

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 2005

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](#)
- [Spring Dinner Meeting](#)
- [Grand Opening, Benton MacKaye Trail](#)
- [Eastman Hiker User Group Discontinued](#)
- [Volunteers Needed for Appalachian Trail Conference](#)
- [TEHCC Rental Equipment](#)
- [Heff-Fest on the Noli](#)
- [Introductory Whitewater School 2005](#)
- [Wilderness First Aid Course](#)
- [Big Dig - Cumberland Trail Conference](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

| <u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u> | | | | |
|--|--|-------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| Apr. 28- May 1 | Third Southeastern Foot Trails Conference, Pickens, South Carolina | --- | Steve Perri | 423-349-5091 |
| May 21 | HeffFest on the Noli | Fun | Scott Fisher | 276-698-4644 |
| Jun 2,4,5 | Introductory Whitewater School | | Rebekah Morrow | 423-245-8045 |
| Jun 11 | Leaders Choice (F/B) | C/3/D | Neil Dotson | 423-323-3493 |
| Jun 18 | Sugarland Mountain Trail (S900M) | A/3/C | Garry Luttrell | 423-239-9854 |

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

Spring Dinner Meeting

Submitted by Debi Berry

The annual Spring Dinner Meeting was held on Friday, April 8, 2005, at the Eastman Lodge. Approximately 50-60 people attended.

The social hour began at 6:00 with refreshments provided by John Frey and Terry Oldfield.

Dinner began at 6:30 and was catered by Wrights Cafeteria.

The program began with an introduction and recognition of some special guests. They included a new member, Kathy Bennett and her husband, Brian. A representative of the Overmountain Victory Trail, Bob Hardin, provided an informational display that included trail maps/brochures and an invitation to check out the trail. Other special guests included Amy Fore of the USFS and David, Matt, and Ted Chew. The Girl Scouts who assisted Mary Fanslow in the decoration of tables included Monique Cash, Heather McClellan, Sue Patrick, Casey Markin, and Hannah Logan.

Amy Fore presented the USFS Awards to individuals for volunteering their hours to trail maintenance. Steve Perri made the presentations for the Hiker of the Year □ Garry Luttrell, the Frank Oglesby Award (Maintainer of the Year) □ Carl Fritz , and the Stan Murray Award □ Collins Chew for his hard work, dedication and many outstanding achievements. Carl Fritz presented club patch awards, and ATPO awards were presented by Steve Perri.

A presentation by Brad Jones who is a Park Naturalist/Special Events Coordinator with the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Department rounded up the evening. Brad lived and worked at the Grand Canyon and has explored and experienced the canyon in many ways. His presentation of □The Grandest Canyon from Rim to River□ was interesting, informative, and very much enjoyed and appreciated by the members.

A very special thanks to all the club members who □s hard work made the 2005 Spring Dinner Meeting a success!

Good News for Hikers - Benton MacKaye Trail Grand Opening!



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) has some good news. As BMTA celebrate their 25th anniversary, they are preparing for the Grand Opening of the 300-mile Benton MacKaye Trail. The ribbon cutting will be held on July 16 at Mud Gap off the Cherohala Skyway. All are welcome to join the festivities.

With focus shifting away from construction, toward maintenance and enjoyment of the newly opened trail, BMTA is working to get more people involved in hiking and maintaining trails. Therefore, BMTA is offering TEHCC members a \$5 discount to join BMTA. TEHCC members are also encouraged to join the new BMTA recreational outings, 'fun hikes'. All outings are on the BMT; either in Georgia, on the new Tennessee/North Carolina extension, or through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Additional information and BMTA membership forms are available at BMTA.org.

Eastman Hiker User Group Discontinued

The Yahoo usergroup site which was set up for Eastman hikers has been discontinued by Yahoo due to inactivity for three consecutive months. Thanks to the more than 50 members who signed up to join this group. Unfortunately, there must have been more "lurkers" than posters. This usergroup was set up with the intention of facilitating communication between club members, especially for hikes planned at the last minute or last minute changes to hikes. It was also intended to provide a forum for discussion about any subject related to hiking. We are always

looking for ways to get people interested in hiking and may revive this group if there is interest.

