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<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
June 2	A.T.: Cross Mountain (Tenn. 91) to Watauga Dam Road (Anniversary Hike)	AA/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
June 3	National Trails Day	Worthwhile	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
June 16	A.T.: Yellow Mountain Gap to US 19E (Anniversary Hike)	A/2/C	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
June 24	A.T.: Cross Mountain (Tenn. 91) to Watauga Dam Road (Anniversary Hike)	AA/2A	Kent Wilson	423-239-7554
June 30	A.T.: Carvers Gap to Yellow Mt. Gap (Anniversary Hike)	B/2/C	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

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

National Trails Day



June 3, 2006

National Trails Day 2006

Saturday, June 3, 2006 is the date for the 14th Annual National Trails Day - America's largest annual single-day trails and outdoor celebration. Organized by American Hiking Society, the national nonprofit organization serving as the national voice for America's hikers, this year's theme is "**Experience Your Outdoors**". National Trails Day is meant to encourage everyone to get outside, get active and experience the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation that trails afford. Events are scheduled to take place in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TEHCC and others are hosting a National Trails Day Event at Bays Mountain Park on June 3, 2006. The objective is to construct a switchback on Pretty Ridge Trail in Bays Mountain Park. This switchback is to eliminate a very steep section of the Pretty Ridge Trail that climbs Pretty Ridge from Back Hollow on the shortest and most obvious approach to the Laurel Run Trail and Falls. The Laurel Run Trail was completed on National Trails Day in 2004 and has proved to be very popular for hikers in Bays Mountain Park. Although it is a mile longer, the best approach to the Laurel Run Trail now includes the Firetower Trail and Indian Pipes Trail to avoid this steep section of Pretty Ridge Trail.

We will meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m. on June 3, 2006, and carpool to Feagins Gap. There will then be a hike of about one mile to the construction site. Ed Oliver is our construction supervisor. Workers should bring lunch, water, gloves, sturdy work clothes and boots/shoes, and sunscreen. Notify Collins Chew, 423-239-6237 (leave message) or Ed Oliver, 423-349-6668, that you are coming so we can provide enough tools. Most work will be digging sidehill using pulaskis. We need a good turnout in order to complete this project on June 3. Contact Ed or Collins for more information.

Spring Dinner Meeting

The TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting was held at the Eastman Lodge Saturday, April 29 with about 50 people in attendance. The meal catered by Clarks Grocery Company consisted of pork loin or baked chicken breast, green beans, potatoes, rolls, and assorted deserts. Mike Rice, Cheryl Sommers, and Candice Wyman represented the US Forest Service, and Morgan Sommerville represented ATC.

The US Forest Service representatives presented the annual maintenance awards and a special award to Steve Perri. The TEHCC annual awards were awarded as follows:

- Frank Oglesby Maintainer of the Year to Darrol Nickols
- Paddler of the Year to Ed Montgomery
- Hiker of the Year to Garry Luttrell
- The Stan Murray award was awarded to Steve Perri

Emmett Dougherty was recognized for completing the SB6000 program. The club maintenance hour patches were presented by Carl Fritz. Morgan Sommerville presented the program on recent changes in the ATC organization and described the current vision of the ATC.

Click on small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Michael Ray.



Kent Wilson, TEHCC Chair, presiding over the meeting



Joe Deloach, A.T. Committee Chair, presenting awards



Mike Rice, Cheryl Sommers and Candice Wyman from the US Forest Service, presenting awards



Steve Perri is presented with a special award from Candice Wyman



Kent Wilson presents Steve Perri with the Stan Murray Award



Carl Fritz presents Bruce Cunningham with his maintenance award



Darrol Nickols receives a door prize



Collins Chew receives a door prize



Hiker of the Year Plaque awarded to Garry Luttrell



Darrol Nickols - Maintainer of the Year



Call for Hike Leaders

Submitted by Neil Dotson

Thanks to Hike Leaders and Request for Hikes for July - September

First of all, gratitude is in order for those who have volunteered to lead hikes so far this year and who have already put hikes on the calendars for the months ahead. I do not adequately thank those who, receiving my quarterly calls for hikes, respond by giving of their time to share with others something they love - hiking in the out-of-doors, and in places they may have special affection for. Summer is rushing toward us, and so it is time for me to make the call again, for hikes in the July - September timeframe. If the cold is an anathema to you, and you would like to lead a nice sweaty hike, please send me the following:

- what hike you'd like to lead
- when you'd like to lead it
- difficulty rating (I can help on this)

Responses are needed by Wednesday, June 14. Remember that there are incentives for those who lead hikes on our section of the A.T.; please see the first article in the February 2006 newsletter for more details. You can reach me through the website. Thanks!

