



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2012

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

This month brings the [75th anniversary](#) for the Appalachian Trail which was originally deemed “complete” on August 14, 1937 after 15 years of construction. Since then, the trail has been an ongoing work-in-progress with major changes to the route (such as moving to cross the Roan Mountains) and path (elimination of PUDs*), and the addition of shelters in the 1960s. A famous quote by Frank Oglesby was “I’m now relocating my relocations!” This labor of love continues to improve the trail experience, with the assistance of the Konnarock Crew, Hardcore, and college groups. In addition to the trail construction activities, volunteers are always needed to keep the trail open for the world to enjoy - by clipping back the growth, removing small blowdowns, and checking the shelters along the path. Please consider joining one of the light maintenance trips... also known as “Hiking with Tools”!

*pointless ups and downs

Tweetsie Trail Survey



The “Rails to Trails” effort between Johnson City and Elizabethton is seeking input on the development of the greenway. A simple eleven-question confidential survey ([link](#)) asks about several aspects of a greenway; and there are a few optional fields which can be used for comments. If you enjoy other similar trails in the area (Virginia Creeper, Guest River Gorge, or New River) or city greenways (Kingsport Greenbelt or Erwin Linear Trail), then please help define this project by taking the survey. It will take less than five minutes of your time. For more information, check the [official project website](#).

New TEHCC Rental Equipment: Big Agnes Seedhouse SL1 (HT-18)

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator



After a couple of decades of use, the HT-18 Slumberjack Bivy was showing signs of losing its weather resistance. TEHCC has purchased a Big Agnes Seedhouse SL1 as its replacement. The Big Agnes is primarily a one-person tent with much better ventilation at a similar packed weight (2 lbs, 6 oz). This one-person tent offers 22 sq ft of floor space, with a length of 90" and width of 43" at front narrowing to 31" at back – plenty for a sleeping pad. Reviews indicate that the 38" head height may not be enough for taller folks to completely sit up, but it's good for most. There is a 5 sq ft vestibule to stash the backpack and footwear. The entire tent bundle rolls down into a 14" x 4" bag. It comes with its own set of 11 lightweight stakes, which need to be shown upon return to Bldg 310, but kept with the tent – unlike our standard stake policy.

Rental rate is "B" (\$5/weekend, \$7/week). It's on the shelf, ready to go backpacking...

Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Gathering



Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition invites TEHCC members to Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau Gathering in September.

Members of the 40 hiking and trail maintenance clubs in the Southeast interested in hiking the trails on the Cumberland Plateau or wanting to know more about all aspects of trails and trail building/maintenance are invited to the 7th biennial meeting of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) at Fall Creek Falls State Park in southeastern Tennessee near Pikeville on the Cumberland Plateau on September 20-23, 2012, about 70 miles north of Chattanooga.

The SEFTC is a coalition of most all the hiking and trail maintenance organizations in the Southeast, representing over 40 such clubs from Florida to Virginia and Kentucky.

The coalition leadership has planned a fun and informative four days. There will be numerous trail-related workshops led by experts in the field. A variety of hikes are planned, both inside this 25,000-acre state park and in the surrounding state/protected areas of the Cumberland Plateau. Trail fellowship and a wide exchange of ideas are part of the offering. Special speakers and entertainment will be yours each evening.

Much of the beautiful lakeview lodge, cabins, and campground have been reserved by SEFTC for this weekend. Part-weekend registration and attendance is available for those not able to be present the full time.

Early registration now is encouraged. Some fees go up August 1, and there is a limit to housing with almost no alternatives nearby outside the park.

