



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2011

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

## In this Issue

[Fall Dinner Meeting, October 21, 2011](#)

[2011-12 Deer Hunting Seasons](#)

[TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-34– Deuter Futura Vario 50 + 10](#)

[Camping Equipment Needed for Disadvantaged Youth Program](#)

[Event Schedule Next Two Months](#)

[Details on upcoming events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

[Dinner Meeting Reservation Form](#)

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## Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Fall Dinner Meeting, Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

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Fall is knocking at the door. With the changing of the leaves comes our annual TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting. We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for good drinks, good food and good times. The meal will be catered by Firehouse Restaurant and include BBQ pork or chicken and all the sides. The dinner meeting will be at the Eastman Lodge

Our special program for the evening, "Southwest Virginia Trilogy: Natural Tunnel, the Breaks and Cumberland Gap" will be given by Toney Scales. He will give a history of each place and speak on the geological setting of Southwest Virginia. He will discuss the geography and the geomorphology of the area as well as include shots that did not make it into either of his books. Tony has written two books, "[Natural Tunnel: Nature's Marvel in Stone](#)" and "[The Breaks: The Grand Canyon of the South](#)". He is currently researching the Cumberland Gap.

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Dining Hall - <a href="#">404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN</a>
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 Firehouse Restaurant (\$11 per adult)
Club Updates	7:15pm-8:00pm	Update of club activities
<b>Special Program:</b> <i>Southwest Virginia Trilogy: Natural Tunnel, the Breaks and Cumberland Gap</i>	<b>8:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Toney Scales</b>

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, **please submit your reservation by 10/18/2011**. A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter.

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## 2011-12 Deer Hunting Seasons

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### *Joe DeLoach reporting*

Each fall, hikers are joined in the woods by hunters out for small and big game. Deer hunting is popular in our mountains and during firearms seasons can pose more of a risk to hikers than bow hunting or hunting for other prey. Hunting is permitted within national forests through which many of our local trails pass. For 2011-12, the area deer seasons are as follows.

#### **East Tennessee (Sunday hunting permitted)**

Muzzleloading: Nov. 5-18

Gun: Nov. 19 – Jan. 1

Youth: Oct. 29-30, Jan. 7-8

#### **Western North Carolina (Sunday hunting with firearms prohibited)**

Watauga and Ashe Counties

Muzzleloading: Nov. 5-18

Gun: Nov. 19 – Jan. 2

#### **Other Western NC Counties**

Muzzleloading: Oct. 3-15

Gun: Nov. 21- Dec. 10

#### **Southwest Virginia (Sunday hunting prohibited)**

Muzzleloading: Nov. 5-18, Dec. 17 – Jan. 7

Gun: Nov. 19 – Dec. 3

Hikers should note the prohibitions on Sunday hunting in Virginia and North Carolina. Also worth consideration is national park lands such as the Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Cumberland Gap; state parks such as Warrior's Path, Roan Mountain, and Breaks Interstate; and city parks such as Bays and Buffalo Mountain. Many of these parks border land where hunting is permitted and the borders aren't always evident; Hampton Creek Cove Natural Area and Buffalo Mountain Park are good examples. Some Virginia state parks, including Grayson Highlands, Natural Tunnel, and Hungry Mother, allow some hunting; hikers wishing to visit those parks in the fall are encouraged to contact the park offices. Hunting is permitted along the Appalachian Trail within national forests and it is lawful to hunt from the Trail itself. During hunting season, hikers are urged to wear blaze orange. Packs often cover a hiker's back, so a cap and orange ribbons tied to the pack in addition to an orange jacket or vest are encouraged. If you bring your dog, it should wear orange too. Hiking groups tend to cause more commotion than a lone hiker and hiking with others is strongly encouraged in areas where hunting is permitted. Be especially careful the first few days of the season.

