

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar: Dec. 4, Hike, McLean Rock, Claiborne Co., Evan Means, leader.

Dec. 11, Hike, Wilderness Trail, Cordell Hull Lake, Al Lookofsky.

Our Dec. 4 activity will rival the Dec. 1975 event, when we followed the Eagle Point to Edwards Point trip with a pleasant evening at the home of Sam and Emily Powell.

This time we visit the birthplace of the Cumberland Trail, McLean Rock on Cumberland Mountain in Claiborne County. We start from McLean Mansion, a National Historical Landmark, in Powell Valley and climb nearly 2,000 feet in $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to the crest of the mountain. The view from the Rock is one of the best on the route of the Trail. We lunch at McLean Rock while we enjoy the views of the curve of the ridge to the southwest toward LaFollette, toward Cumberland Gap to the northeast, and of Norris Lake reflecting the southern sky.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hobson Smith will be our hosts for refreshments at McLean Mansion when we return to the floor of the valley. Mr. Smith's plays, which are shown in many summer theaters, includes "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine", which has run several years at Gate City, Va. He was head of the speech department at Lincoln Memorial University many years and his wife, Myrtle Ellison Smith was dietician at LMU. She has written a whimsical book of recipes.

To get to McLean Mansion, Chattanooga members should follow State Route 58 to Oak Ridge, then 95 and 61 to Clinton. Take U. S. 25W to Lake City, I-75 to Cove Lake, then Route 63 through LaFollette and turn left about 100 yards past the Claiborne County line. From Nashville leave I-40 at the Oak Ridge interchange (second past Kingston) and follow the above route from there. From Kingsport, take 11W to 25E, turn right, cross Dean's Gap and go through Tazewell, turning left on 63 just before LMU.

Al Lookofsky will lead the Middle Tennessee Chapter on a 12-mile hike on the Wilderness Trail at Cordell Hull Lake on Saturday, Dec. 11. Those who wish to pool rides should meet at 7:00 a.m. CST at the Cumberland Museum and Science Center in Nashville. The hike will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the trail entrance in Granville, Tenn. (off Highway 53).

The hike will pass many rock fences and log cabins on the wooded hillsides, and will provide several views of the lake from the bluff tops. Due to the length of this hike, it will be moderately difficult. A shorter route of about 6 miles is possible for those who do not wish to make the 12-mile loop.

After the hike the regular meeting of the Middle Tennessee Chapter will be held at the home of Al and Betsy Lookofsky, 153 Circle Drive, Hartsville. A hamburger supper is planned. If you can't make it to the hike, try to attend the meeting, at about 6 p.m. TTA members received copies of the Cordell Hull trail map with the November issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. Al Lookofsky's phone number is 374-2383. The Nashville area coordinator is Rufus Pigg, 859-0765.

We voted "I'm like a machine" at the annual meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park Nov. 13 and re-elected all the officers. In case you've forgotten, they are: President, Grimes Slaughter, Oak Ridge; Vice-president, David Rhyne, Athens; Recording Secretary, Evelyn Trotter, Goodlettsville, and Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, Dorothy R. Lingerfelt, Chattanooga. Donald Todd, Sr., Wartburg, was re-elected to a full 3-year term on the Board of Directors. Completing the list of directors are Wm. E. Stutz,

Chattanooga, term expiring in 1977; Gordon Newland, Kingsport, term expiring in 1978; Evan Means, Oak Ridge, immediate past president, and David Stidhan, Nashville, chairman of the Middle Tenn. Chapter.

Those who attended the annual meeting enjoyed the slide presentations of Charlotte Ellis, representing the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Inc., and David Rhyne, who showed pictures of construction of bridges on the Piney River Trail. David's bridges cost more than Sam Powell's Middle Creek Bridge.

Charlotte showed a beautiful collection of slides of the Highlands of Roan, adjoining famous Roan Mountain. The Conservancy is trying to raise \$3 million to buy the highlands and protect them from developers. SAHC is selling a limited edition of prints of a watercolor painting of the Roan Highlands, done by Artist Raymond Williams. These prints will be available Nov. 27, at a cost of \$25 each, all of which will go to the Roan Fund. They will make lovely Christmas presents, if you don't have room for one on the den wall. Send orders to SAHC at P. O. Box 3356, Kingsport, TN 37664.

Reporting for Joe Gaines at the annual meeting, Steve Trussler of Tracy City told of work on the State trails program in 1976. Hank Landers, construction foreman on the Fiery Gizzard Trail, made an inspirational talk on the motivation of volunteer workers. David Shupe reported that he is beginning to work at marking and mapping the Cumberland Trail from Oliver Springs to Cumberland Gap. TTA will help with landowner contact and trail clearing.

Several members hiked a section of the Piney River Trail with David Rhyne after the meeting.

The Southeast Trails Conference was a great success. The "Three Rascals" who worked up the program: Dick Cottrell, Phil Lavelly, and Evan Means, were richly rewarded by the compliments they received from the participants. From the vine-cutting at the Fort Henry Trail dedication Thursday afternoon to the great entertainment at the banquet, everything went smoothly. The publicity fell short and the attendance was lighter than we had hoped for, but everyone felt that they benefitted from the program.

The Sun Shower Choir and the puppeteers from Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. provided a fitting climax for the conference at the banquet. They presented a program which had been given at campgrounds at Land Between the Lakes last summer, following a lively puppet show with inspirational Bicentennial songs. The entire staff at Paris Landing Inn stopped to watch and listen.

We owe a great debt to Phil Lavelly, head of the Parks and Recreation and Stan Stieber, of the Department of Continuing Education, University of Tennessee at Martin. Phil was program coordinator and his students helped Stan with the registration. Stan handled the printing and distribution of the official announcements.

The Board of Directors of TTA adopted a resolution of appreciation for Evan Means' efforts, at the meeting Nov. 13.

Incidentally, The McLean Rock hike will start from the Mansion at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. There will be someone at the turnoff from Highway 63 to direct the way.

We shall have the full calendar of activities for 1977 in the January issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. They start with a hike in Cedars of Lebanon State Park Jan. 15.