



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 2020

tehcc.org

Co-Editors – [Terry Oldfield](#) and [Sharon Burnette](#)

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While the outdoors calls,
social distancing remains the guidance
for all experiences.

Please read below
as many venues remain closed to visitation.

TEHCC Update Regarding COVID-19

Submitted by Jonathan Shumaker (Steering Committee Chair) and Vic Hasler (A.T. Committee Chair)

The April club newsletter ([link](#)) explained how the Steering Committee took actions to change our actions and habits in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing. In the meantime, the first wave of the coronavirus has proceeded through our region giving hope to begin reopening the economy. However, restarting businesses is not the same as an “all clear” for potential transmission of COVID-19, including at outdoor venues; therefore many interventions remain in place as we start the month of May.

The pinned top post “TEHCC’s Actions due to COVID-19” on the tehcc.org website continues to be updated as new developments are reported for northeast Tennessee. Here are some top items at this time:

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is still stating to stay off the A.T. National Park Service requested that the Trail be temporarily closed officially, but no action to that end has been taken by the U.S. Department of Interior. This recommendation may not change until the June ATC Stewardship Committee meets.
- Cherokee (TN) and Pisgah (NC) National Forests have temporarily shut down trailheads at these locations on the TEHCC section: Hampton blue blaze and Dennis Cove accessing Laurel Falls, Osborne Farm at Cross Mountain, and Roan Mountain Highlands at Carvers Gap.
- Pisgah NF has also closed, through August 13, 2020 or until rescinded, the Roan Mountain area including A.T. shelters (Stan Murray and Overmountain – latter was already closed due to structural damage).
- Thursday maintenance crews, Third Saturday Hiking with Tools, and section maintenance are still temporarily suspended until USFS local districts enable the Volunteer Service Agreement.
- No hikes will be scheduled until Eastman Chemical starts the process of reintegrating employees, working from home, back into full-time presence on site. Present hope is that the 2020 hiking program can commence in June. Check the Events Calendar for outings once this restriction has been lifted.
- Trails in Tennessee state parks (excluding Rocky Fork in our region) opened for day use starting Friday April 24th, but park facilities remain closed and hosted events are cancelled.
- TEHCC Spring Dinner was cancelled with recognitions and awards to be combined into the Fall dinner.
- Local A.T. festivals in late April into mid-May have been cancelled or postponed.

Hiking in Europe – Long Weekend in Iceland

Land of Fire and Ice by Isaac Keebler, Steering Committee member

For the majority of 2019 and a small part of 2020, my wife, Taren, and I lived in Europe after accepting an assignment based at the Eastman site in Middelburg, Netherlands. While in Europe we were able to visit many beautiful and fascinating places. As we think back through our travels, one destination consistently rises to the top of the list: Iceland.

We were fortunate enough to spend three days in October 2019 traveling along the southern coast of the land of fire and ice. Our first day in Iceland was spent driving and hiking around the Golden Circle.

The 4°C temperature and clear skies made for an excellent day of quick hikes and picture-worthy vistas. Iceland looks more like another planet rather than just another country with its treeless, lava scarred landscape strewn with waterfalls, glaciers, and hot springs.



Thingvellir National Park

Our first stop, pictured to the left, was Thingvellir National Park through which the Mid Atlantic Ridge travels. We were able to gaze down at the separating tectonic plates through the crystal-clear water.

From Thingvellir we travelled to the magnificent Faxi waterfall which boasts easy access, though on private property, and many stunning viewpoints, pictured to the right.



Faxi Falls



Gullfoss

On the second day of our adventure, we travelled to Fjallsárlòn, a glacier lake on the southeastern coast of Iceland, for an iceberg boat tour. We bundled up in dual purpose coats/life jackets and piled into a motorized raft with four other people. While on the tour, we picked up ice from the partially frozen lake and got up-close-and-personal with the icebergs created as the glacier slowly breaks apart and recedes. Our guide reminded us that the large glacier runs from an ice cap covering a volcano, truly a land of fire and ice. See the glacier tongue and ice cap in the background of the picture of my wife and I to the right.

Our final scenic spot of the day was the famous Gullfoss, a massive, multi-tiered waterfall. The farmer who previously owned the land containing the waterfall refused to sell to developers aiming to harness the energy of the falls, turning the national treasure into a hydroelectric power plant. The farmer responded to the offer, “I will not sell my friend.” We made friends with the waterfall during our visit as well!



Taren and Isaac at Fjallsárlòn

Later in the day we went for a short hike to a surreal basalt waterfall called Svarrifoss in the Vatnajökull National Park. The trail was busy, but we enjoyed stretching our legs on the hike. Svarrifoss is pictured to the right.

After our 3-mile hike, we drove to the Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon for a short walk above the breathtaking canyon near the edge of the Eldraun Lava Field, the world's largest lava flow created by the Laki eruption in the late 1700s.



Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon



Svarrifoss



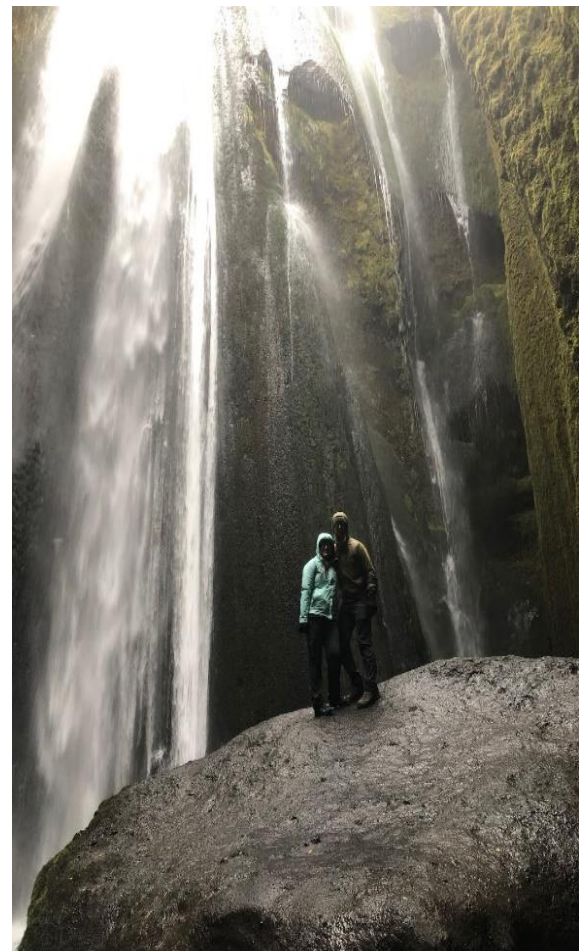
Taren behind Seljalandsfoss

On our third day in Iceland, we drove from Vallnatún toward Reykjavik, stopping at every waterfall that our schedule would allow. Our favorite stop of the day was near a famous and touristic waterfall, Seljalandsfoss. The large waterfall tumbles over an overhang that allows visitors to hike behind the falls for a misty “behind-the-scenes” experience. By hiking a bit further beyond the popular Seljalandsfoss waterfall, we were rewarded with the unknown-to-us Gljúfrabúi waterfall, Icelandic for “one who lives in the canyon”. These falls required some creek walking to view properly (see my wife braving the cold water below), but once our feet were a bit damp, we were amazed at the beautiful waterfall that plunged down a cave-like rock crevasse. This lesser-known spectacle was the highlight of our final full day.

These are only a few of the memories from our long weekend trip to the land of fire and ice, and we just scratched the surface of noteworthy sites in the country. We count ourselves lucky for having the opportunity to explore the southern coast, but we are already dreaming of a trip in the future to visit some of the additional wonders in the other-worldly island of Iceland!



Taren trying to stay dry on the way to Gljúfrabúi



Taren and Isaac at Gljúfrabúi

Trail Wiki Logged Hikes Features Upgraded

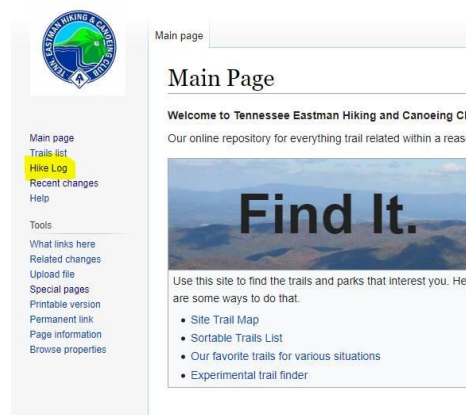
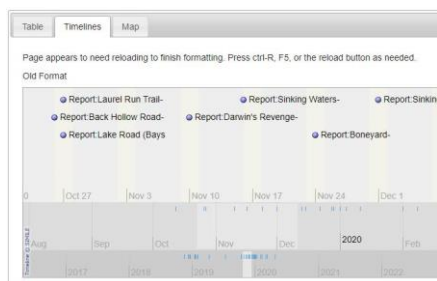
Submitted by Tim Schaefer

With the lock-in, as well as being encouraged by seeing some people start to use the Hike Logging feature, I went ahead and figured out the means for individuals to see summaries of their logged entries. It's accessible from the left sidebar on the site, "Hike Log." The site currently offers three built-in ways to view your logged hike. First is a table in reverse chronological order. Second are two different versions of timelines, a time slider with logged hike dates marked on the timeline. Third is a map of the trails you have hiked. Expected, eventually, is a summary tab likely showing total miles hiked, most-hiked trail, etc. as well as means to one-click export to Excel/CSV. Since it's our site, you/we control the data and can use it, show it, and share it any way we like.

