



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2009

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

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To submit an article for the Newsletter, send an email to:  
[news@tehcc.org](mailto:news@tehcc.org). Articles should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the  
month.

## From the Chair

*(Steering Committee Chair and Office Chair)*

We're lucky. We live in a region that is surrounded by public lands and countless opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Numerous state and local parks, three national forests, a national recreation area and a national park are within a two hour drive. These lands and opportunities are for everyone and every hobby – day hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, disc golf, geocaching and nature photography. I originally hail from middle Tennessee where public lands are scarce and small with limited offerings. I am so blessed to live in an outdoor mecca of my favorite hobbies – hiking, backpacking and mountain biking (there are others, but I have to prioritize). Put the TV remote down. Turn the computer off. Forget Wal-Mart. Take your family out for an evening round of disc golf at Warriors Path. Make plans to ride the Creeper Trail

on an October Saturday. Have a Sunday afternoon picnic on White Rocks at Buffalo Mountain. Go on that first backpacking trip (shameless plug for backpacking 101 class and trip). Whatever it is, take time to relax, have fun and take advantage of our wonderful region.

Happy Trails!

Jake Mitchell, 2009 TEHCC Steering Committee Chair, [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)



## 2010 Steering Committee Election

It's time to vote for the leaders of the TEHCC! You will be voting on three (3) new Steering Committee members that will serve a 2 year term ending EOY 2011. There are 4 candidates. Bios are below.

Eastman employees can vote online [here](#). Retirees can vote by sending Judy Allen an [email](#) or by calling her at 423-229-4253 and leaving a voicemail. Non-Eastman employees/retirees are not eligible to vote. **The deadline for voting is HALLOWEEN (October 31<sup>st</sup>)**. Results will be announced at the Fall Dinner Meeting and in the December newsletter.

### Kevin Barham

Kevin is a Mechanical Engineer in Eastman's Utilities division. He is a Kingsport native, who this year will have hiked from Hot Springs to Damascus as part of his goal to section hike the AT. In between hikes, his hobbies include training for a marathon, finishing out his home, and target shooting. Kevin, who is known as "Croc" on the trail, sees the TEHCC as an opportunity to give back to the trails and individuals he has enjoyed so much.

## Josh Henri

Josh works in Eastman Plant Engineering supporting CE&SP division. He has been with Eastman since 2007 after earning his degree in Electrical Engineering from NC State in Raleigh, NC and a tour of duty in Norfolk, VA onboard the USS Oklahoma City. On the weekends, he is joined by his wife and dogs for day hikes on local trails, or working on his home in Gray.

## Kapunza Kinunda

My name is Kapunza Elizabeth Kinunda and I have been working for Eastman since May 2008 as a Systems Analyst in IT. Although I am an American citizen, I was born and raised in East Africa: in both Tanzania and Kenya. I came to North America in 2000. I received my bachelors and masters in Computer and Information Sciences at ETSU. When I am not working, I enjoy working out, sports – especially soccer, swimming, cross country, walking, hiking, travelling, spending time with my family and friends, reading books, listening to music, writing memoirs, etc.

## Ian Powell

Ian Powell works on the vessel team in Worldwide Engineering & Construction. He is a combat veteran that was on active duty in the U.S. Army and spent time in Oman, Kuwait, Iraq and South Korea. Ian received a BSME from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2008. While in Knoxville he managed Earth Traverse Outfitters, a hiking, backpacking and biking store. Ian enjoys backpacking, snowboarding, kayaking, biking, music, and home improvement.

# Eagle Scout Project to Improve Water at Clyde Smith Shelter

## *Carl Fritz reporting*

Curtis Baird chose to do an Eagle Scout project on the Appalachian Trail. Last year Jim Foster and Paul Benfield showed Curtis the difficulty of capturing water at Clyde Smith Shelter. Curtis designed a potential solution, obtained the materials and on May 23, 2009, executed the plan with the help of other Troop 4 Piney Flats members and leaders.

According to Curtis's report, "The spring on the Appalachian Trail at the Clyde Smith Shelter between Iron Mountain Gap and Hughes Gap, in Carter County, TN, was repaired. The spring is the water source for the hikers on the trail. The water came into the pool from the ground underneath the pool. This made it hard for hikers to get clean water because they had to dip the water out of the pool. Dipping the water stirred the mud in the pool, causing the water to get dirty.

