

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November 2004

www.tehcc.org

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

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Date	Description	Rating	Contact	Phone
Nov 5	Fall Dinner Meeting □ Tribute to Frank Oglesby, Sr.	Fun	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Dec 4	Smokies 900 Miler: Cades Cove to the Wye (** NEW DATE **)	A/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Dec 4	U.S. 58 to Whitetop Mountain	A/2/B	Mary Ellen Ress	423-279-2786

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

TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting November 5, 2004

- When:** Friday, November 5th, 2004
- Where:** Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
- Agenda:** 6:00 pm Social, 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:15 pm Program
- Program:** A Tribute to Frank Oglesby, Sr. □ Founder of TEHCC
See [article](#) in October newsletter..
- Social:** Soft drinks \$0.50, beer or wine for \$1
- Dinner Menu:** Bar-B-Q Sandwiches (Pork or Chicken), Beans, Slaw and Dessert

For the Record □ 2004 Konnarock Crew

In 2004, we had another very productive year of Appalachian Trail work with the Konnarock Crew. With four weeks of Crew time we were able to construct and open parts of the White Rocks Mountain Relocation and rehabilitate some difficult sections near Laurel Falls. Most importantly, both Club and Crew volunteers worked safely. We had totals of 27 people, 79 person-days, and 676 hours of volunteer support for the Konnarock Crew. This was great support, although it was the first time since 1999 that we did not have over 1000 hours of volunteer support for Konnarock projects. The difficulty of access to White Rocks Mountain and the tight confines in Laurel Fork Gorge, where we did not want a large number of volunteers to come out, were among the factors contributing to the lower turnout. However, we remain among the strongest supporting clubs for the Konnarock Crew. This year we had seven volunteers work at least five days with the Crew and thus earn the highly coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Those volunteers were Bob Peoples, leading the way with 13 days; Jim Foster, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, and Bill Stowell. We salute those volunteers and the many others who helped make 2004 another successful year with the Konnarock Crew!

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Kenneth Goforth

Michael Spence

Karen Stewart

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](#).

Overnight Hike: Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains); July 9-10, 2005

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)

Rating: B/3/B (Moderate)

See separate [article](#) above.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Hike Report: Smokies 900 Miler, Old Settler's Trail; October 15□17,2004

Submitted by G. S. Luttrell

Once again, the forecasted heavy rains didn't materialize, and we were left with cool, clear hiking conditions ... just a few drops of rain. As with many 900 milers, we stopped for waffles in Newport. Then we proceeded to spot a car in Cosby, and started hiking at the trailhead in Greenbriar by 10:30 A.M. With this early start and with only 6.6 miles to hike, we had plenty of time to pause and check out the remnants, such as the [old chimney](#) and [corn crib or hog pen](#) near Timothy Creek. For once, the [Hennessy Hammocks](#) outnumbered tents 3 to 1. This was the weekend for a hammock cold weather test, with the

lowest temperature of 37°F on Saturday night. All three testers slept warm using good pads and cold-weather sleeping bags. On Saturday, we saw more interesting remnants including one of the [best preserved chimneys](#) near Ramsey Creek, huge [rock wall](#) near Webb Creek, and the [Tyson McCarter barn](#) built around 1876. On Sunday—since much of the Gabes Mountain Trail was above 3,000 ft. elevation—occasionally there was a good [view](#) to the north and east. One of the highlights on Sunday was [Hen Wallow Falls](#). The hikers included Garry Luttrell, Randall Simpson, Kim Peters, and James Foster (see [photo](#) at Settler's Campsite, #33).

Click on small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell.



[Old chimney](#) near Timothy Creek (128 kB).



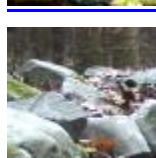
[Corn crib or hog pen](#) near Timothy Creek (207 kB).



[Hennessy Hammocks](#) belonging to Garry, Kim and Randall (first-time user) (223 kB).



[Best preserved chimney](#) near Ramsey Creek (116 kB).



Five-foot tall, wide [rock wall](#) near Webb Creek (192 kB).



[Tyson McCarter barn](#) built around 1876 (192 kB).



[View](#) to northeast from Gabes Mountain Trail (95 kB).



