

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

August 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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<u><a href="#">NEXT TWO MONTHS</a></u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
July 28-Aug 1	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Aug 11-15	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Aug 13	Leader's Choice (S900M)	AA/3/A	Garry Luttrell	sb6ker@yahoo.com
Aug 20	Little Stoney Creek Falls	C/3/B	Vic Hasler	423-239-0338
Sep 2-5	Multi-Club Conference	Various	Laurie Foot	
Sep 10	A.T. Beauty Spot to Pleasant Garden	B/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

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

## Southern Highlands 2005

*Submitted by Steve Perri*



Southern Highlands 2005 has passed and has been a resounding success. Many thanks to those who devoted their time organizing committees and participating in events. Attendance for the meeting approached 900. On Friday night, July 1, ATC acknowledged its partners with a pizza reception at the Carnegie Hotel. On Saturday night, July 2, ATC honored club members who reached 25 and 50 years of service. TEHCC's honorees with 25 years of volunteer service were Steve Banks, Kevin Edgar, Steve Falling, Waylon Jenkins, and Tim McClain. ATC also changed its name to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy with the opening meeting unveiling the new logo, tag line and revamped magazine.

The week was filled with about 20 hikes each day with the exception of Monday, since the membership meeting was held in the morning. Over 50 workshops and 20 excursions were held on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Entertainment began Friday night with Jon Spelman and Narelle Kirkland providing story telling. Musical entertainment over the weekend included John McCutcheon on Sunday night and the Appalachian Trail Bluegrass Band on Monday night. Other entertainment held during the weekday evenings included David Brill, Sheila Kay Adams, Doug Elliott, Ed Schell, and a documentary film by Doug Morse. I'd like to thank Collins Chew for leading the hikes committee. He put a lot of work into arranging all the hike descriptions, maps, hike leader information, and all the calls and email that went into soliciting hike leaders for over 150 hikes. Collins endured the ups and downs of gathering volunteers and occasionally replacing volunteers who had to cancel due to unforeseen last minute changes. Collins benefited by many who volunteered at the hikes desk, including Charlotte; those who led more than one hike; and by those who worked each day in the hikes parking lot, including Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Garry Luttrell and Carl Fritz. Joe DeLoach deserves acknowledgement for putting on the silent auction at the last minute and for soliciting donated items. I'd like to thank Bruce for all the running around and other miscellaneous work prior to going to his summer retreat during the meeting. Bruce did a lot of behind-the-scenes work, better known as my dirty work, during work hours. There are many more TEHCC volunteers beyond those mentioned here. If you volunteered and didn't receive your carabiner light, let me know and I'll get one to you. Crème-colored shirts are left over from the event and available for \$5.00 each. I will keep these for awhile for those volunteers who were unable to get one. If you need one, please let me know (email: or 423-229-1484).



ATC's new name and logo

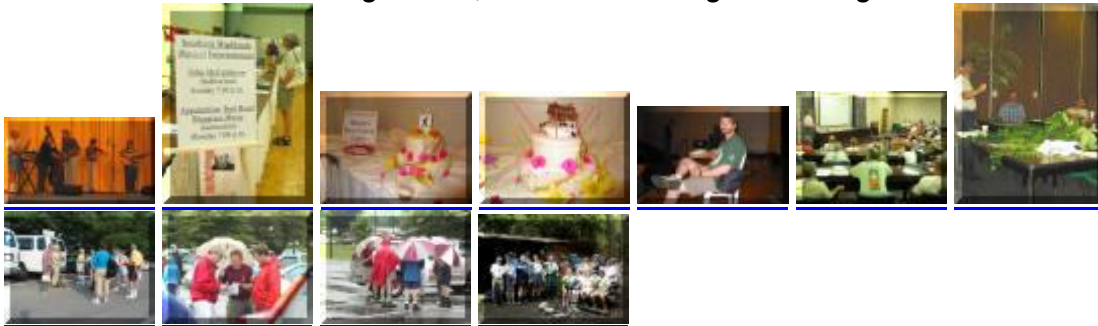


(left to right) Peggy and Tim McClain, Mary, Steve and Steven Banks.  
Recipients of 25 year service awards.