Volunteers Needed for Appalachian Trail Conference July 1 - 8, 2005



Submitted by Steve Perri

TEHCC is one of the host clubs for the 35th meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) to be held Friday, July 1, through Friday, July 8, at East Tennessee State University. The theme of this conference is "Remembering Our Past, Preserving Our Future". We expect nearly 1,200 hikers, volunteer trail maintainers, ATC staff, and others interested in outdoor recreation, conservation, and the A.T. to attend this year's meeting. Many exciting activities are planned including daily hikes, excursions to nearby historical and recreational attractions, and a special children's program.

The planning committee, staffed by volunteers from TEHCC, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Carolina Mountain Club, Nantahala Hiking Club, and Georgia Appalachian Trail Club has been hard at work to ensure that this is a successful conference. As many of you know from working or attending past conferences, there is ample need for additional volunteers. Please consider volunteering for a day or part of a day to help make this a successful and memorable meeting.

Volunteer opportunities:

- Lead hikes (experienced hikers especially welcome!)
- Staff booths
- Staff registration tables
- Help with hike parking and logistics

Many of our volunteers will receive a special token of appreciation. We are most appreciative of any and all volunteers - it is only through such assistance that we can offer the many activities for this conference.

For questions or to volunteer, please contact the following individuals:

Hikes: Collins Chew;

Booths and logistics: Kim Peters;

Registration: Van Hill;

TEHCC Rental Equipment - Backpacks

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator ()

This month we feature backpacks available for rent at \$4 for 1-4 days, \$6 for 5-10 days (same price for at least the past four years). Most are in good to excellent condition. A new Marmot Femme Nikita 50 women's pack, HB-29, has been added. Vic requests input (send an e-mail) on what would be another good backpack to purchase to meet our ongoing needs to get outside.

| ID # | Size, in ³ | Weight | Description |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| HB-21 | 5740 | 6lb, 5 oz | Kelty Expedition Tioga, Navy/Gray |
| HB-28 | 5500 | 6 lb, 12 oz | Kelty Slickrock, Internal Frame, Blue/Black |

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------------|---|
| HB-19 | 4300 | 5 lb, 15 oz | Kelty Tioga, Bluegrass, External Frame |
| HB-2 | 4000 | 4 lb, 10 oz | Kelty Tornado, Internal Frame, Reflex Blue |
| HB-3 | 4000 | 4 lb, 10 oz | Kelty Tornado, Internal Frame, Reflex Blue |
| HB-10 | 4000 | 4 lb, 7 oz | Camp Trails Astral, Charcoal/Red |
| HB-17 | 3900 | 5 lb, 2 oz | Camp Trails New Horizon, Gray |
| HB-18 | 3210 | 4 lb, 10 oz | Kelty Trekker, External Frame, Charcoal/Blue |
| HB-29 | 3100 | 4 lb, 8 oz | Marmot Femme Nikita 50, Women's Internal Frame, Orange/Gray |
| HB-12 | 3000 | 5 lb, 5 oz | Camp Trails Night Song, Women's, Emerald/Amethyst |
| HB-27 | 2600 | 4 lb, 6 oz | Marmot Glissade, Women's Internal Frame, Electric Blue/Charcoal |
| HB-15 | 1200 | 1 lb, 4 oz | Diamond Belay Green Daypack |

Pix of HB-29 except for different color scheme:



Heff-Fest on the Noli, Saturday, May 21, 2005



Announcing the Inaugural

Heff-Fest on the Noli

Hosted by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts

To benefit American Whitewater

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) invite everyone to join us on the banks of the beautiful Nolichucky River to celebrate a festival in memory of our friend and fellow paddler John Heffernan. Heff-Fest will be devoted to fun in, on, and next to the river.

Planned events include:

- Exciting Downriver Paddle Competition through the Lower Nolichucky.
- Kayak and canoe paddling instruction by certified teachers. Contact
- Kayak, canoe, and rafting opportunities for paddlers of all levels.
- Paddlers Flea Market □ Bring gear, boats, etc to sell or trade.
- Silent auction for boating gear.
- Vendor booths with boat demos.
- Boat raffle for Wavesport kayak of choice.
- Fabulous food, T-shirts, souvenirs.

- Bluegrass music and other entertainment.
- Family and kids activities and games.
- On-site Whitewater Rodeo at Big Rock playspot as water levels permit.
- Camping on-site at Riverpark Campground (first come, first serve) \$5/person/night.
- Many other activities; some exciting; some just fun to do!!

