

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August 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, Aug 12-16](#)
- [Multiclub Meet; Camp Wesley Woods; Walland, TN; Sept 3-6](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [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				
Date	Description	Rating	Contact	Phone
July 31	F/B: Warrior☐s Path State Park Devil☐s Backbone and Fall Creek Loop Trails	C/4/C	Neil Dotson	423-245-6105
Aug 7	A.T.: Big Bald from Street Gap	B/3/B	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Aug 12-16	Konnarock: White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation	☐	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7903
Aug 20-22	S900M Backpack: Noland Divide to Smokemont (Smokies)	AA/2/C	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Sept 3-6	Multiclub Meet, Camp Wesley Woods, Walland, TN	☐	Dianne Gruber Pete James	865-977-0807
Sept 11	New Kiner Hollow between Bays Mtn. and Laurel Run Parks	C/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Sept 11	S900M: Elkmont to Tremont (Smokies)	A/2/C	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Sept 17-24	Backpack/Hike: Mt. Whitney and Death Valley, CA	AA/2/A	Larry Miller	423-239-6535

For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).

**Konnarock Crew
White Rocks Mountain A.T. Relocation
August 12-16, 2004**



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

We have one week of Konnarock Crew time remaining this year 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.

**Multiclub Meet 2004
Camp Wesley Woods; Walland, Tennessee
September 3-6, 2004**

Submitted by Steve Perri



The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club is hosting the annual Multiclub Meet in 2004 at Camp Wesley Woods. The weekend consists of hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and surrounding areas, as well as excursions, slide shows and a dance. There will be plenty of time to spend with friends both old and new.

Located about 30 miles south of Knoxville, Tennessee, Camp Wesley Woods is a beautiful 710-acre retreat 20 minutes from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Streams, cliffs, mountain forest and river frontage provide stimulating settings for outdoor recreation. Many trails diverge in the woods, leading the inquisitive from valley to ridge tops abundant with wildflowers and wildlife. Look around their website at www.campwesleywoods.com to learn more about Camp Wesley Woods and the outdoor experience that they enjoy offering to you.

There will be accommodations in cabins or in your own tents. Two cabins at Wesley Woods have been reserved with a capacity of 12 people each. Spaces in the cabin rent for \$11 per person per night. Tent camping is available at various sites around the

Wesley Woods compound. Tent sites cost \$5/person/night. Meals are served by the camp staff at Tipton Lodge. Wesley Woods does not provide supper on Fridays, but there are several restaurants within easy driving distance. Wesley Woods provides only cold meals on Sundays.

To download a registration form, visit the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club website at www.smhc.org. For more information about Multiclub 2004, contact Dianne Gruber or Pete James at 865-977-0807 or .

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Dana Bradley-Koogler Scott Davis Carolyn Dingus
David Dingus Ron Lapp

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

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).

Family/Beginner Hike: Warrior's Path State Park Devil's Backbone and Fall Creek Loop Trails; July 31, 2004

Leader: Neil Dotson (423-245-6105)

[Rating: C/4/C](#)

This hike, even if short (around 5 miles at most), does provide variety: cliffside views, a creekside stroll, and then open fields. We will begin with a scramble up the hill to the cliff (where you find yourself at the margin of the golf course!) and then there is a climb down (steeper, to my recollection) to Fall Creek. We can explore the Fall Creek Loop Trail as far as we think little feet can stand, given that we will have to retrace our steps if we don't spot a car at the end the loop trail (a possibility). We will meet at Warrior's Path parking lot near the swimming pool (just inside the gate off Hemlock/Fall Creek Roads) at 9:00 AM, to beat the summer heat. Please call for more information as the time approaches and so I can plan for numbers. Current plans are to be done by lunchtime (between noon and 1:00). Dress appropriately for a summer hike and do bring water and snacks.

