



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2013

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

In 1945, Frank Oglesby convinced Tennessee Eastman Recreation that a club geared towards outdoor activities would be valuable for company employees. What would become known as the TERC Hiking Club sponsored hikes and social events. Later, the group became an ATC trail-maintaining organization in 1947. In the early 1970's, canoeing, now more likely the kayaking aspect, was added to become TEHCC.

The club continues this tradition with several upcoming activities. Fall Dinner meeting on November 8th features an opportunity to learn more about the region after feasting on seafood. (Reservations are due very soon after this newsletter is distributed.) Several hikes are offered in November. At the time when this column was written, two nearby Sunday hikes at Warriors Path SP and Bays Mtn Park still needed leaders; thus if you're familiar with these routes, please consider assisting in this role. After the leaves are down, trail maintenance needs to clear them from water bars; thus volunteers are wanted who enjoy a steady walk with some stops to wield a tool. Cold weather has driven the paddlers indoors with practice sessions at the aquatic centers on Tuesdays in Johnson City and Thursdays in Kingsport.

Final request, please take a moment to review the biographies of the new Steering Committee members and then welcome them with a vote of confirmation. Communicate with them regarding what direction you would like to see the club head over the next two years, and physically support the activities you enjoy, so that we know to continue those aspects. Ideas for 2014 dinner speakers are also desired to have relevant programs.

2014 Steering Committee Nominees

With the changes made to the club constitution this year, the TEHCC Steering Committee would like to recommend the following members for a two year term (2014-2015). Instead of an election, we now have a confirmation step where 50% favorable feedback approves their seating. Biographies are provided below for your reference. Eastman employees can complete or reject the confirmations online [here](#), while retirees can give their consent or not by sending Tim Schaefer an email at tschaefer@eastman.com or by calling him at 423-229-6244 to leave a voice mail. Per the club constitution, non-Eastman employees are not eligible for this action. The **deadline is November 22nd** so that the results can be announced in the December newsletter.

Steve Ankabrandt

Steve recently joined TEHCC, and thus has jumped into club service to learn more. He has been at Eastman for 32 years and is currently with the Product Stewardship group in Building 54D. Steve has also been involved with Boy Scout Troop 51 with son Ryan who just finished thru-hiking the AT in 2013. Steve has backpacked twice at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and has completed many sections of the AT in both Pennsylvania - where he grew up - and locally with Scout groups.

Ed Montgomery

Ed is a Corporate IT Architect for Eastman. He has been floating on local waterways since the early 90's with Paddler of Year recognitions in 1991 and 2005. Ed has already had a tour of duty on the Steering Committee back in 2007-2008. He also facilitated the successful development of the Tennessee Appalachian Trail license plate program, which provides grants for trail related projects.

Fred Mullner

Fred is a recent newcomer to Kingsport, having worked at the Jefferson Site since 2006. He joined the TNO Environmental Affairs group in Building 54 in May, and has just become active in TEHCC. Fred has been hiking and backpacking for 15 years and has logged hundreds of miles on trails in Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, West Virginia, and Wyoming. He was active with the Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh and is looking forward to getting more involved in TEHCC.

Mike Watts

Mike is a long-time section team leader for A.T. trail maintenance. He is an active hiker and has section hiked about half of the Appalachian Trail. Other notable treks include various 14ers (peaks over 14,000 feet) in Colorado, Grand Canyon, and Kilimanjaro. Mike is with the Eastman Treasury office in Building 75.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Brent Edwards
Eric Layne
Jeff Mull
Christopher Brannon
Connie Bentley

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
November 3	F/B: Warriors Path State Park - Mountain Bike Trails	TBD	
November 8	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 9	AT Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
November 10	F/B: Rocky Fork - Flint Creek Battle Site	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 17	F/B: Buffalo Mountain Park - White Rock Overlook	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676 423-384-6642
November 24	F/B: Bays Mountain Park - Fire Tower	TBD	

Details of 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, 423-477-4669 (atvolunteer@tehcc.org), for dates and meeting places.

Tuesday 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 p.m. 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.

It is swim meet season at the pool, so we will **NOT** have pool session on the following dates: Nov 5, 2013, Nov 19, 2013, Jan 14, 2014
Click [here](#) for more information.