Steve Wilson (left) receives award from Brian Fitzgerald (right) in appreciation of his service on the ATC Board of Managers

*Scenes from Southern Highlands, click on an image to enlarge.*



**ATC Southern Region Multi-Club Conference  
Hosted by the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, September 2-5,  
2005**

The September ATC Multi-Club Conference for the Southern Region will be held at Sherando Lake USFS Recreation Area over the Labor Day weekend, September 2-5, 2005. Sherando is located on the west side of the Blue Ridge and has easy access from Interstate 81 near Staunton, Virginia, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Sherando Recreation Area offers rustic camping with many trails for hiking coupled with all

the conveniences of a State Park (2 lakes for fishing, hand powered boating, swimming beach with bathhouse and concessions pavilion). In addition, there is direct access to the Appalachian Trail and the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway via hiking trails or paved roads. There are many back roads (and the Blue Ridge Parkway) for bicycle riders.

The area around Sherando abounds with interesting sites from Rocky's Antique Mall (largest discount jewelry store) in Harrisonburg to a Frontier Culture Museum or the Woodrow Wilson Historic Home in Staunton. The Rockbridge Vineyards, Buffalo Spring Herb Farm, Cyrus McCormick Farm, P. Buckley Moss Art Museum and Wintergreen Resort are all located within a 20 mile radius of Sherando. And, of course, there are many Civil War historic battlefields and sites in the local Shenandoah Valley area.

For those serious hikers, there are many hikes planned for Saturday and Sunday both on the AT and side trail areas. They will range from all day hikes to ½ day easy hikes with NBATC members as guides. There are many easy scenic hike areas on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Humpback Rocks, etc.) that are available for small children.

The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting the Multi-Club conference and intends to make it an enjoyable weekend for everyone. Dinners, entertainment hikes and tours are planned for participants on Saturday & Sunday. To obtain a printable registration form, click [here](#). For more detailed information click [here](#) or contact Laurie Foot at, .

## **Funfest Moonlight Hike - July 21, 2005**

*Submitted by Terry Oldfield*

TEHCC was a cosponsor of the Bays Mountain Fun Fest Moonlight Hike again this year, providing volunteers to count hikers and to keep hikers on the trail. This 2.5-mile hike around Bays Mountain reservoir began at 8:00 PM and ended at about 10:00 PM with the full moon at the horizon. TEHCC volunteers counted the hikers at the start and finish, and were posted at trail junctions along the route to keep hikers from making a wrong turn. A total of 378 hikers made the hike this year, down from last year's 514. Kim Peters guessed 386, the closest to the total number of hikers, and was awarded \$15 worth of merchandise from the Bays Mountain Park store. In addition to Kim, volunteers included Jeff Berry, Kat Johnson, Randal Dean, Debi Berry, Steven Banks, Steve Banks, Mark Dean, Matt Dean, Suzanne Dobbs, John Frey, Greg Kramer, Jennifer Siirola, John Beltramo, Jeff Siirola, and Terry Oldfield.

Thank you volunteers!



## **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

John Earl Cabaniss    Charity Conkin  
Tom Dossier            Rose Johnson  
Tony Johnson          Charles Mather

New members are 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](#).*

**Konnarock Crew; July 28 - August 1, and August 11-15, 2005**

**Leaders: Ed Oliver (423-349-6668) and Joe DeLoach (423-753-7263)**

Generally, our club requests and receives 4-5 weeks of Konnarock Crew time each year to help with major Appalachian Trail projects. In 2005, with our host responsibilities for the ATC biennial conference, we reduced our request to three weeks but we have plenty of work to do. This summer we'll continue work on a series of trail relocations on White Rocks Mt. in Carter County, between Roan Mt. and Dennis Cove. This section is characterized by innumerable short, steep climbs in and out of wet areas which are prone to erosion. With much help from

hikers, other groups, Konnarock, and Club volunteers, we have made great progress on these relocations which were begun in 2003. This summer we'll be working near Moreland Gap Shelter and we'll need some help. The Crew arrives on Thursdays around lunch and works until Monday around lunch. We typically have volunteers every day but the largest outings are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On those days we assemble at our normal location near McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Please let us know in advance if you're coming and bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. We've historically had among the best support for Konnarock of any club and let's keep that up even with a shorter schedule this summer. Please contact Ed or Joe for more information.

**Little Stoney Creek Falls (Jefferson National Forest), August 20, 2005**

*Hike Leader: Vic Hasler*

Rating: C/3/B (5-6 miles/moderate pace/average terrain - short sections rough and rocky)



Little Stoney Creek Trail in the Jefferson National Forest near Dungannon, Virginia is an easy hike following an old railroad bed up to a pair of very nice waterfalls. I would call this one of my favorite hikes in the area, thus leading it again (last time was June 2002). Sign at the trailhead says □2.6 mi□. Driving distance one-way is 37 miles (80 minutes). Bring lunch, comfortable boots (recommended for the many □cobblestones□ on the trail) or sneakers, rain gear and appropriate clothing. The stout in constitution can try swimming in the cold pool below the upper falls. There are three geocaches along the trail to be hunted. Meet at the usual spot in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Back around 4PM.