[Kim Peters](#) at Hen Wallow Falls (92 kb).



[Garry Luttrell](#) at Hen Wallow Falls (90 kb).



Garry Luttrell, Randall Simpson, Kim Peters and James Foster at [Old Settler's Campsite #33](#) (197 kB).

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

Name: Jim Mann

Date: September 6, 2004

Purpose: Cut grass in fields on relocation on Osborne farm

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

Location: My adopted section from TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter

Number: 2

Total Hours: 10

People: Jim Mann, Patricia Mann

Individual Hours: 5 hours each

Summary: On Labor Day, my wife and I went up to cut a trail through the high grass on the Osborne farm. We had been up on two earlier trips; got ran off by a thunderstorm once and weed eater overheated on the other trip. Someone had mowed most of the fields when we were there on an earlier trip and I had expected the rest of the grass to be mowed. Was I ever WRONG! The part where the trail crosses the open fields had not been cut and the grass was waist high. I had planned to only cut weeds in the woods. After 5 hours of cutting, we ran out of gas for the weed eater. I was going to return the next weekend, but got an e-mail from Carl the next day saying that he and another crew had finished the job.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 14, 2004

Purpose: Check storm damage

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Laurel Fork Gorge

Number: 1

Total Hours: 4

People: Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 4 hours (Bob Peoples)

Summary: Checked rock crib OK. Some damage on approaches to be fixed in next few weeks. Trail is open.

Name: Darrol Nickels

Date: September 21, 2004

Purpose: Check on young apple trees in orchard near Weedy Gap

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Iron Mountain Gap to Orchard near Weedy Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 11

People: Darrol Nickels and John Thompson

Individual Hours: 5 hrs (Darrol) + 6 hrs (John)

Summary: In early spring, the Hiking Club with the assistance of the Forest Service set out 14 young, newly grafted, apple trees in the orchard near Weedy Gap. John and I set out from Iron Mountain Gap on Tuesday afternoon to check on the young trees. We did not quite make it. Right away we started clearing away the small tree tops which Ivan the Terrible had deposited on the trail. Farther up the trail were larger blowdowns which will require a chain saw for removal. Just below the new relocation is a 10 inch black cherry. There are two serious tree tops on the new relocation. We spent the whole afternoon clearing brush so I had time to check on only three of the apple trees, and found them to be healthy. The orchard is covered in knee-deep fescue, but the grass inside the little tree's protective wire cages is four feet tall. The highlight of the day was the view from the vista. We could see clearly Chimney Top and Fodderstock Mountains to the northwest with Clinch in the haze beyond.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: September 22, 2004

Purpose: Review proposed Randall Campbell acquisition by USFS

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

Location: Campbell Hollow Road

Number: 2

Total Hours: 12

People: Darrol Nickels and Ray Hunt

Individual Hours: Ray Hunt and Darrol Nickels, 6 hr ea

Summary: Darrol Nickels and Ray Hunt met with the USFS to review a narrow strip of property near the Augusta Campbell Property acquired a few yrs ago. This new piece is very close to the A.T. and adjoins the corridor for about 250 ft. It was recommended that ATC Land Trust acquire, then transfer to USFS. They also reviewed all other priority tracts in the USFS system along the A.T.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 22, 2004

Purpose: Check storm damage

Section: 13 - U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain

Location: 19E to Doll Flats

Number: 2

Total Hours: 8

People: Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples

Individual Hours: 4 hours (everyone)

Summary: Walked in from 19E to check on large landslide found. Will need major club effort.

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

Date: September 25, 2004

Purpose: To install water bars and steps on eroded trail, and clear blowdowns

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

Location: Section 17 blowdowns and water bars; Section 18 steps south of Beauty Spot

Number: 16

Total Hours: 128

People: *Old Timer Hiking Club:* Bob Miller, Dick Lewis, Waymon Mumpower, Malcolm Wolf, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko, C. B. Willis; ETSU: Nathan West; TEHCC: Paul Benefield, Daryl Nichols, Bob Peoples, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Jeff Siirola, Bill Murdoch.

