

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar: May 14, Hike, Savage Gulf, Bob Richards, leader.

May 27-30, Appalachian Trail Conf. meeting, Shepherdstown, W.Va.

May 28, Nashville Chapter hike, Old Stage Coach Road, Oscar Krosnes.

June 25, Highlands of Roan, Charlotte Ellis.

The May hike will be in scenic Savage Gulf on a new trail constructed by the Dept. of Conservation as a part of the South Cumberland Recreation Complex. Trail Supervisor Bob Richards will be the leader. We meet at 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time at Ranger Gray's headquarters 4 miles north of Palmer off State Highway 108 or 9 miles south of Cagle off Highway 8. Watch for signs. Route 8 runs southeast from McMinnville and Route 108 connects with SR 27 near Whitwell, northwest of Signal Mountain. There will be scenic views of Savage Gulf, wildflowers and large, outstanding trees. Bob says wear sturdy shoes and carry a lunch and a canteen. The hike is 6 to 7 miles long.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor a hike May 28 on the old Stagecoach Road/old Lebanon dirt road near Mt. Juliet. This route is part of an early pioneer trail from the "wilderness" of Virginia and the Carolinas west to the historic Eagle Tavern and Nashville. This trail was travelled by Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, John Bell, Sam Houston and other men of history. Meet at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the Waffle Shop, I-40 and Old Hickory Blvd, between Nashville and Lebanon. This will be a leisurely 5-mile hike. A car shuttle will be arranged. For further information, call Oscar Krosnes, 883-1041.

The 1977 meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference will be held on the campus of Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Va., May 27-30. For the first time the ATC will use a central theme involving shared experiences and common problems of the clubs and individuals who, as volunteers, have built and maintained the 2000-mile AT and some newer trails in the U. S. and Canada. The usual week of hiking will follow the meeting.

Charlotte Ellis writes; "My husband, Ott, and I will be leading the June 25 hike across the Highlands of Roan. A car camp at Roan Mountain State Park Friday, June 24, will allow us to get an early start Saturday morning. We will need to arrange a car shuttle, since the hike will be a one-way trip of about 10 miles. We will begin at Carver's Gap and hike along the AT over the crest of the rhododendron-covered balds to Highway 19-E. The views are spectacular and the rhododendron should be in full bloom. The 12,000 acres that will surround us are the target lands for purchase by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to conserve their beauty as it is."

We'll give further information in the June issue of Tennessee Trails.

More than 20 persons made the hike to Snow Falls April 16. A special guest on the trip was Sally Gelston, a journalism intern from Northwestern University, who is on a ten-weeks assignment with the Oak Ridger. We had a picture of the group, all but Ed Oliver and his Scouts from McMinnville, who arrived late, in the April 21 edition of the Oak Ridger.

Donald Todd Day, Apr. 23, dawned with steady rain, but 7 hardy persons showed up anyway at Frozen Head State Park. Ranger Gene Heidel was host to the group and Bill Stutz made a presentation (complete with puns?). We'll try again next year.

Joe Gaines would like to have historical information on the route of the Trail of Tears. Anyone who can provide such information should contact Joe at the Dept. of Conservation, 2611 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203.

We forgot to give an address last month for volunteers for the job of TTA librarian to contact. Write to Pres. Grimes Slaughter, 240 North Purdue Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or Dot Lingerfelt, P.O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405. (That's also where to send dues.)