



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2011

tehcc.org

In this Issue

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

[2012 Steering Committee Election](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities on the Appalachian Trail](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Fall Dinner Meeting

The Fall Dinner meeting was held on October 21st with our featured speaker Tony Scales. Tony is a local author from Big Stone Gap, VA, who has extensive experience in mining and geology. Tony has written books titled "The Breaks: The Grand Canyon of the South" and "Natural Tunnel: Nature's Marvel in Stone;" and is working on a third book covering Cumberland Gap. Tony provided a great deal of historical context and stories involving people intertwined with his talk. Special enhanced imaging revealed that these three areas have interesting geomorphology in common. Attendees had an opportunity to purchase Tony's books after the meeting.



*Seth Douthat receives award for Eagle Scout Project
L/R Steve Perri, Seth Douthat, Vern Maddux, Reuben Potter, Andrew Downs*

The dinner was followed by a number of special presentations made by TEHCC, ATC, and Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO). Seth Douthat was presented with a certificate and club patch for installing a bear pole at Watauga Lake Shelter as his Eagle Scout project. Fourteen people were recognized for their sweat equity with Konnarock this year with 4 days of volunteer work. The following individuals were recognized with special designed t-shirts for their commitment: Bob Peoples, Paul Benfield, Ray Otto Douglas, Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery, John Beaudet, Carl Fritz, George Thorpe, Jim Foster, Kim Peters, David LaPorte, Donna Ashby, and Tim Stewart. The Appalachian Trail Park Office has a volunteer recognition program to acknowledge volunteers who have contributed volunteer time to the stewardship of the AT. Volunteers are recognized in increments of 100 hours with a patch, 500 hours with a cap, and 1,000 hours with a fleece vest. Those volunteers recognized for 100 hours were: George

Thorpe, John Beaudet, Ernie Hartford, Carl Kincheloe, Bill Hodge, Anne Maio, Michael Laude, Janel Scharhag, Donna Ashby, Mike Glassom, Gerald Scott, Gether Irick, Rick Foster, Dave Clark, David LaPorte, Lamar Powell, Jeff Hunter, Brian Satterwhite, and Roman Wall. Those who have achieved at least 500 hours were: Daryel Anderson, Richard Carter, Ray "Otto" Douglas, Bill Murdoch, and Marsha Hupko. And those individuals who have accumulated more than 1,000 hours were Howard Guinn and Collins Chew.

TEHCC had a special opportunity to nominate Bruce Cunningham for the ATPO Golden Service Award for 50 years of voluntary service. The award was actually presented in July by Pam Underhill at the biennial conference at Emory and Henry College. Joe DeLoach accepted the award at the conference on behalf of Bruce; and so the award was presented to Bruce on this evening with the assistance of Andrew Downs from ATC and Vern Maddux and Reuben Potter from the USFS.

We'd like to extend our appreciation to Mahoney's for supporting the meeting with a wide variety of outdoor gear they brought to display at the meeting.



*Bruce Cunningham receives Golden Service Award
L/R Andrew Downs, Bruce Cunningham, Vern Maddux, Ruben Potter*

2012 Steering Committee Election

It's time to vote for the leaders of the TEHCC! You will be voting on three new Steering Committee members who will serve a 2 year term ending at end of year 2013. The four candidates and their bios are given below. Non-Eastman employees/retirees are not eligible to vote. **The deadline for voting is November 25th.** Results will be announced in the December newsletter.

Vote for three candidates

Eastman Employees, click [HERE](#) to vote!

Eastman Retirees, vote via [email](#) or call Ian at 423-229-5974 and leave a voicemail.

Mary F. Fanslow

Mary is an associate information scientist in Library and Information Services and has been with Eastman since 1984. She previously served on the steering committee in the early 2000s. She is a Girl Scout leader who encourages the girls to experience the outdoors. Her troop has come to several Hiking Club dinners and provided decorations. The Roan is her favorite place. She has visited the Alps, the Black Forest and the Carpathians, but the Roan is still at the top of her list. She enjoys hiking and jogging and says she recently completed the Haunted Half Marathon disguised as a runner.

