



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2011

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.

From the Chair

Ian Powell, Steering Committee Chair

March is looking like it will be a busy time for the club. Besides having hikes and maintenance, we will be having our Spring Dinner Meeting and a Gear Swap. I for one am looking forward to both of these events. Our dinner meetings are one of the best times to connect with other members of the club. If you have yet to go to a dinner meeting, I encourage you to go to the upcoming one on March 11th. We will eat, present a few awards, and let Mary Ellen Virost regale us with the details of her recent trip to New Zealand. The atmosphere is always very laid back at the meeting and it is always fun to swap stories about prior trips and outings.

We are trying something new this year with the Gear Swap. The primary purpose of this event is to get people of common interest together for fellowship. The event is free and open to everyone. Whether you make your own hiking sticks and want to see others on the trail using them or if you just want to stop by for 15 minutes and see what a gear swap is, I encourage you to come out on the 26th. The format of the event is pretty unstructured. You don't have to own old gear to participate. Likewise, no one is going to force you to only swap gear for other gear either. It will be up to the individual to decide what they want to do and how they want to handle the

transfers. It is the steering committee's hope that the event will cultivate relationships and foster an enjoyable atmosphere.

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 club's 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 TEHCC Gear Swap

Ian Powell reporting

It's almost time!!! The outdoor gear swap will be held on Saturday, March 26th, 2011 from 8:00 AM till noon in the parking lot of the Eastman Employee Center located at 400 South Wilcox Drive in Kingsport. We are sponsoring the event to give folks a chance to show and trade surplus equipment. This event is open to anyone, in the club or not, who wishes to participate. Though registration is not required to attend, if you have multiple items or large single items, it is strongly encouraged that you reserve a space. Reservations must be submitted by March 23rd. To make reservations or get more information please go to:

tehcc.org/news/gearswap

The club is also looking for members that are interested in helping staff the event. We are in need of people to help the day of the event with traffic, registration and various other activities. Shifts will run 2-3 hours so everyone gets a chance to enjoy the morning's events. Please contact Ian Powell at chair@tehcc.org if you would like to sign up to help out.

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club

Spring Dinner Meeting

Friday March 11th, 2011

Spring time is almost here. Spring fever is in the air and it is time for our annual TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting. We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for good drinks, good food and good times. As is becoming a spring time tradition, the meal will be catered by Phil's Dream Pit and include BBQ, chicken, and all the sides. The dinner meeting will be at the Eastman Lodge

Our special program for the evening, "Tramping through New Zealand" will be given by Mary Ellen Virost. She will speak and show photos from her recent adventure hiking or as the Kiwis call it "tramping" throughout New Zealand. She will discuss the four weeks that she and her husband Rick spent in the national and regional parks on the north and south islands of the country. Mary Ellen is an avid local hiker and a member of the TEHCC. She has hiked trails on three continents, including the Coast to Coast Trail in England.

Event	Time	Details
Spring 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 – BBQ and Chicken with Sides and Drinks	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Phil's Dream Pit (\$12 per adult, \$6 per child)
Club Updates	7:15pm-8:00pm	Update of club activities - 2010 Key Initiatives - Awards
Special Program: Tramping in New Zealand	8:00pm-9:00pm	Mary Ellen Virost

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, **please submit your reservation by March 4, 2011.** The [reservation form](#) is located at the end of this newsletter.

Bill Berry sets a High Standard as a Trail Maintainer

Carl Fritz reporting

Bill Berry has been an avid outdoorsman for many years. He has developed a passion to maintain hiking trails. For about ten years he maintained a couple of trail sections for the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) up until 2001. CMC does not have maintenance records from that period, but they believe he probably had close to 1000 hours with their club. He adopted a TEHCC section in 1992. Initially he was maintaining an 11.2-mile section of trail which starts north from Spivey Gap and ends at the Nolichucky River. His section was later shortened to end at Temple Hill Gap and is now only 7.3 miles! Unfortunately, our maintenance records only go back to 1992. But since 1992 he has averaged over 50 hours of maintenance a year and has amassed about 1140 total hours. He is the first TEHCC maintainer who has accumulated 1000 hours solely by working on a trail section. Bill is very self sufficient in handling routine trail repairs, blazing, lopping and blowdown clearing. Sometimes he can convince his grandchildren to help him. If conditions are bad however, he readily requests club support with chainsaws. Bill and his wife frequently camp in the Smoky Mountains and he hikes those trails also. He has taken trail maintenance training there and is planning to adopt a trail section in the Smokies. So even though he has accumulated over 2000 hours of AT maintenance by adopting sections, he is still expanding to other trails. Thanks, Bill!

