



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2010

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

In this issue:

[2011 Steering Committee Election](#)

[Wear your blaze orange!](#)

[Rebuilding of Curley Maple Gap Shelter](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities on the AT](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Description of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

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.

## **2011 Steering Committee Election**

It's time to vote for the leaders of the TEHCC! You will be voting on three new Steering Committee members that will serve a 2 year term ending EOY 2012. There are 5 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 November 25th.** Results will be announced in the December newsletter.

### **Vic Hasler**

Since 1988, Vic has enjoyed exploring the Southern Appalachian region primarily through day hiking, Boy Scouts, and geo-caching. He tries to lead four club hikes each year – on the AT and other area trails. He was previously on the Steering Committee in 2003 and chair in 2004. Then he switched to his current position as the Rental Equipment Coordinator where he continues to update and expand the club's offering of tents and backpacks.

### **Waylon Jenkins**

Waylon and his wife Carol have been members of the Hiking and Canoeing Club since moving to Kingsport in 1978. Waylon has been active in maintaining the Appalachian Trail for more than 20 years as both a team member and a section leader. Waylon and Carol's interest in hiking was forged from family outings and their involvement in Scouting. He and his wife currently enjoy hiking, canoe and kayak paddling and visiting national parks. Waylon is interested in promoting more hiking and paddling opportunities for the club in an effort to further member participation.

### **Jay Nelson**

Jay has been with TEHCC for 4 years. Originally from Hawaii, he has traded his surfing for hiking, camping, backpacking, skiing and mountain biking. He and his wife Megan have led a trip to the Grayson Highlands for the club. Jay is a Mechanical Engineer in WVE&C.

### **Deb Reynolds**

Deb has been with Eastman for 31 years, the last 18 years of which have been in Indirect Procurement. Her interests are kayaking, hiking and tent camping. Her major club interest is developing fun local options for those interested in recreational and touring kayaking. She was an initial planner of the Paddle to the Grill program which is a regular event for TEHCC.

### **Joanne Sklodowski**

Joanne has been a member of the club since 2008. Her move from Ohio to East Tennessee has allowed her to appreciate the mountains and the activities in the area. She has backpacked in the Grand Canyon and the Adirondacks as well as locally. Joanne enjoys backpacking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, caving and zip lining. In the future, she would like to attend the Mount LeConte trip and maybe try paddling.

## **Wear Your Blaze Orange!**

Hunting season is here again. When you're out hiking or working on the Trail, be sure to wear blaze orange!

Hunting is prohibited in the national parks that the Trail passes through and on the A.T. corridor; but it is permitted in national forests and national recreation areas and on state forest and game lands. Most of the AT in our area is located on national forest land and is open to hunting. When you are heading out on the Trail to hike or do maintenance, be aware of hunting seasons, wear blaze



orange, and make noise. Avoid wearing white or brown during deer season and blue or red during turkey season.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has a "[Hunting and the A.T.](#)" web page that includes safety tips, information for hikers and hunters, and a hunting season guide for the 14 Trail states.

## **Rebuilding of Curley Maple Gap Shelter**



*Removing the roof from the old shelter*

### *Carl Fritz reporting*

Curley Maple Gap shelter was a concrete block shelter built in 1961 by the U.S. Forest Service. The single sleeping platform was adequate for six people. In 1993 TEHCC added a free standing picnic table as well as doing some repairs to the metal roof. Due to a lot of damage from tree limbs, the roof was getting in poor condition. Also, this 49-year-old shelter was looking very outdated. The Club decided in 2009 to replace the shelter with an upgraded design. Thankfully, L.L. Bean provided us with grant money to cover the cost of materials. Ed Oliver, our resident architect, modified the Mountaineer Falls Shelter design to fit the existing foundation of Curley Maple Gap. In 2009 we purchased most of the dimensional lumber and rough sawn lumber. The Tuesday group spent a couple of days sawing all of the lumber to size. Unfortunately, in the early fall we ran into difficulty finding an acceptable access trail to transport the ton and a half of materials to the shelter site. A number of club members spent several days scouting possible routes to get to Curley Maple Gap. On

one of those days, three members didn't find each other after leaving the vehicle until the end of the day when they all returned to the vehicle. Two of them did successfully find the shelter, although not each other!

