



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 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

I would like to thank everyone that came out to the Gear Swap and made it a success. We saw a lot of new faces and had a good time looking through everyone's wares. I personally had a great time just speaking with people there, swapping stories more than gear. I saw some people I worked with and met some people for the first time. It was a very laid back event. I really appreciate ERC letting us use the parking lot and would like to thank Richard Elliot and the steering committee for all their help with the event.

Something was brought to my attention a couple of weeks ago. It was brought up that trips and events needed to be scheduled months in advance to be placed on our calendar on the website. That is in fact not the case. You can send in a notice of a trip or event the day before and still have it included on the calendar. The way that the calendar is being run, as soon as the event write-up is sent into the chair@tehcc.org, it is added to the calendar. Soon thereafter it can be seen on the website calendar. So don't feel that your hike or paddle event can't be placed on the calendar because it is a week out. With hectic schedules and weather uncertainty, scheduling something a month in advance is becoming less common.

If you haven't been to the website in a while, take an evening soon and explore it. Tim Schaefer has been hard at work making major changes to the format to increase the usability and intuitiveness of the site. What is key about all of this is that the membership uses the website as a resource for finding places to go hiking and paddling and groups of people to go with. You can go on the site Wednesday to find an event to participate in or plan a trip using the Trail Wiki for the upcoming weekend. Hope to see you on the trail!

2011 Gear Swap (1st Annual)

Deb Reynolds reporting



Saturday, March 26, TEHCC had their first gear swap on the grounds (parking lot) of the Eastman Recreation Building. We weren't sure what to expect since this was a new event and not sure how the community would react, but my expectations were more than met. I think the event was a success and worth doing again next year. We had eight groups sign up in advance and had at least ten groups show. The morning was much colder than expected which probably helped with the attendance as we had people coming and going most of the morning. We saw new Jackson kayaks, some used kayaks and a canoe, bikes, hiking and camping equipment, boots, clothing and snow skis. The Girl Scouts were there selling cookies. One group even had a container marked as free. Another group came from as far away as

Knoxville to sell a kayak, skis, bike parts and clothing. I don't know how much overall was sold, but I noticed that a really neat fishing kayak disappear, as well as a bike, from just one of the participants. The APEs (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts) showed with a

booth as well. Kudos to Ian Powell and the steering team for the planning, and to other TEHCC members who helped coordinate. TEHCC members attending were Ian Powell, Vic Hasler, Deb Reynolds, Steve Perri, Josh Henri, Waylon Jenkins, Mike Rehart, Greg Smolen, Aaron Grills, and Richard Elliot.

Trail wiki is coming along great

Tim Schaefer reporting

If you haven't checked out our [trail wiki](#) yet, you are definitely missing out on a great way to help out the club and, more importantly, find great information about the trails in our area. With only about half of the trail pages even created (and many of those without detailed information, pictures, or GPS logs), one fair complaint right now is that we don't have a lot of useful information on the site. I take that as an example of the lack of collated information available out there; a problem that we are trying to solve. If you would like to see what we hope to ultimately accomplish for the entire site, check out our [Warriors Path State Park](#) page and its trails.

Most importantly, I can't stress enough that help from others in our club will make this site more informative and on the wiki faster. If you're wondering how you can help, go to our [Help Wanted](#) list where we list some of the things we need. If you don't see a picture, GPS log, or description of a trail on the site that you think is relevant, please share it. Either edit directly or send things to me at <mailto:webmaster@tehcc.org>.

April Lunch and Learn – Selecting Rental Equipment, April 20, 2011

Vic Hasler reporting

During this lunch and learn, a discussion was held on how to decide which of the club's tents, backpacks, or sleeping pads to rent for an outing. Most rental items have a description on the [website](#). Selection guides exist for the tents (for [1-3](#) or [4-6](#) people). The group was fairly familiar with the existing equipment, so the talk became an idea session of what new gear the club could purchase. Like [HT-1](#), other styles of hammock tents could be offered. Even lighter than the 1.5 pound [HT-12](#), a very lightweight hexagonal fly could provide backpacking shelter. A backpack, which combines the close fit of an internal frame with air flow across the back offered by external frame, would be desirable for hot summer treks. A German brand, [Deuter](#), was suggested. A new item, a pair of trekking poles, from a quality supplier, such as [Leki](#) (\$80/pr + shipping) found favor with the group to allow folks to try them out, thus likely to be pursued once agreement with Recreation is obtained. A very compact, air chamber (thus not self-inflating or foam) sleeping pad was discussed to help get the gear volume down. The downside is that repairs are needed in case of puncture. Big Agnes has Air Core pads for around \$40 plus shipping. Since the current rental set is in great condition, we hope to purchase several of these items in order to give members a chance to try out new gear for themselves. If you have any suggestions on future purchases, please let me know at rental@tehcc.org. Finally, a show-n-tell session for these lunch gatherings was proposed to share what has been working for each of us.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-33 Gregory G-Pack

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator (rental@tehcc.org)

This pack was a grab at the 2011 Gear Swap - \$25 for like-new, \$149 list price. It is now the club's lightest backpack at 2 Lb, 10 oz for 3100 cubic inches or up to 25-30 pounds. It is the large frame which fits a 19.5-21.5" torso size.

