

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

April 2003

www.tehcc.org

Note: the deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's newsletter is the 15th of the month!

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
South Beyond 6000: Chestnut Knob and Mt. Hardy	A/2/B	Nancy and Kent Wilson	April 5	423-239-7554
Hot Springs Trailfest 2003		Jack Dalton	April 11-12	828-622-3704
Third Saturday Maintenance		Joe DeLoach	April 19	423-753-7903
Spring Dinner Meeting	Fun	Kim Peters	April 25	
South Beyond 6000: Reinhart Knob and Richland Balsam	A/2/B	Nancy and Kent Wilson	April 26	423-239-7554

Spring Wildflower Hike: A.T. to Doll Flats	B/3/C	Joe DeLoach	May 3	423-753-7903
Third Saturday Maintenance		Joe DeLoach	May 17	423-753-7903

TEHCC 2002 Accomplishments

By Steve Perri

TEHCC had another exceptional year with volunteer hours and events. We continue to coordinate and expand our activities with other organizations like the Appalachian Trail Conference, the United States Forest Service, the Sierra Club, scout troops, regional colleges and universities, and other non-traditional volunteers (i.e. through-hikers).

TEHCC received several awards including:

2 awards from Volunteer Kingsport for Volunteer Excellence in the Environmental Category
7 awards will be presented in 2003 for TEHCC members through the Appalachian Trail Conference Presidential Volunteer Ranger Corps (for greater than 4,000 lifetime volunteer hours)

TEHCC 2002 Accomplishments

Hiking/Paddling Activities

- 1) Hosted approximately 30 outings for hikers during the calendar year
- 2) Hosted approximately 15 outings for paddlers during the calendar year

Club Projects and Activities

- 1) Provided maintenance for 128 miles of the Appalachian Trail with 10,184 volunteer hours
- 2) Increased participation with non-employee members through "Program Affiliates"
- 3) Increased volunteer participation in trail maintenance activities - achieved 314 participants
- 4) Provided training for water safety through Canoe School with 24 participants
- 5) Provided financial support and training for members for safety training in CPR/1st Aid
- 6) Provided presentations to schools and civic organizations about our Club and activities
- 7) Expanded links with universities and colleges for maintenance activities - achieved 248 events
- 8) Provided input/consultation on USFS projects (logging options to minimize impact on A.T., boundary, visual and auditory impacts of a new mine operation, and rare plant monitoring)
- 9) Provided a financial donation to the Appalachian Trail Conference
- 10) Provided financial and volunteer support for the Konnarock Trail Crew for 4 weeks of trail work

Trail Construction and Related Projects

- 1) Installed about 3 miles of a new trail relocation for Elk River to remove hazards of steep and eroding trail segments
- 2) Renovated the Clyde Smith Shelter with volunteer thru-hikers from Damascus Trail Days; also used a financial grant from L.L. Bean to assist for the material costs.
- 3) Installed 115 locust logs and rock cribbing to improve drainage and stabilize the gravel trail bed on the Appalachian Trail on Round Bald on the Tenn./N.C. state line.

Special Joint Youth Projects

- 1) Coordinated a Scout Troop project to paint a trail shelter
- 2) Coordinated 4 trail maintenance events to install a new trail relocation near Elk River, N.C. - (12-15 Lees MacRae College students and faculty and 15 Appalachian State University students and faculty; approximately 1800 feet of trail constructed each day.
- 3) Coordinated special dinner decoration projects (2) with local Girl Scouts
- 4) Assisted in coordinating and staffing the 2002 Fun Fest Moonlight Hike

Trail Education/Public Outreach

- 1) Provided enhanced information on our website <http://www.tehcc.org>
- 2) Provided an information booth at the North East State Technical Community College
- 3) Organized maintenance outings with trail through-hikers to educate them on trail stewardship
- 4) Hosted and participated in an ATC workshop on Basic Trail Maintenance of the A.T. to the local Sierra Club and other new club volunteers

Recognition/Awards

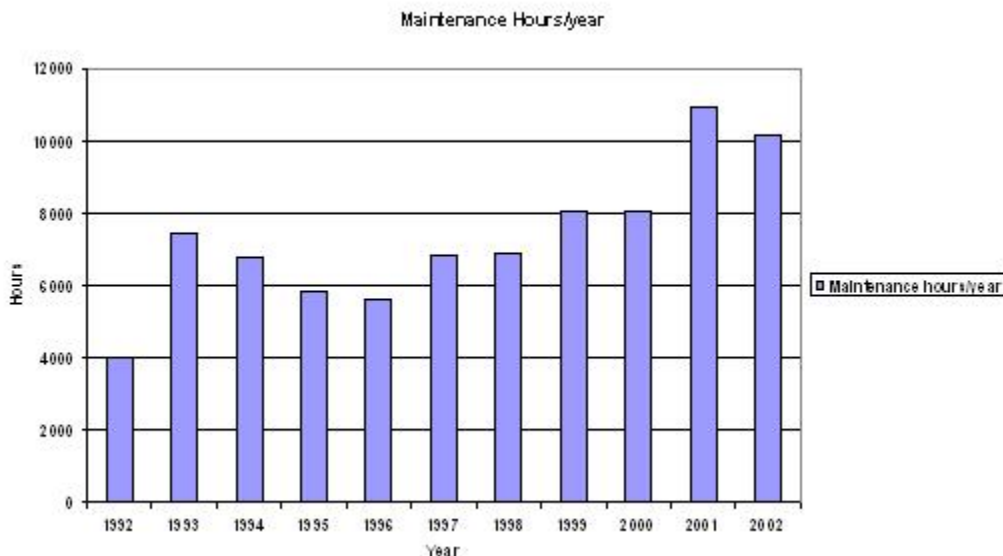
Provided the following plaques and awards to members and participants:

Club Awards: 1) Hiker of the Year, 2) Maintainer of the Year, 3) Club and USFS Maintenance Hour Patches, 4) College Student Maintenance Patches, 5) Through-hiker Maintainer Patches.

