

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The next activity of the Tennessee Trails Association will be a hike in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Saturday, July 8. Hikers will meet at the Visitors' Center in the park at 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time. The hike is approximately 7 miles on an easy trail. Joe Gaines, administrator of the State Trails System, will be the hike leader. Bring your own lunch.

There will be a TTA meeting in the outdoor chapel at the Park after lunch, at about 12:30 p.m. Bob Brown and Joe Gaines attended the annual meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference in Plymouth, New Hampshire June 16-19. They will report on this meeting and the 5-day AT Range Hike, held June 19-23 in the White Mountains.

To get to Nathan Bedford Forest State Park, leave I-40 at the Camden exit, State Route 69, and go through Camden to Eva, then follow the signs to the Park. For those who would like to stay overnight, there is a campground at the Park, charge, \$1.00 a night, and good motels in Camden.

TTA President Donald Todd will have to hurry, but he plans to be there. He is on the program of the Emory River Watershed Development Association meeting at Frozen Head State Park on the evening of July 8.

Pres. Todd reports: "Bob Brown had about 5 adults and three Scouts on the work session in Cumberland County on June 10. We cleared and marked about two miles of trail on the western approach to Black Mountain. We still need committee members for the lower end of the Cumberland Trail...desperately! The duty of the members would be only to help locate the route of the Southern end."

Gordon Newland called last week from Kingsport to see if we knew of anyone who would like to work on the lower end of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, from Highway U. S. 25-E to Corryton. He said that Ray Payne of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club has shown some interest in that section.

John McIntyre brings good news this month. He reports that an adult work group has cleared the Cumberland Trail from Lake City to Cove Lake, but it isn't marked yet. He has permission to cross the private tract that blocked completion of the Lake City-Oliver Springs section. When that is done, there will be 21 miles of continuous trail open.

John also has a contact with a Scout leader in LaFollette who thinks there's a possibility that Scouts in that area may take on the Cumberland Trail across Campbell County as a project.

August 12 has been chosen as the date to complete the section between Baptist Gap and Cumberland Gap, with August 19 as a "rain date". We were rained out on that section on May 13. There may still be some huckleberries on the mountain at that time. They were just getting ripe on July 25 two years ago.

There is a great public interest in our Cumberland Trail. Roy Hall says he gets a lot of enquiries at his office in Crossville.