

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 2004

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](#)
- [Konnarock Crew White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation, May-August](#)
- [Mount LeConte Lodge Great Smoky Mountains, July 10-11](#)
- [Big South Fork Overnight Hike to Charit Creek Lodge, Oct 23-24](#)
- [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](#)
- [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				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
May 1	A.T.: Big Bald from Street Gap	B/3/B	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
May 8	A.T.: McQueens Gap to Damascus	A/2/B	Richard Colberg	423-288-8333
May 8-9	Paddling: Bluestone 26 th Anniversary	II-III	Terry Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 8-16	Damascus (VA) Trail Days	<input type="checkbox"/>	http://www.traildays.nstemp.com	
May 22	Bays Mountain Fire Tower (F/B)	C/4/C	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
May 27-31	Konnarock: White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903
Jun 3-6	Introductory Whitewater School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebekah Morrow	423-245-8045
Jun 5	National Trails Day	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Jun 12	A.T.: Cloudland to Grassy	B/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

	Ridge			
Jun 17-20	Smokies: Twenty-Mile Creek Area (S900M)	AA/3/A	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Jun 17-21	Konnarock: White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation	□	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903

Konnarock Crew
White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation
May 27-31, June 17-21, July 22-26 and August 12-16, 2004

Contacts: Joe DeLoach (423-234-0374) and Ed Oliver (423-349-6668)

This year we have four weeks of Konnarock Crew time to continue the series of Appalachian Trail relocations on White Rocks Mountain we began in 2003. White Rocks Mountain is in Carter County, stretching 10 miles trail south of Dennis Cove. We are working on seven individual relocations, with two completed in 2003. The Konnarock Crew works from Thursday through Monday, with Thursday and Monday being short days, and it really helps to get the work done when we have a good turnout of Club volunteers. We have had excellent support for the Konnarock Crew in years past and let's continue that in 2004! Those volunteers who work at least five days with the Crew earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. We'll have trips leaving from Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM each day; bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Please let us know in advance if you'd like to help so we can bring enough tools. For details or to sign up, contact Ed or Joe.

Mount LeConte Lodge □ Great Smoky Mountains
July 10-11, 2004

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)

Rating: B/3/B (Moderate)

The Hiking Club will repeat its annual overnight hike to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will hike up on Saturday, spend the night in two cabins (double bunk beds!) and hike back down on Sunday. The distance is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The cost per person is \$91.43. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have reservations for eight people, so call in your request before sending money.

Big South Fork □ Overnight Hike to Charit Creek Lodge
October 23-24, 2004

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)

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). Last trip, we took the short trail, dropped off our gear at the lodge, and then explored the area. There are many interesting geological formations nearby—for example, the massive double natural bridge shown in the picture to the left.

The cost per person is \$65.00. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have reservations for 12 people, so call in your request before sending money.

Introductory Whitewater School Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed

Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The 32nd annual TEHCC/APE's 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 stern lines. All boats must have air bags. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

Schedule: June 3rd Lecture and films.
(Thur) 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 Lake and River Trip,
(Sat) 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 River Trip, class II.
(Sun) 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 _____

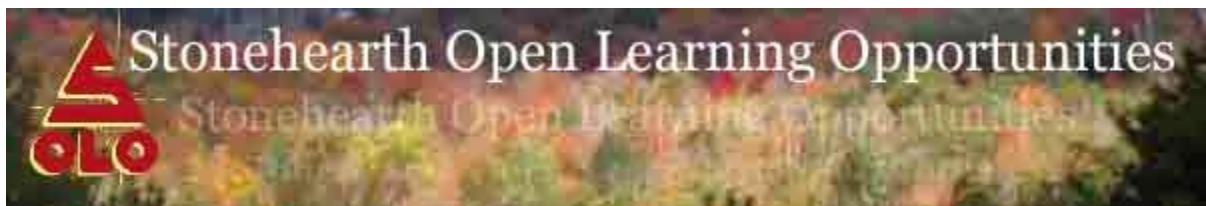
My tandem partner's name: _____ Need partner _____

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 (APE□s) 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 pm, 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::

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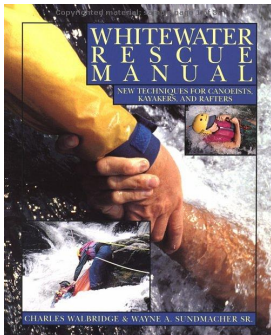
List of Previous First Aid Courses taken and/or First Aid Experience:

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—

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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 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. 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 due 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 listed 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:

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—

—

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

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—

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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):

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Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail

Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)

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 Big Bald 5,516□. E-mail () or call 423-239-0388 if any questions. 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.)

