



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

February 2013

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

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## From the Chair

*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

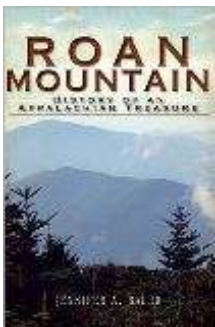
While winter weather whips up the wind, we'll write about a wiki and wellness. (cwazy wabbit...)

Looking for ideas of where to hike in the region? A two year work-in-progress, the [TEHCC Trail Wiki](#) currently offers information (directions to the trailhead, description, and photos) on nearly 80 places. Some trails are suggested as being suitable for [families/beginners](#) or as our [favorites](#). The club has been thanked multiple times for offering this service.

During 2012, TEHCC partnered with the “Mission Possible” program offered by Eastman Wellness. A series of Sunday afternoon hikes were arranged during the summer and fall to enjoy the shorter trails. This Mission Possible program is going to be held again in 2013. It is starting a bit earlier in March and continuing through November. The incentives are also changing to offer \$100 HDA for 90 minutes per week (the prior 2012 goal) or \$300 for 150 minutes (new goal for full reward). The Steering Committee is discussing what activities would be appropriate for this partnership in 2013. Your input is welcomed by contacting an [SC member](#).

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## Spring Dinner Meeting – Friday, April 19th - Save the date!



We have a date and speaker!

Jennifer Bauer, Park Manager at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area, will discuss her book, published in 2011, “Roan Mountain: History of an Appalachian Treasure.” Learn more about the ecology, history, and preservation of a wonderful place dear to our hearts. The “Happy Trails Hour” will begin at 5:30 pm in the Eastman Lodge with dinner, club awards, and program following. More details will be forthcoming via e-mail and the newsletters as they develop. We hope to see you there.

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## Cullowhee 2013 ATC Biennial Exhibit & Sponsorship Opportunities

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Do you know a local business owner or corporate executive that would like to showcase their business to the more than 900 A.T. enthusiasts who will be attending next summer's Biennial in Cullowhee, NC? Vendor exhibit space is available for \$150. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$10,000 and include an exhibit space. The different sponsorships also include additional marketing opportunities including event signage, logo placement on the ATC website, Journeys magazine and event T-shirt, sample product and product information included in event bags and more!

For additional information, please contact [cullowhee2013sponsorships@gmail.com](mailto:cullowhee2013sponsorships@gmail.com) or visit [www.appalachiantrail.org/cullowhee-2013-sponsorship-form](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/cullowhee-2013-sponsorship-form)

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## Proposed TEHCC Maintenance Section Change

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### *Steve Perri reporting*

TEHCC was recently asked by the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club (MRATC) to turn over our maintenance responsibility to MRATC for the 4.5 miles of the A.T. from the VA state line into Damascus. Since 1947, TEHCC has had the assigned responsibility for maintenance from Spivey Gap, NC to the center of Damascus, VA. After much discussion and consideration with our A.T. cooperative Trail partners and internal discussions within TEHCC, we believe that transition of section maintenance responsibilities to MRATC would simplify responsibilities, interactions and perceptions associated with this section of Trail and we have agreed to let MRATC take over this 4.5 mile section of trail.

In 2005, ATC adopted a different structure to manage the A.T., from governance by a group called the board of managers to the regional partnership committees (RPC's) that are in place today. Because of this change, TEHCC now reports in through two RPC's rather than to one, as is the case for most trail maintenance clubs. The northern-most 4.5 miles of TEHCC's section is reported to the Virginia mid-Atlantic Region (VARO) and the remaining 134 miles is reported to the Southern Region (SORO). So currently, TEHCC has the complexity of coordinating activities and communications with government agencies within VA, TN, and NC. While the status quo of continued maintenance of this entire section would have been fine for the club to handle, the changes in our interactions within the new structure of ATC adds another level of complexity. Relinquishing the responsibilities in VA will simplify our reporting responsibilities.

Both regional offices of ATC have been informed of our decision. The VARO RPC now has the responsibility to approve this transfer since this change will bring additional land within VARO RPC's jurisdiction. We expect the approval decision to occur in the spring of 2013.

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## 2013 Environmental Monitoring and Management

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ATC is preparing for another season of environmental monitoring on the A.T. and is looking for help from the Trail maintaining clubs. In the spring, there will be at least one workshop to train volunteers in rare plant monitoring and phenology monitoring. The workshops will teach the most current protocols and provide necessary materials for volunteers to independently monitor along the A.T. There will also be various projects scheduled to control invasive exotic plants in the Trail corridor. Most of these projects will occur in the summer months, but there will be some manual/mechanical control work done in February to remove kudzu and multiflora rose from the Charlie Johnson and Bishop Hollow tracts between Highway 19E and Buck Mountain Rd. That work is tentatively scheduled for February 9, and/or Feb. 13-16, and/or Feb. 20-23.

