at [perri@tehcc.org](mailto:perri@tehcc.org) if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt.

Medium

Large

X-Large

## **TEHCC Election Results**

*By Kim Peters*

The results of the TEHCC Steering Committee elections are in! Congratulations to the new Steering Committee Members!

Collins Chew

Vic Hasler

Terry Oldfield

Collins, Vic, and Terry will begin their term in January 2003 and will serve for two years.

Those rotating off the committee after serving their two-year term are Jessica McGee, Bill Murdoch and Ray Tarpley. Kathy McDavid will also be stepping down after serving her last term as Past Chair.

## **ATC Biennial Meeting**



*By Steve Wilson*

### **ATC Biennial Meeting - Waterville Valley, New Hampshire - July 25 - August 1, 2003**

This year's meeting location near the White Mountains in New Hampshire has a lot of promise for mixing trail interests with a family vacation.

### **TEHCC Volunteers Needed**

TEHCC has the need to fill some positions that are turning over or are new. Here are some descriptions of current needs:

**Rental Equipment Coordinator** - the coordinator works with the Steering Committee to order new equipment and to keep track of necessary repairs. The Coordinator has a working dinner meeting once a year to assess the equipment suitability with the Steering Committee and orders new or replacement equipment. For more info or to volunteer, contact Steve Perri (phone 423-349-5091, email ) or Carl Fritz (phone 423-477-4669, email ).

**Recruitment Committee** - TEHCC is looking to put in place a committee to actively seek ideas and execute plans to improve our new membership recruitment plan. We really haven't had a formal process in place for years and so we need to reinvigorate our program. There are things we have been doing to educate the public about our club and what we do, but we need the follow up plan to get a personal communication plan in place to bring new members in. We seek both new and experienced member inputs to make this work. For more information or preferably to volunteer, contact Steve Perri (phone 423-349-5091, email ).

### **Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting**

The Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting (SRMC) has been scheduled for March 21-23 at the Pinebridge Inn and Pinebridge Center in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. This is an annual meeting of the Southern maintaining trail clubs, ATC, and the other agency partners to review policies, recent events and trail protection/management issues. Several discussion groups will be held on contemporary management issues, the ATC partnership, how the A.T. should look or be managed, and other current programs in the Southern region. Since this is so close by, the club may take on a more active role in participating in the meeting. More information regarding the meeting will be forthcoming, so mark your calendars.

## Canoeing News

No paddling news received this month.

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



**Hike Report: South Beyond 6000, Mt. Kephart and the Jump Off, November 2, 2002**

*Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson*

On this cool fall morning, we set off for Newfound Gap to hike the A.T. and the Boulevard Trail to the side trail to Mt Kephart and the Jump Off. The weather was clear but cold (lots of ice on the A.T.).

We initially missed the Jump Off side trail (there is no longer a sign). We did find the trail after hiking an extra 1/4 to 1/2 mile, and climbed out to Mt Kephart and on to the impressive views from the Jump Off. On one side of the Jump Off, we could see the rime ice on the trees and down in the valley we could still see color on the trees. The views were fantastic. We ate lunch and returned to the Newfound Gap parking lot. We were surprised at the number of people out hiking on this cold afternoon. Making this trek were Larry Miller and Kent and Nancy Wilson.

**Hike Report: Chimney Top, December 7, 2002**

*Leader: Collins Chew*

A beautiful, cold day greeted us for the hike up Chimney Top. After a bit of climbing, the chilly temperatures were welcome. My notice was apparently misread by some who thought the description "steep" referred only to the top portion. I had forgotten the wording, myself. The views of the skyline mountains were great and we threw out many names for them. I was thrilled when we met a geologist on top. He is making a geologic map of the area for the state. The slipping and sliding descent down the rocks and loose leaves for the return was rather exciting, also. Hikers were: Debi Berry, Bill Cook, Garry Luttrell, Alan Wonders, and Collins Chew.

**Pictures** (courtesy of Garry Luttrell):











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

**A.T. Hike Notice: Va. 601 to Elk Garden and return, January 11, 2003**

*Leader: Mary Ellen Ress*

On January 11 I'll lead a hike on the A.T. north from Va. 601, passing Buzzard Rock and Whitetop Mountain to Elk Garden and back. This will be an 11.4 mile hike, with quite a bit of climbing and re-climbing, so I would rate it A/2/B. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive for an 8:00 A.M. departure. I'd like people to call or email me if they plan to go, since winter weather may be a factor. My phone number is 423-349-6536 and my email address is .

**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.

**A.T. Hike Notice: Va. 603 to Stone Mountain and return, February 1, 2003**

*Leader: Mary Ellen Ress*

On February 1, I'll lead a hike on the A.T. south from Va. 603 to Pine Mountain and Stone Mountain and return. This is a 10.4 mile hike, with some climbing. It would be either A/2/C or A/2/B. There's about 1520' of climbing to Pine Mountain. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive at 8:00 A.M. departure. I'd like people to call or email me if they plan to go, since winter weather may be a factor. My phone number is 423-349-6536 and my email address is .

