

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 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
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
A.T. "Hardcore" - work on relocation between Bitter End and White Rocks Mountain		Joe DeLoach	May 18	423-753-7903

## Southern Regional Management Meeting Summary

*By Steve Perri*

DATE: March 21-23, 2003

ATTENDEES: Joe DeLoach, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Darrol Nickels, Bob Peoples, David Gibson, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, Ray Hunt, Bruce Cunningham, Steve Wilson, Steve Perri  
 Summary: TEHCC attended the Southern Regional Management Meeting of the



Appalachian Trail Conference March 21-23 at the Pinebridge Inn in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. This is an annual meeting of the southern A.T. maintaining clubs to meet with ATC and all agency partners to discuss current issues and future plans relating to the A.T. This was a new location within an old converted school.

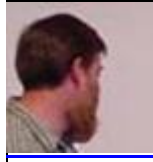

Friday night we had a presentation by Morgan Sommerville and Pete Irvine. The presentation discussed the accessibility designs and policies being developed regarding trail and facilities along the A.T. On Saturday, a number of reports were made by the agency partners including: ATC, ATPO, TVA and the Forest Service Report. Breakout discussion groups were held to review: 1) ATC Worker Safety and Skills Policy, 2) Club/Volunteer Responsibilities for A.T. Management, 3) Trail Safety Issues, 4) Sources of Funding for Club Initiatives, and 5) the Southern Region Forest Management Plan. The highlights for Saturday were a roasting session for Morgan Sommerville for his 20 years of service with ATC. Many good stories were shared and reflected on Morgan's infamous outings, stories and cars! Bob Peoples was asked to present a 10 minute discussion on non-traditional trail volunteers. Unbeknownst to Bob, this was the only means of getting him to the meeting so ATC could present him with a new award. Bob was pleasantly surprised to be awarded the Partnership Volunteer Award. He was presented with a artistic rendering of the southern Appalachians. Andy Brown presented a short presentation on Environmental Monitoring Initiatives in the Southern Region. Saturday night we learned about the Southern Regional Foot Trails Coalition with a presentation by Mary Margaret Sloan, President of the American Hiking Society and Alison Bullock, NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Sunday was spent discussing 2004 Konnarock work requests and then we headed home.

Significant information learned from the meeting affecting the A.T. and our club:

- New policies and certification requirements regarding crosscut saws and chainsaw training.
- A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted for the Delegation Agreement with many new implied club responsibilities.
- Hiker safety from design and maintenance of structures is being reviewed.
- Better education of hikers and hunters about hunting season on the A.T. since 2 hikers were shot on the A.T. during the last season.
- Multiclub will be hosted by Roanoke Trail Club on Labor Day Weekend.
- TEHCC will be preparing for co-hosting of the 2005 Biennial Conference in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Photos (courtesy of Steve Wilson):**

	<a href="#">Morgan Sommerville</a> receiving recognition for his 20th anniversary with ATC from Teresa Martinez (41KB).
	<a href="#">Teresa Martinez</a> addressing the group (50KB).

	<p><a href="#">Morgan Sommerville</a> receiving recognition for his 20th anniversary with ATC from Pam Underhill (39KB).</p>
	<p><a href="#">Southern Region Partnership Award</a> presented to Bob Peoples (31KB).</p>

## 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 [perri@atc.org](mailto:perri@atc.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

*By Mike Morrow*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 (Thur)	Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Eastman Lodge, Room A2 Eastman Recreation Area, near Bays Mountain Park Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.
June 7th (Sat)	Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM Duck Island Parking Lot Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, Tennessee Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.
June 8th (Sun)	River Trip, class II. 10:00 AM 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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1028 Surmont Ct. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660. Feel free to call for more details.

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

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### 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:

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

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## **Introductory Whitewater School Instructors and Instructor Aid Boaters Needed**

*By Mike Morrow*

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](http://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.