Other potential opportunities include training workshops for using GPS and documenting invasive exotic plants on the Trail. These trainings will only occur if there is enough interest from volunteers to warrant the exercise. Depending on the geographic location of those interested, the training may be held as a webinar allowing people to participate from the comfort of their own homes.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please provide the following information to John Odell, ATC's Resource Management Coordinator (828) 254-3708 [jodell@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jodell@appalachiantrail.org)

Name:

Contact Info:

Interest (rare plants, phenology, invasive exotic plants):

Experience (none necessary):

Availability (month(s), days of the week, or dates for the February work)

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## Great Smoky Mountains NP Permit Fee

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Beginning February 13, 2013, people staying overnight in the Great Smoky Mountains NP (GRSM) backcountry will be subject to a \$4/person/night permit fee. A.T. thru-hikers will be charged \$20, with the permit good for 38 days. A GRSM backcountry permit can be obtained up to 30 days in advance. Thru-hikers will have 8 days to pass through the GRSM. Thru-hiker permits will be available year-round.

Thru-hikers will be able to obtain permits on-line, by fax (once payment is made by phone) and in person at the GRSM Backcountry Office (BO) at the Sugarlands Visitor Center near Gatlinburg, TN. Credit cards will be accepted on-line, by phone and in person at the BO. Checks, money orders and cash will be accepted in person at the BO. Four bunks will be reserved in each GRSM A.T. shelter for thru-hikers March through May. Thru-hikers must always give up space in shelters to non-thru-hikers holding reservations. Ranger presence will be increased on the A.T. during thru-hiker season. For more information, please call 865-436-1297.

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## “AT Hike 200” by Joe Morris

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Joe Morris, TEHCC trail maintainer, has published marvelous photographs and descriptions of his experiences on the A.T. from Max Patch, TN to Damascus, VA, a distance of 208.8 miles. Joe hiked this portion of the A.T. over a period of 2½ years as loop hikes or out-and-back hikes, finishing in April 2011. He describes it as a journey... “A story that will be told primarily through photographs...” The story also includes lists and description of hiking gear and a tribute to TEHCC trail builders and maintainers. Joe says the publication is free and is to be freely distributed; however, the pictures are not to be reprinted or published. To receive a free pdf copy, please send an email to [ATHike200@hotmail.com](mailto:ATHike200@hotmail.com).



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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George Mauger  
Craig Thompson  
Kellie Culp  
Pamela Honeycutt  
Gary H Bailey

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## Details on Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### **Most Tuesdays: Weekly A.T. 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 7:30 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](mailto:Wesley) an email asking other members to bring extra equipment. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night!

### Scheduled Events

#### **Annual Maintenance Dinner - Friday, February 22, 2013**

We will have our 2013 annual dinner to kick off the primary maintenance season on Friday, February 21, at the Eastman Lodge banquet room. The Eastman Lodge is located at [404 Bays Mountain Park Road](#).

The event will start at 5:30 pm with a social time followed by dinner at 6 pm. After the meal we will present awards and discuss various issues related to maintaining TEHCC's section of the A.T. All maintainers or individuals interested in maintaining are invited to attend.

Ed Oliver and Mary Cunningham have again graciously volunteered to provide dinner. This year's meal will feature barbeque from Phil's Dream Pit and the cost will be \$5. You can pay for the dinner at the event.

Please contact Kim Peters (423-366-0128 or [atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org)) by Friday, February 15, to let me know how many people will come for dinner, so we can plan for the meals.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/28/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 19b, Nolichucky River Near NOC

**People:** John Beaudet, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** On the last Tuesday Crew outing of 2012 we continued digging the relocation near NOC. We completed rock fill work at a number of tree root exposures, started on a second major gully and built a 25-foot rock bridge. We were glad to have Paul show up as supervisor in the middle of day! We removed about a 14-inch waist-high blowdown from the existing A.T.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/5/2013

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 19b, Nolichucky River Near NOC

**People:** Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** The first digging day of 2013 was comfortable. There are more rocks on this relo than were obvious; but we still built 300 feet of trail. We had participation from some long-time maintainers, Bruce and Mary.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 1/5/2013