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## TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-34– Deuter Futura Vario 50 + 10

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### *Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator reporting*



As the final equipment purchase for 2011, the club obtained a German-designed backpack that has load compression - like an internal frame, but a more [open back ventilation system](#) like an external - which is important for our hot summer days. Its carrying volume of 3050 cubic inches (50 liters) is good for a reasonable baseload plus the lid collar expands to provide another 915 ci (10 liters) for food and consumables. With the same load capacity, its weight of 4 lb, 10 oz is right at the Kelty Tornado (HB-2/3) and 3/4th lb lighter than the Vaude Accept (HB-31/32) backpacks. The frame is easily adjusted to fit 15"-22" torsos. An on-line video about this specific backpack can be seen [here](#). The club was able to pick it up for \$189 with free shipping plus TN sales tax.

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## Camping Equipment Needed for Disadvantaged Youth Program

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### *Deb Reynolds reporting*

Kingsport's 1<sup>st</sup> through 5th grade boys have the opportunity to camp with a Cub Scout program solely dedicated to serving disadvantaged youth. It's funded by the Kingsport Housing & Redevelopment Authority and the Boy Scouts of America. Sponsors also include the Boys & Girls Club who provides a place for them to meet on a weekly basis. The next two months are filled with

camping for these kids (some of which have never camped in their lives)! But, with over 100 kids, we lack the supplies to go camping. Could you possibly get rid of a sleeping bag, camp chair, round charcoal grill, camping tables, pop up gazebo, or cooking utensils? Whether it's been sitting in your garage for years, or you just bought it to help us, we'll be glad to accept your generous donation! These kids would love to have this experience, and I would love to offer it to them. Please contact me if you can help, whether it's supplies, or a monetary donation- Anything is greatly appreciated!!! You can drop off the equipment at the Boy Scout office at 129 Boone Ridge Road (Boone's Creek Exit off I26). For more info contact [Heather Suess](#) at 423-943-7050.

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Oct 8	Elk Knob	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
Oct 15	Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
Oct 21	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting	Ian Powell	<a href="mailto:chair@tehcc.org">chair@tehcc.org</a>
Oct 23	Tough Mudder Virginia	Kevin Barham	<a href="mailto:kbarham@eastman.com">kbarham@eastman.com</a>

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## Details on Upcoming Events

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### 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](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)) for dates and meeting places.

#### Tuesdays Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon (J.A.W.), APEs, and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool in Johnson City, TN from 7:10 to 9:10 pm every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking 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 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.

## Scheduled Events

### Elk Knob - Saturday, October 8, 2011

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

Trail 4 miles round trip with 1000 ft elevation gain

North of Boone are some high but seldom visited mountains sometimes referred to as the Amphibolite Mountains, for the hard, alkaline rock that underlies them. The alkaline soil and high elevations create a habitat that harbors a large number of rare plants, with some species reaching their highest population density along the rocky cliffs and mountain bogs in this area. That scenery and biodiversity, coupled with a lack of public land, has led to land trusts working to preserve areas within these mountains such as Bluff Mountain and Long Hope Valley. One such area is Elk Knob State Park. In 2002, 5540' Elk Knob was purchased by The Nature Conservancy and later conveyed to the State of North Carolina as first a natural area, then a state park. Initially the summit could be reached by a very steep gravel road, but some excellent trail construction work has resulted in completion of a new, hardened sidehill trail not unlike the A. T. heading up Round Bald. The new trail leads 2 miles to the top of Elk Knob which has two very nice overlooks, one at the summit looking north towards Mt. Rogers and the Grayson Highlands and one a little below the top looking south towards Grandfather and Roan Mountains. Though this is a great wildflower hike with many trillium in early May and Gray's lilies and flame azalea in June, the Club's first hike of Elk Knob will be a fall color hike. We'll meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank on Saturday, October 8 at 8:30. We'll have a pretty but curvy drive through Blountville and across Holston and Iron Mountains to Mountain City, then continue to Trade where gravel Rich Mountain Road crosses a high gap between Rich and Snake Mountains and deposits us near 4500' Pottertown Gap, the entrance to Elk Knob State Park. We'll take time to enjoy the woods along the way, the views and lunch at the top, and should be back to Kingsport by 4:00 pm. The hike is suitable for children; families are encouraged. Bring lunch, water, and layers of clothing including rain gear as October in the high country can be unpredictable. For more information or to sign up, please contact Joe.

### Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower – Saturday, October 15, 2011

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#) (423-239-0388)

Rating: Moderate 8 mile round trip hike with 1400 ft elevation gain

This will be a leaf peeper hike to an observation platform up on the Buffalo Mountain ridgeline. Let's take the new forest service trail up to the highpoint. The old fire tower has been refurbished to now be a lookout point for the rolling mountain ranges. This could be peak weekend for fall color.

Meet in Colonial Heights at 8:30AM to carpool for half hour drive to the trailhead at I-26 Exit 32 Unicoi. Bring a sack lunch, water, clothing appropriate for the weather, camera, and trekking poles as desired. For more information, check the [trail wiki](#) or call the hike leader.

### Tough Mudder of Wintergreen, VA – Sunday, October 23, 2011

Contact: [Kevin Barham](#)

Part hiking, part running, part obstacle course; Tough Mudder is not your average lame mud run or spirit-crushing 'endurance' road race. It is Ironman meets Burning Man. The 10-mile obstacle course was designed by British Special Forces to test all-around strength, stamina, mental grit, and camaraderie. Forget finish times. Simply completing a Tough Mudder is a badge of honor. All Tough Mudder sponsorship proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project. For additional information please see the [event website](#). If you are interested, curious, or maybe a little crazy, contact [Kevin Barham](#).



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## For the Record

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### Friday Hikers: Holston Mountain, September 2, 2011

*Bob Harvey reporting*

This hike started and ended at the upper end of an access road on the crest of Holston Mountain. We walked a mile on a Forest Service road to Holston High Knob, elevation 4145 feet, where there once was a fire tower. The steel structure is still there, but there's no cabin on top. Certain brave members of the group went all the way up to the top. When they returned, they reported that South Holston Lake could be seen through the haze.

The hike in the woods began near the base of the tower and went along the crest of Holston Mountain. The grade was mainly a gentle descent, except for three short but steep downhill grades; the worst being the approach to Flint Mill Gap. At the gap we took

a trail, a little less than a half-mile, to a splendid lookout point called Flint Rock. We arrived at noon and after taking in the views we ate lunch. From here, there was another view of South Holston Lake, but haze limited the visibility to just a few miles.

Back at Flint Mill Gap, acting on the advice of new member, Jane Anderson Haynes, we walked back to the cars via Flint Mill Road, a logging road that paralleled the crest trail but at a lower elevation and on an even grade. Late in the morning, about twenty minutes before we got to Flint Mill gap, we caught sight of a mother bear with two cubs. We didn't see them long, though, because as soon as they caught sight of us, they headed down the south side of the mountain at great speed.

We hiked a total distance of about 7.5 miles.

Close to the foot of the mountain on the access road is the trail to Blue Hole, a short stretch of Mill Creek that has three small waterfalls, the second of which has a deep pool, the Blue Hole. We stopped briefly to walk down to the creek. Because of the dry weather the falls weren't spectacular.

The hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Bob Harvey, first-timer Jane Anderson Haynes, Carol Idol, Steve Kasten and Larry Miller.

### **Friday Hikers: Loop Hike from Indian Grave Gap, September 9, 2011**

*Bob Harvey reporting*

This hike was a loop hike that began and ended at Indian Grave Gap. The weather was almost ideal; no rain, clear air, occasional sunshine, and a moderate temperature. The first part was one-third mile down the paved road into North Carolina to a point where we left the road and went down Shinbone Creek. The creek is sometimes a formidable obstacle, but this time the flow was so low, we made the five crossings with no trouble. Leaving Shinbone, the trail is on an old unused road that runs along the edge of Nolichucky River gorge with little change in elevation. The highlight of the hike was probably the lowest place we got to all day; on the edge of a cliff that looked down on the river, almost 900 feet below. The view was so excellent that we decided to stay and eat lunch, in spite of its being such an early hour. Continuing on the hike after lunch we had an easy time of it until we got to the BIG ONE --- an unrelieved climb of over a mile to the top of Unaka Mountain. However, when we were a little over halfway up, we found a logging road that both Jane Haynes and Steve Kasten remembered from earlier hikes as a better way to the top of the mountain; so we went that way. Once on top, we walked a short distance on the Forest Service road, took a crossover trail to the Appalachian Trail, and then went on to the beginning at Indian Grave Gap.