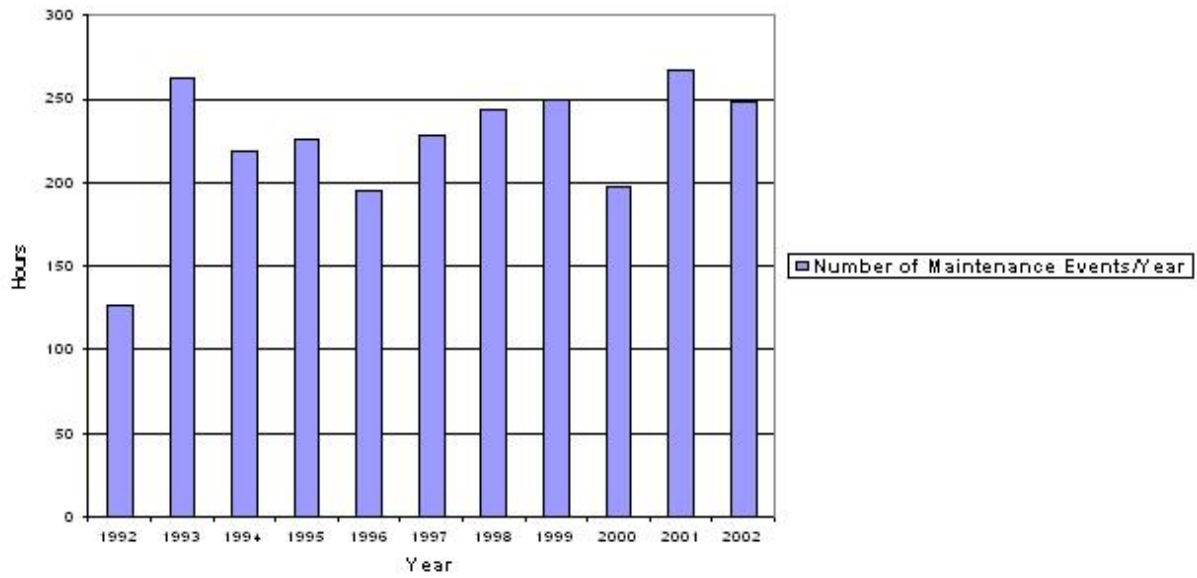
Appalachian Trail Conference Awards: 1) Nominated 7 club members for the Presidential Volunteer Ranger Corps Nominees - Members with greater than 4,000 hours of volunteer work.

Other Awards: 1) Ed Oliver received the individual Volunteer Kingsport Award for Volunteer Excellence in the Environmental Category, 2) TEHCC received the organization Volunteer Kingsport Award for Volunteer Excellence in the Environmental Category.

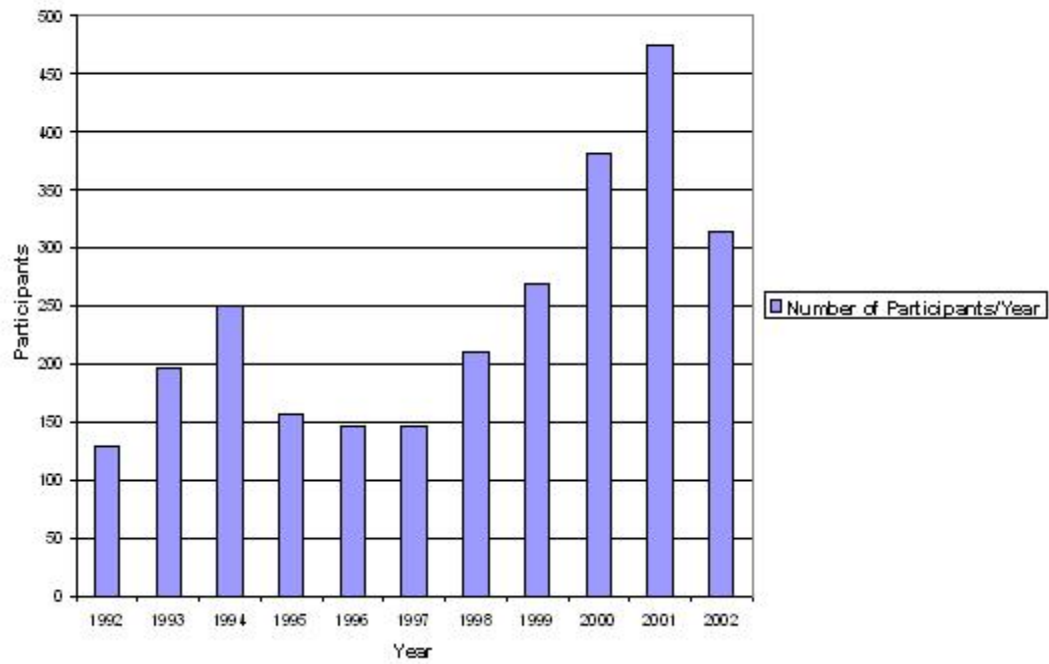
Historical Appalachian Trail Maintenance Hours, Events and Number of People



Number of Maintenance Events/Year



Number of Participants/Year





Volunteers constructing new trail on the Elk River Appalachian Trail Relocation



TEHCC helped coordinate the 2002 Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park

T-shirt Orders



By Steve Perri

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 steve.perri@ape.org if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt.

Medium

Large

X-Large

APE's TEHCC 2003 Clinic Schedule

By Mike Morrow

APE's and TEHCC will co-sponsor three clinics this summer; please see the related articles in this newsletter. Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- [June 5th, 7th and 8th - Introduction to Whitewater School](#)

- [July 12th and 13th - SOLO Wilderness First Aid Course](#)

- [August 23rd and 24th - ACA Swiftwater Rescue Course](#)

I am excited to be bringing these courses to you this year. I cannot do this without help from people in the club. I will need assistants to volunteer for the June and August courses. So, please mark your (Students and assistants) calendars today. Watch for registration information in future newsletters.