Go to website www.southeastfoottrails.org to learn more about the conference and for the registration form. The website provides the basic information with links to the pages for registration, housing, meals, workshops, and hikes.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Ronda Straley

Marie Bradford

Christin Dyer

Event Schedule

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Aug 2	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 5	Steele Creek Park	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676
Aug 5	Kayak Touring Rescue Training	Jim Martin	photogmartin8790@aol.com
Aug 11	Paddling, Class I – II Trips	Jerry Griffin	jgriffin@embarqmail.com
Aug 10-12	Konnarock Crew - Beartown Mtn Relocation	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
		Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Aug 12	F/B: Bays Mountain Park – Fire Tower	Waylon Jenkins	423-367-1475
Aug 17	ASU Watauga College - Backbone Rock Trail Relocation	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Aug 18	Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-538-7665
Aug 18	Watauga River Class I – II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 19	F/B: Erwin Greenbelt	Mary Fanslow	423-707-5004
Aug 26	AT: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

Details on 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 to learn 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!

Thursday Evenings: Paddle to the Grill

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and TEHCC. The launch is at 6:30 pm at Davis Dock located in Blountville. We will paddle to Boone Docks Restaurant located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFDs are mandatory. Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636 for more details.

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-538-7665

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3rd Saturday of each month and help out on some routine maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth, cleaning out waterbars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience is required! Contact [Kim](#) for details and meeting time and place.

Bi-Weekly on Saturdays starting June 2: Watauga River Class I-II

We will launch at 3pm unless there is water elsewhere. Call first to check and see if it's on and where! Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

Bi-Weekly on Saturdays starting June 9: Class I-II Trips

Jerry Griffin will hope to lead beginner trips bi-weekly where there is water, opposite of Debbie's bi-weekly Watauga trips. This will offer a wide range of rivers to those wanting to work on their skills or just to join us to have fun! Contact: [Jerry Griffin](#).

Scheduled Events

Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN – Hemlock Hollow/Slagle Hollow Trails, Sunday, August 5

Leader: [Barry Griggs](#), 423-239-5676

The hike will include the Hemlock Hollow and Slagle Hollow Trails ([Park map](#)). These trails are on the right (north) side of the lake behind the Nature Center and are rated as intermediate in difficulty. Most of the hike will be on the Slagle Hollow Trail which follows Slagle Creek. Total distance for both trails round trip is 6.4 miles, but we will turn around at a location to make it a 5-mile hike unless everyone in the group chooses to go farther. Meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between State of Franklin Bank and McDonalds at 1:00 pm. Hikers may also meet outside the Nature Center at the park at approximately 1:30 pm. Please call the hike leader if you plan to join us.

Kayak Touring Rescue Training, Sunday August 5, 2012

Leader: [Jim Martin](#)

This is a class offered by CHOTA (Knoxville area paddling club). This class is excellent for those having an interest in touring trips on the ocean, boundary waters or even a large lake. You will need to join CHOTA (\$20) to take the class but the class itself has no cost. Print the [Membership](#) form and take it and the money to the event. Please send an email to Jim Martin in advance.

Sunday August 5, 10am at the Cove at Concord Park on Northshore Dr., Knoxville. Bring your long boats for a rescue training session. We will start with wet exits and cover assisted rescues, self rescues, and towing. If you have never done a rescue training session, this will make you a more confident paddler. For those who have, it's a good opportunity to practice your skills. In addition to your PFD, please bring a spray skirt, paddle float and pump if you have them. If anyone has a tow belt, please bring that as well. Experienced paddlers with good rescue skills are encouraged to attend to help. We may also have River Sports staff attending. Please e-mail me if you have questions.

