



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2012

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

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## From the Chair

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*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

In this column, I would like to highlight a few upcoming opportunities. First is the Spring Dinner Meeting to hear the high moments and challenges of a thru-hiker – someone who used the national scenic trail that the club spends hours maintaining. The second is a request for hike leaders to guide local Girl Scouts on easy sections of the AT during their centennial celebration in 2012. Several hikes have been identified, so the need is for knowledgeable folks to explain the path to the girls. Lastly (spouses, take note) is an alert to start cleaning those storage spaces where the equipment for outdoor activities is stashed. TEHCC will again host a Gear Swap in April – with publicity forthcoming once the details are set. Sell what is not being used to clear out the space, or swap for what you really want to try this year. The club is active in several ways, so join in as you are available for your enjoyment.

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## Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Spring Dinner Meeting Friday March 23, 2012

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The approach of spring also brings the TEHCC dinner meeting at the Eastman Lodge. We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for good drinks, good food and good times.

Our evening program, "Trials and Tribulations of a Thru-Hiker," features the experiences of Frank de Nobriga during his March 22 to November 12, 2011 trek. See his on-line journal [here](#). Since many club members have hiked the AT in the lower states, Frank is planning to focus his pictures on the New England sections.

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 Kabobs (Steak/Chicken/Veg) Potato bar Tossed salad Rolls Cobbler (peach and apple) Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by <a href="#">Sugar &amp; Spice Catering</a> (\$12 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
<b>Special Program: Trials and Tribulations of a Thru-Hiker</b>	<b>8:00pm-8:30pm</b>	<b>Frank de Nobriga</b>

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Monday, March 19th. A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter, or click [here](#) for a printable copy.

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## 2012 Trail to Every Classroom Alumni Workshop

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Apply today for three great workshops being offered by the ATC to Trail-to-Every-Classroom alumni in 2012!

Alumni workshops will provide an immersive experience where place-based service learning content and pedagogy are explored in more depth, continuing to build upon the skills you learned in the original three workshops. These new professional development sessions are being offered this year to serve as a space to revisit key curricular topics and further develop the capacity of teachers to provide quality instruction to students along the Appalachian Trail.

*The workshops are not cumulative and alumni are welcome to apply for one, two or all three in any region. As always, all workshops are offered free of charge. Lodging, meals, camping equipment and materials will be provided.*

### Workshops for 2012:

Spring Workshop: Questing & Natural History in Virginia - May 4-6

Summer Workshop: Wilderness First Aid & Hike Leadership in New Hampshire - July 15-20

Fall Workshop: Trail Construction & Design in New York - October 5-7

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2012**

Learn more about these workshops and APPLY [here](#).

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## April Fool's Trail Days A Celebration of the Appalachian Trail Franklin, North Carolina • March 30 & 31, 2012

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Come to Historic Franklin, North Carolina for April Fool's Trail Days and the annual Hiker Bash as we celebrate our appreciation of Appalachian Trail Hikers. As an Appalachian Gateway Community, Franklin opens the town to all hikers of the Appalachian Trail as you start your journey north to Katahdin.

Franklin is located 11 miles from the AT and is considered a welcome respite from the cold and usually wet early spring weather. You'll find plenty of good food, great conversation and lots to do during this weekend celebration.

The Hiker Bash hosted by Ronnie Haven at Sapphire Inn on East Main Street is a great place to connect, share stories and advice, and fill up on some good eats. The Hiker Bash will begin at 6:00 p.m. each evening.

Saturday, April Fool's Trail Days Festival gets underway with great entertainment, food, and special workshops, exhibits and world re-known visitors including Jennifer Pharr Davis, the women's record holder of the fastest thru-hike of the trail.

You'll find much more information on this [site](#), so take a look around. If you have questions call [Linda Schlott](#) (828) 524-2516.

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## Wilderness Skills Institute 2012

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), The Wilderness Society (TWS), the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), the USDA Forest Service, and the National Park Service have established the "Wilderness Skills Institute", a two-week training course to be held May 21 to June 1, 2012 at the Cradle of Forestry near Brevard, NC. The Institute is designed to provide information about the history of designated Wilderness, the skills necessary to work effectively in wilderness and the certifications required to implement those skills.

