

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

September 2003

www.tehcc.org

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

Note #2: if you have any comments about our web site, please contact - thanks!!

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
Multi Club Meeting, Shawsville, Virginia	-	Steve Perri	Aug 29-Sept 1	423-349-5091
Roan Mountain Gravel Project - with Appalachian State University students	-	Bob Peoples and Ed Oliver	Aug 30	423-349-6668
A.T. in Vermont, Mill County Road to Danby	AA/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	Sept 5-14	423-239-7554
Trash pickup around Watauga Lake - with Appalachian State University students	-	Bob Peoples	Sept 12	423-725-4409
Smokies: Twenty Mile Creek Area (S900M)		Garry Luttrell	Sept 12-14	423-239-9854
Elk River	B/4/C	Steve Perri	Sept 13	423-349-5091
Cumberland Mountain Hike	A/2/B	Collins Chew	Sept 20	423-239-6237
Third Saturday Maintenance	-	Joe DeLoach	Sept 20	423-753-7903
Project with Lees-McRae students - TBD	-	Bob Peoples	Sept 27	423-725-4409
Smokies Area hike -	AA/2/C	Kent and	Oct 4	423-239-7554

Old Settler's Trail		Nancy Wilson		
Rock Creek Falls (Erwin, Tenn.)	C/3/C	Vic Hasler	Oct 11	423-239-0388
Project with Appalachian State University students - TBD	-	Bob Peoples	Oct 12	423-725-4409
Smokies: Cades Cove Area (S900M)	- - -	Garry Luttrell	Oct 17-19	423-239-9854
Third Saturday Maintenance	-	Joe DeLoach	Oct 18	423-753-7903
Firescald Knob and Blackstack Cliff	B/3/C	Joe DeLoach	Oct 25	423-753-7903
Big South Fork Overnight Hike to Charit Creek Lodge	Easy to Moderate	Steve Falling	Oct 25-26	423-239-5502

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

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, Virginia. 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 Thursday September 4, and take 1 1/2 days to travel to southern Vermont. We plan to hike 7 days (5 day hikes and one backpack) to cover about 80 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.

Backpack / Hikes: Smokies 900 Miler, Twenty Mile Creek, September 12-14, 2003

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854

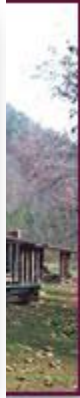
Rating: A/3/C

We'll start at Twentymile (named because it's twenty miles from here to the old town of Bushnell or the mouth of Hazel Creek) Ranger Station, backpack 2 miles to walk in campsite #93, and set up camp for two nights. Dayhikes in the area may include Long Hungry Ridge Trail (named for a spot where a group of hunters got marooned in a heavy snow storm and almost starved to death), Gregory Bald (named for Russell Gregory and his wife Susan who settled on the bald in the 1820s raising livestock), Parson Bald (named for Joshua Parson, who lived near the Little Tennessee River at Abrams Creek), and Wolf Ridge (on this ridge, Russell Gregory and Andy Greer tracked and killed a wolf who had apparently killed 20 sheep grazing on the bald). We'll leave from the usual Colonial Heights / McDonalds parking area early on Friday, Sept. 12. Group size is limited to 8 persons, so you'll need to reserve your spot with the hike leader by Sept. 5. Contact the hike leader by phone or for more information and to reserve your spot.