To be held at Riverpark Campground, near Erwin, Tennessee

Saturday, May 21, 2005

Noon □ 10:30 PM

Cost \$10 for adults

\$5 for children 12 and under

Children under 3 free

All proceeds of Heff-Fest will go to benefit American Whitewater. Our recently departed friend, John Heffernan, who brought joy and friendship to so many of us, was a great supporter of American Whitewater. He was an avid and accomplished kayaker, who loved to help folks learn about the sport. Mark you calendar, May 21, 2005. Click [here](#) for more information or contact Scott Fisher at

Introductory Whitewater School 2005

June 2, 4, and 5



Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The 33rd annual □ Canoe School□, sponsored by TEHCC in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs), will be held June 2, 4, and 5. The school is targeted for beginner and novice solo and tandem whitewater canoeists and kayakers, and consists of an evening of lecture and videos plus two days on the water. As before, there will be a strong emphasis on river safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater canoe w/ one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat and helmet, or a whitewater kayak w/ paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. One PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoes should have bow and stern lines. All boats must have air bags. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Schedule: | June 2 rd (Thur) 6:00-9:00 PM | Lecture and films. Eastman Lodge, Room A2 Eastman Recreation Area, Near Bay□s Mountain Students must attend this meeting to participate on Saturday. |
| | June 4 th (Sat) 9:00 AM | Lake and River Trip, class I-II. Duck Island Parking Lot Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, TN Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday. |
| | June 5 th (Sun) 10:00 AM | River Trip, class II. T.B.D. |

Note: Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised.

Participants must be a member of TEHCC or APEs. Applications will be provided on Thursday night. If you are a member of the American Canoe Association (ACA), please bring your membership card and member number. This will save you money.

Cost: \$40.00 per student payable by April 30th (**make checks out to Rebekah Morrow**); plus ACA event membership fee, payable at Thursday evening's lecture. Students will also be responsible for paying any river access fees for the Sunday river trip. All proceeds from the course will go towards Heff-Fest 2006.

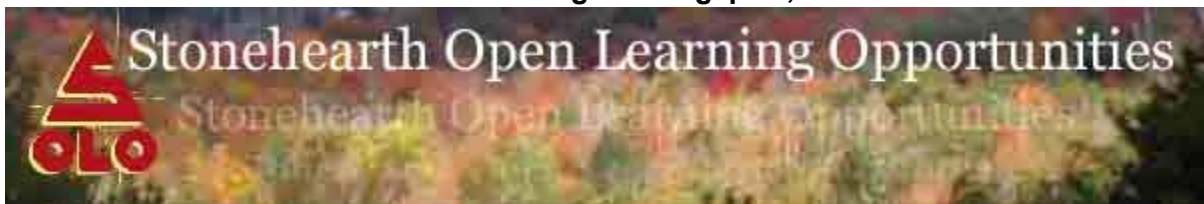
Registration: (Click [here](#) for a printable form.) Complete and return the form and mail it with your check to Rebekah Morrow by April 30th, 1900 Madison Ave Kingsport, TN 37665. Feel free to call for more details.

Questions: Contact Rebekah Morrow at (423) 245-8045.

Wilderness First Aid Course

August 6 and 7, 2005

Eastman Lodge □ Kingsport, TN



Submitted by Rebekah Morrow

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and TEHCC are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). The course will be tailored to the needs of the class participants. For example, if the participants consist mainly of hiking enthusiasts, the instructor(s) will gear the class towards the needs of hikers. There is a great need for this training in our local paddling, hiking, and outdoors enthusiast community. Red Cross First Aid is not enough for the situations outdoor enthusiast place themselves in for recreation. Below is an explanation of the course from SOLO's website

(www.soloschools.com/wfa.html):

"Accidents can and do happen on ropes courses, along country roads, or in the backcountry, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the emergency. Not only does this lead to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group. Studies have shown that many recreational accidents are preventable, and that improper care of trauma can compound even the simplest of injuries. Through our involvement in emergency medicine and rescue efforts, we at SOLO feel there is a need for training for all outdoors people - training which stresses preparedness and prevention; training which encompasses all phases of off-road emergencies; training which focuses on extended care issues on prolonged transport situations. Very few first aid programs actually address the issues of providing emergency care in a rural, wilderness, or extended care setting. This is SOLO's twenty-fifth year offering its workshops in Wilderness First Aid. Designed specifically for groups and their leaders, this 16-hour program covers topics ranging from preparation and prevention to assessment and treatment. All SOLO instructors are experienced rescue personnel with extensive outdoor experience and have been selected not only for their expertise in emergency medicine and rescue, but also for their teaching skills. Classroom lectures and

discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem-solving exercises. The emphasis is always on hands-on experience. Scenarios are an important part of this training.