Annual Maintainers Dinner

Kim Peters reporting

The well-attended kickoff meeting for 2011 AT maintenance season was held February 21, 2011. We enjoyed lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and desserts prepared by Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver. We reviewed our 2010 accomplishments, our 2011 major project plans, handed out awards, and discussed 2011 maintenance responsibilities.

Summary of 2010 Major TEHCC Maintenance Accomplishments

- Maintained 135 miles of the AT (3rd longest section of the 30 maintaining clubs)
- Rehabbed over 0.6 miles of trail
- Built 2.1 miles of new trail relocations
 - Completed Bradley Gap to Grassy Ridge relocations
 - Completed several sections near Hughes Gap
 - Opened 1900' on steepest part of south Pond Mountain
 - Opened some Watauga Lake relocations
- Enlisted about 225 first-time maintainers
- Injury-free year

Individuals Cumulative Hour Awards 2010

50 Career Hours

Donna Ashby	John Beaudet (Bodacious)
Kathy Case	Andrew Cleland
Seth Douthat	Judith Foster
Rick Foster	Mary Jane Fritz
Shari Galiardi	Ernest Hartford
Bill Hodge	Jeff Hunter
Mike Hupko Jr	Jerry Jones
Franklin LaFond (Ox-97)	Terry Oldfield
Brian Satterwhite	Gerald Scott
Lana Scott	Maura Weaver
John Willis	

100 Career Hours

Doug Chenoweth (Lug Nut)
Dale Douthat
Mike Giassom
Anne Maio
Chuck Mather
Susan Peters
George Summers (Kojac)
George Thorpe

250 Career Hours

Richard Carter

500 Career Hours
Daryel Anderson
Bill Murdoch

1000 Career Hours

Bill Berry
Ted Mowery
Jeff Sirola
Steve Wilson

1500 Career Hours

Ken Buchanan
Jim Foster
Kim Peters
Tim Stewart

2000+ Career Hours

Paul Benfield 3000 hrs
Joe DeLoach 4000 hrs
Carl Fritz 7000 hrs

TEHCC Top 10 Maintainers Based on Career Hours

Maintainer	Career Hours
Ed Oliver	10731
Carl Fritz	7366
Bruce Cunningham	6465
Bob Peoples	5746
Frank Williams	5210
Joe DeLoach	4129
Paul Benfield	3533
Darrol Nickels	3527
Mary Cunningham	2821
Bill Stowell	2763

A special tool award was given to Joe DeLoach as a token of thanks for his service over the last five years as AT Committee chair. The tool awarded was a special cutter mattock which had a carved handle and was dubbed the “sanity saver.” It was given with the hope that Joe will be able to spend more time doing actual AT maintenance rather than doing all the paperwork and other associated tasks involved in serving as AT Committee chair.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Tabatha Sterns
Brian McAllister
Jeff Stevens

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Mar 3	Rental Equipment Checkout	Vic Hasler	rental@tehcc.org
Mar 11	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting	Ian Powell	chair@tehcc.org
Mar 17	ERC EXPO, 11am-7pm	Eastman Recreation	229-3771
Mar 19	Trail Maintenance: ASU Trail Crew	Carl Fritz	atvolunteer@tehcc.org
Mar 19	Roaring Branch Trail up to High Butte	Vic Hasler	hvhasler@eastman.com
Mar 26	2011 Gear Swap	Ian Powell	chair@tehcc.org
April 9	Trail Maintenance: ASU Outdoor Program	Carl Fritz	atvolunteer@tehcc.org
Apr 16	Spring Wildflower Hike - Rock Creek Falls	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Apr 30	Friends of Warriors Path Work Day	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com

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

Rental Equipment Checkout, March 3, 2011, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Eastman Employee Center, Rm 115

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Yes, it's a month earlier this year due to the gear swap. Interested in what tents, backpacks, and sleeping pads the TEHCC has available? Then come help check out the club equipment so that it's ready for another year of use (particularly, the most rented tents, HT-6, 15, 20, and 21). Ideas on what to replace/purchase will be discussed. As usual, pizza, vegi tray, cookies, and beverages will be provided to helpers, so let me know your preferences.