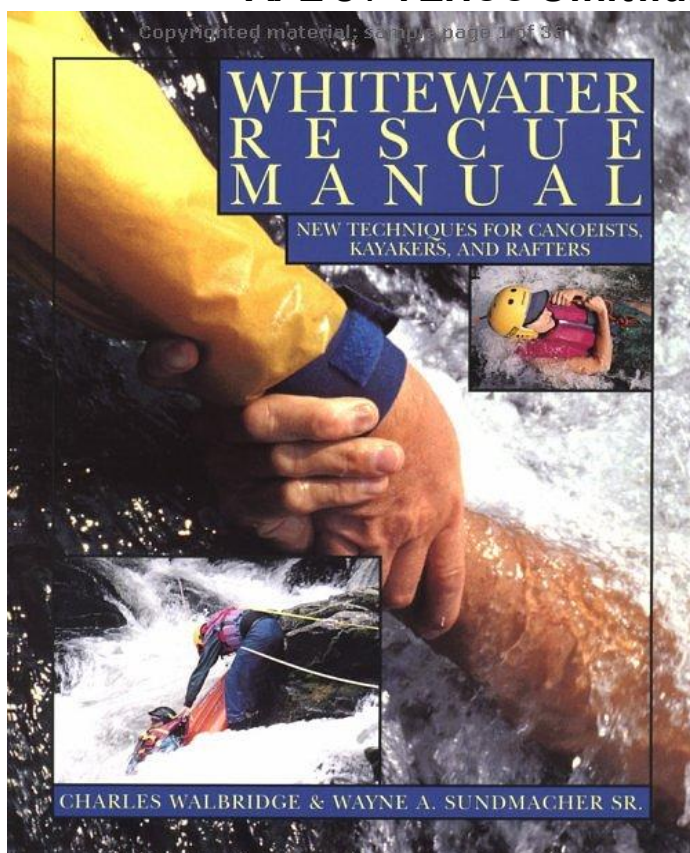
Mike Morrow

Phone (423) 245-1201 or email .

## Multi-Club Meet 2003

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is proud to host the annual Multi-Club Meet 2003. This Multi-Club Meet will be located in the mountains of Virginia at Camp Alta Mons in Shawsville, Virginia.

## 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 Volunteer Needed

*By Steve Perri*

TEHCC has the need to fill the following position:

**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).

**Thanks!** - Richard Colberg has volunteered to work with Steve Banks to maintain our web site.

## Natural Heritage Volunteer Monitors Needed

*By Steve Perri*

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)
- Horseshoe 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*)**

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

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

*Rating B/3/C*

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*)**

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

*Leader: Mary Ellen Ress*

Here are some more photos from this trip, courtesy of Mary Ellen Ress. Click on the small photo or the hyperlink to see the photo:



(L-R) [Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes, Freda Kuo](#) (81KB).



Along the trail, a pretty [bush](#) (69KB).



A pretty [bush](#), from the other side! (55KB).



[Hiking](#) in the snow (64KB).



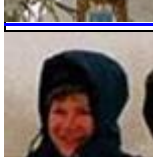
[Phyllis, Freda and Kim](#) try to stay warm (73KB).



[Mary Ellen](#) eats a cold lunch (74KB).



[Pine Mountain summit](#) (68KB).



[Kim, Phyllis and Freda](#) at the Scales (44KB).



[Lonely pine](#) on Pine Mountain summit (58KB).



[Real icicles](#) (95KB).



Admiring the same pretty [bush](#) (55KB).

### **Hike Report: Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road, March 22, 2003**

*Hike Leader: Collins Chew*

We had a beautiful day to hike Iron Mountain and see the views through the leafless trees. The Service Berry (pronounced "sarvice") was blooming by Wilbur Lake and we saw the first (just one) bloodroot blooming. Since there was a question, almost everyone took turns rolling the trail and we got a total A.T. distance of 15.7 miles. We also took GPS measurements for the new guide edition. We have now reviewed all the current A.T. for the Guide from Damascus, Virginia to Davenport Gap, Tennessee/North Carolina, 217 miles). We got a little bonus hike as the Watauga Dam Road gate was closed in the morning (terrorism scare or late arising TVA people, since it was open in the evening) so we got to walk another 1.2 miles down the Dam Road to finish our hike. Hikers were Carol Broderson, Dave Dunham, Freda Kuo, Mary Ellen Ress, Niki Weir, and Collins Chew. A cooler, some food and money were taken from an unlocked car at Cross Mountain parking lot across from the Osborne Farm. Other, more valuable things, were not taken. No official report was made as far as I know.

