



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

December 2018

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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"Sunset View from Horseback Ridge" by David Ramsey

TEHCC Fall Dinner, November 9, 2018

Vic Hasler reporting

An evening of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by around 60 folks at the Eastman Lodge. Dinner was BBQ sandwiches and fixings from Phil's Dream Pit followed by coffee and World's Best Carrot Cakes for dessert. The latter was baked and served by Avi Sommerville.

The evening's main presentation, titled "United by the Appalachian Trail," was made by Suzanne Dixon (ATC President). She challenged the audience to identify locations from photographs which were part of a display in the U.S. Senate's Russell Rotunda during September 2018. Images included a sunset taken in the Unaka Mountain Wilderness by David Ramsey (see above) and a canopy of interlaced tree branches photographed by Travis Bordley (2018 Roan Naturalist).

Announcements

- The regular meeting place for carpooling from Colonial Heights has been moved to the southeast corner of the Ingles parking lot, as the grocery store is building a gas station at the former location. The Trail Wiki has been updated with this information.
- 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

MOU Signing

- Memorandum of Understanding between Appalachian Trail Conservancy and TN Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club was signed by representatives, Suzanne Dixon and Vic Hasler, for maintaining an assigned section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Recognitions

- **Second A.T. Thru-Hike:** Kent Wilson repeated the entire A.T. on 8/8/2018, while Nancy Wilson finished a second pass in 2017.
- **Trail Maintenance:** 9,708 Hours were completed by 239 volunteers over 382 events from October 2017 to September 2018.
- **ATC Volunteers of the Month:** Kim Peters, Dan Firth, Kayla Carter, and Ted Mowery in recent years. Ed Oliver and Carl Fritz in '09-'10.
- **ATC Cumulative Service Awards:**
 - **AT Volunteer Patch (100 hours)** - Jennifer Baird, Jeannine Edwards, Karen Loven, Lori Mirrer, Susan Rook, Connie Squires, Missy Wright
 - **AT Volunteer Ball Cap (500 hours)** - Scotty Bowman, Bruce Darby, Kat Johnson, Rick Lott, Eric Middlemas
 - **AT Volunteer Vest (1000 hours)** - Vic Hasler, Kevin Sedgwick

- **NPS Passes (250 hours)*:** Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Richard Carver, Carl Fritz, Kat Johnson, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart
 * Note that many more maintainers qualified for this recognition, but did not want the pass at this time. Several already have an NPS Golden Pass, thus declined to receive another pass.
- **ATC Silver Service Award (25 years):** Rick Lott has volunteered for 25 years and is a USFS-certified sawyer.
- **Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame:** Bob Peoples, as reported in [April 2018 newsletter](#), but an oversight at the dinner.

New Colonial Heights Meeting Location

After several decades, the meeting location for hikes leaving from Colonial Heights' has changed. A gas station is being constructed in the former spot between McDonalds and Taco Bell, shown as red X in the aerial photo. (Remember when the latter was a bank or Burger King?) The new gathering place, shown by the red pin, will be the southeast corner of the Ingles grocery store parking lot. This secure location is used by several groups for carpooling as it provides easy access to I-81 (Exit 59) and I-26.



TEHCC Renewal Season

By [Tim Schaefer](#)

It's renewal time again for TEHCC. Your course of action depends on which category you fall under.

Eastman Employees – You have no action to take. Dues are automatically removed by ERC in your first paycheck of the year.

Eastman Retirees – I request a [courtesy reply](#) that you're still interested in receiving the newsletter along with any updates.

Member Affiliates – Complete the [Membership Application](#) and return to the address listed with the appropriate dues amount.

Still on the fence about renewal? Remember that TEHCC membership gives you discounts of 10% at area outfitters; employees may rent club gear; and most importantly, the overwhelming majority of dues goes directly to paying for materials and tools for maintaining our 134 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Trail Wiki Revamp Resumes

By [Tim Schaefer](#)

Have you checked out the [Trail Wiki](#) lately? I'm in the midst of overhauling the underlying framework (underhauling?). I'm hoping this will provide easier editing, searching, and logging of individual hikes. The site is predominantly Trail pages and Park pages (which can be a collection of trails). These pages will now be greatly assisted with form editing, meaning a lot less "wiki coding" and a lot more consistent tagging across the pages. This tagging will be used in the future to set up a search system that lets you specify your interests and shows you the parks and trails that match.

Trail pages can also now be tagged with a "Hiked It" if you have an account on the system and are logged in. This will permit personal tracking and eventually, summary reporting, so you can see how much you have hiked, where, and how often. Currently available on three trail pages, the "Hiked It" button is to the right of the trail name in the upper right of the trail page. See [Warriors' Path State Park](#) and [Sinking Waters Trail](#) as two examples of this conversion. Unconverted trails and parks may look off or show errors during this conversion process. If you would like to see more of this or help provide content, consider dropping by a possible future "Off-Trail Talk." See article below.