A cover was built over the pool of water using half of a 55-gallon plastic barrel, then the water was piped downhill to where a hole was dug and a plastic bucket placed. The pipe ran into the top of the bucket to keep the bucket full of water. Excess water ran over the top of the bucket and the hikers can fill their bottles from the water that gathers in the bucket."

As you can see from the pictures the drum and long pipe were buried with rock. There is now plenty of elevation to catch water directly from the pipe outlet or to filter it from the bucket underneath.

Wright State University students hiked from Iron Mountain Gap to 19E in late August. One student commented that the water source at Clyde Smith Shelter was the best one. And certainly that is due to Curtis Baird's planning and execution.

Other folks helping Curtis to execute his plan were: Adam Baird, Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird, Jeremy Carson, Justin Carson, Dale Hyder, Dylan Hyder, Jeff Hyder, Josh Hyder, Brandon Mench, and Robert Perrigan.



Curtis Baird and his helpers



Curtis and Original Stream



Piping



Curtis and Final Good Water Source



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for October:

Rob Wagner  
 Joshua Henri  
 Josh Citron  
 Nathan Elliott

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
Oct 10	AT: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap and Beyond	A/2/A	Vic Hasler	<a href="mailto:hvhasler@eastman.com">hvhasler@eastman.com</a>
Oct 13	Two-Fer Tuesday	Fun	Marc Schurger	<a href="mailto:marc.schurger@tehcc.org">marc.schurger@tehcc.org</a>
Oct 22	Backpacking 101	Informative	<a href="#">Jake Mitchell</a>	423-963-8654
Oct 24	Hike to Shady Valley TNC Nature Preserve	F/B Informative	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-229-6244
Oct 30-31	Beginners Backpack Trip	TBD	<a href="#">Jake Mitchell</a>	423-963-8654
Nov 10	Two-Fer Tuesday	Fun	Marc Schurger	<a href="mailto:marc.schurger@tehcc.org">marc.schurger@tehcc.org</a>
Nov 13	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting	Fun	<a href="#">Jake Mitchell</a>	423-963-8654

## Description of Upcoming Events

### AT: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap and Beyond, October 10, 2009

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Rating: A/2/A

This hike is a ten-miler to be counted towards the BSA Hiking merit badge. The plan is to drop off a car at the TN-NC state line on TN107, and then continue driving to Hughes Gap. The 8.1-mile section from Hughes to Iron Mountain Gap will be completed. Then hopefully, two drivers can take the dropped-off car to get the other, while the merit-badge hikers continue southbound for another mile and then come back to complete the ten mile total. For geocachers, there are

seven hides along this hike route. Some will require extra 200-ft detours; thus we will search only if the overall hike is proceeding at an acceptable pace. We will meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate layered clothing.

### **TEHCC Two-Fer Tuesdays, October 13 and November 10, 2009**

*Leader: Marc Schurger*

This is an informal after-work monthly get-together at Kingsport Grocery that takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. All TEHCC Members, Affiliates, and friends are invited to attend and get to know other members of the club, learn about their favorite (or secret) hike/paddle, swap trail stories, learn about upcoming activities and generally enjoy the company of like-minded hikers and paddlers. We will meet around 5 pm on the second floor of Kingsport Grocery. (Kingsport Grocery offers \$2 drafts on Tuesday.) This is also a great opportunity to recruit new members and increase member participation in upcoming outings and events. For more details, contact either [Marc Schurger](#) or [Ed Montgomery](#).

### **Backpacking 101, October 22, 2009, 5pm to 7pm, Eastman Employee Center, Rm 219**

*Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#), 423-963-8654*

*Rating: Informative*

If you've ever been out hiking and come across a campsite or shelter and thought, "I would like to try backpacking, but I don't know how to get started," or if you're just curious how others do it, join Jake for a discussion on overnight backpacking. Discussions will include gear, technique, safety, and planning and will be open to questions and comments.