### **Hike Report: Elrod Falls (Sneedville, Tennessee), March 29, 2003**

*Hike Leader: Vic Hasler*

This hike had been on the TEHCC suggested list for years, but no formal trek ever reported in the club newsletter. A group of optimistic hikers (Vic and Ben Hasler, Kent and Nancy Wilson, Freda Kuo, and Judith Foster) left a sunny Kingsport and quickly drove 70 miles into an approaching light rain. The trailhead is directed by a green sign off the improved Tenn. 31 section and then another to the well-graveled road. The first falls can be seen from the back of the picnic area (formerly maintained by local Ruritan and then Hancock County). A good one afternoon Boy Scout service project would be to repair the railing on the short formal trail to the first falls and pick up the can/bottle trash. There is not a good trail to the upper falls and the rain made crossing the stream treacherous, but the group scrambled up the steep hillside for a pretty view. The GPS signal was so weak that no attempt could be made to locate Geocache GC1E9E. So the conclusion for this location is very short hike to pair of pretty falls better enjoyed on a nice day.

### **Hike Report: Mt. Hardy, Chestnut Bald, Sam's Knob, April 5, 2003**

*Hike Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson*

In spite of the heavy rain, 5 brave souls believed the weather forecasters' predictions of clearing and headed out for the Blue Ridge Parkway south of Asheville for this South Beyond 6000 adventure. After driving all the way in rain, we spotted a car at FS 816 and headed south on the parkway to Rough Butt Overlook. The hike started with partly cloudy skies and a little wind and improved to warm sunshine. We followed the Mountains to Sea Trail paralleling the parkway climbing Mt. Hardy with little used trails and Chestnut Bald with an interesting bushwhack. The views were outstanding. After reaching FS 816, four of us decided to also climb Sam's Knob. Making this 12 mile trek were Zane Perry (West Virginia), Sheryl Hall, Freda Kuo, and Kent and Nancy Wilson.

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

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** March 5, 2003

**Purpose:** Clearing blowdowns

**Section:** 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

**Location:** Dennis Cove to White Rock Tower

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 6

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Individual Hours:** 6 hours

**Summary:** Not so bad. Cleared 6 blowdowns - no real problems. Two groups of rhododendron blowdowns were troublesome and were cleared. Still need to clear blowdowns above 6" from Pond Flat to Dennis Cove Road.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** March 12, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear and open Waycaster Spring

**Section:** 9 - U.S. 321 to Hampton trailhead

**Location:** Laurel Fork Gorge

**Number:** 11

**Total Hours:** 66

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, David Gibson, Robin, Bob Peoples, ASU Professor Warren Doyle, his students, Trail Yeti, Redbranch, Ryan, Bob Lenfestey and southbound hikers, Sean Johnson (Windchill), and Rod Tweedle (SnowMan)

**Individual Hours:** 11x6 hours

**Summary:** TEHCC members hiked in the blue blazed trail from Hwy 321 to meet the students and hikers at the former site of the Waycaster Spring, which is located about 50 yards south of Middle Bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge. After clearing at least 10 years of rhododendron overgrowth, and moving some David stones, otherwise known as any stones requiring at least 6 people to budge, we created a rock pathway to a superb spring. Robin scored a 9.8 on her reverse gainer, one point landing into the spring. Beautiful day, great project. Paul Benfield is making a sign up for the spring.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** March 12-16, 2003

**Purpose:** Mark blowdowns from Spivey Gap to Dennis Cove Road

**Section:** 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

**Location:** Spivey Gap to Dennis Cove Road

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 40

**People:** Mailman and Gravity Works

**Individual Hours:** 2x20

**Summary:** On an ATC map, these northbound thru hikers indicated the size and location of blowdowns between Spivey Gap and Dennis Cove Road. This is a tremendous help to maintainers needing to clear blowdowns.

**Name:** David Gibson

**Date:** March 14-15

**Purpose:** Crosscut Workshop

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Forest Service Workstation and The Laurels

**Number:** 5

**Total Hours:** 65

**People:** Bob Peoples, John Arwood, David Gibson, Darrol Nickels, and Mike Hupka

**Individual Hours:** 5 x13 hours

**Summary:** We spent the evening of the 14th going over the textbook on crosscuts, watched a couple of videos, learned the proper way to sharpen crosscuts and axes, and some were even brave enough to try the government coffee bubbling suspiciously in its pot. Our instructor for the workshop was FS employee, Dennis Helton. He was very knowledgeable and we were glad to have him for the class.

