



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2009

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To submit an article for the Newsletter, send an email to:
news@tehcc.org. Articles should be submitted by the 15th
of the month.

From the Chair

(Steering Committee Chair and Office Chair)

It seems that the Fall season lasted about a week this year and it felt more like Spring with lots of rain. That's not all bad though. Hiking after the leaves have dropped has some advantages:

- Many ridgeline views are obscured by leaves, but open up in the winter. Pond Mountain's views of Watauga Lake are a prime example.
- No bugs or four-legged creatures to worry about. Only the two-legged ones are a problem and even those dwindle with the leaves.
- Leaves and pine needles make for a soft trail, but can be slippery. Be careful or you may be going down the Laurel Fork Gorge steps on your rump.
- Solitude is much easier to find in the backcountry. A crowded Mountaineer Falls Shelter is probably not going to be a problem.

- Cold weather is a great excuse to buy more gear. A good 0 degree sleeping bag and Polartec beanie are priceless when holed up in Overmountain Shelter.
- Winter hiking has a different set of challenges than summertime. Fighting hurricane-force winds on Hump Mountain or post holing in the Grayson Highlands can be fun and rewarding!

If you have only experienced our beautiful mountains with leaves, try them without. You may feel like you are hiking in another world. Most importantly, make sure someone knows where you are going, you know where you are going and you have the proper gear.

Jake Mitchell, 2009 TEHCC Steering Committee Chair, chair@tehcc.org

TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting - Friday November 13, 2009

Fall has descended upon us, all too quickly for most. It's time to reflect on a very busy season and for the truly adventurous, begin plans for the winter and next year. We would like to extend an invitation to our club members and affiliates and their friends and family to join us at this special meeting. We will again have music and a slideshow during our Happy "Trails" Hour. This will be followed by our meal, catered by Phil's Dream Pit (a vegetarian option will be available). We will conclude with an update on club activities, awards, and a special program.

We are extremely excited to have Johnny Molloy, a Johnson City native and outdoor writer, as our guest speaker. Johnny has written 36 books on hiking, camping, paddling and true outdoor adventures, including "Day & Overnight Hikes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park" and "Long Trails of the Southeast" (see www.JohnnyMolloy.com). Johnny will tell us about his recent journey along the Florida National Scenic Trail. The Happy Trails slideshow will also be provided by Johnny, and some of his books will be available for purchase.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Dining Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Beer and wine for sale, or BYOB
Dinner	6:30pm-7:30pm	(Pulled pork, chicken, beans, mac salad, potato salad, slaw, rolls, vegetarian option) Catered by Phil's Dream Pit (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child)
Club Updates!	7:00pm-7:30pm	Update of club activities - New Steering Team Members - Club recognitions - TN AT plate update
Special Program	7:30pm-8:30pm	Johnny Molloy

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by **November 10**.

Click [here](#) for a printable reservation form.

[Appalachian Trail Conservancy Invasive Plant Control Workshops](#)

Scheduled for November 21 and December 5, 2009

Joe DeLoach reporting

Invasive species have been recognized as one of the Four Great Threats to America's National Forests. In addition to the blight which wiped out the chestnut and the hemlock woolly adelgid which is wreaking such havoc in our forests today, invasive plants can quickly overtake a native forest. Forests along the Appalachian Trail are no exception and can be particularly susceptible to invasive species, with sunlight coming through from Trail clearing and hikers providing some means of spread. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Forest Service have been working to combat their spread through a series of invasive and exotic plant control workshops. These workshops are being held in Wilderness areas and in areas where invasive plants are gaining a foothold. One such area on our Trail section is along the Nolichucky River near Chestoa. In that area can be found multiflora rose, privet, tree of heaven, princess tree, Japanese honeysuckle, and other invasive plants. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in two upcoming workshops starting at 9:00 AM on November 21 and December 5 at the Chestoa Bridge. At the workshop, we'll learn about the threats invasive plants pose to native species, learn how to identify 15 of the most threatening species in our region, and receive training on tools and techniques to eradicate them. Then we'll put our skills to work along the Trail. ATC and the Forest Service will provide equipment; volunteers should bring lunch, water, and clothing appropriate for late fall weather, definitely including a long sleeve shirt. For this event volunteers must be over the age of 18. We'll plan to meet near Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 8:30 and carpool to Chestoa. Please contact Joe (423-753-7263, joedelo@eastman.com) if you're interested in volunteering at one or both of these workshops.

[It's Hunting Time in Tennessee!](#)

The TEHCC shares the National Forests with hunters. During the Fall and Winter seasons, it is important to practice safety with respect to hunters. Two things to remember when hiking are:

1. Prominently wear blaze orange if you plan to hike on lands where hunting is permitted. Dogs too!
2. Consider hiking in national, state and local parks where hunting is typically not allowed. Hunting is permitted in National Forests.

