



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2010

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

In this issue:

[From the Chair](#)

[TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting](#)

[TEHCC Rental Equipment Auction](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities on the AT](#)

[Call to those wanting to be more involved in  
TEHCC](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Description of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

[Dinner Meeting Reservation Form](#)

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, Tim Schaefer)*

I am briefly back from my trip to Estonia and my personal goal to be more adventurous paid off. I hope these stories encourage you to do the same. My first weekend, I went exploring Lahemaa National Park. While there, I visited some old manor homes, saw the second largest boulder in Estonia (the land is so flat that large boulders left by glaciers are apparently noteworthy), and hiked through a bog complete with wild cranberries. While on one of the peninsulas, Juminda, I saw a map of the area and it included the symbol of an old rocket base. Assuming it was an old Soviet building, I thought "I have got to see that!" but I couldn't find it. It got me thinking though about what other old Soviet bases could be around. Well according to the internet the answer is plenty. The following weekend I convinced two others to join me to the island of Naissaar. Under Soviet rule, it was a military base that apparently deployed and maintained sea mines. Several of the buildings, rail, and yes even mines, remain on the island. Leading up to the trip there, I was able to find very little information in English about visiting the island. We decided to go anyway as the chance to visit a Soviet base with decommissioned mines was way too tempting to

pass up. After some funny and awkward moments of following people around as we tried to determine what there was to do on the island, we set out on a 12-mile trail that took us along the coast, then to an old base village, a mine servicing station, and the mine storage yards. It was definitely quite the adventure. My hopes for next time are to visit the highest point in Estonia at just over 300 meters above sea level, maybe see the largest boulder in Estonia, and find more Soviet bases.

One thing I did that I thought was very cool was to "geotag" my photos. When out hiking, I used my GPS watch (when I remembered to bring it) to log my position while I snapped away plenty of photos. Back at home I used software that will take the GPS log file and using the time stamp on the picture it will update the picture data to include the coordinates when the picture was taken. Several photo sites like Flickr and Picasa will look for this data and can show your pictures on a map. No more guessing where you were and what you photographed when reviewing later. While looking at my pictures on Google Earth I realized I can do the reverse. Google Earth can show photos people upload to Panoramio including their coordinates. I've already updated my watch with the waypoint of the rocket base I couldn't find and several new places to visit. This is definitely a cool thing to do and possibly a subject for the November club meeting.

October is Fall Dinner Meeting month. I think we're going to have a great time hearing Marc Schurger and Ed Montgomery discuss their paddling adventure. We hope to see you there; read the announcement for more information. Also in November, I'm going to try to start a routine of regular club meetings. I want these to be a little bit lower key and more frequent than the dinner meetings, and also provide more chances to get together and discuss hiking and paddling while not out hiking or paddling. Eventually I would like these to be more "trip reports" or people's investigations into trips; but I think I will discuss geotagging photos for the first one: how I did it, ways to share it on the internet, and the troubles and tricks I had along the way. I was going to do a lunchtime meeting at one of the "open to the public" buildings at Eastman, but am open to reconsider time and location if it better suits the majority. Read the announcement for more information.

Here are links to photos from my Estonia trip: [Naissaar](#), [Lahemaa](#), [Western tour](#)

## **TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, October 22, 2010**

*Submitted by Kevin Barham*

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 winter adventures. We would like to invite our club members and affiliates and their friends and family to join us at this special meeting. We will again have a slideshow during our Happy "Trails" Hour. This will be followed by a Pratt's catered dinner, an update on club activities, awards presentation, and a special program.

We are extremely excited to have our very own Marc Schurger and Ed Montgomery as our guest speakers. Marc has helped shape the club's future by participating on the steering committee. Ed is the club's paddling coordinator and helped lead the way in our Appalachian Trail license plate initiative. This presentation will highlight a TEHCC 2010 river trip in the White Cliffs section of the Missouri River and hiking in Glacier National Park.