TEHCC Rental Equipment, HT-18 Slumberjack Bivy Shelter

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator

HT-18 is a lightweight (2 lb, 4 oz) minimalist shelter. The bivy will fit you (if less than six foot tall), your sleeping bag, and a pad...and not much more. It is intended to keep you out of the rain and away from bugs. Don't try this one if you're claustrophobic, since with the fly attached, it will feel like a cocoon. The door zips down from the top of the front and all along one side, thus is easy to get into and arrange your sleeping gear. You can't sit up when closed, but can if it is unzipped.

The tent can be set up rapidly. The head and foot poles slide into sleeves, then into grommets. The four corners and two ends are staked out to hold it in place. The fly hooks at three places, and then buckles on an end for tensioning. Make sure the fly is fully spread out over the bivy netting for wet weather protection. Otherwise, leave it off for more air flow. Once done, the whole tent packs down to the size of a family size loaf of bread (roughly 20" long by 6" diameter). The new tent poles stick out of the bag slightly.



The original fiberglass poles, broken in multiple places, have now been replaced with sturdy aluminum on snap elastic. After receiving two sets from Slumberjack that were too long, I took a hacksaw to cut them down to the lengths of the prior poles. The breaking fiberglass poles had kept this tent out of circulation for awhile, but it's now ready for use. Caution - a problem with solo tents is condensation. The bivy is essentially a coated nylon bag with some mesh vents. Keep the fly tensioned above the netting to allow good air flow. Condensation can be a problem with any tent that is not allowed to breathe.

Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation June 8-12 and June 29-July 3, 2006

Submitted by Joe DeLoach

For this summer we had been granted four weeks of Konnarock Crew time, and were donated a fifth week by the Carolina Mountain Club when they determined they had more time than needed. We can use all the time and help we can get for a series of relocations beginning north of Iron Mountain Gap and continuing to near the summit of Unaka Mountain. Much of the Appalachian Trail between Iron Mt. Gap and Unaka Mountain has steep climbs and descents of numerous knobs with no views. The original Trail was laid out along the ridge line. Years of hikers (and the occasional horse) and the steepness have

caused substantial erosion. Near the top, the soil is very wet and soft making it especially prone to erosion. Resource damage and hiker safety are the primary reasons for relocating a Trail section, and that's what we plan to do over the next two to three years. This year we will concentrate on the southernmost, highest section between Low Gap and the Unaka Mountain summit. We have already begun working on it with part of the Hardcore crew. The Konnarock Crew arrives on Thursday and works until Monday. The middle days (Saturday and Sunday) are the ones where we typically get the best turnout, but volunteers are welcome on any of the days the Crew works. Meet at the parking lot below McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am; bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Once again, volunteers who work at least five days with the Crew earn the highly coveted Konnarock T-shirt. With five weeks, many should be able to earn a T-shirt this year.

Please contact Joe, (423-229-1602), or Ed Oliver (423-349-6668) with any questions or if you wish to help.

Eastman Retiree Contact Update

Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send 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

Douglas Steffy

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](#).

Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road, Friday, June 2, 2006, hike 15.8 miles, 2,600 foot climb. (longest hike of the series)

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237;

Rating: AA/2/B

Good views of Watauga Lake etc. from the crest of Iron Mountain. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just North of I-81), at 7:30 A.M. on Friday, June 2, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Yellow Mountain Gap to U. S. 19E,
Friday, June 16, 2006, 8.7 miles plus optional side hike of 2 miles to
Big Yellow. 1,400 foot climb.**

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237;

Rating: A/2/C

Hump Mountain, Little Hump Mountain and Big Yellow provide great views from grassy balds. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just North of I-81), at 7:30 A.M. on Friday, June 16, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap,
Friday, June 30, 2006, 5.0 miles plus side hike of 1.5 miles to Grassy
Ridge. 1,400 foot climb.**

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237;

Rating: B/2/C

Grassy Ridge, Round Bald and Jane Bald provide great views from grassy balds. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just North of I-81), at 7:30 A.M. on Friday, June 30, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains)

July 8-9, 2006

Leader: Steve Falling, 423-239-5502

Rating: B/3/B (Moderate)