S.Y.O.T.R.,

Mike Morrow



Introductory Whitewater School 2003

The 32nd annual "Canoe School", sponsored by the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's (APEs), will be held June 5th, 7th, and 8th. The school is targeted for beginner and novice solo and tandem whitewater canoeists and kayakers,

and consists of an evening of lecture and videos plus two days on the water. As in the past there will continue to be a strong emphasis on river safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater canoe with one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat and helmet, or a whitewater kayak with paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. One PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoes should have bow and stern lines. All boats must have air bags. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

Schedule: June 5th Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM.
 (Thur) Eastman Lodge, Room A2
 Eastman Recreation Area, near Bays Mountain Park
 Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.

June 7th Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM
 (Sat) Duck Island Parking Lot
 Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, Tennessee
 Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.

June 8th River Trip, class II. 10:00 AM
 (Sun) T.B.D.

Note: Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised. Participants must be a member of TEHCC or APEs. Applications will be provided on Thursday night. If you are a member of the American Canoe Association (ACA), please bring your membership card and member number. This will save you \$5.00.

Cost: \$20.00 per student payable by May 23rd (make checks out to Mike Morrow, see address below). Plus membership fee, payable at Thursday evening's lecture.

Registration: complete and return the form below and mail it to Mike Morrow by May 23rd at 1028 Surmont Ct. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660. Feel free to call for more details.

Questions: Contact Mike Morrow at (423) 245-1201 or .

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Craft: Solo Canoe ____ Tandem Canoe ____ Kayak ____

Experience: Beginner ____ Novice ____

My tandem partner's name: ____ . Need partner ____

List previous clinics taken:

List up to five rivers you have paddled and their levels (if applicable)

Introductory Whitewater School

Instructors and Instructor Aid Boaters Needed

The 32nd annual TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Paddling Clinic is quickly approaching. The clinic is the weekend of June 7th and 8th. Volunteers are needed to help instruct and assist instructors. The clinic will only be successful if I have your help. PLEASE volunteer to help at this year's clinic. Call Mike Morrow at (423) 245-1201 or e-mail , if you can help on one or both days. Thanks in advance.

Wilderness First Aid Course



By Mike Morrow
July 12-13, 2003

The APE's, TEHCC and I are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid course taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). The course will be tailored to the needs of the group. That is if the group paddles, hikes, etc. I believe there is a great need for this training in our local paddling, hiking and outdoors enthusiast community. Red Cross First Aid is not enough for the situations we place ourselves in for recreation. Below is an explanation of the course from SOLO's website (www.stonehearth.com).

"Accidents can and do happen on ropes courses, along country roads, or in the backcountry, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the emergency. Not only does this lead to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group. Studies have shown that many recreational accidents are preventable, and that improper care of trauma can compound even the simplest of injuries. Through our involvement in emergency medicine and rescue efforts, we at SOLO feel there is a need for training for all outdoorspeople - training which stresses preparedness and prevention; training which encompasses all phases of off-road emergencies; training which focuses on extended care issues and on prolonged transport situations. Very few first aid programs actually address the issues of providing emergency care in a rural, wilderness, or extended care setting. This is SOLO's twenty-fifth year offering its workshops in Wilderness First Aid. Designed specifically for groups and their leaders, this 16-hour program covers topics ranging from preparation and prevention to assessment and treatment. All SOLO instructors are experienced rescue personnel with extensive outdoor experience and have been selected not only for their expertise in emergency medicine and rescue, but also for their teaching skills.

Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem-solving exercises. The emphasis is always on hands-on experience. Scenarios are an important part of this training.

Day 1:

- Patient Assessment System
- Shock
- Long-Term Patient Care
- Soft Tissue Injuries

Day 2:

- Environmental Emergencies
- Fractures/Dislocations
- Splint Improvisation
- Preparedness

While much of the material appears to be standard emergency care information, the backcountry emphasis with long-term care and evacuation complications makes this course unique. Course material can be somewhat modified to meet the specific needs of a group, i.e. cycling, kayaking, climbing, etc. Since the principles of first aid are taught, this program is really applicable to any emergency situation."

APE's is paying the \$400.00 deposit for the course. The deposit must be made by early May to confirm the course. The deposit is not refundable. Therefore, I must receive your (non-refundable) course fee no later than May 5th, 2003. The fee for the course is \$115.00. Please make checks payable to Mike Morrow. The fee includes the course registration fee, mailing and travel expenses for the instructor(s). We must have a minimum of 15 people signed up for the course by May 5th. The course will be held all day Saturday, July 12th and Sunday July 13th. Plan on an early start and a long day. We will hold the course at the Eastman Lodge in Kingsport, Tennessee. An equipment list and other information will be sent out to each confirmed student about a month prior to the course.

You are confirmed for the course when I receive your payment. Please include the following items with your registration fee:

- List of outdoor activities you participate in
- Home mailing address
- Home phone number
- E-mail address, if available

After May 5th, your payment is not refundable. You are responsible to find a replacement if you cannot attend for any reason. Of course, I will assist you in this situation in any way possible.

I look forward to participating in this class with you. I am sure it will be fun and very educational. Obtaining this knowledge is a very important element in safety regardless of the activity you participate in. This information could help save your friends and your own life!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Mike Morrow

Phone (423) 245-1201 or email .

Swiftwater Rescue Practice Sessions

By Mike Morrow (TEHCC)

I have scheduled a series of Swiftwater Rescue (SWR) practice sessions this winter/spring. The sessions will be held at the Eastman Lodge Banquet room from 6-8pm on the following dates: 1/27, 2/24 (Sorry for the long gap between sessions but I will be paddling in Ecuador for two weeks in February.), 3/10, 3/24, 4/7 and 4/21. All of the sessions are on Monday nights.

