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NEXT TWO MONTHS

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
Sept. 29 (Friday)	Buckeye Falls on Clark Creek (60th Anniversary Hike)	B/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Oct. 6 (Friday)	A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River (Anniversary Hike)	B/2/C	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Oct 7	Panther Creek Trail (S900M)	B/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Oct. 21-22 (Sat./Sun.)	Doe River Gorge Cabin	C/3/D	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Nov 2	Fall Dinner Meeting	FUN	Kent Wilson	

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



Fall Dinner Meeting

Make your plans now to attend the Fall Dinner Meeting!

When:

Thursday November 2, 2006 starting at 6:00 pm

Where: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Program: Garry Luttrell presents a slide show of his Africa travels,
Rwanda – “A Dark Past – A Bright Future”

Catered by Clark's Grocery, Kingsport, TN

Reservations need to be received by **October 30th**. Click [here](#) to open printable form.



For the Record - 2006 Konnarock Crew Project

Joe Deloach reporting

This year the Konnarock Crew worked on the upper portion of the relocation between the north side of Iron Mountain Gap and the top of Unaka Mountain. The project was both a success and challenge. With five weeks of Crew time and the hard work of Club volunteers, including eleven individuals who worked at least five days with the Crew, we were successful in making a significant dent in this relocation. The challenge came from the extraordinary number of large rocks; some we moved and busted and some were negotiated by other means.

The first couple of weeks were fairly routine, with the expected root cutting, stump grubbing, and rock removal. We were making reasonable progress until Week 3. Then our troubles began. While Ed Oliver was digging in what looked like a routine section, he said "uh oh." When someone as knowledgeable as Ed makes a statement like that, it's a problem. It turned out to be a huge, sloping rock that couldn't be avoided by going above, below, or around, and it couldn't be busted up. The Crew ended up drilling holes into it and inserted rebar. We then put large rocks on top and smaller rock to make a trail surface. Most hikers will never realize how much work went into this 50-foot section. That area marked the beginning of the worst rockfield we have encountered in at least 15 years. For twelve consecutive days there was no digging of dirt, only moving, positioning, and/or busting rock, which is very slow going. What little dirt we did find was black organic muck which makes for very unstable trail. Only on the last day did we begin to get clear of these difficult conditions. The net result is that we are not close to completing this portion of the relocation, which we had thought would be an attainable goal in 2006. We'll need to use Konnarock on this section again in 2007, hopefully with fewer challenges than we had in 2006.



Finished trail over sloping rock. Photo courtesy of Kat Johnson



Finished trail with crushed
rock treadway.
(Photo courtesy of Kat Johnson)



The view ahead; work to be done with Konnarock in 2007!

(Photo courtesy of Kat Johnson)

Our Club turnout also had its share of successes and challenges. Eleven people earned T-shirts, including two (Linda Proffitt and Kat Johnson) who were first-timers with Konnarock. We especially congratulate them for not being scared off by this project! The challenge was that the turnout was not nearly as good as in previous years. This year we had 18 volunteers who worked a total of 751 hours and 82 person-days with the Konnarock Crew; with an additional three volunteers, 24 hours, and 6 person-days from volunteers who helped prepare meals for the Crew. While that's a fair turnout, we have had many more volunteers and well over 1000 hours in only a four week season in the recent past. It really helps to have a good size contingent; not only to make physical progress, but to help psychologically. It helps to see people walk past you when they've completed a section behind you. Our large student groups and through-hiker recruitment have helped reduce our reliance on a small, very dedicated core of Club volunteers, but we went backwards with Konnarock this year. It would be great to see more people helping with the Club's Trail construction and maintenance efforts in 2007. We heartily thank the volunteers who helped this year. Craig DeLoach and Ed Oliver led the way with ten days each. In addition to the T-shirt, they earned a new award, an ATC knife for ten days work. On two additional days, Ed brought meals to feed the crew and volunteers. In addition to Linda and Kat, other volunteers who earned T-shirts were Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Joe DeLoach, Bill Stowell, Kim Peters, Paul Benfield, and Darrol Nickels. We also thank volunteers Mary and Bruce Cunningham, Mike and Marsha Hupko, John Thompson, Steve Harvey, Glenn Forest, Lou Smith, Bob Miller, and C. B. Willis.