On the 15th we proceeded to The Laurels to put some of our newfound book learning to the test. One of the first things we learned is that all of the club's crosscuts are too dull to spread butter. And we all readily agreed that we would no longer complain about the weight of lugging a chainsaw on future clearing trips. Darrol was hands down the best man with the axe and crosscut. Certainly the club should let him have one of the highly vied for Wilderness sections to maintain.



**Name:** Kim Peters

**Date:** March 15, 2003

**Purpose:** Paint blazes, clip and remove debris

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

**Location:** Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**Number:** 7

**Total Hours:** 56

**People:** Kim Peters, Mary Ellen Ress, Charlotte Anderson, Richard Strang, Dave Dunham, Carol Dunham, Alison Deadman

**Individual Hours:** 8 hours each

**Summary:** We set off in the morning from cool and windy Iron Mountain Gap, a bunch of novice maintainers planning to hike to Greasy Creek Gap and back, painting and clearing as we went. We divided up into three teams, two spotting and painting blazes and one clipping and removing debris. I discovered that Charlotte is an artist with a paintbrush, marking beautiful 2X6 blazes with square corners even on rough bark! Bruce's peanut butter jar system for painting worked well

although we quickly abandoned the plastic insert in the cover as it was a nuisance. We met several hikers on the way. One pair of thru-hikers were notable, Windchill and Snowman. They were from Great Britain and stated that they had started hiking from Katahdin in September of 2002 and had been hiking all winter. They suggested that a better color for blazes would be blaze orange as the white ones didn't show up too well in the snow. These two were on a hike to raise money for cancer research. What they didn't tell us is that prior to starting their hike on the A.T., they had biked across Canada and canoed the Missouri River. They had even stopped to spend a day doing trail work with Bob Peoples! Hats off to those two! We found evidence of horse use with deep hoof prints left in the soft spring earth. A sign for foot travel only was placed just south of Greasy Creek Gap. Everyone seemed to have a good time and even said they would come back to help again. Many thanks to Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola and Richard Colberg for removing the blowdowns on this section in the prior week. This made our job much easier.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 18, 2003

**Purpose:** Dig sidehill trail on relocation

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

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

**Number:** 12

**Total Hours:** 108

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Lou Haase, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, and HIKERS Matt Bacco and Andrew Kistelius

**Individual Hours:** 12x9 hours

**Summary:** On a drizzly morning with a high chance of rain all day, we decided to go anyhow. Fortunately, the drizzling stopped by late morning. We even stopped for a reasonable lunch because it was not so cold that we had to immediately start moving again. We prepared 1680 feet of trail with some areas only requiring raking. The new trail will start south at the old apple orchard. One more day should complete this relocation. We agreed that this was a nice respite after the Elk River relo.

**Name:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Date:** March 21, 2003

**Purpose:** Maintenance - clear blowdowns, blaze, carry out trash, etc.

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

**Location:** Campbell Hollow Road to 19E

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 16

**People:** Frank Williams and Garry Luttrell

**Individual Hours:** FW - 8; GL - 8

**Summary:** We coordinated two trips on the same day, by having Collin Chew's group drop Frank and me at Campbell Hollow Road, prior to their start at the northern end of the next section north on the A.T. We carried a chainsaw, bow saw, paint, trash bags, and a few light tools. We removed all blowdown from this section, blazed, and carried out several loads of trash - lots of garbage on this section! We may need to return with a post for better blazing

at the sharp turn in the trail at the fence line in the open pasture at 2.1 mi. north of 19E. The first post/blaze after this turn to the south has been bent and is not very visible. We stopped by the trash dump site in Roan Mountain and told the attendant that we had several bags of trash from the A.T., and he allowed us to dispose of it with no charge. It was a great day to be out: the views from our lunch stop at the summit, 2.3 mi. from 19E, were as recorded in the Trail Description, fine views.

