



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

December 2010

tehcc.org

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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.

Changing of the Guard

2011 Steering Committee Election Results

Ian Powell reporting

The election for the 2011/2012 TEHCC Steering Committee members was held throughout the month of November. We had 79 people cast their votes to elect three new members. Congratulations go to Vic Hasler, Deb Reynolds and Waylon Jenkins who were elected to serve a two year term starting the beginning of 2011. It was a close race and everyone that participated in the election has the Steering Committee's deepest gratitude.

This election heralds the rotation of three of our Committee members that have finished serving their two year term. Tom Boyd, Steve Perri and Marc Schurger have all been a great asset to the club over the past two years and their absence on the committee will be noticed. I would like to take this chance to express my thanks to Tom, Steve and Marc for all their efforts and time while on the committee.

Each year a new Steering Committee Chair is appointed by the Committee. For 2011, Ian Powell will fill this role. Tim Schaefer, the 2010 Steering Committee Chair has had a busy year and has filled the position well. The Committee appreciates Tim's work and recognizes his hard work over the past year.

Appalachian Trail Volunteer Statistics and TEHCC Contributions

Joe DeLoach reporting

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy reports volunteer contributions to the A.T. management each fiscal year which runs from October through September. In the 2010 fiscal year, 6,128 volunteers worked 213,913 hours on the Trail. These are the third highest number of volunteers and the second highest number of hours on record. How much of these totals did TEHCC contribute?

- During that period, we had 493 volunteers who worked a record 12,775 hours.
- We provided the 3rd highest number of volunteers of the 30 clubs, surpassed only by PATC whose section is 2X longer than ours and GATC which is a very active club. We contributed close to 10% of the total number of volunteers along the A. T.
- We were 4th in number of hours, around 7% of the total contributed by the clubs.
- We have a little more than 6% of the total number of miles of the A. T. While the totals include volunteers other than those with clubs, among the clubs, we exceeded the average hours per mile of Trail. This may be our biggest accomplishment since we have the third longest section and are a relatively small Club. This is a far cry from where we were in the early 1990's, when our hours per mile of Trail were usually among the bottom three clubs.

While it's nice to be able to toot our horn, we have some holes we need to fill in our section maintenance, and we need some younger Club members to participate. This "golden age" won't last unless we have newer volunteers step in, not only as workers but especially as leaders, to be ready for the inevitable attrition. Please talk to your friends about getting involved, and we can use your help too; not just so we can make similar statements 10 and 20 years from now, but more importantly so we can continue to fulfill the responsibilities we first took on 63 years ago. Most of all, thanks to all the strong contributors we have (some of whom have been section maintainers for many years) for all you do!!

2010 Fall Dinner Meeting

Ian Powell reporting

We had a good turnout at the Fall dinner banquet this year. The Banquet was held on Friday September the 22nd . This year's dinner was catered by Pratt's and included herb roasted chicken, several sides and desert. Mahoney's Outfitters were on site displaying gear from their store and entertaining questions on various items as well as providing door prizes. Happy trails hour started at 5:30 PM; Marc Schurger was kind enough to provide refreshments. The dinner line opened at 6:30 PM.

After dinner, Kevin Barham welcomed everyone to the dinner and let everyone know about the silent auction. Kevin introduced Ian Powell as the 2011 Steering Committee Chair. Ian then updated attendees on the success of the AT license plate, the work on the Trail/Paddle database, the new face of the TEHCC website and the events of the previous year. After that, door prizes were given away.

Carl Fritz gave an update on the AT trail management highlights of the past year. He spoke on the relocations between Grassy Ridge and Bradley Gap, starting on the relocation between Hughes Gap and Cloudland and the start of relocations on south slope of Pond Mountain. He spoke on the completion of the major renovation undertaken on Curley Maple Gap Shelter.

Julie Judkins from the ATC handed out Konnarock Crew T-Shirts to volunteers in the club that worked at least 40 hours with the crew. Awardees were Kim Peters, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Donna Ashby, George Summers and Joe DeLoach. Julie also had vests for all volunteers with 1000 career hours. They were Ted Mowery, Steve Wilson, Jeff Sirola and Bill Berry. Volunteers with 100 career hours were recognized with patches. They were Richard Carter, George Summers, Chuck Mather, Doug Chenoweth, Susan Peters and Dale Douthat.

Steve Perri awarded Julie Judkins and Ed Montgomery with AT license plate plaques in recognition of their hard work and effort in making the Tennessee AT plate a reality. Other people were presented plaques who were not in attendance. Steve recounted the accomplishment and duly thanked both Ed and Julie.

Ed and Marc Schurger then gave a presentation with slide show of their trip to the Upper Missouri River and Breaks National Monument. They gave a great presentation that included history and humor. Marc recounted the historical events from Lewis and Clarks Expedition on the same route and Ed narrated the river trips current journey. There were great pictures of the scenery and it definitely looked like they had a great time on their trip. Thank you Ed and Marc for the great presentation.

