

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

December 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
Dec 4	Smokies 900 Miler: Cades Cove to the Wye (** NEW DATE **)	A/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Dec 18	U.S. 58 to Whitetop Mountain (** NEW DATE **)	A/2/B	Mary Ellen Ress	423-349-6536

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

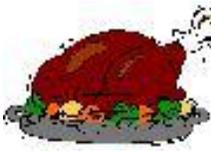
Happy Holidays!!!

Call for Hikes

Submitted by Neil Dotson (423-323-3493,)

There are many reasons to prefer winter months for hiking: less sweat, great views made possible by the bare branches and lower humidity, and the possibility of that particular beauty that comes with a snowfall. And, it's not necessarily *that* cold. We are putting together the hiking schedule for the first quarter of 2005, and are looking for hikes and people to lead them. If you are interested, please contact me, telling me what hike you would like to lead, when, and the difficulty rating of the hike. If that last item is difficult, I will be glad to help as I would with ideas for where to hike. I need responses by **Friday, December 10**. The earlier the better, of course, to work out scheduling conflicts.

TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting



Reported by Vic Hasler, Steve Perri, Joe DeLoach and Steve Wilson

The annual Fall Dinner Meeting was held November 5, 2004, at the Eastman Lodge. Roughly 53 people attended, including USFS, ATC and ATPO VIPs Dave Startzell (ATC Executive Director), Pam Underhill (ATPO Park Manager for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), Karen Kinney (ATC Development Director), Mari Omland (ATC Conservation Director), Julie Judkins (Programs and Office Manager for ATC's Asheville Office) and Pete Irvine (USDA Forest Service Appalachian Trail Coordinator). The Oglesby family was represented by Betsy, Frank Jr. and Denise, and Alma Vaughn. Dinner was catered by Broad Street Bar-B-Q. Joe DeLoach presented Konnarock "Got Mud?" shirts to the seven hardworking volunteers for this year's effort. Recipients of T-shirts were Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples and Bill Stowell. Door prizes were drawn for a gift certificate to Mahoney's, TEHCC T-shirt, winter hiking goggles, and a ground cloth. Steve Perri then presented the ATPO awards to the large group (see picture). Finally, Richard Colberg was recognized for his Herculean efforts as membership database coordinator and newsletter editor/publisher. The evening programs were an excellent tribute to Frank Oglesby Sr., founder of TEHCC, provided by Steve Perri; and an overview of ATC reorganization presented by Dave Startzell.



TEHCC Seeking Newsletter Co-Editors



Submitted by Richard Colberg

Are you interested in learning more about the Internet, including how to publish material on a web site? TEHCC is seeking one to two people to co-edit the newsletter on our web site. The co-editors generally do *not* write articles, but

edit and format articles for the newsletter. Responsibilities include:

- Receiving articles submitted by TEHCC members and other people
- Editing and formatting (on the web site) articles for the newsletter
- Formatting photos for the newsletter
- "Publishing" the newsletter to the TEHCC web site

The TEHCC membership coordinator helps distribute the newsletter.

Ideally, we are seeking a pair of co-editors to share the work by alternating months. The co-editors must be Eastman employees since the "draft" version of the TEHCC web site is kept on an Eastman computer. No prior web publishing skills are needed. We will gladly work with you to teach you how to edit and publish on the web. If you are interested, please contact Vic Hasler () or Richard Colberg ().

Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees

Submitted by Richard Colberg

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send Richard Colberg () an e-mail note with your home e-mail address (if you have e-mail at home) as well as your home street address. We prefer to send the newsletter via e-mail to save us time and money, and so you can receive it (and any late hike notices) in a more timely manner. However, we would also like your street address so we can still reach you if your e-mail address changes. Thanks.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Carol Dunham	David Dunham	Robert L. Harvey	Elinor LeClaire
Dan Propst	Joy Propst	Jim Rice	April Winingar

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](#).