We finally found an access trail about 1.5 miles long by combining two old roads. It took three days with about nine people and three chain saws to clear this path. Gray Buckles, Trails Technician for Cherokee National Forest, was instrumental in cutting some hazard trees around the shelter site and transporting the materials via a UTV and a trailer. The blitz to start material transport, tear down the old shelter and build the new structure started on September 30. In spite of several rainy days and flat tires on both the UTV and trailer, work progressed because of the sheer persistence of our volunteers. On October 8, the shelter was essentially complete by working six of the nine days. Appreciation goes to Kim Peters and Paul Benfield for spending several nights at the site during construction.



*Newly remodeled Curley Maple Gap Shelter*

After completing the construction, it took another day to remove all the tools and old roofing, plus block the access trail with brush, tree logs and rocks. In total, 1800 hours were put in by 44 people to renovate this shelter, which will hopefully last another fifty years. Half of the volunteers were Club members, many of whom put in many days over two years. Hikers and ASU Trail Crew were the other major volunteers. Their help in transporting materials and extending the fill for the floor were crucial.

## **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? Our newly remodeled Curley Maple Gap shelter is a prime candidate. 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 so that we can increase the number of sections and reduce the length of

some sections. The old saying that many hands make light work is definitely true. 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).



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Sarah Pope  
Tim Arrowsmith  
Anthony Scalia

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Dec 7	December Club Meet – New Date!	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</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

#### **December Club Meet, Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 to let everyone know what is planned for the next month or two, help 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 meeting is going to be on geotagging photos. I've recently started doing it and would like to share what I have 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 that might better suit the majority; so please feel free to make suggestions, even for this meeting. Contact me, Tim Schaefer, at [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org).

## For the Record



### **Friday Hikers: AT - Mt. Rogers USFS HQ to I-81, October 1, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful, clear, cool, sometimes breezy day for the 11.4-mile AT hike from Mt. Rogers USFS HQ to I-81/US 11. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Carol Brodeson, Kathy and Jerry Case, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Susie Seiler, Steve Yonts, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Mt. Rogers HQ to the South Fork Holston River, October 8, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had near perfect weather for our 7.9-mile hike today on the AT from Mt. Rogers HQ to the South Fork Holston River. Although most leaves are still green, there were enough colorful trees to make it a beautiful hike. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, Steve Yonts, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Carvers Gap out to Grassy Ridge, October 15, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

What a difference a week makes! It drove us into Plan B or C at least. Last week, it was warm and the leaves had not changed. This week, by the time we reached Round Bald, we knew the leaves were gone at that altitude and that a bitterly cold wind was blowing across the balds. We elected to return to Carvers Gap where the group split. A minority went south on the AT into the woods and some shelter. The majority went to Dennis Cove where we walked the AT down to the Falls for lunch and on to the side trail to the shelter and back to the AT along the high water trail and the AT back to Dennis Cove. The temperature was pleasant, though occasionally breezy, and the leaf color was great. The first hike was 1.4 miles and the second was 3.6 miles for a total of 5 miles. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Anne Cosby, Carol Dunham, Judith Foster, Robert Harvey, Carol Idol, Steve Kasten, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Patty Jo Nachman, Susie Seiler, Barbara Scott, visiting from Pocatello, Idaho, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Dickey Gap to South Fork Holston River, October 22, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful blue sky all day with pleasant temperatures after a chilly morning. We walked 6.7 miles on the AT from Dickey Gap to the South Fork South Holston River. There were many pretty leaves, although many trees were nearly bare at high elevation. We met many other hikers and backpackers. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Don Baker, Charles Beggerow, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

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

*Kim Peters reporting*



L-R: Debbie Briscoe, Kim Peters, Heather Jacob, Terry Oldfield, Debbie Stern

This was a practically perfect trip! Those of you who chose not to go for whatever reason really missed out on this one. We had near perfect fall weather, warm with lots of sunshine. On Saturday night we were treated to a full moon and mild temperatures. We hiked across the jewels of the Roan Highlands - Round Bald, Jane Bald and the Humps and enjoyed astounding views. It just doesn't get any better than this.