TEHCC Rental Equipment – Status, Expectations for Use

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

Having backpacks, tents, and sleeping pads available for rent is a unique feature of TEHCC. The opportunity to try out a piece of equipment to determine your preferences or to fill a need for a weekend trip is a benefit of club membership. TEHCC has a solid set of dozen backpacks, tents for one to six (really four with space) people, and nine sleeping pads to get you off the ground. New equipment has been added, including the Hennessy Expedition hammock, REI Half Dome 2 tent with dual vestibules, large REI Habitat 4 tent, Marmot Glissade women's internal frame pack, and another Therma-Rest

sleeping mat. Coming soon are three pack raincovers (hope you never have an actual need for them) and a child carrier pack. The [rental equipment](#) page on the club website is being improved with more information, a selection guide for the tents, and links to detailed description, commentary, and picture for each piece. (Side note: Many thanks to Steve Banks for implementing the updates and links that I have provided.)

After 20 months of working as the club's rental equipment coordinator, it is time to relay some expectations for use.

1. The equipment belongs to the club as a whole. Please try to return the rental equipment in a condition that you would like to see it in when you pick it up.
2. Let the ERC representative or myself (e-mail link above) know if any problems were encountered. We want the equipment to be in good condition for each person. The annual checkout party tries to determine what should be kept each year. Consider coming to help sometime.
3. Please use a ground cloth under the tent. Some of the tents are being provided with clear plastic ground cloths. Do not throw these away after use. If damaged, please alert me or ERC for replacement.

All of our tents are now freestanding designs. Stakes are for ensuring that the tent does not "blow away" in the wind and to expand sides for space and better ventilation. There are two types of tent stakes available. The heavy-duty steel and large plastic stakes should be used for the larger 4-6 person tents. The light-weight aluminum hook stakes should be used for the 1-2 person backpacking tents. If the ground is hard, try to locate another spot to push in the stake. What were these folks using to bend up this dozen stakes?



- 4.
5. ERC Bldg 310 has been instructed to ensure that the tent stakes are returned outside of the tent bags – and to account for all. One member paid \$20 recently to replace lost tent stakes for two of the largest tents.
6. Please do not return tents wet – even if just after a heavy dew. It will cause mildew which ruins the waterproofing and creates a smell. Call Bldg 310 Ext 3771 to see if time is available to set it up and let it dry in your home. My outings do not end until the equipment is checked, sometimes dried in the driveway, and is packed away correctly.
7. Please remove all items from packs. (Unmentionable items have been found in packs in the past.) The surfaces should be wiped, zippers closed, and straps pulled taut so that the pack will hang well on the wall in Bldg 310.

Thanks to the TEHCC Steering Committee and club members for proposing new equipment to purchase, refining and approving policy changes, and helping to figure out what is important. We're still looking at

obtaining 2-3 person backpacking tents in 2007 as high demand items. (Any suggestions?)
Finally, please consider giving guidance to TEHCC by being on the ballot for the Steering Committee for the coming election.

Rocky Fork Tract

We in the Tri-Cities live close to what is believed to be the largest tract of private, undeveloped land remaining in the Southern Appalachians, the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork Tract in Unicoi and Greene Counties. Although this tract is not along TEHCC's section of the Appalachian Trail (it is south along the Carolina Mountain Club's section), it runs right up to the A.T. in Unicoi County and very close to it in Greene County. In addition to A.T. hiking, it is a favorite location for area anglers and hunters. Efforts have been made for many years to purchase or otherwise protect Rocky Fork. It is currently owned by a timber company which has allowed the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to maintain a lease for hunting and fishing. Recently it was announced that the tract is up for sale with speculation that it could be developed as a gated community. Others are interested in conserving the tract with possibilities that it could become a state park, and/or state or national forest land which would preserve public access. Club members and affiliates who wish to learn more about this tract can do so by checking the following web site, saverockyfork.org.