Hike: Appalachian Trail □ McQueens Gap to Damascus; May 8, 2004

Leader: Richard Colberg (423-288-8333)

Rating: A/2/B

This hike starts at McQueens Gap and follows mostly level ridge top, with some downhill at the end near Damascus. The leaves should just be coming out at this elevation and several wildflowers should be in bloom. Come join us for what should be a very pleasant hike. We'll meet at 8 AM in the parking lot near McDonald's in Colonial Heights. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Call hike leader for details.

Bays Mountain Park Family Hike; May 22, 2004

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)

Rating: C/4/C (Easy)

We will meet at the Bays Mountain Park dam at 10:00 AM for an easy hike along the lake and then a 0.6 mile climb to the fire tower. The fire tower affords a great northwest view of the Holston River, Holston Defense and Clinch Mountain. Total hiking distance is 3.5 miles but families could shorten the trip to just the Lakeside Trail (2.3 miles).

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Trip Report: Guest River Gorge; March 20, 2004

Vic Hasler reporting

What a wonderful way to enjoy the first day of Spring with a hike! Steve Woody and Vic Hasler left Colonial Heights promptly at 8:30 AM to swing by the Food Lion parking lot in Gate City to pick up Mary Cunningham, and then continue to the trailhead off of VA72 in the Jefferson National Forest (44-46 miles total from Colonial Heights). The rails-to-trails conversion passed through a 1922 tunnel and then across a high trestle bridge. Without the foliage, the Guest River could be seen cascading down the gorge with rock walls on both sides. The path of fine gravel was wide enough to walk three across while enjoying conversation. The group was introduced to the hobby of □geocaching□ by finding all three hidden containers, with one being on top of a large boulder. Each hiker was □first to find□ a cache, including Mary who spied one while Steve and Vic consulted their

GPS devices on the wrong side of a small frog pond (which contained a multitude of eggs and tadpoles). And when you're hiking with Mary Cunningham, you're going the whole distance, so we walked 5.8 miles to the end of the graveled trail where the Guest River flows into the Clinch River. After lunch in the sun, the group marched 5.8 miles back up the steady 500 feet grade to the car in two hours, so that the leader could be back in Kingsport by 4 PM as promised to his wife.



Click on the small photo or link to see larger photo. Photo courtesy of Vic Hasler.
[Guest River Gorge](#) (200 kB).

Hike Report: Smokies 900 Miler □ Boogerman Trail; March 20, 2004

G. S. Luttrell reporting

Again, we had mild hiking temperatures on a Smokies hike and it didn't rain on us, in spite of the chance of afternoon thunderstorms. After spotting a car at Caldwell Fork Trailhead, we drove up the valley a short distance and we were pleasantly surprised to see many elk in the open fields. From Big Fork Ridge we had good views of Cataloochee Valley on one side and Cataloochee Divide on the other. We turned the corner from the Caldwell Fork Trail onto the Boogerman Trail and soon had lunch just above the interesting rock walls of the Carson Messer homesite. Don and Larry Baker brought a tape measure to check tree sizes and the largest measurement was 20 ft. 3 in. on a tulip poplar near Robert Palmer's homesite, and a hemlock that measured 15 ft. When we reached the lower junction of the Boogerman Trail and Caldwell Fork Trail, we decided to hike up to the upper junction and back, to close the loop. We finished by hiking to the Caldwell Fork Trailhead, for a 12.5 mile day. Hikers included Taylor Pickard, Don Baker, Larry Baker, Owen Holbrook, Arvell Luttrell, Olin Babb, Debi Berry, Phyllis Cairnes, Lowell Toof, Leon Scaf, Freda Kuo, Kim Peters, Larry Miller and Garry Luttrell.

Click on the small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. All photos courtesy of G. S. Luttrell.



[Bull elk](#) in field near Palmer Chapel (94 kB).



[Lunch break](#) at Carson Messer homesite (131 kB).



[More lunch break](#) participants at Carson Messer homesite (146 kB).



Larry and Don Baker measuring one of Boogerman's [tulip poplars](#) (127 kB).

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 1, 2004

Purpose: Report Blowdowns

Section: Other

Location: Section 11, Dennis Cove thru 19, Nolichucky

Number: 2

Total Hours: 40

People: HIKERS Fuman and Bed Pan

Individual Hours: 2x20 hrs (everyone)

Summary: Hiked this entire area recording all blowdowns on a map for maintainers.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: March 18, 2004

Purpose: Meeting for Erwin for panel discussion about the A.T.