Hike Notice: A.T. □ Big Bald from Street Gap; August 7, 2004

Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388)

[Rating: B/3/B](#)

A thunderstorm (not a good idea being in a high open field with lightning) switched the venue for my May 1st hike to Erwin, so this notice is the second attempt. Plan is for an in-and-out hike from Street Gap (3.6 miles each way) via Higgins Creek Road at Flag

Pond. While enjoying the great views from the top, I'll also be searching for GPS geocache waypoint GC40A9. E-mail () or call 239-0388 if any questions. Meet at the usual spot by McDonalds 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 cancelled in case of heavy rain).

Backpack: Smokies 900 miler □ Noland Divide to Smokemont; August 20-22

Leader: G. S. Luttrell (423-239-9854)

[Rating: AA/3/C](#)

For this three-day backpacking trip, we'll start at an elevation of 5929 feet on the Noland Divide Trail and end at Smokemont, elevation 2200 feet. On Friday, we'll hike the Noland Divide Trail, Pole Road Creek Trail, and Deep Creek Trail, for 7.8 miles to Bryson Place Campsite, #57, the site of Horace Kephart's last permanent camp. Saturday, we'll hike 8.7 miles to campsite #52, Newton Bald, using the following trails: Martin Gap, Sunkota Ridge, Thomas Divide, and Newton Bald. Sunday, we'll hike 4.7 miles down the Newton Bald Trail to Smokemont. Hopefully, clear weather will allow us to see some of the most scenic views in the Smokies, and the park plus North Carolina record yellow birch on Noland Divide. We'll leave from the usual Colonial Heights / McDonalds parking area early on Friday, August 20. Group size is limited to 8 persons, so you'll need to reserve your spot with the hike leader early. Contact the hike leader by phone or for more information and to reserve your spot.

William Noland: He and his wife Elizabeth were Cataloochee valley's first permanent settlers in 1839.

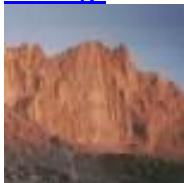
Pole Road: Either named for a corduroy raised road made from poles or logs as a track for log haulers; or, skid trails made from poles to allow logs to slide down hillsides without getting hung up.

Sunkota Ridge: From the Cherokee word for apple, since apple trees once grew on this ridge.

Backpack/Hike: Mount Whitney and Death Valley, CA; September 17-24, 2004

Leader: Larry Miller (423-239-6535,)

[Rating: AA/2/A](#)



Mt. Whitney is the most frequently climbed peak in the Sierra Nevada, if not in the U.S. It is the highest peak in the Lower 48. Interestingly it's less than 80 miles from Badwater in Death Valley, the country's lowest point (282 feet below sea level).

To minimize the environmental impact of so many climbers, the National Forest Service has established a permit process so that no more than 200 people are on the mountain at any one time (150 hikers and 50 campers maximum). The permits are issued in February on a lottery basis. We won the lottery and obtained camping permits for six people for

September 21-22, 2004.

Mt. Whitney can be most directly reached by a 10.7 mile (17.1 km) trail from Whitney Portal, 13 miles west of the town of Lone Pine on the east side of the Sierra. Ice axes and crampons are needed in spring and early summer, but technical climbing equipment is not usually necessary between mid-July and early October. The elevation at the trailhead is 8360' (2550 meters). The elevation at the summit is 14,494'.

We are planning a trip to visit the highest and lowest points in the country September 17-24. If you are interested in being one of the lucky six, please contact Larry Miller ().

Overnight Hike: Charit Creek Lodge (Big South Fork); 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](#) pictured at 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.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Hike Report: A.T. □ Cloudland to Grassy Ridge; June 12, 2004

Submitted by Vic Hasler

Down and up back down and up. From the Cloudland parking lot to Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge... and all the way back for estimated 8.5 miles total with almost couple thousand feet total elevation change over 6.5 hours. The original intent was to stage a car at Carvers Gap, but Patrica Riesenber and myself decided to just take one vehicle, since it was only two more miles (uphill!). She was also the only one that noticed I had the wrong shrub (azaleas) in the hike plan. The timing was a bit early for the rhododendron with just patches of purple and orange in bloom, but still a wonderful day to be in the Roan highlands. Two of the three geocaches were found. There is also an 8□ blowdown (easily slid over) between the Cloudland parking lot and the Roan Knob shelter side path.

