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

- **Next Two Months**
- **Vehicle Thefts on USFS Roads**
- **Introductory Whitewater School Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed**
- **Introductory Whitewater School, June 3-6**
- **Wilderness First Aid Course, July 17-18**
- **APE’s/TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course, July 24-25**
- **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**
- **Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)**
- **Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)**
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**THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN**

**HIKING & PADDLING NEWS**

April 2004  
www.tehcc.org

### NEXT TWO MONTHS

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**Vehicle Thefts on USFS Roads**

It has been brought to my attention that some vehicle thefts are occurring by the use of a roll back truck. W
Forest visitor parks on our road it is very easy to back the truck directly to the vehicle, lower the bed and winch the vehicle on to the truck in a few minutes. It could be a truck with flashing yellow lights and look like a legitimate service call.

The suggestion was made that we should advise persons parking on our roads to try to park at an angle that would make the above type of retrieval more difficult.

Jan Edwards, North Zone Engineer
Cherokee National Forest
4400 Unicoi Drive PO Box 7
Unicoi, TN 37692

Introductory Whitewater School
Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed

Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The 32nd annual TEHCC/APEs Introduction to Paddling Clinic is quickly approaching. The clinic is the weekend of June 5th and 6th. Several people have been turned away from the clinic in past years due to a lack of volunteers. (This is absolutely pathetic!) Volunteers are needed to help instruct and safety boat. The clinic will only be successful if Mike has your help. PLEASE volunteer to help at this year’s clinic. I need to know if you can volunteer by April 30, 2004. If you are willing to help on one or both days, contact Rebekah Morrow at home at (423)245-8045 or by e-mail at . Thanks in advance.

Introductory Whitewater School
June 3-6, 2004

Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The 32nd annual Canoe School, sponsored by the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast’s (APEs) will be held June 3rd, 5th, and 6th. 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 w/ one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat and helmet, or a whitewater kayak w/ paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. One PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoes should have bow and stem lines. All boats must have air bags. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

Schedule:

June 3rd (Thur) Lecture and films. 6:00-9:00 PM.
Eastman Lodge, Room A2
Eastman Recreation Area, Near Bay’s Mountain
Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday.
June 5th (Sat)  Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM
Duck Island Parking Lot
Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, TN
Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.

June 6th (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 APE’s. 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: $25.00 per student payable by April 30th. (Make checks out to Rebekah Morrow, see address below). Plus membership fee, payable at the Thursday evening lecture.

Registration: Complete and return the form below and mail it along with your check by April 30th to Rebekah Morrow, 1900 Madison Ave., Kingsport, TN 37665. Feel free to call for more details.

Questions: Contact Rebekah Morrow at (423) 245-8045.

REGISTRATION FORM  □ Introductory Whitewater School

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ____________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: __________________________
E-mail: ________________________________
Craft (please check one): Solo Canoe ____ Tandem Canoe ____ Kayak ____
Experience: Beginner ___ Novice___
My tandem partner’s name:_________________________  Need partner ___
List previous clinics taken:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

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

Do you have any health related conditions the instructor should be aware of during this course? If so, please explain (this info will only be made available to the instructor(s) but if you would feel more comfortable talking with them in private about your condition, please do so):
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Wilderness First Aid Course
July 17-18, 2004
Eastman Lodge □ Kingsport, TN
Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club (TEHCC) are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). The course will be tailored to the needs of the class participants. For example, if the participants consist mainly of hiking enthusiasts, the instructor(s) will gear the class towards the needs of hikers. 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 outdoor enthusiasts place themselves in for recreation. Below is an explanation of the course from SOLO's website (www.soloschools.com/wfa.html):

"...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.

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!

The fee for the course is $115.00. This fee includes the course registration fee, mailing, and travel expenses for the instructor(s). Once received, this fee is non-refundable. However, if an emergency arises, a substitute may be found to take your spot in the class.

Location: The course will be held all day Saturday, July 17th and Sunday, July 18th from 8:00 am until ~6:00 pm and will be held at the Eastman Lodge in Kingsport, TN.

How To Register: Please mail the attached registration form along with a check made out to Rebekah.
Morrow, 1900 Madison Ave, Kingsport, TN 37665. The deadline for registration is May 1, 2004. 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 your payment has been received. If you have any questions, you may contact Rebekah Morrow by phone at (423)245-8045 (before 10:00 please) or e-mail at.

