



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2013

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

The thru-hikers are coming! The peak wave is expected to pass through the TEHCC section in late April to early May. For maintenance, our section is divided into roughly 4 mile segments. Many have been adopted by folks to ensure that regular tasks, such as removing small blowdowns, cutting back intruding growth, and monitoring the shelters and water sources is accomplished. Third Saturdays are also used to catch up on various sections. Recent maintenance activities can be seen on the [club website](#). If you are interested helping with this regular maintenance, even if for just one time due to your schedule, then please contact Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org) to be matched up with a leader or a Third Saturday event.

Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, April 19th, 2013

The coming of spring brings anticipation of outdoor activities, and also the TEHCC spring dinner meeting at the Eastman Lodge. Come fellowship with club members to see what everyone is up to these days.

Our evening program “*Roan Mountain; History of an Appalachian Treasure*” is by the author of a [2011 book](#) by the same title - Jennifer Bauer, who is the Park Manager of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. Learn more about the ecology, history, and preservation of a wonderful place dear to our hearts.

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy “Trails” Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner: Kabobs (Steak/Chicken) Baked Potato Tossed salad Roll Cobbler Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Sugar & Spice Catering (\$12 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
Special Program: Roan Mountain; History of an Appalachian Treasure	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jennifer Bauer

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Monday, April 15th. (Yes, when you get your taxes completed.) A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter.

Closure on Little Stony Creek Falls Trail

Bill Tindall reports in the [trail wiki](#) that the Forest Service has marked this trail closed beyond the first bridge up from Hanging Rock Recreation Area as a land slide has obliterated about 30 feet of the path. It is expected to remain closed for some time as the repairs will be extensive. The upper falls can still be reached via gravel Forest Service roads.

Cullowhee 2013 ATC Biennial Exhibit & Sponsorship Opportunities

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 or visit www.appalachiantrail.org/cullowhee-2013-sponsorship-form.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Rob Martin	Felicia Littlejohn	Melissa Hill
James Leonard	Joe Morris	Jim Chambers
Greg Williams	Brad Dockery	Katherine Finlay
Carol Dixon	Peter McCann	Lealand Lapoint

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
March 14	TEHCC Rental Equipment Checkout	Terry Dougherty	rental@tehcc.org
March 16	3 rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools!	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
March 17	F/B: Hiking the Warriors' Path SP Mountain Bike Trails, Sunday March 17, 2013	Tim McClain	423-239-5353
March 24	F/B: Winged Deer Park	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
April 19	Spring Dinner Meeting	Vic Hasler	chair@tehcc.org

Details on Upcoming Events

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) 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!

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

Contact: Kim Peters, atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128

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 water bars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact [Kim](#) for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Rental Equipment Checkout, Thursday, March 14, 2013, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Eastman Employee Center, Rm 112 and Lobby



Leader: [Terry Dougherty](#) (rental@tehcc.org)

Time to ensure the club's gear is ready for another year. We'll inspect the tents, backpacks, and sleeping pads. This event is a great opportunity to see how to set up the tents and ask questions. It's a come-and-go as you are available. A light lunch of pizza, vegi tray, cookies and bottled water will be provided.

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools! March 16, 2013

Leader: [Kim Peters](#) (423-366-0128)

For the first 3rd Saturday trip of 2013, we will be maintaining the trail section between Cross Mt on TN91 and Iron Mt. Shelter. The main task will be to maintain the shelter, pick up trash, clean out the fire pit and leave a new log book and shovel. Since this is the first trip of the year on this section, there will undoubtedly be some blowdowns to clear on our hike in. We will also stop to visit the Nick Grindstaff memorial on the way. This is an in and out hike of about 4.8 miles each way. This is a beautiful section with very little elevation gain or loss, so it is fairly easy hiking and with leaves still off the trees there should also be some nice views. We will meet in the Food City parking lot in Blountville at 8 am and carpool from there. Please contact the leader if you plan on coming so I can have enough tools for everyone.