Section: Other

Location: Erwin, TN

Number: 1

Total Hours: 10

People: Ray Hunt

Individual Hours: 1 x 10 hr

Summary: Ray Hunt attended a panel discussion in Erwin to provide an opportunity to educate and inform community members in the Erwin area about stewardship and management of the A.T. This meeting was organized by Janet Hensley (Ms. Janet) in order to provide professionals and businesses a perspective of issues associated with the trail in their community. Originally this was planned for about 20 people with lunch provided. About 60 people showed up and maybe another 20 had to be turned away. Ray went as a club representative and as an A.T. Board of Manager to provide multiple perspectives (which is why the time also includes some preparation time). Ray said this was a worthwhile meeting and was glad he had the opportunity to go.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: March 19-21, 2004

Purpose: Attend ATC Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting

Section: Other

Location: Spruce Pine, NC

Number: 7

Total Hours: 100

People: Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Ray Hunt, David Gibson, John Thompson, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Individual Hours: 10 hrs each for Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Ray Hunt, David Gibson, and John Thompson; 20 hrs each for Steve Perri and Steve Wilson

Summary: Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Ray Hunt, David Gibson, John Thompson, Steve Wilson and Steve Perri attended the SRMC meeting in Spruce Pine, NC. Much of the meeting

was focused on the changes anticipated by the new strategic plan at ATC. The USFS, NPS and other clubs reinforced the desire to continue to have an annual meeting to be able to exchange plans and recent learnings by this type of venue. There were three breakout sessions to discuss: 1) the capacity in ATC's regional offices, 2) changes in ATC governance, and 3) use of the A.T. by organized groups (permitting process proposal for Outfitters and Guides). The general tone of the meeting was to communicate where ATC is going, how the new structure is expected to work, and what ramifications these changes have on current structures of the staff. Expect more details to be forthcoming as the plan moves forward over the next few months and other aspects of changes years longer.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 23, 2004

Purpose: Plant shrubs on Iron Mountain and cut blowdowns

Section: 5 - TN 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

Location: TVA power line north to Grindstaff Monument

Number: 9

Total Hours: 89

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fornter, Carl Fritz, Darroll 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 the A.T. as it passes under the 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 PM. 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 the shelter. Shelter log will need replacing before end of April. "Little Tree" reported only one or two blowdowns between the power lines and Vanderverter 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 us a couple of hours to get it backed off the hill while blocking the tires and pushing from the overhang side to keep it from sliding off the sidehill. Then we watched the dirt track racing as the drivers hit that hill in 4 wheel low drive, accelerator to the floor and engine rpm's red-lined going about 25 mph. Mud was flying 100 feet and tires smoked as they would occasionally catch solid rock. But all the vehicles safely made it. So another adventure closed successfully.

Click on small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.



Iron Mountain "[bush crew](#)" (157 kB).



A few bushes [lined up](#) ready to go (175 kB).



[Planting bushes](#) (165 kB).



[Lunch break](#) (143 kB).



[Packing up](#) (the adventure begins?) (185 kB)

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 25, 2004

Purpose: Flag trail relocation

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

Location: Iron Mountain Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 16

People: Ed Oliver, Morgan Sommerville

Individual Hours: 2x8 hrs (everyone)

Summary: Morgan Sommerville came from Asheville to help flag relocations on both sides of the highway at Iron Mountain Gap. This relocation starts about a quarter mile trail north of Iron Mountain gap, crosses the highway about 0.1 mile from the gap (on the Tennessee side), and ends about a half mile before the climb up Little Bald Knob. This relocation will move the trail away from the North Carolina side and thus away from private property. An unexpected thing about this relocation is that it goes through very little rhododendron.

Name: David Gibson

Date: March 26, 2004

Purpose: Section Maintenance

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 16

People: David Gibson, Robin Fought

Individual Hours: 8 hours each

Summary: Spring walk through from Hughes Gap to Carvers Gap. Picked up trash, lopped, and cleared trail obstructions.

Name: Tim McClain

Date: March 27, 2004

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and trim woody growth

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

Location: McQueens Gap to U.S. 421

Number: 3

Total Hours: 26

People: Carl Fritz, Joe Herbert, Tim McClain

Individual Hours: 8.5 hours each

Summary: Covered the approximately 4.5 miles on this section. Removed 8 blowdowns and cut the woody growth back. None of the blowdowns were serious or were causing a significant obstruction. Picked up trash along the trail and at the 421 end. There is a considerable accumulation of trash around the junction of the road and the A.T. at McQueen's Gap. Met about 6 thru hikers headed north.