REGISTRATION FORM  □ Wilderness First Aid Course

Name: ___________________________________________________ Date: _____________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: __________________________
E-mail: ________________________________
List of Outdoor Activities you participate in:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
List of Previous First Aid Courses taken and/or First Aid Experience:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course
July 24-25, 2004

Submitted by Mike Morrow
APE's and TEHCC are offering an ACA Format Swiftwater Rescue Course taught by Mike Morrow. 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 Bays 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, carabiners, pulleys, rescue pfd, etc ), Swimming Skills in rapids (you will learn to ferry, catch eddies and peal out without your boat), Wading Skills, Rope Handling, Foot Entrapment Release Techniques, Mechanical Advantage 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 weeknd so you must be fit and be able to swim competently. It will also be a very fun weekend! You will be amazed how much fun you can have swimming in rapids.

How to Register: Please mail the following registration form and a check made out to Mike Morrow for the amount of $65.00 to 1900 Madison Ave., Kingsport, TN 37665. (Note: course fee has increased to increased costs from ACA.) The course will be limited to twelve students but a waiting list will be started if needed. If you do not get into the course, your money will be returned. You are registered when the items li
above are received. **Your registration information must be in no later than June 25, 2004.**
Two to three weeks prior to the course, you will receive a packet of information about the course. **If you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact Mike Morrow by phone at (423) 245-8045 (evenings before 10:00pm, please) or by e-mail at .**

**REGISTRATION FORM □ Swiftwater Rescue Course**

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: _____________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
Work Phone: ___________________________ Home Phone: __________________________
E-mail: ________________________________
Experience (check one):  Beginner ___  Novice___  Intermediate ___  Expert ___
Average number of times paddle per year:  ___
I paddle (check one):  Year Round ___  Warm Weather Only ___

List previous SWR courses taken:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

List up to five rivers you have paddled and their Classes (I, II, III, IV, V, if applicable):
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any health related conditions the instructor should be aware of during this course? If so, please explain (this info will only be made available to the instructor(s) but if you would feel more comfortable talking with them in private about your condition, please do so):
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

**TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

Jeff Berry   Robert Elliot   Wendy McCall   Natalya Seals
Jennifer Brown   Stuart Everett   Kevin O'Callaghan   Charlie Thomas
Jamie Lynn Burns   James Foster   Bruce Phillipp   Travis Vanzant
John Butler   Larry Kendrick   Cynthia Phillipp
Hubert Cui   Joe Keys   Gianna Rossi

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

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

Backpack: Smokies 900 miler, Lakeshore Trail, April 22-25, 2004
Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854
Rating: AA/3/A
We'll leave from the usual Colonial Heights / McDonalds parking area early on Thursday, April 22, and make a stop for breakfast on the way. We'll need several vehicles, so if you can drive, let me know. Since it's such a long drive and gas is costly right now, each rider will need to pay drivers gas money.
We'll drive to Twenty Mile Creek Ranger Station, submit our backcountry permits, spot cars at the Fontana Dam trailhead, and then we'll drive on to Bryson City, NC. After lunch, we'll drive to the Lakeshore Trailhead at the Tunnel to Nowhere. We'll hike at least to campsite 74, Lower Forney (3 mi, 600 ft climbing); Friday: to campsite 77, Pilkey Creek (13.5 mi, 2400 ft climbing); Sat: to Campsite 90, Lost Cove (12.5 mi, 2600 ft climbing); and, Sun: to Fontana Dam (5.6 mi, 1100 ft climbing). You'll need to bring three dinners, three breakfasts, three lunches, snacks, tent or hammock, and other camping gear / personal items needed for backcountry campsites. We'll be rock hopping many creeks and some of them will require wading. If you have community items, such as stoves or filters, that you'd be willing to share, let me know. Group size is limited to 8 persons, so you'll need to reserve your spot with the hike leader. Contact the hike leader by phone or by e-mail () for more information and to reserve your spot.
The Lakeshore Trail follows the north shore of Fontana Lake, passing through land that was not originally part of the Smokies when the Park was established in 1934. In 1943, just prior to the completion of Fontana Dam, the Park boundary was extended on to the new lake. At this time, the Department of Interior established a Memorandum of Agreement with TVA and local / state governments to build the North Shore Road through new Park land to replace the flooded NC 288. In 2000, Congress budgeted $16 million of DOT appropriations to resume construction, but the debate of build or no-build continues.