The spring banquet will be here before you know it. Please make plans to attend. If you have any suggestions for the spring banquets, please feel free to contact anyone of the Steering Committee members, as feedback and preferences are most welcome.

Call to Arms

Ian Powell reporting

Over the past few months there has been a decline in the number of events listed on our calendar. Though I know that this time of year can be hectic and busy, if you have a hike or trip that you are planning, please include it on the website calendar. The process is easy; just send a note about the planned hike to ipowell@eastman.com and I will make sure it gets included on the calendar. All that is required is basic information. Where, when, a little description on the hike and a way for someone to contact you with questions. That is all that is really needed. If you have one week's notice or a month's notice, the inclusion on the calendar on the TEHCC website would be appreciated. A major part of being in the club is the fellowship between outdoor enthusiasts. Please help the club in fostering that quality.

Events Coordinator Position Opening

Ian Powell reporting

There is currently a position opening for an Events Coordinator. The position entails the upkeep of the TEHCC calendar as well as soliciting hike and trip leaders to lead outings each month. The coordinator works hand in hand with the Steering Committee on the clubs bigger events as well. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please feel free to contact Ian Powell at ipowell@eastman.com. If you've been looking for some way to be more active in the club and see how things work, this is your opportunity.

2011 Gear Swap

Ian Powell reporting

A gear swap has been planned for March 26th from 8AM-12Noon. So clean out those closets, rummage those basements and get ready! There will be more information to follow in future newsletters.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Dec 7	TEHCC Club Meet	Tim Shaefer	chair@tehcc.org

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) 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 and for 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

Club Meet Tuesday December 7th 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 the plans for the next month or two, maybe 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 one is going to be on geotagging photos. I've recently started doing it and would like to share what I learned along the way 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 also 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

For the Record



Friday Hikers: AT – VA 603 to Dickey Gap, October 29, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, cold day for our 8.5-mile AT hike from VA 603 to Dickey Gap. With the leaves mostly gone, we had nice views of surrounding mountains. Comer Creek Falls were running nicely. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Carol Broderson, Anne Cosby, Susan Erdeky, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Tri-State Border, November 12, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful day with spectacular distant views of mountains in three states from the open grassy tops near the Tri-State Border (TN/NC/VA). We hiked up the Rogers Ridge Horse Trail but unfortunately came down a trail on Piney Knob Ridge which resulted in a three-mile road walk to get back to the cars, perhaps 13 or 14 miles overall with a climb in excess of my predicted 2,000

feet. Multiple markers and loss of some old ones made the actual tri-state point a bit fuzzy. Larry Miller is in fine shape. Charlotte and I met him at the Burger King in Mountain City, TN about 8:45 PM and brought him back to Colonial Heights. Rule No. 2 applies. Hikers were: Jayne Mayne, Kathy Thie, and Lou Hurwitz visiting from PATC and scouting the hike for the 2011 ATC meeting at Emory and Henry College; Joy Moon visiting from Joliet, IL on her second annual Veterans Day/Thanksgiving Hike with the Friday Hikers; Carol Broderson, Arnold Cleland, fresh from a trek in Nepal; Susan Erdeke, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew. Altogether, a most interesting and stimulating crew.

Friday Hikers: Erwin Greenbelt, November 19, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had beautiful blue skies and a pleasant temperature for our 9-mile hike on the paved Erwin Greenbelt. Hikers were Charles Beggerow, Andrew Cleland, first timer Lou Hase, Allison Hewson, Jerry Jones, first timers Jo Anne and James Medlin, Patty Jo Nachman, Larry Miller, and Colliins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Guest River Gorge, November 26, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

After forcing ourselves out into the rain into the Guest River Gorge, we were rewarded with a fine cool day with no more than 5 minutes of light drizzly mist at the beginning of the hike and actually some blue sky later on. The Guest River was as beautiful as ever, flowing over the rocks, and the spectacular sandstone cliffs were much in evidence as the leaves were gone from the trees. The only wildflower in bloom was witch-hazel, but I did eat a good, ripe persimmon. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Andrew Cleland, Larry Miller, Keron, Chris, and George Privon, first timer Dante Rutstrom, Eric Vrhansky and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: October 28, 2010

Purpose: AT Committee meeting

Location: Eastman Bldg 310, Kingsport

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, and Tim Stewart

Summary: Reports of blowdowns were received after the high winds on October 25. We will compile a list of our numerous tool needs and try to purchase the tools with Club Recreation funds. Several of our maintenance sections are in need of maintainers. Ideas for how to fill those needs and recruit new maintainers were discussed. Legislation to establish new Wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest has not progressed very far. Committee members were apprised of activities of some of the Wilderness advocacy groups who have worked on our section this year. Much work remains to establish a plan, schedule, and workers for getting more gravel on Round Bald in 2011. A subcommittee to develop a long range plan for our shelters will be established, with Dave and Bruce volunteering to serve on it. We will receive new chainsaw chaps that meet the new and higher Forest Service standards. A nominee for the AT Southern Agency Partner of the Year Award was selected among three worthy candidates.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: November 01, 2010

