

Note: To submit an article for the newsletter, send an email to:

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<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
May 31-Jun 1	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263
Jun 2-3	Whitewater Kayaking Clinic		Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
Jun 9-10	Ocoee River	III-III+	Rebakah Morrow	
Jun 14-18	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263
Jun 23	Pigeon River	II-III	Bryan Hogan	276-393-4985
Jul 5-9	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263
Jul 7-8	Mt. LeConte Lodge	B/3/B	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Jul 14-15	New River Gorge	III-IV	Joe Harrison	423-773-8085
Jul 26-30	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263

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

Request for Hikes And Paddling Trips

Neil Dotson pleading fervently

Summertime, for some, may be the only time they would think of hiking - or at least, with school being out, when the schedules are free enough to allow for that sort of thing. And it is certainly an active time for paddling, which the spray of water is a most welcome relief! So, I would like to encourage us to fill up the hiking and the summer months, as there may be more people who would like to participate. If you would be willing to paddling event, please send me the following:

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

Again, this is for the months July through September. Responses are needed by Friday, June 15. You can use the following e-mail address: . Thanks!

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-9 – Quest River Runner

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

In continuing to review all of available tents, we now turn our attention to HT-9 which is a Quest "River Runner" tent. HT-9 has actually been a fairly popular rental over the past four years that I have tracked. As an "older" tent (it's been around for a weekend) makes a cheap three-season shelter. (None of the club's tents would really be considered "winter".)

The 60" x 96" floor gives adequate room for two people. The most notable feature is that the fly overhangs the tent, creating a "porch" instead of a typical vestibule. The rear window has dual zippers, thus can be used as a second entrance. The tent also has mesh pockets and gear loft. Downside is the ease of set-up is only rated 3 out of 5 during the annual equipment survey. The tent design has sleeves which have to be navigated with the poles being attached to a central hub as spokes.

HT-9 as modeled with Ben Hasler.



Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation

(May 31 - June 4, June 14-18, July 5-9, July 26-30, and August 9-13)

Joe DeLoach reporting

This year we have five weeks of Konnarock Crew time to continue work on the long relocation between the Mountain Gap and near the summit of Unaka Mountain. With the Konnarock Crew, we will work on the upper portions of the trail, some technical construction requirements where their skills can be most useful. Some of the work can be challenging, but other tasks such as lopping brush to clear the way for the digging is not so tough. With the five weeks of work, we hope to complete or come close to completing these upper portions. The Crew arrives on Thursdays and

morning, with the full days of Friday-Sunday being the ones we target most for Club support. Volunteers who work full days with the Konnarock Crew will be rewarded with the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Please contact Joe D. (423-753-7263) if you have any questions or would like to help.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Bill Connely

Lane Letner
John Nypaver
Jonathan Smith

New members are eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

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

Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains) July 7-8, 2007

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 Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge can only be reached by hiking trail. Supplies are brought in by llama. 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 \$125, which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations for four/five-person cabins (double bunk beds!). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations please contact the leader for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at Leconte-lodge.com. You can see last year's trip in the [August 2006 Newsletter](#).

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Catawba Falls, NC, April 14, 2007

Steve Kasten reporting

Rain was in the forecast, but held off until evening. Three brave hikers (Bill Dickason, Steve Kasten, Hugh M. ...) went on a trip on what turned out to be a nice spring day in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina near Black Mountain. Along a ridge for about 1/2 mile above the Ridgecrest Boys Camp, we then made it down a steep descent (using a rope tied to a tree) to Chestnut Branch, and followed this mountain stream for about 2 miles to where it merges with the Catawba River. Chestnut Branch had some very nice small waterfalls and rapids of its own, shown in the pictures. There were several stream crossings but we managed to stay dry with the help of rocks, logs, and balancing sticks. We then reached the upper falls slightly upriver from the stream merge point. The lower falls come down an estimated 150 feet in multiple cascades. We ate lunch at the falls and discussed how to reach the upper Catawba Falls, which basically requires climbing a very steep cliff from the lower falls, or else starting at a different trailhead. Oh well, maybe that will be a future hike. Our original path, this time mostly uphill, a 1000 foot total grade hardly noticed on the way in.