Day 1

- *Patient Assessment System*
- *Shock*
- *Long-Term Patient Care*
- *Soft Tissue Injuries*

Day 2

- *Environmental Emergencies*
- *Fractures/Dislocations*
- *Splint Improvisation*
- *Preparedness*

While much of the material appears to be standard emergency care information, the backcountry emphasis with long-term care and evacuation complications makes this course unique. Course material can be somewhat modified to meet the specific needs of a group, i.e. cycling, kayaking, climbing, etc. Since the principles of first aid are taught, this program is really applicable to any emergency situation."

Obtaining this knowledge is a very important element in safety regardless of the activity you participate in. This information could help save your friends and your own life!

The fee for the course is \$115.00. This includes the course registration, and mailing and travel expenses for the instructor(s). Once received, this fee is non-refundable. However, if an emergency arises, a substitute may be found to take your place in the class.

Location: The course will be held all day Saturday, August 6th and Sunday August 7th from 8:00 am until ~6:00 pm at the Eastman Lodge in Kingsport, TN.

How To Register: (Click [here](#) for a printable form.) Please mail the registration form along with a check made out to **Rebekah Morrow to 1900 Madison Ave, Kingsport, TN 37665**. The deadline for registration is **June 1st 2005**. An equipment list and other information will be sent out to each confirmed student about a month prior to the course. You are confirmed for the course when your payment has been received.

If you have any questions, you may contact:

Rebekah Morrow (423)245-8045 (before 10:00 pm, please), Or e-mail: .

Third Annual Big Dig, Cumberland Trail Conference May 22 - June 25, 2005

Submitted by Nora Beck, Cumberland Trail Conference

The Cumberland Trail Conference's third annual Big Dig trail construction program will start May 22, headquartered at the Dogwood Lodge Camp near Soddy- Daisy, Tennessee. This year's goal is to complete the Rock, Possum, and Soddy Creek Gorge segments of the trail in northern Hamilton County, and we're recruiting all hands and the cook(s).

The CTC is providing food and lodging free of charge to all volunteers who come to work on the

trail during the five weeks from May 22 through June 25. Those who spend the night at the camp will have the opportunity to enjoy evening educational and entertainment presentations that include local history, bluegrass music, and programs on the folklore, flora and fauna of the region.

Volunteer opportunities include trail building using mattocks, fire rakes, pruners and loppers; tool cleaning and sharpening; and cooking for a crowd with the guidance of our volunteer kitchen manager. A seasonal staff will guide the volunteer crews, and round-trip transportation from the camp to the work site will be provided.

Work in the Gorgeous Gorges will take place seven days a week, and volunteers can join us for a single day or the entire 35 days. For complete information on how to register for the Big Dig, please visit our web site at www.cumberlandtrail.org or call the Cumberland Trail Conference office at 931-456-6259. We do need to know you're coming so we can tell the cooks!

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Tony L. Caston Larry C. Daniels
Shawn N. Pace Cory Lee Wells

Each new member 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 [Schedule-Hiking.htm](#).

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

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)

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

For the past 25+ years TEHCC has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The price this year is \$94.17 per person which covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night (double bunk beds!) and breakfast on Sunday. We still have a few openings so if you are interested in taking this trip please contact the hike leader for availability.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Albright Grove, Great Smoky Mountain National Park