Recreation Club / Discount Program EXPO, March 17, 2011, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, Eastman Employee Center Lobby

Come see what Eastman Recreation has to offer YOU!

- Recreation Club and it's many benefits
- Exhibits for affiliate clubs
- Representatives will be present from many discount programs
- Cell phone reps will be present
- Door prizes
- Gifts from discount programs

This is also MOVIE NIGHT...."Tangled" will be showing at 5:00 & 7:00 pm

Roaring Branch Trail up to High Butte, March 19th, 2011

Hike Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Rating: ~7 miles round trip, moderate pace with several stops, climb and return from 1600 to 3000-ft elevation mostly at start and turnaround point. Begin at a cascading waterfall. Proceed along the creek through old growth forest. Climb the ridge line up to a rocky overlook for the Powell River valley. All within the Stone Mountain section of Jefferson National Forest.

Meet in Colonial Heights to carpool (limited parking at trailhead) and leave by 8:30AM for the hour drive via Big Stone Gap. After admiring the heavy spring flow over the Roaring Branch waterfall, we'll proceed up stone stairs created by youth conservation corps. The pace through the very large trees with little undergrowth will be broken by stops to find geocaches. There are three stream crossings. We will eat lunch up on High Butte, reverse direction back to cars, and arrive in Kingsport by late afternoon. Bring lunch, water, camera, layered clothing, trekking poles, and be prepared for weather. Contact hike leader by e-mail if interested (hvhasler@eastman.com).



Spring Wildflower Hike - Rock Creek Falls, Saturday, April 16, 2011

Leader: [Joe DeLoach](#) (telephone 423-753-7263)



Our spring wildflower hikes are generally fairly short and easy, and suitable for all but very young children. That's the case as we resume them this year, to nearby and pretty Rock Creek Falls near Erwin. A trail of 2 miles (each way) with an elevation gain of 1000 feet leads from the swimming pool at the Cherokee National Forest Rock Creek Recreation Area into the Unaka Mountain Wilderness, passing several falls and cascades on the way to a beautiful amphitheater-like setting at the main falls, about 50' high. There are four non-bridged crossings of the creek along the way, so expect to get your feet wet; good to have a dry pair of shoes waiting at the car. The Forest Service limits

group size in the Wilderness to 14 so pre-registration by contacting Joe is essential, and in keeping with the wilderness character this hike will be no dogs, please. We'll depart at 9:00 AM from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights, and stop by Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 9:30 for anyone who prefers to meet there. We plan to lunch at the falls. Bring clothing suitable for the occasionally wet and fickle early spring weather.

Friends of Warriors Path Work Day, April 30, 2011

Leader: [Kevin Barham](#)

Warriors Path is requesting help with their upcoming maintenance event. FOWP is typically able to get a good numbers of volunteers at their work day events, but often need a few more experienced volunteers to help lead the pack. The projects for the day are still being determined, but will be on a hiking trail, bike trail or disc golf trail. More details will be available in the April newsletter. Please contact Kevin Barham (kbarham@eastman.com) if you have any questions or project requests.



For the Record

Friday Hikers: Watauga Lake on the AT, 8.4 miles, January 28, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

The mountains were beautiful today for our hike around Watauga Lake. There was some snow on the trail in the morning but mostly gone in the afternoon except on the hill between Watauga Dam and Wilbur Dam Road where there were several inches of beautiful snow which bent rhododendron into the trail. The sun came out in the afternoon making the mountains really gleam with snow and rime. We were trying to figure out what made the tracks we were following when a fox jumped up right in front of us and ran down the trail. Hikers were Olin Babb, Anne Cosby, first-timer George Dickert, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Allison Hewson, Jan and Chuck Mather (with dog), Larry Miller, Patty Jo Nachman, Susie Seiler, first-timer Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Buffalo Mountain Park, February 4, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