This pack is made of strong, but light, silicone-impregnated fabric, which can handle our region's normal trail conditions. Warning: Based on actual reported experience, do not lift by just a shoulder strap when loaded! The backpack has a large central core area with full outer mesh pocket and a lid bag. Compression sacks would be great packing aid to minimize volume.

The challenge is to have your gear down to within its capacity. Check by seeing if **everything** (tent, sleeping bag, mat, clothes, cookware, food, etc.) can fit into just one and a half photocopy paper boxes, and then weighs less than 30 pounds total on the home scales. If yes, then this is your light-weight option for an overnigher trip.



Konnarock Crew - Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations

Scheduled for June 3-5, June 17-19, July 8-10, and July 29-31, 2011

Leaders: [Joe DeLoach](#) (423-753-7263) and [Carl Fritz](#) (423-477-4669)

Last year, we began one of our most ambitious Appalachian Trail relocations ever, from Hughes Gap to Cloudland atop Roan Mountain. This formerly 2.6-mile section of Trail ascends 2200', with a 0.4-mile slight descent along the way, making it possibly the steepest section of the A. T. in the South. We don't always relocate a Trail section just because it's steep, but steep trails that run on a ridgeline are very prone to erosion, with only the rockiness of parts of this section retarding that erosion. It is also a treacherous descent, especially in the icy or rainy conditions that are prevalent at those elevations. We've flagged numerous relocations to climb the mountain at a sustainable 10-12% side-hill grade, and built the first four with Hard Core, student groups, and Club outings in 2010. This year, we'll tackle some sections higher on the mountain with all our resources, including the Konnarock Crew which will work near the midpoint of the section. The Konnarock Crew, in its 29th year, is managed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and works with the 12 Southern clubs. We are fortunate to have them for five weeks this year, with plans to devote the first four weeks to these relocations and the final week of August 11-15 to putting more gravel on Round Bald. The Crew arrives on a Thursday afternoon, has three full days of work Friday-Sunday, and departs Monday afternoon. So the best days to work with them are Friday-Sunday. Volunteers who work at least 40 hours with the Crew receive a Konnarock T-shirt for their efforts. Please contact Joe DeLoach or Carl Fritz if you're interested in helping.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Aaron Looney

Rajesh Raja

Jeremy Gibson

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

| Date | Description | Leader | Contact |
|------------|--|---|--|
| May 7 | SACWMP invasive exotic plant workshop | John Odell | 828-254-3708 |
| May 14 | Full Moon lake paddles | Deb Reynolds | 423- 723-7017 |
| May 15-16 | Hard Core 2011 | Carl Fritz | atvolunteer@tehcc.org |
| May 18 | Lunch & Learn: The new TEHCC Trail Wiki | Tim Schaefer | tschaefer@eastman.com |
| May 27-30 | SM900 – Lost Cove and Lakeshore Trails | Kent and Nancy Wilson | 423-239-7554 |
| May 27-30 | Bluestone River Trip, Class II-III | Terry & Thresa Dougherty | 423-502-5177 |
| May 28 | Buffalo Mountain Park Day | Brad Jones | 423-283-5821 |
| May 28 | Explore the Holston River (flat-water series) | Deb Reynolds | 423- 723-7017 |
| June 2 | Paddle to the Grill | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| June 3-5 | Konnarock Crew - Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations | Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz | 423-753-7263 423-477-4669 |
| June 4 | Nolichucky River Clean-up and Celebration | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| June 11 | Watauga River, Class I-II | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| June 17-19 | Konnarock Crew - Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations | Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz | 423-753-7263 423-477-4669 |
| June 17-19 | Chota Canoe and Kayak School | Gary Kilpatrick | 423-914-4070 |

Details on Upcoming Events

Meeting Locations for TEHCC Hikes

Over the years, TEHCC hikes have typically left from the following locations. Others can be prearranged with the hike leader.

Colonial Heights: The parking lot between McDonalds, State of Franklin Bank, and Ingles located north of Fort Henry Drive on the Kingsport side of I-81 Exit 59.

Johnson City: The parking lot behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street.