Purpose: Repair shelter and clear blowdown

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Hikers had reported difficulty with the door of the Roan High Knob Shelter scraping the floor. I took a ripsaw and trimmed the bottom. The saw came in handy for three large blowdowns and a tree top. I saw several southbound thru hikers who remembered the bad reported blowdown near Watauga Lake going back to Damascus and did not recall any others. I scattered two fire rings at the top of the mountain and knocked back some briars. There was a surprising amount of water on the hike, indicating where several drainage ditches need to be re-dug.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: November 01, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 10, Hampton Parking lot to Dennis Cove

People: Bob Peoples and David Keegan "Speaker"

Summary: Bob and Speaker cut six blowdowns in the gorge with a crosscut.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: November 02, 2010

Purpose: Rehab trail, improve blazing, cut weeds

Location: Section 12d, Bottom of Bishop Hollow to High Point

People: Paul Benfield, Johnathan Buchanan, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, David Keegan "Speaker"

Summary: We identified five areas where trail needed to be reblazed and better defined to improve clarity of correct path. We installed a dozen posts with blazes at questionable junctions. We rehabbed 300 feet of trail mostly in the woods just above Bishop Hollow. We also cut many multifloral roses that had grown into the trail. The open area below High Point has been completely mowed and the one fencerow that the trail had paralleled has been eliminated. We realigned trail slightly to eliminate a right angle turn there.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: November 05, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Rd to Coon Den

People: David Keegan "Speaker"

Summary: David cut many five to six inch blowdowns by hand south of Dennis Cove Rd to Coon Den Falls Trail.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: November 07, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Coon Den to Canute Place

People: David Keegan "Speaker"

Summary: David Keegan finished cutting the small blowdowns between Coon Den Falls Trail and Canute Place.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: November 09, 2010

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 15, North of Hughes Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, John Beaudet "Bodacious"

Summary: We took this bright sunny day to tramp around in up to 2 inches of snow and dig relocations. We were able to open a relocation that had been worked on the previous two trips. In the afternoon we completed most of the next relo. For the day we dug 400 feet of trail!

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: November 10, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley, Bob Peoples

Summary: We cleared a major blowdown and two minor blowdowns on the AT. We also cleared a blowdown on an unopened relocation section.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: November 13, 2010

Purpose: Remove blowdowns from the trail

Location: Section 4b, Between TN 91 and 1/2 mile north of Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, and Mary Cunningham

Summary: We removed blowdowns from the Accessible Trail and approx 1/2 mile north of the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: November 13, 2010

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to Moreland Gap Shelter

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I hiked from Bitter End to Moreland Gap Shelter, removing several blow downs. The shelter looked okay with the exception of the sleeping platform. The right hand side is propped up, but otherwise stable. I removed some trash and hiked out.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: November 14, 2010

Purpose: Install new sign at Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: John Frey, Terry Oldfield

Summary: On the hike to the shelter we trimmed branches that encroached on the trail. We came across four blowdowns about 4 to 6 inches in diameter that need to be cleared and also a couple step-overs. At the shelter we installed the new shelter sign, left a new log book (the old log book was no where to be found), and picked up trash. The shovel is still there and somewhat usable, but the wooden handle has been broken off completely.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: November 15, 2010

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 1, Two miles south of Damascus

People: Anne Maio and Daryel anderson

Summary: We cut and cleared two 16" blowdowns with crosscut saw and removed various smaller limbs along the way. We observed the need for trail rebuilding between the houses as the trail enters the forest at Damascus.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: November 17, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and rehab Trail

Location: Section 12d, South of Bishop Hollow and Dolls Flat

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: Bob and Tim spent two hours on Dolls Flat in the hoar frost. They then joined the rest of the crew. We cut three blowdowns from 19E to Bishop Hollow. The old trail in the woods just south of Bishop Hollow was in bad shape due to roots and sloughing. We rehabbed 280 feet of trail by redigging and adding side logs. Another day to rehab the trail in this area is needed.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: November 20, 2010

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: We cut several small blowdowns and removed lots of smaller branches from the trail. We also removed trash from the shelter, including a large pan and a can of Spaghetti O's, and cleaned leaf debris from the gutters. The back gutter is coming off and I need to bring some gutter nails on the next trip. We met several section hikers out enjoying the fine fall weather.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: November 22, 2010

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 10, Blue-blaze trail from Hampton

People: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock

Summary: Bill, Bruce and Mary lopped all the weeds and growth where the trail passes under the power line.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: November 24, 2010

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation and cut blowdowns

Location: Section 15, Ash Gap to Hughes Gap

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Susanne Seiler, Tim Stewart

Summary: We dug another 400 feet of relocations scattered from Hughes Gap to within about a half mile of Ash Gap. We added some rock steps and side logs. We opened two more of the more northern relocations. We also cut a pine blowdown near Ash Gap that was reported by Old Timer Hiking Club.