From theory to implementation, the Wilderness Skills Institute can be a resource for every level of Wilderness worker.

From May 21 - 25, participants will learn Wilderness First Aid, CPR, and have the opportunity to receive their Cross-Cut saw certification. Attendees will also discuss Wilderness theory and legislation with some of the region's most experienced stewards.

From May 29 – June 1, training will be offered for people new to trail work so that they can gain an understanding of the basics in the field. Skilled trail workers will also be able to tackle technical construction problems with experienced trail crew leaders.

Registration is \$50 per person, is free to members of the ATC and TWS, and includes camping near the Cradle of Forestry.

Location: Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, North Carolina

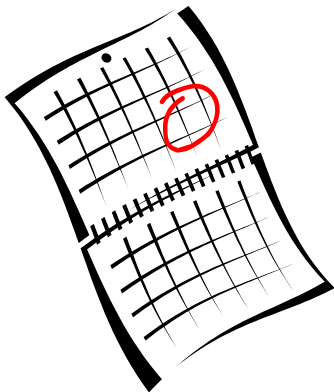
For more information about this training course, contact Andy Downs at the ATC: [adowns@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:adowns@appalachiantrail.org), (828) 254-3708 or Bill Hodge at the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards: [billhodge@trailcrews.org](mailto:billhodge@trailcrews.org), (865) 617-4804.

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## TEHCC's Event Calendars, Wherever You Are

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*Tim Schaefer reporting*



Do you use [Google Calendar](#)? If not, you should check it out. It's a great way to have an internet accessible calendar, and it allows you to subscribe to others' calendars if they are set up for sharing. TEHCC's calendar is publicly shared as a Google Calendar. We currently maintain four calendars: Hiking, Other Activities, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance. So not only can you see our events by going to our [Schedule](#) page, you have two ways you can see our events alongside your other calendars, either in your Google Calendar or in your Outlook Calendar.

If you are already using, or want to start using, Google calendar, the easiest way to subscribe to TEHCC's calendars is to go to our [Schedule](#) page. At the bottom right of the calendar you'll see an icon that says "+ Google Calendar." If you select it, once logged into your own Google calendar, it will present a window where you can pick and choose our individual calendars to add to yours. Now you'll always know what's going on. Another option: while logged onto your Calendar you can go to "Other calendars," then select "Add by URL" and use the addresses below.

Eastman employees or others who use Outlook 2010, can have TEHCC's calendars show up on the calendar list just like coworkers do. The easiest way that works for me is to simply follow the link below and select "Open" and "Allow" in the subsequent dialog boxes. If that doesn't work, you can click "Open Calendar" and select "From Internet..." from the drop down while looking at your calendar. Then add the URL below for the calendar you want and select OK then Yes. Many Outlook users might not know that you can overlay multiple calendars instead of just seeing them side by side. When you have multiple calendars open/selected, if you click the arrow button on the calendar name tab above the calendar it will show them overlaid instead of side by side.

TEHCC Internet Calendars – Use these addresses in your own Google Calendar or Outlook to see our events alongside yours

TEHCC Hiking:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/thetehcc%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

TEHCC Other Activities:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/uijhvhddcviv0pui7ah6hg6p6s%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

TEHCC Paddling:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/ko6n29gitoqrp6frsfcu6pf5s4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

TEHCC Trail Maintenance:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/6slu39ovs7gujo1tid44vsv1gk%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

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## Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains), Sat-Sun, July 7-8, 2012

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For the past 35+ years TEHCC has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) can only be reached by hiking trails. Even supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The package price this year is \$133 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have four reservations in a five-person cabin (double bunk beds and a single). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations, please contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502, for availability. You must be a TEHCC member to participate in this outing. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at [www.leconte-lodge.com](http://www.leconte-lodge.com).