Name: Michael Watts

Date: March 27, 2004

Purpose: Annual spring maintenance trip

Section: 5 - TN 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

Location: TN 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

Number: 4

Total Hours: 38

People: Tony Caston, Rick Lott, Michael Watts, Dan Wernick

Individual Hours: 11 hrs (Mike, Rick), 8 hrs (Tony, Dan)

Summary: Clipped, weeded, and painted blazes going south. Cleared half a dozen blow downs. Replaced shelter log. Removed trash. Section generally in good shape.

Name: Bill Berry

Date: March 27, 2004

Purpose: Cut blow downs

Section: 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

Location: Temple Hill Gap to No-Business Knob Shelter

Number: 1

Total Hours: 7

People: Bill Berry

Individual Hours: 7 hours (Bill Berry)

Summary: Had several dead trees down.

Name: C. B. Willis for Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: March 29, 2004

Purpose: Spring maintenance trip and clean up

Section: Other

Location: Parts of Sections 17 and 18. Beauty Spot to top of Unaka Mountain

Number: 7

Total Hours: 49

People: Mike Hupko, Bob Miller, Gil Derouen, Malcolm Wolf, Sandra Perry, Robert Spencer, C. B. Willis

Individual Hours: 7x7 each

Summary: Cleared blowdowns, debris from Beauty Spot to top of Unaka, down to spring on the north side. Painted blazes from Deep Gap to Beauty Spot. We have now cleared the entire adopted section. We are scheduling trail rehab in several areas and will finish the blazes within the next 30-60 days.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 30, 2004

Purpose: Blowdown removal

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Hughes Gap to a couple of miles north of Iron Mountain Gap

Number: 9

Total Hours: 79

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Hueston Fortner, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 2x8 hrs (Bob and Paul) + 7x9 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: We divided into three teams on this drizzly day. One went in at Hughes Gap. The other two went in south of Clyde Smith shelter. One headed towards Hughes Gap and the other towards Iron Mountain Gap. There were numerous small blowdowns that could be cleared with loppers and hand saws. Chain saws were used on over 25 blowdowns including several major tangles. We were a couple miles short of getting to Iron Mountain Gap. The location is well flagged and we plan to get the rest in next ten days when we are in planting apple trees. Thru hikers today reported there are no blowdowns on these two miles and nothing they can remember to Spivey Gap. Clyde Smith shelter is in good shape and showed no signs of leaks during the light rain. Jim Foster endured some wet conditions on his inaugural maintenance trip and plans many more.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 1, 2004

Purpose: Trail Assessment for Park Service

Section: 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Location: Bitter End to Dennis Cove

Number: 3

Total Hours: 39

People: Matt Davis, Ed Oliver, Morgan Sommerville

Individual Hours: 3x13 hrs (everyone)

Summary: Park Service has requested a thorough assessment of six sections of TEHCC's portion of trail. These summaries will help determine how the Park Service allocates their resources in the future. This was the first section surveyed. This section was also cleared of minor limbs and small trees with hand tools.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 1, 2004

Purpose: Attend Cherokee National Forest Trail Planning Workshop

Section: Other

Location: Boones Creek

Number: 3

Total Hours: 17

People: Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri, Morgan Sommerville

Individual Hours: Bruce and Steve 5 hrs each, Morgan 7

Summary: We attended the Cherokee National Forest trail planning workshop to provide input on new trail proposals in the forest. Many diverse groups were represented, including A.T. clubs, other trail clubs, and mountain bikers and back country horsemen. Bruce and I covered two of the four workshops that were of interest to TEHCC. Some trails proposed in the Roan Mountain area include the Hackline Road relocation on the TN side below Carvers Gap. In the Iron Mountain and

Holston Mountain area, many new trails were proposed. The MAHC proposed linking a foot trail to connect the Iron Mountain Trail and the A.T. The back country horseman recommended adding about 15-20 trails or redesignations of roads for multi-use trails: some on Holston Mtn, Cross Mtn and Iron Mtn. Some people from Johnson County wanted to make new trails from the Laurel Creek area north and south. The MAHC recommended that Iron Mountain Trail stay as hiking only and that some new trails be added from Backbone Rock. Others wanted to make spur trails off the Iron Mountain Trail as a multi-use trail. The USFS will use information from this meeting to identify projects that might be worked on over the next 3 yrs. There were more proposals that would exceed work for 5-10 yrs.

Name: Steve Falling

Date: April 3, 2004

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob

Number: 3

Total Hours: 21

People: Steve Falling, Jerry Cunningham, Bob Savery

Individual Hours: 3x7 hours

Summary: Six inches of snow prevented a complete section maintenance trip. Bushes were clipped and few blazes were painted. An A.T. sign was placed at Hughes Gap.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: April 4, 2004

Purpose: Pick up litter

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

Location: McQueens Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 10

People: Mary Banks, Steve Banks

Individual Hours: 2x5 hours

Summary: We removed a pickup truck load of litter from McQueens Gap, including three carpets, a picnic table umbrella, various auto parts, and many beer, soft drink, and motor oil bottles.

