

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January 2006

www.tehcc.org

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| <u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u> | | | | |
|--|---|-------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | | <u>Leader</u> | |
| Jan 7 | Little Stony Creek Falls | B/3/C | Mary Ellen Ress | 423-349-6536 |
| Feb 4 | Steele Creek Park Trails (Bristol, TN) | B/3/C | Vic Hasler | 423-239-0388 |
| Feb 18 | Hot Springs - Tanyard Gap Loop | A/2/B | Mary Ellen Ress | 423-349-6536 |

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

Election Results

The election results for TEHCC's 2006-2007 Steering Committee members are in! Congratulations and welcome to our newly elected Steering Committee members: Steve Banks, Dale Douthat, and Michael Ray. Thank you to all club members who participated in this election.

Thanks also to Anne Cosby, Vic Hasler, Garry Luttrell, and Richard Guinn who will be rotating off of the committee. TEHCC greatly appreciates your dedication and service to our club as Steering Committee members over the last two (or more) years. In addition to our new Steering Committee members; Debi Berry, Olin Babb, and Kent Wilson will continue to serve through 2006.

Trail Maintenance - Outdoor Enjoyment with Volunteer Satisfaction

Submitted by Carl Fritz

TEHCC is responsible for 130 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Spivey Gap on the North

Carolina Border to Damascus, Virginia. We currently have this stretch of trail divided into 26 maintenance sections. Of these 26 sections, 14 have been "adopted" by individuals or groups who have volunteered to maintain their adopted section each year. For the remaining 12 sections, we have a pool of ten volunteers who form their own teams and take responsibility for a different maintenance section each year. Thus, we have two sections which are in need of a volunteer maintainer.

We need your help! Please consider volunteering to adopt an A.T. maintenance section this coming year. This is very rewarding work for not much effort. All the hikers you meet on the A.T. are very appreciative of our efforts. This is a great opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise for a couple of days this coming year. Generally, only two or three outings are necessary during the year. The first outing is to remove trees and branches from the trail after the winter storms. A second outing is to repaint the blazes and lop any overgrowth of rhododendrons and trees. On some sections, a third outing may be needed sometime during the summer months in order to cut weeds.

No experience is necessary! There are other club members who volunteer for major efforts like chainsaw cutting or trail repair. If you have never done trail maintenance, you can volunteer to go out with another adopter or section leader to learn what is involved or ask one of them to accompany you. If you have questions, you can contact anyone listed below for help. If you think you might be interested in adopting a section, being a team leader, or being a team member on an outing, or have any questions about our club's maintenance responsibilities, please feel free to contact me at 423-477-4669.

Below is a list of our maintenance sections with adopter names if they have one:

| | Section | Adopter |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Damascus - Backbone Rock Trail | |
| 2 | Backbone Rock Trail - Abingdon Gap Shelter | |
| 3 | Abingdon Gap Shelter - Spring 2.3 miles N of Low Gap | Steve Banks |
| 4 | Spring 2.3 miles N of Low Gap - Low Gap (US 421) | Tim McClain |
| 5 | Low Gap - Double Springs Shelter | |
| 6 | Double Springs Shelter - TN 91 | Jim Mann |
| 7 | TN 91 - Turkeypen Gap | |
| 8 | Turkeypen Gap - Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Boundary | |
| 9 | Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Boundary - Watauga Dam Road | John Arwood |
| 10 | Watauga Dam Road - US 321 (Shook Branch) | Darrol Nickels/ Dave and Carol Dunham |
| 11 | US 321 - Pond Flats | Bob Peoples |
| 12 | Pond Flats - White Rocks Tower | Bob Peoples |
| 13 | White Rocks Tower - Bitter End | |
| 14 | Bitter End - Walnut Mt. Road | |
| 15 | Walnut Mt. Road - Sugar Hollow Creek | |
| 16 | Sugar Hollow Creek - Campbell Hollow Road | |
| 17 | Campbell Hollow Road - US 19E | |
| 18 | US 19E - Stan Murray Shelter | Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver |

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 19 | Stan Murray Shelter - Carvers Gap | David Ramsey |
| 20 | Carvers Gap - Hughes Gap | |
| 21 | Hughes Gap - Greasy Creek Gap | Jim Foster |
| 22 | Greasy Creek Gap - Iron Mt. Gap | |
| 23 | Iron Mt. Gap - Indian Grave Gap | Old Timers Hiking Club |
| 24 | Indian Grave Gap - Nolichuckey River | Craig DeLoach/Bill Stowell |
| 25 | Nolichuckey River - Temple Hill Gap | Craig Haire |
| 26 | Temple Hill Gap - Spivey Gap | Bill Berry |

These are the 10 volunteers team leaders who maintain a different section each year.

- Joe DeLoach
- Mike Watts
- Steve Perri
- Waylon Jenkins
- Collins Chew
- Garry Luttrell
- Jeff Siirola
- Kim Peters
- Richard Colberg
- Steve Wilson

TEHCC Rental Equipment:HB-19 Kelty Tioga 4300 External Frame

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator ()

This month is a review of backpack, HB-19, a 4300 cubic inch external frame similar to picture (which is of a newer model). It was likely purchased in the early 90's. The current price for an equivalent pack would be \$180 to \$200. This pack is good for someone on a long weekend on the trail as it has plenty of space in the main compartment. Note: The lower access zipper has split across the teeth (probably snagged hard on something), thus this opening has been sewn closed by a previous Rental Equipment Coordinator forming a single large main compartment which is accessible from the top.