Wildflower Hike: Pinnacle State Park, VA; April 24, 2004 (Rain Date: May 8)
Leader: Kathy McDavid, 423-349-4901
Rating: C/4/C
We'll be taking a wildflower hike in the Pinnacle Nature Preserve near Lebanon, Virginia. This is a very easy hike, less than 2 miles round trip. The last two times I've been there I've seen more than 50 different types of wildflowers, so bring your camera, tripod, wildflower identification book and yourself and have a great time enjoying the springtime!! You'll want to bring water, lunch, and raingear. You might want to bring binoculars for the overlook into the valley. We'll be meeting in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 7:45 A.M. For more information or if you would like for us to meet you near exit 14 in Abingdon, you may phone me at 423-349-4901, or e-mail me at .

Hike: Appalachian Trail — Big Bald from Street Gap; May 1, 2004
Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388
Rating: B/3/B
This hike is out to find a pair of hidden containers called geocaches (see waypoints GCGJGR and GC40A9). This hobby uses a GPS to find hidden items and/or unusual locations, and thus is like high-tech orienteering. After a stop at I-26 visitors center, this hike be an in-out from Street Gap (3.6 mi each way) via Higgins Creek road at Flag Pond. Also refer to A.T. Guide Section 11 (11th ed.) mi 2.6 Street Gap 4,100 S>N to mi 6.8.
Meet at the usual spot by McDonald’s in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. A meeting location can also be arranged in Johnson City or Erwin. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. (Hike will be postponed or changed to just the Erwin linear trail in case of rain.)

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

TEHCC Members Participate in USFS Chain Saw Recertification Course

Steve Perri reporting

Four TEHCC members recently participated in the recertification course offered by USFS on March 12-13, 2004. Matt Davis from ATC helped arrange for a course close to the area for our club and Roby Phillippi and Bill Woody from the Cherokee National Forest came through to help arrange for a class offered in Elizabethton, TN. As required by ATC and the USFS, volunteers in the forest operating chain saws now need to be both operator certified and CPR/First Aid certified and so we recently took this course together at the American Red Cross in Kingsport on Feb. 16-17. We spent the first day of the training course in the classroom reviewing strategies for felling trees, bucking, limbing, discussing regulations, and personal safety equipment and practices. The second day we drove to Watauga Lake and conducted field training at the base of Pond Mountain. There were two others in our class seeking their certification, each from the NETMBA and the Backcountry Horseman. Anyone interested in enrolling in other scheduled certification training can contact Matt Davis (828-254-3708) at ATC for location, dates, space and availability.

Those participating in the training course included: Carl Fritz, Steve Haynes, Steve Perri and Steve Wilson.

Click on the small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. All photos courtesy of Steve Wilson.

Chainsaw class group photo (221 kB).

Carl Fritz (230 kB).

Robi Philipi (123 kB).

Steve Perri and Bill Woody (247 kB).

Chainsaw maintenance (54 kB).
Name: Bill Berry
Date: February 21, 2004
Purpose: Clear blow downs and cut back trail
Section: 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap
Location: Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap
Number: 1
Total Hours: 9
People: Bill Berry
Individual Hours: 9
Summary: Trail in good shape, thanks to who ever cut out the big tree for me. Still had lots of snow.

Name: Joe DeLoach
Date: February 24, 2004
Purpose: Appalachian Trail Maintenance Dinner
Section: Other
Location: Kingsport, TN
Number: 32
Total Hours: 94
Individual Hours: 1 hour each for Richard Colberg, Jeff Siirola, and Waylon Jenkins; 4 hours each for Paul Benfield, Robin Fought, David Gibson, and Bob Peoples; 3 hours for everyone else
Summary: Annual maintenance dinner was well attended. Thanks to Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver for the delicious meal, Bill Stowell for the waterfall photo show, and Collins Chew and Steve Perri for their parts in assembling the maintenance packets.