Name: John Arwood for SOFG Sierra Club

Date: April 4, 2004

Purpose: Check entire section, remove blowdowns.

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

Location: Entire section from Watauga Dam Road trailhead north.

Number: 2

Total Hours: 26

People: Catherine Batts, John Arwood

Individual Hours: 2 x 13 hrs.

Summary: Checked conditions on entire section, removed numerous blowdowns, clipped back rhododendrons at north of section (approximately half done), cleaned trash from Vandeventer Shelter. Checked conditions and made plans for future maintenance outings for blazing, shelter repair, treadway repair and vegetation encroaching on trail.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 6, 2004

Purpose: Plant apple trees, cut blowdowns, flag trail relocations, rehab trail

Section: Other

Location: Mostly section 16 and some of 17

Number: 21

Total Hours: 164

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Jim Foster, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Mike Hupko, Darrol Nickels, Bob Peoples, Bob Vitous, HIKERS Sugar Daddy, Sue Ulvestad, Peter Pan, Jason Harvell, Talks with Trees, Slips, Fitz, Walking Turtle

Individual Hours: 2x6 hours (Slips and Talks with Trees) + 19x8 hours (everyone else)

Summary: With Darrol's coordination, fourteen varieties of heritage apple trees were planted in the orchard. Two forest service people helped by providing five foot high cages and stakes which they transported to orchard by tractor. Mouse proof hardware cloth was also installed.

* A crew relocated the trail just south of the orchard where a house was slightly visible.

* Another crew cleared about a dozen blowdowns for several miles trail north of Iron Mountain Gap. This completes the cleanup from Iron Mountain Gap to Hughes Gap.

* A potential trail relocation was flagged starting at Weedy Gap and headed north to take out a very steep section of trail.

* A fifth crew lead by David and Robin rehabbed the trail at Greasy Creek Gap. Beneath the snow the root problem still existed and the trail should be much improved.

* The final crew explored potential trail relocations trail south of Iron Mt. Gap near Little Bald.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 6, 2004

Purpose: A.T. Committee Meeting

Section: Other

Location: Eastman Employee Center

Number: 11

Total Hours: 35

People: David Gibson, Robin Fought, Kim Peters, John Thompson, Bruce Cunningham, Collins Chew, Darrol Nickels, Steve Wilson, Ray Hunt, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri

Individual Hours: David Gibson, Robin Fought 4 hrs each; Kim Peters, Ray Hunt, Steve Wilson 2 hrs each; John Thompson, Bruce Cunningham, Collins Chew, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri 3 hrs each

Summary: We reviewed Hardcore, Konnarock, student, TVA, and structure related projects. Planned for National Trails Day, Damascus A.T. Days and the USFS Semiannual meeting.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 8, 2004

Purpose: Guide Permit Meeting

Section: Other

Location: Burnsville Ranger Office

Number: 1

Total Hours: 4

People: David Gibson

Individual Hours: 4

Summary: Attended meeting with Paul Bradley, Morgan Sommerville, Derrick Ibargen, and L. Martin from Kanuga (an outfitter/guide) for the purpose of beginning the process of issuing Kanuga a permit to lead youth groups on the A.T. through the Tennessee Eastman section of the trail. Kanuga is seeking a permit to lead 3 trips per year to take place during the months of June and July. Each trip would have two groups of ten people hiking the same route but camping separately each night. The hike would begin at U.S. 19E and end at the NOC Campground at the Nolichucky River.

The first step was to identify appropriate campsites that they would use each year. The list below are the sites that Kanuga has requested: Day 1 they propose to camp on the old road leading to the spring at Doll Flats. They would camp below the water source. Day 2, somewhere off the Overmountain Victory Trail (yet to be selected) near where it crosses the A.T., probably using the water source for the barn as their water source. Day 3, Carvers Gap, down the road to the TN side and left off the road down a trail to an existing impacted site used by hunters. Day 4, Greasy Creek Gap, camp on road to water source at flat spot below water. Day 5, Cherry Gap before shelter where jeep road crosses A.T. The road leads down to a flat spot. May be flat spot where old homestead was. Day 6, Beauty Spot camp in mowed field that was old Buchanan Tract. Day 7, Curly Maple Gap camp on road that crosses A.T. at the foundation. They would camp on road south of trail.