Trip Report: Smokies 900 miler □ Twenty Mile Creek/Gregory Bald;

June 18-20, 2004

Submitted by G. S. Luttrell

Since August 2003, this was the third 900 miler trip going through Bryson City, NC, with the same routine: buy a sub sandwich in Bryson City, drive to the trailhead, have lunch,

and then start the hike. This time we started at Twenty Mile Ranger Station and hiked 2½ miles to the Dalton Branch Campsite, #95. There were several stream crossings along the way, and one of our group had a one point landing on the slippery rocks. Shortly after this event, we had a brief heavy shower, but the rain stopped as we reached the campsite. Originally, the plan was to camp at #92, Upper Flats Campsite, on the Long Hungry Ridge Trail; however, #95 was selected due to being described as an excellent campsite by the "Hiking Trails of the Smokies." But on the next day when we saw campsite #92, we questioned that judgment.

Saturday, we climbed the Wolf Ridge Trail to Gregory Bald, had [lunch](#) on top, and enjoyed the [flame azaleas](#) for 1½ hrs. Many of the blossoms were just past their prime, but most were right on target. Most of our group hiked down the Long Hungry Ridge Trail and Twenty Mile Loop Trail to complete a 13.9 mile loop to the campsite. Owen had previously hiked the Long Hungry Ridge Trail with a Chattanooga hiking group a few weeks earlier, so he hiked to Doe Knob and returned to camp via the A.T. Also, since he had previously hiked the trails we were planning to do Sunday and since he was going on a trip the following week, Owen hiked out and went home on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning, we broke camp and hiked back to Twenty Mile Ranger Station. Randall, Taylor, and Ted decided to return to Kingsport. Garry and the Super Amazons—Kim, Debi, and Jacquelyn—continued on with the planned hike up the Twenty Mile Trail to the A.T. and [Shuckstack fire tower](#) for some [gorgeous views](#). Then, we hiked down the A.T. to Fontana Dam to complete an 11.2 mile day. Hikers included Owen Holbrook, Randall Simpson, Taylor Pickard, Ted Cross, Kim Peters, Debi Berry, Jacquelyn Miller, and Garry Luttrell.

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



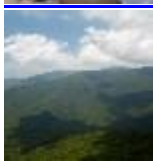
Most of the [group on Gregory Bald](#) (from left: Kim, Jacquelyn, Debi, Randall, Garry, Ted; behind Garry and Taylor) (115 kB).



[Flame azalea](#) on Gregory Bald (224 kB).



Garry and the "Super Amazons" on [Shuckstack fire tower](#) (from left: Debi, Kim, Garry, and Jacquelyn) (80 kB).



View of [Gregory Bald](#) from Shuckstack fire tower, with Wolf Ridge in the distance and Long Hungry Ridge nearest (90 kB).

Hike Report: Fun Fest Moonlight Hike; July 22, 2004

Submitted by Terry Oldfield

TEHCC was a cosponsor of the Bays Mountain Fun Fest Moonlight Hike again this year, providing volunteers to count hikers and to keep hikers on the trail. This 2.5-mile hike around Bays Mountain reservoir began at 8:00 PM and ended in the moonlight at about 10:00 PM. Our volunteers counted the hikers at the starting point and at the finish, and were posted at trail junctions along the route to keep hikers from making a wrong turn. A total of 514 hikers made the hike this year! (Last year's total was 482.) The volunteer with the closest guess to the total number of hikers was Virginia Arnold with a guess of 500. Virginia was awarded \$15 worth of merchandise from the Bays Mountain Park store. In addition to Virginia, volunteers included Steve Banks, Collins Chew, Margy Clark, Richard Colberg, Randal and Mark Dean, John Frey, Vic Hasler, Marcy Holland, Gregory Kramer, Freda Ko, JX Loh, Jan Mayo, Larry Miller, Terry Oldfield, Steve Perri, and Jeff and Jennifer Sirrola.

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



TEHCC [volunteers](#) for Fun Fest Moonlight Hike. Thumbnail shows our group leader, Terry Oldfield (116 kB).



