

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August 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
ATC Biennial Meeting, Waterville Valley Resort, N.H.	-	Steve Wilson	July 25 - August 1	
F/B Hike: Natural Tunnel State Park	C/4/C	Neil Dotson	August 2	423-245-6105
Konnarock - White Rocks Mountain Relocation	-	Joe DeLoach	August 7-11	423-753-7903
Smokies: Thomas Divide Trail (S900M)	A/3/C	Garry Luttrell	August 16	423-239-9854
Third Saturday Maintenance	-	Joe DeLoach	August 16	423-753-7903
Smokies Area hike - Maddron Bald Trail including Albright Grove (RESCHEDULED FROM AUGUST 23 TO NOVEMBER 8)	AA/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson		423-239-7554
APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course	-	Mike Morrow	August 23-24	
Multi Club Meeting, Shawsville, Virginia	-	Steve Perri	August 29 - September 1	423-349-5091
A.T. in Vermont, Mill County Road to Danby	AA/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	September 5-14	423-239-7554

Smokies: Twenty Mile Creek Area (S900M)		Garry Luttrell	September 12-14	423-239-9854
Elk River	B/4/C	Steve Perri	September 13	423-349-5091
Cumberland Mountain Hike	A/2/B	Collins Chew	September 20	423-239-6237

Unaka Mountain Outfitters Gives Discount to TEHCC Members

There is a new local outfitter, Unaka Mountain Outfitters, in Unicoi, Tennessee that gives TEHCC members a 10% discount on every purchase. The contact there is Randel Taylor (phone 423-735-7338 or email).

David Gibson Receives Award From American Hiking Society

David Gibson has been awarded the 2003 American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year for the State of Tennessee. The American Hiking Society serves as the national voice for America's hikers by promoting and protecting foot trails and the hiking experience. The Volunteer of the Year is one of the society's grass roots award programs to recognize trail advocates and volunteers. David was nominated by TEHCC as our nominee for their national selection process. David has been actively involved in the Club's Appalachian Trail maintenance activities for about 2 years. Since David's first involvement in the club, he has been a very dedicated volunteer logging over 1300 hrs with the club in over 150 events in maintenance. These activities include individual trips, group trips or events that David has led and or organized.

David's first full year of volunteering with TEHCC was on the Round Bald relocation project which involved an extensive relocation of the Appalachian Trail to firm up the tread way to prevent extensive erosion and to provide a sustainable footpath in an environmentally sensitive and unstable soil on Round Bald. This project required dedicated volunteers to work for 3 weeks to transport gravel from dawn to dusk in below freezing temperatures. David was the club member to show up each day to get the project going. Since 2002, David has served as our Structures Coordinator in which he has organized and supervised regular maintenance of shelters as well as painting, roof repair work and other miscellaneous repair needs. David also supervised the extensive shelter rehabilitation project of the Clyde Smith Shelter. This project involved securing an ATC grant, designing and specifying materials for the renovation project, submitting the project for USFS approval, and supervising the implementation aspect of the project involving over 60 volunteers. In 2002 and 2003, David was the club's Maintainer of the Year recipient with over 600 hours of volunteer trail maintenance logged each year. In 2003, David has also volunteered for the Appalachian Trail Conference Konnarock Trail Crew in which he is currently serving as a crew leader.

These dedicated efforts and time attest to David's commitment to trail volunteerism. From TEHCC's perspective, this was an easy nomination to provide to the American Hiking Society. As an award recipient, David was provided an award certificate from the American Hiking Society, a gift certificate from the CEO of Hi-Tec Boots, and a map compass. These awards were presented on June 8, 2003, appropriately during an Appalachian Trail work trip with the Konnarock Crew.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Mark K. Cox

Charles E. Cwirka

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

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



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.

Family/Beginner: Natural Tunnel State Park, August 2, 2003

Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-245-6105; Rating: C/4/C

Natural Tunnel State Park in Virginia is very close to Kingsport, which makes it nice for a short hike. In addition to the attraction of the tunnel and steep cliffs surrounding, it has a few nice hiking trails. We will most likely take one of the longer ones, which means only something like 4 miles round trip, out on Purchase Ridge. There is a relatively steep climb at the end of the trail up the knob to the observation platform from which one can see the tunnel from the facing ridge (that is, if the trees haven't grown up too badly). With the increased train traffic through the tunnel, this would be a fun trip for families with children afflicted with train obsession (a common enough malady). We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 8:30 a.m. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Current plans are to return by lunchtime (between noon and 1:00). Dress appropriately for a summer hike and do bring water.