Name: Bill Stowell
Date: February 29, 2004
Purpose: Lop, cut blowdowns, trash removal
Section: 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River
Location: Indian grave gap to Curley Maple Shelter
Number: 2
Total Hours: 16
People: Craig DeLoach, Bill Stowell
Individual Hours: 8 hours each
Summary: We lopped and cut several blowdowns and carried the trash out from the shelter. Shelter does not have a log book.

Name: Carl Fritz
Date: March 3, 2004
Purpose: Flag trail relocation
Section: 18 - Switchback in USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap
Location: North side of Unaka Mountain
Number: 9
Total Hours: 72
People: Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Mike Hupko, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples
Individual Hours: 9x8 hours (everyone)
Summary: Even after the 70 degree days, we found up to six inches of snow on the north side of Unaka Mountain. Even USFS 230 had five inches of ice. We did make great progress on flagging a very long switchback to take out steepest and most eroded sections. Thick rhododendrons that were bent over from recent snows slowed down movement to a snail's pace. One more trip should complete this flagging. Mike Hupko demonstrated his gymnastic abilities with a backward somersault off the rhododendrons. He scored an 8.5. There was a deduction for not landing cleanly on both feet.
Name: C. B. Willis for Old Timers Hiking Club
Date: March 10, 2004
Purpose: Spring maintenance trip to remove winter blowdowns, etc. from the trail.
Section: 18 - Switchback in USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap
Location: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot and back
Number: 11
Total Hours: 63
People: Gil Derouen, Mike Hupko, Carl Kincheloe, Daryl Loyd, Sam Lloyd, Glenn Marshall, Ed Schell, Clyde Taylor, CB Willis, Malcolm Wolf, Mike Parker
Individual Hours: 3 hours (Ed Schell), 6x10 everyone else
Summary: We didn't want to trust the F/S 230 being snow covered. We walked in to the Beauty Spot and had to leave the rest until work days scheduled March 15, March 29 and April 12. We cleared 3 blowdowns and trimmed out a number of locations along the way. There was about 2 inches of new snow in the area.
Name: Steve Perri
Date: March 11, 2004
Purpose: Chainsaw Certification Training
Section: 1 - Damascus to Backbone Rock trail junction
Location: Elizabethton, TN
Number: 4
Total Hours: 56
People: Carl Fritz, Steve Haynes, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson
Individual Hours: 4 x 14 hours
Summary: We attended the USFS chainsaw certification course taught by Roby Phillippi and Bill Woody. The first day we spent reviewing safety, techniques, strategies, and maintenance of saws. On Saturday we had a field test to show our skill level, safety considerations, strategy and implementation. Of about 20 that signed up, only 6 of us completed the course. The main differences in the new curriculum is the required PPE and the open face notch angle. Even though we have experience already, we always take away new information to reinforce the issues of safety and techniques.
Name: Collins Chew
Date: March 12, 2004
Purpose: Spring Maintenance, clipping small blowdowns and measuring 3 relocations.
Section: 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E
**Location:** Bitter End to south end of trail along Elk River, 7.3 miles  
**Number:** 7  
**Total Hours:** 56  
**People:** Olin Babb, Bruce Cunningham, June Donaldson, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Collins Chew  
**Individual Hours:** 8 hours for each  
**Summary:** We clipped brush and removed small blowdowns and rolled and GPSed the new relos. We left a 16" blowdown (crawl over) about 0.7 miles south of Bitter End and a 20" blowdown (crawl under) about 1/4 mile north of the Elk River. Bruce collected garbage at Bear Branch Road.  
**Name:** Bruce Cunningham  
**Date:** March 13, 2004  
**Purpose:** Spring housecleaning  
**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E  
**Location:** See Collins Chew's report  
**Number:** 1  
**Total Hours:** 9  
**People:** Bruce Cunningham  
**Individual Hours:** 0 hour (Bruce Cunningham)  
**Summary:** This report is an addition to Collins Chew's report. Blowdowns--one south of Bitter End is not critical--can be easily stepped over--one on Elk River section is I think the tree we left to deter horses--can get under easily. Cleaned up all road crossings from Walnut Rd. to 19E--most of the 6 bags came from you know where Bear Branch Rd. crossing--but ran out of time and bags and lots still left down hill toward bridge--see crew take note.  
**Name:** Mike Hupko for Old Timers Hiking Club  
**Date:** March 15, 2004  
**Purpose:** Spring clearing of trail  
**Section:** 17 - Iron Mountain Gap to switchback in USFS 230  
**Location:** From Low Gap to top of Unaka and from Low Gap to Iron Mountain Gap  
**Number:** 6  
**Total Hours:** 36  
**People:** Clyde Taylor, Daryl Loyd, Glenn Marshall, Carl Kincheloe, Gil Derouen, Mike Hupko **Individual Hours:** 6 hours each.  
**Summary:** Cleared the trail of blowdowns and winter debris. Cleaned shelter and checked springs. Left new journal. 2003 journal was not there. Shovel and broom still there. We plan to work March 29th on the 3-4 miles left undone and to clean the water bars at that time. Also planning some treadway repair a little later.  
**Name:** Garry S. Luttrell  
**Date:** March 19, 2004  
**Purpose:** Install Sign  
**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E  
**Location:** Walnut Mtn. Road AT South  
**Number:** 1  
**Total Hours:** 5  
**People:** Garry S. Luttrell  
**Individual Hours:** 5 hours (Garry S. Luttrell)
**Summary:** Installed "Foot Travel Only" sign at Walnut Mtn. Road/FS50 going south on A.T.