E-mail () or call 239-0388 if any questions and to let me know if you are coming to know headcount.

**Doe River Gorge Overnight Trip; October 22-23, 2005**

*Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)*

Rating: C/4/C(Easy)



The Hiking Club has reservations for 24 overnight visitors in two cabins at beautiful Doe River Gorge, Hampton, TN. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage. DRG is an easy 60 minute drive from Kingsport. Since the cabins are only a short walk from the parking area it is hard to really call this an overnight hike. But the plan is to drop off our food and belongings at the cabin then take an easy hike up the gorge along an old railroad bed. Of course it is fine to do something else like relax at the cabin overlooking the river.





We have reserved the large riverside cabin and one small riverside cabin. Here is what their website, [www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php](http://www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php), says about the cabins: "A short walk across the footbridge leads to the large cabin nestled in a beautiful stand of mature hemlocks along the bank of the Doe River. This rustic, yet elegant log cabin, complete with central heat and air and fireplace, sleeps a total of 20 people in 2 rooms with comfortable bunk-style beds. Each bunk area has 2 private bathrooms. The cabin also includes a kitchen and a large, tastefully furnished living area suitable for group gatherings. Relax in a rocker on the large, covered porch overlooking the beautiful Doe River as it flows through the scenic gorge. Small Riverside Cabins (2 units): Near the large cabin, our small cabins also have central heat and air and sleep up to 10 people in comfortable bunk-style beds. Each cabin has a kitchenette, 2 full private bathrooms, living area with woodstove, and a porch overlooking the Doe River."



The cost per person is \$22.00. This price only covers lodging (bring sleeping bags or sheets/blankets) so we will make arrangements for the preparation of supper and breakfast. We only have reservations for 24 people, so call in your request before sending money. To make a reservation or for more information call Steve Falling, 239-5502.

## **Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)**

**For the record, Mount Leconte, July 9-10 2005**

*Steve Falling reporting*

Last weekend my Dad and I climbed a Mountain.

The hike up the Alum Cave Trail to the Mt. LeConte Lodge was difficult but enjoyable. The hike varied from being really steep to being really flat. The cave was a very good place to eat lunch and gain strength since it is the half-way point on this trail. The last mile up the mountain was a killer and the flatness of the last 0.2 mi was certainly welcomed. When we arrived, the Lodge Office was well lit with many new sky-lights and of course the gift shop was "Open." The cabins were rustic, but that's ok. All we really need is a bed, chair, table, lamp, and window anyway. At

5:15 we met Trevor Lanier, the National Park's Educational Naturalist. Trevor spoke with us about the history and diversity of the Appalachian region.

Dinner was great. The food was wonderful and the atmosphere pleasant. The people were very friendly. Their names were: David Hite (Kingsport), Jeanine and Claire Michael (Kalamazoo, MI), Helga Mitchell (Johnson City), Fred Rowland (Piney Flats), Shelton Thompson (Erwin), and my Dad; Greg Drone; and I from Johnson City.

After dinner Trevor gave us another very interesting talk up at "Clifftops" (approx 0.2 mi from the Lodge) about the history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the important part LeConte Lodge played in the Park's development. This guy really knew what he was talking about! After he spoke with us, we enjoyed the beautiful sunset for the next hour from "Clifftops." It was truly a spectacular site.

Breakfast the next day was served at 8:00 am. It was delicious! We had the choice of attending the sunrise service at 6:15 am from "Myrtle Point." But we didn't feel like waking up so early, so we attended the 9:30 am service in the Office.

The hike down the mountain was a whole lot easier and faster than the hike up. There were many slippery rocks to walk over, but many pretty sights to look at that we had missed on the way up. When we did manage to hike down it was such a joy to get into the air conditioned car with our boots off

I hiked it 2005 ☐ Caroline Drone (age 14)



The hikers, (left to right) Caroline and Greg Drone, Jeanine and Claire Michael, Shelton

Thompson, David Hite, Fred Rowland, Helga Mitchel.