F/B: Hiking the Warriors' Path SP Mountain Bike Trails, Sunday March 17, 2013

Leader: [Tim McClain](#) (423-239-5353)

The [Warriors' Path Mountain Bike Trail System](#) is also open to hiking. The park has roughly six miles of unpaved trails, mostly through the woods with some views of the lake and with elevation changes less than 300 feet. We'll decide on the specific route(s) on the day of the hike based on the interests of the group. Many of the trail sections loop back near the parking area, so come join us for 2 miles or up to 5 or 6 miles. We will plan to loop back near the parking area if anyone wishes to limit their hiking distance. Hikers meet at 1:30 PM in the gravel parking lot for the Warriors' Park State Park Mountain Bike Trail System at the end of Freeman Road. Note that this trailhead is not located at the main part of Warriors' Path State Park but is located off Buttermilk Road in the Fall Creek area. Bring water, snack, and comfortable footwear. We should be done by late afternoon. While this hike is planned as part of the Sunday afternoon hikes for the Mission Possible wellness program, any and all participants are welcomed to join us. Please call or e-mail the hike leader for any questions and to coordinate the arrangements.

F/B: Winged Deer Park, Sunday March 24, 2013

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

With the start of spring and the Mission Possible wellness program, an easy hike to explore the wooded trails in [Winged Deer Park](#) is planned. The park has roughly two miles of interconnected paved and unpaved paths with 200' maximum elevation change. The route could be a grand loop within the forest to see the early wildflowers; otherwise, group choice. There are a half dozen traditional geocaches to find, if interested. Hikers can either meet at 1:30 PM in the parking lot below the Colonial Heights McDonalds to carpool – or in the park next to ball field #5 by 2 PM. Bring water, snack, and comfortable footwear. We should be back in Kingsport by late afternoon. Please call or e-mail the hike leader to coordinate the arrangements.



For the Record

Annual Maintainer's Dinner, February 22, 2013

Kim Peters reporting

The kickoff meeting for 2013 AT maintenance season was held February 22, 2012 and was well attended. We enjoyed Phil's Dream Pit barbecue, coleslaw, pasta salad, baked beans and cookies for dessert prepared by Ed Oliver, Mary Cunningham and Daryel Anderson. We reviewed our 2012 accomplishments, our 2013 major project plans, handed out awards, and discussed safety issues related to trail maintaining activities.

Summary of 2011 Major TEHCC Maintenance Accomplishments

Built 2 miles of new trail

- Cloudland to Hughes Gap
- South of Pond Flats
- Dennis Cove
- Near Nolichucky Expeditions

Rehabbed 1.9 miles of trail

- Spivey Gap to No Business Knob Shelter
- South of Indian Grave Gap
- South of Cloudland
- Round Bald to Carver's Gap
- North of Greasy Creek Gap

Cumulative Hour Award Recipients 2012

50 Career Hours

Scotty Bowman	James Lautzenheiser
Joe Bucki	Michael-John O'Neal (MJ)
Frank Burley ("Nomad 98")	Kelly Perkins
Daisy	Mike Price ("Lumpy")
Bruce Darby	Tisha Perri
June Donaldson	David Quillen
Elizabeth Dukes	Carl Ray
Vic Hasler	Bill Ristom ("Hat Man")
Josh Henri	Gayle Riddervold
Becky Kinder	Lowell Toof
Jolene Koby-Burley ("JoJo Smiley")	

100 Career Hours

Lynn DiFiore	Pat Loven
Dan Firth	Joe Morris
David Huntley	Michael Ray
Jerry Jones	Mike Tuttle
Charlie Kinney ("Pipesmoke")	Maura Weaver
Wayne Krevatski ("Mad Hatter")	Jill Wilson

250 Career Hours

Jim Chambers
Scott VanDam

500 Career Hours

John Beaudet
George Thorpe

1000 Career Hours

Collins Chew
Howard Guinn
Frank Klein

2000 Career Hours

Ken Buchanan
Ted Mowery
Kim Peters

2000+ Career Hours

Bob Peoples 7000 hrs
Carl Fritz 9000 hrs

Top 10 TEHCC Maintainers in Career Hours

<u>Name</u>	<u>Career Hours</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Career Hours</u>
Ed Oliver	11659	Joe DeLoach	4608
Carl Fritz	9348	Paul Benfield	4554
Bob Peoples	7069	Darrol Nickels	3527
Bruce Cunningham	6555	Mary Cunningham	2885
Frank Williams	5210	Bill Stowell	2763



