



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

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tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

What is a club? Per a dictionary, it's an association dedicated to a particular interest or activity. For TEHCC, our constitution states several purposes. As an Eastman Recreation club, we provide a program of hiking, canoeing/paddling, and similar outdoor activities. To support this objective, we also seek to establish or expand area hiking trails and provide education in outdoor skills and safety. In particular, we look after a section of the famous Appalachian Trail as a designated maintaining club.

To achieve these purposes, the club provides a common ground for folks in the area. The regularly scheduled trail maintenance activities ensure our AT section is ready for those passing through and for the benefit of local families enjoying a day hike. There is a core of expertise within the club which can also tackle more significant projects and relocations. The dinner meetings highlight noteworthy features of the region. Through all, we provide an opportunity for camaraderie as we experience the trails, lakes, and streams of our beautiful part of the world. Hope to see you at a club event in 2013...

2012 TEHCC Steering Committee Budget in Review

Vic Hasler reporting

To keep the club informed, here's how the Steering Committee used the \$5 member/\$10 affiliate dues in 2012. Note that the TEHCC AT Committee also secures funding from various grants and donations for specific projects.

In 2012, TEHCC received \$3,185 in dues, a \$50 donation, and \$352 from equipment rentals. The use of this funding was very similar to 2011. 64% was used for upkeep of the Appalachian Trail – either directly for supplies (shovels, chain oil, gloves, rebar, saws, carabineers, files, sledge handles, lopper blades), trail signs, and upcoming NC/TN trail books or as donations to Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Konnarock crew, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. The club hosted two dinner meetings and the gear swap, purchased recognition awards, hosted the tehcc.org website including purchasing software to support immediate display of trail maintenance reports, and paid dues to American Whitewater to allow discounted memberships. To continue updating the rental equipment, a Big Agnes tent and Z-Lite pad were purchased while making needed repairs (torn fly, lost trekking pole tip). By Eastman Recreation policy, no balance can be carried forward into the next year, so the remaining ~\$60 was given to Bays Mountain Park. Any questions can be directed to a [Steering Committee](#) member. Thanks for your support.

Help Wanted - 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference

Joe DeLoach reporting

The 2013 edition of the Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference will be held from July 19-26 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. We and the other four southern clubs are the host clubs for this meeting with around 1000 expected to attend. Activities at the conference will include hikes, excursions, entertainment, ATC meetings, and workshops. We are responsible for the workshops and have compiled a slate of 70 workshops to run during the day on Saturday and Sunday July 20-21 and on Monday and Tuesday evenings July 22-23. The workshops fall under seven tracks - Cultural Heritage, Environmental Issues, Hiking & Backpacking Skills, Natural Wonders, Outreach, Trail Management, and Volunteer Leadership Development. We need volunteers to help with the workshop program, in three areas. The most volunteers are needed as "moderators" for the workshops - introduce the speaker, watch the time, call for questions at the end, thank them etc. This is a good way to get a ringside seat at workshops that interest you, and although the conference program will not be published until spring, we can share the workshop schedule if you'd like to select one or more workshops to moderate. We also need volunteers to cover a desk in the building where the workshops will be held to assist attendees and presenters. Finally, there will be a workshops desk that will be staffed in the main registration area from the opening day until the last workshop on July 23. We appreciate those of you who have already volunteered, but we need to get your contact information, days available to volunteer, and your T-shirt size (all volunteers receive a T-shirt). We know this is a long way out still and if you're not sure about your available days, that's fine, but we'll need up to 60 people helping, so contact Joe DeLoach at 423-753-7263, joedelo@eastman.com if you're interested in volunteering.

Grant from LL Bean and ATC

Carl Fritz reporting

In 2012, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) awarded \$24,000 in grants to 16 Appalachian Trail Clubs through the L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program. Since 1979, ATC has awarded more than half a million dollars to Appalachian Trail clubs and their volunteers through this program. The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club were fortunate to receive a grant to purchase two string trimmers. In a year with more abundant rain than we have had in recent years, the weeds were more prolific and these new string trimmers were a valuable asset this year and hopefully will be for many years to come.