The cool overcast day was quite satisfactory for our hike around Buffalo Mountain Park today. Distant views were quite adequate with interesting cloud banks pouring over the North Carolina State Line ridges. The road to the picnic area was gated so we opted to walk in the opposite direction from which we usually go. This proved to be challenging as we misinterpreted a sign and followed the red USFS boundary along the ridge line and added close to a mile and 400 feet of climbing by accident. (This is a way to Pinnacle Mountain and Jerry asked how to go - but it would be a stretch to say I was showing him the way.) We probably walked about 6 miles. The slight rain after lunch was no problem. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Jerry Jones, Jerry Mayne, first-timer Lana Scott, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Rock Creek Falls, February 11, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, sunny day for the 4-mile (round trip) hike to Rock Creek Falls, today. The start was quite cool but as the path was uphill, we were soon shedding excess clothes. There were several inches of snow on the trail the entire distance. The creek crossings were a bit tricky but resulted in only one or two wet feet. The falls were not frozen over but the adjacent cliffs were festooned with huge icicles and banks of ice, some dense enough to look blue. We were back in time to eat lunch in the picnic area. Hikers were: Heather Jacob, Susie Seiler, Lowell Toof and Collins Chew

Friday Hikers: Little Stony Creek Trail, February 18, 2011

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of February 18 was on the Little Stony Creek Trail from the entrance gate of Hanging Rock Park near Dungannon, Virginia, up the creek past cascades, waterfalls and natural barricades, and on to a dramatic lookout point for good views and lunch, after which we returned to our cars. The weather was ideal. We went a total distance of around 6.5 miles.

The hikers were Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Alison Hewson, Melanie Horner, Jerry Jones, Carol Idol, Patty Jo Nachman, Nancy Wilson and Ann Yungmeyer.

The barricades I referred to are trees that fell across the trail during the record-breaking snowfall and high winds of December 18, 2009. An unofficial report at that time was that possibly a hundred trees blocked the trail as a result of the storm. Since then the Forest Service and volunteer groups have worked to make the trail usable again and we're now able to report that you can indeed get from the lower end of the trail to the gravel road at the upper end. However, there are still a half-dozen or so places where downed trees haven't yet been removed. They make this formerly-easy ramble into an obstacle course, more suitable for Parris Island recruits than for the old folks.

Backpack: Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, south of Sparta, TN, February 19-20, 2011

Ian Powell reporting

Hikers: Ian Powell, Tom Boyd, Kim Peters, Debbie Briscoe

“This place looks familiar...”

This trip started out innocent enough....we all met at the Ingles parking lot in Colonial Heights and departed promptly at 8am on Saturday. The drive to Crossville zipped by as there was plenty of conversation about hiking and paddling with much advice and stories passed around. Once in Crossville, we started following Google Map's direction and also Ian's GPS to get to the trail head. This proved to be a fruitless effort as both sources wanted us to travel through some serious off-road areas. We even crossed a creek at one point! All the while, Ian kept muttering his now famous line, “This place looks familiar.” With much debate, we finally figured out how to get to our destination and started our hike after what amounted to a five hour drive.

This hike starts out on the Cumberland Plateau and descends into a gorge following a stream until we reached our destination on the banks of the Caney River and covers roughly 4 miles. Along the way, we passed four truly incredible waterfalls. The first is reached after about a mile of hiking. Big Branch Falls drops about 15-20' and has a large recessed rock shelter on the other side of the stream that is suitable for camping underneath. In another mile, we reached Big Laurel Falls. This waterfall is amazing to say the least. It drops roughly 40' over a ledge and then spills back under the ledge into a washed out cavity in the rocks. The size of the cavity could best be described as “cavernous”. The water then drains into a 2' to 3' hole toward the side of the cavity and disappears. We reached the third fall at roughly the 3 mile mark. This is Sheep's Cave Falls and the total drop is about 100'. This fall comes out of Sheep's Cave and drops roughly 50', pools, and then drops another 40' or so and disappears into another cave at the bottom of a sinkhole. We continued another ½ mile and reached Virgin Falls. This fall drops a little over 100' and is another one that comes out of a cave and drains into a cave. This last waterfall is really spectacular. The area was full of campers setting up for the evening so we snapped a few pictures and moved on to our final destination on the banks of the Caney River. We found an excellent campsite adjacent to some shoals in the river and set up our hammocks. The full moon rose and cast shadows around the camp and we all got a great nights rest. The next morning hiking out, we by-passed the last two falls and made our way to “The Overlook” side trail. This leads to a really nice campsite atop the plateau with rocky overlooks that give views of the entire gorge. After this, we made our way back to the parking area and loaded up for the drive home. The drive home was uneventful and quiet as we were all tired and ready to get home.

