



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2019

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

In This Issue

[TEHCC Fall Dinner, October 25, 2019, in Review](#)

[Ted Malone: Honored for 25 Years as a Trail Maintainer](#)

[Green Bridge Landing Park Dedicaiton](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)



TEHCC Fall Dinner, October 25, 2019

William Werner reporting

About 50 members gathered for an evening of fun and fellowship at the Eastman Lodge. Dinner consisted of BBQ sandwiches and sides from Bare Bones BBQ, followed by coffee and Bare Bones' highly rated banana pudding.

The evening's main presentation, "Hiking in Switzerland's Fex Valley," was made by Steering Committee member and Eastman retiree, Hal Yungmeyer. Hal's narrative of his family's visit to this untouched valley and his photos of the striking landscapes provided strong encouragement to anyone who has ever considered visiting Switzerland.

Announcements

- As we approach 2020, the Steering Committee is seeking volunteers or nominations to serve for the 2020-2021 term. Steering Committee members rotating off this year are Chris Chambers, Andy Steffan, and Hal Yungmeyer.
- Jonathan Shumaker will serve as Chair in 2020.

Recognitions

- **Trail Maintenance:** 8,600 hours were completed by 243 volunteers over 375 events from October 2018 to September 2019.
- **ATC Cumulative Service Awards:**
 - **A.T. Volunteer Patch (100 hours)** – Saylor Fox, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, David Ramsey, Gloria Sedgwick, John Tomko
 - **A.T. Volunteer Vest (1000 hours)** – Scotty Bowman, Dan Firth
 - **NPS Passes (250 hours)*:** Paul Benfield, Scotty Bowman, Ken Buchanan, Phyllis Cairnes, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

* Note that many more maintainers qualified for this recognition, but already have an NPS Golden Pass, and thus declined to receive another pass.



Recognition of RPC Representatives

- **ATC Silver Service Award:** Ted Malone has volunteered for 25 years and is a USFS-certified sawyer (see next article).
- **Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) Representatives recognized for service at ATC Southern Region level:** Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson
- **Appalachian Trail 2000-Miler:** Dale Douthat, started in 1984 on the section from US 421 to Damascus, and completed the A.T. on September 10, 2019 in Gorham, NH.

Ted Malone: Honored for 25 Years as a Trail Maintainer

Submitted by Steve Wilson and Vic Hasler



Steve Banks and Ted Malone

For at least a quarter century, Ted Malone has been enjoying and protecting the Appalachian Trail. He was the club's Hiker of the Year in 1990, and in 1993 was recognized with the TEHCC Stan Murray Award. Our records show he has over 1,100 hours as a volunteer on the A.T. Ted, as Maintenance Recruiter, increased the number of volunteers from roughly 100 to 250, with hours climbing to nearly 8,000, through his "Adopt-a-Trail" program. The club brochure has shown the younger Ted image (on left) for many years. Now days, you'll also find Ted fishing in the region's finest streams. At the club's Fall Dinner, Ted was presented with the ATC Silver Award plaque.



Green Bridge Landing Park Dedication

Submitted by Andy Steffan



Last year, TEHCC partnered with APEs to provide a donation towards a park along the Doe River across the road from Hampton High School in Carter County. On September 8, 2019, Green Bridge Landing Park was dedicated and the two-year transformation was celebrated. This park is part of Carter County's initiative to develop a number of pocket parks in the area. During the ceremony, TEHCC was recognized for their generous donation at a crucial time of monetary need to ensure the completion of Phase 1 of the project. There is more planned, including some additional landscaping and a playground. There are already several amenities, including a parking area, walking trail, benches, changing station/building for water recreation, easy river access, and historical information about the old railroad covered bridge after which this park was named.

TEHCC Welcomes Our New Members

Virginia Hamilton

Ashley Wilson

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
November 14	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
November 16	Whitehouse Cliffs Trail, Rocky Fork State Park	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 16	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
December 12	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

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

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

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 second Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-75 cafeteria. 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. 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. 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.

