

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

December 2005

www.tehcc.org



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<b><u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u></b>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Dec. 3	Rich Mountain Loop (Smokies Dayhike)	B/2/B	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493

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

## TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting



*Kent Wilson reporting*

The TEHCC fall dinner meeting was held November 4 at the Eastman lodge on Bays Mountain. The dinner was catered by The Catering Company from Johnson City. Several awards were presented. Konarock tee shirts were earned by Bill Stowell, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Craig Deloach, Darrol Nickels, and Bob Peoples. The 25 Year ATC service awards were presented to Steve Banks, Kevin Edgar, Steve Falling, Waylon Jenkins and Tim McClain. The 2000 miler award was given to Nancy and Kent Wilson who completed their hike of the A.T. this past July. Morgan Sommerville, the ATC Regional director for Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, gave a report on the recent changes at ATC. A slide program was presented by Collins Chew on his recent trip to China. Several door prizes including the new A.T. guide book and map set for Tenn./N.C., were presented and the

meeting was closed by a special presentation by "The Singing Sisters".  
*Photos courtesy of Olin Babb, click on a image to enlarge*



Darrol Nickels and Ed Oliver receive their Konnarock t-shirts.



Steve Banks and Steve Falling, recipients of ATC's 25 year service award



Steve Perri presents the 2000 miler award to Nancy and Kent Wilson.



Morgan Summerville reports on changes to ATC



Collins Chew giving a presentation on his trip to China



"The Singing Sisters"

## **Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees**

*Submitted by Richard Colberg*

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

## **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**



Adam Carter  
Donnie Tate  
Holli Valentini

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](#).

### **Smokies Dayhike: Rich Mountain Loop, December 3, 2005**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-323-3493; Rating: B/2/B*

I've lost count, but I just keep trying on this one; maybe it will happen this time! 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 a year ago 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 2005 newsletter). With leaves down, 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. Perhaps there will be snow, underfoot or in the distance. 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 will be getting short. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Watch the weather; dress appropriately for a late fall / early 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)**

### **Hike Report: Doe River Gorge; October 22□23, 2005**

*Submitted by Steve Falling*

For our fall overnight cabin trip this year we chose nearby Doe River Gorge (DRG). This beautiful, Hampton, Tennessee camp has well-equipped cabins which are available for rental during the non-summer months. We had the large cabin (a short walk across the river) which has two, large bunk rooms, great room with fireplace, kitchen, and deck overlooking the Doe River.

Saturday we moved into the cabin then hiked along the railroad tracks up the gorge. It was still a little before the peak autumn color show but was beautiful nevertheless. Some of the men and boys tried out their fishing skills. We packed in food for dinner and the ladies

fixed a delicious Italian meal that night. Sunday morning the men cooked breakfast (eggs, bacon, pancakes, coffee, juice, etc.). On Sunday morning we packed up and returned to the main camp area. That Sunday was the day of the DRG's yearly open house with many activities to enjoy including train rides up the gorge and mountain boarding.

A great time was had by all and reservations have been made to return there again next year. The overnight hikers were Steve and Julie Falling; Matt, Laurie, Rebecca, Anna and Timothy Barker; Mark, Karen, Sarah and Andrew Cox; Greg, Beth, Katy and Lauren Neal; and Kevin, Sharon, Jonathan, Hannah, Sarah and Emily Shipp. Day hikers were David and Caroline Dingus.



Hikers (L to R) Rebecca Barker, Lauren Neal, Anna Barker, Laurie Barker, Timothy Barker, Emily Shipp, Sarah Shipp, Greg Neal, Beth Neal, Katy Neal, Mark Cox, Karen Cox, Andrew Cox, Matt Barker, Sarah Cox, Julie Falling, Steve Falling, Sharon Shipp, Hannah Shipp, Jonathan Shipp, and Kevin Shipp.



Interesting geology in the Doe River Gorge



Timothy and Andrew, fishers of fish



The Doe River Gorge Hikers



The light at the end of the tunnel.



The tracks.



Garter snake.



View of the gorge.



Mountain boarding.



Jonathan mountain boarding.

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



**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** November 1, 2005

**Purpose:** Routine trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Watauga Dam Rd to Shook Branch at US 321

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Jim Mann, Darrol Nickels

**Summary:** We lopped back tree and rhododendron growth, cleaned water bars, and picked up trash. Surprisingly, we found the equivalent of only two bags of trash. Someone must have already picked up litter. There are a couple of dead hazard trees at the first camp site, north of Shook Branch; we will try to get them this winter. Unfortunately, the shaft on a string trimmer broke.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** November 8 & 14, 2005

**Purpose:** Finalize details and submit plans for new shelter near Mountaineer Falls

**Location:** Section 12, near Mountaineer Falls

**People:** Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Paul Benfield

**Summary:** Ed Oliver reported that two possible sites were selected for the new shelter within the approved area, the trail was flagged to a water source and to the A.T., and 6-8 trees were spotted that may need to be cut down.

Following the trip, Ed Oliver completed the entire design drawings, maps, and material lists for the new shelter. He submitted the plans to U.S. Forest Service for their approval. We

hope to get approval and purchase the materials before end of year while grant money is available.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** November 11, 2005

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** All of Section 18, Switchback in USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Gil Derouen, Bob Spencer, Dave McMillin, Tim Shipley, Daryl Loyd, Howard Guinn, CB Willis

**Summary:** Having heard reports of recent blowdowns in this section, we walked the entire section and cleared about five true blowdowns, ones that were obstructing the trail. We also clipped rhododendron and brush.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** November 11, 2005

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail junction

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We lopped briars and brush, removed one large and a couple of small blowdowns, and re-dug a short section of Trail near the Backbone Rock Trail junction. Trail is clear. There is a tall dead pine at the designated campsite in Virginia. Joe will contact the Mt. Rogers NRA and ask them to remove it.

**Name:** Kim Peters

**Date:** November 12, 2005

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Campbell Hollow Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Kim Peters, Kat Johnson

**Summary:** We hiked in from the Elk River Falls recreation area and then hiked towards Campbell Hollow road and back ending at the Elk River. We cleared several small blowdowns including one complex blowdown involving several trees and rhododendrons. We met one south bounder who was very complementary about the trail conditions he found from Watauga lake south and several section hikers who also thanked us for our work. It was a good day to be out in the woods! This section is in good shape except for the stile at the river. The barbed wire has been cut again and rolled aside, presumably to allow for horses to access the trail.

**Name:** William Stowell

**Date:** November 13, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut blowdown

**Location:** Section 19, 1.5 miles from Nolichucky expeditions

**People:** Craig Deloach, William Stowell

**Summary:** We cut out a large blowdown near the switchback where the trail goes up steeply. We cut several smaller ones on the way out.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** November 19, 2005

**Purpose:** Relocate trail

**Location:** North and south of Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Darrol Nickels, Ed

Oliver, Bob Peoples, plus 71 people from Appalachian State University

**Summary:** At most, we were expecting 63 students and professors from Appalachian State University (ASU). Even with the very cold morning, 71 ASU folks showed up. We dug new trail on both sides of Iron Mountain Gap and equally divided our time. With the enthusiastic students, we built 1400 feet of trail. The ASU Trail Club was strongly represented amongst the students.