For the past 25+ years the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge can only be reached by hiking trail. (Supplies are brought in by llama train once a week.) The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The package price this year is \$97.50 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations in two four/five-person cabins (double bunk beds!). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations please contact the hike leader for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at leconte-lodge.com/about.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Sinking Waters Trail System, Warrior's Path State Park, May 6, 2006

Neil Dotson reporting

This Saturday was a good day for a hike: a clear, cool day resting between two rainy days. The Sinking Waters Trail covers a lot of different sort of walking in its short 3 miles – from meadow to ridge –, but the final destination, the boardwalk through wetlands, is, despite elevation, the high point. Before getting to the boardwalk, one has started to follow the creek, which in the boardwalk area, turns a quick corner and vanishes into a sinkhole. There are a few other sinkholes in the area as well, that sometimes are said to ‘sing’ but were silent when we were there. On the trip, we saw 5 box turtles (one having ascended to

the ridgeline!), a Zebra Swallowtail butterfly, any number of caterpillars, and one dead mole, of great interest to the children as well as to the ants! Flora seen included Cross Vine, May Apples, Snowdrops, Pawpaw, and (of course) Poison Ivy (not yet in bloom). The hikers were Patrice Riesenber, Josh and Abby Keller, Tiffany and Jeff Jenson, with their children Ayden and Anne Elise (she was taking it easy), and Neil and Patricia Dotson, with their children Elizabeth, Daniel and (in the backpack) Joseph. Thanks to Marty Silver of the park for riding over at the start of the hike to give us a brief history of the area.

Anniversary Hike Report, May 19, 2006, Low Gap to Damascus, Va., 14.7 miles

Collins Chewreporting

We had a delightful, cool hike today from Low Gap, U. S. 421 to Damascus, Va, which was decked out with sales tents everywhere by afternoon. The trail was so even that we did the 14.7 mile hike in a relatively short time. Wildflowers attracted attention as usual: flame azalea, pink ladies slipper, (probably domestic) Lily-of-the-valley, sarsaparilla, bellworts, mandarins, etc. The air was quite clear although open viewpoints were not available. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Carol Broderson, Anne Cosby, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Sam Robinette, and Collins Chew.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)



Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 18, 2006

Purpose: Biannual USFS / ATC / TEHCC Partnership Meeting

Location: Maple Grove Restaurant, Unicoi

People: USFS: Terry Bowerman, David McFee, Mike Rice, Jim Stelick; ATC: Matt Davis, Morgan Sommerville; TEHCC: Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola, John Thompson

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: April 24, 2006

Purpose: To ensure the trail is clear for hikers

Location: Actually Sections 17 and 18, working from Low Gap to the Beauty Spot

People: Faye Guinn, Lou Haase, Howard Guinn, Jim McCall, Connie McCall, Rick Culbertson, Gil Derouen, Carl Kincheloe, Bob Spencer, CB Willis

Summary: We cleared several blowdowns, two quite large. We cleaned springs, clipped encroaching thickets, cleaned out bog ditches, installed new waterbar on Unaka Mountain, rearranged rocks on a mud bog, collected litter, and inspected trail.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 24, 2006

Purpose: Inspect Forest-Service proposed lumbering sites

Location: Section 11b, Just north of Bitter End

People: Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver, Darol Nickels

Summary: With 3 FS personnel we inspected several proposed sites for lumbering. With one small change, all were out of view of the trail and approved.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 27, 2006

Purpose: Finalize plans for Konnarock crew for this summer

Location: Section 17, Low gap to Unaka Mountain

People: Bruce Cunningham, Ed Oliver

Summary: We met with Konnarock crew leaders and walked the first part of the 2006 trail project. We looked at several camping sites for crew and decided on Limestone Cove Campgrounds.

Name: Bill Berry

Date: April 28, 2006

Purpose: Check trail condition

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to No Business Shelter

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I checked the trail for any damage after heavy rain fall. The trail is in good condition.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: May 2, 2006

Purpose: Lop section of new trail Konnarock crew will be installing this year

Location: Section 18, Northern section of new trail on Unaka Mountain relocation

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Chuck Mather

Summary: We lopped about 1600 feet. "Mucho" large chainsaw work is needed. This will be difficult trail; lots of rock. From where we stopped, it is solid "rodo" as far as the eye can see.