Steve estimated from his GPS figures that we hiked a total of 9.4 miles. The hikers were Wilford Corbin, Bob Harvey, Jane Anderson Haynes, Steve Kasten, Larry Miller, Jerry Sluder and Lowell Toof.

### **French Broad Paddle Tour around Biltmore, September 11, 2011**

*Deb Reynolds reporting*

September 11 is a memorable day for many reasons and a small group of us chose to relish the country we live in by a lazy 7-mile paddle down the French Broad in Asheville, NC. As none of us had ever been on this section of river, Jamie Aiello found the Asheville Outdoor Center who provides shuttles up to the Brent Creek area. All five of us had our own kayaks, so we paid the \$14 fee for our gear to be loaded, transported, unloaded and launched. We would take out at the Center's site just 7 miles below. The day was perfect with a few clouds and temperatures in the mid 70's. I enjoyed the scenery and conversation so much that I forgot to take pictures, sorry. I knew we would paddle around Biltmore and those of us who looked saw a wonderful view of the house and the new hotel. I didn't realize that they have their own riding center and kayak tours until we stopped for lunch at an ideal point with a small boat launch. Right above the river, we found what appeared to be a horse trailer parking lot. We were joined by a van bringing two kayakers for their 3-mile trip and found we were trespassing. (Beware of the ride side of the river; most of it is Biltmore.) Right before take-out we found a park that we could use as a take-out for future trips, eliminating the need for a paid shuttle. The river was relatively low and at a few points, I wish I had my HDPE Perception instead of the composite based Hurricane Tampico. However with some close attention and some quick paddling I was able to avoid the few rocks and had only one or two close encounters with the shoals. I recommend this trip as an annual event, especially if you have family visiting who are not up to the excitement of the lower or upper Nolichucky. If you don't have kayaks or canoes, AOC provides sit on top kayaks, shorter recreational kayaks, canoes and some tandems of all. Fee with gear and shuttle is \$38/person. In attendance were: Jamie (leader) and Paul Aiello, Kathy and Eric Noblet, and Deb Reynolds.

### **Friday Hikers: The Chimneys, September 16, 2011**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We hiked from US 441 to almost the top of The Chimneys in the Smokies, about 4 miles round trip with a 1700-foot climb. We had lots of company on a comfortably cool day. The Park Service has closed off the relatively safe route beside the bushes and insists on the straight rock climb for the last 100 feet or so. We opted to skip that last section. We had great views down into the cloud-filled valley and enjoyed seeing a lot of huge trees, featuring old buckeye. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.



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## AT Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/20/2011

