

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November 2003

www.tehcc.org

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

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting](#)
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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Rating	Leader	Date	Phone
Fall Dinner Meeting	Fun	Kim Peters	Nov 7	
Old Settlers Trail (S900M)		Kent and Nancy Wilson	Nov 8	423-239-7554
Third Saturday Maintenance	-	Joe DeLoach	Nov 15	423-753-7903
Rich Mountain Loop (Smokies Dayhike) **CANCELLED*	B/2/B	Neil Dotson	Nov 22	423-245-6105
Smokies: Elkmont Area (S900M)	---	Garry Luttrell	Dec 6	423-239-9854
Third Saturday Maintenance	-	Joe DeLoach	Dec 20	423-753-7903

## Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Fall Dinner Meeting 2003

**When:** Friday, November 7th, 2003  
**Where:** Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, Tennessee  
**Agenda:** 5:15 pm Social, 6:00 pm Dinner, 6:45 pm Program

**Program:** SIGHTSEEING AND HIKING IN SWITZERLAND  
 Bob Miller  
 Old Timers Hiking Club of Johnson City

The Old Timers Hiking Club of Johnson City is one of our trail adopters and maintains the 10.8-mile section between Iron Mt. Gap and Indian Grave Gap. The club has about 40 members and hikes every Monday and Wednesday with occasional special hikes. Bob will tell us about one of these special outings in 2001 when he led 28 members and family on a two week trip of sightseeing and hiking in Switzerland.

**Social:** Soft drinks \$0.50, beer or wine for \$1  
The Girl Scouts will have Girl Scout Calendars for sale.

**Dinner Menu:** Garden salad, baked chicken breasts in white sauce, meat loaf,

macaroni and cheese, Italian cut green beans, honey-glazed carrots, and desert. (Catered by Wrights Cafeteria)

**Dinner Price:** Adults: \$11.00 (Inclusive)  
Children 10 and under: \$6.50 (Inclusive)

**Reservations:** There is no charge for attending the program only.

Please fill out the form below and send it with a check made out to Kim Peters to:

Kim Peters  
347 Set Point Drive  
Piney Flats, Tennessee 37686

Or via Eastman Plant Mail to:  
Kim Peters, B-150B

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The check and reservation form must be received by October 31.

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TEHCC Dinner Meeting: Names of all attending (*Please Print*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult's Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children's Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Meeting Only: (indicate number) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nominees needed for TEHCC Steering Committee**

The TEHCC steering team is seeking nominees for the 2004 steering team. Elections will be held in December. We need new people to get involved ("new blood"). Steering team members are elected for a two-year term. Meetings are held once a month. Primary responsibility is helping to plan the dinner meetings that are held twice/year, spring and fall. It's a good way to become involved, become familiar with hiking club activities, and get to know some of the regular hikers. You don't need to be an experienced hiker or be familiar with hiking in this area (if you're new to the area). If interested, please contact Kim Peters (), Terry Oldfield (), or another [steering team member](#).

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

**Hike Notice: Old Settlers Trail (S900M), November 8, 2003**

*Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson*

We plan to hike either 1/3 (about 6 miles) or 2/3 (about 12 miles) on the Old Settlers Trail depending on the wishes of the group. According to the trail description there are several old home sites along this trail. We will plan on leaving the parking lot between the Colonial Heights McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank at 8:00 AM. Anyone interested in making this trip or wanting more details please call Kent or Nancy Wilson at (423) 239-7554.

**Smokies Dayhike: Rich Mountain Loop, November 22, 2003**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-245-6105*

*Rating: B/2/B*

Rich Mountain is in the western part of the Smokies, lying on the north side of Cades Cove. This 8.5-mile loop uses the Rich Mountain Loop Trail, Indian Grave Gap Trail, and the Crooked Arm Ridge Trail to make the climb from 1900 ft to 3700 ft and back down again. By late November, I expect the autumnal colors to be gone, but replaced by more numerous and more expansive views - and each of the three trails we use have advertised views even when the leaves are in place: views of the main spine of the Smokies to the south, and of Cades Cove lying between. One could even hope that the higher mountains might be dusted with snow by then. Also, closer at hand, we will see the several different forest types, Crooked Arm Falls if the water has been turned on, the John Oliver Cabin (from early 1800□s), and a fire tower site. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 7:00 a.m.; yes, the hour is early but it is a long drive to the entrance of Cades Cove where the trailhead is, and the days are getting short. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Dress appropriately for a late fall hike and do bring lunch and adequate water. Depending on the hour we may eat out on the return trip.

## Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

**Hike Report: A.T., Vermont, September 6-12, 2003**

*Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson*

This was an absolutely beautiful week on the A.T. in Vermont. We covered just over 89 miles of the A.T. in southern Vermont in 7 days of hiking which included a 2 day 1 night backpack. The only rain that we saw was on the drive up and the return trip. The temperature was just about perfect for hiking and camping (lows in the 40s and highs in the 60s and 70s). Just about every day we had at least one excellent view and a pond. The leaves were just showing a hint of color. Making this trip were Debra Palermo (Wilmington Hiking Club), June Donaldson, and Kent and Nancy Wilson.

*Click on the small photo or hyperlink to see a larger photo.*



[Pond](#) in Vermont, September, 2003 (61KB). *Photo courtesy of Kent and Nancy Wilson.*



[View from Stratton Mountain Firetower](#), September, 2003 (62KB). *Photo courtesy of Kent and Nancy Wilson.*

### **Hike Report: Smokies 900 miler, Porter's Creek Trail, October 4, 2003**

*Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson*

Since we were the only ones that showed up for what was originally scheduled as a hike on the Old Settlers Trail, we changed to an out and back hike on the Porter's Creek Trail. This was a delightful trail with an old home site, a cemetery, an extremely long log bridge, and a small waterfall. The weather was great and there were many early leaf lookers on the trail as well as several backpackers spending the weekend at campsite 31. Making this trip were Kent and Nancy Wilson.

### **Hike Report, Smokies 900 miler, Cades Cove Area, October 17-19, 2003**

*G. S. Luttrell, reporting*

They came from Chattanooga, Knoxville, Jonesborough, and Kingsport to participate in this weekend of backpacking and hiking. We assembled at Abrams Creek Ranger Station shortly after 10 am, organized our gear, and had a quick lunch before strapping on our backpacks. I brought a Jersey Mike's Supreme Club sandwich, offered half to Mary Ann, she consumed most of it, and the remains were quickly devoured by Taylor and Kent. Our route followed the Little Bottom Trail to campsite #17. We set up camp just before a light shower, then we hiked to Abrams Falls and returned to camp. The total miles hiked Friday was 5.5 mi. That evening after dinner we had a campfire, had roasted marshmallows and cookies provided by the Wilsons, and our entertainment coordinator was Mary Ann. On Saturday, we hiked the Hatcher Mountain Trail, the Cooper Road Trail, the Cane Creek Trail (with lunch at Cane Creek Cemetery), the Gold Mine Trail, and completed the 13.5 mile loop by hiking the Little Bottoms Trail back to camp. On the way back to camp we met Mary Ann who decided, due to some pressing jobs to do at home, to hike out. While talking with Mary Ann, we had a close encounter with a copperhead. Debi was sitting within two feet of it, I was the first to see it, I asked Debi to slowly stand up, and fortunately, no strike occurred. Again, on Saturday night we had a campfire, cookies, marshmallows, but we missed not having Mary Ann with us. On Sunday morning, I got up early to try some fly fishing for trout in Abrams Creek, but the only thing I saw was two well-fed river otters. I later found out on Sunday from a local horseback rider that the otters introduced by the Park Service had reduced the trout population significantly in Abrams Creek and had also cleaned out his catfish pond. On Sunday, we hiked 5.1 miles back to the Ranger Station, using the Rabbit Creek Trail after fording Abrams Creek. We stopped for a great view from Look Rock tower, then returned to Kingsport by 4:30 pm. The weekend was a great one for hiking and camping with cool temperatures, sunshine, good fall colors, and a compatible group of eight. Hikers included Nancy and Kent Wilson, Mary Ann Hoskins (A recent 900 miler

completer), Debi Berry, Owen Holbrook, Taylor Pickard, Randall Simpson, and Garry Luttrell.

*Click on the small photo or hyperlink:*



Lunch at [Cane Creek Cemetery](#), (left to right) Randall, Owen, Garry, Kent (front), Nancy, Mary Ann, Debi, and Taylor , October 18, 2003 (184KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



Close encounter with a [copperhead](#), October 18, 2003 (94KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

### **Hike Report: Rock Creek Falls (Erwin, Tennessee), October 18, 2003**

*Vic Hasler reporting*

A pretty autumn hike up an old logging rail bed, which is common in this area. We had a quick 35 mile drive to the trailhead at Rock Creek Recreation Area, then walked up and up for 1.5-2 miles on a well kept path (only two uncut blowdowns). The wind that had passed through during the week prior dropped many leaves, so the hike was more of a leaf cruncher than a peeper, but towering tulip poplars and maples lined the ravine. The creek water flow was down, so very easy crossings, while the main waterfall was still a splashing 50' ribbon back in a rock V. Vic and son Ben Hasler (with his walking stick) enjoyed the hike at the 4' rating pace of leisurely (<1.5 mph), while Larry and Barbara Miller and Kim Alvis took the advertised 3' pace of moderate (1.5-2 mph). I would again recommend this fall falls hike for families with older elementary children.

