

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- Nov. 1,9,15,23, Work Sessions, Long Hunter Trail, Betty Smith.
- Nov. 7-9, Intergroup Conference, Cumberland Campground, Crossville.
- Nov. 8-9, Nashville Chapter, Big South Fork, Joe Gaines.
- Nov. 15, TACL Trash Pickup.
- Dec. 6-7, Pickett overnight hike, Harry Williamson.
- Dec. 13, Franklin Forest rock climbing, Bertha Chrietzberg.
- Dec. 13, Red Leaves Trail, Natchez Trace, Charlotte Zerfoss.

Betty Smith still needs help on the Long Hunter Trail. About four miles of the 8-mile trail remain to be completed. Work starts at 8 a.m. on each of the days mentioned in the Calendar. Call Betty at 327-2671 for directions. If you can't meet the group at 8 a.m., she'll tell you how to find them later in the day.

Harry Williamson writes: "I have learned that the hike I had scheduled for Pickett State Park Nov. 22-23 coincides with their hunting season. I have therefore re-scheduled this hike for Dec. 6-7. I still plan to make it a 2-day, 1-night hike of about 16 miles. We'll depart from the park office at 9:00 a.m. sharp and hike over the Hidden Passage Trail to the tunnel on Rock Creek and camp there. We will return on the Rock Creek Trail. We'll also offer a day hike. Contact me at 741-1061 for information on the hike and transportation.

Both day and overnight hikes are scheduled for the Nashville Chapter's trip to the Big South Fork Nov. 8-9. It replaces the Scott's Gulf trip originally planned. Meet the leader, Joe Gaines, at the office at Pickett State Park at 9:00 a.m. CST on Saturday. All persons planning to go should contact Joe at 5635 Kendall Dr. or call him at 356-4899 by Nov. 1. Evelyn Trotter, 859-0566, is also a coordinator for rides from Nashville.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The annual meeting at Camp Ococo was a big success. Early arrivals on the 17th went on impromptu hikes - Mike Dahl went fishing - and there was strong interest in the activities Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The rain didn't dampen spirits at all on Saturday.

Our keynote speaker, Marvin Lauritsen, supervisor of Cherokee National Forest, sounded an optimistic note concerning trails in the Forest, despite budget cuts for FY1981. He reported a 21-to-25-percent increase in recreational use of the Forest in 1980, up 1 million visitor days over the 5 million in 1979. Average growth had been about 5% a year prior to 1980.

Mr. Lauritsen reported that the Warrior's Passage and John Muir Trails had been approved as National Recreation Trails during the past year and the Over Mountain Victory Trail, which was designated a National Historical Trail in a bill signed by President Carter on Sept. 8, passes through Cherokee National Forest. Trail objectives have not changed, despite the reduction of funds for the Southern Region from \$2 million in 1980 to \$600,000 in FY181. The Forest Service is entering agreements with private organizations for trail maintenance.

Terry Bonham, State Trails System administrator, reported that Mike Dahl has achieved completion of more than 30 miles of the Cumberland Trail between Cove Lake and Oliver Springs since he became project administrator in March 1980. Ken Miller of Oak Ridge supervises YACC crews provided by TVA. They expect to complete the north end, from Cove Lake to Baptist Gap, in 1981.

Bob Richards has made great progress in the South Cumberland Recreation Complex, which includes Savage Gulf, the Great Stone Door and Fiery Gizzard. Bob has the full backing of the people in that area. Charlotte Zerfoss has

completed the trail system in Big Hill Pond State Environmental Education Area in McNairy County, including a board walk through a swamp. A hike is planned for that area next spring. Work is under way on the Tennessee portion of the Over Mountain Victory Trail, following the "Tweetsie Railroad" through the Doe River Gorge.

Dot Lingerfelt reported that TTA has 269 members, including 5 life members and one honorary life member. She reminded us that we have until Dec. 31 to get a life membership for \$100. After that the price goes up to \$150. The \$5 dues paid for 1980 can be credited against the \$100.

It was reported that the Trails System, Scenic Rivers and Historical Areas have been transferred from the Division of Planning and Development to the Division of State Parks. Pres. Gaines, who now works in the State Parks Division, feels that this may help the trails system.

Bertha Chrietzberg was elected president to succeed Joe Gaines, who has resigned from the Board of Directors as past president because of possible conflict of interest with his state job. David Stidham, vice-president, Evelyn Trotter, recording secretary, and Dot Lingerfelt, corresponding secretary-treasurer, were all re-elected. Grimes Slaughter will fill the unexpired term of Bertha Chrietzberg on the Board. Evan Means, whose term expires in 1981, and Diane Davidson, chairlady of the Nashville Chapter, complete the Board of Directors.

Herb Wiggins, longtime TTA member, came all the way from London, Ontario to attend the meeting. Herb is active in the Thames River Valley Trails Association. Visitors from a great distance included Lauren Reese of Lansing, Michigan and Dr. and Mrs. Chuck Mathews of Colorado Springs. Chuck is teaching at Fort Campbell this fall.

The Tennessee Trails Award for 1980 was given to Sam Powell in recognition of his work on the south end of the Cumberland Trail.

Friday night's show and tell session included slides of Rocky Mountain climbing in Colorado, by Dr. Mathews; the Over Mountain Victory Trail bicentennial march, by Mike Dahl, and the TTA slide series by Joe Gaines. Mike also showed a short series, set to music, on bald eagles.

HIKE REPORTS

Evelyn Trotter reports that Helen McGregor, Shirley Rose and Chris Sliter accompanied her on the Nashville Chapter outing at Radnor Lake Sept. 21. The Radnor personnel were conducting a hike the same day on the Hall Tract, which is closed to the public at present, and the TTA folks had the privilege of going with them over hillside fields, past ponds and through lovely woods.

Sharon Patterson writes; "The hike at Honey Creek on Sept. 27 was a very enjoyable trip. Those attending were Joe McCaleb, Charles Mathews, Carl Leathers, Bob Dennis, Ed Williams, Greg Forte, Lynn Miller, Lynn Diggins and Bill Terry. On Sunday, four of us drove over to Rugby from Pickett State Park for a visit to the historical community. Everyone had a great weekend and enjoyed the perfect weather and the fellowship."

Russell Fryer reports that the Montgomery Bell hike Oct. 11-12 saw perfect weather and spectacular fall colors. There were 12 hikers: ten overnight and two day hikers. The backpackers were Gene Curp, Hardy Moyers and son Sam; Russ Roberts, Ellen Ferguson and daughter Ananda, Mary and Craig Walker, and leader Russell Fryer and daughter Kin. Reginald McDowell and Margaret Mann were the day hikers.

The crisp fall weekend made night and morning campfires most enjoyable. There was a little anxiety when a collapsing privy floor almost did in the leader. There's never a dull moment on a TTA hike!