**Purpose:** Move gravel to Engine Gap

**Location:** Section 14b, Round Bald to Engine Gap

**People:** Donna Ashby, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Matt Boone, Ken Buchanan, Joe DeLoach, Ray Douglas, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Gerald Scott, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, "Roman Wall", Jose Garrido, Maddie Payne, Darcy Vanderhoof, Ian Batts, Samantha Huppe, Anne Greeley, Nicole Porter, Catherine Shachtman, Emery Bencini, Katherine Anderson, Alayna Herron, Chris Hannah, Darin Hallman, Molly Frye, Alexander Harper, Sam Avery-Quinn, John Zaleski, Bruce Thomas, Tyler Grant, Dana Epstein, Parker Arnold, David Dyaniant, Jordan Sellers, Ben Atherholf, Josh Blanco, Chris Daley, Kathryn Claflin, Michael Cheeseman, Kelsey Thomas, Madison Fox, Johnna Reisner, Urahn Thomas, Kayla Capps, Madison Poulter, Nathan Hill, Tyler Canney, Will Rutledge, Erin Cooner, Kelsey Mitchell, Elizabeth Ottain, Holly Ambler, Michael Martin, Peter N.A., Emily Rubyn, Austin Flynn, Alfred Black, Taylor Williams, Kinzie Stanley, Maggie Buchanan, Kaitlyn Smith, Daniel Smith, William Loitigs, Tiffany McClure, Cameron Keener, Mariah Webber, James Chatham, Christie Horowski, Colin Moore, Courtney Herstek, Tia Dastek, Jacelyn Hunt, Amber Hazelwood, Kayla Morris, Emily Wolschlag, Phillip Marley, Ashely Green, Abigail Pittman, Jessica Morales-Dotson, Patrick Sidlovsky, Shannon Trudeau, Stevie Ray Wonder, Nicholas McCarty, Hannah Bendfeldt, Jason Routian, Brandon Snyder, Sean Whitfield, Max Pott, Michael Barton, Emma Speckman, Russell Bomer, David Huntley, Bud Gerber

**Summary:** Dave Huntley brought the freshman orientation group from Watauga Global Community College of Appalachian State University. This was their eleventh consecutive year of doing a trail project with TEHCC! Eighty-two students and professors showed up. With great enthusiasm they bucketed about twelve tons of gravel from a pile down the steeper hill towards Engine Gap. With the great turn out of club members and friends, we were able to complete the rebuilding of this section of trail. Some of the club members finished the gravel compacting with a motorized compactor.

**Reporting:** Bill Hodge

**Date:** 8/26/2011

**Purpose:** Cut annual growth

**Location:** Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Bill Hodge, Scotty Bowman, Brent Martin, Stephen Eren

**Summary:** Four of us from SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards) worked on the AT between the Vandeventer and Iron Mountain Shelters. We spent Thursday working on brushing key areas between the two shelters where annual vegetation is a problem, spent the night at Iron Mountain and then hiked out. Since we had brushed this stretch fairly thoroughly back in June, there was not much work needed. We worked on the greenbrier in the two significant gaps (Turkey Pen and the one with the large campsite). The trail between Wilbur Dam Road and Cross Mountain is in pretty good shape. A couple areas between Iron Mountain Shelter and Cross Mountain could use a little brushing, but really nothing significant. Also, two trees are down. One looks brand new and is about 75 yards south of TN 91. The other is between the Grindstaff Memorial and Iron Mountain Shelter and is fairly large. Hikers have started to wear a path around that one. The water sources are pretty much dry across this whole 17-mile stretch; a little bit is left at the Vandeventer source. Stephen Eren, the SAWS Wilderness Ranger, inventoried the campsites in the existing wilderness.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 9/1/2011

**Purpose:** Flag relocation and finish the biological survey of Backbone Rock Trail

**Location:** Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Kim Peters, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Kim and I assisted the USFS biologist in surveying the proposed relocations on the Backbone Rock trail. I also flagged another small relocation which completed the project. There were no rare plants found that required moving the flag line.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/7/2011

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, South of Cloudland

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, "Otto"

**Summary:** We worked on a relocation on the Tennessee side. There was a lot of duff and many rock cribs were needed. The weather was cool and just right for digging. It will take another good day to finish this relocation.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/7/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap south

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We checked the condition of the trail, removed small branches, repaired a small section of treadway, cleaned one waterbar, and picked up trash on trail and at the trail head.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/7/2011

**Purpose:** Check condition of trail

**Location:** Section 18, Deep Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We placed water signs at Deep Gap, cut weeds to spring, and found that Beauty Spot Gap needed mowing. Beauty Spot had been mowed. We removed trash from these three spots and at the trail head at Indian Grave Gap.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/9/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We removed four trees from the trail, the largest being about 18 inches in diameter, cleaned some water bars, reset two trail marker poles and picked up trash in the orchard. We removed a large cherry tree that had fallen over the spring at the orchard, lopped along the trail, and mowed the trail heads at Iron Mountain Gap. The Apple Orchard had been mowed.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 9/10/2011