Let's face it, we do not spend a lot of time practicing these skills (even those of us that have had SWR training). This is a good thing as it means accidents are infrequent. But, when the time comes to use these skills, they must be done quickly and well. This will only come from practice! Taking a course is not enough. You have to practice the skills to be able to do

them quickly and correctly. The better you can react as a team with minimal leadership the more efficient the rescue will be. It seems that recently I have been with groups that needed to use these skills. In all of the situations, the people involved had taken a SWR course and had done some practicing. I was amazed at the efficiency we had as a team in dealing with the situations. It was great to be paddling with people that knew what to do without instruction.

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, carabiners, 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 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, my plans may change, so I need to be able to contact you if you are going to be there. My home number is (423) 245-1201. My work e-mail is . Please provide a daytime phone number and e-mail address if possible.

See you at the practice sessions - Mike Morrow

APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course

By Mike Morrow

Course Dates: Saturday and Sunday, August 23-24, 2003.

APE's and TEHCC are offering an ACA Format Swiftwater Rescue Course. This is a full weekend course and covers a lot of topics in Swiftwater Rescue tailored to recreational paddlers. This course should be a must take for anyone who regularly paddles our streams and rivers. The course is very physically demanding. So, you must be fit enough to participate. I guarantee that you will be tired and winded even if you think you are in shape.

Location: Saturday's session will be at Eastman Chemical Company's Lodge at Bay's Mountain. Sunday's river location will be determined Saturday and depends on water level.

Description: This is an intensive course involving classroom instruction, dry land practice and in water drills. The topics covered are: Accident Prevention, Rescue Philosophy, Rescue Equipment (ropes, carabineers, pulleys, rescue PFD, etc), Swimming Skills in rapids (You will learn to ferry, catch eddies and peel out without your boat.), Wading Skills, Rope Handling, Foot Entrapment Release Techniques, Mechanical Advantage, Tag Lines, Stabilization Lines, Zip Lines, Releasing Boat Pins and some useful Knots.

Prerequisites: The course is open to ADULT (18 years old or older) APE and TEHCC members. All paddling skill levels are welcome. Remember, this will not be a paddling weekend. It is a physically strenuous weekend so you must be fit and be able to swim competently. By the way, did I mention we are going to have a lot of fun! You will be amazed how much fun you can have swimming in rapids.

How to Register: Please mail information about yourself (name, address, phone numbers, e-mail) and a check made out to Mike Morrow for the amount of \$60.00. My address is: 1028 Surmount Ct., Kingsport, Tennessee, 37660. I am limiting the course to 10 students. I will start a waiting list if needed. If you do not get into the course, I will return your money. You are registered when I receive the items listed above. Also, provide me with information about your paddling history (number of times you paddle per year, do you paddle in the

winter or warm weather only, class rivers you paddle). Also, include any health related information I need to be aware of while you are taking the course. I must have your registration information no later than 07/21/03.

About a month prior to the course, I will mail you a packet of information about the course. If you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact me, Mike Morrow, at (423) 245-1201 (evenings before 10:00pm, please) or by e-mail at . I am planning to be on a paddling trip in early August. So, I may not be able to contact you until a week prior to the course.

TEHCC Volunteers Needed

By Steve Perri

TEHCC has the need to fill the following positions:

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).

Webmaster - TEHCC is looking for someone to help or replace Steve Banks, who has been our webmaster since 1996. This job requires 5-10 hours per month. Knowledge in the use of FrontPage 2000 and HTML is required; experience with Adobe Photoshop, Graphics Workshop for Windows, and JavaScript would be a plus. For more information or preferably to volunteer, contact Steve Banks (phone 423-288-2646, email).

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Spring Dinner Meeting 2003

When: Friday, April 25th, 2003

Where: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, Tennessee

Agenda: 5:15 p.m. Social, Silent Auction of Some Club Equipment, Club T-shirts and Patches For Sale
6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:45 p.m. Program

Program: **Presentation of Club Awards**

Speaker: Arlene Scheller - The Cumberland Trail

The Cumberland Trail is a Tennessee State Scenic Hiking Trail. It became Tennessee's 53rd state park in 1998. This trail is also Tennessee's first linear park, following a line of high ridges and deep gorges along or near the rugged eastern escarpment of Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau. Arleen works full time for the nonprofit Cumberland Trail Conference in Crossville, Tennessee. The CTC is an all volunteer group working to build the 303-mile Cumberland Trail (CT) from

Cumberland Gap to Chattanooga. Come learn about this long distance hiking trail located in our back yard.

Menu: Salad, Mesquite Chicken or Beef Tips with Rice, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, and Broccoli Casserole, with Assorted Desserts, Tea, and Coffee
Catered by Wright's Country Cuisine

Dinner Price: Adults: \$10.50 (Inclusive)
Children 10 and under: \$6.50 (Inclusive)
Social: Soft drinks \$0.50; beer or wine for \$1.00
As always there is no charge for attending the program only.

Reservation Form: [Click](#) for printable form.

Natural Heritage Volunteer Monitors Needed

You may or may not know that ATC monitors rare plants along the Appalachian Trail and relies on volunteers to do the monitoring. With spring approaching, ATC would like to see if we could identify several volunteers who could help with this program.

The current sites that are in need of monitors are as follows:

Doll Flats Springs (Tennessee)
A.T. below the Vista (Tennessee)
Horseridge Gap (Tennessee)
Rich Knob (Tennessee)
Wine Spring Bald (North Carolina)
Wayah Bald (North Carolina)
Lover's Leap (North Carolina)
Roan Mountain - Section 8 (Tennessee)
Standing Indian Shelter (North Carolina)

ATC provides the monitors with information on what plant they are looking for, map and directions to where the plant was last located, and all the necessary forms. We ask that the monitors do at minimum two visits per year and mail us the completed forms as soon after the visit as possible.

