



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

December 2011

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

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## 2012 Steering Committee Election Results

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*Ian Powell reporting*

It's time to announce the results of the recent election that took place in November. It is my pleasure to welcome three new members to the Steering Committee for the 2012 and 2013 years, Mary Fanslow, Barry Griggs and Marc Schurger. The Club and the Steering Committee look forward to having the new members input on activities in the club. Also, Vic Hasler has been elected as the Steering Committee Chair for the 2012 year. When you see the new Steering Committee members please congratulate them.

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## New Chestnut Trail at Bays Mountain Park

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*Vic Hasler reporting*

A new single track trail for beginning mountain bikers at Bays Mountain Park has been designed and constructed by Northeast Tennessee Mountain Bike Association. While no trail signage or blazes exist yet, the designated "Chestnut Trail" is an easy 1.1 mile path running straight through the hardwood forest along the 1900 foot contour from Bays Mountain Road at the gate by the maintenance shop over to the Azalea Trail. For a longer (~5 mile) loop hike/ride, take Chestnut Trail from the gate, then head up Azalea Trail to Big Oak Trail, down to Chinquapin Trail, and finally back on Lake Road. Details for the new Chestnut Trail can be found on the [trail wiki](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### 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!

## Fraturdays: 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

### The following is an invitation to help build new trails in Bays Mountain and Steele Creek Park:

My name is Greg Carr and I am the President of the local Mountain Bike club here in the Tri-Cities, the Northeast Tennessee Mountain Bike Association. I noticed on your website that you guys have found the new Chestnut trail at Bays Mountain and are helping us spread the word. Thank you for your advertisement! We have just recently started the extension of Chestnut which will bring the trail out directly across Azalea from Big Oak. Our goal is to finish this extension before the end of January and I think this is possible with good turnouts at the workdays.

I've included our trail work schedule below and would like to invite your club to come out anytime and participate in the workdays. Included are not only Bays Mountain workdays but also workdays for Steele Creek Park in Bristol and for Warriors Path State Park. As always, all trails that we build are hiker friendly and we welcome your club to use and enjoy them as much as we do.

December 3 & 4 Warriors @ 9am, meet @ mountain bike trails parking lot

December 10 & 11 Bays Mountain @ 9am, meet at the maintenance shed

December 17 & 18 Steele Creek @ 9am, meet in front of the Nature Center

January 7 & 8 Bays Mountain @ 9am, meet at the maintenance shed

January 14 & 15 Steele Creek @ 9am, meet in front of the Nature Center

January 21 & 22 Bays Mountain @ 9am, meet at the maintenance shed

January 28 & 29 Steele Creek @ 9am, meet in front of the Nature Center

Thank you,

Greg Carr

[www.ntmba.org](http://www.ntmba.org)



**There are no other events scheduled for the next two months.**



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## For the Record

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### Friday Hikers: Bays Mountain Park, November 11, 2011

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The hike of Friday, Nov. 11, (i.e., 11/11/11), was in Bays Mtn. Park on a combination of trails that got us to a perfect lunch location at the base of the fire tower at the right time and then back to the Nature Center at an early hour. Although the air was a little nippy at first, it wasn't long until it felt just right --- as long as we were in the sun and the wind wasn't blowing too much. Views from Bays Ridge Road and from the fire tower were good, with a visibility of over thirty miles.

The distance we covered was 7.6 miles and the hikers were Olin Babb, Don Baker, Collins Chew, Bob Harvey, Melanie Horner, Carol Idol, Steve Kasten, Larry Miller and Joy Moon. The prize for coming the longest distance goes to Joy Moon of Joliet, Illinois, who has now joined us three times in as many years.

## Friday Hikers: Sand Cave, November 18, 2011

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful, chilly day for our hike to Sand Cave on 11/18. The leaves were gone so we had great views most of the time. The waterfall at the entrance was running very strong and the ice on the ground at the entrance made it more "interesting" than usual. Hikers were: Olin Babb, first timer Chris, Bob Harvey, Anna Sherrill, Jerry Sluder and Collins Chew. Larry Miller also made the hike, but, unfortunately, did not note the 7:30 start time and was behind us so we did not see him. We saw his car and knew he was there.

## Friday Hikers: Buffalo Mountain Park, November 25, 2011

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The hike of Friday, Nov. 25, was in Johnson City's Buffalo Mountain Park, and on this day we broke with tradition by making the hike in the counterclockwise direction. There are side trails to two notable overlooks --- Huckleberry Knob and Tip Top --- and we went to both. Because of the fine weather, the views were excellent. We arrived at the most spectacular viewing point, White Rock, at just the right time to have lunch, and with no time constraints, and also enjoying almost balmy weather, we spent much more than our usual twenty-five minutes there.

The hikers were Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller and Susie Seiler. For three of us, the distance covered was 5.25 miles (this accuracy is possible because of the figures on the new park map that's posted on the Internet). Larry, however, left us at Tip Top to take the difficult Dry Creek Trail and I don't know how many miles to credit him with.