In addition to our usual festivities, we will have a silent auction for some of the club's used equipment. The Quest "River Runner" two-person tent has been a popular rental over the years, but we are letting it go to make room for newer equipment. This is a three-season shelter. (None of the club's tents would really be considered fully suitable for a real "winter".) We will also be auctioning off a Therm-a-Rest™ inflatable sleeping mat.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30:PM	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.
Silent Auction	5:30PM - 6:30PM	Large Therm-a-Rest inflatable sleeping mat and Quest River Runner tent (2 person)
Dinner	6:30PM - 7:30PM	Herb roasted chicken, au gratin potatoes, cornbread dressing, salad, bread, tea and Cookies (Catered by Pratt's)
Club Updates and Awards	7:00PM - 7:30PM	Awards from AT partners and club
Presentation	7:30PM - 9:00PM	Upper Missouri River, Breaks National Monument River, Glacier National Park Trip

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by October 10. A printable reservation form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

## **TEHCC Rental Equipment Auction – October 2010 Dinner Meeting**

*Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator ([rental@tehcc.org](mailto:rental@tehcc.org))*

TEHCC has more used rental equipment to retire. We will have a silent auction at the Fall dinner meeting. Bids can be submitted by signing on a sheet of paper at the meeting, or will be accepted beforehand by e-mail if you cannot attend. Payment by the winning bidder is expected at the end of the evening.



**HP-3** is a 20"x48"x1.5" green/brown Therm-a-Rest™ inflatable sleeping mat weighing 20 ounces. It is good, but worn condition having been rented at least 18 times over the past six years. Comes with a carrying bag.



**HT-9** is a Quest River Runner tent. 60" x 96" floor gives adequate room for two people. Most notable feature is that the fly overhangs out far enough to give a "porch" instead of a typical vestibule. Rear window has dual zippers, thus can be used as a second door. It has internal mesh pockets and gear loft. Downside is the ease of set-up, which was rated 3 out of 5 during the annual equipment checks. The design has sleeves which have to be navigated with the poles being attached to a central hub as spokes. Rented 22 times over last seven years.

## [Volunteer Opportunities on the Appalachian Trail](#)

*Submitted by Kim Peters, Trail Maintenance Coordinator ([atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org))*

TEHCC proudly maintains 135 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail from Damascus, Virginia to Spivey Gap in North Carolina. This huge task is only possible because of our dedicated volunteers. We currently are seeking more volunteers to help in this effort. It isn't even necessary to wield a Pulaski, scythe or saw to participate. How about monitoring one of our sixteen shelters? Shelters are a popular hike destination, so how about doing a little maintenance while you are there? Currently, maintenance of most of our sixteen shelters is assigned to whoever has the responsibility for that trail section. In order to reduce the work load of the section maintainer, it would be highly desirable for a person or group of people to act as shelter monitors and to check on the shelter several times during the hiking season. Tasks for the shelter monitor include: general condition of shelter, i.e. checking for leaks, log book replacement, trash pickup, and checking the condition of the water source. If any condition is found that the shelter monitor cannot correct, other volunteers could be called upon to help fix the condition.

We always have a need for volunteers to take a trail section. Currently our 135 miles of trail is divided into 34 maintenance sections. We have recently lost a couple of section maintainers, so some of these sections currently lack a maintainer. Section maintainers are responsible for painting blazes, trimming back yearly growth, cutting weeds, cleaning waterbars, and cutting out blowdowns. It would be wonderful to have a larger number of maintainers such that we can increase the number of sections and reduce the length of some sections. Projects which are too large for the section maintainers are handled by special crews; so no one ever has to take on a project larger than they are comfortable with.

If you would like more information about these opportunities or would be interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Peters at 423-538-7665 or [atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org).

## [Call to those wanting to be more involved in the TEHCC](#)

*Submitted by [Kevin Barham](#), 2010 Steering Committee Member*

Do you love to hike or kayak? Would you like to have a voice in what events the club hosts? Are you curious about how the club maintains over 135 miles of the Appalachian Trail and encourages hiking locally? TEHCC is looking for volunteers to be on its steering committee. Committee members help select initiatives for the club, plan social events such as the fall dinner meeting, and work with other organizations within the local and regional hiking and paddling communities. If you are interested, please contact Ian Powell ([ipowell@eastman.com](mailto:ipowell@eastman.com)) or Kevin Barham ([kbarham@eastman.com](mailto:kbarham@eastman.com)) for more information. The time commitment is not a big one but the difference you can make is!