Fun Fest [hikers](#) lined up on the Bays Mountain dam. (Photo courtesy of Steve Perri.) (173 kB).

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

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 29, 2004

Purpose: Cut weeds

Section: 14 - Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap

Location: Little Hump to Stan Murray Shelter

Number: 9

Total Hours: 76

People: Ken Buchanan, David Gibson, Robin Fought, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Simon Obdell BAMBOO, Jane Craven

Individual Hours: 2x4 hrs (Simon & Jane), 2x9 hrs (Peter & Bob), 5x10 hrs (David, Robin, Ken, Ed, Carl)

Summary: By starting at Overmountain Shelter and splitting into two crews, we were able to cut all the weeds, grass and eight-foot blackberries between Little Hump Mountain and Stan Murray Shelter. The interior of Stan Murray shelter is covered with graffiti and will need to be painted a dark color. We successfully slipped by Bob's Dairyland without stopping for ice cream.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: July 5, 2004

Purpose: Paint blazes, weed

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

Location: Abingdon Gap Shelter to Double Springs south of McQueens Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 24

People: Bill Smith, Steve Banks

Individual Hours: 2x12 hours

Summary: On a warm July day, we removed the metal blazes (12 in all), refreshed all the painted blazes, and picked up litter. We also cut weeds; due to the high rainfall and cooler temperatures, the weeds had grown a lot throughout the section since they were last cut on May 23. There are three small blowdowns south of McQueens Gap that we will get on a future trip. The waterbars also need cleaning on a future trip.

Name: Steve Falling

Date: July 5, 2004

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Greasy Creek Gap to Hughes Gap

Number: 3

Total Hours: 33

People: Steve Falling, Kim Peters, David Hite

Individual Hours: 3x11 hours

Summary: Painted blazes both directions, clipped bushes, cut weeds, cleaned water bars, removed a few small blowdowns. Trail and shelter in good condition--no blowdowns to cut.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: July 6, 2004

Purpose: Cut weeds and paint blazes

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

Location: Backbone Rock trail junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Number: 2

Total Hours: 24

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 12 hours apiece

Summary: We cut profuse weeds and annual growth and painted blazes, all of them southbound and most of them northbound. Saw one hiker who said the weeds were bad along the Elk River.

Name: David Gibson

Date: July 6, 2004

Purpose: Weeding

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Carvers to Hughes Gap

Number: 4

Total Hours: 28

People: Carl Fritz, Paul Benfield, Robin Fought, David Gibson

Individual Hours: 7 hours each

Summary: We got the weeds from Hughes Gap in about a mile and a half, and then drove around to Carvers Gap. We inspected the trail, trail south, for a future work project spreading gravel. The soil quality here is very poor and the un-graveled parts are eroding quickly. We then drove to the top of Roan and worked both sides down, removing weeds and briars. Finishing the day by removing a blowdown from the AT not far from the shelter.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: July 6, 2004

Purpose: Meet with USFS to Discuss A.T. Corridor Management Policy

Section: Other

Location: Unicoi, TN

Number: 2

Total Hours: 8

People: Steve Perri, Morgan Sommerville

Individual Hours: 4 hr each

Summary: Morgan and I met with Candace Allen, Terry Bowerman, Jim Stelick, Vern Maduxx, Delcie Dyer and Sarah Belcher via teleconference. The FS presented a plan to do restoration and thinning in the A.T. corridor near Bitter End to deal with the impacts from Pine Beetles. Thinning of trees in the corridor is a departure from the A.T. guide and prescription. The pine stand trail south of Issac's cemetery has been proposed to be converted to an open area to support a yellow-winged warbler habitat with potential views of Beech Mountain if managed as an open area. We discussed the motivation, philosophy and precedent of such action and came to a conclusion of get more feedback after more thought within the club and ATC for such new and perhaps precedent setting decisions. A field inspection was still advised for further clarification of viewshed impact and boundaries.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: July 11, 2004

Purpose: Annual Weed Cutting

Section: 6 - Turkey Pen Gap to Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north)