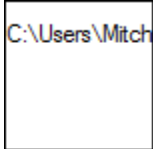
Saturday, March 26, 2005

Submitted by Mary Ellen Ress

Five of us had a delightful hike in search of big trees in the virgin forest of Albright Grove. We did find some BIG trees, and some big trees with BIG feet, but the forest is rapidly losing many of the large trees. We were fortunate to finally get there after the ice storm caused the cancellation of this hike in January. After finding the trail head (don't ask the locals - they haven't a clue), we took the Maddron Bald trail, a gentle climb on a wide trail. We passed the Willis Baxter Cabin, built in approximately 1889, and wondered how the six people reportedly lived in the tiny one room structure. They must have been very short people, judging from the height of the doors! After a couple of miles, we took off on the Albright Grove Loop, trying not to get cricks in our necks while admiring the green giants all around. Some of us actually could identify most of the trees, even before reading our trail guide (but not me). We checked out the circumference of one especially large tree, and it took four of us to stretch all the way around, with a big hug. After lunch, and

finishing the loop, we decided to venture a little further on the Maddron Bald Trail, only to get turned back at the first creek crossing. No bridge, only a very slippery, smooth log part way across, and some swift moving water convinced us that we really didn't want to go any further, particularly when we read that there were six more creek crossings in the next mile. We meet two backpackers that weren't deterred by the idea of the crossings, but they had come prepared wearing hiking sandals, especially designed for wading through creeks. Finishing the hike with about 7 miles, we were back early to Colonial Heights, even with a stop for refreshments at McDonald's. Hiking were Kat Johnson, Kim Peters, Lowell Toof, Taylor Pickard, and leader, Mary Ellen Ress.

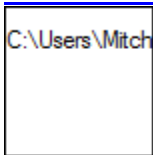
(Click on small photo or text to see a larger photo. All photos courtesy of Mary Ellen Ress)



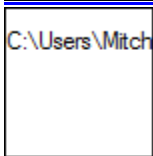
[The big foot](#) of a big tree.



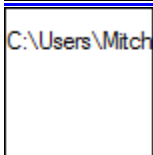
[The Willis Baxter Cabin](#)



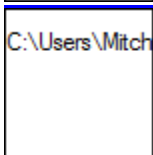
[Lowell and Taylor](#) investigate the Willis Baxter Cabin.



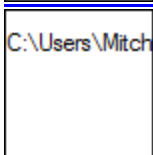
[Kim](#) stands in the short doorway into the cabin.



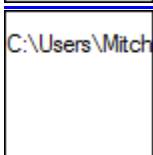
[Kim, Kat and Taylor](#) crossing a typical Smoky Mountain Park bridge.



[Lowell](#) reads about the grove.



[Kat, Lowell, Taylor](#) and Mary Ellen (unseen in the back) hugging a big tree.



[Taylor and Lowell](#) take a break.

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports

(Past)

Name: Bill Berry

Date: March 19, 2005

Purpose: Cut out blow downs

Location: Section 20 from Temple Hill Gap to No Business Shelter

People: Carl Fritz and Bill Berry

Summary: Cut ten trees out of trail.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: March 22, 2005

Purpose: CPR and First Aid Training

Location: Kingsport American Red Cross

People: Steve Banks, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Summary: Carl Fritz, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson took the CPR training and Steve Banks took CPR and first aid training. We are now up to date on our chain saw certification requirements.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 25, 2005

Purpose: Blowdown Clearing

Location: Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail Junction

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Summary: We cut the blowdowns and briars to the Backbone Rock Trail junction. The hiker report was accurate on the number and location of the blowdowns but they were smaller than what was reported. One had been reported to be 30" in diameter but was only about 20". None were difficult to remove and most had been there since last year. Section is clear.

Name: Bill Berry

Date: March 25, 2005

Purpose: Cut annual growth and paint blazes

Location: Section 20 from Spivey Gap to Flat Top Mountain Rd

People: Bill Berry

Summary: Started blazing trail from Spivey to Temple Hill Gap and cutting annual growth.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: March 26, 2005

Purpose: Cut blowdowns, clean out water bars, lopping

Location: Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421

People: Carl Fritz, Tim McClain, Steve Banks

Summary: We cut out about ten blowdowns between Abingdon Gap Shelter and U.S. 421, on a beautiful early spring day. We also cleared out the waterbars and did some lopping. The A.T. and the two shelters on this section are in good shape.

Name: Randall Simpson

Date: March 26 2005

Purpose: Clear small blow downs

Location: No business Knob

People: Randall Simpson

Summary: Cleared small blow downs from trail and removed brush. Cleaned up trash from No Business Knob shelter.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club; C B Willis, Secretary

Date: March 26, 2005

Purpose: To do spring maintenance and check out the trail for major repair.