## [Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Oct 22	Fall Dinner Meeting	<a href="#">Kevin Barham</a>	<a href="mailto:kbarham@eastman.com">kbarham@eastman.com</a>
Oct 23-24	Women's Beginner Backpack	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-538-7665
Nov 9	November Club Meet	<a href="#">Tim Shaefer</a>	<a href="mailto:chair@tehcc.org">chair@tehcc.org</a>

## [Description of Upcoming Events](#)

### [Recurring Events](#)

#### **Most Tuesdays: Weekly AT Trail Maintenance**

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)) for dates and meeting places.

#### **Tuesdays Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice**

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon (J.A.W.), APEs, and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool in Johnson City, TN from 7:10 to 9:10 pm every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking skills and learning how to roll. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers in a nice warm-water environment. Admission to the pool is \$2, rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility. Please note: The

J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc...). If you do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the APEs yahoo group site or send [Wesley](#) an e-mail asking other members to bring extra equipment. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night!

### **Fridays: Friday Hikers**

Join members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts for Friday hikes in the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia areas. 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](#) to be added to the distribution list.

## **Scheduled Events**

### **Women's Beginner Overnight Backpacking Trip, October 23-24, 2010**

*Leader: [Kim Peters](#), 423-538-7665*

This trip was originally scheduled for Sept 11-12, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. So I am rescheduling. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate for us. So this is your chance, all of you who couldn't make the originally scheduled trip will get another opportunity!

For the second women's backpack trip, we are planning to hike on the AT from Carvers Gap to US19E spending the night at Overmountain Shelter. The total distance is about 15 miles. This route takes us over the open areas of Round Bald, Jane Bald and Hump Mountain - the jewels of the Roan Highlands. We will also hike on some recently completed trail re-locations which removed some steep and eroded sections of trail. You won't want to miss this trip!

Additionally, as with the previous trip, we can have a pre-trip meeting to talk about gear, food, shelter etc. If you are a first-time or novice backpacker and are interested in such a meeting, let me know and I'll set it up. Contact the [leader](#) for more information or to sign up for this trip.

### **November Club Meet, Tuesday, November 9, 12pm to 1pm**

*B310, Eastman Chemical Company Toy Reid Building*

Join us for what I hope turns into a regular event. The plan for these meetings is to discuss the upcoming schedule for the next month or two, maybe make new plans, and then have a special topic. I am thinking the topics will rotate around trip reports, trip plans, gear reviews, and technique reviews. This first one is going to be on geotagging photos. I've recently started doing it and would like to share what I learned so you can also begin tagging your photos. This one will be held during lunch at Eastman's publicly accessible building in Kingsport. I am open to suggestions on locations and times if it can better suit the majority; so please feel free to make suggestions, even for this meeting. Contact me at [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)

## **For the Record**



### **Hike Report - Abrams Falls, August 21, 2010**

*Bill Tindall reporting*

On Saturday, August 21, Nancy and Kent Wilson, Heather Jacobs, Olin Babb and Bill Tindall accompanied land owners Bill and Robert Hill and Susan Feine to Abrams Falls. This exceptionally scenic falls is located on private property just 6 miles from Exit 1 at Bristol, VA.

The trail, or should I say goat path, typically used to get to the falls involves traversing some narrow ledges with considerable drop-offs. There have been numerous deaths and serious injuries from people falling from the trail and the falls. However, landowner Robert Hill guided us on an alternate route across his property that provided a safer access.

Recent rains had resulted in good flow over the falls. The numerous flowers that grow in the mist below the falls, including the rare Saxifraga Caroliniana, were no longer in bloom.