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 133.9-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 6:45 – 7:45 pm

Contact: [Shelly Richards](#), 423-534-1188

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](#)! During the winter months (October-April), the indoor pool is sectioned off specifically for kayakers to practice basic paddling techniques. Admission is \$2; 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 Shelly.

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

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

Hiking with Tools! is an opportunity to enjoy a day hike on our beautiful section of the A.T. while helping out with some routine maintenance such as cleaning out waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, breaking up fire rings, and painting blazes or shelters. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! We typically have four to five people on each trip. The more folks who show up, the less work each individual has to do... so the trip becomes a nice hike - with tools! Contact Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Whitehouse Cliffs Trail, Rocky Fork State Park, Saturday, November 16, 2019

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

Rating: *Medium 3-mile in-and-out hike with strenuous climb to reach top*

We'll be a bit after fall color, but this will be a leaf-crunching hike winding up a small peak to an overlook. A group of regional maintainers have been working on this trail, so we'll see how improved the path is with their efforts.

Let's leave from Colonial Heights (now east side of Ingles parking area) at 8am, swing by Johnson City at 8:30am, and meet at the small Rocky Fork parking area by 9am. We'll take a slow pace to enjoy the cascading stream along the main gravel roadway, then proceed on forest road with a final climb up the ridge to the peak area. This short hike will have us back to the vehicles before lunch – unless we decide to explore more of the park. Could grab lunch at group choice.

Sturdy footwear and hiking poles are recommended. Pack water to stay hydrated. For further information and for headcount and carpooling, please call/e-mail the hike leader.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/26/2019

Purpose: Gather locust logs

Location: Watauga Dam

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: The TVA cut a number of locust trees along the road to Watauga Dam. They saved many of them for us to use on the trail. We cut them to reasonable lengths of 10 to 12 feet; then filled a one ton truck and a half ton truck plus a good load on a 10 foot trailer. Watauga RD allowed us to store them at their Work Center. They will be used for future unspecified projects.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 9/30/2019

Purpose: Install steps

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I installed seven locust steps in an area that was becoming a problem. I also checked the water source at the shelter and Greasy Creek Gap and both were running strong. It rained some today and Connie said they had a good rain last night. Both shovels at the shelter have had the handles removed and burned (go figure).

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 10/1/2019

Purpose: Campsite Inventory

Location: Sections 6 and 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Turkey Pen Gap

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I completed the campsite inventory for the Wilderness section from Wilbur Dam Road to Turkey Pen Gap. It was a hot day, but time well spent in the woods. The springs are drying up with Vandeventer spring having a couple of small pools. The spring at 3.3 miles from Wilbur Dam Rd has one small pool, but is beginning to look a little stagnant. Vandeventer Shelter was clean with no trash. The gutter on the back looks like someone has pulled on it.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 10/2/2019

Purpose: Campsite Inventory

Location: Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I finished up the last section of the inventory that I didn't get to the day before. The campsite inventory is now complete for this section. I cleaned out the fire ring at the overflow campsite just south of Iron Mountain Shelter; about a pound of trash. The spring located in the bog area is flowing, but everything else between there and Vandeventer is dry.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/3/2019

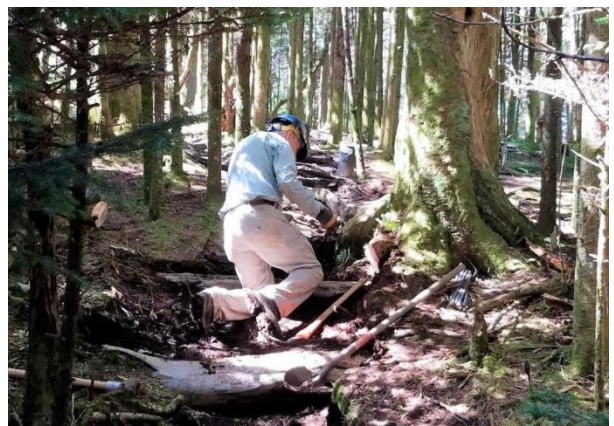
Purpose: Rehab Roan High Knob water trail

Location: Section 15a, Roan High Knob

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; and Hiker: Tim Smith

Summary: We hauled in eight locust logs, installed them on the water trail at Roan High Knob and added two rock steps and a water diversion. Tim Smith, a section hiker, was hitching a ride to Carver's Gap, but he graciously helped us until early afternoon. All logs were pinned with rebar. We hope to continue this project early next week.