Gate City: Up on the hill above US23/58/421 at the Kane Street intersection (traffic light) sits Food Lion, Advance auto parts, and Subway.

For more detail, check out the [TEHCC trail wiki](#).

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!

Thursday Evenings: Paddle to the Grill

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and TEHCC. The launch is at 6:30 pm at Davis Dock located in Blountville. We will paddle to Boone Docks Restaurant located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFDs are mandatory. Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636 for more details.

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 McDonalds 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.

Most Saturdays: Watauga River Class I-II, June 11- Sept 3, 2011

Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636. If there is water elsewhere, we may go there instead; so call first to check and see if it's on!

Scheduled Events

SACWMP Invasive Exotic Plant Workshop, May 7, 2011

Contact: [John Odell](#), 828-254-3708

The Southern Appalachian Cooperative Weed Management Partnership (SACWMP) is seeking volunteers to participate in an invasive exotic plant workshop on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at the Roan Highlands. There is no charge for the event, and participants will receive free guidebooks for the identification and control of invasive exotic plants. The workshop will educate hikers and the general public about the threats of invasive exotic (IE) plants, how to identify and inventory IE species, and how to remove these plants, protecting native biodiversity along the Trail.

The Roan Highlands have lovingly been called the "Crown Jewel of the Southern Appalachians." Roan is home to over 800 plant species, 27 globally-rare plant communities, and 33 rare species. Roan has the highest concentration of rare species found along the entire Appalachian Trail, and IE plants are one of the greatest threats to its fragile ecosystems.

On May 7, volunteers will target coltsfoot, wild chervil, garlic mustard and other weeds which are known to occur in the Roan Highlands. Participants should meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Carvers Gap parking area on NC 261 / TN 143 (Carvers Gap, NC 28705). The

morning will begin with a brief educational workshop that includes distribution of guidebooks and other materials useful for the identification and management of IE plants. Afterward, the group will work along the A.T. and nearby roads to map and control any IE plants that are encountered.

All equipment needed for the workshop and inventory will be provided. Volunteers are asked to bring lunch, water, rain gear, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothes appropriate for hot or cold weather. Carpooling is available from the Forest Service Building in Asheville (160A Zillicoa St.) leaving at 8:15 am on Saturday and returning to Asheville by 6:00 pm.

Individuals or groups interested in volunteering or requiring more information should contact John Odell with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as soon as possible by e-mailing jodell@appalachiantrail.org or calling 828-254-3708.

Full-Moon Lake Paddles, May 14, 2011

Leader: [Deb Reynolds](#), 423-723-7017

Kayak under a full moon in a local lake on either May 14 or Sept 10. Location will be South Holston or Watauga Lake. Reservations in advance are required or the trip may be cancelled. Contact Deb Reynolds, 723-7017 or dlreynolds@eastman.com

Lunch & Learn: The New TEHCC Trail Wiki, Wed May 18, 11:30 AM-1 PM, Eastman, B150 Room C

Come to this month's meeting to learn about the details of using and how you can contribute to our new trail wiki site. Come learn how you can navigate our new wiki and use it to find trails that interest you. We'll even cover how you can help contribute to the site by either directly editing yourself or by providing the information for others to use in editing. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy while talking with others. The program starts at noon and we plan to be finished by 12:45 to give travel time for those who may have a 1PM meeting.

SM900 – Lost Cove and Lakeshore Trails, Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-30

Contact: [Kent](#) and Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554

We plan to backpack the AT from Fontana Dam to the Lost Cove Trail and then the Lakeshore Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park about 40 miles. We plan to leave Kingsport around 11 am on Friday, May 27. Friday night will be spent at campsite 90. Saturday we will most likely stay at campsite 77. On Sunday night we will plan to stay at either campsite 74 or 75. On Monday we will finish the Lakeshore Trail at the "Road to Nowhere." If you are interested in this backpack trip, please contact Kent Wilson at akwilson@eastman.com or call Kent or Nancy at 423-239-7554.

Bluestone River Trip, Class II-III, May 27-30, 2011

Leaders: Terry & Thresa Dougherty, 423- 502-5177

This is the 32nd year for the Bluestone Trip. The trip this year is planned later than ever because the Pipestem State Park Mountain Creek Lodge does not open until Friday May 27, Memorial weekend with a 3-night minimum. The cost is \$97.44 with tax per night. We could not reserve a block of rooms, so folks will need to call 304-466-1800 to make their own reservations. With it being a holiday weekend, they probably need to call ASAP to get rooms. Camping is available in the campground and reservations can be made as well.

We are planning on paddling Saturday and Sunday (optional). The average flow for the May 30 timeframe is 518 CFS, so the water level could be really good. Other activities include golfing, birding, horseback riding, hiking and biking. A Saturday evening Happy Hour (Ed Montgomery coordinator) is planned and is always a fun event. This is a special trip and we hope you can join us for the longest running TEHCC annual paddling trip!