### **Friday Hikers: AT - Pond Mountain, August 27, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful day to hike 7 miles from U. S. 321 on the AT over Pond Mountain to the Blue Blaze trail and out to Braemar. We measured two new relocations and actually found the trail to be 0.2 miles less than earlier. The slope was much improved. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Susie Seiler, first timer Arturo Senosain visiting from Peru, Ann Yungmeyer and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap, September 3, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a glorious day for our hike on the AT across Roan High Knob although there was some complaint of getting chilly at lunch time. Although true, that was a bit tongue in cheek since it was supposed to be 90° in the valley. Goldenrod, turtlehead, closed gentian and other wildflowers graced the trail. We measured three relocations, two between Beartown Mountain and Hughes Gap and the other just south of Hughes Gap. The changes make for easier walking and add 0.6 miles between Beartown Mountain and Hughes Gap. Our total hike for the day was 6.6 miles. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Andrew Cleland, Judith Foster, first timer Melanie Horner, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter, September 10, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a lovely, partly overcast day for the 9.4 mile hike on the AT from Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter with late summer wildflowers in profusion. The recent relocations made the hike much more pleasant. We measured and mapped the relocations. There were frequent views of Watauga Lake through the trees. We ate lunch with the great view from Vandeventer Shelter. It was a bit hectic starting out in the Ingles parking lot as we got mixed in with a very lively group going to a Tea Party in Washington. But I think we got it straightened out and fortunately got away before their bus arrived. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Andrew Cleland (leaving next Friday to hike in Nepal), Anne Cosby, Heather Jacob, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT – Angels Rest, Pearisburg, VA, September 17, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a fine day for our AT hike to Angels Rest near Pearisburg, VA today. There were great views of the New River Valley and surrounding area. The round trip hike is listed as 6.2 miles with a 2,000 foot climb; but apparent, new switchbacks probably made it longer with no change in climb. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Diana Billips, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Steve Yonts (owner of Tillson Mill on the AT, where we once visited on a Friday Hike) and Collins Chew.

## Friday Hikers: AT – Low Gap to Cross Mountain, September 24, 2010

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The hike of Friday, Sept. 24, started at Low Gap on the Appalachian Trail, where it crosses U. S. 421. It was a work hike, so we carried various tools to combat the growth that had encroached on the trail since the last such hike, which was on May 21. We divided into two parties, the larger of which consisting of Jack Aaron, Kathy Case, Jerry Case, Anne Cosby and Judith Foster, went on to Cross Mountain after our pleasant and leisurely lunch at Double Springs Shelter. Olin Babb and I turned and went back to Low Gap. Along the way he and I unfortunately riled up a colony of yellow jackets by whacking weeds near their hole in the ground and we got stung.

The one-way hikers did 6.5 miles and those of us who turned hiked 7.0 miles.



## AT Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 7, 2010

**Purpose:** Chainsaw certification, CPR, and first aid

**Location:** Unicoi

**People:** Rick Lott, David Ramsey, Ted Mowery, Michael Watts, Waylon Jenkins, Carl Fritz, Richard Carter, Larry Miller

**Summary:** During March and April, these eight folks were certified as sawyers. Some also took appropriate CPR and first aid training.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 10, 2010

**Purpose:** Repair Overmountain Shelter

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Gerald Scott, HIKER Jeremiah

**Summary:** This summarizes other unreported hours for Overmountain Shelter repairs covering primarily July 10 and 11 plus some other days. An ATC North Carolina License Plate grant provided most of the funding to repair and paint Overmountain Shelter. These hours were to do some design, cut branches off roof, dig out soil and rocks on uphill side, replace 2x10 framing and 2 feet of siding that had rotted out, and install guttering on uphill side of barn.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** August 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Planning Meeting for 2013 Biennial Conference

**Location:** Asheville, NC

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I met with five other trail clubs and ATC to continue plans for the 2013 biennial meeting in Cullowhee, NC at Western Carolina University. We spent time discussing club roles (TEHCC will coordinate workshops and evening events), logos, promotional items, and new involvement of teachers and local citizens. A lot of time and discussion is going into the logo and t-shirt design. Lots of ideas need to be culled into a design that isn't too busy. The logo needs to have utility for shirts, promotional items, stationary, etc. It was decided to use a designated club person as the decision making body until the 2011 conference is over. We may opt to a vice chair makeup in case something were to happen to Lenny, so all the detail could be transitioned to others. The next meeting is Feb 26, 1:00 pm at the ATC/USFS office, Asheville, NC.