Location: From Iron Mountain Gap to the old AT entrance south of Low Gap.

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Sandra Perry, Waymon Mumpower, Dave McMillin, Rick Culbertson, Daryl Loyd, Mike Hupko, leader.

Summary: Checked the trail and cleared brush and small trees from the trail. Cleaned water bars near Low Gap. We have several major blowdowns just south of Low Gap in the same area we had the hurricane damage last year. The trail is passable with effort. We will send in a chainsaw crew and do pulaski work. There is also one tree across the trail between Low Gap and the shelter, but it is passable. Horses have been using the AT from Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap. The trail south of Cherry Gap Shelter is slick and muddy, just as this time last year. We will send pictures of the damage at Low Gap separately.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: March 29, 2005

Purpose: Clear blowdowns, lop, repair spring, and clear trail relocation for ASU

Location: Sections 11 & 12 from Walnut Mt Rd to 1 mile north of Moreland Gap Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Cindy Bruce, HIKERS Hippy Long Stockings f, Stump Knocker

Summary: Jim and Dave took a couple of hours to walk and clear from Walnut Mt Rd to Bitter End while Garry Luttrell is on travel status. Then they helped Bob, Ed, Cindy, Hippy and Stump Knocker to clear and prepare more relocations north of Bitter End.

Bruce and Ken spent most of day doing a fantastic job of rebuilding the water source at Moreland Gap shelter. A tree had up rooted and tore up the previous spring pool. Ken and Bruce rebuilt pool. They built a three by ten foot rock walk way. And extended a three inch pipe to flow water from new pool to a second pool.

Bill and Carl cut about five blowdowns trail north of the shelter. One was a major 20" oak that was very difficult to get around. Ken and Carl completed minor clearing from shelter to Bitter End. This section has been cleared of all reported blowdowns while Collins Chew is on travel status.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club by CB Willis, Secretary

Date: March 30, 2005

Purpose: Spring inspection and clearing winter damage

Location: Section 18 from Switchback in USFS 230 to Beauty Spot

People: Mike Hupko, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Louis Haase, CB Willis

Summary: Cleared several blowdowns including two large leaners and two other large blowdowns. Lopped branches affecting the trail. Replaced the waterbar south of Beauty Spot which someone had removed. Made note of several areas needing rehabilitation due to erosion, mud and steep areas for later effort.

Our trail is now clear from Indian Grave Gap to the switchback on south side of Unaka Mountain and also from Iron Mountain to Low Gap. We have lots of work with major blowdowns covering the trail just south of Low Gap. We still need to inspect and work the trail from Low Gap to the switchback on the south side of Unaka Mountain.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: April 1, 2005

Purpose: Attend ATC RPC Meeting

Location: Mountain Lake, VA

People: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Summary: We attended the Regional Partnership Meeting to provide representation on ATC issues. Topics of discussion included reaching out to AT communities and Seasonal Program evaluations. There was contentious discussion about charging volunteers a fee for Konnarock. During the breakout discussions we discussed issues we need to comment on: North Shore Rd (\$52 MM settlement vs >\$300 MM construction project - plan is to support settlement), USFS Accessibility interim directives. We also spent time assisting the regional office prioritize tasks. One output of this meeting was that Don Walton was selected by the committee as the RPC chair. Konnarock time we received was 5 weeks for 2006 and 3 weeks for 2007.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 2, 2005

Purpose: Repair steep trail

Location: Section 12 - Trail north of Bear Branch up to first switchback

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, ASU Jonathon Quick, Keith Osmun, Patrick Peacock, Dan Winter or Trail Yetti, Ray Douglas or Otto, Chris Peckham or Krispy, Mikkel Patterson, Jenn Needham f, Carmy Malone f, ETSU Cindy Bruce, HIKERS Hippy Long Stockings f, Headlanp, CRT, The Great Whozoo

Summary: What terrible weather for the planned Appalachian State Trail Maintenance Club outing with us. Mid 30's temperature and pouring rain. We aborted original plans to go in at Bitter End and instead went to 19E and Bear Branch. Three students picked up about ten large garbage bags of trash at trail head. We primarily worked on poor section just north of Bear Branch. We re-dug some of the worst sections, removed several stumps that were making steep sections, relocated about 50 feet of trail, installed 9 steps and a couple of side logs. Fortunately, the rain turned to snow. By early afternoon, we called it a day. One more day of work in this area will make a fairly decent trail.