TN Announces Rocky Fork State Park

The 5th and FINAL sale of chunks of Rocky Fork from The Conservation Fund to the Cherokee NF was completed on September 27, 2012. This concludes transfer of Rocky Fork into public ownership, a goal sought by ATC since at least 1983. To top off that excitement, on Oct. 30 TN Gov. Bill Haslam and US Sen. Lamar Alexander announced that the 2036 acre TN-owned portion of Rocky Fork will become Rocky Fork State Park! Funds for this project came from a TN Heritage Conservation Trust Fund grant (obtained by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy), federal Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations, and generous donations from private donors and foundations, notably Fred & Alice Stanback, the Lyndhurst Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (through Walmart's 2012 Acres for America program), the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Conservation Alliance. The Conservation Fund bought and held the property pending public purchase. Look for an upcoming article in ATJourneys for more details.

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 7:30 to 9:00 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!

Scheduled Events



There are no events scheduled for this month. Happy holidays!



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 11/17/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and pick up trash

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: What started out to be a short stroll and a check of the section between Carvers Gap and the Hack Line turned into a significant outing when hikers coming down from Roan told us the Trail was "blocked by fallen trees." There were nine of them in a tangle near the Roan High Knob Shelter. We were able to remove all but one easy step-over with a hand saw. While there, we removed trash from the shelter.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 11/19/2012

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowry, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Steve Perri

Summary:

Konnarock: 2013 plan has 4 weeks of work planned between Beartown and Cloudland. We proposed switching Konnarock to Little Rock Knob. The club would then continue to work on Beartown to Cloudland.

Student Groups: ATC has had several student groups contact them to ID clubs who might want to sponsor a week of work in mid-March. Weather here is iffy and committing a whole week for the club is a big resource commitment. It might be better if we could commit to 2-3 days and be flexible depending on weather. Carl will check with ATC to flex plan, offer stay at Bob Peoples', and maybe do work trail-south of White Rocks with work at Noli as alternate plan.

Grant Proposals: We discussed options for funding programs in 2013 including purchase of hard hats with knob adjustment, hat internals and seat bands, loppers, and possibly bog bridges.

Ridgerunner Proposal: We discussed an option to fund a ridgerunner/naturalist with funds from the TN and NC license plate programs for \$10k. We want to purchase a tent, metal locker, and provide support. The person would work from Cloudland to Yellow Mtn Gap staying at shelters Thur-Mon. Off days they can stay at Bob's. We will update last year's proposal and include some visitation at Grassy Ridge.

Section Assignment Discussion: We discussed the Mt Rogers AT Club proposal to transfer maintenance responsibility for the AT from the VA state line to MRATC (~4 mi). After discussing the advantages and disadvantages, we decided to transfer responsibility to MRATC. We will contact the VA Regional Office before contacting MRATC.

Koonford Bridge: Ed and Carl discussed an optional plan to replace the Koonford Bridge with a modified design rather than an entirely primitive design. After inspecting the old bridge, they have a better sense of how to design and protect a newer design. We

agreed to have Ed and Carl talk with the USFS about their proposal. The new design could be done at less cost and allow the center span to break away if a tree were to hit the bridge during a flood in the future. They estimate it could be done in Aug/Sept during low-water flow.

