

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

February 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
Feb 5	Bays Mountain 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
Mar 5	Smokies: Rich Mountain Loop	B/2/B	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493
Mar 18-19	Appalachian Trail Summit	---	Janet Hensley	423-743-1932

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

TEHCC Welcomes New Steering Committee Members

Congratulations to new TEHCC Steering Committee members elected for 2005-06: Olin Babb, Debi Berry, and Kent Wilson. They are joining current members Anne Cosby, Richard Guinn, Garry Luttrell, and Vic Hasler (past chair). Debi and Kent will share the responsibilities of chair, with Debi serving as chair from January through July; and Kent serving from August through December. Thank you to new, current, and former Steering Committee members for your willingness to serve.

Review of 2004 TEHCC Budget

Submitted by Vic Hasler

For the record, the club in 2004 had income of \$4892 from the 583 folks who paid dues, equipment rental (\$500), and pass-thru reservations of Mt. LeConte and Charit Creek outings. \$1155 was spent on the AT as guided by the maintenance subcommittee, along with \$500 Konnarock crew support, and \$100 ATC donation. \$314 was spent to maintain the tehcc.org website. Only \$133 out of \$250 budgeted was put into the rental equipment in the form of new tent stakes and a backpacking hammock (more information in the March newsletter) as we did not have a coordinator for most of the year. Dues and donations of \$350 were given to various hiking and paddling associations. \$100 was given to Wellmont Hospice in honor of Frank Oglesby. \$250 was given to help start a paddling festival during Memorial Day weekend 2005 on the Noli in memory of a local paddler, John Heffernan. \$187 were for dinner expenses beyond the ticket prices, including those for our guests. And finally, roughly \$430 went to recruiting, volunteer recognition, and other awards. Hopefully, you can find that the club monies have been satisfactorily and meaningfully used (else, please contact a steering committee member).

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.

The Second Annual Appalachian Trail Summit March 18-19, 2005

The Second Annual Appalachian Trail Summit will be held March 18-19, 2005 at 203 North Elm Avenue, Erwin, Tennessee.

Key topics to be addressed:

- Is the Appalachian Trail an economic resource for our area?
- Is the Appalachian Trail a recreational resource for our area?

The goals for this event are:

1. That everyone will come away with a better understanding and appreciation of the Appalachian Trail as a valuable economic and recreational resource for Erwin and Unicoi County.
2. To continue to encourage the networking among local businesses, agencies and individuals that promotes Erwin and Unicoi County as HIKER FRIENDLY!
3. To provide those interested in hiking and back packing with some basic knowledge about hiking safety, equipment and gear as well as give them resources for learning more about these activities.
4. To provide a day of fun and learning to the community as a way of celebrating the Appalachian Trail and Appalachian Trail hikers as valuable resources to our community.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, March 18

5:00-7:00 p.m. NETWORKING SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING DINNER:

Dinner Served Buffet Style; \$6.00 per person (Please call 743-1932 to make reservations.)

7:00-8:00 p.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Andy Brown from Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design, Inc. will present the findings of the new Upper Nolichucky Watershed Natural Resources Study.

8:00 p.m. FEATURE FILM:

The New Mark Flagler film "Appalachian Impressions" will be presented. This film is beautifully made and is a great introduction to the Appalachian Trail and those that hike it!

Saturday, March 19

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. RAIN OR SHINE!

The public is invited to join local business owners and our community leaders for a fun filled day of events designed to promote a better understanding of what the Appalachian Trail is and what it means to our community. Those attending will enjoy hiking and trail related exhibits and workshops presented throughout the day by different organizations.

For More Information call the event coordinator, Janet Hensley (423-743-1932)

Hike Leaders Needed for Southern Highlands 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.**

Southern Highlands 2005

Submitted by Steve Perri



What: The 35th meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC)

When: July 1-8, 2005

Where: East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Who: Southern Highlands 2005 will be hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and the maintaining clubs of the southern region: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (Knoxville), Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club (Kingsport), Carolina Mountain Club (Asheville), Nantahala Hiking Club (Franklin NC) and Georgia A.T. Club (Atlanta). The ATC is a federation of 31 A.T. maintaining clubs with responsibility for managing the AT through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

Attendance: Approximately 1,200 hikers, volunteer trail maintainers, ATC staff, and others interested in outdoor recreation, conservation, and the A.T. Most participants come from the 14 Trail states between

Georgia and Maine; others come from all over the country. The meeting is one of the largest gatherings of conservation-minded citizens in the country.

