

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January 2005

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
Jan 8-16	Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN	□		
Jan 22	Chimney Top Mountain	C/3/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Jan 29	Smokies: Albright Grove Loop Trail	B/3/B	Mary Ellen Ress	423-349-6536
Feb 5	Bays Mountain Park Perimeter Trails	B/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Feb 18-19	Chainsaw Certification Workshop, Unicoi Ranger Station	□	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Feb 26	A.T.: Walnut Mountain Road to U.S. 19E	A/3/C	Mary Ellen Ress	423-349-6536

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

ATC Southern Region 2005 Trail Skills Training Chainsaw Certification Workshop □ February 18-19, 2005

Submitted by Joe DeLoach

Each year, the Appalachian Trail Conference sponsors numerous training courses for A.T. maintainers. These are excellent learning opportunities for basic and more advanced maintenance skills and, most importantly, serve as reminders about how to do our maintenance work safely. In 2005, there will be several courses in our area:

- On February 18-19, there will be a chainsaw certification workshop at the ranger station in Unicoi. In this workshop you will learn about safe operation, including necessary personal protective equipment and maintenance of saws for blowdown clearing. Certification lasts for three years and is required by the Forest Service and the Appalachian Trail Park Office for volunteers using chainsaws on the A.T. This course will also be offered in Sugar Grove, Virginia, in March and April.
 - On April 9-10, there will be a crosscut saw certification course in Sugar Grove, Virginia.
 - Other courses include rare plant monitoring, griphoist and rockwork training, leave-no-trace principles, and wilderness first aid.
- The full course listing is found in a brochure available at www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/-steward/south_wkshp.html. For more information, please contact Joe DeLoach at 423-753-7263.

Hike Leaders Needed for ATC Conference

Submitted by Collins Chew

TEHCC is one of the host clubs for the Biennial Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference to be held the week of July 4, 2005, at East Tennessee State University. One of the most popular features of these meetings are guided hikes in the area for those attending from other areas. We will lead 57 hikes covering all of our A.T. section and a number of miles past our section in both directions. We will hike every day, July 2 through July 8, 2005. We will also lead hikes to waterfalls, rails-to-trails, area parks, and other interesting places nearby. Most of the hikes will be offered three times and many are shuttle hikes with leaders needed in both directions □ so we need a great many leaders. If you are able and willing to lead one or more (up to six), hikes, please contact Collins Chew at 423-239-6237 or , and Collins will send you a schedule so you may pick the hikes you wish to lead. Thank you. **If you can do it we really need you.**

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Ronald Adams	Anna Barker	Randy Gardner	David Hite
Matthew Looney	Jared Moore	Jeffrey Pigg	

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: Chimney Top Mountain; January 22, 2005

Leader: Collins Chew(423-239-6237,)

Rating: C/3/B

We will meet at 8:30 AM at our regular place between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank on Fort Henry Dr. (TN 36) in Colonial Heights on Saturday, January 22, 2005. We will drive the 15 or so miles to the home of our hosts, the Faulkners, and hike from there to the top of Chimney Top Mountain. It is about 1.5 miles, each way, and quite steep toward the top. (It is steep all the way with about 1,500 feet of climbing.) We will have an early lunch or snack and return to our cars, probably before 2:00 PM. Chimney Top is the sharp top mountain that looks like a volcano from Kingsport, just east of Bays Mountain. Bring lunch/snack, water, and appropriate clothing. For information call or e-mail the hike leader, Collins Chew.

**Hike Notice: Albright Grove, Smoky Mountain National Park;
January 29, 2005**

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

Rating: B/3/B

This will be a fairly short hike, about seven miles total, but with an uphill climb as we follow the Maddron Bald Trail to a 0.7-mile loop through the Albright Grove. Since it's a bit of a drive, to just past Cosby, TN, we'll meet in Colonial Heights next to McDonalds at 7:30 AM. Bring lunch, water, boots and appropriate clothing. For more information or to let me know you're coming, call Mary Ellen Ress at 423-349-6536. Since weather can be a definite deterrent in January, please be sure to check with me if driving to the trailhead is at all questionable. We may have to cancel, or preferably, hike somewhere more accessible.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

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

Submitted by G. S. Luttrell

As we started this hike on the Rich Mountain Loop Trail, we were greeted by deer, including several doe and a buck. After a half-mile, we started climbing up the Crooked Arm Trail passing a 25 foot waterfall, and then several overlooks with great views of Cades Cove. Shortly after crossing a gap onto the Scott Mountain Trail, we had lunch and the views switched to the high ridgeline from Thunderhead to Mt. LeConte. Then, on the Chestnut Top Trail, the views extended on to Tuckaleechee Cove, Townsend, and Wear Cove. Most of the route was on ridgetops very near the northern Park boundary and with the cool, clear conditions, the views were outstanding. Hikers: Lowell Toof, Kim Peters, Arvell Luttrell, Mary Ellen Ress, Phyllis Cairnes, Debi Berry, Randall Simpson and Garry Luttrell.



View of Clingman's Dome (photo courtesy of G. S. Luttrell).



Hikers (left to right): Lowell Toof, Kim Peters, Arvell Luttrell, Mary Ellen Ress, Phyllis Cairnes, Debi Berry, Randall Simpson, and Garry Luttrell (taking photo).