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### TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Rich Daileader  
Janet Hensley

Shannon Daileader  
Dale Ulmer

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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
Mar 3	AT Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
Mar 17	Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-538-7665
Mar 23	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	<a href="mailto:chair@tehcc.org">chair@tehcc.org</a>
Mar 26	Rental Equipment Checkout	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	<a href="mailto:rental@tehcc.org">rental@tehcc.org</a>
April 21, 28	Relocation of AT at Hughes Gap with ASU Trail Crew	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669

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## Details on 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 email 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 with ASU Trail Crew, Saturday March 3, 2012

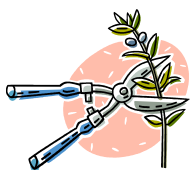
Contact: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

Weather permitting we will try to complete a relocation on the south side of Pond Mountain. The ASU Trail Crew helped us start that relocation last fall and are coming out again. We will again meet at the large parking lot on US 321 at the outskirts of Hampton and walk the blue-blaze trail to intersect the AT. Total round trip walk will be about 5 miles and fairly strenuous.

Bring sturdy shoes with good tread, lunch, water, several layers, and something for rain protection. We will have work gloves if you need some. And we will provide all the tools. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carl.

### Third-Saturday Maintenance, Hiking with Tools, March 17, 2012

Leader: [Kim Peters](#), 423-538-7665



This year will start the revival of third-Saturday maintenance outings! This time around, third-Saturday outings will concentrate on routine maintenance rather than relocations or special projects. We will clear blowdowns, clip woody growth, paint blazes, check out shelters, and perform other routine maintenance tasks – essentially hiking with tools! If you are interested in learning how our 137 miles of trail is maintained, want to go on a day hike with a purpose, or just want to see some of our beautiful trail, this is your opportunity. Contact the leader to sign up or for more information.

### Rental Equipment Checkout, Monday, March 26, 2011

11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Eastman Employee Center, Rm 112

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)



Each year, the club inspects the tents, backpacks, sleeping pads, etc. to ensure they are ready for another year of use. It is also a great opportunity to see the equipment set up, to see how to set it up, to ask questions, and to suggest other equipment for the club to purchase in 2012. This event is come-and-go as you are available. A light lunch of pizza, vegi tray, chips, cookies, and beverages will be provided, so let me know if you have any preferences.

### AT Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew, April 21 & 28, 2012

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

We have the opportunity to work with ASU Trail Crew on this Saturday. They will probably bring 15 to 20 students and are a fun group to work with. We will work on the relocations at Hughes Gap. Naturally, site and times will be weather dependent. Exact plans will be communicated by email as we get closer to the events. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carl.



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## For the Record

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### Friday Hikers: Warriors Path State Park, February 3, 2012

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a delightful day for our hike in Warriors Path State Park. We hiked the Devils Backbone, Falls Creek Loop and Sinking Waters Trails. Most ate lunch on a high bluff overlooking Fort Patrick Henry Lake. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Carol Dunham, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Jane Whitson, and Collins Chew.

### Friday Hikers: Bays Mountain Park, February 10, 2012

*Collins Chew reporting*

Today, we had a pleasant hike on a quite chilly, overcast day for a requested tour of the towers (observation, cell, radio, TV, Fire, etc.) of Bays Mountain. We went by Bays Mountain Road, River Mountain Road, Firetower and Lakeside Trails for about 7 miles. A cool, quick lunch was eaten at the Firetower. A number of Kingsport landmarks were spotted. Hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy Case, Andrew Cleland, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

## Friday Hikers: Laurel Run Park, February, 17, 2012

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful, warm day for the 6.4-mile hike from the Nature Center in Bays Mountain Park to Laurel Run Park. The three large falls were running quite nicely. We hiked all or portions of Bays Ridge Road and Bays Ridge, Pretty Ridge, Kiner Hollow, and Laurel Run Trails. There were a few wet feet from the various stream crossings. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Andrew Cleland, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Jan Mather, Patty Jo Nachman, Dick Orr, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

## Annual Maintainer's Dinner, February 21, 2012

*Kim Peters reporting*

The kickoff meeting for the 2012 AT maintenance season, held February 21, 2012, was well attended. We enjoyed Phil's Dream Pit barbecue, coleslaw, pasta salad, baked beans and brownies and ice cream for dessert prepared by Ed Oliver and Mary Cunningham. We reviewed our 2011 accomplishments, our 2012 major project plans, handed out awards, and discussed 2012 maintenance responsibilities.