**Konnarock Crew - White Rocks Mountain Relocation
(Scheduled for August 7-11, 2003)**

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

This summer we have four weeks of Konnarock Crew time, with the final week starting on Thursday, August 7 and ending on Monday, August 11. We have made great progress despite rain and some difficult terrain during the first three weeks. There is a small possibility that with a terrific turnout and good fortune that we can finish or come very close to finishing the longest of the seven individual relocations on this project, but even if we do not we will have made enough progress that it will not take too long to complete. We have had very good Club support thus far, with close to 1000 hours of volunteer time and five volunteers already having earned T-shirts for working five days with the Crew and others close. But, we would really like to get other Club members outside our usual small group of "regulars" to come out. Not all of the tasks are very physically demanding, and the work goes much faster when we have lots of people. Also,

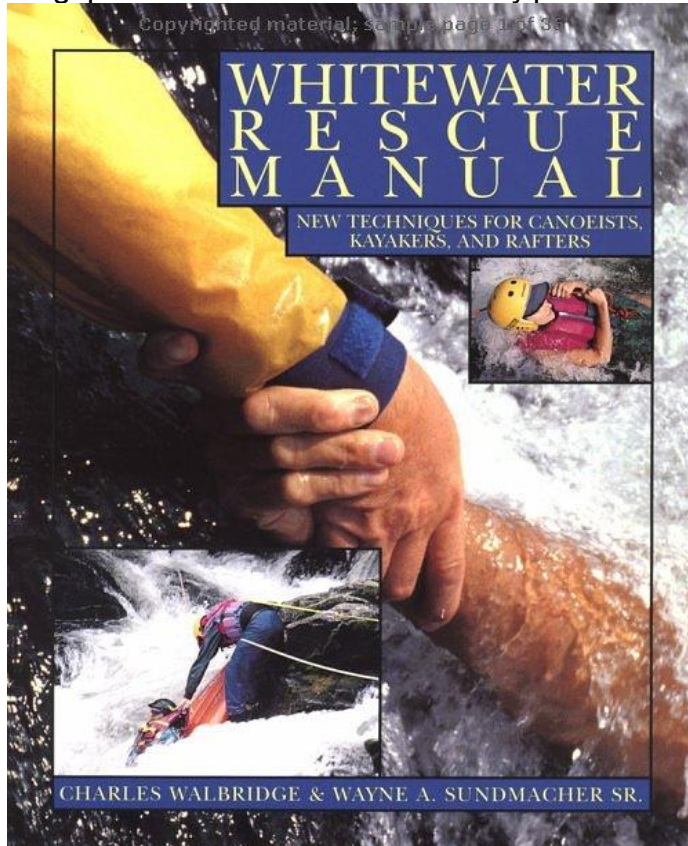
volunteers can vie for the coveted position of turtle mover; we have seen a box turtle in the same place on the dirt access road to the work site for five consecutive work trips, we move it out of the road but it keeps coming back. The trips leave from the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM; bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Contact Joe if you are interested in helping or for more information.

Hike Notice: Smokies 900 miler, Thomas Divide Trail, August 16, 2003

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854, rating A/3/C

We'll start this hike on high ground, on the Newfound Gap Road, and finish on low ground, near the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, hiking 10.3 miles. We'll spend most of the day on Thomas (named for Confederate Colonel William Holland Thomas, who commanded the Cherokee troops in the Civil War, and later purchased 50,000 acres for the Indians, which became the nucleus for the Qualla Reservation) Divide Trail; passing over Turkey Flyup (according to the Indians, turkeys could always be found here by hunters), Nettle Creek Bald (hopefully, the stinging nettle is in the creek, and the bald was named after Harry L. Nettle, one of the early Superintendents of the Park); Newton Bald (not a natural bald, but was created by the Newton family, probably by deadening the trees); and, finally descend the Mingus (named for the Mingus family who's patriarch, John Jacob, settled along Mingus Creek in the 1790s) Creek Trail to the parking area at Mingus Creek Mill.