**Reporting:** Waylon Jenkins

**Date:** August 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Weed Trail

**Location:** Section 12C, North of Campbell Hollow Rd, along Elk River, and Buck Mtn. Rd. to Isaacs' Cemetery

**People:** David Powell, Waylon Jenkins

**Summary:** We cut weeds along the Elk River to Sugar Hollow Creek, between Campbell Hollow Road and the first foot bridge trail north of Campbell Hollow Road, and between Buck Mountain Road and Isaacs Cemetery. Both the Elk River section and the Isaacs' Cemetery section needed weeding but were still passable. The Campbell Hollow Road section wasn't as much in need, but we improved it a bit and cut back some briars. There was about a 10-inch blowdown between the access trail from the USFS road and the Elk River (less than a 2-minute hike from the point where the trail starts up the side of the mountain).

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** August 31, 2010

**Purpose:** Clear trail of blowdowns and clean water bars

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

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ken and I removed several blowdowns and cleaned some of the water bars from Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek. We have a couple blowdowns that need a chain saw to remove and a few more water bars to clean. Hopefully we can get those soon.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** September 1, 2010

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed the Appalachian Trail and Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** September 3, 2010

**Purpose:** Measure three relocations

**Location:** Section 15, Beartown Mountain to 1/2 mile south of Hughes Gap (on two sections)

**People:** Olin Babb, Collins Chew, Andrew Cleland, Judith Foster, Heather Jacob, Melanie Horner, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler

**Summary:** We rolled three relocations between Beartown Mountain and 1/2 mile south of Hughes Gap while hiking from Carvers Gap to past Hughes Gap. The trail now is 0.6 miles further between Beartown Mountain and Hughes Gap.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 3, 2010

**Purpose:** Repair tools

**Location:** Home

**People:** Mike Hupko

**Summary:** I purchased 16 pulaski handles; then cleaned, sharpened and installed new handles in 8 pulaskies.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** September 4, 2010

**Purpose:** Check trail and clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 12a, Vango Abby hostel to Bitter end

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** A hiker reported a large blowdown; so I went to investigate. A large blowdown on the ridge required a chain saw. I walked to Bitter End and took out two additional smaller blowdowns with a handsaw. I also cleared some trail laurel overgrowth.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** September 6, 2010

**Purpose:** Review shelter register; routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We reviewed the shelter register for any bear encounters recorded since it was placed on July 14. There were a few reports of food being taken and one of a hammock being nudged by a bear; overall not many entries in the register and no reports from lakeshore campers. We took a small saw and cut two limbs out of a blowdown about a mile from the highway. A chainsaw will be needed for the main log but it is an easy stepover. We also whacked back some privet and briars near the lake. Trail is in good condition.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 6, 2010

**Purpose:** Summer maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap (various locations)

**People:** Elizabeth Dukes, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cut weeds and lopped limbs from FS 230 to Indian Grave Gap. We cut weeds at Deep Gap and on the trail to the spring; also at Iron Mountain Gap and south for about 0.5 miles. Both Beauty Spot and Beauty Spot Gap open areas have not been mowed this year by USFS. Four-wheel vehicle traffic on the AT is still evident at Beauty Spot.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** September 6, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns, clean water bars

**Location:** Section 16a, North and south of Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ken and I returned to finish cutting blowdowns and clean water bars. We were able to accomplish everything that we set out to do. The trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 7, 2010

**Purpose:** Refurbish and paint Overmountain Shelter

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Julie Adams, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Mike Giasson, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We completed the repair and painting of Overmountain Shelter. Most of the funds were provided by a North Carolina ATC License Plate Grant. Today we finished replacing the siding, painted the uphill roof side black so it is less visible from trail, and painted the entire exterior of the barn red.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** September 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Semi-Annual Appalachian Trail Partnership Meeting