Barry W. Griggs

Barry is a mechanical engineer in Project Engineering, Technology Support Services, Technology Division. He has been at Eastman for 35 years. He loves being outdoors in God's creation and has been an avid runner and hiker for many years. He really enjoys day hikes and section hikes on the AT. He is married to Beverly Griggs and they have a daughter, Jill, who is a speech pathologist and a son, John, who is a freshman at UT Knoxville. Barry and his son were involved in scouting for several years. They enjoy hiking together and exploring caves, especially going on wild cave tours. The highlight of his hiking adventures came last summer when we spent two weeks visiting and hiking in ten western national parks.

Rick Lott

Rick is a chemist in the Specialty Chemicals Process Improvement group in Bldg 231. He has been with the company 31 years and is originally from Norfolk, VA. He has worked in Kingsport and formerly at the Arkansas site. Rick was on the steering committee a number of years ago and has been a maintainer over many years. He enjoys getting outdoors whenever he can. Rick is also a USFS certified sawyer.

Marc G. Schurger

Marc Schurger, Director Sustainability Issues Management, has been with Eastman for over 32 years, spending virtually all his time in various health, safety and environmental positions. Marc has enjoyed both the wet and dry outdoors his entire life. He started hiking and camping at an early age with Boy Scouts. He guided canoe trips in the Boundary Waters. With his sons he has paddled and/or camped in the Everglades, in the Maine wilderness and closer to home on the AT. Marc has served on the steering committee before and co-presented the 2010 Fall dinner meeting program. He estimates that he has spent well over a year of his life camping out.

Volunteer Opportunities on the Appalachian Trail

TEHCC proudly maintains 135 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail from Damascus, Virginia to Spivey Gap in North Carolina. This huge task is only possible because of our dedicated volunteers. Currently our 135 miles of trail is divided into 34 maintenance sections varying in length from about 1 mile to 7 miles. We always have a need for volunteers to take a trail section. We have recently lost a couple of section maintainers, so some of these sections currently lack a maintainer. Section maintainers are responsible for painting blazes, trimming back yearly growth, cutting weeds, cleaning waterbars, and cutting out blowdowns. It would be wonderful to have more maintainers so we could increase the number of sections and reduce the length of some sections. Projects that are too large for the section maintainers are handled by special crews, so no one ever has to take on a project larger than they are comfortable with.

It isn't even necessary to wield a Pulaski, scythe or saw to participate. How about monitoring one of our sixteen shelters? Shelters are a popular hike destination, so how about doing a little maintenance while you are there? Currently, maintenance of most of our sixteen shelters is assigned to whoever has responsibility of that trail section. In order to reduce the work load of the section maintainer, it is highly desirable for a person or group of people to act as shelter monitors and to check on the shelter several times during the hiking season. Some tasks for the shelter monitor include: checking for leaks and the general condition of the shelter, log book replacement, minor trash pickup, checking the water source condition, etc. If any condition is found that the shelter monitor cannot correct, other volunteers can be called upon to help fix the condition.

If you would like more information about these opportunities or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Peters at atmaint@tehcc.org or call at 423-538-7665.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Derek Hickernell	Sherman Cox
Steven Marshall	Amanda Clark
Danny Morrow	Scott Kilgore
David Jenkins	David Cassell
Richard Eaton	Denise Fabozzi

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 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

AT Maintenance Opportunity, Saturday, November 19, 2011

Leader: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

The ASU Trail Crew is going to join us for this Saturday outing. We will plan to dig side hill relocation on the south side of Pond Mountain. Put it on your calendar and come join us for a fun outing. Watch for an update from me as we get within a few days of the event. We will run our normal car pooling locations and times.

- Carl's House at 8 AM
- Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor in Johnson City at 8:20 AM
- Hampton Blue Line Trailhead at 9 AM

Please let me know if you plan to come and where you would like to meet.