Hike Notice: Cumberland Trail, September 20, 2003

Leader: Collins Chew

We will hike 11.7 miles on the Cumberland Trail between La Follette and Cove Lake State Park (or vice versa) on Saturday, September 20, 2003. This will be new to most if not all of us and should be very interesting with a number of unusual rock ledges along the Cumberland Front and an overlook on the spectacular Devils Racetrack, the vertically-turned sandstone ledges visible from I-75 as it heads up to the Cumberland Plateau. It is a rather long drive (probably 2 3/4 hours to start hiking). It makes little difference in time whether we go by Interstate (I-81 to I-40 to I-640 to I-75 to Cove Lake State Park at the foot of the Cumberlands), or other roads (US 11W to US 25E to Tenn.63 to US 25W to LaFollette). We drop off a car at the first trail head and drive to the other to start hiking. They are about about 8 miles apart on U. S 25W. The 11.7 mile hike will include perhaps 1,500 climb (and descent). Arleen Scheller gave us a good introduction to the trail at the last TEHCC dinner meeting. Meet at 7:30 A. M. at the regular meeting place between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank on Ft. Henry Drive in Colonial Heights. We will probably eat supper on the way home and should arrive back in Colonial Heights about 8:00 P. M. For information call Collins Chew 423-239-6237 or email him at .



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: Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, July 24, 2003

Steve Falling reporting

Once again this year, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club was asked by the City of Kingsport to help with the Bays Mountain Fun Fest Moonlight Hike. This 2.5-mile hike around the Bays Mountain reservoir began at 8:00 P.M. and ended in

darkness at about 10:00 P.M. Our volunteers counted the hikers at the starting point and at the finishing point, and were posted at trail junctions along the route to keep hikers from making a wrong turn. A total of 482 hikers made the trip this year! The volunteer with the closest guess of the actual number of hikers (Julie Falling with 477) won a Bays Mountain t-shirt. Volunteers helping this year were Pam Monnier, Steve and Julie Falling, Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield, Gary, Sonya, Halley, Sidney and Al Hartley, Jan Mayo, Neil Dotson, Peter Lopez-Maldonado, Lauren Huffman, Stephen Stroupe, Jebina Rajbhandari, Bob, Phillip and Heather Arnold, and Logan and Lindsey Rasnake.

Click on the small photo to see a larger one:



[Bays Mountain Park Fun Fest Moonlight Hike volunteers](#), July 24, 2003 (109KB). *Photo courtesy of Steve Falling.*

Hike Report: Natural Tunnel State Park, August 2, 2003

Neil Dotson reporting

There must be a hole roughly the size of the Natural Tunnel in every child's heart, a hole that can only be filled by . . . trains. Trains had to be invented to fill it; how children managed before trains came to be I have no clue. So it was somewhat sad that the entire time we were hiking, we never once heard the hills echo nicely with the whistle and the rhythm of the wheels. But when we were riding down the lift (a decidedly non-hiking activity) after the hike, below us passed a train, its hoppers empty of coal and heading north no doubt for more - and joy was to be found amongst the younger hikers.

The hike, up to Lover's Leap and then out on the Purchase Ridge Trail to the overlook (about 3-4 miles round trip), was cool owing to clouds and fog, and fit nicely between the rains we've been having. The overlook, reached by the one steep climb on the hike, squarely frames the amphitheatre of the natural tunnel and gave us a good view of a remarkable place. Along the way we saw Indian Pipes, Pipsissewa and Rattlesnake Plantain amongst others. The trail is well maintained but overlooked (in the other sense) by hikers, or so it seems from the times I've hiked it. Enjoying this hike were the Dotson family (Neil, Patricia, Elizabeth and Daniel) and the Murray family (David, Marlene, Danelle, Josiah and Jeremiah).

Hike Report: Smokies 900 Miler, Thomas Divide Trail, August 16, 2003

G. S. Luttrell, reporting

As was the case with last month's Cataloochee Hike, we again had mild hiking temperatures and it didn't rain on us. After spotting a car at Mingus Mill, we drove up the Newfound Gap Road to begin the hike on the Thomas Divide Trail, which was maintained and well marked up to campsite 52, near Newton Bald. Just before this campsite, the new Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) intersects, and on the map, is shown to follow our route of the day down to Mingus Mill. The problem is that the MST is not completed across Newton Bald (not an open bald anymore), and the route is not marked. After about an hour of searching, and with the aid of a compass, we found the continuation of the MST a half mile away. We saw many wildflowers such as Starry Champion, Turk's Cap Lilly, Mountain Spiderwort, Woodland Sunflower, and the more common orange version of the Yellow-Fringed Orchid (see photo below). Hikers included Nancy and Kent Wilson, Freda Kuo, Kim Peters, Larry Miller, and Garry Luttrell.