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, and Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Twice a year we meet with National Forest and ATC representatives to discuss issues related to management of the Appalachian Trail. The Pisgah NF is working to acquire a tract near our recent relocation on Elk Hollow Knob. The Cherokee NF is pursuing several tracts, two being high priority; but funding is not currently available. The boundary between the Watauga and Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger Districts is now the Carter-Unicoi County line. The Pisgah NF restoration work on Roan Mountain is proceeding on a schedule that will allow the mountain top facilities to reopen in the spring of 2011. The Forest Service provided guidance for the types of projects that need to go through an approval process; not routine maintenance, but any ground disturbing activities. There is desire to widen the accessible section through the Osborne Farm and resurface with finer gravel. We will pursue installation of poles to hang food out of reach of bears at the Watauga Lake Shelter.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** September 10, 2010

**Purpose:** Map and remeasure relocations

**Location:** Section 7, Iron Mountain

**People:** Jack Aaron, Collins Chew, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller

**Summary:** We had a lovely day to hike the now 4.7 miles between Wilbur Dam Road and Vandeventer Shelter. The relocations of last year much improved the trail. We mapped and remeasured the relocations.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** September 10, 2010

**Purpose:** Crosscut-saw training

**Location:** Asheville

**People:** Paul Benfield, Daryl Anderson

**Summary:** Paul and Daryl attended Crosscut-Saw training in Asheville on September 10 and 11.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 14, 2010

**Purpose:** Dig Trail relocation

**Location:** Section 15, About one mile north of Hughes Gap

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Giasson, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We dug about 250 feet more trail and also polished the relo dug by ASU. One more work day will allow us to open this relocation.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 15, 2010

**Purpose:** Mow open areas

**Location:** Section 17, Beauty Spot and Beauty Spot Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko and Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed the trail completely at Beauty Spot Gap and mowed the north end of Beauty Spot. Beauty Spot and Beauty Spot Gap have not been mowed with Bush Hog® mowers this year.



**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** September 16, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall maintenance

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

**People:** Paul Benfield

**Summary:** I removed limbs from the trail, took in a new log book, and checked on water supplies. All water sources were flowing. Water at the shelter was running good. Spots of grass are growing on the Accessible Trail where seed was deposited when the hay was cut. No other problems were found.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 16, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko.

**Summary:** We mowed the AT and trail to the spring in the Apple Orchard, cleaned the water bars, and rebuilt some water bars from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** September 17, 2010

**Purpose:** Paint blazes, check shelter

**Location:** Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We painted blazes between Wilbur Dam road and Vandeventer Shelter and removed a few small blowdowns. We picked up a surprisingly small amount of trash at the shelter and cleaned the gutters. There were three entries in the log book about hikers encountering a bear between the shelter and Wilbur Dam road and one about a bear approaching Watauga Lake Shelter between July 21 and August 12. There were also several entries about how nice and cool the water is even though it's a long way down to the spring and that the springs north of Vandeventer are dry.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 18, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

**People:** Elizabeth Dukes, Marsha Hupko, and Mike Hupko.

**Summary:** We cleaned water bars and dips, lopped small branches, cut two 8-inch limbs from the trail, cleaned the gutter at the shelter, painted over graffiti on the shelter walls, cleaned up trash around the shelter, left a new journal and picked up the old one. Both springs at the shelter were at a very low flow. At least one horse had traversed the section from Cherry Gap north about 2.5 miles and returned.