### **F/B Hike to Shady Valley TNC Nature Preserve, October 24, 2009**

*Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-229-6244*

*Rating: C/4/C*

TEHCC members recently met with members of The Nature Conservancy Shady Valley office about their work in the area. Plans are being made for a TNC-led hike through the preserve with discussion of the wetlands habitat and the animals they are trying to restore and protect, including the native cranberry and bog turtle. Contact Tim if you are interested in going on this trip.

### **Beginner's Backpacking Trip, October 30-31, 2009**

*Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#), 423-963-8654*

This trip is a follow up to the Backpacking 101 class to be held the previous week. The location is yet to be determined.

## **For the Record**



### **Mt. LeConte Lodge, July 11-12, 2009**

*Ellen Turner Reporting*

Hikers: Barry Griggs and John Griggs (Alum Cave Trail); Lindsey Renfro, Ellen Turner, Steven Clark, and Stephen Walser (Rainbow Falls/Bullhead Trails)



*Alum cave*

Griggs Hike: Our hike up Alum Cave Trail on Saturday went smoothly. This is a pretty busy trail, especially the lower part between the trailhead and Alum Cave. After we passed the cave, traffic was noticeably lighter as we continued our ascent. Although the air was hazy, there were still several locations that afforded spectacular views. Hanging onto cables at times, we carefully picked our way over wet rocks that demanded careful stepping. In all the trip took us about 2 ½ hours.

The Foursome: Our hike up Rainbow Falls on Saturday was fun and strenuous for some of us who were not in shape! It took us about 5 hours taking into consideration that we stopped several times. The falls were beautiful, and one brave soul stood under the icy cold water for a few seconds. Some of us walked behind a smaller waterfall without getting quite so wet. We were ready for a rest by the time we reached the top.



After the hikes, we reached the lodge and located our cabin. We explored the grounds to get the layout of the place. The check-in office was equipped with game tables and chairs, a supply of board games, guitars as well as Le Conte clothing for sale (cash only). It was a nice place to just hang out with friends and relax. Hungry campers moved quickly from their cabins to the dining hall when summoned by the welcome ringing of a triangle dinner bell. Food was plentiful and served family style.

As sunset neared, campers made their way up a nearby trail to Cliff Top to watch the sun go down and hear a park ranger talk about the history of Smoky Mountains National Park. Fortunately, the sky was clear enough to give the group of us perched on rocks on the mountain top a pretty good view, although a little hazy. The sunset proved to be spectacular.



*Barry and John Griggs*

The camp chaplain for the weekend announced at dinner that whoever wanted to could meet her the next morning at 6:00 to hike up to Myrtle Point for a sunrise devotional. Only four of us brave souls, who preferred hiking and sunrises over sleeping, met at the designated location Saturday morning. We waited patiently for an extra ten minutes for the chaplain who never arrived. Undaunted, we made our way through the fog to Myrtle Point. With a visibility of about 10 feet, we decided that the sun was out there somewhere, but we weren't going to be seeing it this morning. After some introspective meditation, we made our way back to camp for a delicious and plentiful breakfast.



*Breakfast*

The cabins were small, but propane-heated and comfortable. Sharing close quarters with people you've never met before requires consideration and cooperation. Although some of us slept very little for various reasons, everyone got along great with each other. New friends were made that would probably would never have been made otherwise.

Hiking out the next morning was a little wet after a brief rain. The crew descending via Bullhead got our shoes filled with water from the wet grasses along the path. Everyone continued to enjoy the hike even with wet feet which dried some over the four hour descent. There is nothing like the LeConte experience, and we all highly recommend it to others.



## AT Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** August 23, 2009

**Purpose:** Prepare relo for Watauga College students

**Location:** Section 8, One mile north of Shook Branch

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We prepared another portion of the relocation around Watauga Lake. This portion is now ready to be constructed by the Watauga College students.