Special Maintenance Opportunities in October

Submitted by Carl Fritz, TEHCC - A.T. Maintenance Coordinator, 423-477-4669

You may want to note these maintenance events on your calendar.

Bob Peoples has arranged three weekend outings with Appalachian State University. These are the plans, subject to change depending upon weather.

1. Saturday, October 7: We will work with 20-25 ASU students installing water bars in Bishop Hollow, doing some trail rehab, and improving a wet area.
2. Sunday, October 8: Working with a different group of 20-25 ASU students, we will continue relocation work south of Iron Mt. Gap.
3. Sunday, October 15: We will work with 15-20 ASU cheerleaders, on continuing the relocation work south of Iron Mt. Gap.

Contact Carl Fritz, , if you are interested in participating in any of these events.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Michael P Ekart

Michael Funderburg

Michael Hopson

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](#).

Buckeye Falls of Clark Creek, Friday, September 29, 2006, 7 miles, 1200-foot climb

Leader: Collins Chew, 239-6237

Rating: B/2/B

This is a difficult hike but is the Traditional Anniversary Hike of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club. Club founder, Frank Oglesby, led this in 1946 as the first hike of the club. He later led the same hike in 1986 and 1996 for the 40th and 50th anniversaries of the club. As one of the members with the longest activity in the club, I thought I would try to continue that tradition. The falls are claimed to be the highest in the East but are actually cascades. There are stream fords of Clark Creek and the last few hundred yards are up a steep boulder-filled gully. Clark Creek Road turns off Tenn. 107 a few miles south of Tenn. 81 at the Nolichucky River south of Jonesboro. Meet between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank on Tenn. 36 in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 29. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Indian Grave Gap to the Nolichucky River, Friday, October 6, 2006, 8.3 miles, 1000-foot climb

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237,

Rating: B/2/C

This completes the series of Anniversary Hikes by the Friday Hikers although we may have make-ups. It is a pleasant, mostly downhill hike, through nice woods, then along Jones Branch, ending at the Nolichucky River. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and the State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, October 6. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

Smokies 900 miler, Panther Creek Trail, October 7, 2006

Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854,

Rating: B/3/B

This hike will begin at the Jakes Creek Trailhead in Elkmont and end at the Middle Prong Trailhead in Tremont, with nine crossings of Panther Creek. A tenth crossing will involve a wider, deeper stream, Lynn Camp Prong. Hike distance is 7.5 mi. with 1,700 ft. of climbing. Contact the hike leader, by email, or phone to get further details.

Doe River Gorge Cabin Trip, Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22, 2006

Leader: Steve Falling, 239-5502

Rating: C/3/D

The Hiking Club has reservations for 20 overnight visitors in a riverside cabin at beautiful Doe River Gorge, Hampton, Tennessee. 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.

The lodging cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$16.00 for children under 13. This price only covers lodging (bring a sleeping bag or sheets/blankets and a pillow); we will make arrangements for preparation of supper and breakfast. We only have reservations for 20 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*)