Buffalo Mountain Park Day, May 28, 2011

Contact: Brad Jones, 423-283-5821

Friends of Nature and the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Department present a "Unique day of hiking" with local guest naturalists. Spring is a great time of year to enjoy nature at its finest. Come out and learn about the biology and natural history of Buffalo Mountain and take some great day hikes. The event features some great leaders. Wildflowers with Tim McDowell, Salamanders with Kevin Hamed, James Brooks with Birds, Jeremy Stout and Bob Whittemore with Geology, Kathy Landy with Aquatic Insects, and Brad Jones with Butterflies. The event starts with Birds at 7 am and ends at 5 pm with Butterflies. For more information, call Johnson City Parks and Recreation Park Naturalist at Winged Deer Park, 423-283-5821.

Explore the Holston River (flat-water series), May 28, 2011

Leader: [Deb Reynolds](#), 423-723-7017

I am scheduling several Saturday events this summer to explore the local Holston River including the North and South Fork. Most of these events will require a car shuttle, so advance notice is required for planning purposes. The trip length will vary, but will normally be between 2 and 4 hours. A lunch or snack will be desired. Fishing and bird watching are options as we will not be racing to see how quick we can get to the end. Bring a friend, a pole or camera, and an attitude for exploring. PFDs are required. Future dates are June 18, July 16 and August 6. Contact Deb Reynolds, 723-7017 or dlreynolds@eastman.com.

Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration, Saturday, June 4, 2011

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

Participants will be assigned to Clean Teams, provided maps of clean-up locations, and given trash bags and gloves.

There are plenty of clean-up opportunities of key areas for non-boaters as well as areas designated for individuals with their own boats or rafts.

FREE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!!!! For cleanup participants, after the clean-up, Hickory Smoked Bar-B-Q and the all the fixings will be served-up by the APEs in the Pavilion while you enjoy one of the area's finest bands.

Bring a lawn chair, kick back with a cold tasty beverage, and know that you did something good for the river we all enjoy so much!

WIN PRIZES FROM OUR SPONSORS!!!! During the entertainment we will be drawing tickets for fantastic prizes.

Helpful information: Showers and restrooms are on the premises. Be prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc. Rafts, pickup trucks, and trailers will be helpful and appreciated. Consider bringing a packed lunch, boating equipment, rain gear, chairs, family, and friends.

For Camping Info: Bruce and Nancy Gantenbein, 423-753-5359, <http://www.riverparkcampground.net/>

Chota Canoe & Kayak School, June 17-19, 2011

Contact: [Gary Kilpatrick](#), 423-914-4070

Chota's annual Canoe & Kayak School has been a great way to introduce our sport to new comers for many years. We offer beginner classes in whitewater kayak and canoe, as well as touring kayak and canoeing. For those who are already into paddling, but wish to advance in skill level, our school also offers advanced beginner and intermediate whitewater classes. Chota also provides the option of renting equipment from the club, depending on availability, or from area outfitters for this event. This way you can still come and learn even if you do not have your own gear.

Pick your class from this list: Whitewater Kayaking, Whitewater Canoeing, Kayak Touring, or Canoe Tripping

Class descriptions are available on the Chota Website, PaddleChota.org.



For the Record

Friday Hikers: AT - Chestoa to Curley Maple Gap Shelter, April 1, 2011

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of April 1 was on the Appalachian Trail from Chestoa to Curley Maple Gap Shelter and return, a total of 8.2 miles.

The temperature was a little brisk to begin with, but once we started the strenuous climb out of Jones Branch valley there was much shedding of outer layers. At the upper end of the hike, around elevation 2800 feet, we began finding a dusting of snow on the leaves and ground, but it didn't last long after the sun came out.

Lunch was at the newly-rebuilt Curley Maple Gap Shelter, a vastly improved version of what used to be there. When we arrived, the shelter was filled almost to overflow by a jolly bunch of northbound through hikers, this being the time of the year that they pass through our territory. But, there was additional outside seating in the vicinity and we had a great lunch --- until we started getting cold again. It was then time to go.

On the return trip we passed even more through hikers, some of whom didn't mind stopping to chat for a minute or two. After the hike we tried to guess how many we'd seen, and the numbers varied widely, but maybe sixteen would be close enough.

Jones Branch may have been running full, but it was crystal clear, something that a number of us commented on. We had one ford to make of the creek and possibly a few of us got a foot in the water, one of the feet being mine; but we mainly made it across without incident.

The hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy Case, Anne Cosby, George Dickert, Judith Foster, Phil Gibson, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler and Jerry Sluder.