Click on an image to enlarge, photos courtesy of Steve Kasten



Small waterfall on Chestnut Branch



Bill Dickason and Hugh Thompson (l-r) at Catawba Falls

For the Record - Spring Wildflower Hike, April 28, 2007

Joe DeLoach reporting

The early April deep freeze which killed or stunted so many plants around Kingsport had little or no effect as evidenced by a great display of wildflowers heading Trail north from Devils Fork Gap towards Frozen Knob Mountain Club section of the AT. We counted 27 varieties in only about 2.5 miles of walking. While this did not equal the 40 species between 19E and Hump Mountain a few years ago, this year's total was in less than half the distance and elevation gain. Among the flowers we saw were painted, white erect, and red erect trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, corn, larkspurs, Jack in the pulpit, spring beauties, and trout lilies. By the time we reached the mountain crest the skies had become threatening, and we stopped for lunch and ultimately turned around at a recently cleared Frozen Knob summit, but still had good views of Big Bald, Rocky Fork, and the Greene County mountains. The rain on the way back didn't dampen our enthusiasm for the pretty scenery. Hikers for this year's trip were Don and Joe DeLoach. We try to make the spring wildflower hike an annual event, and if anyone has suggestions for a destination for this hike in future years please let Joe know.

Hike Report, Smokies Wildflower Hike, Whiteoak Sink, April 28, 2007

G. S. Luttrell, reporting

As we were hiking up the Schoolhouse Gap Trail, the wildflower display was not too impressive, stunted and sparse, normal for late April. We had some first time hikers with us, Dan and Angie McKinney, and I was thinking that next time they hike with TEHCC. But, the further we descended into the sink, the groundcover changed from brown and dead to green and alive with wildflowers. We explored the entire Sink and found the waterfall that disappears into a cave, pre-park home sites, and lots of wildflowers: White, Yellow, Painted, & Gatsby Trillium, Wakerobin, Columbian Buttercup, Pink Lady Slipper, and Kent found a special, large Yellow Slipper. See photos. When we left the Sink, Angie and I returned to the trailhead, and four of us continued up the Schoolhouse Gap Trail and on to the Wye following the Chesapeake Trail. We saw some more Pink Lady Slippers and some Flame Azaleas, but most wildflowers, Fire Pink, Meadow Parsnip, and Naked Broomrape, were seen in the last quarter mile of the trail near the Wye. Hikers included Debi McKinney, Lowell Toof, Garry Luttrell, Dan McKinney, and Angie McKinney.



All photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell. Click on image to enlarge.



Waterfall to Cave



Columbine



Shooting Stars



Yellow Lady Slipper



Naked Broomrape Cancer Root



Flame Azalea



Fire Pink



A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Report

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 14, 2007

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap and south a couple miles

People: Bill Berry, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan

Summary: The crew removed several large blowdowns in the Temple Hill Gap area. Thru hikers reported blowdowns to Spivey Gap, so they called it a day. Bill treated his sawyers, Paul and Ken, to a good meal

Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: April 30, 2007

Purpose: Clearing small blowdowns and debris from the trail

Location: Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to Bitter End

People: Mike Hupko

Summary: During a recreational hike, Mike performed needed maintenance. He removed debris, tree li removed several small trees that had fallen on the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 1, 2007

Purpose: Flag and cut out relocations

Location: Just south of Cherry Gap Shelter and also higher on Unaka

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliv

Summary: One crew continued flagging and cutting out the relocation south of shelter in preparation for H crew cut out laurels and trees on relocation where Konnarock worked last year and will continue this year.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: May 3, 2007

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Clyde Smith Shelter to Greasy Creek

People: Ken Buchannan, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster

Summary: Ken brought the saw and, with Paul's help, cut four blowdowns, beginning on Blue Blaze to Cly scouted trail to Greasy Creek and cut one more with my small saw. Ken's daughter and granddaughter ca maintenance is all about and also to gather some ramps. A good time was had by all.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: May 4, 2007

