



# TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of the Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume XII, No. 3

February 1981

## VIRGIN FALLS POCKET WILDERNESS AREA

7 February 1981

The Virgin Falls area has been set aside and protected by Bowaters Southern Paper Corp. The parking area for the hike is 8 miles south of DeRossett, which is on US 70 South between Crossville and Sparta. There will be signs at DeRossett and at the turn onto the dirt road leading to the parking area. The scenery is spectacular, and if it ever rains in 1981 there should be a good flow of water over the falls. This is a strenuous hike over rugged terrain, requiring 6 hours for those in average condition. Proper physical condition and proper foot wear is a must. To afford enough daylight for stragglers to finish the hike, we will leave the parking area at 9:30 CST.

LEADER: Grimes Slaughter-615-483-5859  
Oak Ridge

## TWIN FORKS TRAIL, J. PERCY PRIEST LAKE

8 February 1981

The new Mufreesboro Ch. invites you to hike with them on the Twin Forks Trail. Maintenance of this trail will be one of the chapter's projects, and this hike will assess the trail condition. Meet at 10 am CST at Walter Hill Dam on US 231 (1/2 way between Mufreesboro and Cedars of Lebanon S.P.).

LEADER: Bertha Chrietberg--896-1146  
Mufreesboro 898-2172(work)

## CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP, ROAN MT. STATE PK.

14 February 1981

Meet at the Shoney's Restaurant just off Rutledge Pike exit of I-40 East (exit 302) in Knoxville at 8:00 am EST, or at the Park Visitor Center at 10:30 am EST. There will be a short seminar for those who need some pointers. If there are enough people interested, we'll do an overnight ski back-

pack up on the Roan Balds. Come prepared for very cold, windy weather. If there is not enough snow to ski, an overnight backpack across the balds or a day hike on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine will be held, depending on interest. You should pre-register by Feb. 7 at the latest. Ski rental is available from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Knoxville (615-588-9432). Cost is \$10 a day or \$18 per weekend. Rental is on first come, first serve basis.

LEADER: Mike Dahl-615-588-7695/933-0883  
Knoxville

## RED LEAVES TRAIL DAY HIKE

28 February 1981

Distance: 6-7 miles; Location: Natchez Trace State Resort Park on I-40; Meeting Place: Turn off I-40 at Natchez Trace exit. Go north 6 mile to the "Largest Pecan Tree" look for hwy sign; Time: 9 am CST. The trail traverses pine and hardwood forest, campsites, and Maple Creek Lake. If travel is affected by snow or ice the hike will be re-scheduled. Consult West TN weather forecasts or call one of the leaders.

CO-LEADERS: Gene Hyde--424-4321  
Charlotte Zerfoss--427-0177

## **\*\*\*CONSERVATION ALERT\*\*\***

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine may be in trouble! A handful of landowners affected by the southern portion of the TLP are fighting the trail, apparently because of a misunderstanding about the trail and trail users (e.g., violation of private property rights, hippies, vandals, etc.). They have secured the help of State Rep. Mike Robertson. He has threatened to introduce legislation to delete the TLP from the State Trails System, cut funding, or even scrap the entire Trails Act. The TN Dept. of Conservation has worked out a compromise

with Robertson which will at least save Phase I, the 46 mile northern portion (above US 25E) which is essentially complete. According to Asst. Comm. McCall, the State will pull out of the southern portion (Phase II), and in turn Robertson will not introduce legislation. The State will complete the northern portion of the TLP and open it up to the public. McCall hopes that by demonstrating a successful trail program in the northern portion, the southern landowners will see that a trail can be an asset and withdraw their objections. What can you do? Write to Comm. Howell, Rep. Robertson, and your representative and express your support of the TLP. Ask that you be kept informed of any new developments that may affect the TLP.

#### Old Hickory Lakeshore Mgmt Hearings -

As expected, the public support at the hearings (see Jan. Tennessee Trails) was one sided in favor of increased private privileges for adjacent land owners on the lake. A few people spoke in favor of limiting private use and maintaining free, public use of the public shoreline, including Jack Neff representing TTA. Col. Tucker expressed the difficulty of making a decision on the issue because he was not hearing the opinions of the "majority" of taxpayers who have a vested interest in the lake. It is very clear that the Corps needs written statement expressing the view that at least a portion of the shoreline in the urbanized portion of the lake needs to be in natural vegetation, maintaining natural diversity and aesthetic appeal and that the current plan should not be weakened. Write today to Col. Lee Tucker, District Engineer, P.O. Box 1070, Nashville 37202, and send copies to Senators Baker & Sasser, and your U.S. Representative.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT BILL--A "Bottle Bill" has been filed again this year (Senate-Carl Hoella, House-Steve Cobb). Send letters of support for this important legislation to the Gov. & your representatives. Let's work together and get a deposit law this year! More news later.