Bays Mountain Park, August 12, 2006

Neil Dotson reporting

Long meandering stories without much point are often enjoyed by children; think of shaggy dog jokes: you probably used to enjoy more than you do now. But long meandering hikes without a point aren't taken with such patience by the younger ones. At least in my experience, I don't think that saying something like "we're going to hike through the woods for 3 hours and then get back to the car" would be likely to gain much interest. So it's important that the hike have a point, a "draw": "we're going to see (something)!". The hike around the lake at Bays Mountain has several draws. There are the views of the lake, the bridges (which were being announced each time we crossed one!), the odd deer sighting, and beaver-chewed trees. Then, if you have the strength for it, there is the excitement of the firetower itself. On this nice day between rains, we did have the strength for it, and when we got to the top of the knob at the base of the firetower, most of the little ones also scaled the structure, strictly supervised, of course. After the rest there, we enjoyed a downhill hike; and the rest of the trip around the lake is not lacking in a big draw at the end: the zoo. Children and animals were made for each other. Apparently the hike wasn't long enough for some, since most ended up taking the Holly Trail back to the Nature Center - which does give a nice view of the dam. (The hike leader wasn't effectively leading from the rear.)

The hikers are shown in the picture below: front row: Joseph (in backpack), Daniel and Neil Dotson, Nathaniel Barin; middle row: Patricia and Elizabeth Dotson, Ayden Jensen, Hailey Kirk, Benjamin and Bethany Jones; Back Row: Tiffany and Annalise Jensen, Tara Kirk, Patrice Riesenber, Dana and Randy Jones, R.C. Ramaswamy, Bryan and Emma Shackelford.



Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River, September 8, 2006

Collins Chewreporting

We had a fine hike in great weather on the A.T. from Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River (11.3 miles) with good views of the Gorge. The mushrooms are outdoing the wildflowers with a deadly fly amanita providing the best show. Hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Steve Darnell, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Larry Miller and Collins Chew. (A good turnout considering about 5 of our regular Friday Hikers are backpacking south of the Smokies.)

[A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 25, 2006

Purpose: Cut blowdown

Location: Section 11a, North of Coon Den Falls trail

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cut three blowdowns just north of vista near Coon Den Falls trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 1, 2006

Purpose: Cut blowdown

Location: Section 10, Staircase to Laurel Fork Falls

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cut 14-inch locust on staircase to Laurel Fork Falls.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: August 2, 2006

Purpose: Trim weeds with weedeater

Location: Section 5, Cross Mountain to Grindstaff Monument

People: Larry Miller

Summary: A weed-eater was used to trim weeds along the A.T. from Cross Mountain to the Grindstaff Monument.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 22, 2006

Purpose: Flag and lop trail relocation

Location: Section 17, About 1 mile south of Iron Mt. Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Linda Proffitt

Summary: The trail relocation was flagged and lopped in preparation for the upcoming outing with ASU students.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 24, 2006

Purpose: Select trail relocation

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge

People: Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Morgan Sommerville

Summary: Most of this critical relocation was successfully flagged.

Reporting: Bill Allen

Date: August 28, 2006

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 12c, Elk River bottoms

People: Bill Allen, Michael Allen

Summary: The two man team of Bill and Michael Allen left Kingsport at about 8:00 AM and drove to the Forest Service access road located at Elk River Falls. We proceeded down the service road and parked our truck at the first river crossing. We then proceeded on foot to the point where the A.T. enters the grassy-bottom road bed along the Elk River. With gas-operated, string trimmers in hand, we cut the grass and weeds along the A.T., through the river bottom running along the Elk River. We trimmed the grass to the point where the trail re-enters the woods near Sugar Hollow Creek. We returned to Kingsport arriving home around 2:00 PM.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 30, 2006

Purpose: Rehab and lop trail

Location: Section 9b, At switchbacks just above railroad grade on south side of Pond Mt.