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## AT Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/2/2011

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Tract

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Tim and Ted planted four apple trees. Jack and Bob reset blaze posts in back pasture since cattle have been using them for scratching posts. The rest of the crew sifted some of the gravel to remove gravel larger than half inch. They did some experimenting with different methods to improve the accessible trail surface. They even installed a speed bump (water diversion).

**Reporting:** Robert Branch

**Date:** 11/5/2011

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 15a, 1/2 mile south of Carvers Gap

**People:** Robert Branch, Randy Johnson

**Summary:** We cleared four of the twelve blowdowns on the trail between Carvers Gap and the Cloudland hotel site. Eight more to go! We also pruned back some brush.

**Reporting:** Dale Douthat

**Date:** 11/5/2011

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River

**People:** Dale Douthat, Seth Douthat, Brian Lorch, Nico Lorch, Martha Dugger, Dakota Mitchell, David Bridges, Dylan Clark, Steve Gossett, Josh Debord, Tim Debord, Butch Tomlsin

**Summary:** This group of scouts and leaders from BSA Troop 240 cut back weeds and trimmed branches from the bridge to the outfitters. The group enjoyed a beautiful day and met several hikers along the way. After a short lunch they hiked a half mile up the trail (trail North) and installed two water bars to help with trail erosion. (See photos next page.)



Boy Scouts from Troop 240 cut weeds, trimmed branches, and installed water bars.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 11/6/2011

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown and clean shelter

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Toll House Gap

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut two blowdowns, one a large obstruction, between Carvers Gap and Toll House Gap. We placed a new broom, swept out shelter, picked up trash, and placed a new shelter register. Trail is clear.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 11/7/2011

**Purpose:** Lop bushes

**Location:** Section 14b, Jane Bald

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I lopped the intrusive blueberry, alder, and rhododendron along the top and north side of Jane Bald.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/8/2011

**Purpose:** Dig and scout relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, Beartown Mountain to Hughes Gap

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

**Summary:** Jim and Carl checked relos at Beartown Mountain. Daryl and George made a quick trip to inspect all bog bridges at Carver's Gap and do minor repairs. Everyone else dug trail through a rock field.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 11/9/2011

**Purpose:** Flag relocation, repair bog bridges

**Location:** Section 5, About 1.5 miles south of TN 91

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

**Summary:** Ed and Kim flagged a relocation about 1.5 mile south of TN 91. They also scouted out another relo about 1 mile south, but will have to check with the Forest Service about private property in the area before finishing that flagging. Jim and Ken inspected the bog bridges and made some repairs. Another trip will be necessary to finish repairs as we did not bring enough lath. We met several hikers and one hunter carrying a muzzle loaded rifle. One southbound thru-hiker stopped to talk with Jim and Ken as they were working on the bog bridges and said they were wonderful. Ken remarked that he didn't think he had ever been wonderful before.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 11/9/2011

**Purpose:** Cut blowdown

**Location:** Section 4b, About 1 mile north of TN 91

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ken and I walked about 1 mile north on the trail and hand cut a 12-inch blowdown across the trail. The job was completed successfully.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 11/18/2011

**Purpose:** Roan Stewardship Council Meeting

**Location:** Asheville, NC

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I attended the Roan Stewardship Council meeting held at the USFS office in Asheville. Updates included land protection and acquisitions, monitoring and inventorying of open areas, conservation programs and initiatives, rare and non-native invasive plant monitoring, and working group coordination. I relayed the gravel work TEHCC carried out this year on Round Bald and plans for next year. Some comments were relayed regarding use of schist vs limestone rock and being able to ensure the rock is weed free is desirable by inspection of the rock source at the quarry. A discussion led to the formation of a small group working with ATC and the USFS to make recommendations to improve signage, education (LNT) and improve parking alternatives at Carvers Gap to minimize user impacts in the gap and in the balds. Expect some portions of the recommendations to be short-term and others longer term.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/19/2011

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 9b, South of Pond Mountain

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Dave Clark, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Josh Henri, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin; ASU TRAIL CREW: Gabe Smiley, Isabel Swingle, Dana Passman, James Lautzenheiser, Caroline Weisenhorn, Greg Gruener, Catherine Shachtman, Eric Honeycutt, Chris Dudley, Tyler Bruyher, Kelly Perkins, Justin Quinn, Tabitha Lunsford, Monica Elizondo, Dan Hamman, MJ O'Neal

**Summary:** The ASU Trail Crew with many new members joined a good turn out from the Club for digging a relocation on the south side of Pond Mountain. The weather turned out great. Many a rock crib and locust side log were installed. We got a good start on this relo.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** 11/19/2011

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

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

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** Responding to hiker input regarding an icy/slick spot on the Laurel Fork foot bridge, I nailed additional lath webbing onto the bridge treadway. The bridge is fully covered now.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 11/25/2011

**Purpose:** Check shelter

**Location:** Section 7b, Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We hiked out to the shelter on this beautiful warm day ("plum warm" as one hiker we met commented), picked up trash, placed a new log book, cleaned the gutters and installed some new gutter nails on the rear gutter where it had come loose. The trail is in good shape and there is water at the spring on the way in.