**Purpose:** 2013 AT Biennial Conference Planning

**Location:** Western Carolina University

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri

**Summary:** TEHCC will be responsible for workshops at the 2013 AT Biennial Conference to be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. Steve and Joe are on the Conference Planning Committee which met to inspect the site and locations for the various meeting activities and to discuss the conference plans. We'll begin soliciting for workshop presenters this fall. We welcome help, especially from someone with interest in connecting to younger audiences through outreach such as social media.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/12/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Wayne Jones, Ernie Hartford, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cut 11 trees, the largest about 36 inches in diameter, cleaned some water bars, lopped small limbs, and removed large overhanging limbs. We repaired treadway near where the trees fell and picked up trash at Cherry Gap Shelter and Low Gap campsite. Water at the shelter springs is running, but at a low volume.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/13/2011

**Purpose:** Dig Relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, South of Cloudland

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, "Otto", "Hop"

**Summary:** We were able to finish digging a second relo. We only have about 14 more to go between Cloudland and Ash Gap. But oh what a difference the improvements are making in the trail!

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 9/17/2011

**Purpose:** Shelter survey, general shelter clean-up

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

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Anna Sherrill

**Summary:** We completed the shelter survey and took the requested photos. Also we picked up trash, shoveled out the fire ring, and placed a new trail journal.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 9/20/2011

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Shook Branch to last campsite

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I cut one blowdown, trimmed weeds, and hauled out two large bags of trash from around campsites.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/20/2011

**Purpose:** Dig relocation and scout Round Bald

**Location:** South of Cloudland and Round Bald

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, "Otto"

**Summary:** Several of us checked out the need for gravel on Round Bald while the others pounded on a major boulder below Cloudland. By the end of the day they were about two thirds around that major obstacle. We also cut out three more relocations and flagged them for the outing with ASU Trail Crew.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** 9/22/2011

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

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

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I checked the section, cut laurels growing into the trail, cut out a few blowdowns and cleaned out a few waterbars. This section is now in good condition for southbounders.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 9/22/2011

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to 1/2 mile north of Iron Mountain Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We cut and removed three blowdowns from the trail and cutback annual growth as needed.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/24/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Deep Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed the trail in Beauty Spot Gap, mowed the trail to the spring and the AT at Deep Gap, and mowed a small section at the north end of Beauty Spot. We picked up trash at all three locations and at Indian Grave Gap. Beauty Spot Gap has not been mowed this year.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 9/24/2011, for work completed in March 2011

**Purpose:** Eagle Scout Project - Bear Pole Installation

**Location:** Section 8, Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Seth Douthat, Leland Flanagan, Nick Barrett, Dale Douthat, Sam Douthat, Carri Flanagan, Dylan McCracken, Jeff Douthat, Josh Douthat, Greg Vogel, Brian Shone, Nico Lorch, Samuel Robinette, Brian Lorch, Donnie Clendenin, Claude Hart, Cris Kedera

**Summary:** On September 24, Seth Douthat was named an Eagle Scout for this project, the first food storage device on the TEHCC Appalachian Trail section. To protect hikers and wildlife, a bear resistant food pole was installed at Watauga Lake Shelter. The pole was constructed in two pieces by the US Forest Service. It was then modified, primed and painted. The pole was floated across the lake and carried to the shelter. After a hole was dug, it was assembled and concreted in the ground. The ground around the pole was



leveled to allow easy access. To help hikers understand its use, the message "Beware of bears, Hang food" was stenciled on the pole. As part of the project, the crew cleared the trail to the water source and improved the water source to make it easier for hikers to retrieve water. This included lining the pool with rocks to prevent the banks from caving in and providing a deeper pool of water.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/26/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Low Gap to FS230 Switchback

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Wayne Jones

**Summary:** This crew cut five trees from the trail, lopped overhanging branches, and cleared small limbs from the trail.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/26/2011