The club has the opportunity to give feedback on these requested sites. Some of these sites will have to be assessed and may have to have NEPA work done. Paul suggested that Kanuga may have to find alternate campsites outside the A.T. corridor for this summer as some of the sites they have requested will not be approved by June.

The representative of Kanuga mentioned that the youth groups are required to spend half a day doing service work as part of their trip and expressed an interest in having the club come up with A.T. projects for them to work on to fulfill this requirement.

Miss Martin from Kanuga can be contacted at .

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 8, 2004

Purpose: Discuss Land Acquisitions with USFS

Section: Other

Location: USFS Unicoi Office

Number: 2

Total Hours: 8

People: Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels

Individual Hours: 4 hrs each

Summary: Discuss progress USFS has made in land acquisitions with Wayne Shepherd and Dave Ferguson.

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: April 9, 2004

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns and cut briars

Section: 1 - Damascus to Backbone Rock trail junction

Location: Hiked from McQueens Gap to Damascus

Number: 2

Total Hours: 20

People: Steve Wilson, Carl Fritz

Individual Hours: 2 x 10 hour (each)

Summary: On Good Friday, Carl Fritz and I hiked from McQueen's Gap to Damascus to remove blowdowns and cut briars. We found three trees that required a chainsaw just north of the blue blaze trail which leads to Backbone Rock. Trail and shelter are in good shape. Thanks to Mount Rogers Outfitters and our driver, Wally, for providing a free shuttle from Damascus up to McQueen's Gap.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 9, 2004

Purpose: Flag privy site for Roan shelter.

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Roan Shelter

Number: 1

Total Hours: 4

People: David Gibson

Individual Hours: 4

Summary: Met Forest Service representative at Roan for the purpose of selecting a privy site. Two possible sites were selected and the approval process is being set in motion.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 10, 2004

Purpose: Flag relocation near Iron Mountain Gap

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

Location: Those pesky PUDS

Number: 2

Total Hours: 17

People: Ed Oliver, David Gibson

Individual Hours: (Ed Oliver) 9 hours + (David Gibson) 8 hours

Summary: Continued flagging relocation trail south of Iron Mountain Gap. There was only one small rhododendron bush in this area, but we were fortunate enough to be able to bring the relocation right through it.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 13, 2004

Purpose: Biannual Meeting with USFS

Section: Other

Location: Watauga District Office in Unicoi

Number: 18

Total Hours: 60

People:

* TEHCC: Hueston Fortner, Robin Fought, David Gibson, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Bill Elderbrock, Ray Hunt, Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri

* ATC: Morgan Sommerville, Matt Davis

* USFS: Derek Ibarguen, Candace Allen, Roby Phillippi, Wayne Shephard, Dave Ferguson, Cheryl Summers

Individual Hours:

* Hueston Fortner, Darrol Nickels, Carl Fritz, Bill Elderbrock, Ray Hunt, Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri: 4 hrs each

* Morgan Sommerville, Matt Davis, Derek Ibarguen: 5 hrs each

* Candace Allen, Roby Phillippi, Wayne Shephard, Dave Ferguson, Cheryl Summers, Robin Fought, David Gibson: 3 hrs each

Summary: We met with the USFS for our spring semiannual meeting. We discussed relocations, group projects, open areas, acquisitions, structure issues, timbering and outfitter and guides plans. We have the green light on the Osborne relocation with a decision memo as the written approval. We can plan for a primitive installation until financial resources can be gathered for the accessible plan in 2006.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 15, 2004

Purpose: Regular section maintenance

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

Location: U.S. 421 to Double Springs Shelter

Number: 2

Total Hours: 20

People: David Gibson, Robin Fought

Individual Hours: 10 hours each

Summary: Performed regular trail maintenance, cleared blowdowns, picked up trash, etc. A couple of inches of snow still on the ground in the morning. Saw over 30 hikers today. Hikers reported new blowdowns, dead hemlocks at chest and neck level between last road crossing at Watauga Dam and Vandeventer Shelter. Weren't any more specific on the blowdowns location.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 16, 2004

Purpose: Show possible shelter sites to the USFS

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

Location: Elk River relocation at Mountaineer Falls

Number: 4

Total Hours: 28

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, David Gibson, Candace Allan USFS

Individual Hours: 7 hours each

Summary: We narrowed the three possible shelter sites down to the one that best met the USFS criteria. The site chosen is the one that Ed Oliver and Frank Williams first scouted out very close to the falls. Candace indicated that she thought she could get the surveys done this season instead of next year as we had originally thought. Anyone with thoughts on what type of shelter we should build or ideas for a design should get in touch with me.

Name: Carl Fritz for Darrol Nickels

Date: April 17, 2004

Purpose: Fertilize trees between road and A.T.