Name: Michael Watts

Date: May 6, 2006

Purpose: General trail maintenance

Location: Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Rick Lott, Susan Rook, Michael Watts

Summary: We cleared nearly a dozen blowdowns (left a couple easy stepovers). We clipped and weeded the section, and repainted blazes southbound. It was a beautiful day to be on the trail. We met a large number of through hikers heading for Damascus.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: May 16, 2006

Purpose: Cut out trail relocations

Location: Section 17, Just north of Low Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, and hiker WASP

Summary: We cut out three minor relocations north of Low Gap and going up Unaka Mountain. These relocations total about 1400 feet. These will be alternate work site for Damascus Hard Core on Monday.

Name: Collins Chew

Date: May 18, 2006

Purpose: Paint blazes Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain Shelter

Location: Section 5, A.T. Cross Mountain. south

People: Larry Miller, Collins Chew

Summary: We started blazing the section but rain made it impossible after a while. We did paint North to South for about 2-1/2 miles south of Cross Mtn. road crossing at TN 91.

Name: Bill Stowell

Date: May 19, 2006

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section: 19, Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

People: Craig DeLoach, Bill Stowell

Summary: We started at Indian Grave and cut blowdowns to the rafting place. The first half wasn't bad, but we ran into a major multiple-tree fall after crossing the first bridge going trail south. We cut about 15 trees in all. Craig lopped along the way also.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: May 24, 2006

Purpose: Select trail relocation

Location: Big Bald

People: Jim Foster, Ed Oliver

Summary: Jim and Ed attended a mini trail design workshop with CMC and ATC representaives, Matt Davis and Morgan Sommerville. The purpose was to find a suitable relocation of trail to reduce erosion on Big Bald. They were able to flag a potential relocation.

Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Carl Fritz reporting

Date: April 25, 2006

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, SLEEPY THE ARAB Matthew Bowler, THE GHOST OF NATTY BOH Patrick Gerard, SLO GOEN Steve Weber, GRAVY Marty Brodsky

Summary: We finished digging support post holes and almost completed pouring the concrete piers. We cut all locust support posts and will need to install them next trip.

Date: May 2, 2006

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart MT SQUID, Caroline Crum RAPUNZEL, Jake Plotnick OAK PHOENIX, Katie Hodakievic CHEETO, Zac Castillo CASH, Tom Hearn PUFFY NIPPLES, Elizabeth Harvey LUCKY DIME, Gabriel Harvey SUE, Julie Jurkowski BUTTERFLY SKIRT, Mike Murphy GHOST, HEARTHFIRE

Summary: This active crew toted another 220 pounds of concrete into shelter site, carried two 400-lb plus locust logs about 1/2 mile, dug a drainage ditch behind the shelter, located more rocks, and completed foundation concrete piers and posts. We were glad to have Tim Stewart, a 2004 A.T. hiker, join us as a new regular.

Date: May 9, 2006

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples; HIKERS Steve Bailey, Tokya Colpitts GRITS, CLEARWATER, SAGE, Leslie Gottschalk, Megan Daly COMPASS ROSE, David

Pearson, Roland Pinmueller, David Galeski

Summary: With another great crew, we dug a ditch right behind the shelter and along its side. We installed drain pipe and pulverized rock in the ditch. The first 2x6s were installed on piers. We set the two 13-foot front locust posts. We roughed in a trail to the shelter from A.T. and cut out the trail to the water. A crew also diverted water back over Mountaineer Falls.

Date: May 21 - 23, 2006

Hardcore: About 138 people carried in materials, worked on the shelter, and dug trail. Details and more photos will be in the July newsletter.



Date: May 27, 2006

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Ron Lapp, Jeff Sirola, Tim Stewart and HIKERS Sean Matuh FREESTYLE, Reida Brown INFAMOUS, Jason Jacobs B FLOYD

Summary: The three hikers hiked through six hours of rain on Friday to stay at shelter and help on Saturday. With this good crew we essentially finished the water trail. Also, we almost finished the siding on the shelter. We completed installing roof lathes and metal roofing. Dry at last! And a crew built the three interior ladders.



Date: May 29, 2006

People: Paul Benfield, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Jeff Sirola, Tim Stewart and HIKERS Diesel f, Cargo and Locomotive

Summary: We were able to finish a number of tasks at Mountaineer Falls Shelter including: trail to shelter, trail to water, trail signs and blazes, siding on shelter, and metal roof touchup. Eating area and much of shelter bracing is underway. The shelter is open. One more trip is required to complete some minor tasks.