Hike Log

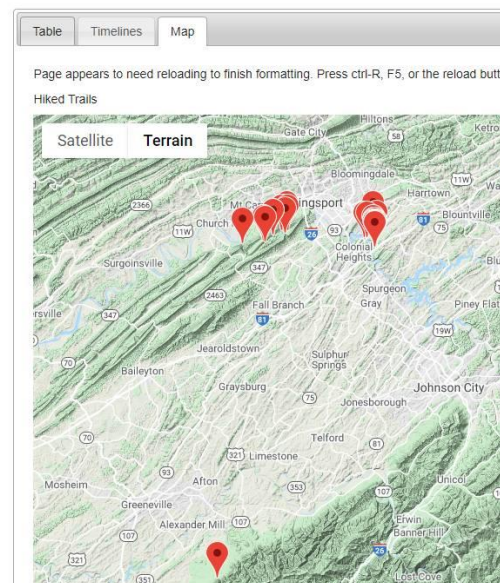
Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Hike Comments	Tags	Reported By
25-Apr-2020	Sinking Waters	2.5 mi	1	Return to the daybreak dog hikes	Daybreak Dog Hike, Free At Last	Tim
08-Mar-2020	Sinking Waters	2.7 mi	1	Beautiful sunrise on a "late" day.	Daybreak Dog Hike	Tim
29-Feb-2020	Darwin's Revenge	2.2 mi	1	Out with the pups on a snowy morning.	Daybreak Dog Hike, Snow Covered	Tim

View my hike log as an example at http://tehcc.org/wiki/Hike_Log?user=Tim



Check it out, use the site as you please, and let me know if you have any "feature requests."

Hike Log



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Chang Song

Maura Tillotson

TEHCC Rental Equipment

Chris Chambers – Rental Equipment Coordinator

HA – 9 Biolite Stove



Here's a unique addition to the rental fleet – the Biolite Camp Stove 2. Turn fire into electricity! This wood-burning stove generates 3 watts of usable electricity and stores it in its internal powerbank for USB charging of LED lights, mobile phones, and other devices. The internal, rechargeable 2600 mAh battery stores excess power to charge devices, even without a live fire. Please follow operating instructions carefully and use extreme caution when using an open flame. Please make sure this stove is cool and clean before packing or storing. Rental rate "D" (\$4 weekend, \$6 week-long) will be set for this stove.

HT-28 – 10'x10' E-Z Up Canopy

The Eurmax 10'x10' E-Z Popup Canopy is a new rental item that is ideal for picnics, car camping, and many other outdoor activities. This canopy sets up in a flash, and easily packs down into a compact, heavy-duty rolling storage bag. Rental rate "A" (\$8 weekend, \$10 week-long) will be set for this item.



Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

For additional information on APES/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/> or <http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html>

Date	Description		Contact	Telephone
May 21	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am		Jonathan Shumaker	417-389-6987
June 18	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am		Jonathan Shumaker	

Details of Upcoming Events

Note: Due to COVID – 19, the following regularly scheduled maintenance and paddling activities are not being held in May. Be sure to check the June newsletter for updates.

- **Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**
- **Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance**
- **Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 6:45 – 7:45 pm**
- **Third Saturday, Hiking with Tools!**

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Now on the Third Thursday of the Month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [Jonathan Shumaker](#) 423-389-6987

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 Room 402

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. For May, we'll be using teleconferencing again due to Eastman directions to current employees. If you want to listen/join in, please contact me.

Scheduled Events

There are no scheduled events.

For the Record

Nothing to report this month.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Note: TEHCC is following ATC guidelines suspending all trail related activities, including work trips, until further notice.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 03/31/2020

Purpose: Spring 2020 A.T. Partnership Meeting via Teleconference

People: Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Steve Perri

Summary: Due to COVID-19, the joint A.T. Partnership discussion with Carolina Mountain Club (CNF) was held as a ZOOM teleconference with 17 participants. Highlights as follows:

- Seong Hopkins is Acting Recreation Program Manager for Cherokee National Forest Unaka Ranger District, while Katherine Sanchez Meador is Acting District Ranger for Pisgah National Forest Appalachian Ranger District. The Interview process is underway for both positions.
- USFS has temporarily suspended key A.T. access points with signs at trailheads, plus halted volunteer activity. Safety risk is a consideration for maintainers without the active staffing of district offices.
- Check-in/Check-out policies for every trail-maintaining club needs to be reviewed with USFS partners.
- NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision will hopefully be signed in a couple of weeks for A.T. relocation on Atwood property. Then two forest gates will be installed (after COVID-19 interventions), to allow opening the new path.
- SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards) plans to have a crew in 2020 working on A.T. maintenance, particularly sidehill correction.
- CNF is exploring cattle grazing near former Apple House Shelter location. Access by cattle to the water source flowing to the Wilder Mine group campsite is a concern.
- Open areas scheduled for mowing in 2020, if Covid-19 doesn't further delay actions, are Hump Mtn, Doll Flats, Bishop Hollow, Charlie Johnson Tract, Elk River, and Osborne Tract.
- Next joint partnership meeting is planned for October at the Appalachian Ranger Station (Mars Hill, NC).