For the Record

Friday Hikers: Looking Glass Rock, September 30, 2011

Larry Miller reporting

The Looking Glass Rock hike was great, sunny, 70°. The trail climbed about 1,700 feet in just over three miles, 6.5 miles roundtrip, which took us 5 hours with plenty of rest stops and a long leisurely lunch at the top. I would call it a strenuous hike. The first mile or so started off following a stream with some small cascades along the way. The trail here was wide, with a gentle grade and smooth walking surface. The next mile or so was a series of switchbacks up the mountain. The trail had narrowed to one-person wide, but the surface was still good. After about two miles the trail reached a flat rock area which is used as a helicopter pad by the local rescue squad for injured rock climbers. This was our spot for lunch #1. A spur trail past the helipad led to Lower Looking Glass Cliffs which provided excellent views of the mountains. We ran into a local and without him guiding us we would have never found the spur trail. From there to the top, the trail was, for me anyway, extremely strenuous due to many natural made steps ranging six inches to two feet high. Roots crossed the trail and the clay dirt past each root on the downhill side had eroded out by water flowing down the trail. The trail had narrowed significantly, was rocky (both small and large), and was steep (straight up, nary a switchback). This part of the trail took us through tunnels of rhododendron and mountain laurel. Once we reached the summit, the trail started going down steep (huh!). But just a few feet down the trail, we came out in the open on top of the big cliff. The view of the mountains from both the lower and upper cliffs was outstanding. Up on the mountains above us we could see a couple of little spots of the Blue Ridge Parkway. After we got back down, we drove up to the Parkway and out to the Looking Glass overlook. From there we could see the entire dome and the cliffs we had been on earlier. The Parkway roundtrip, driving and looking, took about an hour and a half (plenty of looking time and rest). Once we got back down to the bottom, we decided to go over to DuPont Park. Round trip it took us one hour. There had been an old DuPont plant there, hence the name of the park. The old plant site is still fenced off; it's hard to say what contamination is there. Steve had hiked there before. There are many waterfalls there, some short-walking distance and some intermediate distances. Steve said all trails were in good shape. It seemed strange to have so many waterfalls in what seemed to be pretty flat country. Starting and ending the drive to DuPont we found an excellent ice cream stand and had milk shakes. I had one going and coming. I'm addicted to chocolate milkshakes; can't have just one. The drive from Kingsport to the trailhead took us two hours, with excellent roads from the interstate to the trailhead. We left Kingsport at 8 and got back at 8. We took our time and piddled a lot. Hey, we're retired. Ate at Burger King on the way home. Hikers were Steve Kasten and Larry Miller.

Friday Hikers: Roan High Knob, October 7, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had beautiful weather for our hike over Roan High Knob on the AT, 5.8 miles with several new relocations and the side trip to the shelter and mountain summit. Several switchbacks have been added to improve the trail between Hughes Gap and the old Hotel site. Several more are planned, but we measured it as it is now to improve accuracy of next year's AT Data Book. I was startled to see full leaf color at mid-elevations and bare trees above about 5,500 feet. Hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Patty Jo Nachman, Patty, Jerry Sluder, Sonya, and Collins Chew.

Elk Knob, October 8, 2011

Joe DeLoach reporting

"O suns and skies and clouds of June
And flowers of June together
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather"

Although June is a great time to hike, especially when azalea and rhododendron are blooming, as this first stanza of Helen Hunt Jackson's poem indicates, it's hard to beat a pretty fall day. We were far from the only people who've discovered North Carolina's new Elk Knob State Park, not far north of Boone. The new trail of 1.8 miles to the summit has been completed, and features great views from two overlooks, one looking north and one south. From the southern view on our clear day it was easy to pick out Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains, almost 50 miles away. The 1000' climb is easy to moderate (at most) thanks to skillful trail design and intensive construction, using gravel over geotextile as we've used on Round Bald. The fall colors were brilliant on the drive over Holston and Iron Mountains, less so on Elk Knob. Elk Knob at 5560' elevation is dominated by a beech forest, and beech just turns kind of brown. Club members are encouraged to hike this trail, with spring flowers in early May and azalea and Gray's lilies in mid-June providing good seasons in addition to fall. Our hikers included first-timer Monika Wiedmann, Serita Blankenbecler, Donna Ashby, and Joe DeLoach.