*Click on small photo or link below to see full picture:*



[Group photo shot](#) (except for the one holding the camera), October 18, 2003 (172KB). *Photo courtesy of Vic Hasler.*

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

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

**Date:** July 13, 2003

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and scout for other needed maintenance

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

**Location:** entire section north to south

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 15

**People:** John Arwood, Catherine Batts, Julia Bales

**Individual Hours:** 3x5

**Summary:** Removed numerous blowdowns from trail. Cleaned up at Vandeventer Shelter. Checked need for weeding. Scouted water trail.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** September 12, 2003

**Purpose:** Pick up trash around the south end of Watauga Lake and on Shook Branch Road

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

**Location:** South end of Watauga Lake and trail on Shook Branch Road

**Number:** 10

**Total Hours:** 42

**People:** From ASU Trailhead Academy Jim Street, Niesha Campbell, Spencer Harrison, Lisa Courtney, Keturah Spann, Robert Weaver, Bob Peoples, Seiko, Frank Williams, Darrol Nickels

**Individual Hours:** 5 hours for each Frank Williams and Darrol Nickels 5X2  
4X8 everyone else

**Summary:** This is the first time we have worked with Trailhead Academy (freshman group from ASU). Although fewer than anticipated showed up, we had a good time. Picked up trash from the trail on Shook Branch Road to beyond the second camp area around the south end of the lake. The lake is already being drawn down so we were also able to pick up along the shoreline. The first camp area was particularly bad, over 50 beer cans. Maybe people living there? New rope swing on south end of lake; now there are two. Seiko treated us to a great Mexican dinner at the picnic area - chicken, beef or cheese burritos, refried beans, great salad, soda and blueberry or peach cheesecake for dessert. All the students went home with doggy bags.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** September 23, 2003

**Purpose:** Continue work on relocation

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

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

**Number:** 7

**Total Hours:** 61

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Bill Grigsby, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams

**Individual Hours:** 8 hours (Paul Benfield and Bob Peoples) + 5x9 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** continued work on new relo---should finish next time

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 27, 2003

**Purpose:** Harden trail

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

**Location:** Near Cloudland Hotel Site on Roan Mountain

**Number:** 29

**Total Hours:** 143

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Jeff Siirola, Greg Williams, LEES MCRAE STUDENTS Victoria

Burnett, Troy Evans, Michelle Ghodrat, Laura Holland, Elizabeth Jenkins, Shannon Merrier, Jeffery Robinson, PARKING LOT VOLUNTEERS Roger Hughes, David Montgomery, Bea Halk, Gene Halk, Becky Miles, Maghan Miles and seven HIKERS  
**Individual Hours:** 7x2 hrs (seven hikers) + 4x3 hrs (Gene and Bea Halk, Magan and Becky Miles) + 6x4 hours (Roger Hughes, David Montgomery, Victoria Burnett, Laura Holland, Elizabeth Jenkins, Shannon Merrier) + 3x7 hrs (Troy Evans, Michelle Ghodrat, Jeffrey Robinson) + 9x8 (everyone else)

**Summary:** The day started out clear for moving this last 8000 pounds of gravel off the parking lot in 5-gallon buckets. All the gravel was used to harden the trail near the top at Cloudland Hotel site. Geotextile was used beneath all the gravel on the trail. In a couple of steep places, Geoweb was also used. About ten buckets of remaining gravel were piled near the rock steps to be used as fill for any future steps. Everyone worked hard to accomplish all tasks before thundershowers moved in about 3 PM. The seven Lees McRae students spent a lot of energy transporting buckets and dumping them. We were disappointed that only the seven Lees McRae students showed up out of a planned 30 from both ASU and Lees McRae. However, with some effective recruitment by Bruce, Paul and Hueston, people touring the area stopped and helped for hours. We could not have completed this without their contributions. Seven hikers stopped in the morning. Also, two locals from Johnson City helped all morning.

In the afternoon four people from North Carolina and Alabama chipped in for most of the afternoon. Kim Peters relented on her vows to never touch a bucket of gravel again and hauled buckets all day. It is doubtful she will ever relent again.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 3, 2003

**Purpose:** Renovate Roan High Knob Shelter and install steps

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

**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter and Cloudland Hotel Site

**Number:** 7

**Total Hours:** 63

**People:** Mike Alley, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Don Hunt, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, and Ed Oliver