Please note: The J.A.W. provides 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: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 p.m.

For event details, go to <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/27/kingsport-aquatic-center-kayak-session/>

Scheduled Events

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” meet at the parking lot below the recently rebuilt McDonalds (4317 Fort Henry Drive) which is NW of I-81 Exit 59. The “Johnson City” meeting location is behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at the intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street, which is reached 20 minutes later. All hikes will leave promptly to stay on schedule as the days are getting shorter. Carpooling is encouraged, with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas.

Bring water, snack, layered clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, bug spray, camera, and trekking poles as desired. The family dog can come if friendly and kept on leash. Walking speed is typically 2 mph including rest breaks. For more information, check the trail wiki (click on hike title for link) or call the hike leader. It is appropriate to contact the hike leader to let them know that you are interested in coming and to provide a cell phone number in case plans change by either party.

An activity release form is signed by everyone going on the hike – and it helps capture the names and spelling for the trip report. Good digital photos from the hike are appreciated for the newsletter and trail wiki.

F/B: Warriors Path State Park, Mountain Bike Trails – Sunday, November 3, 2013

Leader: TBD

Rating: Easy 2 to 5-mile round trip hike along single-track paths with less than 300 feet elevation change

Since darkness will be an hour earlier, the trips need to be closer to Kingsport. This group-choice hike will explore the Warriors’ Path Mountain Bike Trail System which is also open to walking. Tim McClain led this hike back in March traveling Darwin’s Revenge, the Boneyard, and Lake Road for a five-mile loop through the woods with some views of the lake. Hikers are to meet at 1:30 PM in the gravel parking lot at the end of Freeman Road. Note that this trailhead is not located in the main part of Warriors’ Path State Park, but is located off Buttermilk Road in the Fall Creek area. Expected finish is around 4PM with sunset occurring early, 5:38PM, after the “fall back” to Standard Time.

A.T. Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew – Saturday, November 9, 2013

Leader: Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669

ASU’s trail crew will be joining us for some A.T. work. Weather permitting, we will continue to work on the relocations south of Cloudland.

Meeting places:

- Carl's house at 8 AM
- Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor at 8:20 AM
- Brown's Grocery at 8:30 AM
- State Park Visitor Center (waterwheel) at 9:15 AM
- Carver's Gap at 9:30 AM

Contact Carl if you wish to participate and to let him know where you would like to meet.

F/B: Rocky Fork, Flint Creek Battle Site – Sunday, November 10, 2013

Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388) with David Ramsey (owner of Mahoney’s outdoor store) as informative guide

Rating: Easy 3.2-mile round trip hike; gravel logging road with less than 400-ft elevation gain

This short hike will explore the battlefield where John Sevier with local recruits defeated a war party of Cherokees and Creeks in 1789. There’s not much to see now in the open field at the junction of Flint Creek and Rocky Fork, so you’ll have to use your imagination as we provide historical context. The logging road first follows a scenic mountain stream, but then we’ll have to cross that flowing water (6-12” deep) both ways; so bring water shoes and a small towel to switch footwear. We’ll spend only a couple of hours in the park area since we plan to be back home before the sun sets at 5:32PM. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the trailhead of I-26, Exit 46 by 2PM. We’ll need to minimize the number of vehicles, as parking is limited at the trailhead.

F/B: Buffalo Mountain Park, White Rock Overlook – Sunday, November 17, 2013

Leader: Barry Griggs (423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642)

Rating: Moderate 3-mile round trip hike with ~1100 ft elevation up, and then back down

A closer to home hike since the days are getting shorter. A steep walk up trails or the gravel access road provides a reward of great view of the I-26 valley and mountains to the east. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the park trailhead by 2:30PM. Expected return is before the sunset at 5:27PM.

F/B: [Bays Mountain Park, Fire Tower](#) – Sunday, November 24, 2013

Leader: TBD

Rating: Moderate 4-mile round trip hike with ~900 ft elevation up, and then back down

The final planned Sunday afternoon hike in conjunction with the Mission Possible wellness effort is a classic walk around the reservoir heading up to the fire tower. The loop provides different views of the water, then the look northward from the fire tower – even if you don't climb to the top. For this hike, we'll meet in the park at the dam at 1:30PM. Bays Mtn Park has a \$4 entrance fee – unless you carpool with someone who is an annual member. We'll need to be out before the gate closes at 5PM.