Friday Hikers: AT – Jones Meadow to Allen Gap, April 8, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

The weather was pleasant but cloudy for our 7.4 mile on the AT from Jones Meadow to Allen Gap. Occasionally, a few sprinkles fell, but never enough to cause problems. It rained a bit while we were in the Shelter eating lunch. A few wildflowers were out: Service berry, spring beauty, trailing arbutus, various violets, a few bloodroot and chickweed. Backpackers were out in force with a few other dayhikers. Hikers were: Don Baker, Kathy Case, Andrew Cleland, first timer from South Carolina Beth Ann Cushman, George Dickert, Carol Dunham, Judith Foster, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Jerry Jones, Eloise Kaeck, first timers Lotta and Ken Murray, first timer John Parks, Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.

Doe River Gorge, Sunday, April 10, 2011

Leader: Vic Hasler



Ah, a spring walk on a warm Sunday afternoon! With area temperatures reaching 87°F, the shaded Doe River Gorge offered a comfortable hike while viewing and photographing the early wildflowers (wild ginger, yellow and wake robin trilliums, longspur, bleeding hearts, fire pink, and more). The three cars for the eight folks from TEHCC converged from different directions at the camp around 1:45. A surprise was when more cars with another 21 people pulled up at that same time. During the hike, we figured out that two hiking clubs had arrived coincidentally for the same hike. Thus the trip was enjoyed with the “Little Lost Hikers” from Linville, NC (including some Boy Scouts from two troops). A real benefit was their wildflower expert who helped with identification. (FYI, looks like more flowers would be in bloom in early to mid-May.) The 5-mile hike was completed in roughly three hours. From TEHCC were Troy Greenwald, his daughter Ella, and mother Joan Amato, Sharon Burnette, Solange Adams, Serita Blankenbecler, and Cinda Foglesong.

Details of this trail have been captured in the new [club wiki](#), including the wildflower pictures and identification. This shared knowledge could be useful to others for deciding where to hike and explore in the region.

Friday Hikers: Big Laurel Creek, April 15, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a nice wildflower hike along Big Laurel Creek in North Carolina under clouds early, then sunny in the afternoon with occasional breezes. The wildflowers were out in profusion with many varieties and many individual flowers. Many flowering trees added to the scene. Because of recent heavy rains, the clear rushing creek stole the show with powerful rapids. A few kayakers were enjoying the flow also. Hikers were Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy and Jerry Case. Andrew Cleland, Ann Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Susie Seiler, Jerry Sluder, and Collins Chew.

Rock Creek Falls, April 17, 2011

Joe DeLoach reporting

Because of the threatening weather forecast for April 16th, we decided to postpone our Spring Wildflower Hike until April 17th. This worked out well, as the 17th was a beautiful day, while the 16th was stormy and windy as predicted. With 13 hikers, including many first-timers, we squeezed under the Unaka Mountain Wilderness group size limit of 14. The rainy spring made the four creek crossings a challenge, but other than wet feet, there was only one slight slip and dip. The Cherokee National Forest has worked on the trail including putting in stepping stones at each crossing, but most were under water (this was the highest water level the hike leader has seen in six trips to the falls). We saw 21 types of flowers and flowering trees, including numerous red erect trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, gay wings, trout lilies, spring beauties, and several species of violets. Our youngest hiker, 7-year old Haley Moran, also spotted some morel mushrooms within the Rock Creek Recreation Area. Joining Haley on the hike were Kelley and Blanche Moran, John Macpherson, Jacqueline Senosain, Justin Starr, Donna Ashby, Mary Fanslow, newcomer to East Tennessee Troy Greenwald, Bob Jackson, Kiernan Tonnies, and Joe DeLoach.

Friday Hikers: GSMNP - Porters Creek Trail, April 22, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a day of glorious wildflowers on the Porters Creek Trail in the Smokies. Jerry Jones did great in recommending it. The weatherman blew it again as we had only a sprinkling of rain at the Kingsport meeting place and none in the Smokies. It was sunny in the afternoon. We had almost continuous wildflowers of many varieties almost all the way, including the showiest orchids I have ever seen. There were a great number of other hikers enjoying the flowers as well. I hope to make a list of flowers for those who were there and any others who request it. Hikers were: Olin Babb, first timer Wilford Corbin, Bob Harvey, Jerry Jones, Jerry Sluder, Deb and Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: March 01, 2011

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman, Bldg 310

People: Jeff Siirola, Paul Worsham, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Mike Hupko, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowry, Kim Peters, Steve Perri