Hike Notice: Smokies 900 Miler, Cades Cove to the Wye; December 4, 2004

Leader: Garry S. Luttrell (423-239-9854,)

Rating: A/3/B

We'll start the hike near the beginning of the one-way Cades Cove Loop Road, on the Rich Mountain Loop Trail, and then hike the following trails to the "Wye": Crooked Arm, Scott Mountain, and Chestnut Top, for a total distance of 10.6 miles. The route begins at an elevation of 1900 ft. in Cades Cove and quickly ascends to an elevation of 3400 ft. on the Crooked Arm Trail. With the leaves off the trees, there'll be great views of Cades Cove, Thunderhead Mountain and Townsend Valley. You'll need to contact the hike leader to reserve a spot, and to allow communication if the hike is rescheduled to December 11th due to weather conditions or a possible conflict for the hike leader. Bring clothes for winter conditions on exposed ridges, and lunch and water.

Crooked Arm: To mountain folks, arm means ridge or spur of a ridge. This arm is very crooked and resembles an elbow.

Scott Mountain: Named for the George Scott family, who farmed in the Abrams Creek area.

**A.T. Hike: Highway 58 at Summit Cut to Buzzard Rock and Whitetop Mountain Road;
December 18, 2004**

Leader: Mary Ellen Ress (423-349-6536,)

Rating: A/2.5/B

We'll meet in Colonial Heights in the Ingle's parking lot at 8 AM. (The area where we usually meet is occupied by a tree lot, so we'll gather just behind there.) This hike climbs just over 2000 feet in 4.5 miles and offers some great views from Buzzard Rock. Bring the usual water, food, appropriate clothing. Call hike leader if you have any questions or want an alternate meeting place.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Hike Report: Doe River Gorge, October 23, 2004

Submitted by Neil Dotson

We were glad to have a day as close to perfect for this hike as one could ask for. The colors were at their peak, the air was clear, and the rain didn't appear until later in the afternoon. We traveled through the two tunnels and up the gorge past where the train currently stops, and then back the same route. Doing this route on foot rather than in the train allows for a more leisurely appreciation of just how dramatic this gorge is—the rocks overhead dripping with water, cliffs across the gorge and, in places, the sheer drops to the Doe River below just beside the tracks. Apart from the strict rules that must be enforced for the kids owing to the sheer drops, this is a great hike for beginners and families: a level grade, a beautiful place and the train tracks, which is great for children who love all things related to trains. No trains traveled up the tracks this day, of course, but the kids managed anyway, enjoying several games of leaf-catching when a breeze would blow some of the colors loose from the brown branches. On the ground among the fallen leaves, we saw teaberry, bleeding heart, galax and others as we hiked up the gorge. Enjoying this hike, and a good lunch in Johnson City after the hike, were the Dotson family (Neil, Patricia, Elizabeth, Daniel and, wondering why his brother and sister think hiking is so difficult, Joseph) and the Ekart family (Michael, Susan, Erin, Eric, Bradley and Daniel, all on foot).



Hike Report: Charit Creek Lodge (Big South Fork); October 23-24, 2004 Submitted by Steve Falling

The Hiking Club had reservations for 12 overnight visitors at Charit Creek Lodge in the beautiful [Big South Fork](#) National River and Recreation Area. Due to greater interest in this trip, we increased the number to 15. This park is on the Kentucky-Tennessee border north of Knoxville. The trip was timed to enjoy the autumn foliage and cooler temperatures. We took the short (0.8 mile) trail from the car to the lodge, checked in then explored the area. Our 5-6 mile day hike took us past several interesting [geological formations](#) including massive [Twin Arches](#). Our group had two large rooms in the old log lodge (part of which was built in 1817). Supper and breakfast were served family style in the dining hall. On Sunday morning, we hiked back to the cars and pursued other activities. A few of us drove to Sterns, KY to ride the [Big South Fork Scenic Railway](#) back into the park. The train stopped at two old coal mining towns to visit the historical exhibits. The [hikers](#) were Steve and Julie Falling, Tim and Austin Bridges, Matt and Timothy Barker, Mark and Andrew Cox, Greg and Katy Neal, Kevin, Jonathan and Emily Shipp, and John and Maria Evans.

Click on small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Steve Falling.