(See more photos next page.)





Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/5/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter, Southern approach to Little Hump Mtn

People: John Beudet, Aaron Brown, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Jeff Hatling, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Tim Stewart

Summary: We did a lot of rock work to install four major water diversions on the southern approach to Little Hump Mountain. We also installed five major rock steps. We were in clouds all day and the view was maybe 100 feet. We estimated that we saw over 50 hikers. Some were in groups of ten, six, four, two and singles; probably ten or twelve were day hikers and rest were back packers.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/7/2019

Purpose: Rehab Roan High Knob water trail, with UNC Charlotte students

Location: Section 15a, Roan High Knob

People: Paul Benfield, Bettye Boone, Richard Carter, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; UNC Charlotte: Katie Steele, Alina Chavez, Maria Wang, Chris Pollaci, Kenya Soto, Kyle Rhodes, Logan Boeshore, Alyssa Alameda, Jesse Breenlee, Nathan Winkler

Summary: We continued from Thursday (10/3/2019) and completed the rehab of Roan High Knob water trail. It went from probably our worst water trail to our best. We added eight more locust steps and another water bar today and set them with rebar. The UNC Charlotte students made this work go much smoother with enthusiasm and energy. We back filled all the steps with small rock from the Appalachian Trail. The water is slowly trickling and hopefully rains are coming soon. (See photos next page.)



Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/8/2019

Purpose: A.T. Partnership Meeting

Location: Cherokee National Forest, Watauga Ranger District Station

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Fall 2019 A.T. Partnership meeting was held, with an overlapping session with the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC), as many topics were common to both clubs. The morning session focused on TEHCC; lunch included TEHCC and CMC; the afternoon focused on CMC. A few highlights to communicate:

- Overmountain Shelter is expected to be closed for the 2020 season, as USFS desires further input on a master plan for the area.
- Relocation of A.T. between Shook Branch Road and Pond Mtn Wilderness requires the NEPA review (National Environmental Policy Act, which requires environmental assessment and impact statement). Hopefully, a decision will be reached for implementation before early 2020 arrival of thru-hikers.
- Multiple other trail projects are in various stages of execution from early definition to implementation.
- Fewer bear encounters have been reported during 2019, but they are still active in the backcountry. NC Forest regulation for bear-resistant food storage is resolving language to allow flexibility to adopt promising techniques, and still enable clear enforcement of a standard.
- Gypsy moth infestation has reached the north end of Cherokee National Forest resulting in defoliation and killing primarily oaks which become hazard trees for camping areas. Treatment is by aerial spraying.

The next A.T. Partnership meeting will be Tuesday, March 31, at Appalachian Ranger District in Mars Hill, NC (repeating the joint format with CMC after a few modifications).

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 10/9/2019

Purpose: Campsite Inventory

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I spent the day completing campsite inventories along this section and the Highwater/Laurel Fork Shelter trail. There was a handful of SOBOs and section hikers along with the usual day hikers to the falls. It was a perfect day to be outside and enjoying a little taste of fall weather.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/10/2019

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Joe Morris, Cory Franklin

Summary: We removed two blowdowns and cut back a large amount of vegetation. We saw five hikers. It was a great day in the woods.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 10/15/2019

Purpose: Campsite Inventory

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I spent the day completing the campsite inventory for the Pond Mtn Wilderness sections.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 10/16/2019

