

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Fifteen committee chairmen and TTA Board members attended a meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park on April 29 to make plans for implementation of the Tennessee State Trails System Act. Trails Administrator Joe Gaines has selected three pilot projects from the list of State Scenic Trails in the ACT.

TTA's pilot project, the Cumberland Trail, is well under way and work continues on that one. The other two are the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, on Clinch Mountain, and the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail, in West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Eastman Corp. Recreation Club will take the responsibility for mapping and construction of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine from the Virginia Line to Highway S. S. 25E. Help is needed on the lower end, which terminates near Corryton in Knox County.

Thurman Simmons, project leader for the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail, faces the greatest problem, since that trail leads through Metropolitan Memphis and continues north through private lands which are subject to intensive management.

Ed Oliver, of McMinnville, and Fred Atkinson, of Clarksville, will study routes for the Trail of Tears. While it is not one of Joe Gaines' pilot projects, there is considerable interest in it.

Several members of TTA went along with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in Frozen Head State Park on April 9. A brief Board meeting was held at the end of that hike to consider our joining the new National Trails Council, which was organized at Woodstock, Ill. Feb. 25-27, 1972.

The purpose of NTC is "...to support the planning, promotion, and execution of trails systems at the local, county, state, regional and national levels". Gunnar Peterson of Chicago is chairman. Clarence Streetman, PR director for Bowaters, is a member of the Executive Committee.

President Donald Todd reports that an estimated fifty persons took part in the wildflower hikes in Frozen Head State Park April 22-23. The weather hampered attendance on Saturday, but a large group hiked in beautiful weather on Sunday.

Our May activity is a work session on the Cumberland Trail on Saturday, May 13. We meet at the village shopping center in Harrogate, across from the LMU campus on Highway 25E, at 9 a.m. EDT. Bring lopping shears and weed whips. The section to be cleared is about a mile needed to complete the trail from Baptist Gap to the National Park.

Bob Brown says lopping shears will also be needed for his work session on Black Mountain on June 10. Meet for that one at the entrance to Cumberland Mtn. State Park at 9 CDT.

A special hike will be led by Joe Gaines in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, near Camden, on Saturday, July 8, followed by a TTA meeting. By that time it is planned to have mapping completed on the three pilot trails. The Dept. of Conservation may also have completed its inventory of all Tennessee trails by then.