## STATE TRAILS REPORT

### DOE RIVER GORGE PROJECT

THE DOE RIVER GORGE PROJECT, A COMPONENT OF THE OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL, IS IN LIMBO DUE TO LACK OF STATE ACQUISITION FUNDS. PLANS TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM A DEFUNCT PROJECT TO FINANCE LAND ACQUISITION WERE REJECTED BY THE STATE BUILDING COMMISSION.

THE PROJECT WAS TO HAVE CONSISTED OF A  $3\frac{1}{4}$  MILE SECTION OF AN ABANDONED RAIL RIGHT-OF-WAY RUNNING THROUGH THE DOE RIVER GORGE IN CARTER COUNTY. THE GORGE ITSELF HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED BY HUMANS. OTHER FUNDING SOURCES ARE CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE STATE. THE INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF TTA MEMBERS MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATOR, COMMISSIONER HOWELL AND GOV. ALEXANDER ADVOCATING THE ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF THIS UNIQUE NATURAL AREA.

\*Three new trails totaling 4.1 miles have just been completed at Norris Dam State Pk. They are Andrews Ridge Trail (2.1m), Rock Spring Trail (1m), and Hootin Holler Trail (1m). The trails are all on the new park side and start at the campground. All three trails allow X-C skiing when there is 3 or more inches of snow.

\*A grand opening on the Cumberland Trail, Section 2 (Caryville to Oliver Springs) will be held on 2 May 1981 at Cove Lake St. Park. After the opening ceremony a short hike will be held. The new commissioner, the Governor, and others who have played a role in the development will be involved.

★ This is a must for TTA to turn out in force.

\*\*ANOTHER REORGANIZATION--Joe Gains reports the new Commissioner of Conservation, Charles Howell, plans to reorganize the Dept. again. He tentatively plans to set up at least 4 major bureaus--lands and natural areas, cultural and recreational resources, administration, and regulatory. Joe feels this will be a positive change and sees continual commitment to trails, natural areas, and rivers. Asst. Comm Tim McCall indicates he wants TTA to become more involved in decisions affecting trails. He and Howell will meet with TTA in the near future to discuss and develop this role.



# TTA Affairs

Hike leader Diane Davidson reports that 37 Sierra Club, Audubon and Tennessee Trails hikers joined the Indian Town Bluff outing on Jan. 17. The group enjoyed the clear blue, sunny sky which warmed the winter day. They saw several stone box graves and Indian mounds as well as many scenic views of the Cumberland and Harpeth Rivers below the bluff.

**\*\*TRIP REPORT--**Dale Hollow Eagle Watch, 12 TTA, Audubon, and Sierra members joined over 100 others to watch eagles by boat. Most of us went aboard a small barge and saw at least three balds. Absolutely beautiful day. Two hikers hiked the Red Oak Ridge Trail on Sunday--another gorgeous day! (24-25 Jan)

**\*\*AGENCY CORRESPONDENTS--**several members will be reporting on trail development activities across the state to the newsletter editor. Send trail news to Diane Davidson (State trails), PO Box 3262, Nashville 37219; Joe Gaines(TVA trails), 5635 Kendall Ave, Nashville 37209; & Evan Means(local govt trails), 200 Butler Rd, Oak Ridge, 37830.

**\*\* ADD to you 1981 TTA Hike Schedule:**

19 Apr Piney River Trail-Bowaters Sou. Paper Co.(Rhea Co.). Join the leader for this "Easter Day" spring hike. Wildflowers should be just right.  
LEADER: David Rhyne (Athens)  
745-4289  
336-2211(work)

NOTE!

**\*\*This will be your last newsletter if you haven't paid your 1981 dues. Send them today to the PO Box (regular-\$8, student-\$3, supporting-\$15, life-\$150).**

**\*\*Need a VOLUNTEER to lead the Green Mt. Trail hike on 21 March (see annual schedule in last month's newsletter). Contact David Stidham (859-3621/251-5115) ASAP.**

## \*MURFREESBORO CHAPTER\*

The Murfreesboro Chapter was formally organized on 22 Jan. Officers are Mike Rice, Chairman; Andra Fuson, Vice Chairman; Debbie Thibault, Sec.; Maryedith McFarlin, Treas. Meetings are the 2nd Thru. of each month in the old gym on the MTSU campus. Next meeting-- 12 Feb.