Location: Section 6

Number: 2

Total Hours: 18

People: Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

Individual Hours: 9 hr each

Summary: We had previously encountered problems accessing this section from Grindstaff Hollow Road, so we contacted the USFS to see if we could get permission from a local resident to access Hurley Hollow if the Grindstaff didn't dry out. As it turned out there was some rain the day before our trip so we contacted the local resident who gave us permission the week before to call just in case. Hurley Hollow was not entirely dry, but was much better since the drainage and sunlight allowed it to dry faster and it also has a much rockier base instead of mud. We used the USFS key to pass through the gate 1 mile from the parking area near the the top. Weeds were cut and rhododendron lopped.

We measured the distance from TN 91 to the end of the pavement as 1 mile and another 2 miles from the private road to the blue-blaze access point. It is 1.5 miles between the turn offs from TN 91 between Grindstaff Hollow and Hurley Hollow and 0.4 miles between the access points on the A.T. Steve and I were glad to get to this done finally and will not miss having to do this section for a while.

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

Date: July 12, 2004

Purpose: To install metal blazes and complete early summer maintenance

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

Location: Deep Gap south to Indian Grave Gap

Number: 5

Total Hours: 30

People: Mike Hupko, Malcolm Wolf, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, CB Willis

Individual Hours: 6 hours everyone

Summary: Installed 12 long metal fence posts with white blazes on the balds (Beauty Spot and Beauty Spot Gap). Finished weeding at Deep Gap, including the springs. Clipped laurel thickets for 1/2 miles north of Indian Grave Gap and removed several small trees, mostly dead from the selective forest burning.

Name: Jim Foster

Date: July 13, 2004

Purpose: Complete flagging of the relocation between Iron Mountain Gap and Unaka Mountain

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

Location: South of Low Gap to top of Unaka Mountain

Number: 3

Total Hours: 27

People: Ed Oliver, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster

Individual Hours: 3x9 hours all

Summary: We completed the flagging so that the biologist can check it out. If he's willing to go through the laurel hell that we went through, more power to him. It was my (Jim) first time flagging and Ed thought that I could use some experience with laurel. Thanks Ed.

Name: John Arwood

Date: July 17, 2004

Purpose: Weed Whacking

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

Location: Watauga Dam Road north to Vandeventer Shelter and back.

Number: 4

Total Hours: 44

People: Catherine Batts, Bill Stowell, Craig DeLoach, John Arwood

Individual Hours: 4x11 hours

Summary: Cleared weeds, from Watauga Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter; removed several blowdowns; removed trash from Vandeventer Shelter; scoped needs for future maintenance trips.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: July 17, 2004

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and cut weeds

Section: 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

Location: Trail alongside Jones Branch

Number: 1

Total Hours: 6

People: Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 6 hours

Summary: A very large blowdown had been reported at the head of Jones Branch, and no reports of regular maintenance had been received on this section so far in 2004, so I went in with an ax and hand saw to take a look. Several smaller blowdowns were cut and the dog hobble was trimmed □ no other weeds or briars. Near the point where the A.T. leaves the stream to climb steeply towards Curley Maple Gap there is a huge hemlock across the Trail, at least 3 feet in diameter. It is not terribly difficult for hikers to crawl over it. However, there is a yellow jackets' nest just on the other (high) side, which I found out the hard way. I called Dick Burow to see if he might be able to remove this tree but he is out of town for the next week. I'm going to give it a try, after some chemical warfare on the yellow jackets. The remainder of this section, above the big blowdown to Curley Maple Gap and from the raft company to Chestoa, needs at least an inspection trip and likely some maintenance.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: July 22, 2004

Purpose: Install signs to keep hikers away from Konnarock project

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Below Laurel Falls

Number: 2

Total Hours: 8

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 4 hours each

Summary: We installed signs at each trailhead and at the junctions of the A.T. and the high water blue-blazed trail past the shelter stating that the A.T. below the falls was closed and directing hikers around the blue-blazed trail. For the most part these signs worked and prevented the crew from having to take frequent breaks. Great idea by Ed Oliver. We clipped back some weeds while we were at it.