Summary: The TEHCC AT Committee met to review projects from 2010 and to plan major projects for 2011 in order to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the AT Partnership on March 9th (see April newsletter). In 2010 TEHCC had 12,595 volunteer hours with 298 events and 457 people. Notable events included 22-24 March: Grinnell College, Laurel Fork Trail Rehab (3 days, 11 people, 173 hours); 11 April: ETSU and ASU Community Service Program, Watauga Lake relo (25 people, 173 hours); 16 May: Damascus Hard Core, Pond Mountain relo (142 people, 1289 hours); and 17 May: Damascus Hard Core, Beartown Mountain relo (115 people, 1037 hours). Our projects with Konnarock included 10-13 June, Yellow Mountain relo (4 days, 10 people, 184 hours); 8-11 July, Yellow Mountain relo (4 days, 11 people, 193 hours); and 5-8 August, Beartown Mountain relo (4 days, 9 people, 144 hours). We also coordinated a project with ASU on 28 August: ASU Watauga College, Hughes Gap relo (96 people, 864 hours). We submitted a grant to the NCLP for funding to purchase gravel and rent gravel hauling equipment for adding more gravel to the section of the trail from the top of Round Bald towards Engine Gap. We discussed how to handle requests for photographers to come out to take pictures of volunteers. In some cases, people may not want to have their photo taken. We proposed gathering additional info for a release form and/or limiting outings with smaller groups (i.e. Tuesday crew or small student outings and not at Hard Core or during ASU). Major projects coming for 2011 include April 9: ASU Outdoor Program students, work site to be decided; and May 15-16 Hard Core, S. Pond relo/Hughes Gap-Cloudland relo. Konnarock Crew dates for relo north of Hughes Gap are June 3 - 5, June 17-19, July 8 - 10, and July 29 - 31; and for gravel on Round Bald are August 12 - 14. The ASU Orientation Program is scheduled for August 18th for gravel on Round Bald.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: March 07, 2011

Purpose: Spring cleanup

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to about 2.5 miles south

People: John Beaudet

Summary: It was a cold day with snow covering the trail and bending down the laurels. I lopped brush all day, but only got about 2.5 miles in. I also cut out a few small blowdowns.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: March 14, 2011

Purpose: Spring cleanup

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: John Beaudet

Summary: I continued lopping out the section. I walked in 2 miles and then trimmed out next 2 miles to finish the section. There are only a couple of blowdowns, too big for a hand saw and easy to step over.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 19, 2011

Purpose: Appalachian Trail Southern Partnership Meeting

Location: Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

People: Joe DeLoach and Steve Perri

Summary: As TEHCC representatives to the AT Regional Partnership Committee, Steve and Joe attended the annual Southern Partnership Meeting along with around 80 attendees from other Southern clubs, agencies such as the Forest Service, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy representatives. Detailed minutes of the meeting will be provided to the AT Committee and Steering Committee, and are available upon request to Joe.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: March 25, 2011

Purpose: Check section for blowdowns

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I hiked the section, cut five blowdowns with a bow saw, removed about a dozen others, swept and picked up trash from the shelter, cleaned out the spring, and left a new shelter log book. The previous log book was missing. All the blowdowns I encountered were amenable to bow-saw cutting, so I was able to complete blowdown removal for the section.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 25, 2011

Purpose: Sharpen crosscut saw

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: Paul sharpened the cross-cut saw that most likely will be used in Gorge.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 29, 2011

Purpose: Repair bog bridges and dig out water diversions

Location: Section 15a, South of Carvers Gap

People: Daryl Anderson, Jonathan Buchanan, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: This crew repaired lath on the bog bridges. To make it A1 condition, about three more pieces of lath are needed. They also dug out many water drainages starting trail north, but additional clearing is needed to get to shelter trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 29, 2011

Purpose: Plan gravel project and lop section

Location: Section 14b, Grassy Ridge to Carvers Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We inspected gravel and water diversions from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap to plan the detailed gravel work. We finished the lopping from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge. Also, we did some minor fence and stile repair.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: April 02, 2011

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 9a, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Ray "Otto" Douglas, Mike Hupko; ETSU students who are member of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honorary Fraternity: Kristina Alexander, Thorne Fritts, Jessica Fain, Tara McDaniel, Bradlee Jenkins, Josh Newman, Cam Meadows, Elizabeth Dukes, Hillary Gibson, Mary Patrick.

Summary: We picked up four large bags of trash, lopped overhanging branches, and cleaned up around the shelter. The new "Bear Pole" had been placed. This was a service project for the Fraternity. Bob Peoples presented the members with a TEHCC volunteer patch.