**\*\* The newest member of the TTA Board of Directors is Sharon Patterson, serving until 1983. Sharon is a ranger naturalist at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. She graduated from MTSU in 1975, majoring in biology and has worked for the Tennessee Department of Recreation and Parks as a seasonal and permanent for six years. In addition to her job, volunteer work and hobbies keep her plenty busy. She is on the Career Advisory Committee for Wilson County schools, advises Explorer Post and works with numerous church and group camp in activity programming. She enjoys hiking, swimming, photography, and other outdoor sports. Sharon says, "TTA has opened my eyes on the number and variety of trails in Tennessee and the problems associated with them." Let Sharon know how she can best serve you and TTA.**

## TRAIL NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT Bertha C. Chrietberg

ADOPT-A-TRAIL - - This idea has been germinating in the minds of some of our Board Members for about a year and it is time to set it in motion. According to our objectives,"the TTA is a non-profit corporation, founded for the purpose of developing and maintaining foot trails in Tennessee." We have helped a great deal in development of trail, but we need to help more with maintenance of trail. One simple method of approach is to adopt a trail. If any of our members have a particular trail that they frequently hike, or if you have one nearby that you would be willing to hike occasionally, and check for maintenance, please let us know. A chairman will be appointed to whom you can report trail conditions. TTA will then contact the proper authorities for the maintenance, or will organize a work day for that trail. Give this idea some serious thought and if you are willing to adopt-a-trail, please drop a line to me at Box 140, MTSU, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. 37132.

## NASHVILLE CHAPTER NEWS

**MARCH MEETING**—THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 ON MARCH 26 AT THE CUMBERLAND MUSEUM. THE PROGRAM WILL BE "WILD-FLOWER IDENTIFICATION IN TENNESSEE". ELECTION OF NEW OFFICIERS, WHICH WAS POSTPONED IN JANUARY, WILL BE HELD. ATTEND THE MEETING AND MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

### TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

THE CHAPTER WILL SPONSOR A TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 8, FROM 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M. AT THE PERCY PRIEST VISITOR'S CENTER. ADMISSION IS FREE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

THE WORKSHOP WILL COVER THE DESIGN, LAY-OUT, AND CONSTRUCTION OF TRAILS. METHODS OF TRAIL BUILDING WILL BE DISCUSSED AND A

VARIETY OF TRAIL BUILDING TOOLS WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

DAVID RHYNE, TRAIL PLANNER FOR THE BOWATERS POCKET WILDERNESS AREAS, WILL PRESENT A SLIDE SHOW ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAILS. BOB RICHARDS, TRAIL PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION, HAS PLANNED A DEMONSTRATION OF TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME "HANDS-ON" TRAIL BUILDING EXPERIENCE.

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP A LEVEL OF VOLUNTEER AWARENESS AND EXPERTISE IN THE AREAS OF TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL DIANE DAVIDSON (297-6181 OR 741-7918) OR DAVID STIDHAM (859-3621 OR 251-5115).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS--1981

31 Jan-1 Feb--Savage Gulf backpack, Bob Brown (292-1775/259-6155)--see Jan. nls  
7 Feb--Virgin Falls hike--see this newsletter  
8 Feb--Trail Development Workshop--see this newsletter  
8 Feb--Twin Forks Trail--see this newsletter  
10 Feb--Wine & Cheese fundraiser sponsored by the EAF--contact TEC, PO Box 1422, Nashville, 37202  
12 Feb--Murfreesboro Ch. meeting, MTSU  
14 Feb--Roan Mt. Cross Country Skiing--see this newsletter  
14-15 Feb--Sierra Club hike, Big South Fork--Bob Brandt (292-1775/259-6155)  
20-22 Feb--Eagle weekend, IBL (502-924-5602)  
22 Feb--deadline for written comment on Old Hickory Lakeshore Mgmt Plan--see Jan newsletter - *this one*

28 Feb--Red Leaves Trail--see this newsletter  
8 Mar--Hemlock Bluff Trail, Morris Lake-Terry Chilcoat (632-4411/632-6450)  
12 Mar--Murfreesboro Ch. meeting, MTSU  
22 Mar--Radnor Lake hike--Paul Somers (352-9062/741-3852)  
26 Mar--Nashville Ch. meeting, Cumb. Museum  
28-29 Mar--Fiery Gizzard Trail--Dennis Horn (455-5742/455-2611)  
2 May--Sec. 2, Cumberland Trail dedication  
29 Jun-2 Jul--6th National Trails Sym., Davis Calif.  
17-18 Oct--TTA Annual Meeting, Cumberland Camp, Crossville

P.O. BOX 4913  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE. 37405



Mack Prichard  
Department of Conservation  
2611 West End Avenue, Room 140  
Nashville, TN 37203