Tennessee (Sunday hunting allowed)

- Muzzleloader: November 7-20
- Gun: November 21 - December 6, December 19 - January 10

North Carolina (no Sunday hunting allowed)

Western North Carolina (except Watauga and Ashe Counties)

- Gun: November 23 - December 12

Northwestern North Carolina (Watauga and Ashe Counties and further east)

- Muzzleloader: November 14-20
- Gun: November 21 - December 19

Virginia (no Sunday hunting allowed)

- Muzzleloader: October 31 - November 13, December 12 - January 2
- Gun: November 14-28



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for November:

Andrew Parker

Dale Larkins

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
Nov 6	Friday Hikers: AT Elk Garden to Summit Cut		Collins Chew	vcchew@chartertn.net
Nov 10	Two-Fer Tuesday	Fun	Marc Schurger	marc.schurger@tehcc.org
Nov 13	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting	Fun	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Nov 21	ATC Invasive Plant Control Workshop	Worthwhile	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Nov 27	Friday Hikers: Sand Cave in Cumberland NP		Collins Chew	vcchew@chartertn.net
Nov 28	Family/Beginner: Natural Tunnel State Park	C/4/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Dec 5	ATC Invasive Plant Control Workshop	Worthwhile	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Dec 8	Two-Fer Tuesday	Fun	Marc Schurger	marc.schurger@tehcc.org
Dec 18-19	Backpack: AT Lemon Gap to I-40		Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654

Description of Upcoming Events

TEHCC Two-Fer Tuesdays, November 10 & December 8, 2009

Leader: [Marc Schurger](#)

Join other TEHCCers at Kingsport Grocery Company every second Tuesday for \$2 drafts and good times talking about the great outdoors. We will meet around 5 pm on the second floor of Kingsport Grocery. For more details, contact either [Marc Schurger](#) or [Ed Montgomery](#).

Friday Hikers

Leader: [Collins Chew](#)

Join several members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts for Friday hikes in the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia area. Trips typically leave from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of

Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8 am. Trips to places farther away leave at 7:30 am. Contact Collins Chew (vcchew@chartertn.net) to be added to the distribution list.

Family/Beginner: Natural Tunnel State Park, November 28, 2009

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: C/4/C

This will be a group-choice of which short hikes (each 0.7 mile or less) to cover in Natural Tunnel State Park. Attractions include the train tunnel, the replica blockhouse fort, and some overlooks. Meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 9 am for the 36-mile, 50-minute drive. Please call for more information (or an alternate meeting location) as the time approaches. Current plans are to return by early afternoon (2-3 pm). Dress appropriately in layers for cooler weather; bring water and snacks or lunch.

3rd Annual Christmas Backpacking Trip, December 18-19, 2009

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

Jake Mitchell will lead the third annual Christmas backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail. Previous trips have included a driving snowstorm in the Roan highlands and balmy 50 degree temperatures in Damascus. This trip will be from Lemon Gap, TN/NC to I-40 including Max Patch. Plans are to leave early in the afternoon on Friday and return late in the day on Saturday. Contact Jake Mitchell if you are interested.

**For the
Record**



Friday Hike: AT from Spivey Gap to the Nolichucky River, October 23, 2009

Collins Chew reporting

We had glorious weather and beautiful leaves today for our 11-mile hike on the AT from Spivey Gap to the Nolichucky River. It was quite breezy to the extent we saw several large branches crash down nearby, and one-by-one we moved into the smoky-smelling shelter for lunch, depending on how close and loud the falling debris. Hikers were June Donaldson, Carol Dunham, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: September 27, 2009

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and check trail after heavy rains

Location: Section 12a, Laurel Fork bridge to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: Hiking the section with a handsaw, I removed blown down branches and a couple small and one large blown down trees. I also cleaned some water bars. There are a few muddy spots, but otherwise Trail is in good condition.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 29, 2009

Purpose: Install water diversions and flag relocations

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to almost Greasy Creek Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: It was a rough start with two flu victims, one dead car battery, and one electrical power problem that waylaid four maintainers. Then there was the 43° high temperature in the mountains with strong winds. But the crew cleaned 22 water bars and installed 27 water bars or dips between Hughes Gap and Little Rock Knob. They also finished flagging the trail relocations between Little Rock Knob and north of Greasy Creek Gap.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 29, 2009

Purpose: Clear Trail

Location: Section 12c, 12d, and 13a

People: Ken Buchanan, Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: We cleared a large blowdown near Cambell Hollow Road and north of cemetery on Section 12D. We cleared brush north of Cambell Hollow Rd to bridge and south on Section 13a.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: September 30, 2009