**Name:** Collins Chew

**Date:** March 21, 2003

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

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

**Location:** Walnut Mountain Road to U. S. 19E

**Number:** 8

**Total Hours:** 80

**People:** Kathy Case, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Garry Luttrell, Bob Harvey, Kim Peters, Frank Williams, and Collins Chew

**Individual Hours:** 8x10 hours

**Summary:** The Friday Hikers blazed (the new blazes needed a second coat) both directions, cut blowdowns, re-measured the trail, and trimmed a bit on the A.T. for the new relocation and old trail from Walnut Mountain Road to U. S. 19E. The hike was 10.2 miles on the A.T. plus the 0.2 mile round trip to beautiful Jones Falls. Garry Luttrell and Frank Williams took the chain saw to the portion between Campbell Hollow Road and U. S. 19E (see report above) while the rest of us walked the longer distance (but we even got to cut a few blowdowns on the new trail). Our latest rolling of the trail give a distance of 6.8 miles from Walnut Mountain Road to Campbell Hollow Road and 3.4 miles from there to U. S. 19E (23.1 miles for the entire Guidebook Section). I will use this for the guide revision. We met the 25 or so folks on the Partnership Hike with Ed Oliver (and perhaps others) showing off the new trail to the leaders of ATC professionals, the Board of Managers, CMC, rangers of Tennessee and North Carolina National Forests, National Park Service (ATPO) and perhaps others. Yellow Violets were our first wildflowers of the year.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** March 21, 2003

**Purpose:** Install Signs on the A.T.

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** Chestoa

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 2

**People:** Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

**Individual Hours:** 1 hour each

**Summary:** Steve and I replaced the warning signs at the railroad crossing in Chestoa with black and yellow signs. These signs will be more visible to hikers warning them not to crawl under or between railroad cars.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** March 21-23, 2003

**Purpose:** Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Spruce Pine, North Carolina

**Number:** 12

**Total Hours:** 220

**People:** Steve Wilson, Steve Perri, David Gibson, Robin Fought, Joe DeLoach, Bob Peoples, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

**Individual Hours:** Steve Wilson and Steve Perri - 20 hours each; David Gibson and Robin Fought - 19 hours each; Bob Peoples - 14 hours; Joe DeLoach, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham - 16 hours each

**Summary:** TEHCC attended the Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. We attended numerous breakout sessions and commented on policy proposals and heard reports. Bob Peoples was awarded a new award called the Partnership Award for a volunteer. Morgan Sommerville was roasted for celebrating his 20th anniversary with ATC. See [Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting](#) feature article for more information.

**Name:** John Arwood and the State of Franklin Group of the Sierra Club

**Date:** March 22, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear Blowdowns

**Section:** 7 - Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north) to Watauga Dam Road

**Location:** From Watauga Dam Road to approximately two miles north on the trail.

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 18

**People:** John Arwood, Dan Grace, Linda Millstid

**Individual Hours:** 3x6 hours

**Summary:** Cleared 7 blowdowns and associated brush. Swept steps at trailhead.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 25, 2003

**Purpose:** Dig sidehill trail on relocation

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

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

**Number:** 10

**Total Hours:** 90

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Lou Haase, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and HIKER Tripp

**Individual Hours:** 10x9

**Summary:** With full sunshine and temperatures in the 70's, we quickly depleted our water supplies and we slowed in the afternoon. We did complete this half mile relocation. There is now a scenic view of Roan Mountain. Tripp through-hiked last year and she contributed back to the trail today. We removed some trash from the apple orchard. Also, we cleaned 14 old water bars north of the orchard.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** March 27, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns---massive

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Number:** 3



**Total Hours:** 19

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Robin Fought, David Gibson

**Individual Hours:** 7 hours (Bruce Cunningham) + 2x6 hrs (everyone else)

**Summary:** Biggest blowdown I have seen!!!! Huge pine -maybe 6'at base- took out everything in it's path---40' of trail covered --could not see from one end to other---3 of us took over One and one half hours to clear---also cleared 2 other smaller trees from trail and some clipping on way out.

**Name:** John Thompson

**Date:** March 27, 2003

**Purpose:** Appalachian Trail Maintenance on Pond Mountain

**Section:** 9 - U.S. 321 to Hampton trailhead

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 18

**People:** John Thompson, Frank Williams

**Individual Hours:** 2 x 9 hours

**Summary:** On March 27, 2003, John and Frank cut blowdowns, clipped rhododendron and other woody brush, installed a new distance sign, and repaired the Forest Service hiker registry box on their adopted section from U. S. Highway 321 at Watauga Lake to Pond Flats. There are three large (2 foot diameter) trees across the Trail, one of which is a significant though not impassable obstruction. Some cutting of trees underneath the power lines, probably by TVA contractors, was noted. The blazes on this section are mostly in good shape.