Hike Report: A.T. from U.S. 58 (Summit Cut) to Whitetop Mountain; December 18, 2004
Submitted by Mary Ellen Ress

We had a wonderful crowd of eight turn out for this cold, snowy hike on the A.T. in Virginia. After the obligatory stop at Cowboys in Damascus for biscuits, coffee and/or bathroom break, we continued on to the starting point with temperatures at a brisk 23 degrees. We were reminded that it was big game season in Virginia, so we were a bright group, with lots of UT orange substituting well for blaze orange. Since it is a steady and unrelenting 3.7 mile climb to Buzzard Rock, we quickly shed many layers of clothing, only to rapidly cool back down as soon as we reached the open meadows below Buzzard Rock. We had a delightful lunch on the Rock, in bright sunshine and out of the wind, and even enjoyed homemade cookies! We hiked in snow almost the whole way up, and ran into drifts up to our knees after lunch as we continued up to Whitetop Road before turning around. We meet two Southbounders, Pigpen and Celtic (from Wales, and he entertained us with some Gaelic witticisms). They were wondering about needing snowshoes to get to Springer—they had already had a hard time getting through the snow in Grayson Highlands. As we turned back, the sun had warmed the snow making interesting, if slippery, footing—slush and mud helped make the downhill return a quick one. All in all, a delightful

nine mile hike. Hiking this day were Richard Strang, Charlotte Anderson, Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart (a first-time TEHCC visitor), Lola and Charles Kelchner, and myself, Mary Ellen Ress.



Lunch on Buzzard Rock (photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Ress).



Knee-deep in snow (photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Ress).



Charles and Lola Kelchner enjoy a spectacular view (photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Ress).

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

Name: Jim Foster

Date: November 30, 2004

Purpose: To widen and make minor relocations around problem spots on the trail

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Greasy Creek Gap north

Number: 4

Total Hours: 37

People: Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Individual Hours: 8 hours (Paul Benfield) + 9 hours (Ken Buchanan) + 2x10 (everyone else)

Summary: We unclogged the piped spring below Greasy Creek Gap. We widened and relocated a dozen or more small sections north of the gap. This resulted in a much improved grade and a more stable "bench" for the trail.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: December 4, 2004

Purpose: Cut blowdowns between US 421 and Berry Fields on Holston Mountain

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

Location: U.S. 421 to Berry Fields

Number: 2

Total Hours: 12

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Individual Hours: 6 hours each

Summary: We found many blowdowns on the section between U.S. 421 and the knob just south of the Berry Fields about 2.0 miles in. We had hoped to go all the way to Double Springs Shelter and back but we got too late of a start with the number of trees that were down. There were two pretty bad obstructions that had forced hikers off the trail and created eroded areas along the sides of the treadway, but most were fairly easy stepovers. We cleared everything, leaving a couple of tangles that could be walked around near the highway to deter illegal use. The section between the Berry Fields and Double Springs Shelter has not been cleared. The blazes need to be painted in the north-to-south direction.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: December 4, 2004

Purpose: Install water bars, culvert pipe and bridge

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

Location: 19E to just above Apple House Shelter

Number: 21

Total Hours: 189

People: TEHCC REP's □ Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Bob Peoples; ASU STUDENTS and HIKERS □ William Thorniley, Edward Izard, Alex Soloman, Dan Winter "Trail Yetti", Callie Kraus f, Lynx Gallagher, Melissa McDermott f, Ryan Howard, Chris Peckham, Cullen Reed, David Clasko, Jeanne Needham f, James Vaught, Ray Douglas "Otto"

Individual Hours: 21x9 hrs (everyone)

Summary: Thanks to the support of 14 ASU students and three hikers, we accomplished some major renovations near Apple House Shelter. Mary engineered installation of door sill boards in the doorways of the shelter. This completes reinstallation of the stairs. Paul engineered installation of a culvert pipe in the ditch right at the shelter. He lined it with locust logs and rocks. Thirteen water bars were installed between the shelter and road. Bruce was able to also cut back blackberries at the stream crossing at the road. The major task was tearing out old culvert under the road above the shelter. The culvert was made with 55 gallon drums which were rusting out and collapsing. The young folks dug the four foot deep roadbed out and removed the drums. Some excess soil and gravel was used to line the ditch along the road to prevent water seepage across the trail. Bob engineered the bridge building. He cut down two nearby locusts and cut the best 18 foot section out of each. Unfortunately, the larger one was about 18 inches in diameter at the large end. Six people could pick it up but could not carry it even with log carriers. With the help of ten people and roller logs, it was moved into place. Two logs were put onto 6x6 bases and spiked down. Lathe was fastened to top of two logs. Bridge is easy to walk. A hand rail will be installed soon.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: December 8, 2004

Purpose: Finish bridge and repair trail

Section: Other

Location: Sections 12 & 13, within 1 mile of 19E, both trail north and south

Number: 8

Total Hours: 64

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Mike Hupko, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Bill Murdoch

Individual Hours: 2 hrs (Bob) + 8 hrs (Paul) + 6x9 hrs (everyone else) for 20 hrs Section 13 & 44 hrs Section 12

Summary: We installed a hand rail on the newly installed bridge just south of Apple House Shelter. Between 19E and Bear Branch Road, we repaired trail and installed seven steps. North of Bear Branch, we installed another five steps and some locust cribbing. Unfortunately, we picked up a pickup load of household trash at Bear Branch Road.