Other discussions: -There was more AT damage from Superstorm Sandy than expected, mostly rhodos and trees with vines came down. -City of Greeneville, TN has asked ATC for info on Trail Communities Program. We are contacting NC Hiking Club to see if they have any volunteers or other connections with Greeneville since the city is closer to their section of the AT than our section. -Parking lot at Dennis Cove has been redone by USFS; more gravel is needed there and for Osborne Tract.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 11/26/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and debris

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap north to USFS 278

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I removed a lot of debris in this 1.5-mile section. There are five large blowdowns about 50 yards south of the first Oglesby Branch footbridge. I removed enough of the branches to make the trail passable; however, the trees are suspended and I didn't feel safe removing them alone.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 11/26/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and debris

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River, Chestoa Bridge to NOC

People: Joe Morris

Summary: Walking from Chestoa Bridge to NOC, the trail was in good shape. A hunter who had just walked from Curley Maple Gap Shelter said the trail was clear to the shelter. There is a large blow down suspended near the footbridge behind the rafting companies. If it fell straight down it could damage the bridge support.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 11/29/2012

Purpose: Clear trail obstructions

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End

People: Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Joe Morris, Jack Tarlin

Summary: We all went in from the shelter access trail. Bob and I hiked to the Canute Place, clearing numerous obstructions and several blowdowns. The trail is in good condition. The springs were running at Canute Place and the shelter. We cleared some blowdown debris around the shelter spring. We drove back to the Bitter End trailhead expecting to see the other crew (Jim, Joe, and Jack). They were not there yet, so Bob and I began to hike in, clearing obstructions along the way. The wet snow from Superstorm Sandy left numerous rhododendrons drooping over the trail, which explained the slow progress of the other group. Since it was starting to get dark, I went ahead to find the others and found them after about 10 minutes. We all hiked back while clearing the remaining obstructions. It was a long day.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 11/29/2012

Purpose: Clean up after Superstorm Sandy

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Ted Mowery, Ken Buchanan, Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleared numerous rhodies and other small trees brought down by the heavy wet snow from Superstorm Sandy. We also trimmed the rhodies back quite a bit, so hopefully additional snow will not bring them down into the trail. There are two large trees which will require a chainsaw to remove. Both are within 0.5 mile south of the shelter and are fairly easy to negotiate, so could wait for the spring clean-up.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 11/30/2012

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I collected trash from the shelter, checked the spring, which is running adequately, lopped some brush from the blue-blazed trail, lopped brush and briars from the main trail, cleared several minor blowdowns, and sawed five moderately large blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/30/2012

Purpose: Clear trail, check relo, discuss Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River Near NOC

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed and I cut the suspended blowdown over the foot bridge near NOC. We also checked out and remarked the relocation here. We met for an hour with Lynn and Matt about potential concepts for Koonford Bridge.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 12/1/2012

Purpose: Pick up litter, weed, and remove branches

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Arian Scott

Summary: We did a lot of weed cleanup and branch removal on the Hampton Blue Blaze. There is a large tree down that I will have to get with Kim about because of the way it fell. It'll have to be removed but is in the wilderness area. We also checked for trash around the Shook Branch camping areas.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 12/2/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Vicinity of Oglesby Branch

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: Acting on a report from Joe Morris, we took a chainsaw in to cut one individual large blowdown and a tangle just south of the southernmost bridge on Oglesby Branch. We also did some lopping and trimming. Hikers reported no problems between that point and the Nolichucky River.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 12/2/2012

Purpose: Clear downed limbs and lop briars

Location: Section 2b, McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Jill Wilson, Steve Wilson

Summary: We took advantage of the warm weather to maintain the trail from the McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter. Twenty-six downed limbs were found which required hikers to walk around. A chainsaw was used to cut up the limbs and remove a few downed trees. The shelter is in good shape.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 12/2/2012

Purpose: Check on storm damage

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We walked the trail to check on snowstorm damage. We removed a large number of small branches, lopped briars, and picked up trash.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 12/3/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail near AT

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin

Summary: Jim, Bob and Jack cleared a reported blowdown in the wilderness.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/4/2012

Purpose: Rehab and cut out relocations

Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Jack Tarlin, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We split into three crews. First crew rehabbed trail just north of Greasy Creek Gap. They made major improvements on 500 feet of trail by digging out roots and repairing sloughing trail. Second crew cut out long relocations starting near south end. They cut basically two long relocations out. Third crew worked on cutting out relocation on Little Rock Knob. Work remains in all three areas. Fuel for two saws and maintainers were depleted. Beautiful day in the 60's. Forest Service road was very muddy in spite of no rain in last month. We swamped one vehicle.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 12/7/2012

