



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

January 2012

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

Happy New Year! It is another year of opportunity to explore various activities. Here are some ideas for you to consider in 2012:

1. Join in a Tuesday trail maintenance day – or check the upcoming events for one on Saturday.
2. Participate in a hike each season – maybe lead your favorite.
3. Obtain a Tennessee AT license plate (or renew the one you have already).
4. Clean out the garage or basement – then trade/sell at the Gear Swap.
5. Help out on a section maintenance trip.
6. Enjoy a dinner meeting with fellow club members.
7. Explore a stream or trail where you have never been before.

One (or more) of these might just be a good New Year's Resolution...

APES Winter Dinner Meeting – January 14, 2012

Deb Reynolds reporting

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APES) are having their Winter Business meeting on Saturday at 6:00pm, Jan 14, 2012 at the Eastman Lodge. Dinner will be potluck, so bring a dish and a drink. The agenda will include planning for upcoming events and officer elections. Entertainment will be a viewing of the latest LVM video. If you have questions, email Jeff Weatherford at jweatherford@eastman.com.

2012 Explore the Clinch River Series

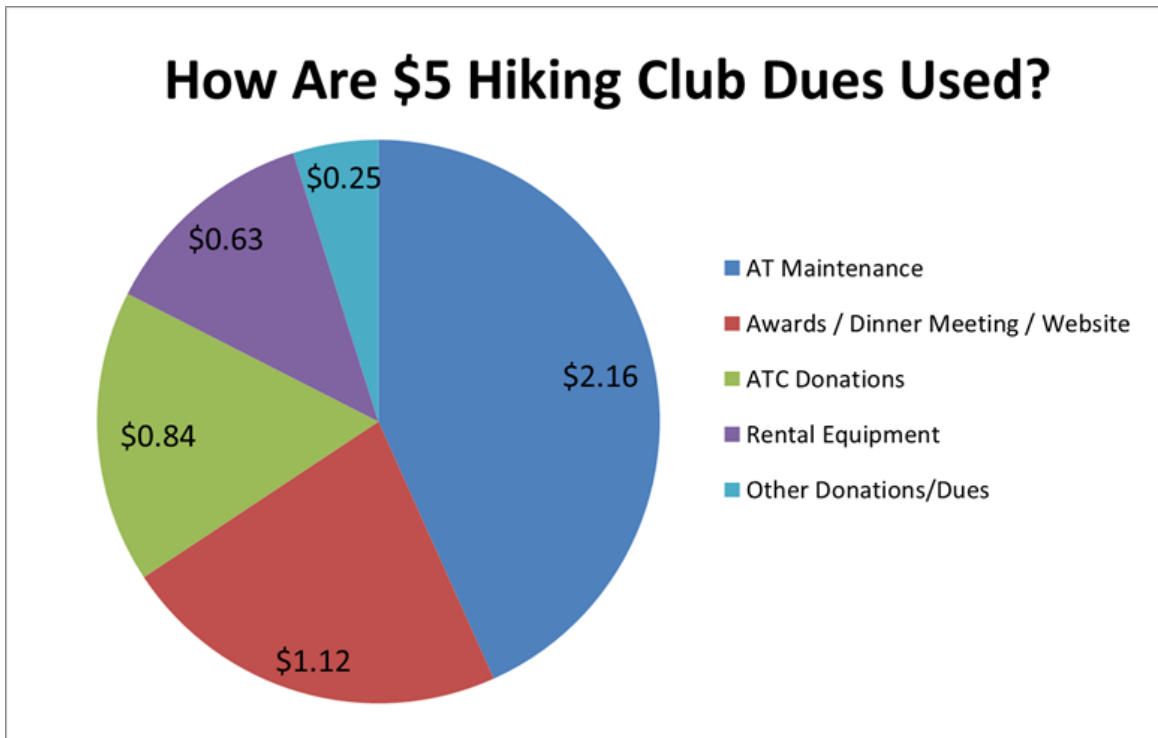
Deb Reynolds reporting

We covered most of the close sections of the Holston and North Holston River in 2011 and I plan to move up to the Clinch for 2012. I am interested in talking with experienced paddlers who can provide insight into how far upriver we can go, best timing, as well as put in and take out spots. Please call me at 723-7017 or email me at debreynolds0@gmail.com.