Click on the small photo to see a large one:



[Yellow-Fringed Orchid](#), Thomas Divide Trail, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, August 16, 2003 (96KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

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

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: July 3, 2003

Purpose: Install sign at Grassy Ridge Trail junction

Section: 14 - Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap

Location: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge

Number: 2

Total Hours: 10

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 5 hours each

Summary: We installed a new sign on the existing post at the Grassy Ridge trail junction. We also dug out some areas where water collects on the Trail around Grassy Ridge. The undergrowth was too high to assess possible relocations down Grassy Ridge.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: July 24, 2003

Purpose: Repair trail, lop branches and blaze

Section: 14 - Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap

Location: Hump Mountain to Stan Murray Shelter

Number: 6

Total Hours: 50

People: Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams and HIKERS Aaron Bradshaw and Andrew Bradshaw

Individual Hours: 2x1 hour (Aaron & Andrew)+ 4x12 hours (everyone else)

Summary: We entered at Overmountain Shelter to a beautiful day for July. With the help of Aaron and Andrew Bradshaw, recent high school graduates, one of the metal signs on the A.T. was reinstalled with a concrete foundation. Frank and Ed dug 80 feet of trail about a mile and a half south towards Stan Murray Shelter. Another 1000 feet of trail needs repairing in this area. They also lopped to clear the path. They installed several ditches in the blue blazed trail to Overmountain Shelter. Hueston and Carl lopped trail north. They painted all blazes north and south to Bradley Gap. A couple of small blowdowns in the Bradley Gap area were removed. The gate on the center stile of Hump Mountain was reinstalled. The log fences on the southern stile and middle stile need some more support. They are coming apart gradually. The Trail from Overmountain Shelter to Hump Mountain is in good shape currently.

Name: Tim McClain

Date: July 26, 2003

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

Location: From Low Gap north 2.5 miles to spring

Number: 2

Total Hours: 14

People: Tim McClain, Steve Woody

Individual Hours: 7 hours (Tim McClain) + 7 hours (Steve Woody)

Summary: Cut weeds over the whole 2.5 mile adopted section. There was one 5" blowdown about 1 mile from U.S. 421. We did not have a saw to remove this blowdown but it can be stepped over.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: August 5, 2003

Purpose: Plan work for ASU Student Orientation

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Carvers Gap to south of Cloudland

Number: 5

Total Hours: 40

People: Paul Benfield, Hueston Fortner, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams

Individual Hours: 5x8 hours (everyone)

Summary: Scouted out needed gravel and steps required to repair this section of trail.

Name: CB Willis

Date: August 18, 2003

Purpose: Needed maintenance

Section: 17 - Iron Mountain Gap to switchback in USFS 230

Location: Just south of Low Gap to Cherry Gap shelter

Number: 8

Total Hours: 64

People: Rick Culbertson, Gil Derouen, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, David McMillin, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, CB Willis

Individual Hours: 8 hours everyone

Summary: Rehabilitated 75 feet of eroded trail just south of Iron Mountain Gap. Removed large blowdown and rehab trail just north of Low Gap. Some trail here is badly eroded and we will schedule repair soon. Cleaned mud and debris from water bars between Low Gap and shelter. Installed a new 15' pipe at the spring at Cherry Gap. A LARGE ROTTEN TREE POISED TO FALL ON THE SHELTER AND ONLY 25' FROM THE SHELTER IS DANGEROUS. WE DID NOT FEEL COMPETENT TO FELL THE TREE AND RELUCTANTLY REQUEST TEHCC HELP. WE WILL ACCOMPANY IF DESIRED. CALL MIKE HUPKO, 929-2626.