**Reporting:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** August 29, 2009

**Purpose:** Watauga Lake relocation

**Location:** US 321 to Wilbur Dam Road

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Clark, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Mike Hupko, Kat Johnson, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Jeff Sirola, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson, Kerry Wood (USFS), and Ray Douglas, and 79 ASU students and teachers

**Summary:** Students and teachers from Watauga College at Appalachian State University and members and guests from TEHCC worked on the Appalachian Trail relocation at Watauga Lake. We encountered more rocks and roots than expected. However, we were able to complete about nine-hundred feet of new trail. A special thanks to all who participated.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** August 30, 2009

**Purpose:** Clear brush

**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton blue-blaze trail

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I took a string-trimmer with a brush blade attachment and cleared brush and weeds underneath the powerline cut of the blue-blaze trail. I then hid the string-trimmer and hiked the rest of the blue-blaze, picking up trash. I filled up my trash bag and returned to the car. We need to return soon for more trash pickup; the campsites along the blue-blaze are especially littered.

**Reporting:** Jake Mitchell

**Date:** August 29, 2009

**Purpose:** Attend 2013 ATC Biennial Steering Committee meeting

**Location:** Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

**People:** Jake Mitchell, Steve Perri

**Summary:** We made the 2-hour trip to Western Carolina for the first of many Steering Committee meetings for the 2013 ATC Biennial. We determined how our group would be structured, took a tour of the campus, and discussed the pros and cons of past conferences. Official assignments of which club will do what are yet to be determined.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 1, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig Trail relocation and rehab Trail

**Location:** Section 14a, Bradley Gap to ridge north of Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; Wright State University: Tyler Shepard, Megan Gamble, Brad Guthrie, Jamie Plamondon, Joseph Dininger, Stephanie Gorby, Mackenzie Galbraith, Kaitlyn Roberts, Mary Cook, Philip Bomer, Alyssa Weyant, Christopher Geraci, Allison Condra, Tara Millefehik, Shanita Heath, Brain Hovenac, Danny Alus-Souders, Wesley Moosman, Darius Corn

**Summary:** With the help of the enthusiastic students from Wright State University we accomplished much in the Roans on

a cool day. The students had already hiked from Iron Mt Gap to 19E in two groups. We finished digging and opened the major relocation going off Little Hump Mountain towards Bradley Gap. Also, we checked out the wet areas at Bradley Gap and added several ditches, although trail seemed in pretty good shape after last year's rehab. The relocation starting just south of Yellow Mountain Gap was completed and opened. More trail was rehabbed between Yellow Mt Gap and Stan Murray Shelter. And the final relocation was started on the north side of Stan Murray Shelter. We dug a total of 600 feet of new trail and rehabbed about 150 feet.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** September 3, 2009

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed the grass and cut weeds on the accessible trail and the AT across the Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** September 4, 2009

**Purpose:** Check trail and perform needed maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Beauty Spot to Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

**Summary:** At Beauty Spot we mowed a few tall weeds on the north end going into the woods. The rest of Beauty Spot had been mowed and looked good. The purpose of our trip was to mow Beauty Spot Gap, but to our surprise and delight the area had been mowed and it also looked good. We mowed a few weeds on the north end and leveled about 35 feet of trail. We also mowed weeds on both the north and south side of TN 107 and about a quarter-mile south of Iron Mountain Gap. A side log installed on an earlier trip was staked with treated wood stakes and a tree was removed from the trail. Several areas were identified where the trail needs to be leveled, as it is sloping off considerably. Also the stiles reported missing at the Beauty Spot parking area have not been replaced.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** September 4, 2009

**Purpose:** Install post and maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 15, Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Joe installed a post with blazes at a sharp turn on the AT near the hotel site while Craig cut briars and picked up trash between Cloudland and the shelter and placed a new register in the shelter. The previous post was anchored in concrete but was pulled out anyway; we will see how this one does.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** September 5, 2009

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and paint blazes

**Location:** Section 15, Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut two obstructing blowdowns; one on the side trail to the shelter and one overhanging the AT between Cloudland and the shelter. We painted blazes in both directions between Cloudland and the shelter.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** September 6, 2009

**Purpose:** Check treadway, blowdowns, and overgrowths

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

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I hiked the entire section with hand saw and loppers, cut back rhodos, and sawed a few blowdowns. I located one area for a potential relo. Other than a few minor muddy areas, this section is in good condition.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 8, 2009

**Purpose:** Scout a path to transport shelter materials

**Location:** Section 19, Ephriam Road to Martins Creek Road

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We judged the old road from Martins Creek Rd to be difficult to hand carry materials or to use motorized transport for hauling materials to Curley Maple Gap shelter. We did find a possible route suitable for limited motorized transport from Ephriam Road.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 12, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig Trail relocation

