

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Volume IV

November 1973

Number 12

President's Message

Fellow TTA Members: The leaves have changed color and are falling throughout the State, exposing the landscape to our bright and inquisitive eyes once more. The trail route selection season is here. May I urge each of you to join with us in the diligent search for the most scenic and challenging routes for our Tennessee Trail System?

On the ground, reconnaissance is the most invaluable tool in selecting a trail route. It can be done with one or more persons and a lot of walking, looking, and more walking. It certainly is not as easy as a hike on a completed trail, but it can be many times more rewarding as you discover areas of beauty to be included in a new trail system.

Now that the season is here, let's all work together to make this a winter of great accomplishments for TTA and the State of Tennessee! Yours truly, F. David Rhyne, President.

President Rhyne also writes: "I just ordered \$450 worth of trail-clearing equipment, which we will display at the November activity. \$250 worth of the equipment was purchased by the State of Tennessee to be loaned to us for use. We were able to get six sets of tools. Now we can distribute them to several different localities for use by TTA members. Each set consists of 3 lopping shears, 1 pruning saw with sheath, 2 pulaskies, and 5 fire rakes. I was able to get a very good price on these items through the Ben Meadows Company (a forestry supplier) in Atlanta, Ga.

"For those who would like to have their own personal tools and save TTA some expense, I can probably get a good discount if I can get a total order of at least six of each item. For those who wish to donate a full set of tools, the cost would be about \$75."

In case you wonder what a "pulaski" is, we learned about that at the training session Sept. 15. It is a cousin of the mattock, used for grubbing out rocks and roots.

The November activity will be an exploratory hike on the south portion of the Cumberland Trail, led by Pres. Rhyne. The route now being considered would follow Walden's Ridge all the way, crossing much Bowaters land. The hike will start from Bowaters' Piney River Picnic Area at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time Saturday, Nov. 17.

To get there, turn left on Shut-in Gap Road off State Route 68 about a mile west of Spring City. There is an orange-colored sign saying "Walden's Ridge" there. From Crossville, turn right after crossing two bridges, the second on the Piney River. About a mile and a half of gravel road leads to the picnic area.

The hike will follow Soak Creek along an old railroad bed to Stinging Fork Creek, then up Stinging Fork Creek to the Bowaters parking area for the pocket wilderness. The map says it's four miles. A car shuttle will be provided.

All members of the Board of Directors are urged to attend a meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park at 5:30 p.m. CST Saturday, Nov. 17, to plan the annual meeting.