Events: Workshops, exhibits, A.T. membership meeting, entertainment, excursions, and organized hikes within 100 miles of Johnson City.

Purpose:

- Conduct the official business of the ATC
- Educate, inspire, and inform the membership and the public about the A.T. and Trail-related issues.
- Provide camaraderie.
- Encourage sharing of ideas and techniques among trail maintainers.
- Organize hikes, workshops, excursions, and other recreational events in upper Northeast East Tennessee and southwest Virginia.
- Celebrate ATC's 80th Anniversary and the USFS's 125th Anniversary.
- See how ATC is changing to prepare to build a conservation plan and educational focus.

Background: The 2100-mile A.T., completed in the 1930s, runs from Springer Mountain, near Dahunega, GA, to Mount Katahdin, ME. A few hundred backpackers complete the entire Trail each year, and hundreds of thousands of people enjoy dayhikes and camping trips. The Trail is a unit of the National Park Service with headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

National Paddling Film Festival; February 25-26

Submitted by Richard Guinn

The National Paddling Film Festival began over two decades ago, when a bunch of paddlers

decided that sharing home movies of their paddling adventures (or misadventures, as the case may be) was a great concept for a big party. Members of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association stapled black plastic on the inside of a drafty old barn at the Kentucky Horse Park, and folks came from several states to spend the weekend camped in the mud, drinking too much and watching super-8 movies of their friends and their favorite rivers.

Fast-forward to 2005, and we have donated over \$80,000 to American Whitewater, American Canoe Association, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, and other river access and conservation organizations. We've screened videos from Bali, Nepal, China, South America and dozens of locations across the North American continent. We've seen subjects from expeditions to steep-creeking, record-breaking big drops to canoe polo, foamies and claymation. We even pre-screened an entry by one well known Canadian videographer which took the phrase "paddle-porn" too literally, but his other film that year beat it into the finals for the festival and we didn't have to figure out how to clear the theater of minors for the one film.

This year the NPFF promises to be bigger and better than ever. We've received several entries, including one from Italy. We're holding the festival this year in the newly renovated Lexington Convention Center, and finally have enough room for the Silent Auction and to have the Awards Party in the same location as the screening. We're continuing an innovation from last year in which Still Image entries will be posted on the Internet for a week or so before the NPFF. Viewer voting will select ten or so semi-finalist photos which will be printed and shown at the festival site. The "studio audience" will choose the final winner on the day of the festival. Still photos will be accepted for entry up until February 18, so please search through your archives and send us something. Details for entering either Motion or Still Images are on our web site, www.surfbwa.org, or email the director Dave Margavage at .

For the last couple of years we've been inviting special guests to speak to the audience. Two years ago we had Scott Lindgren, who spoke about his expedition to the Tsangpo Gorge. Last year Corran Addison talked about some of the issues involved in making films of extreme sports in extreme conditions, and as well made an eloquent plea for taking all possible safety precautions anytime we get on the water. This year's guest is Kent Ford, a world champion paddler, and producer of some of the finest instructional videos on the market today. Kent spent part of his summer as a commentator for the summer Olympic Games in Athens. His comments may cover any part of his long career in whitewater, but will certainly include interesting stories about the Olympics. I'm hoping he also has some footage from that competition, since not much of it made it to prime time.