**Location:** Section 8, Watauga Lake

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bill Murdock, Jeff Siirola; ASU Trail Crew: Kristen Nagy, Theresia Hinton, Tristan Rodenhauser, Sarah Bradley, Kyle Williams, Luther Hilbert, Matthew Shinnars, Ryn MacArthur

**Summary:** The ASU Trail Crew joined club members to finish several trail sections that were started with Watauga College. A good day was had by all even though a couple students were lost temporarily on the way to the work site. There is a very long story behind that.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 12, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig Trail relocation

**Location:** Section 7, North of Wilbur Dam Rd

**People:** Carl Fritz, Otto, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; ASU Trail Crew: Patrick Casebere, Friar Satterwhite, Maura Weaver, Emily Smith

**Summary:** With the help of the ASU Trail Crew, we were able to make significant progress on one of the upper relocations that involved a lot of rock work. We still have a good days work left in this area.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 13-18, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig Trail relocation

**Location:** Section 14b, Between Stan Murray Shelter and Grassy Ridge

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** An energetic Rocky Top volunteer crew with ten members came to help us with the relocation south of Stan Murray Shelter. They normally work in the Smokies, but were chased out by bear problems. Based out of Gatlinburg, the crew planned to dig trail for six days and have two days for travel. Unfortunately, rainy weather set in and we were able to dig Trail for less than two days. However, two more relocations are about ready to open. That leaves one relocation between Grassy Ridge and Stan Murray Shelter to complete.

**Reporting:** Dale Douthat

**Date:** September 17, 2009

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to Bear Branch Road

**People:** Carl Ray, Mike Ray, Dale Douthat

**Summary:** We cut weeds and grass in the open areas and lopped branches. We also cleaned several water bars. Carl did a yeoman's task by removing a blowdown above the cemetery. We were unable to complete the weed whacking before we ran out of gas and energy. There was no trash at Bear Branch Road, which is a nice change. ATV usage is evident; Mike saw a young man on a dirt bike. When the biker saw Mike, he turned around and left the area.

**Reporting:** Dale Douthat

**Date:** September 22, 2009

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 12d, Bear Branch Road to US 19E

**People:** Dale Douthat

**Summary:** I cut weeds from road to road. This section is now clear and in good shape.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach



**Date:** September 23, 2009

**Purpose:** Attend Open Areas Meeting

**Location:** Watauga Ranger District Office, Unicoi

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Once a year, representatives of ATC, the Forest Service, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, the Carolina Mountain Club, and TEHCC meet to discuss funding and priorities for managing grassy balds and other open areas north of the Smokies in Tennessee and North Carolina. Areas on our section slated for treatment in 2010 are Beauty Spot, the Buchanan Tract between Beauty Spot and Deep Gap, Weedy Gap, the Roan balds, Doll Flats, Bishop Hollow, High Point, along the Elk River, Upper Laurel near Bitter End, the Canute Place, the Senter Tract just south of Dennis Cove, the Osborne Farm on Cross Mountain, and the Berry Fields on Holston Mountain. The Forest Service plans additional measures to prevent vehicle ingress at Beauty Spot. Hump Mountain was mowed with a bushhog and a track mower for the first time in 2009, and a variety of animals are grazing there.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** September 23, 2009

**Purpose:** Attend Semi-Annual AT Partnership Meeting

**Location:** Watauga Ranger District Office, Unicoi

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, and Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Twice a year we hold partnership meetings with representatives from the Watauga, Nolichucky/Unaka, and Appalachian Ranger Districts, ATC, and TVA. Major project plans for the next few years were reviewed, with our most imminent approval request being the relocations between Hughes Gap and Cloudland. We will likely focus on the portion between Hughes Gap and Beartown Mt first. We were advised to designate campsites around Watauga Lake to help deter bear activity and control campsite expansion. Former thru-hiker Gray Buckles has been hired as Trails Technician for the Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District and former ATC employee Kerry Wood has been hired for that position in the Watauga Ranger District. Kerry is working on a sign at the TN/VA boundary and one denoting the AT at Carvers Gap. We need to renew our Voluntary Services Agreement with all three forests.