This area is an outstanding display of nature. There were many, many day hikers there making the trek down into the gorge as well as several campers setting up at various points along the way. It is probably too long a drive from our area for a day hike, but if you are looking for a good, short-distance back-packing trip with spectacular scenery, you should definitely add this to your list. There is another good write-up of the hike with photos of the falls at: ncwaterfalls.com



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: January 25, 2011

Purpose: Look at and possibly buy tools and equipment

Location: Asheville, NC

People: Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield and Daryel Anderson

Summary: We visited a private dealer in Asheville, purchased a crosscut saw, and looked at other equipment for possible future needs.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 01, 2011

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 8, North of 2nd campsite (Watauga Lake)

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We encountered many roots and duff, but did complete 200 feet of trail. One more day will finish all the relocations around Watauga Lake.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: February 03, 2011

Purpose: Check assigned section following severe winds

Location: Section 12a, Hostel to Bitter End

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: After clocking 80 mph wind gusts, I went out to check the trail. There were no large blowdowns, but I found many laurels weighted down with ice and snow and broken over the trail. I cleared most of them from Bitter End to the hostel.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: February 05, 2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and annual growth

Location: Section 20b, From Spivey Gap to Ridge Top

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut and cleared annual growth.

Reporting: Kimberly Peters

Date: February 05, 2011

Purpose: Check trail condition

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: After recent high winds, we decided to check the trail for blowdowns. We removed countless small limbs from the trail, cleared a few small blowdowns, and clipped back some rhodos. There are two blowdowns fairly close together about a mile south of Vandeventer. One is about 18 inches in diameter and the other about 8 inches and hanging in a tree which we could not remove. The 18-inch one can be climbed over without too much difficulty and the 8-inch one can be walked under with a little difficulty. We picked up trash at the shelter but didn't hang around there for long as the weather changed from sunny and warm to foggy, windy, cold and rainy. There is still about 6 inches of snow at higher elevations.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: February 07, 2011

Purpose: Install map posters, drain switchback, and check trail condition

Location: Section 1, First half-mile from Damascus Park

People: Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Anne Maio, Daryel Anderson

Summary: This was a joint project with MRATC, Park Service, ATC, and TEHCC to make and post trail maps near the caboose in Damascus Park. The trail surface is in need of improvement as it enters the forest south of the park. Several ideas were developed for consideration by TEHCC. Serious blow down and drainage issues were resolved at a switchback at 0.5 miles south.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: February 10, 2011

Purpose: Crosscut saw sharpening and setting

Location: Paul Benfield's barn

People: Paul Benfield and Daryel Anderson

Summary: We sharpened and set two crosscut saws.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 12, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Spivey Gap and Chestoa

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: Paul and Ted met Bill Berry at Spivey Gap. They cut a large blowdown near Oglesby Branch plus some rhodos and smaller trees. Paul and Ted cut a blowdown plus some smaller trees between Chestoa and Nolichucky Expeditions.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: February 12, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and cut annual growth

Location: Section 20b, From Ridge Top almost to Devil Creek

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut and cleared annual growth. Thanks to Paul Benfield and Ted Mowery for cutting the big tree North of Spivey Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 12, 2011

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 8, North of 2nd campsite (Watauga Lake)

People: Adam Baird, Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, John Beaudet, Carl Fritz, Kevin O'Donnell, Bob Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Chris Trouy

Summary: We finished the last 200 feet of the final relocation around Watauga Lake. We opened it and blazed it despite the cold weather. We also rehabbed a trail section that was badly sloping towards the lake before the first campsite.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: February 12, 2011

Purpose: Check general condition of shelter and trail

Location: Section 3b, Abingdon Gap shelter

People: Kim Peters and Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We picked up trash at the shelter, swept it out, and placed a new log journal. Enroute from Low Gap we noted blowdowns and picked up small branches. There were lots of critter prints in the snow we wished we could identify.