**Reporting:** Barry Griggs

**Date:** September 19, 2010

**Purpose:** Pick up trash

**Location:** Section 8, Fish camps between Wilbur Dam Road and US 321

**People:** John Griggs, C.J. Hill

**Summary:** Picked up two full bags of miscellaneous trash.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

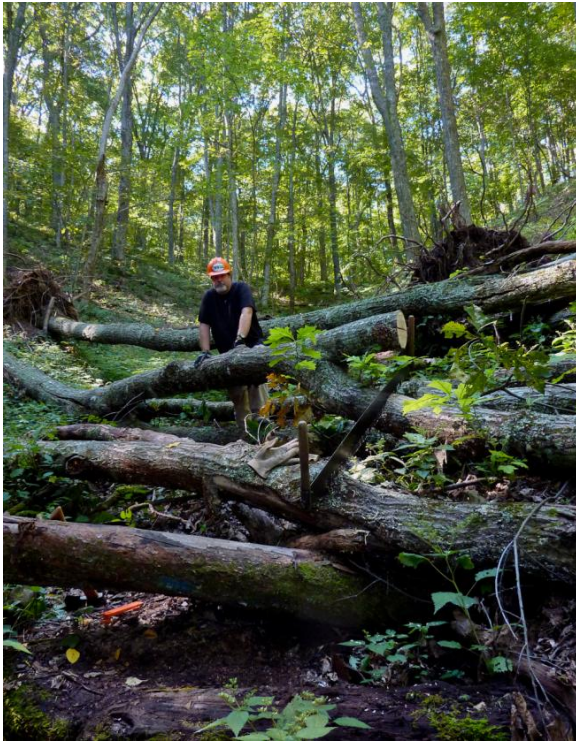
**Date:** September 20, 2010

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 7, Side trail to spring at Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Bill Hodge and Jeff Hunter

**Summary:** A nasty tangle of blowdowns on the way down from Vandeventer Shelter to the spring had been encountered on an earlier Club maintenance outing. Bill and Jeff are members of organizations trying to establish new Wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest and have made several maintenance trips to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness and its proposed extension this year. They removed this tangle (see before and after photos below) and a single blowdown across the AT south of the shelter at another spring using crosscut saws.



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 21, 2010

**Purpose:** Prepare for shelter rebuild

**Location:** Section 19, Curley Maple Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Mike Giasson, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** The Tuesday crew scouted access to shelter and did some planning for its renovation. They also installed the two front locust corner posts.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 24, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Low Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko.

**Summary:** We cleaned water bars and lopped branches from Low Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter. We also made minor repairs to the shelter roof, cut a ditch to divert water from in front of the shelter, painted over graffiti on the shelter walls, and left the "Curley Maple Shelter" notice. The second spring is dry and the first one is at a drizzle.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** September 24, 2010

**Purpose:** Maintain shelter

**Location:** Section 3a, Abingdon Gap shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We placed a new trail journal in the shelter, shoveled out the fire ring, picked up trash, and checked the general condition of the trail and water source between Low Gap and Abingdon Gap shelter.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** September 24, 2010

**Purpose:** Clear briars and brush

**Location:** Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Jerry Case, Kathy Case, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey

**Summary:** Clippers and swing blades were used to clear briars and brush from the AT between US 421 and Double Springs Shelter. Five blowdowns were not cleared. Yellow Jackets gave some stings at one point.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 25, 2010

**Purpose:** Curley Maple Gap Shelter Preparation

**Location:** Gray

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We picked up some remaining shelter hardware and lumber for the upcoming shelter build. Also, we layed out walls and precut some lumber.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 19, Ephraim Road

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

**Summary:** This crew cut weeds and smoothed road for access to Curley Maple Gap Shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Plan details of Curley Maple Gap Shelter rebuild

**Location:** Johnson City

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** This part of Tuesday crew reviewed all drawings for shelter and made detailed plans for the execution of transport, disassembly of old shelter and construction of new shelter.

**(Continue to next page for Fall Dinner Meeting reservation form.)**

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club  
Fall Dinner Meeting  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

**Reservation Form**

Fill out the form below with a check made out to **Kevin Barham** and send to:

Kevin Barham  
Building 469

Or

Kevin Barham  
511 Windsor Forest Dr.  
Kingsport, TN 37663

There is no charge for attending the program only

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The check and reservation form must be received by **10/10/10**

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TEHCC Dinner Meeting: Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult's Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children's Meals (12 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Meeting Only (indicate number): \_\_\_\_\_