The [Big South Fork](#) of the Cumberland River and its tributaries pass through 90 miles of scenic gorges and valleys (188 kB).



[North Tw in Arch](#) is 90 ft. wide by 70 ft. high! (101KB).



[Interesting geology](#) (and biology) on the Jake's Place hike (132 kB).



[Matt Barker](#) carries his son Timothy across Charit Creek (102 kB).



[John and Maria Evans](#). Note John's back and belly packs (205 kB).



Dating back to 1902, Barthell was the first of 18 [mining camps](#) belonging to the Stearns Coal and Lumber Co. (198 kB).



[Charit Creek Hikers](#) (178kb). *



[Swinging bridge](#) and club hikers near the lodge (141 kB).

* Left-to-Right: Mark Cox; John Evans; Greg Neal; Timothy Barker; Kevin, Jonathan and Emily Shipp; Andrew Cox; Katy Neal; Austin Bridges; Matt Barker; Maria Evans; Tim Bridges; Julie and Steve Falling.

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

Name: John Thompson

Date: October 23, 2004

Purpose: Semiannual Inspection and Maintenance

Section: 9 - U.S. 321 to Hampton trailhead

Location: Pond Mountain □ Watauga Lake to Pond Flats

Number: 2

Total Hours: 20

People: John Thompson and Darrol Nickels

Individual Hours: 10 hrs each

Summary: Darrol Nickels was an effective substitute for ailing co-adopter Frank Williams. This trail section is in good condition; litter and mostly weed-free, containing only one new large tree trunk laying partially on the trail length-wise. Someone had cut away a small tree trunk near the lake (USFS?). A few blazes should be freshened next year. Evidently hurricane damage was not significant here.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: November 3, 2004

Purpose: Repair shelter and bridge

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

Location: Bridge just south of 19E and Apple House Shelter

Number: 4

Total Hours: 31

People: Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 7 hrs (Bob) + 3x8 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: Board supporting entrance steps into Apple House Shelter had rotted and steps were detached from shelter. We flanged a 2x6x6' treated board to the steps and then fastened it to the shelter. On a later trip, we will put a trimmed 1x6 over the joint to make a smooth and water resistant surface.

The hurricanes washed the creek badly near 19E. The two wire cages full of several tons of rocks washed out into the center of the stream. After hours of work with pick matics, rock bars and a farmer's jack, we were able to remove the cages. This opened up the stream significantly. We cut eight-foot lengths of locusts from old bridge timbers nearby. On a future trip, we will build a pier under the bridge on the south side of the stream to reduce future erosion and help support the bridge.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: November 6, 2004

Purpose: Meeting of the Southern Regional Planning Partnership Committee

Section: Other

Location: Asheville, NC

Number: 3

Total Hours: 30

People: Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Individual Hours: 10 hr ea

Summary: The three of us attended the newly formed partnership planning committee, which is replacing the regional management committee under the new structure of ATC. We spent the day discussing the role and structure of the group, the trail stewardship council and the board of directors. We also saw an overview of progress on steps being taken with consultants advising on potential new names for ATC (like Appalachian Trail Conservancy), tag lines and logos. The committee will most likely meet twice a year to deal with regional matters more closely aligned with agency partners in the field. Next meeting will be the March meeting of the size of past SRMC's, with agenda and facilitation being carried out by this new group.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: November 9, 2004

Purpose: Review potential forest management plans in A.T. corridor

Section: 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Location: Mostly near Bitter End and some near White Rocks

Number: 3

Total Hours: 24

People: Bruce Cunningham, Matt Davis, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 3x8 hrs (everyone)

Summary: Bruce and Ed of our club, Matt Davis of ATC, and several U.S. Forest Service personnel did a field trip for discussing several potential alternatives for managing several forest areas near the trail. These areas are primarily stands of white pines that were originally set out as seedlings. Some of these trees were killed in the latest beetle infestation. The USFS is considering several alternatives to encourage a mixed hardwood forest so these areas are not subject to complete killing by the next beetle problem. The

proposals involve some selective harvesting of the pines and allowing small oaks to compete. Other oak and chestnut seedlings could be planted. No cutting would be done within 150 feet of the trail and no skid roads would be seen from the trail or cross trail. This could set a precedent for managing forest in the A.T. corridor. These alternatives will be discussed at an A.T. Committee meeting before club recommendations are made.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: November 9, 2004