Individual Hours: 8 hours everybody

Summary: Bruce and Mary Cunningham and Malcolm Wolf cleared blowdowns and debris from recent hurricanes from Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter. Other members of the work crew installed 15 water bars and one dip between Beauty Spot and the FS Road 230 crossing, on badly eroded trail. One crew, led by Bob Peoples, constructed steps off the trail to the FS road and placed large flat rocks in the ditch alongside the road to counter erosion. We are proud of this fine badly-needed addition to the trail. The crew had cut a few other poles for more water bars which the Old Timers will install later. We very much appreciate the professional help we received from the TEHCC members. They not only helped install the water bars and steps but Ed Oliver presented a workshop on proper water bar construction before we started. Our maintenance efforts should improve due to the opportunity the Old Timers had in working with TEHCC. We do sincerely appreciate them. The ETSU student, Nathan West, is a hard worker and we learned later that he went back and personally installed the remaining water bars.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: September 25, 2004

Purpose: Blowdown clearing, blazing, lopping, and weed cutting

Section: 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

Location: Martins Creek Trail junction to south of Nolichucky Expeditions

Number: 3

Total Hours: 30

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach and Bill Stowell

Individual Hours: 10 hours each

Summary: Bill and Craig's section from Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap was in good shape□ only did blazing and lopping. When we passed the shelter we encountered many more blowdowns□ some recent. Even the sections cleared in August along Jones Branch had fresh blowdowns. We cleared them all. Trail is now totally cleared, weeded, and lopped from Indian Grave Gap to the river. The first mile north of the river needs to have blazes painted.

Name: John Arwood

Date: September 26, 2004

Purpose: Scout section for possible blowdowns.

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

Location: Watauga Dam Road north to Wilderness boundary

Number: 2

Total Hours: 22

People: Catherine Batts, John Arwood

Individual Hours: 2x11 hours

Summary: Removed countless small branches, five patches of multiple blowdowns and four good-sized trees from trail. Moved a live hornets nest that had blown down off of the trail. Picked up trash along the way. This section was free of obstructions when we left.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 26, 2004

Purpose: Finish installing water bars

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

Location: Just south of Beauty Spot

Number: 1

Total Hours: 6

People: Nathan West

Individual Hours: 6 hours (Nathan West)

Summary: Finished installing water bars on A.T. just south of Beauty Spot.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 27, 2004

Purpose: Tender-loving-care for new apple trees

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Old orchard north of Iron Mountain Gap

Number: 2

Total Hours: 10

People: Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 5 hours (everyone)

Summary: Cleared grass and weeds from around 13 new apple trees and cut sprouts from below grafts. Twelve of the new trees seemed to be doing OK; one had grown about 3 feet.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 29, 2004

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and massive rock, dirt, and tree landslides

Section: 13 - U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain

Location: 19E to Doll Flats

Number: 5

Total Hours: 50

People: Bruce Cunningham, Peter King, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 10 hours (everyone)

Summary: WOW! WOW! WOW! The reports of massive landslides were true!!! The big one (below the rock ledges) was about 100' up and 100' down from trail—trees, dirt, rocks all scrambled together—impassable!!!—took us all morning to cut new trail thru the mess!!! (It's a shame, but we had no camera!!!) The second mess was much smaller and further down the hill—approximately 45 minutes to clean up. We also cut 9 mid-sized blowdowns and restructured about 20' of trail and cleaned out all the waterbars. All-in-all a great day!!!

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: September 29, 2004

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Section: 14 - Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap

Location: Carvers Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

Number: 1

Total Hours: 8

People: David Ramsey

Individual Hours: 8 hours

Summary: David cleared seven blowdowns, some of them large, between Grassy Ridge and Stan Murray Shelter. Carvers Gap to the shelter is clear. Some gravel washed off the trail near Carvers Gap; David will repair this.

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

Date: September 29, 2004

Purpose: To clear the trail due to recent hurricanes.