So if you have a particular interest in plants or a portion of the Appalachian Trail you would like to monitor, please call the Southern Regional Office at 828-254-3708 or email Amy Carden Dilocker at .

Thanks for all your help!

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

South Beyond 6000 Hike: Mt. Hardy and Chestnut Bald, April 5, 2003

Leader: Kent & Nancy Wilson

This hike will use the Mountains to Sea Trail along with a couple of reasonably short bushwhacks to bag Mt. Hardy (6110) and Chestnut Bald (6040) starting at the Blue Ridge Parkway mile 424.7 and ending on a Forest Service Road. Because of the relatively long driving distance we will leave at 7:00 from the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. Rating: A/2/B. Call Kent or Nancy at 423-239-239-755 for further information.

Hot Springs Trailfest, April 11-12, 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.

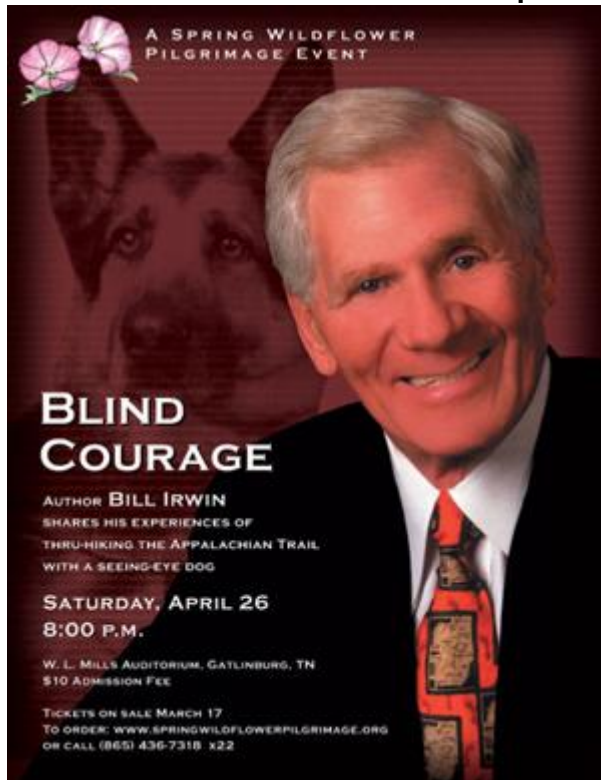
Come join the town of Hot Springs and help spread the word to our fellow hikers, trail alumni, club members and friends. For more info contact Jack Dalton (Pipsissewa - 93) at 828-622-3704 or .

South Beyond 6000 Hike: Reinhard Knob and Richland Balsam, April 26, 2003

Leader: Kent & Nancy Wilson

This hike will use the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Mountains to Sea Trail along with a couple bushwhacks to bag Reinhard Knob (6080) and Richland Balsam (6,410) starting at the Blue Ridge Parkway mile 427.6 and ending at mile post 431.4. Because of the relatively long driving distance we will leave at 7:00am from the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. Rating: A/2/B. Call Kent or Nancy at 423-239-239-755 for further information.

Bill Irwin - Blind A.T. Thru-Hiker to Speak at Wildflower Pilgrimage, April 26, 2003



In 1990 Bill Irwin threw a pack on his back, harnessed his Seeing Eye guide dog, Orient, and set out on foot on a 2,168 mile journey from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. This journey proved not only to be one of physical endurance, but one which proved that the seemingly impossible can, indeed, become a reality. This may not have been such a remarkable feat - thousands have accomplished it since the first recorded thru-hike in 1948 - except for one "minor" little detail the man was blind!

The story of Bill's incredible undertaking is recorded in his best-selling book, *Blind Courage*, published in 1992 and now in its eleventh printing. Its contents reveal the life-altering and life-affirming experiences that have molded this man into the highly energetic, entertaining, and motivational speaker who captivates audiences nationwide. Whether addressing colleges, large corporations or

television audiences, his message of perseverance instills inspiration in the hearts of all who listen. Irwin will be the guest speaker following the closing buffet banquet at the Wildflower Pilgrimage, 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at Mills Auditorium, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Pilgrimage, now in its 53rd year, is a consistently well-attended event offering participants the opportunity to enjoy Great Smoky Mountains National Park at its finest. And variety of nature walks, art classes, birding trips, photographic tours and lectures offer topics sure to pique everyone's interest.

Over 150 natural history and cultural programs are led by park rangers, botanists, zoologists, and other professionals who share their knowledge in their respective fields.

Sponsors of the Pilgrimage are Great Smoky Mountains Association, Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, University of Tennessee -Knoxville, City of Gatlinburg, Gatlinburg Garden Club, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

Tickets for "Blind Courage-An Evening with Bill Irwin" are \$10 and go on sale March 17. For tickets or Pilgrimage information call 865-436-7318, Ext. 22.

Southeastern U.S. Slalom and Wild Water Championship Races, April 26-27, 2003

The 35th Annual Southeastern U.S. Slalom and Wild Water Championships will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27, 2003 on the Nantahala River near Bryson City, North Carolina. For more information, contact Susan Abernathy at 256-883-5222.

Spring Wildflower Hike - 19E to Doll Flats and Beyond, May 3, 2003

Rating B/3/C

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

A combination of rich woods and significant elevation gain in spring can give many varieties of wildflowers, and this hike fits that description with options on hiking distance available. The section from 19E to Doll Flats climbs about 1600 feet in a little over 3 miles. Several relocations have made this a fairly easy and enjoyable climb, with cliffs and a rock outcrop providing good views. At the lower elevations there should be plentiful red trilliums and other fairly common flowers, with a patch of showy orchids that is the only occurrence along our Trail section. In the vicinity of Doll Flats we should see white trilliums and crested dwarf iris. Hikers will have an option of continuing about 2 miles to Hump Mountain with many early spring flowers (and ramps) in the first mile opening to the outstanding grassy bald, one of the best places on the entire A.T. We'll plan to depart at 8:00 AM from the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank in Colonial Heights. Bring lunch, water, clothing for wet and cool weather, and sunscreen if you plan to go to Hump. Please contact Joe if you would like to go or for more information.