**Purpose:** Plan 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference

**Location:** Asheville

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri

**Summary:** This was the latest in a series of planning meetings for the 2013 Biennial. Registration materials have been finalized and will be available this spring.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 1/7/2013

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 10, Laurel Fork Gorge

**People:** "Baltimore Jack" and "Otto"

**Summary:** Baltimore Jack and Otto used hand saws and loppers to clear some of the recent debris from Dennis Cove to the falls. A large blowdown near Dennis Cove was removed later by others.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 1/7/2013

**Purpose:** Winter Maintenance check

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to south side of Beauty Spot

**People:** Mike Hupko

**Summary:** I removed small branches and trees from the trail and found 9 larger trees that will need to be cut with a chainsaw. The trail was left passable.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 1/8/2013

**Purpose:** Remove trees reported across the Trail

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap north about 1/2 mile

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We removed 5 trees from the trail; the largest was about 10 inches in diameter. We also removed small branches from the trail.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 1/8/2013

**Purpose:** Remove trees reported down

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap south about 1.5 miles

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We removed 12 trees from across the trail, the largest was about 20 inches in diameter. We also removed many small branches from the trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/9/2013

**Purpose:** Improve water source and reduce muddy areas

**Location:** Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter, Bog Bridge Area

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** The Tuesday Crew reworked the water source and put in a new water trail. They also repaired muddy areas on the approaches to the bog bridges. A 10-foot turnpike is needed at northern-most bog bridges.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/9/2013

**Purpose:** Repair blazing

**Location:** Section 4b, TN91, Osborne Property

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We set seven blaze posts because some had been broken by cattle or needed to be relocated. Blazes on the farm were freshened. A third stile is needed in the back pastures to cross the middle fence, as the cattle are making a mud hole at the open gate.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 1/12/2013

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

**Summary:** The purpose of the trip was to break-in new pruning saw and finish clearing blowdowns from the barn to Stan Murray. New trees were down from recent winds, so numerous downed limbs were cleared as well. I picked up trash at both shelters. I was nice weather and had many hikers were out. Approximately 20 people and 4 dogs stayed in the barn and at the adjacent campsites.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 1/13/2013

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We completed clearing numerous blowdowns from the barn to Bradley Gap. A lot of trash was left at the Bradley Gap campsites, including a 5-lb flashlight (that works!).

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/17/2013

**Purpose:** Koonford Bridge Replacement

**Location:** Section 10, Unicoi Ranger Station

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We met with Morgan Sommerville of ATC plus Lynn DiFiore and Matt Fusco from the Forest Service. We agreed on the conceptual design elements to replace Koonford Bridge. ATC has funding if we can purchase the materials soon. Details of design and source of materials need to be determined. If it is a standard bridge design, it can be approved in Watauga Ranger District. Tentative timing of the construction is September. Unfortunately, we got caught in the snow squall and it took six and a half hours to get from Unicoi to Kingsport after the meeting.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 1/19/2013

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns and brush obstructing the Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap, northern-most mile of section

**People:** Craig Haire, Helga Mitchell

**Summary:** We trimmed back the rhododendron hanging down into the trail and cleared trees that had fallen across the trail.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 1/20/2013

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 9a, US321 to Pond Flats, northern-most 2 miles of section

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I cleared obstructions from the trail from the recent snow.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 1/20/2013

**Purpose:** Planning Meeting for Maintainers Dinner

**Location:** Kingsport

**People:** Kim Peters, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri

**Summary:** We discussed plans for the A.T. Maintainers Dinner meeting and content to be updated. We also discussed ideas for funds donated to the club from a family that hiked our section.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 1/22/2013

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 2, McQueens Gap to Damascus

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I was shuttled to McQueens Gap by Mt Rogers Outfitters (MRO) and worked my way back to Damascus. The trail was snow packed; however, I was able to do a lot of lopping, along with tree removal and cutting back greenbriar from Abingdon Gap Shelter to the State Line. There are two very large pine trees across the trail just south of Damascus; however, Dave Patrick of MRO implied that MRO would take care of them. Abingdon Gap Shelter was in good shape, and the road going up to McQueens Gap was passable with 4WD.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 1/27/2013

**Purpose:** Inspect bridge and clear blowdown

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

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I inspected the five Jones Branch bridges after the recent rain, snow, and ice. All made it through intact. A large rhododendron blocked the entrance to the second bridge but was easily cut. A dead tree is abutting the foundation of that bridge and should be removed. There were plenty of mostly small blowdowns, leaning rhododendron and one bad obstruction, all of which were cleared. One large tree and rootball above the fourth bridge is easy for hikers to bypass.