We'll leave from the usual Colonial Heights / McDonalds parking area at 7:00 am, and will stop for breakfast at the Waffle House near Asheville. It's a long drive, so expect a late return to Kingsport. Contact the hike leader by phone or to reserve your spot for this hike.



**APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course
(Scheduled for August 23-24, 2003)**

By Mike Morrow

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.

A.T. Southern Region Multi-Club Meet, August 29-September 1, 2003

Leader: Steve Perri, phone 423-349-5091

The 2003 A.T. Southern Region Multi-Club Meet will be held on Labor Day weekend hosted by the Roanoke Trail Club at Camp Alta Mons, Shawsville, VA. The weekend will be full of opportunities for hiking. RATC is providing 7 organized hikes on Saturday and Sunday in areas including: McAfee Knob, Dragon's Tooth, Craig Creek, Trout Creek, Cascades, and Bottom Creek Gorge. This is also a good time for socializing with other maintaining club members.

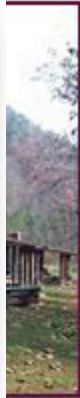
The cost will be \$10.00/person for those for registration which is due by Aug. 16th. Options for accommodations include: RV camping for \$18/night, Bunkhouse camping for \$5/night, and regular camping for \$3/night. Meals are available for Sat-Mon. breakfast for \$7/person, Sat-Mon. bag lunch for \$8/person, and dinner on Sat-Sun for \$9/person. A price break is available for children's menu.

On Sunday evening, we'll have the traditional meeting at which each club gives a 5 minute report of it's successes and challenges for the past year. It's a great opportunity to brag about what's been going on in your clubs--and a great opportunity to "steal" some good ideas from your fellow trail workers! There will also be an update on ATC's strategic planning process.

Hike Notice: A.T. in Vermont, Mill County Road to Danby, September 5-14, 2003

Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson

We plan to leave Kingsport on Friday September 5, and take 2 days to travel to southern Vermont. We plan to hike 6 days (2 day hikes, and 2 1-night backpacks) to cover about 69 miles of the A.T. in Vermont. Anyone interested in making this trip or wanting more details please call Kent or Nancy Wilson at (423) 239-7554.



Hike Notice: Big South Fork Overnight Hike to Charit Creek Lodge, Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26, 2003

Leader: Steve Falling, 239-5502

Rating: Easy to Moderate

The Hiking Club has reservations for 12 overnight visitors to Charit Creek Lodge in the beautiful Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This park is on the Kentucky-Tennessee border north of Knoxville. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage and cooler temperatures. We will hike in on Saturday, spend the night in two 12-person rooms in the lodge and hike back on Sunday. There are several hiking trails to choose from (0.8 to 11 miles one-way). The cost per person is

\$62.00. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have reservations for 12, so call in your request before sending money. Here is a little info from their website:



Charit Creek Lodge, located deep in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, is only accessible by horseback, foot or mountain bike. Well-maintained hiking and horse trails lead you through interesting and beautiful places on your way to the lodge. Located where Charit Creek and Station Camp Creek meet, the lodge rests in a beautiful pasture framed by magnificent bluffs. This valley has given shelter to travelers in the Big South Fork since the Indian hunting camps. A white hunter, Jonathan Blevins, built the first cabin here in 1817. His log structure still stands as part of the lodge.

Operated as a youth hostel from 1987 until mid 1989, management of the Charit Creek property was awarded to the operators of LeConte Lodge, a renowned wilderness accommodation in the

Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The proprietors, Stokely Hospitality Enterprises, under the management of Tim and Lisa Line, have transformed the hostel into a full-service accommodation, while preserving its rustic integrity.

Let the pleasure you get from the wilderness continue long after the sun goes down. Charit Creek Lodge offers congenial accommodations and hearty meals without disturbing the nature you've come to enjoy.