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 1/16/2013

Purpose: Close A.T. due to high water

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Falls

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob put up signs to close the A.T. because the water was above Trail below Laurel Fork Falls. Trail was rerouted on blue-blazed, high-water trail.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 1/23/2013

Purpose: Reopen A.T. below Laurel Fork Falls

Location: Sections 10 and 8, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road and Watauga Lake

People: Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin

Summary: Bob and Jack reopened the A.T. at Laurel Fork Falls since water is now safely below Trail. They also walked the south end of Watauga Lake and found water was above Trail there. So they put up signs to divert hikers onto roads.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 1/28/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and check trail

Location: Sections 10 and 8, Laurel Fork Gorge and Watauga Lake

People: Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin

Summary: Bob Peoples and Jack Tarlin cut two blowdowns in Laurel Fork Gorge, took down signs closing Trail around the south end of Watauga Lake, and walked Trail from Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter to check for possible future college work. No trash was present at all, even after high water; and rhododendrons have not been damaged by recent snows. There are three blowdowns that are easily maneuvered around.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 1/29/2013

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 19b, near Nolichucky River NOC

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Frank Klein, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Ken Murray, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: On a beautiful, warm January day we made good progress on the relocation. Probably two more days will complete this relo. We also removed the blowdown from the stream at 2nd bridge.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/2/2013

Purpose: Chainsaw Recertification

Location: Unicoi

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Waylon Jenkins, Ted Mowery, Mike Watts

Summary: We had a good sawyer recertification in the classroom and in the field.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/6/2013

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 19b, near Nolichucky River NOC

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: We were able to complete the majority of this relocation. We just need to finish the ends of the trail to connect it, rehab blue-blaze trail, and block off old A.T. One more trip will do it.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 2/8/2013

Purpose: Meet with A.T. Ambassadors for Unicoi County

Location: Erwin, TN

People: Julie Judkins, Rob Martin, Janet Hensley, Mayor Lynch, Steve Perri

Summary: We met with the Unicoi County A.T. Ambassadors to start off the 2013 program. Janet and Rob will be co-ambassadors. Rob and Janet will be conducting a community assessment, then will share learnings and potential opportunities for Unicoi County community engagement in 2013.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 2/9/2013

Purpose: Maintain Trail and shelter

Location: Section 2b, US 421 to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Rolla Wade, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We lifted, lopped, picked up, threw, slung, rolled, kicked and tossed fallen limbs and tangles of branches from the Trail as we made our way to the shelter. There we picked up trash, cleaned out the gutter, and removed lengths of pine trees someone had set against the shelter. The need for chainsaw maintenance on this section was reported. There was a dead coyote at the US 421 parking area, apparently shot.

Reporting: Timothy Stewart

Date: 2/9/2013

Purpose: Repair foot-bridge tread

Location: Section 11b, Approximately 2 miles north of Bitter End

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: The wire tread on a side-by-side, two-log footbridge was damaged between the logs by repetitive foot pressure on an unsupported, weak spot. A thicker gauge metal tread was obtained and used to span the gap between the logs.

I drove in and discovered the gate was locked; so I parked near the gate and walked in via the forest service road. The thicker gauge tread is cumbersome and does not bend easily. I determined the best way to transport it was to drag it behind like a sled. This worked well (except for a few scratches on the back of my leg - ouch). On the way to the footbridge, I encountered numerous drooping rhododendrons which I removed. There were a few small blowdowns as well.