Friday Hikers: AT - Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap, October 14, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, if breezy, day for our hike on the AT from Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap. Half the group made the planned hike of 7.6 miles round trip to Deep Gap with the others making longer or shorter hikes for various reasons. The leaf color was similar to last week with more green low, beautiful color at mid-elevations and mostly bare trees high. We were in good color areas. Distant views were nice also. Several other hikers were out. Hikers were Olin Babb, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Allan Newland, Jerry Sluder, Lowell Toof and Collins Chew.

Pinnacle Mountain Tower Trail - Saturday, October 15, 2011

Vic Hasler reporting



Pinnacle Mountain Observation Tower

The new USFS #25 trail winds from I-26 Exit 32 at Unicoi up 4.7 miles with a steady 6% grade to reach the fire tower, now completely renovated as an observation platform. This day was peak for fall color and crisp weather. The hike up took two hours as the group moved along. The 360 degree view from the platform includes Clinch, Green, Roan, Buffalo, and other mountain ranges ablaze with color from the hardwoods. I had to hold onto lunch containers as the wind occasionally gushed. The group was introduced to geocaching by finding a container. On the way back down (1.75 hrs), mountain bikers and other hikers were passed. Today's hiking group consisted of Barry Griggs, Monika Wiedmann, Vic and Clark Hasler.

This hike is recommended on a clear day for the views. The trail route has been uploaded to the club's [trail wiki](#) with other information.



Clark Hasler with Stone and Roan Mountains in background

Friday Hikers: Pinnacle Mountain, October 21, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, chilly day with good leaf color for our 8-mile climb of Pinnacle Mountain near Unicoi. Near the top we were joined by a large group from the Erwin Middle School Hiking Club. Views were great from the tower. Hikers were Olin Babb, Ken and Pat Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Ted Chew, Andrew Cleland, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Steve Kasten, George Privon, Susie Seiler, first timer Jane Whitson and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/1/2011

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 15b, Just north of Hughes Gap

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Joe DeLoach, Ray Douglas, Carl Fritz, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Joe Pyle, Brian Satterwhite; ASU TRAIL: Kelly Perkins, Alissa Young, Megan Northcote, Jeremy Hollenbeck, Christopher Sigman, Dan Woods, James Lautzenheiser, Jamie Buckley, Nick Smith, MJ O'Neal, Avery David, Eva Cooper, Jeremiah Bolick, Brittney Pauset, Jonathan Edelman, Annie Greeley, Barbara Moraes, Catherine Shachtman, Lia Poteet, Austin Poteet, Chris Griffith, Clint Mitchell

Summary: It must have been the first day of winter in the Roans! When we arrived at Cloudland it was 25 degrees with 20+ mph winds and snow. We thought it wiser to go to Hughes Gap where day time temperatures stayed in the 30s. The ASU Trail Crew and Club members persevered and dug 700 feet of trail.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 10/3/2011

Purpose: Mow AT on Osborne Farm

Location: Section 7a, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the Trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/4/2011

Purpose: Dig Relocation

Location: Section 15b, South of Cloudland

People: Paul Benfield, Ray Douglas, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: After a major portion of our Tuesday crew worked for three days, we were able to open a 70-foot relocation around a major boulder obstacle in the trail. It required about 20 steps. But what a success in the remaining ice left from the weekend!

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: 10/7/2011

Purpose: Measure relocations

Location: Section 15b, Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

People: Olin Babb, Cathy and Jerry Case, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Patty Jo Nachman, Patty, Jerry Sluder, Sonya

Summary: For the 2012 Data Book and the measure and map for the next edition of the AT Guide, we rolled and GPS'ed the trail to measure the length after 6 relocations. The trail is now 1.7 miles longer; a total of 6.5 miles from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 10/12/2011