We left Carver's Gap around 11 am for a leisurely 5 mile hike to Overmountain Barn. Carver's Gap was understandably crowded on this beautiful Saturday and there were lots of hikers out enjoying the great weather. A lot of those hikers also chose to stay at the Barn. We chose

to camp in the woods nearby and just enjoy each other's company. Three hammocks and a tent! (Next time we may have a hammock only hike...) The evening was spent cooking, comparing stoves, menu options and just chatting. Sunday dawned bright and beautiful, and after breakfast and a brief hammock demo for our two ground dwellers, we started the challenging climb up the Humps. This long uphill took all morning, but we were rewarded with views in all directions. We had lunch on Houston Ridge then continued hiking mostly



Terry Oldfield and Debbie Stern negotiate a style on the way up Hump Mountain

downhill to US19E. We hiked 9 miles on Sunday. Hikers were: Terry Oldfield, Debbie Stern, Debbie Briscoe, Heather Jacob and Kat Johnson. Heather chose to do a day hike on Saturday and hiked from Carver's Gap to Stan Murray Shelter and back. Kat chose the short hike in from Roaring Fork to the Barn with two dogs, and spent the night with us, then hiked back out the same way on Sunday.



## AT Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 29, 2010

**Purpose:** Obtain roofing, load all materials, and prepare tools for Curley Maple Gap Shelter rebuild

**Location:** Gray; For Curley Maple Gap Shelter on Section 19

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

**Summary:** For the last two days these folks have scurried to purchase steel roofing, load the rough sawn lumber at Unicoi Work Center, load the dimensional lumber at Carl's house, and prepare the tools and load them. The great expedition to Curley Maple Gap starts on September 30 to rebuild the shelter.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** September 29, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall maintenance

**Location:** Low Gap to Deep Gap, Section 17

**People:** Ernie Hartford, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Lou Haase, Gil Derouen, Dave McMillin, Jim Robertson, Lana Scott, Susan Peters, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko.

**Summary:** We cleaned side trail to AT, cleared several trees blocking the trail and lopped from Low Gap to Deep Gap. We also leveled about 15 feet of treadway, filled a hole made by a fallen tree root, and mowed about 600 feet of trail near Deep Gap. Beauty Spot Gap has not been mowed; however, Beauty Spot had been mowed. Several hikers said the water was flowing again at the Cherry Gap Shelter springs.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 30 through October 3, 2010

**Purpose:** Rebuild Curley Maple Gap Shelter

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

**People:** Daryl Anderson, George Thorpe, Barbara Wilcher, Jay Wilcher, Paul Benfield, Kim Peters, Ted Mowery, Ken Buchanan, Mike Giasson, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Ed Oliver, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Dave Clark, Jeff Sirola, Gerald Scott, Mary Cunningham, Maura Weaver, Thomas Kloepfer, Taylor Parker, Brian Satterwhite, Michael-John O'Neal, Kelly Perkins, Melissa McDermott, Ashlin McDermott, Otto, Peter Pankiewicz, Amy Niemczura, Winston Taitt, Ryan Wully, David Keegan

**Summary:** Many of these folks worked all four days. LL Bean provided a grant to cover the cost of materials to completely rebuild the Curley Maple Gap Shelter. Fortunately, Gray Buckles of U.S. Forest Service, volunteered to help us transport materials with a UTV and trailer. He worked with us the first three days to make that happen. During all days, we were tearing down the old cement block shelter and building a new shelter with two sleeping platforms. Challenges were constant, but the volunteers persisted. Thursday and Sunday it rained; and temperatures on Sunday were in the lower 40s. Rains made footing and traction difficult. Flat tires on the UTV and trailer plus a difficult section on the access route added to the challenges. Fortunately, a group of eight ASU Trail Crew members and Otto came on Saturday and completed the manhandling of a couple tons of materials to get them to the shelter site. On Sunday, Bob recruited about five hikers to collect rocks and soil to build up the floor for the front of the shelter. With all the help we were able to erect the framing for the walls and the roof trusses. Ted and Paul also cut out nine blowdowns between the shelter and Nolichucky Expeditions. Three of those were 18" or larger and could only be gotten around by crawling under them.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** October 1, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