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: April 03, 2011

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 17, Low Gap to top of Unaka

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

Summary: We found two places the trail was blocked --we cut and removed those trees and shrubs and used the branches to block where the trail was being cut in order to get around the blowdowns. We cut a lot of rhododendron branches and removed several other small blowdowns.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: April 06, 2011

Purpose: Cut out blowdowns

Location: Section 12a, About midway between Bitter End and Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: Responding to hiker reports, I cut out two medium-sized blowdowns about midway in section 12a.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 06, 2011

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky Expeditions to first switchback north

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: Ted and Paul cut eight trees, including the reported large blowdown north of the last bridge. Water on the trail and in fords was great due to rains a day earlier.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 06, 2011

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Turkey Feather

Summary: We did some further preparation for Hard Core by cutting a number of dead locust trees for stakes, side logs and steps.

Photo courtesy of Ken Buchanan: Turkey Feather, Kim, Carl, and Bob.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 06, 2011

Purpose: Redig drainage ditches

Location: Section 15a, North of Roan High Knob

People: Daryel Anderson, Ed Oliver, George Thorpe

Summary: Daryel, Ed and George redug 16 water drainages north of Roan High Knob. They did this while in snow and ice. Additional ditches need to be dug closer to Roan High Knob.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: April 07, 2011

Purpose: Attend Boy Scouts roundtable

Location: Boones Creek

People: Ted Mowery, Kim Peters

Summary: Kim and Ted attended the Boy Scouts roundtable (a meeting of all the area scout leaders) to discuss trail maintenance opportunities with the scouts.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 08, 2011

Purpose: Clean water bars and remove blowdowns

Location: Section 3a, McQueens Gap south to spring

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock

Summary: Bruce and Bill cleaned all the water bars, lopped, cleared small blowdowns and inspected trail. The spring could use some minor cleaning. There are four blowdowns and a fifth just south of the spring that need a chainsaw. One is almost two feet in diameter. All can be negotiated.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 09, 2011

Purpose: Clear water bars and blowdowns

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

People: Carl Fritz, Glenda O'Neal, Bob Peoples, Otto

Summary: We cut about 17 large blowdowns; a couple as large as 20 inches. One 10-inch fell behind the shelter missing it by 15 feet. We also cut some rhodo tangles and cleaned the water bars. There are several wet areas that could use repair. Blazing could use freshening and more lopping is desirable.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: April 09, 2011

Purpose: Clear water bars and blowdowns

Location: Section 12c, Cemetery above Buck Mtn Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

People: John Beaudet, Ted Mowery, Steve Perri, Jeff Siirola, Steve Wilson

Summary: We cleared blowdowns, lopped branches, and cleaned water bars in the 3.2-mile section. Ten blowdowns were found with the most significant ones being near Campbell Hollow Road. Jeff started at the cemetery above Buck Mountain Church to correct some reported blazing concerns. We saw several section and thru hikers.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: April 09, 2011

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Anna Sherrill, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We picked up trash (including used propane cannisters), cleaned out the gutter, shoveled out the fire ring, and placed a new trail journal. We also went down the hill and checked the water source which was flowing unimpeded. During the hike to and from we met 6 or 7 thru-hikers, most of which, surprisingly, were not young.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 10, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place

People: Bob Peoples, Otto, Maineiac, John Wayne

Summary: Two hikers stayed over a day to help cut blowdowns with Bob and Otto. They cut seven with one at White Rocks being a major tangle.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 10, 2011

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We lopped briars and brush and cut several blowdowns between Carvers Gap and Cloudland. The blowdowns were not unusual for an after-winter trip. The repairs to the bog bridges and drainage ditches are looking very good. We placed a new shelter register, removed some trash, and broke up a fire ring near the summit.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: April 11, 2011

Purpose: Mow accessible trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We cut and trimmed the grass across the Osborne Farm. Ten hikers came through. The corn crib has been blown off the floor of the building and is resting on its roof. Hikers reported two small blowdowns between Hwy 91 and Iron Mtn Gap. A hiker reported clothes and hiking gear near the top of the ridge near the Wilderness area. The clothes are reported hanging on a line. He looked around for someone but found no one. This may be the hiking gear that Kim reported on the Trail Maintenance trip.