### Summary of 2011 Major TEHCC Maintenance Accomplishments

- Maintained section from Damascus to Spivey Gap
- TEHCC section of AT grew to 137 miles
- Rehabbed 1.1 miles of AT
- Built 1.5 miles of new sidehill Trail
- Bear Pole installed at Watauga Lake Shelter by Eagle Scout, Seth Douthat
- Injury-free year

### Cumulative Hour Award Recipients 2011

#### 50 Career Hours

Curtis Baird	Dean Baird	David Keegen	Diana Ristom
Donna Dean	Leslie Gerber	Sam Robinette	Tony Rodriguez
Chris Harrison	Wayne Jones	Susanne Seiler	Peggy Smith

#### 100 Career Hours

Donna Ashby	Doug Chenoweth	David LaPorte	Michael Laude
Dave Clark	Andrew Downs	Terry Oldfield	Lamar Powell
Rick Foster	Bill Hodge	Brian Satterwhite	Janel Scharhag
Jeff Hunter	Gether Irick	Gerald Scott	Roman Wall

#### 150 Career Hours

George Summers  
Ernie Hartford

#### 500 Career Hours

Richard Carter  
Ray Douglas  
Marsha Hupko

#### 1500 Career Hours

Ted Mowery

#### 2000+ Career Hours

Paul Benfield – 4000 hrs  
Bob Peoples – 6000 hrs  
Carl Fritz – 8000 hrs

#### 250 Career Hours

John Beaudet  
Kevin O'Donnell  
Brian Paley  
L. A. Tarlin  
George Thorpe

#### 750 Career Hours

Faye Guinn

#### 2000 Career Hours

Jim Foster  
Mike Hupko

#### 11000 Career hrs

Ed Oliver

#### 1500 Career Hours

Ted Mowery



### Presidents Volunteer Service Award

Joe DeLoach and Paul Benfield also received a special award, the Presidents Volunteer Service Award. This award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. Joe and Paul earned this award for their 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service.

## Friday Hikers: AT – US321 to Watauga Dam, February, 24, 2012

*Collins Chew reporting*

The AT hike today was on a surprisingly warm February morning with scattered clouds, which also surprisingly dribbled a bit of rain on us but not enough to bring out rain gear. We hiked from US 321 to Watauga Dam where we split up with half returning to US 321 and the other half continuing on the AT to a car spotted at Wilbur Dam Road. Since this is Dave's maintenance section, he wanted to check it all out and count the winter blowdowns. Hikers were: Carol and Dave Dunham, Heather Jacob, Jerry Jones, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.



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## AT Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** John Beaudet

**Date:** 1/6/2012

**Purpose:** Cut annual growth

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

**People:** John Beaudet

**Summary:** I trimmed and lopped the entire section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/31/2012

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We had a less than an auspicious start when we had a flat tire near Unicoi. Someone suggested that we would not qualify for a NASCAR pit crew! However, we did remove some blowdowns and dug or used side-logs to cover over 800 feet of rooty areas. There is probably about one more day's work to get this section in better shape.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 1/31/2012

**Purpose:** General maintenance

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

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I walked the section to check for needed routine maintenance, cut two blowdowns, removed several other minor blowdowns, did some lopping of briars and intrusive bushes and gathered up a bagful of trash at the shelter. There is one remaining 14-inch diameter blowdown about 2/3 mile south of the shelter, but it's an easy stepover.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 2/2/2012

**Purpose:** Recreation Working Group Planning Meeting

**Location:** Watauga Ranger Station, Unicoi

**People:** Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

**Summary:** Ed and I attended a Recreation Working Group Planning Meeting at the Watauga Ranger Station in Unicoi. Also in attendance were John Odell, Morgan Sommerville, Jamey Donaldson, and David Danley. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss recreational impact concerns in the Roan Highlands, specifically between Hughes Gap and Doll Flats. Specific areas of concern were identified and ranked in priority of concern from low to high. Impact indicators were identified, namely fire rings, social trails and toilet paper. Some possible solutions to be recommended if thresholds are exceeded include banning campfires, closing spur trail using signage, and Leave-No-Trace signage. Next steps include identifying thresholds for each indicator at each area of concern, replicating a 2002 campsite inventory in the areas of concern, and identifying additional needs to quantify recreational impacts on areas/species of concern.