People: Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Mike Hupko, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdock, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples and WSU: Amy Anslinger, Jessica Schell, Amanda Speelman, Renny Kosztala, Jim Ford, Michelle Mason, Adam Fisher, Annie Parks, Kelsey Thornton, Greg Wack, Anthony Culross, Katie Pinkelman, Whitney Steiner, James Spahlinger, Jesse Thomas, Tyler Middlestead, Rachel Brand

Summary: We hiked in blue blazed trail to railroad grade. Wright State University (WSU) students enthusiastically learned how to lop, dig and even do rock cribbing and steps. We lopped the brush hard on up hill side through all the switchbacks. We rehabbed all the switchbacks by redigging, installing side logs, or rock steps. Many narrow sections were redug or cribbed with rocks. This section of trail is significantly better.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 31, 2006

Purpose: Check out some of shelter and bridge structures

Location: Moreland Gap, between Campbell Hollow & Buck Mt, Roan High Knob

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz

Summary: We inspected Moreland Gap Shelter. There are some minor holes in roof that need caulked. We cut the 9-inch blowdown about a mile and a half south of shelter. We determined the possible bridge materials needed between Campbell Hollow and Buck Mt Roads. At Roan High Knob Shelter we repaired the door closing and inspected the rock work around base of shelter. Some rock may need to be replaced with hardware cloth. Some minor holes in roof need caulking.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: September 6, 2006

Purpose: To inspect trail and do needed maintenance

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to Power Lines Between FS230 and Indian Grave Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

Summary: We cut nettles at Deep Gap, cut two large trees across trail between Beauty Spot Gap and Beauty Spot, lopped, cleaned out several water bars, and removed several smaller trees from the trail. Comments: Beauty Spot has been mowed recently by the Forest Service. Beauty Spot Gap (Buchanan Farm) has not been mowed, but trail was passable.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: September 11, 2006

Purpose: To do needed maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain to Low Gap

People: Gaye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Tim Shipley, Malcolm Wolf, Dave McMillin, Bob Miller, Mike Hupko

Summary: We repaired treadway in several locations, installed two steps at switchback in trail constructed by Hard Core, cleaned out water bars, cut six trees across trail, posted 4 A.T. foot path signs, 2 at Low Gap and 2 at Cherry Gap. (There were fresh signs of horses from Cherry Gap toward Iron Mountain Gap.)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 12, 2006

Purpose: Review proposed trail relocation

Location: Section 1, Starting south of Damascus

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed met with USFS Mt Rogers personnel, Sarah Shell and Warren Bottom, to review the proposed trail relocation on steep sections just south of Damascus. With some minor changes proposed by all three, they were in agreement with the proposed relocation. Their biologist will review this either yet this year or by mid 2007.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 12, 2006

Purpose: Work on trail relocation

Location: Section 17, About 1 mile south of Iron Mt. Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Liz Moloff f, Bob Peoples

Summary: Hiker Liz Moloff from Maine joined us as we cleaned up the relocation dug with ASU students about two weeks ago. Another good work day here may complete this relocation.

Reporting: Bill Stowell

Date: September 15, 2006

Purpose: Cut reported blowdown

Location: Section 19, Indian Grave to Curley Maple Shelter

People: Bill Stowell, Craig DeLoach

Summary: We went in to cut the reported blowdown. We found nothing that looked like a blowdown. It could have been some roto branches. We cut weeds and lopped back woody growth along the way from Indian Grave to Curley Maple shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 20, 2006

Purpose: Relocate trail

Location: Section 17, About 1.5 mile trail south of Iron Mt. Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We continued to finish the trail relocation started with ASU in late August. We installed the switchback with nine rock steps. Other rock steps and cribbing were added in other areas and other trail smoothing was done. About the only things remaining on this relocation is about 140 feet on south end and 40 feet on north end.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 24, 2006

Purpose: Check on water leaks in Roan High Knob shelter

Location: Section 15, Roan High Knob shelter

People: Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: The weather cooperated beautifully---drenching rain and gusty high winds. The A.T. trail was a running river 3 to 4 inches deep. All this was great to accomplish our mission of checking for reported water leaks in the shelter. We found 8 wet spots on the 2nd floor, but not much water. The water seemed to be coming from leaks at ridge, but very slow. We marked all the spots and the places where we could see water on the underside of the roof with white paint. More details were given to Carl and Jim.