Name: Bill Stowell

Date: April 3, 2005

Purpose: Cut blowdown, lop rodos

Location: Section 19 from Indian Grave to the Noli

People: Bill Stowell and Craig Deloach

Summary: We walked from Indian Grave to the Nolichucky Expeditions cutting blow downs and rodos along the way. We carried in a shovel and broom for the shelter along with a trail log. We dug some ditches at the shelter to divert water away from the shelter. Work is needed to put in steps where the trail leaves the creek and goes up the mountain. Also there were many ponds in the trail from there back to the car. Some of them may be fixed by ditching out to drain the water.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club, by CB Willis, Secretary

Date: April 4, 2005

Purpose: Spring maintenance trip and to remove known blow downs

Location: Section 17 from Low Gap south to the switchback in USFS 230 on south side of Unaka Mountain

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Daryl Loyd, Dave McMillin, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, Lou Haase, CBV Willis

Summary: Cleared the major blowdowns in Low Gap vicinity. Three very large trees across trail required hikers to detour or crawl under. Two of these were left from last year due to the large size. Because of snow and mud, we didn't get the treadway finished satisfactorily under the tree debris but the trail is easily passable and we will go back when dry to finish. One crew inspected the trail from the switchback south of Unaka Mountain back to Low Gap and cleared 4 medium to large blowdowns as well as several small ones. We spent time working on the spring on the north side of Unaka Mountain and corrected the flow. Previously as much water was missing the pipe as flowed thru. Our trail is now clear from Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap, although we do have plenty of construction and rehab work to do.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 5, 2005

Purpose: Prepare more trail for relocation and dig some of relocation

Location: Section 11 - About 1.5 mile north of Bitter End

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, HIKERS Pig Pen, Feather f, Heidi f, Nuffy f, Sure Shot, Jill, Maruchan

Summary: Bob recruited some more enthusiastic hikers. Some of the hikers passed us Saturday when we were working in bad weather with ASU students, so they had to take this opportunity to learn about trail construction. Three of us continued to clear more work for Hard Core and Konnarock. The rest of us dug trail, installed three side logs, and installed a 12 foot locust log bridge on a section we started a couple of weeks ago. All the hikers painted blazes as we opened this 650 foot section.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 6, 2005

Purpose: Inspect specific FS holdings for compliance

Location: Multiple

People: Darrol Nickels and Bruce Cunningham

Summary: Three of the four properties (envelopes) were found and inspected with no problems to report. The fourth property (envelope) turned into 2 properties several miles apart. Both were inspected with no problems to report and all information turned into FS office. Darrol and I signed off on these four tracts. FS will let us know if they wish us to do anything more on what turned into a fifth tract included in the same envelope with the fourth tract. Also stopped at TN Correctional Facility (jail) and were told they could pick up trash only on state roads---so much for Bear Branch pick-ups!!

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 9, 2005

Purpose: Annual spring trail maintenance

Location: Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

People: Steve Perri, Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: Bruce, Mary and Steve hiked in from TN 91 to cut rhodos, paint blazes, and clear blowdowns. Steve hiked with a chain saw to cut out blowdowns reported between Grindstaff Monument and Iron Mt Shelter, then he stashed the saw and hiked to Turkey Pen Gap cutting rhodos, briars and removing small downed limbs. The rhodos were cut pretty hard between the shelter and spring south of the shelter. Steve then painted blazes, as well as blue blazes at water sources, in both directions heading back to TN 91 until he met Bruce and Mary. The three tired maintainers removed 2 large blown downs on the way out. The shelter was in good shape and

but picked up a little trash there. Lots of briars on this section that will need to go in a few months. The trail is in great shape--many hikers--someone stole almost all the great plastic--aluminum blazes--will need to replace in the future.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 10, 2005

Purpose: Blowdown Clearing

Location: Hughes Gap to Carvers Gap

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Summary: We started at Hughes Gap and worked together to Ash Gap; then, Craig continued up while Joe drove around to Carvers Gap and we met about halfway between Carvers Gap and the shelter. There were numerous small blowdowns but not an extraordinary number and all were bowsaw-size and removed. We also cut briars. Trail is in good shape including the relo from Carvers Gap up to the Hack Line, really improved over five years ago.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: April 12, 2005

Purpose: Repair steep trail

Location: From bridge at Bear Branch for 0.2 mile trail north

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, ETSU Cindy Bruce, HIKERS Eric Jenness, Bill Zubaty, Loki, Justin

Summary: We completed the repair of this bad section by installing about eight rock steps, a couple of side logs and a rock crib with appropriate back fill, and reworked a couple of small streams to contain them. Only had to remove two bags of trash from trail head.

