

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The next TTA activity will be a joint hike with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club on Saturday, Sept. 30, on Yellow Creek and Daddy's Creek. Squirrel season will be open on the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, so wear bright clothing, preferably hunter orange. Long pants and rugged boots are a must. Take plenty of water. The SMHC announcement says:

"Boulder Alley. A quarter mile of streambed along which every 50 or 100 feet is another 10-to-20-foot cube of rock standing in the river or jutting from the bank. Two hundred feet above are the tops of the bluffs. This is the scene in the upper half of the 3 miles of Daddy's Creek we plan to hike.

"Regardless of how low the flow is, only limited rock or boulder hopping can be done at the edge of the river. The rest of the headway is made thru trackless brush, rhododendron or woods. If the weather is hot you soon come to appreciate the cool shade of the rhodo slopes. Since the total distance is not very great, you are in no hurry and pause frequently to view the scenic wonders.

"We will gain access to this wilderness by rock-hopping 1½ miles down Yellow Creek from the road. This is easy, fun-type rock-hopping unless the stream flow is high or it is raining. In this case, there is an old, somewhat circuitous road we can use. Half way down Daddy's Creek, after the most spectacular part, there is a climb-out point for those who have had enough. They can escape the bush-whacking and find old roadways across the top back to the road.

"Those who elect to go all the way will eventually reach the bridge at the Devil's Breakfast Table. Altho the total distance is only 4½ miles, it will take the faster hikers a minimum of 6 hours unless the weather is cool and the stream very low."

To get to the starting point of the hike, go north from the I-40 interchange at Crab Orchard, noting the odometer reading at the railroad. Turn left after crossing the railroad, go three short blocks and turn right at the white church. At 7.8 miles, bear right at T intersection. One mile farther, bear left at Y in front of school. At 10.2 miles, the road crosses the Yellow Creek Bridge into the Catoosa Area. Stop at roadside beyond bridge to organize car shuttle. The estimated assembly time at this point is 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. EDT.

John McIntyre, Donald Todd, E. W. Means, and Henry Thornton of LaFollette made up the work party at Baptist Gap on the Cumberland Trail on Aug. 19. It was hot and the old logging road up the mountainside was grown over with briars and pokeweed. As a result, it was lunchtime when we reached our stopping place on May 13. In another two hours we ran out of steam.

We didn't quite make it to the end of the trail coming out of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. John hopes to organize a hike and work party in October to finish this stretch.

President Todd received word last month that the National Trails Symposium set for Oct. 13-15 in Colorado Springs has been postponed until next June.