*(click on an image above to enlarge)*

## **Smokies 900 miler, Curry Mountain & Meigs Creek Trails**

**July 16 2005**

*G. S. Luttrell reporting*

The one thing we didn't want prior to this hike was rain, due to the many creek crossings on Meigs Creek. So, because of the remnants of hurricane Dennis in this area for a week, a plan B hike on higher ground was an option. But, when we checked the water flow of Meigs Falls, at the point where Meigs Creek meets Little River, the flow was about normal, making the original hike plan a go. The hike around Curry He and Curry She Mountains, and along Meigs Mtn Trail was much more pleasant thanks to recent trail maintenance. Just a few minutes after we started down the Meigs Creek Trail, Dennis tricked us into putting on our rain gear, then the rain shower stopped. After crossing the creek a couple of times, Dennis got us again with a longer, heavier shower. The first few crossings were rock hops; but as we descended, wading the creek proved to be very refreshing.



Hikers in the lunch break photo above, left to right, Emmett Dougherty, Garry Luttrell, Debi Berry, Kim Peters, Janet & Chuck Mather, (who recently moved to this area from California), and Taylor Pickard.



A cemetery along the Curry Mountain Trail



An orange fungus - someone was supposed to look this one up!



Garry Luttrell stops to take a picture of the waterfall on Meigs Creek



Garry on one of the 15 creek crossings



Kim crossing Meigs creek



Taylor relaxes at the Sinks while waiting for the shuttle



The Sinks

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

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 25, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and paint blazes

**Location:** Section 15, Cloudland to Ash Gap

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut weeds and briars down this steep stretch, painted blazes in both directions, and painted the blue-blazed trail to the spring.

**Name:** Bill Berry

**Date:** June 25, 2005

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20, Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** Removed one blown down North of No Business shelter. Cut annual growth.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** June 26, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds, clip briars, and refresh blazes

**Location:** TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Jim Mann, James Sutton

**Summary:** Hiked from TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter and back: cut weeds, cut briars, cut 2 blowdowns, refreshed blazes; also added blazes north of Double Springs Shelter as I had gotten reports that hikers were getting confused when they got to shelter and could not find the trail north.

**Name:** Bill Stowell

**Date:** June 27, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut blow down

**Location:** Section 19, 1.4 mile trail south of Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Marsha Stowell, Bill Stowell

**Summary:** We drove over to Indian Grave Gap after work and cut a blow down 1/4 mile trail south from Indian Grave Gap. Also pulled down some green briar hanging from a tree. Weeds are not a problem on this end.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 28, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and repair fence

**Location:** US 19E to Bradley Gap and then just south of Carvers Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We cut the weeds and grass from Bradley Gap to US 19E. The only exception was a small patch on Hump Mountain then occupied by the Long Horns. Some of the crew on top had fair weather, while the rest got drenched. We were able to give a lift to a father and daughter from Doll's Flat back to Carver's Gap. Dave and Carl repaired the barb wire fences where people had either cut them or spread the wires apart. The key places in fence at the old trail were reinforced with significantly more wire.

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** June 28, 2005

**Purpose:** Trim back annual growth from the trail

**Location:** Section 16, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** Trimmed weeds and clipped overgrowth.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 29, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and briars

**Location:** Section 19, Nolichucky River to where AT starts up bluff

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut poison ivy, other weeds, and multiflora rose from Chestoa to where the trail starts up a bluff where Konnarock relocated years ago. This is the weediest area along this section.

**Name:** Dave Dunham

**Date:** June 30, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 4, Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Russ Sommers

**Summary:** The weeds were abundant on this entire section. With a lot of sweat equity they were conquered for the upcoming conference. Next year the Tuesday group will be enlisted to participate on this section.

**Name:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Date:** July 1, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 12, Bitter End to Walnut Mtn. Road

**People:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Summary:** Starting at the Bitter End locked gate, I cut briars and weeds to Walnut Mtn Road and returned. I also attached a "Foot Travel Only" sign to a tree on the Bitter End / FS Rd end of the section.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 12, 2005

**Purpose:** Check trail condition and need for gravel

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers Gap to Ash Gap

**People:** Ed Oliver and Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Reviewed area and measured sections that could use more gravel. Basically, most of reconstruction is still holding up. There are a couple of sections that could use gravel for 100 feet. Probably insufficient need yet to employ ASU orientation students.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** July 24, 2005

**Purpose:** Mow grass on my adopted section

**Location:** Section 4, hay fields between US 421 and TN 91, where trail crosses Osborne tract

**People:** James Sutton, Jim Mann

**Summary:** Went up to mow grass on the AT where it crosses the Osborne tract. The grass was very high and hard to mow due to all the recent rain. We did get to meet a southbound thru-hiker.