At the bridge I had to remove some snow. I then placed the new tread over the existing wire tread easily covering the gap between the two logs. I used small staples to secure to the logs. The thicker gauge, metal tread appears to be sturdy enough to withstand constant foot pressure. However, I realized that if the unsupported area does break it will have sharp, protruding edges; I will monitor this. While hiking out I removed more drooping rhodos.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 2/9/2013

Purpose: Winter storm cleanup

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Jones Branch

People: John Beaudet, Jim Chambers

Summary: We cleared blowdowns and brush from Trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/12/2013

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 19b, Near Nolichucky River NOC

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: With the great weather and a lot of energy, we were able to remove sufficient rock to complete both the transitions of new trail with the old A.T. Also, we did some dress up work on the relocation. We installed a new blue-blaze trail to the NOC parking area. John made two 4x4 post signs that were installed at both ends of the blue-blaze trail. The new A.T. is white blazed.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 2/12/2013

Purpose: Flag relocations

Location: Section 12d, US19E to Bishop Hollow

People: Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

Summary: We wondered why Carl sent us off with loppers and a hand saw to do flagging today, but within 5 feet of starting up the trail, we knew why. We lopped a bunch of rhodies and with that hand saw, we cut more blowdowns than we could count on our way up to Bishop Hollow, including a big 14" which required two cuts. We left only one easy stepover that we did not have the time nor energy to cut, about 0.2 mile south of Bishop Hollow. We eventually got around to doing some flagging in the multiflora rose, which bloodied us both a bit. For future reference, one of the steps leading north from 19E needs to be replaced. Fortunately, we cut a big locust log right off the trail which would make a good step. It was a good day to be out with lots of welcome sunshine. We met one early northbounder who was glad to be at lower elevations and described post-holing through foot-high snow over Roan Mountain.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 2/14/2013

Purpose: Blaze trail

Location: Section 19b, Near Nolichucky River NOC

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed painted blazes on the blue-blaze trail to NOC. He also inspected the newly opened trail relocation.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 2/15/2013

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 2a and new Section 1, Abingdon Gap Shelter to State Line

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I took advantage of the nice weather and began repainting blazes on my section of trail.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 2/15/2013

Purpose: Maintain Double Springs Shelter

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: Kim and I hiked from TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter with the purpose of picking up trash at the shelter (reported by Lynn DiFiore). Along the way we cut a few small blowdowns, and rhododendron and greenbriar that were encroaching on the trail. At the shelter we picked up trash (including many tin cans), cleared the shelter gutter, and placed a new log book. All looked good at the shelter and on the way back. The only trail obstructions remaining were two stepovers, a 6-inch and an 18-inch.

Reporting: Timothy Stewart

Date: 2/16/2013

Purpose: Day hike and trail maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: Just out for a short day hike in the snow. Encountered several drooping rhododendrons and removed them from the Trail.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 2/18/2013

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 2a and new Section 1, Abingdon Gap Shelter to State Line

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I continued replacing/adding White Blazes from Abingdon Gap Shelter to the State Line. There has been alot more scraping than I anticipated, so I was not able to finish today.

Reporting: Scott Vandam

Date: 2/18/2013

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I walked the section from Walnut Mountain Road to Laurel Fork Creek, clearing fallen limbs and cutting back laurels. I crossed one double blowdown that I will go back for later. I picked up trash at the trailhead.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 2/18/2013

Purpose: Check possible rehab and map relocation

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter - Nolichucky River Near NOC

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed determined there was a little rehab needed south of NOC and a fair amount of water drainage needed north of NOC. He also mapped a relocation south of the shelter.

Reporting: Scott Vandam

Date: 2/20/2013

Purpose: Regular maintenance

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I walked Trail from Laurel Rork Creek crossing to Bitter End carrying lopers and hand saw. I cut back laurels still drooping from winter storms and cut out a couple blowdowns. This section is now in good condition.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/21/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 19b, About 1 mile both ways from Nolichucky River NOC

People: John Beaudet, Gray Buckles, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: George and Richard worked trail south from NOC and rehabbed the narrow, rooty trail. Gayle and Becky leafed the new relocation. The rest of us put in 8 major water diversions from NOC to the log bridge.

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Spring Dinner Meeting
Friday, April 19th, 2013**

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:

Check and reservation form must be received by **Monday 4/15/2013**. (So that the caterer will have food for you!)

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

Number attending without meal reservation: _____