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

Location: Between Oliver Hollow Road and A.T. north of Old Butler Road to the Forest Service Gate

Number: 2

Total Hours: 15

People: Darrol Nickels and John Thompson

Individual Hours: 7 for Darrol and 8 for John

Summary: Several years back members of the Club set out hemlocks and white pines, furnished by the U.S. Forest Service, to screen the A.T. from houses along Oliver Hollow Road. Last spring several of us cleared encroaching competitive plants (wild roses, privet, greenbrier and grape vines) from around, over and under the subject trees. The trees have had varying levels of success—a very few have died while the survivors are anywhere from 3 to 15 feet tall with the average being about 6 feet. We fertilized 30 trees. This is about half of those needing fertilizer. We also cut privet, wild roses and grape vines and pulled up a lot of poison ivy and honeysuckle. We also "trimmed" several trees, especially Virginia pines to reduce the competition and let some sun shine on the hemlocks. It is hoped that the hemlocks will eventually get large enough to overshadow and shade out the competition. The white pines are growing like weeds and do not seem to need any help.

Name: David Gibson

Date: April 17, 2004

Purpose: Flag relocation trail south of Iron Mountain Gap

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

Location: Between Iron Mountain Gap and Cherry Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 21

People: Ed Oliver, David Gibson

Individual Hours: 11 hours (Ed Oliver) + 10 hours (David Gibson)

Summary: Except for a few minor adjustments that need to be made, we finished flagging the relocations between Iron Mountain Gap and Cherry Gap.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 20, 2004

Purpose: Relocate trail onto Osborne Tract

Section: Other

Location: Sections 4 & 5 on both sides of TN 91

Number: 11

Total Hours: 106

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, HIKERS Tim Rudowsky, John Reese, Ryan Van Dyke, Jes Heckself

Individual Hours: 4x9 hrs (Bruce, Bill, Jim, Paul) + 7x10 hrs (everyone else) 30 hrs Section 4 & 76 hrs Section 5

Summary: This was first outing to relocate trail onto Osborne Farm over looking Shady Valley. We constructed 900 feet of trail south of TN 91. This will be ready to open as soon as we complete both ends and will bring us to the driveway of Osborne Farm. We also installed a stile in the fence on the north end of Osborne Farm where the trail will leave pasture and enter woods. We installed seven locust posts in pasture for blazes. The trail in the woods on the northern end of property remains to be constructed. One more good work day should allow us to open this new trail section.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 23, 2004

Purpose: Attend Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Meeting

Section: Other

Location: Desoto State Park, Alabama

Number: 1

Total Hours: 18

People: Steve Perri

Individual Hours: 1 x 18 h

Summary: I attended the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition since Kim Peters and Collins Chew could not attend. This coalition seeks to promote a regional network of long distance trails with assistance from the NPS and American Hiking Society and to protect and build trail corridors. Twenty five of the 28 organizations that are members were in attendance. Four major gaps were identified in order to create one major trail by connecting about six major trails from Florida to West Virginia. The closest to TEHCC was in the vicinity of Burk's Garden. The coalition recommended that the four gaps be prioritized in order of ability to accomplish significant headway, to identify an appropriate name of the links of trails other than the Western Appalachian Alternative, and to seek interest above the Burk's Garden area to see if there is interest/support to extend the trail system up to the finger lakes.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 24, 2004

Purpose: Replace bridge and prepare for repair of rock work near falls

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Dennis Cove and Laurel Falls

Number: 17

Total Hours: 117

People: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, ASU Kristen Anderson, Bonnie Carter, Cherie Chojnacki, Karen DeLisle, Shari Galiardi, Ellen Gwen, Katie Thompson, Ruth Woodall, HIKERS TT, Syracuse, Quiet Guy, Hey Bob

Individual Hours: 5x9 hours (Bruce, Mary, Carl, Ed, Katie) + 8 hours (Bob) + 4x7 hours (TT, Syracuse, Quiet Guy, Hey Bob) + 4x6 hours (Cherie, Ellen, Ruth, Karen) + 3x4 hours (Bonnie, Shari, Kristen)

Summary: This group of ASU students spent a good portion of the day working with us. We carried mortar to the trail near Laurel Falls. This is where the river washed out the rock trail. We gathered a huge pile of stone and sand for future repair work. In the afternoon we removed the 16-foot bridge across the stream near Dennis Cove. The one log was about to break. We searched for some large rocks and transported them to the site by cart. Thanks to the diligence of these workers we now have a nice group of stepping rocks for crossing this stream.