**Name:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Date:** April 1, 2003

**Purpose:** Originally intended as a hike, but evolved into trail maintenance

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

**Location:** Mountaineer Falls to Jones Falls

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 9

**People:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Individual Hours:** 9

**Summary:** I hiked in to the newly opened section today from Elk Falls, and covered the A.T. from Mountaineer Falls to Jones Falls, (twice - in and out), and there's some new blowdowns, from the recent snow. I pulled all those I could from the A.T. but there's many remaining that could be removed with a bow saw. Collins and I just cleared his and my sections just a couple of weeks ago. I talked with three thru hikers, Braveheart, Goose, and Miles to Go, and asked about blowdown, and they said there was about five on my section from 19E north. There's probably about 8 on the section I covered today.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** April 2, 2003

**Purpose:** fix wet spot

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** just north of railroad crossing

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 14

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock

**Individual Hours:** 2x7 hrs

**Summary:** Created new trail slightly to south-west of current trail and avoided very wet-muddy spot--did some ditching and stream clearing.

**Name:** David Gibson

**Date:** April 3, 2003

**Purpose:** To inspect Roan Mountain Shelter, install weather stripping, etc.

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

**Location:** Roan Mountain Shelter

**Number:** 5

**Total Hours:** 35

**People:** Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Robin Fought, David Gibson

**Individual Hours:** 7 hours each

**Summary:** We installed new trail mileage signs at Hughes and Carvers Gaps. Six different signs have been stolen in this section over the last 10 months. Will work on getting others replaced.

We inspected the log rot and other damage on the shelter. Darrol and Ray worked on composing a list of needed repairs and projects. Most immediate repair is to replace one of the 2x6s supporting the loft floor. It is cracked clear through to a knot and sags quite noticeably when someone walks across it. Carl and Robin installed 16 feet of cedar trim around 3 windows to help limit drafts, and David collected garbage and flagged possible privy sites for a mouldering privy we would like to install in the near future. When Ray had recorded 26 repair projects for the shelter we knew it was time to leave before the list became any longer. However, two other items were thought of and added to list on the way back to the car.

**Name:** John Arwood

**Date:** April 5, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear Section of Blowdowns

**Section:** 7 - Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north) to Watauga Dam Road

**Location:** Watauga Dam Road to North Boundary of Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 25

**People:** John Arwood, Dean Whitworth

**Individual Hours:** 2x12.5

**Summary:** Cleared 15 blowdowns, and scouted the Trail for future maintenance. A group at the Vanderverter Shelter promised to remove all trash.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** April 6, 2003

**Purpose:** Finish WET SPOT rework

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** Near railroad crossing

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 15

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, David Gibson, Ed Oliver

**Individual Hours:** 4 hours (David Gibson) + 2x5 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** Finished re-work of wet spot north of railroad crossing.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 8, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns, add some blazes, and refine tent sites

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

**Location:** Elk River Relocation from Walnut Mt Rd to Campbell Hollow Rd

**Number:** 9

**Total Hours:** 84

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Lou Haase, Ed Oliver, and Bob Peoples

**Individual Hours:** (Bruce, Ed, Carl) 3x10 hours + (everyone else) 6x9 hours

**Summary:** The Tuesday Maintainers continued their luck this year in having fair weather. It did start to drizzle during the last hour, but the downpour held off until we returned to the vehicles. All the trees and rhododendrons hanging across the trail from recent snows were removed with loppers and hand saws. Most stumps and protruding branch stubs were trimmed back. Additional blazes were added where the trail was indistinct or old roads were crossed. We mostly dug the blue blazed trail to the Mountaineer Falls tent sites. We planned to remove two large hazard trees. However, a member who shall remain nameless but whose initials are BP could not start his large chain saw. A good cussing of the saw from Bruce did result in it starting. However, it would not run long enough to do any cutting. BP cheerfully carried that saw two miles back out. The through hikers are numerous now. Eighteen were seen on this section today.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** April 10, 2003