Off-Trail Talk

By [Tim Schaefer](#)

For the new year, I'm thinking of trying something new for the club (plus a few other things if work doesn't become all time consuming again). I'm looking to start a routine, unscripted block of time to talk about whatever comes to mind. If it happens to be about hiking and canoeing, all the better. Possible conversations include the Trail Wiki (usage and content updates), general trail

talk, trip planning, gear discussions, and if all else fails, maybe we just play cards until a hiking topic comes up. Post-trip reviews would be nice, but I'm trying to keep the required planning to a minimum. Here are my current thoughts on the details, but I'm soliciting for input before I firm up the plans for January. Let me know your interest and any recommendations to my proposal below. Of course this can all be dynamic, based on experiences and requests over time.

Frequency: Monthly, 2 weeks opposite of the Steering Team Meeting

Time: Lunch

Day of week: Thursday (open to suggestion here)

Location: B150 Cafeteria (open to suggestion)

Duration: About 1 hour

Limited to Eastman employees, as I want to keep the friction to showing up as low as possible (organizer included). If interest swells, off-hours and more public locations can be considered. Again, share your thoughts and what you would like to get out of something like this.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Suzanne Dixon, Harpers Ferry, WV

Liz Borg, Blacksburg, VA

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

For information on APEs/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
December 11	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
January 8	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
January 12	Margarette Falls Hike	Tim Schaefer	

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Usually the Second Tuesday of the Month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [William Werner](#), 423-229-2253

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 280 Cafeteria

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-280 cafeteria. After going through the turnstiles at the main B-280 entrance, continue straight then right. Continue straight and turn left and through the hall by the vending machines. The cafeteria is directly ahead. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the Steering Committee at least three days prior to arrange for a temporary visitor's pass.

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Come join the [J.A.W.](#), [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), [APEs](#), and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. 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. 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.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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 are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the [APEs yahoo group site](#) or contact [Wesley R. Bradley](#). We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact Wesley for any other questions or comments you may have.

Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance

Contact: Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669, atvolunteer@tehcc.org

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 133.8-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 pm

Contact: Ryan Shealy, 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak training and practice is available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! Admission is \$3 for two full hours of fun; Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off at the door closest to the indoor pool; then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear, please contact Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

Scheduled Events

No hikes are scheduled for December. The editor suggests a hike of your choosing with family and friends, chosen from the [TEHCC Trail WIKI](#). Best wishes for a joyful holiday season!

Margarette Falls Hike, Saturday, January 12, 2019

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#)

Margarette Falls is a shorter waterfall hike and for years has remained elusive to me for a good freezing over. We'll try again this year. The hike is fairly short, just shy of three miles round-trip. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for a cold outing. Meet in the parking lot by Ingles in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive at 9:00 am. The hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For more info, email Tim Schaefer.

For the Record

A.T.: Carvers Gap to Jane Bald, Saturday, November 10, 2018

Vic Hasler reporting

After enjoying the warm fellowship at TEHCC's Fall Dinner the night before, a group braved the elements to discover a winter wonderland as ice rimmed the foliage on the Roan Highlands. The measured temperature at Carvers Gap was 21°F with a wind chill down to 5°F; so the group only made it to Round Bald before deciding that Smoky Mountain Bakers with their brick oven pizza was a better location for conversation. The ensuing discussion gave ATC leadership multiple insights on the needs of A.T. clubs and communities. Going on this outing (left to right in the photograph) were Carl Fritz, Dan Firth, Suzanne Dixon (ATC President), Travis Bordley (SAHC), Vic Hasler, Liz Borg (ATC Membership), Bob Peoples, and Richard Carter, with Morgan Sommerville taking the picture.



Lovers Leap Loop Hike, Hot Springs, NC, Thursday, November 22, 2018

Vic Hasler reporting

The scheduled club hike for the last Saturday in October was cancelled due to inclement weather and lack of participation (only two folks planning to go). This trip report is a follow-up. Sometime between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, the blazes on Lover's Leap Trail were refreshed very nicely using a red-orange paint. Also, a temporary sign was placed at the intersection with Pump Gap Loop Trail. The latter spot does need the railroad-tie steps to be reset, so I've informed the Appalachian Ranger District office. Since I didn't need to refresh the blazes, I explored the Silvermine Campground and Pump Gap Loop Trail during the morning.