2011 Budget in Review

Vic Hasler reporting

As the 2011 TEHCC fiscal year has just closed, here is a review of income and expenses for the year. By Eastman Recreation policy, no balance can be carried forward into the next year. TEHCC received \$2955 in dues (member and affiliates), a \$50 donation, and \$340 from equipment rentals. As seen in the chart below, 60% of the funds were used for upkeep of the trail – either directly or as donations to ATC and the Konnarock crew. (Note: This funding is in addition to that also obtained by the AT Committee.) The other expenses were for recognition awards, the two dinner meetings, hosting the tehcc.org website, purchase of new equipment for rental (trekking poles, air mattress, backpack, etc.), donation to Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and American Whitewater dues. Any questions can be directed to a Steering Committee member. Thanks for your support.



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

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.

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Greg Carr

www.ntmba.org



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



For the Record

Friday Hikers: Steele Creek Park, December 2, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, cool day for our hike in Steele Creek Park in Bristol, TN. We hiked our usual track in the Trinkle Hollow Area on the NE side of the Park. Most returned along the Lakeside Trail but some took the Lakeridge Trail back. The hike was about 6.7 miles (or the longer 7.5 mile Lakeridge Trail). Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Jean Anderson, Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, first timer Dave McMillan, Larry Miller, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Chimney Top Mountain, December 30, 2011

Bob Harvey reporting

This hike was to the crest of Chimney Top Mountain and return. We began near the house of Dane and Mary Faulkner (who own the mountain), and made it all the way to the old airplane-beacon tower, with several stops in between to eat energy bars or the equivalent --- it's a steep hike. Once on the crest, it was a relatively easy walk to the tower, where we had fine views on all sides, but softened by a haze that had developed during the morning. In addition to giving us permission to hike on their property, the Faulkners also provided us with a three-dog escort, who went with us all the way. We were lucky in having almost ideal hiking conditions and we all agreed that we'd made good use of the day. The total distance was around three or four miles. The hikers were Olin Babb, Don Baker, Bob Harvey and Ann Yungmeyer.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Robert Branch

Date: 12/10/2011

Purpose: Maintain trail

Location: Section 15a, Old parking lot #1 to Carvers Gap

People: Robert Branch, Randy Johnson

Summary: We trimmed brush back from treadway from the old parking lot #1 to Carvers Gap. We removed two blowdowns. Seven more are blocking the treadway.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/13/2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Anne Maio, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Tim Stewart

Summary: Great volunteers make great things happen! The primary task was to install water diversions on the old road up to state line. About 40 new ones were installed and the existing 8 water bars were cleaned and significantly widened. About 170 feet of trail was rehabbed with the majority being between state line and Backbone Rock Trail. Several old step-over blowdowns were removed. This section is in the best condition it has ever been.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/20/2011

Purpose: Repair trail and bridges; flag relocations

Location: Section 5, First mile from TN 91

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver

Summary: We put several pieces of lath on bog bridges. They are currently in good shape. Some root-filled trail was redug and side logs were installed. A long relocation previously flagged was deemed good. The flagging of a second long relocation was completed and two minor relos were flagged. A better path around the boggy area could not be found.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/20/2011

Purpose: Clean and install water bars; remove blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Jim Chambers, Ray Douglas, Brian Paley, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin,

Summary: Tim, Brian, Jack, and Jim cleared 64 waterbars to Double Springs Shelter. "Otto" built six water diversions with rocks on the old road just south of US 421. At the shelter, Jim used the shovel to douse some burning embers left by campers. They also cleared 42 obstructions, including blowdowns, branches and other debris. A bag of trash was collected at the trailhead.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 12/26/2011

Purpose: Pick up trash and trim back briars

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Grindstaff Memorial

People: Vic Hasler, Clark Hasler

Summary: We hiked from the TN 91 parking lot to the Uncle Nick Grindstaff memorial (today would have been his 160th birthday). We ended up hauling out three bags of trash picked up along the way - mostly at the memorial, and also trimmed back some briars which had grown into the trail path.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 12/26/2011

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Rachel Oldfield-Frey, Terry Oldfield

Summary: We cleared one small blowdown and cut a few low-hanging rhodo branches along the trail. At the shelter, we picked up trash and placed a new log book. The trail is clear between Walnut Mountain Road and the shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/30/2011

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 15b, Just north of Hughes Gap

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, Dale Draves

Summary: We continued the relocation and installed four long side-logs. The ground is starting to freeze and we had a half-inch of snow. It is probably still a third of a mile to switchback.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 12/31/2011

Purpose: Pick up trash

Location: Section 10, Hampton blue blaze

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Andrew Scott, Arian Scott

Summary: We picked up trash, but need to go back and do some clipping in one area where the power company plowed everything down.