Purpose: A.T. License Plate Grants

People: Dan Firth

Summary: For 2019, TEHCC received a Tennessee A.T. License Plate Grant to purchase a battery-powered hedge trimmer and a battery-powered rock drill and accessories. These tools were put to use throughout the summer. Reports from maintainers using the hedge trimmer are that it has allowed work to be completed in hours that used to take days. As part of work in the Roan Highlands, the drill enabled locust log steps and water diversions to be anchored using rebar, preventing movement as a result of frost heave during the winter, and the splitting of rocks.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/17/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter, South of Buckeye Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Elzear Lemieux, Ted Mowery

Summary: This crew did step repairs, including fastening stakes to logs with screws. They also set some rock steps and cut a large rock with the rock drill for another step which was set by another crew as they exited.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/17/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 14c, From Stan Murray Shelter, South

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We spent the day adding rock steps where the first step was 15 inches or more. Three individual college students gave us a hand in moving large rocks. There were a fair number of hikers, including one south-bounder. There was heavy hoar frost with high winds in the morning. Fortunately, the sun came out in the afternoon and it warmed into the mid 40s, although still breezy. We did not quite complete the rehab in this area. Richard removed a third of a bag of trash from Stan Murray Shelter.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 10/19/2019

Purpose: Install Post with Water Signs

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Berry Fields

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I installed a post with water signs at Low Gap to direct hikers to the spring. I also painted blazes between Low Gap and Berry Fields. I saw approximately eight hikers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/24/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 14b, Yellow Mtn Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: Paul and Ted continued rehab in Yellow Mountain Gap by primarily adding two locust steps. They located more locusts in the recent golden winged warbler habitat. Several of the warblers were observed near Overmountain Shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/24/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter and 0.75 miles south

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: We added gutter guards to the front gutter of Stan Murray Shelter to reduce plugging with leaves and crab apples. It was

a beautiful day with many individual and small groups of hikers. On this fourth trip, we added about fifteen more rock steps and thus completed the planned rehab from Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge. We took time to rehab the Stan Murray water trail near the source. The final step had become two feet. We rerouted the trail a few feet and installed a rock step. The spring is flowing reasonably well.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/28/2019

Purpose: Clean hard hats

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed cleaned accumulated hard hats. Most were from the UNC Charlotte students who helped us at Roan High Knob.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 10/28/2019

Purpose: Replace graffiti board and patrol for blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We removed many small blowdowns with the silky saw and cut back vegetation with loppers. We also replaced the graffiti board at the shelter. We cleaned the fire ring and picked up a minor amount of trash from around the shelter.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 10/29/2019

Purpose: Campsite assessment

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place

People: Pat Loven, Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: Pat Loven graciously agreed to give me and Phyllis a ride in his Jeep out to the Moreland Gap Shelter access trail after we left a car at Dennis Cove. We found the previously locked gate unlocked and the reported blowdown on the road cleared; so we did not need the key nor the chainsaw we brought with us. Phyllis and Kim worked their way from Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place conducting campsite inventory. It was a lovely day to be in the woods. We met one section hiker packing up at the shelter and encountered her again at Canute Place where we all had lunch before continuing on to Dennis Cove.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 10/29/2019

Purpose: Campsite assessment

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

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: After lunching at Canute Place, we continued on to Dennis Cove conducting the campsite inventory. It was an absolutely perfect fall day to be out hiking; the weather was warm and the colors on the trees spectacular.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/30/2019

Purpose: Prepare rebar

Location: Section 14c: Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap home

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: I purchased 144 pieces of rebar weighing 260 pounds. We have already used over 200 pounds of rebar to fasten locust logs into the ground or rock this summer. Most usage was on Hump Mountain, near Cloudland, and at Roan High Knob. The new rock drill from the TN A.T. license plate grant is making this possible. The rebar does not frost heave out of the ground like wooden stakes do at elevations above 4500 feet. The shearing of the rebar deforms the ends slightly. So I ground down one end with an angle grinder so the rebar can be driven through a 5/8-inch hole in a locust log with a 12-pound sledge. This rebar along with locust logs and tools must be hauled often a mile or so into the Roan Mountains. The most immediate usage plans are on Round Bald, Yellow Mountain Gap, and Hump Mountain.