ATC Biennial Meeting, July 25 - August 1, 2003

By Steve Wilson

ATC Biennial Meeting - Waterville Valley, New Hampshire

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.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Photos from A.T. Maintenance Dinner, February 28, 2003



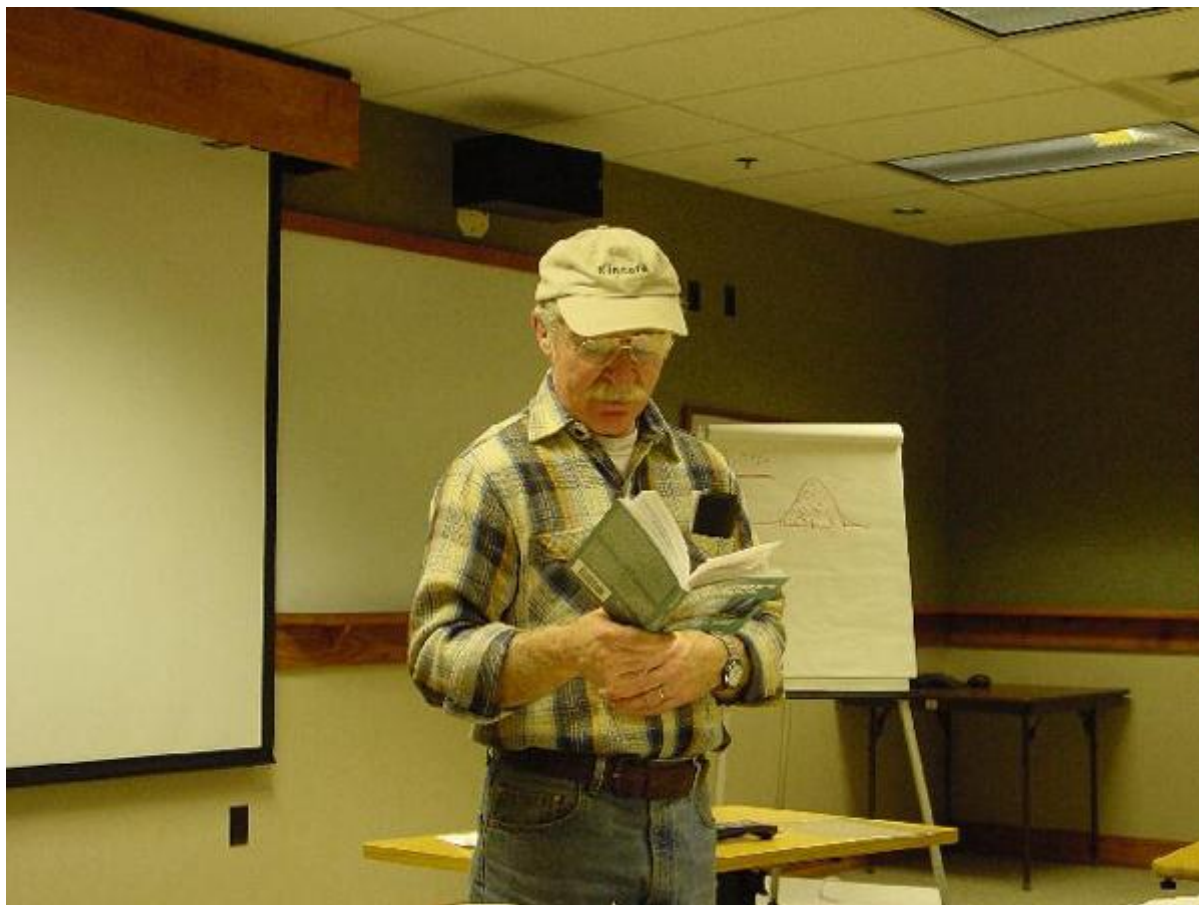
Buffet line at TEHCC annual A.T. maintenance dinner at Eastman Lodge, February 28, 2003



Joe DeLoach leading the meeting



Bob Peoples describing an article about TEHCC's section in the the Thru Hiker's Handbook



Bob Peoples reading the article to the group

Hike: South Beyond 6000 Hike, Mt. Mitchell, Mt. Hallback, and Mt. Gibbes, March 8, 2003

G. S. Luttrell reporting

After breakfast at McDonalds in Burnsville, we drove on to the parking area at Black Mountain Gap. We walked to the Mountains to Sea Trail below Potato Knob and followed it for a very pleasant 5 mi. and 1500 ft. ascent to the summit of Mt. Mitchell. There we had lunch with warm conditions and almost no wind. After lunch, we followed the Old Mitchell Trail for 2 mi. and ascended the short, almost non-existent bushwhack to the summit of Mt. Hallback. From Stepps Gap, we decided to continue on to bag Mt. Gibbes, while we were in the neighborhood. Finally we completed the loop of 12 mi. by walking down HW 128 to the car. The views all day long were outstanding, and the hiking was very pleasant. Hikers included Kim Peters, Freda Kuo, Lowell Toof, Taylor Pickard, and Garry Luttrell. *Click on the small photo or link to see a larger photo.*



[Mt. Mitchell Tower Group](#) (195KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Mt. Mitchell and Mt. Hallback](#) from Mt. Gibbes (194KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Freda Kuo \(L\) and Kim Peters \(R\)](#) relaxing on the Mountains to the Sea Trail (167KB). Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.