Purpose: Check Trail and perform needed maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Susan Peters, Jerry Jones, Mike Hupko

Summary: Seventeen blowdowns of various sizes were removed from the trail. We identified locations for future work days and reported to USFS a large amount of trash dumped near the AT about 0.5-mile north of Beauty Spot. There's also trash near the AT crossing of FS 230.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: October 1, 2009

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed grass and weeds on the accessible Trail and the AT through the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Waylon Jenkins

Date: October 3, 2009

Purpose: Annual maintenance, clear water bars, insert water pipe at Doll Flats

Location: Section 13a, US Hwy 19E to Doll Flats

People: Waylon Jenkins, Ed Herrington

Summary: It was a great day to be on the trail! Generally, the trail was in good shape, but we did some lopping and a little sawing on the way up. The weeds weren't bad, although they were about knee-high in a few places. We were grateful that someone had recently cut weeds and grass near 19E. We left a rake, broom and a register at the Apple House Shelter. At Doll Flats, we inserted the PVC pipe and obtained good water flow just downhill from the blue-blazed trail, and then discovered another PVC pipe that had good flow above the trail. We left both in place on the theory that the lower one might maintain a better flow in dry weather, and also that we didn't want to carry it back to the car. On the way back down, we focused on clearing water bars with the famous Rogue hoes. There are a few short places with a lot of small exposed roots and a sidehill slope that may be candidates for trail improvement; but they were still passable without difficulty. If we get back out this fall, we may try to take some pictures and record some coordinates. Along the way, we met four south-bound through hikers and what appeared to be a father and son out for a weekend hike. We were overtaken by two couples (with two dogs) from North Carolina who had started at Carvers Gap and were planning to be picked up by Bob Peoples on Tuesday.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: October 11, 2009

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We hiked in to check out a reported blowdown. We found and cleared one about 1.5 miles north of Wilbur Dam road. We hiked in a few miles farther and whacked back some briars. Lots of hikers were out and all were very

appreciative of the new relo.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 12, 2009

Purpose: Obtain dimensional lumber for Curley Maple Gap Shelter

Location: Kingsport

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We obtained most of dimensional lumber for Curley Maple Gap Shelter. L.L. Bean provided a grant to cover most of the materials for rebuilding this shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 13, 2009

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 7, North of Wilbur Dam Road

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Tim Stewart; ASU TRAIL CREW Taylor Parker, Tristan Rodenhauer, Brian Satterwhite, Maura Weaver, Melanie Ferrell, Ryn MacArthur, Anthony Marino, Lizzie Prose, Erin Burks, Patrick Casebere, Kyle Williams, Luther Hilbert

Summary: Working with the ASU Trail Crew, we finished rock work and digging on another 550-foot relocation and opened it. Tim and 4 students also rehabbed 60 feet of existing trail with several rock steps and a ramp with rock cribbing. That leaves only a little rehab and work on a 140-foot relo to finish this area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 13, 2009

Purpose: Cut lumber for shelter

Location: Section 19, Unicoi and Jonesborough

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cut all the rough sawn lumber for Curley Maple Gap Shelter to dimension at the Unicoi Work Center. Then we cut most of dimensional lumber at Carl's house.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: October 18, 2009

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 5, TN Hwy 91 to overlook about halfway to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Summary: We generally carry a saw on recreational AT hikes and found use for it on this one. Cut several blowdowns, including a tangle with a pretty large main section about 2 miles in. A piece of plywood about 4 feet wide and 16 inches high has been nailed to the stile at the Osborne Tract. This may have been for the Cranberry Festival last weekend.

Reporting: Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

Date: October 20, 2009

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and prepare for shelter renovation

Location: Section 19, Nolichucky River to Curley Maple Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and Tim Stewart

Summary: This group had quite a day with three activities. We cleared 15 blowdowns, some in excess of 20 inches in diameter, between the river and the Curley Maple Gap Shelter. All blowdowns were cleared. The shelter renovation plans were reviewed on site. The group concluded that it would be highly desirable to remove a large leaning tree prior to the shelter renovation that would only be a few feet from the shelter. We also worked to clear an access route to haul the materials to the shelter, which proved to be more challenging than anticipated. At least one more trip will be required for clearing.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: October 21, 2009

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN Hwy 91

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I removed limbs and cut foliage from TN Hwy 91 to Double Springs Shelter. A fence is being built from the Osborne Farm entrance to the corner towards Damascus and up the east side of the farm to about the Osborne home site. There is plenty of water at the Shelter. There are three blowdowns in the section; two are good waterbars and block ATV's on the trail. The third is an easy stepover and can be cut out whenever we have a saw at the farm. It is located about 20 yards north of the fence at the end of the farm.