**Purpose:** Meeting with State Senators to garner support for appropriations

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Tri Cities Airport

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 6

**People:** Steve Wilson, Steve Perri, Morgan Sommerville

**Individual Hours:** 3x2 hours

**Summary:** We met with Tim Waley and John Grayson, who are the staffers for Senator Frist and Senator Alexander. We, along with other outdoor organization representatives, conveyed our interest and the benefits to the public for supporting the appropriations for legislation for acquisition of the Rocky Fork Tract in Unicoi County as well as other tracts along the A.T. Last year, appropriations for Phase 1 of the Rocky Fork Tract were approved, but only partially funded. We asked them for funding for Phase 2 and other tracts along with the A.T. tracts. The funding has been included in Bush's budget and we are hopeful that it will make it through the Congress.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** April 10, 2003

**Purpose:** Meet with CSX Railroad Staff to discuss safer crossing at Chestoa

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** Chestoa, Tennessee

**Number:** 6

**Total Hours:** 6

**People:** Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola, Robin Fought, David Gibson, Collins Chew, Morgan Sommerville

**Individual Hours:** 1x6 hours

**Summary:** David arranged a meeting with CSX engineer Michael Sperling to discuss a safer A.T. crossing of the railroad tracks at Chestoa. We met to look at our signs posted which they agreed were appropriately worded and visible. We discussed their desire to construct a wooden deck between the rails where the A.T. crosses the tracts along with inclined ramps on the side of the rails. They will also mark the location so that incoming trains will be aware of the location. If trains need to stop, they will stop before the crossing rather than stopping over the crossing. The local office thought the crossing was further back in the gorge and was unaware of the location since 10 years ago when the main office was contacted in Jacksonville. We will now have a better situation where hikers can cross more safely and CSX will be aware of hikers crossing the railroad at his current location.

**Name:** David Gibson

**Date:** April 12, 2003

**Purpose:** Work on campsite near Mountaineer Falls

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

**Location:** Mountaineer Falls

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 18

**People:** Hueston Fortner, David Gibson

**Individual Hours:** 2x9 hours

**Summary:** We refreshed the sidehill trail about a mile in that had collapsed due to winter frost and heave. At the campsite both hazard trees were felled. The large locust was in the worst shape of the two as it snapped into pieces as it was coming down. About a dozen logs and a pile of stakes were cut to be installed as steps and cribbing for the campsite access trail. And we continued digging work on the trail.

**Name:** David Gibson

**Date:** April 13, 2003

**Purpose:** Work on Roan High Knob Shelter

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 17

**People:** Bill Stowell, David Gibson

**Individual Hours:** 2x8.5 hours each

**Summary:** We headed out this morning with the intention of digging the earth away from the rotting logs on Roan High Knob Shelter, and then building an access ramp spanning the trench. Both tasks were successfully and quite handily accomplished. However, on the hike in from Tollhouse Gap we noticed a large number of new blowdowns from the recent snow. So, with trusty pack saws in hand (saws which we never go anywhere without) we proceeded to clear from Tollhouse Gap down to Carvers Gap.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 15, 2003

**Purpose:** Dig sidehill trail on relocation

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

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

**Number:** 7

**Total Hours:** 62

**People:** Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams, and HIKERS Blis and Mala

**Individual Hours:** 8 hours (Mala) + 6x9 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** On this 80 degree day with little shade in the mountains, we grew weary by mid afternoon. Tucker, Mala's black lab, enjoyed the shade of rhododendrons and the freshly dug clay. We did dig 450 feet of sidehill trail just north of Walnut Mountain Road. Another good work day may finish this relocation section.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** April 15, 2003

**Purpose:** Attendance of Cherokee National Forest Public Meeting

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Grey, Tennessee

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 3

**People:** Steve Perri

**Individual Hours:** 1 x 3

**Summary:** I attended the public meeting for the Cherokee National Forest Planning to review Alternative I. Most attendees were interested in understanding what comments could be made and how they may be incorporated in the plan. Comments need to be made in writing before July 3, 2003.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** April 18, 2003

**Purpose:** Cut Blowdowns and Clip Brush and Briars between Indian Grave Gap and Curley Maple Gap

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 16

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Individual Hours:** 2 x 8

**Summary:** There were a number of small blowdowns, none of which were bad obstructions, which we removed. We also lopped brush and briars. Hikers reported no serious blowdowns south to Spivey Gap.

**Name:** David Gibson

**Date:** April 19, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear an obstructing blowdown

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

**Location:** Hughes Gap

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 2

**People:** David Gibson

**Individual Hours:** 2 hours

**Summary:** Cleared a large blowdown not far in from the road trail north of Hughes Gap.