[Pickard Taylor](#) taking a nap (173KB). Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)

Name: Bob Peoples

Date: February 22, 2003

Purpose: Workshop

Section: Other

Location: Backcountry Sanitation Management, Sugar Grove, Virginia

Number of People: 4

Total Person Hours: 40

People: Bob Peoples, John Arwood, Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels

Individual Hours: 10 each

Summary: We attended a workshop to learn how to construct and maintain outdoor sanitation facilities.

Name: Bob Peoples

Date: February 23-24, 2003

Purpose: Locate and report blowdowns

Section: Other

Location: Sections 1-8

Number: 2

Total Person Hours: 40

People: Hikers Rocket and The Flying Scotsman

Individual Hours: 20 hours each

Summary: Locate and report blowdowns from Hwy 321 to Damascus

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 25, 2003

Purpose: Dig trail and repair wet areas on the Elk River Relocation

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

Location: Trail North about 1 mile of Campbell Hollow Road

Number: 8

Total Person Hours: 72

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed

Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams

Individual Hours: 8x9 hours

Summary: We finished this short section by completing the digging, installing three steps and a trail side log before filling a depression. Also, we finished the rustic locust bridge by evening the surface of the two logs, fastening them together with rods and installing the metal lathe to the surface. A north bounder and his terrier crossed the completed bridge. Fresh snow only started as we reached Blountville.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 26, 2003

Purpose: Cut Blowdowns

Section: Other

Location: Sections 9 and 10 Dennis Cove to U.S. 321

Number of People: 1

Total Person-Hours: 9

People: Tadpole

Individual Hours: 1x9

Summary: Thru hiker, "Tadpole", using a bow saw cut all the blowdowns that were 6 inches or less from U.S. 321 to Dennis Cove. Yesterday, he and Twinkle Toes, his little terrier, were the first to hike a newly opened trail section near Campbell Hollow Road.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 1, 2003

Purpose: Dig trail and install stile and steps on Elk River Relocation

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

Location: Near Elk River

Number: 15

Total Person Hours: 143

People: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, SCOUTS James Franklin, Sam Franklin, Billy Gingerich, Todd Gingerich, Eric Helms, Keith Williams SCOUT LEADERS Bill Gingerich, Henry Mercer

Individual Hours: 8x10 hrs (James Franklin, Sam Franklin, Billy Gingerich, Todd Gingerich, Eric Helms, Keith Williams, Bill Gingerich, Henry Mercer) + 7x9 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: Fortunately, we had great weather on this Saturday for this Explorer Troop to plan and execute the last major construction on the Elk River Relocation. They came to Kincora Hostel on Friday afternoon from Southern Pines, N.C., the PGA Capital of the U.S., to spend both Friday and Saturday nights. Billy Gingerich was the scout in charge and using the stile as his Eagle Scout project. Right at the Elk River, the trail leaves a road used by horses and ATVs. We installed six steps, then an English type stile with two posts located five feet apart and a step for getting over the rails. We installed 30 feet of barb wire fence on either side of stile. Billy engineered an opening in the stile so dogs could easily hop through. With the enthusiastic and still energetic scouts, we dug trail near the stile and also near the river to get more of the trail off the old road. John Thompson and Mary Cunningham blazed this section trail south to existing A.T. and about one mile trail north. Mary gets the most devoted maintainer award today for coming out in muddy conditions with a broken arm in a cast. We hope to get to work with this scout troop again.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: March 2, 2003

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Section: 3 - Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421 (Low Gap)

Location: McQueens Knob to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Number: 2

Total Person Hours: 18

People: Steve Banks and Steven Banks

Individual Hours: 2x9 hours

Summary: We met Steve Wilson and Bruce Cunningham in Colonial Heights, left Steve Wilson's car in Damascus, and all rode together to McQueens Gap. While Steve Wilson and Bruce headed north for Damascus (see report below), my son Steven and I cut four blowdowns between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. We then returned to McQueens Gap, and cut three blowdowns south of the gap - some fairly large - until we ran out of chain oil for our saw and had to stop. There are still at least three blowdowns between McQueens Knob and the spring that we will get on a future trip.

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: March 2, 2003

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns on Holston Mountain

Section: 2 - Backbone Rock trail junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Location: From Abingdon Gap Shelter to Damascus

Number: 2

Total Person Hours: 23

People: Bruce Cunningham, Steve Wilson

Individual Hours: 11 hrs (Bruce Cunningham), 12 hrs (Steve Wilson)

Summary: We cleared over 30 blowdowns in Sections 1 and 2 while hiking 11 miles from McQueens Gap to Damascus. The forecast was for party cloudy, but the Weather Channel missed it big time. It was rainy and cold all day long making it quite a day for carrying and using chainsaw. No signs of horses or ATV's were seen.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 4, 2003

Purpose: Dig trail and repair wet areas on Elk River Relocation

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

Location: Trail South of Walnut Mountain Road

Number of People: 10

Total Person-Hours: 100

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, Frank Williams

Individual Hours: 10x10 hrs

Summary: With some grunting and groaning, we carried in a 24 foot bog bridge in two sections to span a stream and wet area near Walnut Mountain Road. We finished lopping and clearing trail in about a mile and a half. John painted blazes about that far. We also worked on a wet area at Mountaineer Falls by digging out muck, filling with rocks, placing geotextile and backfilling with soil. One more day is needed to complete this section near Walnut Mountain Road.

Name: Craig Haire

Date: March 4, 2003

Purpose: walk-through, minor clearing

Section: 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

Location: Nolichucky to Temple Hill Gap

Number: 1

Total Person-Hours: 5

People: Craig Haire

Individual Hours: 5.5 hrs (Craig)

Summary: Cut small obstructions, trimmed back with lopper, took note of larger blowdowns

Name: Steve Banks

Date: March 7, 2003

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Section: 3 - Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421 (Low Gap)

Location: South of McQueens Knob

Number: 2

Total Person Hours: 16

People: Mary Banks, Steve Banks

Individual Hours: 2x8

Summary: We cut ten blowdowns between McQueens Knob and the two springs at the south end of our section, on a beautiful early spring day. All blowdowns on our adopted section have now been removed. There is a lot of trash in McQueens Gap that we will pick up on a future trip.