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

Location: Between Low Gap and Switchback at old A.T. trail to FS 230

Number: 9

Total Hours: 72

People: Mike Hupko, C. B. Willis, Sandra Perry, Waymon Mumpower, Gil Derouen, Marsha Hupko, Dave McMillin, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

Individual Hours: 8 hours each

Summary: Found the worst tangle of blowdowns any of us had ever seen. The trail was tangled with downed trees for probably 200 feet. There were several trees of up to 46"

circumference or 28" diameter. There were three deep root holes, one of 6' or more. We got most of this cleared including rehab of trail where the logs hit, and filling in the root holes. We aren't finished. We didn't have the equipment or expertise to remove the largest blowdown. Mike Hupko will talk with TEHCC about this problem and in the meantime, the trail is easily passable. We also checked and worked the trail to Cherry Gap removing several small blowdowns. We left a medium-sized tree across the trail since our chain saws had been sent back the other way. We will make another trip soon to take out this tree as well as inspecting today's work to see if we missed anything. We reworked the spring at Cherry Gap shelter to improve the flow. We were surprised and happy to hear from Bob Peoples that ETSU student Nathan West had carried the poles and installed the final three water bars above the A.T. Crossing of FS road 230 where we worked last Saturday. What a responsible and diligent worker this young man is!

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: October 2, 2004

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

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

Location: McQueens Gap to Backbone Rock Trail

Number: 2

Total Hours: 22

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 11 hours each

Summary: We found plenty of blowdowns to clear along this section—estimated 25. We cut three large ones between McQueens Gap and the shelter in addition to our section. Hikers reported several more between Backbone Rock Trail and Damascus.

Name: Kim Peters

Date: October 3, 2004

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

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

Location: 19E to top of Bishops Hollow

Number: 2

Total Hours: 7

People: Kim Peters, Kat Johnson

Individual Hours: 7 hrs each

Summary: Walked from 19E north as far as time would allow, which was only to the top of Bishop's Hollow, to check for blowdowns from the recent storms. Cut three blowdowns and removed numerous branches from the trail. Talked to a south bounder about trail conditions and he said he remembered some blowdowns near Buck Mountain Road. I was going to plan on a trip there the next weekend, but I heard through the grapevine that the Tuesday group cleared my section. I'm sure glad I didn't plan a trip! Thanks for letting me know you worked on my section guys.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: October 5, 2004

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

Location: Walnut Mountain Rd. to 19E

Number: 9

Total Hours: 70

People: Mike Alley, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Garry Luttrell, Darroll Nickels

Individual Hours: 6 hrs (Paul) + 8x8 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: A beautiful fall day to be cutting blowdowns. We cut about 45 blowdowns. Many were of six inch size laying across trail at knee height. However, several large tangles were encountered. The worst were trail south of Buck Mountain Road and then along Elk River. During the last hurricane, the river was at least six feet over the trail along the entire river. The river washed a number of 14 inch diameter trees, some with their root balls down, across the open area and deposited some on the trail. Blazing needs to be improved in field areas above and at Bishop's Hollow. Old blazes on fence posts are no longer visible. Blazing on everything from 19E to Walnut Mountain Road needs to be checked, especially in spring, because we seemed to cut out a lot of trees with blazes on them.

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

Date: October 6, 2004

Purpose: To clear hurricane damage

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

Location: Between switchback above Low Gap north to Cherry Gap

Number: 4

Total Hours: 24

People: Mike Hupko, Malcolm Wolf, Daryl Lloyd, C. B. Willis

Individual Hours: 6 hours for everybody

Summary: Rehabilitated 15' of trail, cleared brush we had left last week, cleaned water bars where needed and removed three 15" diameter blowdowns. The very large (28") diameter tree across the trail just north of Low Gap is still there, waiting for the Forest Service. One can squeeze under so removal isn't crucial at this time. As far as we know, our trail is clear from Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap. A through-hiker promised to send an e-mail with the condition of the trail from Cherry Gap to the Nolichucky. Will report any pertinent info needed by TEHCC when we get it.

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: October 9, 2004

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and lopped briars on A.T.