So, beat the winter blues and come on out to the National Paddling Film Festival on the weekend of February 25-26. Shop at the Silent Auction, meet other paddlers from all over the country and the world, see the best in both professional and amateur boating footage, and have an all-around good time. And know that you are supporting river conservation while doing it. The NPFF is an all-volunteer effort, supported by the members of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association and numerous generous sponsors (see inset). Our two highest priorities are to donate as much money as possible to the rivers, and to have as much fun as possible doing it. We look forward to you joining us.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail

Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)

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

Hike Notice: Bays Mountain Perimeter; February 5, 2005

Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388;)

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

A mid-winter leg-stretcher with the leaves down, let's enjoy seeing the area from the perimeter ridge at Bays Mountain Park. Intentions are to travel Bays Mtn Rd (2.0 mi) to River Mtn Rd (2.5 mi) to Lake Rd (0.7 mi) to Bays Ridge Trail (1.0) for a roughly 7 mile loop. Meet at the Bays Mountain Nature Center Parking Lot at 9:00 AM with water, snack (plan to be done before lunch), and appropriate clothing (since cannot predict weather ☐ although will cancel in case of heavy rain/snow that day). There is a \$3 entrance fee if you are not a member of the Bays Mtn park association. E-mail or call 239-0388 if any questions and to let me know if you are coming for a headcount.

Hike Notice: Smokies Dayhike, Rich Mountain Loop; March 5, 2005

Leader: Neil Dotson (423-323-2393)

[Rating:](#) B/2/B

I think this is the third time I've tried to lead this hike, but I'm not so superstitious as to think that that will make a difference! But I'll try again anyway . . . Rich Mountain is in the western part of the Smokies, lying on the north side of Cades Cove. This 8.5-mile loop uses the Rich Mountain Loop Trail, Indian Grave Gap Trail, and the Crooked Arm Ridge Trail to make the climb from 1900 ft to 3700 ft and back down again. This hike is somewhat complementary to Garry Luttrell's hike on December 4 from Cades Cove to the Wye ☐ where he went east from the Crooked Arm trail, this hike will explore the loop just to the west. (See his report and pictures in the January newsletter.) In winter we should enjoy more numerous and more expansive views ☐ and each of the three trails we use have advertised views even when the leaves are in place: views of the main spine of the Smokies to the south, and of Cades Cove lying between. One may even hope that the higher mountains will be snow-covered. Also, closer at hand, we will see the several different forest types, Crooked Arm Falls, the John Oliver Cabin (from early 1800's), and a fire tower site. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 7:00 a.m.; yes, the hour is early but it is a long drive to the entrance of Cades Cove where the trailhead is, and the days are pre-equinox short. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Dress appropriately for a winter hike and do bring lunch and adequate water. Depending on the hour we may eat out on the return trip.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

None reported for January.

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

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: Dec 26, 2004

Purpose: Clearing small blowdowns and trail obstructions

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

Location: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

Total Hours: 8

People: Howard Guinn and Faye Guinn

Individual Hours: 4 hours each

Summary: Cut several small blowdowns with bowsaw and cleaned other winter debris from the trail.

Name: John Arwood

Date: December 28, 2004

Purpose: Scout section for problems & deliver new register to Vandeventer shelter.

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

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

Total Hours: 20

People: Craig Deloach, John Arwood

Individual Hours: 2x10

Summary: We had wonderful weather for the ever beautiful hike through Big Laurel Branch Wilderness. Clearing numerous small blowdowns, branches, rhododendron, vine and green briar from the trail, we only needed to unsheath the 36" bowsaw at three or four locations. At Vandeventer Shelter, we left a new register and bagged the small amount of random trash to haul out. While taking a break and enjoying the view of Watauga Lake, three day hikers, headed south from TN91, reported no obstacles to the north of the shelter, so we headed back to Watauga Dam Road. The very colorful sunset was a fitting end to a lovely day in the woods.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: December 29, 2004

Purpose: Repair Trail and Cut Blowdowns

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Trail North of Greasy Creek Gap

Total Hours: 51

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 8 hrs (Bob) + 7 hrs (Paul) + 4x9 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: We repaired some bad places in trail just north of Greasy Creek Gap by redigging, installing locust side logs and backfilling over roots. There seem to be many blowdowns in the mountains from high winds over the weekend. One major blowdown required two hours work and two chain saw tanks of gas. Two other good sized blowdowns were removed at and on the blue blazed trail to Clyde Smith Shelter. Trail is clear to Little Rock Knob.