Purpose: Measure relocation north of Iron Mountain Gap

Location: Section 16b, North of Weedy Gap

People: Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Collins Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jan Mather, Taylor Pi Sherrill

Summary: The Friday Hikers rolled the new relocations on the AT between Iron Mountain Gap and Greas found that it did not change the Trail mileage. The wildflowers were great.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: May 6, 2007

Purpose: Inspect Konnarock project

Location: Section 17, Between Low Gap and Unaka Mountain

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I met this year's Konnarock crew leaders, Ted Wilson and Christine Hoyer, their assistants, K last year's leader, Casey, to look at the project we'll be working on this year. We stopped at Limestone C where they will stay, on the way up. We are about 300 to 500 feet from the switchback, with a total of 200 remaining. The rocks seem to let up some to the switchback and somewhat beyond. We may be able to

rather than having to crib around them or resorting to other construction techniques. Konnarock's season week with us is May 31 to June 4.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: May 6, 2007

Purpose: General spring maintenance

Location: Section 7, Watauga Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleared a few small blowdowns, clipped briars, and beat back the weeds with a sling blade. We went to the shelter and left a new log book, then checked the water source - way on down that hill. (There were many oaks along the distance to water in the log book!) We met numerous hikers on this beautiful May day. This section is in good shape. Go to John Arwood for his hard work on this section in previous years.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 8, 2007

Purpose: Cut out relocation for Konnarock and special Hard-Core crews

Location: Section 18, North side of Unaka Mountain

People: Paul Benfield, David Bourke, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: We finished cutting out the major relocation we started with Konnarock last year. We welcomed David Bourke, a recent transplant from Florida to Hampton. We probably lack 500 feet of getting all the cuttings out. I imagine we have enough cleared for three weeks or more of Konnarock and a couple of days with the special Hard-Core crew.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 8, 2007

Purpose: Cut out relocation for Hard-Core crew

Location: Section 17, Near Cherry Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ted Mowery

Summary: They cut out trail relocation north starting at Cherry Gap to get more trail ready for Hard-Core. The relocation still has a few large blowdowns. There is plenty of work to occupy the Hard-Core crew.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 15, 2007

Purpose: Pin flag relocations for Hard Core

Location: Section 17, Near Cherry Gap

People: Jim Foster, Ed Oliver

Summary: Jim and Ed set out pin flags and marked sections for individual work crews for Hard Core. The trail is now ready to be dug.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 15, 2007

Purpose: Minor repairs to Roan High Knob Shelter

Location: Section 15, Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart, Ben Trotter, and hiker Politio

Summary: We installed a new ridge cap using metal screws. We also replaced the hardware cloth on the majority of the crew knocked out the crumbling rock underpinning on trail side of the shelter and replaced the framing plus hardware cloth. The underpinning on the back end of the shelter and the up-hill side need to be replaced. Also some logs need to be repaired with concrete.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: May 17, 2007

Purpose: Look for sign and cut weeds

Location: Section 9b, Hampton trailhead to AT junction

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: According to a recent newspaper article, two women failed to find Laurel Falls. I checked to see if the Hampton Blueline/AT junction was still there and evident. It is completely gone. I'll make another trip to see if I can dig for a new sign. The trees are out of the way for good viewing and it's probably more keeping with Wilderness. I will affix large signs to trees. I cut some weeds and brush along the way. Hemlock adelgid infestation is awful.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: May 19, 2007

Purpose: Attend Forest Service Beaverdam Creek Watershed Open House

Location: Shady Valley Elementary School

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: The Watauga Ranger District held an excellent session to share information about National Forest ridges of Shady Valley. Several stations with different themes were set up, including viewshed/scenery management, recreational uses, biological considerations, historic issues, and open-areas management. I expressed support for the AT corridor, i.e., viewshed preservation from Osborne Tract, Berry Fields, Scott Booher Tract, and Long Branch. I expressed opposition to multi-use trails dead-ending on the AT. The citizen turnout was fair, with some opposition to public lands and others looking for additional Wilderness designation. I didn't detect any individuals or groups opposing current AT management practices. It will be interesting to see what proposed management actions unfold.