**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 2/4/2012

**Purpose:** Clear Trail obstructions

**Location:** Section 11b, Bitter End to Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Tim Stewart

**Summary:** The gate was locked, so I parked near the gate and walked in. The trail was in good condition. I removed some branches and several blowdowns, as well as trimmed back rhododendrons. There are two easy-step-over 8-inch diameter blowdowns remaining. At this point, these do not require a special trip for removal. The footbridges look good; one might require some new wire lath or at least some additional staples. The shelter is good, including the repaired sleeping platform. The shovel and broom are broken, the rake is okay, and the shelter register is missing. It was a rainy but good trip.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/7/2012

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

**Summary:** On another beautiful February day we continued to rehab the sections of root-filled trail. Most of the trail rehab is completed between Devil Creek Gap and Spivey Gap. Some more work is still needed towards No Business Knob shelter. About 460 feet of trail was rehabbed and many dead rhodos and trees, ready to fall on trail, were removed.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 2/7/2012

**Purpose:** Scout Trail and clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I scouted the entire section, cleared one small blowdown, and cut back some low hanging rhododendrons.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/15/2012

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail

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

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We continued to rehab rooty, sloughing trail sections. Also we improved some minor stream crossings. We will probably declare this area rehabbed sufficiently for now.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/22/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, North of Hughes Gap

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Dan Houchins, Frank Klein, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We made good progress on the relo. One more work day should get us well beyond the switchback. We had a little sleet just before lunch, ate lunch, and worked about an hour. Then it was time to scam before the real precipitation set in.

**Reporting:** Daryel Anderson

**Date:** 2/23/2012

**Purpose:** Scouting

**Location:** Section 1, Damascus south to state line

**People:** Anne Maio

**Summary:** Trail is free and clear of significant blowdowns. Small items were removed. We are good to go at this time to the state line.

**Reporting:** David Dunham

**Date:** 2/24/2012

**Purpose:** Trail inspection and light maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Shook Branch to Wilbur Dam Road



**People:** Carol Dunham, David Dunham

**Summary:** We inspected the trail. Some root work needs to be done around the Shook Branch end. We cleaned and inspected the shelter, placed a new register and broom in the shelter, and cleared one trail-blocking small blowdown with a hand saw. Four more blowdowns need to be cleared with a chainsaw. The metal distances sign on the Wilbur Dam end needs to be updated sometime. The trail is in good shape otherwise. Brian Paley did a fine job last year and deserves much credit. The camp sites are clean and in good shape. We will return in a few days to remove the blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 2/25/2012

**Purpose:** Chainsaw certification

**Location:** Watauga Ranger District and Limestone Cove

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Suzanne Seiler, and Steve Wilson

**Summary:** Certification is required in order to use chainsaws within National Forests. We try to keep some of our experienced maintainers certified, as it is easier to stay certified than to be certified for the first time. Thanks very much to Reuben Potter, Trails Technician for the Watauga Ranger District, for working with the nine of us for this class.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 2/25/2012

**Purpose:** Planning Meeting for 2013 AT Biennial

**Location:** Asheville, NC

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I attended the biennial planning meeting, representing TEHCC on the planning committee. The committee recommended that Phil Royer sign the memo of understanding for registration info to be mailed in the March issue of the AT Journal. This sets in motion the plan to not have a separate mailing of registration info. Each committee reviewed the status of the plans and new ideas were exchanged. Leanna Joyner is available to help planners reduce their work loads. Club reps need to mail Lenny a list of how they would like to use Leanna. The next group meeting is August 25th, but there will be a conference call before then.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/27/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, North of Hughes Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Andrew Smith, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** With a great day and crew, we now have good trail to beyond the switchback. We just have the upper leg to complete and it is much shorter than the lower leg.

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club  
Spring Dinner Meeting  
Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

**Reservation Form**

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Vic Hasler**.

Within Eastman send to:  
Vic Hasler, Building 231

Outside Eastman send to:  
Vic Hasler  
106 Sandpiper Circle  
Kingsport, TN 37663

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 **3/19/2012**

Names of all attending (*please print*)

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

Number of Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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