Name: Jim Foster

Date: April 13, 2005

Purpose: Flag relocation of trail as it enters Damascus from the south

Location: One mile of trail from Damascus south

People: Teresa Martinez, Dave Schilling, Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Teresa Martinez and Dave Schilling, from the ATC regional office in Blacksburg Va., came down to help search out and flag a much needed relocation of about one mile of trail coming into Damascus from the south. Teresa also brought her dog Yonkey along. We flagged in a cold rain which actually stopped just as we returned to our cars. The actual project would be a good one for hardcore considering the nearness to Damascus.

Name: Collins Chew

Date: April 15, 2005

Purpose: Painting blazes - White Rocks Mountain to Bitter End

Location: Section 11 from Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

People: Lee Bockman, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Peggy Durham, Taylor Pickard,

Summary: We painted blazes, cleared a few blowdowns, clipped some rhododendron, greenbriars, etc. We left a good many minor blowdowns which do not greatly interfere with hiking. Trail is in good shape. Installed metal AT sign near Bitter End. Left trail register book and picked up the almost full old one. Koon Den Falls sign is in good shape. Did not notice others. It was a beautiful day with a few wildflowers.

Name: Bill Stowell

Date: April 15, 2005

Purpose: Check supposed leaning tree at Shelter

Location: Section 19 from Noli Expeditions to Curley Maple

People: Bill Stowell and Craig DeLoach

Summary: Went in to check report of hazardous tree at shelter. As expected, the tree is the one that has been leaning for years with a water sign on it. It is leaning towards the shelter, but looks healthy and no root pull up. It is engaged at the top by another tree for support. Not to waste a trip, Craig cut dog hobble while I walked to the shelter. After that I dug drainage in places that needed it until I met up with Craig again down at the bridges. All in a days work.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club by CB Willis, Secretary

Date: April 18, 2005

Purpose: To clear reported new blowdowns

Location: Section 18, between USFS 230 and Indian Grave Gap

People: Mike Hupko and Marsha Hupko

Summary: Hikers reported 5 new blowdowns in Section 18 between USFS 230 and Indian Grave Gap. The Hupkos cut 5 trees and trimmed some others, cut one dip in a low area between the power line and soggy area. Three of the trees were between the low soggy area south of FS 230 in about a 300 foot area. The area is now clear again of blowdowns and other trail obstructions.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 19, 2005

Purpose: Work on relos

Location: Section 11 - Trail north of Bitter End

People: Bob Peoples, Ken Buchanan, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham and Bill Elderbrock from TEHCC; and hikers Eagle Foot, Uncle Kodak, Pixie, Pine Dragon, Nimble Foot, Rawhide, Swan, Hiker KU, David, Unknown, Angie, and Box of Fun and ETSU student Cindy Bruce

Summary: With the help of a tremendous number of thru hikers, we completed another relo trail north of Bitter End. We also continued cutting the relo that we plan to work on with Damascus Hardcore. We had twelve when we started working. We were amazed when seven additional thru hikers stopped and help us complete the relo that we were working on. It was a pleasure to have so much great and enthusiastic help.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 22, 2005

Purpose: Check on report that tread wear was uneven and dangerous

Location: Section 14 from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap

People: Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, hikers Double Healer and Freedom, Appy State students Cory Powers, Mark Norton, and Galen Niederhauser

Summary: The geo-web and geo-textile are becoming uncovered at many spots. Some of the geo- web might cause tripping problems. We covered the geo where ever possible, cut-removed some real bad spots. The trail is now OK and we believe safe; but there is not enough stone to really fix the problem.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 25, 2005

Purpose: Clipping and painting blazes

Location: Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham

Summary: The group painted blazes along the section which was needed, and clipped weeds and brush. There are three chainsaw-size blowdowns along this section.