Reporting: Daryl Anderson

Date: April 13, 2011

Purpose: Blaze trail

Location: Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Anne Maio, Daryl Anderson

Summary: We blazed section one and removed much brush and several blowdowns.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: April 13, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to about 1/2 mile south of the spring

People: Richard Carter, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cut four blowdowns and did some lopping south from McQueen's Gap to about 1/2 mile south of the spring; then cut two blowdowns between the gap and Abingdon Gap shelter. There are several water bars just north of the spring that need cleaning; otherwise this section is in good condition.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 13, 2011

Purpose: Spring clean trail section

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E

People: John Beaudet, Jim Chambers, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

Summary: This was another A team outing. All the blazes were painted. Multiflora rose was lopped extensively. Water bars were cleaned. Blowdowns were cut with only one being a major problem. About 180 feet of trail was rehabbed. We installed about six large stepping stones to cover a 14' bog just north of Buck Mountain Road. Most of the digging was on both sides of Isaac Cemetery where trail was sloughing badly. One area required a 22' locust side log.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 14, 2011

Purpose: Repair trail and check for other obstructions

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

People: Kim Peters, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: We cleared trail, cut back some annual growth, repaired a large root ball that had taken out a chunk of the trail (see photos), and found one large blowdown while walking from Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap and back. Ken and Jim will go back with the chain saw and remove the blowdown.



Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: April 17, 2011

Purpose: Check trail condition

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to intersection with AT

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Jonathan Holmes, Kim Peters

Summary: A group of employees from Sam's Club in Johnson City wanted to adopt the Hampton Blue blaze section. I met with them, we walked the section, and did a little lopping. I explained basic trail maintenance and the tasks required for that section.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: April 17, 2011

Purpose: Trash pickup

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Dam

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Jonathan Holmes, Kim Peters

Summary: After we walked the Hampton blue-blaze we drove over to Shook Branch and walked around the lake to the campsites. Anna, Shane and Jonathan picked up trash around the lake while Kim continued on to the Shelter and the dam, clearing several blowdowns. Lots of day-hikers and thru-hikers were out on this beautiful day.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 17, 2011

Purpose: Cut a large blowdown and survey shelter

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: Ken and I started from Greasy Creek Gap and cut two blowdowns, one was very large. From there we walked to the shelter and did our survey. The trail is free of obstructions and in good shape.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: April 17, 2011

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: Having had a report of a blowdown near Iron Mountain Shelter, I hiked in and removed several blowdowns north of the shelter, including the one near the shelter. I stayed the night at the shelter and in the morning removed another blowdown just south of the shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 19, 2011

Purpose: Cut out relocations

Location: Section 15b, between Cloudland and Ash Gap

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Donna Dean, Otto, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Chris Trouy

Summary: We cut out several relocations and put out pin flags. There were many section and thru hikers today.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: April 22, 2011

Purpose: Clear blow downs

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek to Temple Hill Gap

People: Bill Berry

Summary: There were many small branches on the trail. There is only one huge tree down about twenty minutes north of the shelter. I will remove with a chain saw.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 22, 2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and check relo

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to within 0.5 mile of Beartown Mountain

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Summary: On a beautiful day for early spring wildflowers at high elevation, we walked from Hughes Gap to where the relocations have been completed towards Beartown Mountain and to the first flagline near there, in preparation for the Konnarock project check on May 7. We trimmed back some brush and cut mostly small blowdowns, getting lucky that a much larger one broke in the middle of the Trail enough for us to roll it out of the way with a couple of cuts. Last year's relocations look good.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: April 23, 2011

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, FS 230 to Beauty Spot

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cleaned 23 water bars and lopped greenbriars, rhododendron, and blackberries. We removed 3 trees from the trail and other debris. We met 21 hikers.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 23, 2011

Purpose: Check flag line and reflag relo

Location: Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: At the request of USFS, Ed and I checked an old flag line and refreshed the flags on the Backbone Rock Trail relocation. We also added two new sections to the relocation that will take out some very steep trail near the bottom of the trail.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: April 26, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 20, Devil Creek Gap to north of No Business Knob Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield

Summary: Paul and John went after a problem blowdown north of No Business Knob shelter. It took them about 90 minutes to remove the large blowdown and repair two large holes in the trail. They also cut several other blowdowns that were flat on the trail.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 26, 2011

Purpose: Prepare rels for Hard Core

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Mountain

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Kim Peters

Summary: Jim, Kim, and Ken continued to mark sections and set pin flags for Hard Core. The rels for this year are about ready.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 26, 2011

Purpose: Prepare Relos for Hard Core

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland to Ash Gap

People: Daryl Anderson, Richard Carter, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Otto, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; hikers: Robert Kaspor, Mike Puro, Jeannime Wahlquist, Tehley Scholfield

Summary: We cleared and flagged about 1400 feet of rels just north of Ash Gap. The major 1000-foot relo close to Cloudland has many rocks, but it looks diggable after doing some preliminary digging there today.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 28, 2011

Purpose: Sharpen digging tools

Location: Carl's House

People: Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Alex Geisman, George Thorpe

Summary: We did the annual sharpening of the heavy digging tools.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: April 28, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and stumps

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: Responding to extreme winds, I went out to check assigned section. I took out 3 new blowdowns across trail and cut out a few stumps at section view-spot to improve the natural appearance.