Jim Martin

Chota Touring Coordinator

photogmartin8790@aol.com

www.discoveret.org/chota

[Link to membership](#)

Konnarock Crew - Beartown Mountain Relocation, August 9-13, 2012

Leaders: [Joe DeLoach](#), 423-753-7263 and [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

The steepest portion of the Appalachian Trail on our section, and by some accounts the steepest in the south, is between Hughes Gap and Cloudland on Roan Mountain. Prior to 2011, this section climbed 2200' in 2.6 miles, with 0.4 miles of that being downhill from Beartown Mountain to Ash Gap. It is not only a steep climb, but the descent is rough and can be slippery in wet or icy conditions. We began work on this project in 2010 and have completed several relocations already, with much more to be done. With this third and final week of the Konnarock Crew in 2012, we'll be concentrating on some sections below Beartown Mountain. Routing through rocky areas makes for challenging Trail construction, but the feeling of accomplishment and the thanks from hikers makes it worthwhile. Our main outings with the Konnarock Crew will be on their full days of Friday-Sunday, August 10-12. Please contact [Joe](#) or [Carl](#) if you'd like to go or for more information.

F/B: Bays Mountain Park (Kingsport, TN) - Lake Road Loop and Fire Tower, Sunday, August 12, 2012

Leader: [Waylon Jenkins](#), 423-367-1475

This hike will be a loop of about 5 miles, combining most of the Lake Road Trail with the Fire Tower Trail and a portion of the River Mountain Road Trail. It will include a climb of roughly 500 feet to get to the fire tower and another climb of a couple hundred feet to go over Cherry Knobs past the quarry between Feagins Gap and Ledbetter Gap. This is a hike that is convenient to Kingsport for a Sunday afternoon outing. Meet in the parking lot of the Toy F. Reid Eastman Employee Center at 1:30 pm. Please call the hike leader if you plan to join us.

F/B Hike: Erwin Linear Trail, Sunday, August 19, 2012

Leader: [Mary Fanslow](#), 423-707-5004

Enjoy an easy stroll along the paved Erwin greenbelt which borders Indian Creek. While the greenbelt length is 5 miles one way, we'll tailor the length of our walk to participant interest. We'll meet in the parking lot between the Colonial Heights McDonald's and the bank at 1 pm, or alternative meeting locations can be arranged. Please let Mary know before 10 pm Saturday, August 18, if you plan to go on the walk. Bring plenty of water.

AT: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob, Sunday August 26, 2012

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



View from Little Rock Knob

This hike is along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest to great views at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). The round trip distance is 4.6 to 5 miles with 900' rise (similar climb to Bays Mountain Firetower trail but over 3-4 times the distance). Let's leave promptly at 1pm from the parking lot below McDonalds in Colonial Heights for the hour (45-mile) drive. Bring water, snack, comfortable footwear, rain gear, bug spray, and trekking poles. Expected return is by 7pm depending on our hiking speed and desire to tarry at the overlook. Please call/e-mail the hike leader for headcount to arrange transportation.



For the Record

F/B: Laurel Fork Falls Hike – Sunday June 24th, 2012

Ian Powell reporting

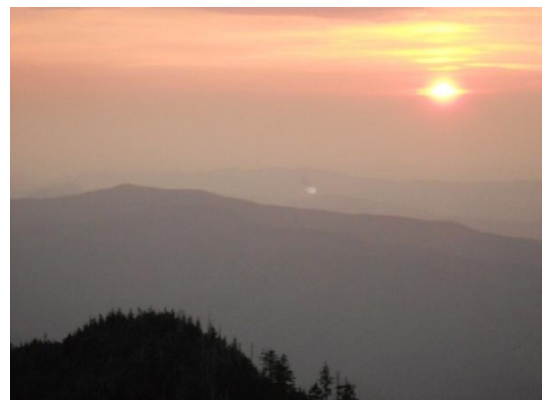


Vic Hasler and I quickly carpooled from Colonial Heights to the Hampton trail entrance. The day was a hot one in the 90s. This route to the falls is an easy 2.4 miles. Once there, we saw Bob Peoples and family. Vic went up the rock stairs to the "High Water" trail to check on some geocaches while I hiked back the original route until we met at their intersection. Overall, we saw several snakes and lizards, plus plenty of roadside fireworks stands on the way home. The wiki for this trail ([link](#)) was updated with photos and map trace.