Purpose: Repair bridge

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

Location: Several hundred feet trail south of 19E

Number: 6

Total Hours: 60

People: Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 2x7 hrs (Paul & Bob) + 4x8 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: The torrents from the hurricanes significantly eroded the south end bank under the bridge. We used some 16 inch diameter locust logs. We buried two logs about four feet in the ground and four feet from the edge of the bank in a "V" with the apex under the bridge. We placed another log across them and perpendicular to the bridge. As we tried to lift one side of the bridge to level it and get a wedge between it and the log, the end of the bridge sank onto the new support log. So our work was completed in the nick of time. We used 40-inch long, 3/4-inch diameter rebar; fence T-posts; and long spikes to fasten everything to the ground and to each other. Jim has become our steel driving man since he drove those rebar through rock. Then we used all the rock we removed last week from the washed out cages to build a crib wall on the stream side of the logs. We also tacked down metal lathe on the bridge to improve traction. We are hoping this bridge will now last 50 years!

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: November 9, 2004

Purpose: Review proposed Forest Service work near A.T.

Section: Other

Location: North and south of Bitter End road crossing

Number: 2

Total Hours: 16

People: Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 2x8 hours (everyone)

Summary: Reviewed USFS proposals for timbering and environmental improvement. Proposals are being forwarded to Morgan and will be on next agenda for TEHCC meeting to be set by Steve Perri.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: November 12, 2004

Purpose: Determine Weed Cutting Plan to Avoid Rare Plants

Section: Other

Location: Sections 13, 14 and 15

Number: 3

Total Hours: 13

People: Julie Judkins, Ed Oliver, Morgan Sommerville

Individual Hours: 7 hrs (Ed) + 2x3 hrs (Julie & Morgan)

Summary: Ed Oliver and ATC representatives □ Morgan Sommerville and Julie Judkins □ met with Gary Kauffman (USFS botanist), Dave Danley (Appalachian RD botanist) and Carolyn Wells (USFS botanist), Kent Schwarzkopf (National Park Service) and Jamey Donaldson. Purpose was to discuss Jamey's recent report on rare plants near the A.T., mostly in Roan Highlands. Practical methods to do weed cutting were established and will be detailed in a report.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: November 16, 2004

Purpose: Trail improvement where steep and sloughing

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

Location: About 1.5 miles trail north of Walnut Mountain Road

Number: 7

Total Hours: 48

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 6 hrs (Paul) + 6x7 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: There were several bad sections of trail that we did not get repaired the last time we were north of Walnut Mountain Road. We installed three locust steps, redug several sections of trail and dug a new short relocation to remove a steep section. We accomplished everything and still had a short day. Consensus was that since Bob Peoples was not with us there was not wasted time fluffing the cat.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: November 20, 2004

Purpose: Install water bars and water diversion ditches

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

Location: McQueens Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

Number: 6

Total Hours: 48

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ron Lapp, Ed Oliver, Nate West, Steve Banks

Individual Hours: 6x8 hours

Summary: On a foggy day, we installed eight water bars and nine water diversion ditches between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. The A.T. and shelter are in good shape; the shelter needs a rake, shovel, and register, and some interior painting.

Name: Jim Foster

Date: November 23, 2004

Purpose: Repair trail damage caused by downed tree

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Hughes Gap south for about one mile and Greasy Creek Gap north one mile

Number: 3

Total Hours: 26

People: Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster

Individual Hours: 8 hours (Paul Benfield) + 2x9 hours (everyone else)

Summary: We worked our way to the damaged section of trail by cleaning water bars. We repaired the large hole in the trail and left it in good shape. We then proceeded to Tiger Creek Road and FS-4331. From there we walked to Greasy Creek Gap and went north inspecting trail and making note of future repairs that would be needed.