Get the pack a day early so that you can work with the flexible suspension (aka, get the straps adjusted right). This sturdy pack appears to be a workhorse over the years for the club, so give it a try.



Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

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

Little Stony Creek Falls, VA, January 7, 2006

Leader: Mary Ellen Ress, 423-349-6536;

Rating: A/2/B

This hike features two nice waterfalls in a gorge with sandstone cliffs along the side. This is a six mile hike round trip (although we may have to walk an extra 0.4 mile each way if the gate is closed), with a climb of 800 feet. Meet at 8 AM at the usual place next to McDonald's in Colonial Heights. Be sure to bring food and water and wear appropriate clothes for the weather. You may want to let me know you are coming in case inclement weather requires canceling or rescheduling.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

(None reported this month)

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)



People: David Wise, Patrick Meredith, Carl Fritz, David Osborne, Charles Wise, Ralph Wise, Shawn Winiarski, Austin Hall, Justin Hopland, Charles Ramsey, Travis Ramsey, Carter McVeigh

Date: August 20, 2005

Purpose: Improve Stream Crossing

Location: About 2.8 miles north of Bitter End

Summary: David Wise earned his Eagle Scout award by improving this stream crossing. David obtained the materials for a 12-foot bog bridge. He coordinated the building of the bridge. Then he enlisted some other scouts to carry the bridge in 2.8 miles north of Bitter End. They reassembled the bridge and also built about a four foot turnpike. With this improved stream crossing, all the streams between Bitter End

and Moreland Gap are easily walked now.

People: Bruce Cunningham and Joe DeLoach

Date: November 12, 2005

Purpose: Deep South ATC Regional Planning Committee Meeting

Location: Asheville

Summary: Bruce and Joe attended this regular meeting on behalf of TEHCC. Major topics included club training needs, threats to the A.T. including proposed Interstate 3 and the Fontana North Shore Road, ATC's 2006 budget, land conservation adjacent to the A.T., and priorities for the Deep South Regional Office and the RPC.

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Date: November 30, 2005

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Just north of Spivey Gap

Summary: We continued the rehab of trail. We did about 180 feet today and installed two side logs to protect roots of large trees. One more day should finish this project.

People: Ed Oliver and Morgan Sommerville

Date: December 7, 2005

Purpose: Layout of Handicap Accessible Trail

Location: Osborne farm north of TN 91

Summary: Ed and Morgan laid out the entire handicap accessible trail in the field northeast of driveway. Slope varies from 3 to 5% with rest spots and water dips. Fred Lashley has contract to install the trail and plans to do so during the week after the holidays. TEHCC will need to install posts as trail markers and stiles before opening trail in spring.

People: Jim Mann

Date: December 17, 2005

Purpose: Pick Up Trash

Location: Osborne tract off TN 91

Summary: Walked from trailhead on TN 91 across open fields to edge of woods picking up trash. I did not go into the woods as deer season was open and I had forgotten my orange cap and vest. I also picked up a lot of trash at new parking lot. Trash included beer cans and bottles, a car bumper and a muffler with section of exhaust pipe attached. The new parking area is starting to be used as a trash dump site.

People: Catherine Batts, John Arwood

Date: December 17, 2005

Purpose: Clear Large Blowdown

Location: North, on trail, one mile from Watauga Dam Road.

Summary: We hiked one mile north of Watauga Dam Road to the site of a large blowdown, approximately 22" in diameter. On a previous outing we had cleared the many rhododendrons that had been brought down by the tree, but could not cut the tree itself with the tools on hand. This time out we took our crosscut saw, and with a bit of elbow grease, cleared the trail.

People: Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Bryan Cooksey, Joshua Cooksey, Weston Andrews, Brooks Andrews, Morgan Andrews, Josh Green, Lane Wright

Date: December 19, 2005

Purpose: Get materials for shelter, pick up trash, and repair bridge

Location: Sections 8 and 12; Section 8 at Shook Branch Recreation Area

Summary: Adventure Scout Crew 35 from Jacksonville, Florida helped today. We took 3 hrs to haul and stack the rough sawn lumber at the Watauga Work Center for the new shelter. The remaining time was used to pick up trash at Watauga Lake and repair the hand rail on foot bridge at Shook Branch Recreation Area. The hand rail had loosened and then was washed off by the high lake waters. It was recovered and fastened to logs with braces.

People: Julie Judkins, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver

Date: December 20, 2005

Purpose: Inspect Trail for Potential Relocation into Open Area

Location: Immediately trail north of US 421

Summary: We inspected the Scott-Booher tract just north of US 421 and east of existing A.T. If trail were relocated to this site to enhance trail experience, it would require about 2000 feet of new trail. Much of trail would be on an old road and then along edge of forest. There are some nice views of Shady Valley and a pond. Actual length of A.T. would not change. Further information will be obtained so the A.T. Committee can make a recommendation.

People: Carol and Dave Dunham

Date: December 24, 2005

Purpose: Clear Minor Blowdowns

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

Summary: We cleared minor blowdowns and limbs. A couple of larger blowdowns will require larger tools on another day. There is also a considerable amount of trash scattered the first mile north of U.S. 321 to be picked up in future.