**Individual Hours:** 7x9 hours (everyone)

**Summary:** Heavy frost was on the pumpkin this morning, but the weather was reasonable by mid day. This was Mike Alley's first maintenance outing. Don Hunt, Ray Hunt's nephew, also joined us. Together they built a fine table under the overhang and against the front of the shelter. They also installed two metal signs describing the shelter and its history. Bruce, Carl and Darrol patched the roof and re-nailed it in places. Ray patched some holes in the loft. Ed mortared a new base for the front post and mortared the decayed sections of some logs. Ed also installed two more rock steps near the Cloudland Hotel site. Although a tune was absent, we did sing happy birthday to Ray on this his 80th birthday! We are hoping one more trip will complete the shelter renovations.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 7, 2003

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and relocate trail

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

**Location:** Near Bear Branch Road, Isaacs Cemetery and north of Walnut Mountain Road

**Number:** 8

**Total Hours:** 61

**People:** Mike Alley, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and HIKER Lone Wolf

**Individual Hours:** 3x7 hours (Benfield, Peoples and Lone Wolf) + 5x8 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** Bob Peoples and section hiker, Lone Wolf, removed a pine blowdown near Bear Branch Road and a large beech blowdown near Isaacs Cemetery before joining everyone else at Walnut Mountain Road. When they arrived at Walnut Mountain Road., they discovered that Bruce had carefully locked his van, but left the driver's door stand wide open! Bob certainly said nothing about that! We did complete the installation of the rustic locust log bridge on this relocation. Ken Buchanan has brought a new skill to the group, he can drive bent spikes through the dense locust logs! Even with Mike Alley giving it his all, we lack several hours of digging before opening this relocation.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 14, 2003

**Purpose:** Renovate Roan High Knob Shelter

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

**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter

**Number:** 7

**Total Hours:** 61

**People:** Carl Fritz, Bill Grisby, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels, John Thompson, Greg Williams and HIKER David Wayman

**Individual Hours:** 1 hour (David Wayman) + 6x10 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** This was a trip of celebration even though we were in clouds and drizzle all day. First, Darrol brought a birthday cake to belatedly celebrate Ray Hunt's big "0" birthday of October 3. Darrol rightfully bragged on Ray's accomplishments in the hiking world and volunteer world as being worthy of only someone who had lived to be at least 25 percent older than he. Second, we celebrated completion of Ray's task list for renovation of Roan High Knob Shelter. This was the fifth large group trip plus at least one trip made by David Gibson. This time, we mortared log ends and sides which had rotted away. Also, we jacked the front overhang with a basement jack and repositioned the base of the supporting post about a foot. All the remaining soil under the logs on right side of shelter was removed. Additional rock and 6x6 supports under the logs were installed on the right side and at the corner beside the door. The primary support was at the suggestion of Bruce Cunningham. We installed a vertical 4x6x8' at the right corner with a base of a large rock. A matching vertical 2x6 was put inside the shelter. We augured through the approximate seventeen inches of timbers and logs to install half inch threaded rods. Six rods were installed to tie through most of the logs. As we removed the soil and decayed old logs, we discovered that the shelter had very little support. If we had not repaired the support of the shelter at that corner, it was bound to have settled about a foot in the near future. As a finishing touch we installed metal lathe to the wooden bridge at the front door.



**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 14, 2003

**Purpose:** Relocate trail to eliminate steep and wet section

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

**Location:** North of Walnut Mountain Road

**Number:** 4

**Total Hours:** 32

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples and Gypsy Wind

**Individual Hours:** 4x8 hours (everyone)

**Summary:** Completed the digging and installed locust logs and fill to protect a large root. There was discussion of aging the trail by covering it with leaf litter, but the high winds prior to the rain handled that. This new section was blazed and a couple of hikers officially opened it.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** October 18, 2003

**Purpose:** Repair the trail bed

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

**Location:** From Abingdon Gap Shelter to 3.2 miles north

**Number:** 8

**Total Hours:** 78

**People:** Paul Benfield, Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Frank Williams

**Individual Hours:** 9 hours (Bob Peoples) and 9 hours (Paul Benfield) + 6x10 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** "Rejuvenated" 531 feet of trail from shelter to 3.2 miles north-----still have 3 pieces needing attention at blue blaze end of section.-----

-----Steve Banks---weeds reported last time were almost all destroyed by heavy frost but you have new large (18"?) blowdown about 3/4 mile towards shelter---we cleaned small brush around tree so hikers can now get over---no rush.

**Name:** C. B. Willis

**Date:** October 20, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear trail debris and repaint blazes

**Section:** 18 - Switchback in USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

**Location:** Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 21

**People:** Mike Hupko, Gil Derouen, C.B. Willis

**Individual Hours:** 7 hours each

**Summary:** We cleared small blowdowns, felled small dead trees, cleaned dead laurel, etc. off the trail, and repainted blazes. Also, we added a number of blazes to assure coverage. Some more trail just north of Indian Grave Gap needs rehabilitation and we will put this on our list of things to do.