Section: 1 - Damascus to Backbone Rock trail junction

Location: 4.5 miles of trail just south of Damascus, VA

Number: 2

Total Hours: 18

People: Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Individual Hours: 9 hours each

Summary: During this trip we cleared the trail of blowdowns caused by the recent hurricanes. We found only six downed trees in this 4.5 mile section, and cleared all but one using a bow saw. The one we left is 14 inches in diameter and will require a chainsaw. In addition to it's size, it looks like it could slide or roll when cut due to the steepness of the terrain. This one will require some careful planning to cut safely. The tree is readily

stepped over, so will not be a problem for south-bound thru hikers. It is only 30 minutes in from the Damascus trail head on the old forest road and I plan on going back to cut it next weekend.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: October 9, 2004

Purpose: Repair trail in Laurel Fork Gorge

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Trail north of Laurel Falls and trail south of Koonford Bridge

Number: 22

Total Hours: 161

People: CLUB Mike Hupko, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples and Kim Peters; ETSU Heather Clark; LEES MCRAE John Havlik; ASU Lucy Anderson, Bernadette Combs, Jenny Flanery, Zach Greene, Dave Hutchison, Heather Kersey, Sam Kirkpatrick, Melanie Klaus, Ken Langdon, B. J. Lewis, Kristine Maxwell, Sarah Roth, Eva Tune and Tessa Talarico; HIKERS Jesse Cromwell, "Rally" and "Wind Sock"

Individual Hours: 4hrs (Wind Sock) + 2x5hrs (Bob and Jesse) + 21x7hrs (everyone else)

Summary: The lower leg of switchback installed a year ago just south of Koonford bridge had become mucky. Geotextile was installed. A sandbar in the river was mined and used as fill over the geotextile. Recent floods from the hurricanes washed the surface of the trail just north of Laurel Falls. This is the section we had cribbed earlier this year and only partially concreted. The loose small rocks and sand were washed away. We filled in about 20 feet of trail with small rocks and sand. Then we concreted the surface allowing some drain holes for water to penetrate and drain back to river. With the help of these volunteer students mostly from Appalachian State University, another heavily used trail has been improved. With this outing the Club has now distributed over 1030 Hiker-Volunteer patches in last four years to non-Club members who have worked on the trail for at least a day.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: October 14-16, 2004

Purpose: Relocate trail to eliminate steep sections

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

Location: About 1.5 to 2.5 mile trail south of Bitter End

Number: 30

Total Hours: 466

People: ASU Walton Andrews, Virginia Bates, Lauren Bomba, Seth Mosef Katz, Todd Mortensen, Katie Thomson, Nathaniel Choy, Ray Douglas "Otto", Callie Kraus, Stephen Lee, Ryan Leinbach, Matt Parsons, James Pierce, William Tate; WARREN WILSON Austin Gerber, Ben Herring, Ram Mandelkorn, Ryan Tarbell; HIKERS Ray Oliver, Kerry S Clark "Mule Team", "Baltimore Jack"; TEHCC Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Darroll Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples

Individual Hours: Details sent separately

Summary: Thanks go to the student organizers of this event. Katie Thomson brought five Appalachian State University students and an instructor for three days. "Otto" brought eight more ASU students for a day. And Ben Herring brought four Warren Wilson students for

two days. In these three days, we dug and opened three new relocations! We installed about eight steps to complete these relocations. One relocation was the one that Hard Core had started in May. We enjoyed the presence of over a foot of duff on that sidehill. The enthusiasm of these students is always catching. Bob, Pat, "Baltimore Jack" and the Club members provided three evening meals at Kincora Hostel.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: October 17, 2004

Purpose: Clear trail of small blowdowns and branches

Section: 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

Location: Entire section 10

Number: 4

Total Hours: 28

People: Austin Gerber, Ben Herring, Ram Mandelkorn, Ryan Tarbell

Individual Hours: 4x7 hrs (everyone)

Summary: These Warren Wilson students cleaned Laurel Fork Gorge with loppers and bow saws before heading back to Asheville.

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

Date: October 18, 2004

Purpose: To install needed water diversion

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

Location: Between Low Gap and Beauty Spot Gap

Number: 4

Total Hours: 28

People: Mike Hupko, Waymon Mumpower, Dave McMillan, C. B. Willis

Individual Hours: 7 hours for everybody

Summary: Dug 8 dips to divert water. Also installed one rock water bar and dug a ditch to drain a bog.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: October 20, 2004

Purpose: Cut blowdowns, clear waterbars

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

Location: McQueens Gap to U.S. 421

Number: 2

Total Hours: 16

People: Carl Fritz, Steve Banks

Individual Hours: 2x8 hours

Summary: On a foggy and drizzly day, we removed all the blowdowns (about 12) and cleared the waterbars between McQueens Gap and U.S. 421.