**Name:** Collins Chew  
**Date:** March 19, 2004  
**Purpose:** Use GPS to accurately locate trail for map  
**Section:** 8 - Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321  
**Location:** Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321  
**Number:** 11  
**Total Hours:** 16  
**People:** Mike Alley, Pat Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, June Donaldson, Peggy Durham, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Collins Chew  
**Individual Hours:** 8x2=16 for Collins and Bob, or 11x8=88 for everyone, whatever.

**Summary:** Mostly this was a recreation hike; however, in addition to the GPS reading by Collins Chew, Bob Harvey brought a trash bag and most helped him pick up trash. There were no blowdowns. You may not want to count this. Trail in good shape throughout.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach  
**Date:** March 20, 2004  
**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns and briars  
**Section:** 2 - Backbone Rock trail junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter  
**Location:** McQueens Gap to Backbone Rock Trail junction  
**Number:** 2  
**Total Hours:** 26  
**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach  
**Individual Hours:** 13 hours each

**Summary:** We cut several large (>10") and numerous small blowdowns from this section, cut lots of greenbriars, and placed the shelter log book at Abingdon Gap Shelter. Also cut out one tangle very close to Damascus. Section is clear.

**Name:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** March 23, 2004  
**Purpose:** Plant shrubs on Iron Mt. and cut blowdowns  
**Section:** 5 - Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap  
**Location:** TVA power line north to Grindstaff Monument  
**Number:** 9  
**Total Hours:** 89  
**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Robert Vitous, "Little Tree"  
**Individual Hours:** 2 hrs (Little Tree)+ 10 hrs (Bob Peoples) + 7x11 hrs (everyone else)

**Summary:** TVA provided about 300 shrubs and small trees and coordinated this outing to plant on the uphill side of A.T. as it passes under power line. We met the five TVA employees who were from Knoxville except for one local. With their four TVA vehicles and Bob's truck we went up Hurley Hollow with permission from private land owners. With this active crew, we set the approximately 300 laurel, viburnum and plums by 2 P.M. Bob and Bill also found time to walk trail south to Grindstaff Monument and clear all blowdowns. There was a major tangle of multiple trees just north of Grindstaff Monument. This section is now clear. A bag of trash was removed from shelter. Shelter log will need replacing before end of April. "Little Tree" reported only one or two blowdowns between power lines and Vanderventer Shelter. Both are easily negotiated. With such a successful...
day we only had to drive the five miles out to real roads. Unfortunately, the temperatures had crept above freezing and the first major hill thawed into a mire of mud. The first Suburban only made it half way up. It took a couple of hours to get it backed off the hill while blocking the tires and pushing from overhang side to keep from sliding off the sidehill. Then we watched the dirt track racing as the drivers hit that hill in 4 wheel low drive, the accelerator to the floor and the engine rpms red lined going about 25 mph. Mud was flying 100 feet and tires smoked as they would occasionally catch solid rock. But all vehicles safely made it. So another adventure closed successfully.