Name: Jim Foster

Date: Jan. 3, 2005

Purpose: Scout trail and remove blow downs if possible

Section: 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

Total Hours: 7

People: Jim Foster

Individual Hours: 7 hours (Jim Foster)

Summary: Walked trail from Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter and back cleaning up debris and cutting small blow-downs from the trail. Fortunately none were too large for my small hand saw. My whole section should be clear now as we cut everything from shelter to Greasy Creek Gap last week.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club, CB Willis

Date: Jan 3, 2005

Purpose: Working trail obstructions while on a fun hike with club

Section: 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

Location: Indian Grave Gap to Chestoa Bridge

Total Hours: 12

People: Mike Hupko, Dave McMillin

Individual Hours: 6 hours each

Summary: There were lots of branches and small blowdowns on the treadway which were removed, some requiring bowsaws. We used the fun hike opportunity to get this done. This section is clear, in good condition.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: January 4, 2005

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns

Section: 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

Location: Carvers Gap to Roan Mt

Total Hours: 22

People: Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples and Hikers John Schimmel, Lewis Anderson

Individual Hours: 2x6 hrs (Paul & Bob) + 2x5 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: On a pleasant January day, this crew cleared the trail from Carver's Gap to Roan Mountain. There were eight major blowdowns that were dead hemlocks or pines. Several places have exposed geotextile and geoweb. A couple of waterbars are needed near Hackline Road.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: January 4, 2005

Purpose: Repair trail

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

Location: Dolls Flat to Hump Mt

Total Hours: 58

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ron Lapp, Ed Oliver

Individual Hours: 10 hrs (Ron) + 6x8 hrs (everyone else)

Summary: Can you believe 55 degrees in January on Hump Mountain? We installed four rock waterbars just before breaking out of woods into the open area of Hump Mountain. We repaired a number of rooty areas just below here by removing roots and re-digging trail. We removed several minor blowdowns with hand tools. We picked up some scattered litter. One, who has spent a lot of time in Germany, explained that littering is a cultural problem. Some cultures would consider littering as insulting as farting in public!



NewRock Water Bar Dance by Carl Fritz (Picture courtesy of Ron Lapp)

Name: Collins Chew

Date: January 7, 2005

Purpose: Clear trail and measure relocations for the new Guide

Section: 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

Location: entire

Total Hours: 72

People: Olin Babb, Anne Cosby, Emmett Dougherty, Carol and Dave Dunham, Larry Miller, Nancy Wilson, and Collins Chew

Individual Hours: 9 hours each

Summary: We cleared brush, storm litter, and blowdowns throughout and measured portions of the trail with wheel and GPS. We left a number of blowdowns, but none blocked the trail. All could be easily bypassed or stepped over.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: January 10, 2004

Purpose: Remove Blowdowns

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

Location: Entire Section from Watauga Dam Road to US 321

Total Hours: 12

People: Mike Hupko, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 2x6 hrs for each

Summary: Mike and Bob cut twenty two blowdowns around the lake. They both were dragging at end of day.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: January 11, 2005

Purpose: Remove Blowdowns and Install Waterbars

Section: Other

Location: Sections 4 & 5, US 421 to Grindstaff Monument

Total Hours: 72

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Marty Fitzgerald, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 8x9 hrs (everyone)

18 hrs Section 5, 54 hrs Section 4

Summary: We took advantage of nice weather to hit these sections. Bill and Carl cleared 15 blowdowns from TN 91 to Grindstaff Monument. It is currently cleared. Likewise, Mike, Marty and Bob removed eighteen blowdowns from TN 91 to Low Gap. It is also currently clear. Ken, Bruce and Ed installed 16 locust waterbars between Low Gap and Berry Fields.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: January 25, 2005

Purpose: Install Water Bars and Clear Vistas

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

Location: US 421 to Berry Fields

Total Hours: 81

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Jim Mann, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Individual Hours: 9x9 hrs (everyone)

Summary: We installed 17 more locust water bars before Berry Fields. We cleared small and large trees growing up in two vistas in Berry Fields.