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, FS230 to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Lou Haase, Jerry Jones, Jerry Mayne, Lana Scott, Susan Peters, Daryl Loyd, Jim Robertson, Dave McMillin, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cut four trees from across the trail, lopped low branches and removed branches from the trail, cleaned water bars, and picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 9/26/2011

**Purpose:** AT Committee Meeting

**Location:** Eastman, Bldg 310

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

**Summary:** Hughes Gap to Cloudland work is progressing slowly due to mix of roots, rocks and duff near top of relo. Three of 18 sections are complete and open. Next year we should have Konnarock work on the lower end near Hughes Gap for 3 weeks and 1 week for Round Bald Gravel project. Roan gravel work this year went well. Equipment did the job with minimal damage. TEHCC will return left over funds to ATC. In 2012 we'll likely use crusher run, whereas this year we used a mixed gravel and rock for the section in Engine Gap. We'll need ~30 logs and maybe 70-80 tons of gravel. We have an active relo list of projects being worked on, approved, and in line for the USFS to approve. We'll review these at the Oct 12th Partnership Meeting at 1:00 in Unicoi. We have lost contact with a volunteer that asked about possibly working on the Koonford Bridge replacement. We need to review the more recent design from the USFS and ATC, and discuss manpower requirements and funding. Dave Hardy from GMC might be a person who has skills to manage the project. Our long range shelter plan is to request removal of Apple House shelter and consider tent pads in this area; possibly remove Stan Murray Shelter and perhaps renovate Cherry Gap Shelter in 2013. Biennial plans are underway for 2013 at UWC in Cullowhee. TEHCC will coordinate workshops and have thus far identified potential classrooms for venue. The USFS recently announced they had acquired a piece of property near the AT across from Buck Mt Church near Buck Mt Road. This piece gives a larger buffer zone adjacent to the AT on the north side of the trail. We need to discuss options for firming up the accessible trail on the Osborne tract with the USFS and ATC. Funds might be available to purchase gravel this year and maybe we can stash the gravel near the road access until it is completely used up. The committee discussed ideas of how to recruit new volunteers. Kim has a lot of ideas and will lead a committee to get trail leaders to lead additional trips. TVA has a new notification system to inform the public when the water will be released from dams; TEHCC and ATC should find out from TVA how the system works and where alert can be heard.

**Reporting:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** 9/27/2011

**Purpose:** Check and maintain trail

**Location:** Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to Spring

**People:** Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock

**Summary:** We cut weeds and cleaned water bars, and cleaned the water area at the spring. The water is NOT flowing at the spring, but there is some water in the basin. Overall, the trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** 9/28/2011

**Purpose:** Improve old blue-blaze along creek

**Location:** Section 12a, Laurel Fork creek

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I dug the side bank out about 150 feet, improving the treadway of the old blue-blaze trail running along creek spur trail connecting to the AT.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 09/28/2011

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, South of Cloudland

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Ray Douglas, Carl Fritz, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We tackled the short relo which had a major boulder. Gray Buckles brought a rock drill. Unfortunately, the machine had a mechanical problem. Meanwhile, the crew installed a number of rock steps at bottom of relo and on the old trail. The top part of trail is also roughed out. Ken set us to work on the boulder with sledges and wedges again. The use of his homemade feathers made a huge difference. The boulder split into the ground about two feet. Once we removed some rock steps and crib rocks, it could be pushed over. It became a step and trail where it landed. Trail is now three feet wide at that point, rather than 14 inches with a boulder pushing you off the trail.

**Splitting and "Placing" the Boulder – Photos by Brian Paley**



1. Splitting the rock



2. Preparing the base



3. Going...



4. Going...



5. Down.



6. The new step!

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**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**  
**Fall Dinner Meeting**  
**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

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**Reservation Form**

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Ian Powell**.

Within Eastman send to:  
Ian Powell, Building 54D

Outside Eastman send to:  
Ian Powell  
453 Eric Ct  
Blountville, TN 37617

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 **10/18/2011**

Names of all attending (*please print*)

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

Number of Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending without meal reservation: \_\_\_\_\_