Purpose: AT Inventory Planning Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Andrew Downs, Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri

Summary: We reviewed options for Ridgerunner for 2013 after seeing how other proposals and agreements are structured in the southern region. We revisited the AT inventory list of future projects for Konnarock starting with 2 weeks next year. Andrew will send the updated list of plans through 2018. We also reviewed open areas funding for future funding from NPS.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 12/8/2012

Purpose: Check trail condition

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleared numerous small blowdowns and tangles of rhodedendron knocked down by Superstorm Sandy. Luckily, there was nothing big to deal with. We picked up trash at the shelter and cleaned out the gutters. The handle of the rake is missing so we will need to bring a new one on the next trip. We met two southbounders heading for Hampton and several day hikers out enjoying this beautiful weather.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 12/12/2012

Purpose: Look over restoration project areas for GWWA (Golden-Winged Warbler)

Location: Section 12d, Trail north of Campbell Hollow Road to Bishop Hollow

People: Jim Foster

Summary: Joe McGuinness (USFS), John Odell (ATC), and myself surveyed about a dozen sites that are slated for restoration to provide suitable habitat for the golden-winged warbler. Most of the restoration would require some cutting of trees, some removal of non-native invasive species, and some returning to natural setting of open areas in order to accomodate this. Our concern is with the effect it will have on the AT. Future meetings are planned.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 12/12/2012

Purpose: Check for storm damage

Location: Section 18, FS230 Switchback to Deep Gap

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed many small branches from trail and briars along the trail. We removed two trees from the trail, the largest about 15 inches. We left one tree of about 30 inches across the trail, but cleared a path around the tree.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/12/2012

Purpose: Cut out and dig relocation

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River Near NOC

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: We cut out the 2500-foot relocation using two chain saws and loppers near Nolichucky Expeditions. We also dug some trail and cribbed our way through probably the most difficult ravine.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 12/14/2012

Purpose: Check trail for storm damage

Location: Section 17, FS230 Switchback north about 2 miles

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Wayne Jones, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We pruned low-hanging branches and briars, cut several trees from across the trail, and cut nine fallen dead pine trees that blocked a 100-foot section of old trail on Unaka Mountain with the intention of reopening this section in the spring. The trees fell about three years ago and we rerouted the trail at that time.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 12/15/2012

Purpose: Clear obstructing overgrowth

Location: Section 9a, Northeast side of Pond Mountain

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cut back overgrowth hanging into and blocking the trail with a hand saw.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 12/15/2012

Purpose: Remove large tree

Location: Section 18, Just south of FS230 Switchback

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed a large oak tree (24+ inches) from across the trail. We checked several trail locations in section 18 for future upgrades.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 12/19/2012

Purpose: Routine Tuesday Outing (on Wednesday)

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob

People: Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Ken Buchanan, Jack Tarlin, John Botts

Summary: From Hughes Gap we walked to Little Rock Knob. On the south side of Little Rock Knob we cleared the remaining rhododendrons and other possible obstructions in preparation for a future relocation. It didn't take as long as anticipated; so after lunch we cleared the nearby overlook to make it more accessible. On the way back to Hughes Gap we cleared several blowdowns and improved a wet area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/19/2012

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River near Nolichucky Expeditions

People: John Beaudet, Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Becky Kinder, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Gayle Riddervold, Gerald Scott

Summary: Part of Tuesday Crew continued digging the relocation near Nolichucky Expeditions. They completed the trail through probably the worst depression.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 12/25/2012

Purpose: Check storm damage from recent winds

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: We cleared numerous blowdowns with the pruning saw. There are four trees/branches down that will require the chainsaw but the trail is passable. I will take care of those after the first of the year. We picked up a fair amount of trash, including an old tarp and sleeping bag. The springs are running well. We saw no hikers.