Purpose: AT Partnership Meeting

Location: Unicoi District Ranger Office

People: Matt Fusco, Lynn DiFiore, Don Palmer, Brandon Jones, Tina Tilley, Joe McGuiness, Gray Buckles, Reuben Potter, Cheryl Summers, Terry Bowerman, Vern Maddux, Dave McFee, Andrew Downs, John Odell, Joe DeLoach, Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, Steve Perri

Summary: TEHCC held the Fall partnership meeting with ATC and the USFS in Unicoi on October 12th. TEHCC shared progress made on trail projects for 2011. In 2011 we had a record of 13,486 maintenance hours for the fiscal year. We discussed some of the projects undertaken this year with Konnarock, ASU students and Hardcore. The relo work on Beartown Mountain up to Cloudland is slow going; we'll use Konnarock time through at least 2012. The Round Bald gravel project went well this year; ASU students helped move 37 tons of gravel by buckets. Next year we'll need about 80 tons to complete the portion from Carvers Gap to the top of Round Bald. Overuse on top of Round Bald continues to be a problem with visitors walking off the trail. The plan for now is to not gravel any areas but the AT, even though visitors will likely continue to walk in areas where rare plants may be found. Increased education for visitors (maybe signs near Carvers Gap) needs to be considered to minimize wandering off the desired path (on-going discussions with SAHC and others).

There are 3 relos in the process of being approved for work in 2012: (1) Nolichucky relo, (2) Backbone Rock Trail, and (3) White Rocks (field work done, just needs to be written up). The USFS expects these to be approved in Spring 2012. TEHCC will likely do the Noli work in winter with Club labor and Backbone Rock with ASU in the Fall. A relo proposal soon to come from TEHCC to the USFS will bundle a proposal near Turkey Pen Gap and an area near TN 91. TEHCC had an Eagle Scout install a pole to store food at Watauga Lake shelter; we need to check the shelter log to see if this has reduced bear activity at the shelter. The Koonford bridge design was discussed based on a more recent design supplied by Lynn DiFiore (1935 design, locust ok). TEHCC lost the connection to the volunteer who expressed interest in this project from two years ago. We agreed to form a committee to prepare for the stages of specifying the design, materials, and labor (maybe contract) and providing a cost estimate (committee of Morgan, Lynn, Matt, Ed, and one other TEHCC member). TEHCC has a long-term shelter plan to renovate shelters, to repair them due to natural wear and tear, fix issues with design, and enlarge to accommodate a few more people. The new design will be more native or natural looking compared to cinder block materials from the 1960s. We also discussed the option of removing some shelters due to their declining state and/or proximity to the next nearest shelter or road. A request for consideration by TEHCC would need to go to the USFS and ATC to propose action/alternatives.

A significant problem with hikers (not sure whether thru-hikers or section hikers or whom) using the Roan bathrooms has resulted in massive over-use and in some cases plumbing problems when hikers have disconnected drain lines to take showers. Also, problems are occurring with hikers sleeping on tables and in bathrooms. A long-term plan to reduce inappropriate use by hikers is needed – perhaps thru signage, info in guidebooks/website message boards, etc, and or consideration of a Ridgerunner will help provide education/communication. The Osborne tract is slated for gravel with funds from ATC available this year. TEHCC can store gravel dumped near the old house site so that gravel can be dispersed either this fall or next spring. TEHCC can also get materials from USFS to complete accessible stile changes to install a swing gate.

We discussed open areas and prescribed burns. A review will be held with John Odell to look at recommendations for mowing open areas in 2012. Can Lot is the only burn on TEHCC section that might have an impact in 2012. Another burn is planned for area south of Bitter End, but this area has had burns previously. TEHCC and the Appalachian Ranger District will investigate rehab or reconstruction of fencing on Hump Mountain since more stimulus funds are available for balds management in Bradley Gap and on Hump. We are expecting funds from the TNLP will be available in 2012. The grant amounts are still to be determined by ATC. The USFS has requested we update the Sponsored Voluntary Services Agreements with maintaining clubs working on the AT. We have an existing agreement on file with the districts that will need to be updated by the end of the year. We also need to include JHA with our outings for maintenance sign-up forms.

