

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

July 12, "Paint Party" to blaze Cumberland Trail, Mike Dahl, Leader.
July 12, Nashville Chapter, overnight, Rock Island and Fall Creek Falls.
July 19, Stones River National Battlefield Trail.
July 26, Native Plants Society Field Trip, Burgess Falls.
August 23-24, Fiery Gizzard Hike, Bob Richards.
August 12, Tenn. Tech Educational Conference.
August 28, Nashville Chapter Meeting, Cumberland Museum.
Sept. 13, Trail of the Lonesome Pine, Mike Dahl.
Oct. 17-19, Annual Meeting, Camp Ocoee.

The big news this month is the completion of the Cumberland Trail section from Cove Lake to Poplar Creek Gap, near Oliver Springs. That is about half of the original project envisioned by Evan Means in 1965. Several miles of the trail, beginning at Cumberland Gap, have also been built.

Mike Dahl is calling for volunteers for a "Paint Party" Saturday, July 12, to blaze the newly-constructed section. It was originally laid out and marked by John McIntyre and Grimes Slaughter, who took over the chairmanship of the north end after John moved to Texas. Scout troops and TTA volunteers cleared most of it several years ago, but the state has just "acquired" the right-of-way and YACC crews have rebuilt it.

Meet Mike at the Cove Lake State Park Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. July 12. He will furnish all the equipment and supplies, but bring your own lunch and water. The group will be divided into two teams, with one working west from Lake City and the other on the Cove Lake end.

Improvements are under way at Cove Lake, including four miles of hike-bike trails. Mike Dahl and Evan Means attended the ground-breaking ceremony May 31, when Conservation Commissioner Ann Tuck was the principal speaker. This is one of the prettiest parks in the State Park System.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor a hike on July 12, with optional overnight camping at Rock Island State Park and going on to hike in the gorge below Fall Creek Falls on Sunday morning. The Rock Island hike will be in the gorge of the Caney Fork River between the dam and the point where the river flows into Center Hill Lake. The ranger at Rock Island has reserved a primitive campsite for our car camp, away from plug-ins. There also is no water and campers should carry jugs in their cars.

The Rock Island hike will explore geological formations of streams, bluffs, falls and cascades. The trail is rated Class II and III. On Sunday, June 13, meet at the top overlook at Fall Creek Falls. The hike, in Fall Creek Gorge, is a possible Class IV with rockhopping.

John Hart is the trip leader and requests pre-registration. To register or to get further information, call John at 227-8339. Nashville Hikers will meet at the Cumberland Museum at 8 a.m. CDT on the 12th to form car pools, or at the entrance to Rock Island State Park at 10 a.m. Late arrivals should ask the ranger how to find the car camp.

The TTA membership activity for July is a hike on the Stones River National Battlefield Trail, just north of Murfreesboro off U.S. 41. Meet at the National Battlefield Visitor's Center at 10 a.m. CDT Saturday, July 19. This is a relatively flat trail, with many features of historical interest, a good family hike.

The Tennessee Native Plants Society will have a field trip to Window Cliffs and Burgess Falls Saturday, July 26. For information, call Larry Smith at 741-3852.

Gene Curp reports a very successful trip to Mammoth Cave National Park

May 24 and 25. He writes:

"Under threatening skies, 20 hikers assembled to sample what most park visitors miss - the surface features. We enjoyed a

trail lunch and a side trip to the waterfall at the Bluffs campsite. A late afternoon thundershower cooled things off and hurried the group over the last mile and a half. A great deal of wildlife was observed, primarily ticks followed by inchworms.

"Eleven people camped overnight and two others stayed in the park lodge. Of these, eleven also took the half-day tour of the cave and four made the power launch trip up the Green River.

"In addition to the old hands and regulars, I want to recognize new members and visitors on the trip. These include Jamie Herman of Knoxville, Jim, Andy and Eric Perrin and Joyce Adkins of Nashville. Also attending was Ellen McPherson and Greg Forte of Nashville. (Greg is currently earning a weekend PhD in trail construction with Betty Smith supervising dissertation research on the Long Hunter Trail.) Honorable mention goes to Mike and Jineanne Payne and Pat and Paul Young, guests of the leader.

"Public thanks goes to Resource Management Ranger Leon Libscomb who, together with another ranger, Carolyn, joined the group for the evening meal Saturday. Leon's help made the overnight part of the trip possible.

"The campground was full for the Memorial Day weekend by Friday night and all the cave tours were sold out, but we met only six other hikers in the trail"

Jenny Wiley Trail Dedicated

We had an invitation from Soc Clay, president of the Kentucky Outdoor Press Association, to attend the grand opening of the Jenny Wiley Trail Saturday, June 21. This is a 180-mile foot trail following a high ridge of the Appalachians from the foot of the Portsmouth, Ohio, Bridge across the Ohio River to Jenny Wiley State Park, near Prestonsburg. It was built entirely on private land, with the owners granting voluntary easements for the right-of-way. Trail shelters and water supply were supplied at regular intervals and a Federal grant provided funds for much of the work.

The grand opening was sponsored by the Jenny Wiley Trail Conference and the FIVCO Area Development District, which obtained the original grant. Many of our members met Brian Mattingly, supervisor of the Jenny Wiley Trail, at the Southeast Trails Conference at Cumberland Falls in 1978 and at our symposium at Standing Stone State Park last fall.

We have been again invited to place an exhibit at the 35th annual Educational Conference at Tennessee Technological University at Cookeville August 12, 1980. We exhibited at the 34th annual conference last year and attracted some attention to TTA. If we have someone in the area who would volunteer, it would be good to show there again this year.

The Editor is indebted to Douglas A. Billips, state trails coordinator for the State of Kentucky for the 1980 edition of KENTUCKY TRAILS. This comprehensive work is hardly a "packbook" like TENNESSEE TRAILS, but it is a worthy addition to the outdoor recreationists' library. It is in large format, 8 1/2 x 10 1/2, and contains 88 maps and tables. It lists backpacking trails and areas; day hiking trails and areas, hiking opportunities for youth groups; canoe trails, equestrian trails and areas, bikeways, ORV trails and areas; Century Club Awards, which encourages youth activities, and Shiloh Military Trails, calling attention to Ken Humphreys' monumental efforts at Shiloh Military Park in Tennessee.

This issue of Tennessee Trails was published early in order for the Editor to attend the Outdoor Writers of America conference in South Dakota.