I now have a quart of orange semi-gloss exterior paint which can be used elsewhere if you know of any orange-blazed trails. I found some in the club wiki, but will first seek permission to refresh. The Lone Oak Trail in Buffalo Mountain Park might be a good place to start. Let me know if you want to join this endeavor, so we can pick a weekend afternoon.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 10/24/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 6, 2.5 miles south of Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I hiked from TN 91 to 2.5 miles trail south of Iron Mountain Shelter. Along the way I cleared two large blowdowns and a large treetop over trail. There is nothing to report for Section 5 and Iron Mountain Shelter was clean. It was mostly a quiet and solitary day while I was out, except when I chatted with 2 SOBOs who were happy the rain had stopped.

Reporting: Carl Fritz (Also reported in November newsletter, but now with pictures!)

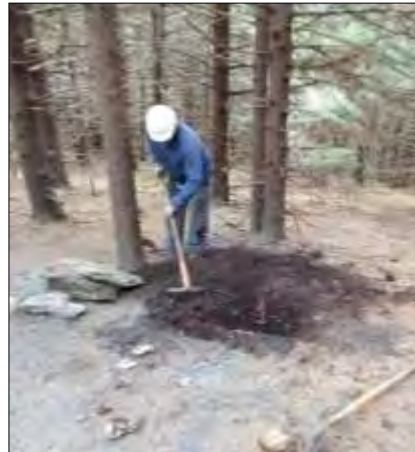
Date: 10/25/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 14c, South side of Round Bald

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Ed Speer

Summary: We primarily moved washed gravel back to the trail. Remnants of Hurricane Michael washed the gravel pretty badly. We dug a number of pits at major water diversions to catch gravel. Bill did some minor repairs to the barb wire fences to stabilize them. Many south bounders were en route today.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/31/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 14c, South side of Round Bald

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples

Summary: We continued to recover gravel washed off the trail. We also rebuilt some water diversions. We will soon be out of the woods into the open area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/2/2018

Purpose: Design and build gravel hauler

People: Bill Murdoch

Summary: Bill designed and built several aides for carrying gravel. Theoretically, Thursday crew can move 3000 lbs of gravel, 300 feet in a day. That happens to be the approximate need just south of Carver's Gap. All maintainers are anxiously awaiting the unveiling.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/5/2018

Purpose: Harvest locust logs

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap, Birdhouse Cabin

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Travis Bordley

Summary: We bucked, toted, and debarked locust logs. Some will be used on the north side of Hump Mountain. The rest will be used on other sections.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/16/2018

Purpose: Inspect Trail Possibilities

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats, Atwood Property

People: Carl Fritz, Steve Perri

Summary: We inspected from the cemetery, through Shook Branch Recreation Area, to the existing trail. The USFS and apparently private parties have added a number of new signs in or near Shook Branch Recreation Area.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 11/17/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: The plan was to hike to Vandventer for routine maintenance. I knew that there was a large tree down about 3 miles from Wilbur Dam Rd, so I carried my trusty single buck and an axe with me. I ended up clearing a total of 9 blockages in that 3 mile stretch. Most were on the small side, 8" and under, requiring a pruning saw or an axe (2 small locusts). Three were much larger, 18 - 24". Sometimes your plan changes and you just have to swing with it.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 11/18/2018

Purpose: Ranger Patrol

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, 2nd bridge from Hampton

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I hiked to the falls. On the way I cut out a small sapling that was bent over the trail and another small 8" tree a little past Waycastor Spring. There was a 12 - 14" dead oak just before the second bridge; so after going to the falls and talking with folks, I headed back to the car to get my saw and axe and went back in to clear it. I counted 7 SOBOs and talked to another 20 people while I was out.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/21/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek, near Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Scott Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We did some trail rehab on the A.T. near Mountaineer Falls Shelter. The shelter is still basically graffiti free. We installed several locust steps, some side logs, and some native pavers or stepping stones. We saw only two flip-floppers. I checked out the gate at Elk River for lock access. And Tim retrieved a couple of tools that we left in the grass beside the truck at the trailhead.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 11/23/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 7, 3.2 miles trail north from Wilbur Dam Rd.

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I removed a downed oak from across the trail at about 3.2 miles trail north from Wilbur Dam Rd. The tree had fallen and was wedged on its stump with its branches blocking the trail completely. After 12 cuts with a hand saw and axe and a little muscle, the tree was removed piece by piece. There was a small locust across the trail at about the same location which I have removed.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 11/25/2018

Purpose: Clear numerous blowdowns

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We took a hike from Oliver Hollow Road, heading toward the shelter. Within 10 minutes we encountered what resembled a war zone. You couldn't see the trail due to numerous small branches and medium-sized trees that had been blown down. It took almost an hour to clear the trail. There are still two medium-sized trees we couldn't remove since we lacked saws. We discovered 5 or 6 more blowdowns a little farther down the trail. Most of these trees need to be removed with a chainsaw. One tree in particular is over 3 feet in diameter. We picked up two cans along the trail. The trailhead was free of any garbage.