Mt. LeConte Lodge, July 7-8, 2012

Vic Hasler reporting

This year's reservation was split into two hiking pairs. Clark and Vic Hasler headed up Rainbow Falls Trail, while Steven Clark and Lindsey Renfro took the Alum Cave Trail up. (Note: The lodge register indicates that 90+% use this latter route.) Clark Hasler had an up-close view of a bear which crossed the trail. The clear and sunny day was 20oF cooler up on top, so a pleasant 50-70s versus the heat wave below. Both groups arrived by early afternoon, thus time for naps and/or exploring. After a rosy sunset, those in the office building were entertained by an informal bluegrass gig, playing in the light of kerosene lanterns, consisting of two guitars, a harmonica, and percussion using a plastic storage tub. The morning had a crisp sunrise for any eyes that were open. After breakfast, the two hiking pairs headed down with the Haslers taking the lesser used Bull Head Trail (only meeting two folks along the way).



Special AT Gravel Project on Round Bald, July 9-12, 2012

Carl Fritz reporting

Last summer we hauled 37 tons of gravel from Carver's Gap to between Round Bald and Engine Gap. This summer we hauled another 110 tons of ABC aggregate (crusher run) from Carver's Gap to between Round Bald and Carver's Gap.



Carl Fritz and George Thorpe spread gravel on Round Bald

Twenty-four volunteers worked long hours and under sometimes adverse weather conditions to make this happen. On Saturday, July 7, a crew retrieved large locust logs from the old Appalachian Trail. The temperature was very high with full sun, high humidity and no breeze. By early afternoon we were all showing signs of heat exhaustion and quit, but we had retrieved about 40 logs.

On Monday, July 9th we started a two-shift per day operation with a Kubota tractor with a front end loader and two rented Yanmar C12R-B tracked vehicles to haul the gravel up the trail to as far as Round Bald. At least eight people per crew were needed to run the three machines, direct traffic on the road, repair the trail at corners where tracked vehicles tore up the treadway, and smooth the dumped gravel and install water bars and steps as possible. Some even volunteered to stay overnight to guard the equipment.

Volunteers had little idle time, especially as the week progressed because the machines were making the round trip very quickly. The machine drivers became very skilled in maneuvering the tractor and tracked vehicles. Some even learned to spin the machines 180 degrees in place.

The determination of the volunteers was obvious on Wednesday when there was an all day down pour. One member commented, "We are certified crazy." At least five on the first crew were blue with cold when the second shift arrived. The second shift members were immediately out of their vehicles in the downpour and relieving the first crew to get them into warm vehicles.

Special thanks to David Quillen who provided the tractor, hauled all the equipment from and to Asheville, fueled the vehicles, and kept the machines operating mechanically, besides running the machines each day. "Roman Wall" as a non-club-member is to be thanked for his multiple shifts, some being consecutive, plus an overnight stay. Morgan Sommerville was instrumental in the rental of the two machines.



Dave Quillen maneuvers Yanmar through the woods



The North Carolina Appalachian Trail License Plate grant was the primary funding source for this operation; so keep purchasing those AT license plates. TEHCC funded the remainder.

The important volunteers who devoted 550 hours from July 4 to 12 were: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, John Botts, Ken Buchanan, Joe Bucki, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Dave Clark, Bruce Darby, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham,

Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Josh Henri, Frank Klein, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, "Roman Wall", David Quillen, and George Thorpe.



"Rain Dance" by John Botts, Frank Klein and Jim Foster

Beginner/Novice Whitewater Kayak Clinic, July 14-15, 2012

Scott Fisher reporting

We had a great group of new kayakers take the beginner class this past weekend. The weather cooperated for the most part and we had a great time meeting new friends on the water. We had three existing members and seven new APEs participate. Please join me in congratulating Kelmara Kelly, Michelle Frazee, Todd Emma, Jeremiah Tomlinson, Penny Morgan, Marie Bradford, Haley Werth, Buck Mayzes, Mark Crass and Wade McKeehan. All did a fantastic job and their progress throughout the weekend was obvious. As is the APE way, let's reach out to these folks to welcome them and include them in upcoming trips.

