

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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July is the month to work on the Cumberland Trail in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. There is no hunting and the streams are usually low, and the trail needs some maintenance. Program Chairman Bob Brown and Donald Todd, Sr., chairman of the Cumberland Trail in that section, have set Saturday, July 14, as a work day.

The spring floods washed out the bridges in the west end of the area, so it will be necessary to go in by way of Wartburg. Take U. S. 27 north from Harriman or State Route 62 west from Oak Ridge. Turn left at the first street after you pass the Morgan County Courthouse. We meet at the Catoosa Checking Station at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight time. Wear stout shoes and bring weed whips, lopping shears, a canteen and lunch.

It has been decided to wait until cooler weather to hold the two-day trail construction school, metinued last month as a possibility for August. Instead, Bob Brown will set a date to work out a short section of the Cumberland Trail in Cumberland County. He had five workers June 23.

The Second National Trails Symposium was a big success. Tennessee had the biggest delegation among the Southeastern States; with seven registered. They were Mr. and Mrs. Stan Murray, of Kingsport; Mr. and Mrs. David Rhyne, Cleveland; Robert Marks, TVA, Knoxville; Joe Gaines, Nashville, and E. W. Means, Oak Ridge. There were five from Arkansas, four each from Florida and Georgia, three each from North Carolina and Virginia, and one each from South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi.

We learned about footpaths in England; urban trails; equestrian trails; bikeways, motorbike trails, and trails for the handicapped. We heard how abandoned railroad rights-of-way had been converted to trails in Wisconsin and Illinois. We discussed mutual problems of vandalism, making peace with adjoining property owners, and conflict among trail users.

We heard about legislation, trail councils, and proposed new trails. We talked about financing. It was interesting to note that Bowaters and the U. S. Forest Service, who construction methods are similar, spend about \$1,000 a mile to build trails. At the other end of the scale, volunteer organizations told of building trails at a cost of \$90 to \$200 a mile. We didn't tell them how little TTA has spent on the Cumberland Trail.

We had a pleasant surprise the first afternoon of the Symposium, when Lester Faber of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation presented David Rhyne with certificates designating Honey Creek and Virgin Falls Trails as National Recreation Trails. There are now 39 National Recreation Trails, four of which are in Tennessee. The other two are Laurel-Snow and Oak Ridge's North Ridge Trail.

We were sorry to learn that Clarence Streetman, Bowaters Public Relations Director, was unable to attend the Symposium because of a mild heart attack. Joe Gaines filled his place on the program.

John D. Cherry, regional director for the BOR, Lake Central Region, told us at Colorado Springs that public information meetings were to begin June 18 to establish the proposed corridor for the North Country Trail, designated for study in the National Trails System Act. Meetings were set in all the states the trail would traverse.

The North Country Trail would start from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont; cross New York and a corner of Pennsylvania, dipping into Ohio almost to the Ohio River. It would then go north to Mackinac Bridge in Michigan and follow the Upper Peninsula, crossing Minnesota and Wisconsin and ending at the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota. The total length is more than 3,000 miles.

TTA President Rhyne and Paul Rasmussen of the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources discussed privately the idea of tying in the North-Country Trail with our John Muir Trail and the Trail of the Lonesome Pine by routes across Kentucky and West Virginia. It's worth looking into.

As we left Colorado Springs, we learned that Tennessee is under consideration as the site for the Third National Trails Symposium.

At the TTA Board meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park June 23, Bob Brown suggested that we should push for completion of studies and establishment of the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, named for study in the National Trails Act. It was made clear at the Symposium that a complete system of trails must include facilities for horseback riders, motorbikes, and bicycles, as well as footpaths. Bob suggests that the Natchez Trace should include a horse trail. There is also interest in a bicycle path along the Parkway.

In the May issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS, we mentioned that North Carolina would start to acquire land for the Appalachian Trail corridor in that State. Tarheel delegates at Colorado Springs distributed copies of the new trails system act, ratified by the General Assembly this year. Mention of the power of eminent domain was eliminated from the bill before it passed.

David and Pat Rhyne and Joe Gaines spent several days in Colorado after the Symposium. There was mention of a little backpacking before they came home. Joe was due to report for National Guard training before returning to his desk as State Trails System Administrator.