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

**People:** Larry Miller

**Summary:** Five blowdowns were cut between US 421 and Double Springs Shelter on Holston Mountain.

**Reporting:** Carol Dunham

**Date:** October 1, 2010

**Purpose:** Clear Trail

**Location:** Laurel Falls to Hampton, Section 9b

**People:** Dave and Carol Dunham

**Summary:** On a hike to Laurel Falls, Dave and Carol used a hand saw to clear numerous low hanging branches and cut out a tree top from a blowdown that was blocking the trail.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** October 2, 2010

**Purpose:** Appalachian Trail Regional Partnership Committee meeting

**Location:** Franklin, NC

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** The AT Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) consists of representatives of AT-maintaining clubs. We meet twice a year to discuss Trail management policies and other topics. Clubs were surveyed regarding attracting volunteers and volunteer leaders, and what help ATC should provide. We relayed that we have had success attracting hikers and student groups for Trail maintenance, but less success getting volunteers for leadership positions. This is similar to the experience of other clubs. Clubs were also surveyed on the Forest Service Volunteers in the Forest insurance program. We provided little encouragement on the future of the Multi-Club Meet based on our recent experience, but other clubs may choose to host these in the future. Clubs are encouraged to submit candidates for 2010 Volunteer and Agency Partner of the Year awards, to be presented at the 2011 Southern Partnership Meeting in Hendersonville, NC.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** October 5, 2010

**Purpose:** Walk flag line with USFS representative

**Location:** Little Rock Knob trail south for about 1.5 miles, Section 16a

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** Brandon of the Appalachian Ranger District and I walked the proposed 4 relocations from Little Rock Knob to about 1.5 miles trail south. Everything looked good (the flags were still up). Brandon didn't see any problems and will email me a map with the GPS data for the relocation.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** October 5, 2010

**Purpose:** Fall cleanup work

**Location:** Shook Branch to Watauga shelter, Section 8

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I clipped weeds, cleaned out some water bars, and checked equipment at the shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 6, 2010

**Purpose:** Rebuild Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**Location:** Curley Maple Gap Shelter on Section 19

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We had better weather today. We were able to complete the upper sleeping platform, ladder, lathe on roof trusses, and most of the siding. We worked on filling soil in the front part of the shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Rebuild Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**Location:** Curley Maple Gap Shelter on Section 19

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Giasson, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Jonathan Robertson, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We completed most of the critical items at the new shelter: the siding, the roof, and strengthening the lower platform.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** October 12, 2010

**Purpose:** Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Meeting

**Location:** Erwin

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** The Cherokee National Forest is launching an effort to assess and improve the health of the North Zone of the forest. The Nature Conservancy is playing a lead role in this effort; numerous and diverse groups are represented on their planning committee. This meeting, one of three to describe the effort and to solicit comments, and was very well attended (about 75 people). The focus is on forest health, not on recreation, and will not involve management designations such as Wilderness. There may be recommendations to alter the use of prescribed fire, timber harvesting, and open areas management. Club members are encouraged to stay abreast of this effort and to comment at <http://www.communityplan.net/cherokee>.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 13, 2010

**Purpose:** Finish Curley Maple Gap Shelter rebuild

**Location:** Curley Maple Gap Shelter on Section 19

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Mike Giasson, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe, Sharon Waltenburg

**Summary:** We completed some minor tasks at the new shelter such as securely fastening the ladders, bracing more roof rafters and completing rock cribbing around fill in front of shelter. Some even split some firewood. With the help of Gray Buckles we transported all the tools and old roofing from the site. We also spent about three hours blocking the access trail with large and small trees plus a significant amount of rock.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** October 19, 2010

**Purpose:** Mow Osborne Farm

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and cut weeds on the trail through the Osborne Farm. A group is building fences on the Farm. Herbicide has been sprayed on the Accessible Trail to kill the grass.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 20, 2010

**Purpose:** Recycle Curley Maple Gap Shelter roof and repair tools

**Location:** Curley Maple Gap Shelter on Section 19

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We retrieved the old metal roofing from Curley Maple Gap Shelter and recycled it. Also, many hours went into preparing equipment during the build and repairing everything from ladders to three chain saws afterwards.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** October 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut reported blowdown and check trail

**Location:** Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter, Section 16a

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I found a fairly large blowdown near Little Rock Knob and was able to trim off some limbs and get it on the ground as a step over. I also cut two smaller blowdowns on my way down to Clyde Smith Shelter. A lot of tree litter is in the trail, but nothing else is blocking it as far as the shelter.