After a true country dinner, sit back in your front porch rocker and see a sky full of stars, listen to the stream, and watch the firefly displays; no hum of machinery or bright electric lights to interfere. Each morning wake to the smell of fresh coffee on the stove.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Hike Report, Smokies 900 miler, Cataloochee Divide Trail, July 12, 2003

G. S. Luttrell reporting

For a July hike, one expects heat, humidity, and insect battles; but, we were pleasantly surprised with the opposite spring and fall type conditions, and as a bonus, it didn't rain on us. After spotting the first car at Cove Creek Gap (3900 feet), we continued on to Polls Gap (5100 feet), and finally began hiking on the Hemphill Bald Trail at 11:10 am. The trail was narrow due to

weed growth, but fortunately, briars and stinging nettle were not very common. We had lunch at Hemphill Bald, enjoying the great views of the Plotts and Great Balsams to the east. At the high point of the bald, a profile map imbedded in rock points your line of sight to peaks from Beauty Spot to Standing Indian. Wildflowers were abundant, and among the 16 we identified were: Clingman's Hedge-Nettle (see photo), Starry Campion, some large Turk's Cap Lilies, Fly Poison, Mountain Spiderwort, and even some Flame Azalea. Most of the views were to the east, but there were a few spots with west views of Cataloochee Valley, and the 6000 footers in the Smokies. In spite of the early start and late return, the hikers, Kent Wilson, Freda Kuo, Alan Wonders, and Lowell Toof (see photo at Hemphill Bald); Garry Luttrell (see photo at Cataloochee Ranch) agreed that this was a great hike.



[Clingman's Hedge-Nettle](#), July 12, 2003 (41KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Kent Wilson, Freda Kuo, Alan Wonders, and Lowell Toof](#), July 12, 2003 (72KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Garry Luttrell](#) at Cataloochee Ranch (84KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)

Name: Bill Berry

Date: June 13, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds and clear trail

Section: 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

Location: No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap

Number: 1

Total Hours: 10

People: Bill Berry

Individual Hours: Bill 10 hours total

Summary: Trail clear from Spivey Gap to shelter

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 19-23, 2003

Purpose: Work with Konnarock Crew on White Rocks Mountain relocation

Section: 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Location: White Rocks Mountain

Number: waiting on trip report



[John Thompson](#) working with the Konnarock Crew, June 21, 2003 (159KB).
Photo courtesy of David Gibson.

Name: Collins Chew

Date: June 20, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

Location: Campbell Hollow Road to Walnut Mountain Road

Number: 3

Total Hours: 24

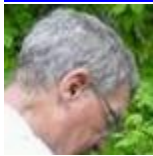
People: Bob Harvey, Kim Peters, Collins Chew

Individual Hours: 3 x 8 hours

Summary: Weeds were cut for 0.7 miles on the A.T. along the Elk River and 0.2 miles of the A.T. trail north of the former tree farm north of Campbell Hollow Road. Kim Peters led us unerringly to the site on a USFS road and back along the riverside trail. Total hike was about 4 miles. The section of new Trail along the Elk River has become known as the Elk River Car Wash for the gentle, wet-brushing action of the head-high weeds on the bodies and clothing of the through-hikers. Hopefully this will fix it for at least a month or two. Many bright yellow butterflies at Big Elk Falls were the main wildlife attraction.



This is the [unimproved trail](#) -- if you can find it, June 20, 2003 (91KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*



Kim takes over the [heavy duties](#) for a while, June 20, 2003 (88KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*



This [little creek](#) was close to where we ate lunch, June 20, 2003 (90KB).
Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.



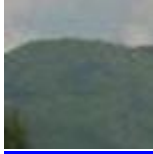
[Elk Falls](#). As it happens, just fifteen minutes or so after this picture was taken, the falls got its maximum exposure to the sun for the year -- i. e., the sun was at its northernmost point. (119KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*



Another good shot of [Elk Falls](#) (141KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*



[View upriver](#) from the parking area (157KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*



[Pond Mountain](#) is on the left and Cedar Mountain on the right (74KB). *Photo courtesy of Bob Harvey.*

Name: David Gibson

Date: June 25, 2003

Purpose: Weeding

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

Location: U.S. 421 to Trail South

Number: 3

Total Hours: 22

People: Robin Fought, David Gibson, Ron Davidson

Individual Hours: 4 hours (Ron Davidson), 9 hours each Robin and David

Summary: Whacked weeds and performed vista maintenance. Needs one more trip to finish weeding.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: June 25, 2003

Purpose: Inspect A.T. Corridor

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

Location: Isaacs Cemetery and Campbell Hollow Road

Number: 1

Total Hours: 5

People: Ray Hunt, Morgan Sommerville, Dave Ferguson, and Wayne Shepard

Individual Hours: 5 hours Ray Hunt

Summary: Ray attended inspection of some tracts of land along the A.T. with the USFS and ATC. The Hobson Tract is located west of Isaacs Cemetery and is currently being negotiated by the USFS with a willing seller. Another property inspected borders the A.T. corridor near the Augusta Campbell Tract. Randall Campbell is a willing seller who is seeking to sell the strip that borders the A.T. north of the Augusta Campbell property and is currently described as priority 2.