[Ripping apart the old bridge](#) - Mary Cunningham, Katie Thompson, and Carl Fritz (189KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[New Rock Hop](#) - Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Mary Cunningham, TT, Hey Bob, Carl Fritz, rest unknown except man in blue shirt is Quiet Guy and woman in red shirt (kneeling) is Katie Thompson (162KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Group photo at Dennis Cove trailhead](#) - front row: Syracuse, Karen DeLisle, Hey Bob, unknown - back row: Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Cherie Chojnacke, unknown, unknown, Quiet Guy, TT (154KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 26, 2004

Purpose: Discuss Roan Highlands Funds for Long Term Projects

Section: Other

Location: USFS Unicoi Office

Number: 2

Total Hours: 14

People: Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels

Individual Hours: 7 hr each

Summary: Ray and Darrol attended a meeting with Judy Murray from SAHC and Paul Bradley and Joe McGuinness from the USFS to discuss money from timber sales that could be used for balds management projects. The discussions were more of a brainstorming session on what could be identified as potential projects. There are restrictions in how the money may be used in that no USFS resources may be used for planning or executing any work done by USFS personnel. The group will meet again in two weeks to narrow down ideas and set priorities.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 27, 2004

Purpose: Relocate trail onto Osborne Tract

Section: Other

Location: Sections 4 & 5 on both sides of Tenn. 91

Number: 15

Total Hours: 127

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, HIKERS Beatbox, Boo Boo, Beartracks, Krispy Kritter, Pegasus f, Crusty, Gaia f

Individual Hours: 10 hrs (Peter) + 5x9 hrs (Bruce, Jim, Carl, Ed, John) + 9x8 hrs (everyone else)
30 hrs Section 5 & 97 hrs Section 4

Summary: A.T. is now open on Osborne farm. With the help of hikers and first timer, Peter King, we built 1600 feet of trail. We also installed a stile between the Forest Service gate and cattle gate on the driveway. The Forest Service plans to lock the cattle gate so hikers, sightseers and hunters do not accidentally leave it open. The old A.T. was brushed in and signs moved to the new A.T. The new A.T. was blazed. Bruce lea a group to do regular maintenance, including blazing to the Double Springs Shelter. They removed the little trash from the shelter. They also repaired the trail just north of the shelter. Bruce gave them a thrill by losing them to bushwhacking for two hours. (Note from Bruce: we were never lost□just didn't know where we were□Ed forgot to tell us to turn left at a key intersection.)



[Hikers who participated in the relocation](#) (170KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Group photo](#) (154KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*

Name: C. B. Willis for Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: April 28, 2004

Purpose: Renewing and refreshing blazes and trimming brush

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

Location: Section 17 and small part of 18

Number: 4

Total Hours: 32

People: Waymon Mumpower, Bob Miller, Bob Spencer and C. B. Willis

Individual Hours: 8 hours everyone

Summary: Renewed and freshened blazes from Low Gap (where old A.T. comes in) to Deep Gap. 3 miles. To finish the blazing for the year, we need to do the section from Low Gap to Little Bald Knob. All the other is done. This will be done in a week or so.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 29, 2004

Purpose: Repair rock trail at Laurel Fork and repair Laurel Fork shelter floor

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Rock trail along Laurel Fork near falls and Laurel Fork shelter

Number: 13

Total Hours: 96

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples and HIKERS, Yippie f, Jabber Wocky, Ludachris, Chef Ra, Crusty, Holly Hobbit f, Heidi Hobbit f, Bear Tracks, Van Gogh, Navigator

Individual Hours: 2x10 hrs (Carl & Ed) + 3x4 hrs (Chef Ra, Yippie, Jabber Wocky) + 8x8 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: Thank goodness for all the hiker help today. We (Ludachris and Chef Ra) carried in almost a full sheet of 3/4 plywood to replace a piece of floor in Laurel Fork shelter where a fire had been set months ago. That job was quickly done and we all gathered on the trail near Laurel Fork Falls. The river washed out the mortared walkway last November. Navigator, Heidi and Holly Hobbit, and Bear Tracks became skilled masons. Everyone carried rock and a wall was mortared into place. It was back filled with small rock and capped with large stepping stones on a sand base and finally mortared together. There is enough drainage through this walkway that hopefully frost will not cause damage. We also built a rock rubble field on the river side of the walkway to help protect it from the water force. We also improved several other difficult walking areas in this vicinity with a combination of large and small rock and mortar.



[Reviewing the project](#) (195KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Two hikers \(left\) and Carl Fritz \(right\)](#) (161KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Carrying rocks](#) (155KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Lifting a rock](#) (175KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*



[Laurel Falls](#) (191KB). *Photo courtesy of Bruce Cunningham.*