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

**Submitters\_Name:** Bob Peoples

**Maintenance\_Date:** November 2, 2002

**Purpose:** Check trail

**Section:** 7 - Pond Mountain Wilderness boundary (north) to Watauga Dam Road

**Location:** Watauga Dam Road to 1 mile north of Vandeventer Shelter

**Number\_of\_People:** 1

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 8

**Names\_of\_People:** Rock Dancer

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 8

**Summary:** Rock Dancer cut 9 blowdowns on this section.

**Submitters\_Name:** Bob Peoples

**Maintenance\_Date:** November 3, 2002

**Purpose:** Cut Blowdowns

**Section:** 8 - Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321

**Location:** Watauga Dam Road to Watauga Lake

**Number\_of\_People:** 2

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 8

**Names\_of\_People:** Rock Dancer, Bob Peoples

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 4 hrs each

**Summary:** We cut 3 blowdowns in this section.

**Submitters\_Name:** Edward Oliver

**Maintenance\_Date:** November 20, 2002

**Purpose:** Work on Elk River Relocation

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

**Location:** Walnut Mountain Road end of Elk River Relocation

**Number\_of\_People:** 11

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 88

**Names\_of\_People:** Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Tommy Scalf, Hueston Fortner, Jimmy Bailiff, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Hiker Ada Robbins a.k.a Fern, Hiker Misty Johnson, Hiker Salad Dressing

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 8 hours each

**Summary:** On November 20, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Tommy Scalf, Ed Oliver, Hueston Fortner, Jimmy Bailiff, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, and hikers Ada Robbins aka Fern, Misty Johnson, and Salad Dressing worked on the Walnut Mountain Road end of the Elk River Relocation. Four members of the group spent the day installing rock steps. The rest of the group hiked in a little more than 1.5 miles and completed clearing the trail route. We estimate that it will take about a half day to complete the rock steps and several days to dig the half mile or more of trail that we cleared. We had a beautiful November day and enjoyed the sunshine very much.

**Submitters\_Name:** Frank Williams

**Maintenance\_Date:** November 23, 2002

**Purpose:** Inspection and maintenance

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Pond Mountain

**Number\_of\_People:** 3

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 24

**Names\_of\_People:** Darrol Nickels, John Thompson and Frank Williams

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 3x8 hrs

**Summary:** Five major blow-downs and several small ones were removed. Some clipping was done. In general this section of trail is in good shape.

**Submitters\_Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance\_Date:** November 26, 2002

**Purpose:** Dig trail and record data on Elk River Relocation

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

**Location:** Campbell Hollow Road to just north of Walnut Mountain Road

**Number\_of\_People:** 9

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 81

**Names\_of\_People:** Paul Benfield, Jim Baliff, Collins Chew, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 9x9 hrs

**Summary:** Bob, Collins and Bill walked the entire new section from Campbell Hollow Road to Walnut Mountain Road. They rolled the distance, recorded key trail features and took GPS measurements for the guide and data books. This new section will be about seven miles and twice the original trail length. David, Paul and Jim finished installing the rock steps just south of Walnut Mt. Road while Ed, Bruce and Carl dug the last 80 feet of trail. We opened this short section. We continued digging 70 feet of trail north of Walnut Mt. Road as we waited for the return of Collins, Bob and Bill.

**Submitters\_Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance\_Date:** December 3, 2002

**Purpose:** Dig sidehill trail

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

**Location:** A center section of Elk River Relocation at Mountaineer Falls

**Number\_of\_People:** 11

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 99

**Names\_of\_People:** Paul Benfield, Jim Baliff, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tommy Scalf, Frank Williams

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 11x9 hrs

**Summary:** The weather gave us a reprieve today and we dug trail at Mountaineer Falls. With the 35 degree temperature, we dug 280 feet of trail in rocky terrain. Another 800 feet of trail remains to be dug in this section.

**Submitters\_Name:** Bob Peoples

**Maintenance\_Date:** December 8, 2002

**Purpose:** Check section

**Section:** 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**Location:** Laurel Fork Gorge

**Number\_of\_People:** 2

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 6

**Names\_of\_People:** Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 3 hours each

**Summary:** Cleared and cut blowdowns in this section.

**Submitters\_Name:** Carl Fritz

**Maintenance\_Date:** December 10, 2002

**Purpose:** Dig sidehill trail

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

**Location:** Elk River Relocation at Mountaineer Falls

**Number\_of\_People:** 9

**Total\_Person\_Hours:** 81

**Names\_of\_People:** Paul Benfield, Jim Baliff, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams

**Individual\_Person\_Hours:** 9x9 hr

**Summary:** Paul, Jim, Bill, Ed and Frank diligently dug 210 feet of trail through roots and duff. Bruce climbed amongst the ice covered rocks of the stream and cleared the rhododendrons for a good view of Mountaineer Falls. David, Bob and Carl wallowed in the mud, rocks and water creating a footpath of rocks extending 30 feet across the stream. The southern half of this bridge neared completion.