Reporting: Tom Boyd

Date: February 13, 2011

Purpose: Determine coordinate location of potential trail maintenance project

Location: Section 2, Backbone Rock Trail to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Tom Boyd, Mike Rehart, Ian Powell

Summary: We departed Kingsport at 8am and headed for the Backbone Rock parking lot. From there, we hiked to the AT intersection and headed south. There were a few small blowdowns that were cleared in this section but nothing significant. There was one large blowdown that will need chainsaw(s) to clear. We noted the coordinates of this blowdown on our GPS. We made it to the location of the potential maintenance project and noted the coordinates on the GPS. I will forward these coordinates to Carl Fritz.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 15, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 7, Within 1 mile of Wilbur Dam Road

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Donna Dean, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

Summary: Tuesday Crew rehabbed trail north of Wilbur Dam Road. There were several minor areas on new relocations that needed to be cleaned up. For example, some of the high side banks had partially broken onto trail from the freeze thaw. Mostly, they rehabbed old trail just above the relocations. There was significant rock work including nine rock steps in one area. In total they rehabbed about 260 feet of trail.

Building rock steps, L to R: Bob Peoples, John Beaudet, and Donna Dean



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 16, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Sections 7 and 8, North of Wilbur Dam Road and at Watauga Lake

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Tuesday Crew continued rehab north of Wilbur Dam Road. Just above new relocations there was a boulder restricting the trail. With sledge hammer, wedge, pick and a rock bar, Ken and Bob took out 3-foot chunks of that boulder until they opened the trail. They recruited two day-hikers to help move a rock piece they were incapable of budging. John, Richard, Kim, Tim and Carl walked 14 miles and climbed 1400 feet to dig trail. That is better than walking a mile for a cigarette. We were able to redig three sections totaling 160 feet. Two sections were just north of Vandeventer Shelter, and the third section was one mile north of the Wilderness Boundary. Only minor branches and blowdowns needed clearing. Only thing left was a twelve inch hickory that is hip high and a mile south of Vandeventer Shelter. (See photos next page.)



Bob and Ken boulder removal.



Taking a break are Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, John Beaudet, and Richard Carter.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: February 17, 2011

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 12a, Hostel to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: I took advantage of nice weather to check the section for blowdowns following several major winter storms with high winds. I cut two large trees out of trail and lopped rhodos and laurels. The section is muddy but in good condition.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: February 19, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and annual growth

Location: Section 20b, Just south of Devil Creek to 1/2 mile north of Devil Creek

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I removed lots of small downed trees from trail, moving along very well.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: February 20, 2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, From Low Gap to 1-1/2 miles south

People: Larry Miller and Sharon Miller

Summary: Sharon and Larry cleared blowdowns on the AT for 1-1/2 miles south of Low Gap/U. S. 421.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: February 21, 2011

Purpose: Annual Maintenance Dinner

Location: Eastman Lodge

People: Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Phyllis Cairnes, Richard Carter, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Bill Fuller, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Gether Irick, Tim McClain, Larry Miller, Sharon Miller, Terry Oldfield, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Michael Rehart, Jeff Sirola, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Michael Watts, Steve Wilson

Summary: The kickoff meeting for 2011 AT maintenance was well attended. We enjoyed the lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and desserts prepared by Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver. We reviewed our 2010 achievements, major projects for 2011, handed out awards, and discussed 2011 maintenance responsibilities.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: February 22, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 7b, North of Wilbur Dam Road

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

Summary: We rehabbed a total of 280 feet of trail mostly between 1 mile and 3.7 miles north of Wilbur Dam Road. Rocks were removed, side logs installed, and even a couple of water bars added. This trail section is definitely in the best shape ever.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: February 22, 2011

Purpose: Scout Trail and clear blowdowns

Location: Section 9a, US Hwy 321 to about halfway up Pond Mountain

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I scouted about halfway up Pond Mountain, while cutting some small blowdowns and brush that had fallen across the trail. I have 3 medium-sized blowdowns on the lower half of Pond that I will need to cut. I'm sure there are more up higher, so I'll return soon to clear those.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: February 26, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 1, 2 miles south of Damascus on blue-blaze spring trail

People: Anne Maio and Daryel Anderson

Summary: We bucked 15-inch and 12-inch diameter trees with crosscut saws and cleaned out the spring.

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Spring Dinner Meeting
March 11th, 2011

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Kevin Barham**.

Within Eastman send to:
Kevin Barham, Building 469

Outside Eastman send to:
Kevin Barham
511 Windsor Forest Dr
Kingsport, TN 37663

There is no charge for those attending the program and NOT joining us for the meal.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The check and reservation form must be received by **March 4, 2011**.

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): _____

Number of Adult's Meals: _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Children's Meals (12 and under): _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

Number attending without meal reservation: _____