Special thanks to our AIs Steve Hagood, Stacey Lowe, Dave Walters, Donna Kestner and Sonia Millan for their time and expertise. Special thanks also to everyone who stepped up to loan our newcomers the gear they needed, especially Wes Bradley who year after year is there to provide boats and equipment for those who need them.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 6/26/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to one mile south of shelter

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds with a string trimmer along approximately the first mile south of the shelter, removed one minor blowdown, and did some lopping of bushes.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 6/30/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds and briars

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to Spring 2.3 Mile North of Low Gap

People: Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

Summary: Scythes were used to cut weeds and briars on this 3.5-mile section. In spite of the dry weather, we found some stinging nettles were chest high and needed cutting. The trail and water diversions looked good. Water was found at the Abington Gap Shelter's spring and at Double springs. We gave two thru hikers, Squirrel Fist and Lunatic, a ride to Damascus on our way home.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 6/30/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds and clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill to No Business Shelter

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut weeds, blazed, and cleared blowdowns.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 7/1/2012

Purpose: Maintain Mountaineer Falls Shelter

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

People: Terry Oldfield

Summary: I hiked with my daughters and trimmed a few overhanging branches on the way to the shelter from Walnut Mountain Road. At the shelter, we picked up trash and replaced the log book. I also picked up some trash at Walnut Mountain Road. Thanks to the Third-Saturday crew, the trail is in great shape and there wasn't much trash to pick up.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/3/2012

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail south for one mile

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

Summary: We used Backbone Rock Trail to access AT. We cut four blowdowns, the largest being just a couple of hundred feet from AT on Backbone Rock Trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/3/2012

Purpose: Clear relocation

Location: Backbone Rock Trail

People: Dave Clark, Jim Foster, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: Tuesday Crew cut and lopped growth in the relocation that ASU will work on. Fourteen-hundred feet have been prepared with flags and divided into seven sections of 200 feet each.

Reporting: Bill Berry
Date: 7/6/2012
Purpose: Inspect trail and clear blowdowns
Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to No Business Shelter
People: Bill Berry
Summary: I inspected the trail and cleared blowdowns.

Reporting: Brian Paley
Date: 7/12/2012
Purpose: Clear blowdowns
Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Shelter
People: Brian Paley, Bob Peoples
Summary: We cleared several large blowdowns caused by the recent storms.

Reporting: Brian Paley
Date: 7/17/2012
Purpose: Clear blowdowns
Location: Section 12d, North of US19E toward Bishop Hollow
People: Brian Paley, Jim Chambers
Summary: We cleared one regular blowdown, one 24-inch step-around log, and two large clusters of blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 7/17/2012
Purpose: Inspect trail on Round Bald
Location: Section 14b, Engine Gap to Carvers Gap
People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Dave Clark, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples
Summary: We inspected trail from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap and developed a plan for work to be completed with Konnarock Crew to hopefully finish major trail repairs to this section for twenty years. Four of us went to Banner Elk to purchase supplies including rebar for this project.

Reporting: Tim McClain
Date: 7/21/2012
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 3b, Spring to US421
People: Tim McClain, Peggy McClain
Summary: We cut weeds and cut back limbs and woody growth on the south half of this section.

Reporting: Tim McClain
Date: 7/22/2012
Purpose: Cut weeds and remove blowdowns
Location: Section 3b, Spring to US421
People: Tim McClain
Summary: I finished cutting weeds on this section and removed six small blowdowns with a handsaw.

Reporting: Richard Carter
Date: 7/22/2012
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 14b, North side of Grassy Ridge
People: Richard Carter
Summary: I cut weeds and briars with a string trimmer along about three-quarters of a mile of trail on the north side of Grassy Ridge.