Name: Garry S. Luttrell

Date: June 27, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds and briars

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

Location: Campbell Hollow Road to U.S. 19E

Number: 1

Total Hours: 12

People: Garry S. Luttrell

Individual Hours: 12 hours (GSL)

Summary: We left my car at 19E and Carl Fritz dropped me off at Campbell Hollow Road. Before I got to Buck Mountain Road, it started raining, and I continued to cut weeds wearing a parka and rain pants. The weeds / briars were especially heavy between Buck Mountain Road and Isaacs Cemetery, and most of the day was spent working here.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 27, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds

Section: 14 - Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap

Location: Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

Number: 4

Total Hours: 47

People: Paul Benfield, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 11 hours (Paul) + 3x12 hours (everyone else)

Summary: The rain hit just as we arrived at Overmountain Shelter. After waiting it out for an hour, we found the rest of the day rather pleasant with only some mist. We were able to cut all the weeds, removed a couple of blowdowns and trimmed the trees back significantly. The metal sign and post has been broken off. It will be repaired and some more tree trimming will be done next trip.

Name: David Gibson

Date: June 28, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Hughes Gap to Carvers Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 17

People: Bill Stowell, David Gibson

Individual Hours: 8.5 each

Summary: Cut weeds from Hughes Gap in about .6 miles and then from the top down to Carvers Gap. Second trip is needed for Ash Gap area.

Name: Kim Peters

Date: July 5, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Iron Mountain Gap to the Orchard

Number: 2

Total Hours: 5

People: Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

Individual Hours: 5 hours each

Summary: After getting advice from Ed Oliver on the proper weed cutting tool (the aluminum handled scythe!) and receiving a note from Joe DeLoach suggesting that weeds should be cut on our section, I decided to take another trip to the orchard to see how the weeds were growing. So Terry and I set out on a fine Saturday morning starting from Iron Mountain Gap and hiking north towards the orchard, each carrying an aluminum handled scythe and looking for some weeds to cut. The first thing I noticed was that a blowdown which we had left earlier as it was just over head high had been cut. Not only had it been cut down, but it had been cut into fireplace sized lengths and stacked by the side of the trail. I've never known of our maintainers to do this. Next I noticed tire tracks which at first I thought must be from an ATV, but then decided must be from a tractor due to the width of the tread. I have never known of anyone to ride a tractor in the woods for recreation. Then we met a hiker and asked him about the weeds in the orchard. He couldn't remember passing though the orchard. If weeds were a problem, he surely would have remembered. All this lead me to believe that we wouldn't find any weeds to

cut that day. Sure enough, when we got to the orchard we found that it had been mowed. This was both good and bad. It meant we wouldn't have to spend much time swinging the scythes, but on the other hand, that's what we came out to do so it was sort of a disappointment. Instead we finished clearing the blue blaze where the tractor couldn't go and cleared along the relocation back to Iron Mountain Gap and I made it home in time to mow my yard. The other misfortune is that we lost another handle off one of the scythes. These are a great tool Ed, but I can't seem to keep the handles on!

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: July 13, 2003

Purpose: Work with Konnarock Crew on White Rocks Mountain relocation

Section: 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Location: White Rocks Mountain

Number: waiting on trip report



[Step building](#), July 13, 2003 (193KB). *Photo courtesy of Steve Wilson.*



[Breaking rock](#), July 13, 2003 (160KB). *Photo courtesy of Steve Wilson.*



[Cutting bench](#), July 13, 2003 (185KB). *Photo courtesy of Steve Wilson.*



[Group shot](#), July 13, 2003 (163KB). *Photo courtesy of Steve Wilson.*