Name: Frank Williams

Date: March 8, 2003

Purpose: Clear blow downs

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

Location: Watauga Lake

Number of People: 4

Total Person Hours: 32

People: Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield and Frank Williams

Individual Hours: 4X8 everyone

Summary: We removed all of the blow downs on this section. There were about 20, but none particularly difficult. We will return to pick up litter and blaze.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 8, 2003

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns, Clip and Place Shelter Register - Tenn. 91 - Iron Mountain Shelter

Section: 5 - Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

Location: Tenn. 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

Number of People: 2

Total Person-Hours: 20

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 10 hours each

Summary: We cut all the blowdowns, dug out one wet area near a bog bridge, clipped

some brush and briars, and placed the shelter register. One section about 100' long and about 2.5 miles from Tenn. 91 could use some sidehill rehab. Shelter in good shape.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: March 8, 2003

Purpose: Blowdown Clearing

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Number of People: 3

Total Person-Hours: 36

People: Richard Colberg, Jeff Siirola, Steve Perri

Individual Hours: 12 x 3 hours

Summary: We hiked in from Hughes Gap, clearing blowdowns, and heading trail south. We removed over 30 obstructions. We left about 4 widow makers; locations: 20 minutes south of the shelter, and another 30 minutes south of the shelter; one south of Greasy Creek Gap, and another just 5 minutes south of the rock outcrop. Some erosion is occurring in the road bed south of Clyde Smith Shelter. A new log book in the shelter was placed by a non-club member. The shelter is in good shape. We saw one south bounder who passed us at the start and got turned around after getting water. We re-oriented him south again. NOTE: we observed 2 sets of fresh horse tracks between Greasy Creek and Iron Mt Gap. It looks like illegal access is still a problem here from Iron Mountain Gap.

Name: David Gibson

Date: March 9, 2003

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Section 15

Number: 2

Total Person-Hours: 18

People: Bill Stowell and David Gibson

Individual Hours: 9 hours each

Summary: We cleared the blowdowns in section 15, and cleaned up quite a bit of litter at the shelter. Apparently someone may have been living there. And one of the cleared blowdowns was turned into 3 steps and/or check dams on the steep slope above Ash Gap.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 11, 2003

Purpose: Finish Elk River Relocation and open it

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

Location: Campbell Hollow Road to Walnut Mountain Road

Number: 18

Total Person-Hours: 180

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Lou Haase, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, Frank Williams, STUDENTS Johannah Baum, Michael Neeley, Ben Pippen, Eileen Sullivan, Matthew Sweeney, Dustin Winebrenner, Bethany Zull

Individual Hours: 18x10 hrs

Summary: This was the day we have been working towards for five years. We had a great

turnout of volunteers, including seven Ball State students on spring break. They had hiked from Carvers Gap to U.S. 19E over the previous two days. We divided into five groups to finish all the projects. Paul and Ed opened and blazed both ends at Campbell Hollow and Walnut Mountain Roads. Bob and five students finished trail repairs from Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls and cleared two tent camping areas. John and Frank blazed from Walnut Mountain Road to Elk River. Bruce, Darrol, Hueston and two students repaired wet areas and finished the trail right beside Elk River. David, Robin, Carl and Lou, our latest recruit, repaired wet spots in the Slide Hollow area. Two hiking groups covered this new trail today. This is now a beautiful almost seven mile section of trail to hike with two major water falls.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 11, 2003

Purpose: Blowdown clearing between Nolichucky Expeditions and Curley Maple Gap

Section: 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

Location: Nolichucky Expeditions to Curley Maple Gap

Number: 2

Total Person-Hours: 20

People: Dixie and Fred Hoilman

Individual Hours: 2 x 10

Summary: Fred and Dixie cut all 16 blowdowns on this section, including a very large pine. They will clear the short section from Nolichucky Expeditions to Chestoa in a separate trip.

Name: David Gibson

Date: March 13, 2003

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns

Section: 4 - U.S. 421 (Low Gap) to Tenn. 91

Location: U.S. 421 trail south to Double Springs Shelter

Number of People: 2

Total Person-Hours: 16

People: Robin Fought, David Gibson

Individual Hours: 8 hours each

Summary: We cleared a dozen or so blowdowns. Some were of wide diameter but none were sitting across the trail higher than knee level. The FS had a controlled burn in this section yesterday, and the burn crossed the A.T. for about 2 miles: from a road they bulldozed up and over the ridge line, crossing the A.T. near the water source sign, to within about 4 tenths of Double Springs Shelter. We noticed a couple of hot spots on the way in. By the time we got to the shelter the wind had picked up and on the way out one of the hot spots was in full blaze and had burned a tree down five feet from the trail. However, we are thinking that the heavy downpour we walked through on the last two miles out probably took care of any hotspots.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 15, 2003

Purpose: Cut Blowdowns

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

Location: U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain

Number: 7

Total Person-Hours: 49

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Drew Lattier, Andrew Pappas, Mike Pappas, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams and dog NESSIE

Individual Hours: 7x7

Summary: We covered this entire section and removed a number of small blowdowns. Only a couple were causing the hikers to find an alternate path. We all enjoyed the outing. Drew and Andrew earned some credits for scout badges. And Nessie enjoyed romping back and forth on the trail and sometimes retrieving tossed limbs that were as long as ten feet. Unfortunately, Hump Mountain was socked in and no views were possible. ATV use is very heavy at Doll Flats and unfortunately they are using the blue blaze trail to the water. Otherwise, they seem to not be using the trail.