Next meeting is March 14, 2012. Action Items:

1. TEHCC to send in FY reports to district rangers
2. USFS to complete write ups for Noli, Backbone Rock, and White Rocks relo for approval by Spring of 2012
3. Form committee for Koonford Bridge project - committee of Morgan, Lynn, Matt, Ed, and one other TEHCC member
4. TEHCC to submit proposals for shelter renovations/removal to ATC and USFS as needed
5. USFS, TEHCC and ATC to explore options for hiker education to reduce impact on Round Bald and facilities at Roan Mountain

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 10/14/2011

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I lopped yearly growth, repainted the blazes as needed, and cleaned the springs at the campground and at the Shelter. The water is low. I removed all abandoned items and trash.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: 10/14/2011

Purpose: Define water diversion and tread needs

Location: Section 1, Damascus to state line

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Jim Foster, Daryel Anderson, Anne Maio

Summary: Emory and Henry College students were scheduled to have a day of community service on October 19th with TEHCC and the Mount Rogers AT Club. In preparation, we identified and marked the location of side hill and water diversion tasks.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 10/17/2011

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I painted a few faded blazes, cut a couple of small blowdowns, and lopped some branches. I will have to replace the rake at the shelter and cut a couple of step-overs on the next trip.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/20/2011

Purpose: Install water diversions

Location: Section 1, Damascus, Old road above switchbacks to campsite

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin; MRATC: Anne Maio, Terry Kammer; E&H: Ashlyn Balsce, JoBeth Wright, Jaicin McPherson, Kaitlyn Harrison, Nicole Romen, Brittany Samaniego, Faith Walkere, Anika Constantinesen, Hollie Spencer, Michelle Williams, Taylor Pumphrey, Valerie Beale, Kristie Langley, Meredith Grant, Quintin Aldridy, Rose Katz, Carlyta Hamm, Mercedes Bentley

Summary: This trip was postponed one day because of poor weather; but the weather wasn't much better on the 20th. The Emory and Henry ladies basketball team and coaches joined us to install water diversions on this blustery and drizzly day with the temperature never rising above 40. We thank the Mount Rogers Appalachia Trail Club for support in arranging and conducting this project. Thanks also go out to TEHCC members who were able to come and to Baltimore Jack who was pressed into service as he exited a hostel in Damascus. We installed 21 water diversions in the old road. We need to add a few more on this section, but at least the water can get off the trail now.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 10/23/2011

Purpose: Maintain Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Shelter

People: John Frey, Terry Oldfield

Summary: We hiked to the shelter from Walnut Mountain Road, clearing a couple small blowdowns along the way. The Trail to the shelter is clear, for now. At the shelter we picked up trash, swept, and cut away a few low branches at the back of the shelter. We also checked on the water source. Unfortunately, we didn't take a replacement log book with us. The standard log book was gone; hikers had replaced it with a very small notebook. If someone is planning to go by the shelter soon, it would be appreciated if you could take and drop off a new log book.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/24/2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 14b, Round Bald to Carvers Gap

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

Summary: The crew did a variety of tasks. They lowered two water bars that were very difficult to walk over close to Round Bald. They used trees to block many of the unofficial trails. They repaired a lot of the barb wire fences and also redid the steps on the road side of the stile to make them much more walkable.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/24/2011

Purpose: Check relocations

Location: Section 15b, Beartown Mountain

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

Summary: One relocation just south of Beartown Mountain was too steep. After much searching we were able to shorten the relocation and keep it on a good grade. We have three relocations to dig in the Beartown Mountain area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/26/2011

Purpose: Rebuild stile

Location: Section 13b, South Side of Hump Mountain

People: Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin

Summary: Paul, Bob, Tim and Jack joined with Brandon Jones of US Forest Service to go to south side of Hump Mountain to replace the deteriorating stile. It was such a sacrifice on this blue-sky fall day. Because of the impossibility of digging a couple of post holes into the rock ledge, they modified the design. There is now a unique stile on the Hump. (See photos next page.)



Bob Peoples watches as a hiker tries out new stile



L/R Tim Stewart, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples and Brandon Jones at new stile on Hump Mountain