For the Record

AT: Dennis Cove Road to Moreland Gap Shelter – October 5, 2013

Vic Hasler reporting

A beautiful day with yellow and gold autumn colors against rich blue sky was enjoyed to measure the impact of multiple relocations finished in 2013 along the White Rocks section. To have “hard anchors”, the Appalachian Trail distance was checked between the title locations, which is stated as 6.0 miles per the recently issued 14th edition of the TN/NC guide. The measuring wheel found the trail section is now 33,150 feet long, so another 0.3 miles will be added for the 2014 A.T. Data Book. Four pairs and one individual were met section hiking, who thanked the club for maintaining and improving the trail experience.



Mooreland Gap Shelter

Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower – October 6, 2013

Barry Griggs reporting



We had a near-perfect autumn afternoon for our somewhat challenging approximate 9-mile round trip hike up to the Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower. It was a popular destination this afternoon as evidenced by about a dozen vehicles parked alongside the road at the trailhead. With construction still underway on the restrooms and picnic area, there is nowhere else to park except along the road. The afternoon had warmed up to near 80 degrees as we began our hike, but as we reached higher elevations there was noticeable cooling and the breeze was also welcomed. The farther we climbed, the more people we saw on their way back down. Views were limited on the

way up because of the thick woods with leaves still on the trees. But the group agreed that the 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains made the climb worthwhile.

In spite of some haze, we could clearly see Erwin and Johnson City. Some color was starting to appear on the trees, particularly reds, but peak color was obviously a week or two away. After taking several pictures from our windy perch on the tower, we made our way back down the mountain. Coming part way back down the mountain on the gravel road instead of the trail shortened the hike by several minutes. Our happy hikers for the day were Mayra Gonzalez, Andrew Ng, Dan Hodder, and Barry Griggs. Club members are encouraged to get out and enjoy this beautiful place where we live during this prime time part of the year when nature is at its finest!



A.T. from Hughes Gap to Ash Gap and Return, October 12, 2013

Joe DeLoach reporting

We'd planned a spring wildflower hike on the newly relocated Appalachian Trail section from Hughes Gap to Beartown Mountain, but the very rainy spring got in the way; so we made it a fall color hike instead. The weather got us again with fog and clouds obscuring the views, but the woods were very nice and the Trail was in great shape. A testament to how foggy it was came below Beartown Mountain, where we met a hiker who wanted to go from Carvers Gap to the balds, but was headed for Hughes Gap instead! We

corrected his course and enjoyed lunch at Ash Gap, where I greatly appreciated my hike partners picking up a lot of trash. We saw many more hikers than we expected; maybe the government shutdown had an effect, but October is popular for hiking. Hikers were first-timers Jason Willis and Mason Myers along with Joe.

Chimney Top, October 13, 2013

Vic Hasler reporting

Because of the federal government shutdown, ATC SORO stated that club volunteers could not lead hikes on federal lands, as no protection could be provided in case of injury or lawsuit. Thus the decision was made to change this hike's location. Chimney Top was chosen, a TEHCC special since permission must be obtained from the private landowners. While short at ~3.5 miles, this trek was strenuous with long, steep sections at 100% grade. A new relocation to bypass a "rattlesnake pit" replaced some of the logging road with a straight UP track – a retro AT design. The wet summer grew thick briars that were hacked down with a hiking stick and clippers. At the end of the ATV path, the past blazes of surveyor tape were discovered to be missing, so bushwhacking to and up the rocky spine was the next phase of the challenge. When finally on Chimney Top, the reward was great views across valleys on both sides. Foliage color was still mostly green with streaks of yellow, rust, and gold. Rain could be seen falling in the distance, but fortunately never on us. With gravity and knowledge of an actual route, return to the trailhead was quick. This outdoor workout was accomplished by Mark E. Cox, William Werner, and Vic Hasler.



*View to the northwest from Chimney Top
Beech Creek Road in valley*



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: 8/6/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds and overgrowth

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

People: Seth Douthat, Ethan Ingram

Summary: Seth and Ethan cut weeds and branches in the trail from the outfitter to near the shelter.

Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: 9/14/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdowns from trail

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River, from first bridge going north to the fourth bridge

People: Michael Ray

Summary: I cut three blowdowns out of the trail. One was at the first bridge going north which had the trail totally blocked and required about a dozen cuts. Two others were farther north between the first and fourth bridges.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/25/2013

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap, middle of ridge and north end

People: Craig Haire

Summary: A very large branch, near the middle of the ridge that was partially cleared earlier, was completely cleared from the trail. Two blowdowns on the switchbacks at the north end were also cleared.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 9/26/2013

Purpose: Clean up tent, trash, and belongings left by homeless man

Location: Section 13a, US19E trailhead

People: Gayle Riddervold & Becky Kinder

Summary: We came back to the trailhead and bagged up the homeless man's tent, belongings, and water bottles. Becky took 3 trash bags to the Roan Mt. dump while I took a chair to the Thrift Store.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/28/2013

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth, minor chainsaw clearing

Location: Section 20a: Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap southern half of section

People: Craig Haire, Helga Mitchell

Summary: We cleared blowdowns at the south end (section now completely cleared of blowdowns). Trailside undergrowth on southern half was cleared with swingblade and weedwhacker.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/5/2013

Purpose: Measure trail distance for 2014 A.T. Data Book

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place White Rocks

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The purpose of this trip was to measure the impact of multiple relocations opened along the Dennis Cove to White Rocks section. The relocations addressed severe trail erosion and helped to eliminate PUDs (Pointless Ups and Downs). The A.T. distance was measured from the center of Dennis Cove Road to the Moreland Gap shelter and was found to have increased by 0.3 mile. Two blowdowns were observed that need urgent attention once the federal government reopens. A fresh 16-18" diameter trunk has fallen about 0.5 mi south of the FS road. This was recent, as there were no signs of detours in the morning, but on the way back, footprints were seen in the hillside bypassing the blowdown. On a newly opened relocation 1.5 mile north of FS road, a tree top has dropped a tangle of branches onto the trail. While a path has been cut, it is not readily passable by hikers carrying backpacks. The fire grate at the Moreland Gap shelter has been damaged and moved to the side. Otherwise the shelter appeared to be in good condition – even with two log books. Blue blazes for the water trail and at the campsite to the north need to be repainted.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 10/18/2013

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap, north end of section

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared rhododendron and woody bushes with a lopper and swingblade.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/18/2013

Purpose: Seal shelter roof, cut briars, clean waterbars

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

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

Summary: Abingdon Gap Shelter has a well-reported roof leak this year. The roof was in good condition. We suspect driving rain was coming in under the ridge cap, so we sealed those gaps. We cleaned all the water bars and added two more. Also, we cut back the briars.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/19/2013

Purpose: View Koonford bridge piers and setting

Location: Section 10, Primarily Koonford Bridge

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We checked out piers of Koonford Bridge and what steps might be needed at the approaches to the new bridge. It appears that no steps will be needed at the approaches.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 10/20/2013

Purpose: Represent TEHCC at "Journey of 2000 Miles" Event

Location: Capitol Cinema, Erwin, TN

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Erwin was one of the stops for the "Journey of 2000 Miles," ATC fall publicity and fundraising event. Aply hosted by Unicoi County Trail Ambassador Rob Martin, the event was a rousing success, selling-out over 175 seats in the theater and raising over \$5,000 for ATC. The program consisted of welcoming remarks by Rob; an overview of the A.T. and ATC by ATC Board member Lenny

Bernstein; the role of volunteers and Trail clubs and how to get involved by me; and a brief narrative of thru-hiking experiences by Michelle Pugh, "Brownie." After Unicoi County A.T. trivia questions, we watched the movie "Appalachian Impressions," detailing the experiences of northbound thru-hikers. The event ended with a raffle. I hope we can do this again in our area, and I was glad to see a couple of our folks there, Paul Worsham and Bill Phillips.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/22/2013

Purpose: Dig relocation plus rehab trail

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place, White Rocks

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Barry Griggs, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Buzz Saw

Summary: It was a beautiful day on the trail. A south bounder, Buzz Saw, willingly stopped and helped. We did a major rehab of an old switchback on the north end of White Rocks. We worked hard to complete the last remaining relocation in this area.