



TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official Publication of the Tennessee Trails Association

Volume XII, No. 7

June 1981

Piney Falls
State Natural Area (Rhea Co.)
6 June 1981

This Saturday hike will be to the two high falls in Little Piney Creek gorge behind Spring City, TN (also known as Devils Hole Gorge). If the creeks are high, we will have to get our feet wet crossing Soak Creek, but the falls should be spectacular. Participants will meet at the Piney River picnic * area owned by Bowater Southern-Hiwassee Land Company at 9:30 a.m. We may carshuttle, depending on conditions at the time of the hike. The hike will be fairly rugged (Class IV) in the gorge. We will be hiking cross-country for a good part of the trip in rocky and steep terrain (not for beginning hikers). The trip will encompass 4-6 miles depending on the route we take, but keep in mind this is map distance. Please wear adequate foot gear, bring lunch and water. Short pants are out even though it may be warm.

LEADER: Dave Rhyne Days/336-2211,
Athens ext. 510
* See map pg. 5 Wkends & Evngs/
745-4289

Narrows of the Harpeth (Cheatham Co)

14 June (Sun)
Nashville Chapter hike. Contact the leader for details. a $\frac{1}{2}$ day trip!

Leader: Jim Perrin 297-2929
Nashville 322-7457(work)

Cohutta Wilderness-Big Frog Mt.
Cherokee Nat'l Forest (Polk Co)
20-21 June 1981

This backpack is an outstanding 10.3 mile loop in the Big Frog Mt. Wilderness Study Area, bordering the Cohutta Wilderness. Rating is difficult, Class III or IV; there is almost continuous upgrade the first 4 miles. The hike will follow the Wolf Ridge, Big Frog, Barkleggin and Big Creek Trails (see pp 48 & 55 of TN Trails by E. Means). The primitive camp will be pitched somewhere in the vicinity of Big Frog Mt. (elev. 4000 ft.) about 4.1 miles from the trailhead. Day hikers are encouraged to join the backpackers on the first day. Meet Sat.

morning before 10:00 EDT at the intersection of US Hwys 411 and 64 east of Cleveland at Ocoee, TN. If you would like to carpool from the Murfreesboro or Nashville area, contact the leader. You are also invited to car camp with the leader at the USFS Sylco Campground. (Take US 64 east from Ocoee for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; turn right on Forest Service Rd. 75 for 2 miles; left on FS Rd. 55 for 10 miles).

LEADER: Glen Hanley 890-4113
Murfreesboro 898-2104 (work)

Roan Mt.-Little Hump Bald (Carter Co)
27-28 June 1981

This trip is an overnight backpack across the balds at Roan Mountain. The trip is 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Class III trail along the Appalachian Trail. We will try and spend the night atop Little Hump Bald - about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 miles distance. If the weather is clear, I can promise you one of the most spectacular sunsets and sunrises plus some of the most inspiring views you will ever see in your life. Meet at 7:15 a.m. EDT at Shoney's at the Rutledge Pike Exit (392) of I-40 East. From there we will carpool. Or meet at RM State Park office at 10:00 a.m. EDT. Round trip distance is about 300 miles and return time will be about 4:30 p.m. EDT Sunday.

LEADER: Mike Dahl 933-0883
Knoxville 588-7695 (work)

Bald River Trail-Cherokee N.F. (Monroe Co)--11 July 1981

Approx. 8 miles, easy to mod. along the Bald River, a roaring mt. stream. Views of falls and cascades. Start at Falls parking area on Tellico River Rd. east of Tellico Plains at 10:30 am EDT. We will hike approx. 4 mi. to the lunch stop. The trail is a Class I to II; net elev. change is 500 ft. Call the leader about carpooling, and to pre-register.

Leader: Bucky Crowell 269-6579
Nashville 259-5860(wk)

TRAIL NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Standing atop the firetower on Frozen Head Mountain, East of Wartburg, and from several directions viewing the denuded peaks of the Cumberlands, scarred at several levels with strip mines, makes one realize that the demand for energy on one side, and the desire to maintain some of our beautiful wilderness on the other is a battle with no end in sight. The devastation of a beautiful range of mountains is far more destructive than what the eye can see. One problem is the acid leakage from the strip mines that destroys the life in our streams, and the need for clean water is even more precious to us than the need for energy. Strict enforcement of our present laws on strip mining will alleviate this problem, but restoring the mountain, its soil, trees, clean watershed, etc., will be impossible. During the upcoming years, environmentalists must remain constantly alert to save some of this wilderness for generations to come. Persons in our organization and others like ours must take a firm stand on many of these issues, write letters, and otherwise make ourselves heard when the opportunities present themselves.

To those of you that are out hiking our trails, take note of trail misuse, vandalism, ORV use, litter, etc. Please report any trail abuse to our box number, and we will get word to the proper authorities. Also consider adopting a trail to monitor and send in your name for our Adopt-A-Trail program.

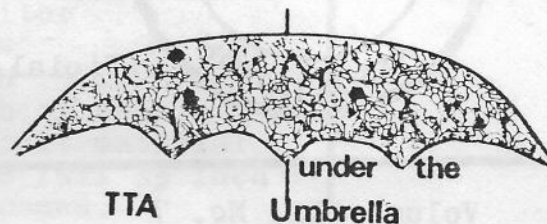
Take note of our upcoming trips. The Lady Finger Bluff Trail hike will take place on May 30 led by Bill Jarell and on June 6, David Rhyne will lead a hike on the Stinging Fork Trail in Rhea County. Also in June, the Nashville Chapter will have a hike to the Narrows of the Harpeth with Jim Perrin leading.

CONGRATULATIONS! to West Tennessee Chapter of Tennessee Trails, and to Jill Norvell of Memphis for organizing this new chapter.

- - - Bertha Chrietberg

PUBLICATIONS--Trail Building and Maintenance by Robert D. Proudham, covers trail development, maintenance and protection. It discusses and illustrates tools, erosion control, trail design and layout, clearing, marking, etc. Available from Appalachian Mt. Club, Northern New England Reg. Office, Pinkham Notch Camp, Gorham, NH 03581.

The next TTA Board Meeting will be held on July 10 at MTSU Murphy Center in Murfreesboro.



(The background and history of TTA was featured in the recent Tenn. Environmental Report, publication of the umbrella group, TN Environmental Council. Since TTA has a lot of new members, we thought the article was worth reprinting.)

A TEC member for several years, the Tennessee Trails Association, Inc. was founded in 1968 as an educational and recreation-oriented organization. TTA's primary purpose is to promote, construct and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails. One of the first projects was to sponsor the construction of the Cumberland Trail to prove the feasibility of a statewide trails system. Then, in 1971, TTA was instrumental in developing the legislation adopted as the Trails System Act. TTA continues to work closely with Federal, State, local and private agencies for trail development and education. In 1979, the group provided much of the data that went into the preparation of Tennessee Trails, a book that describes almost 100 trails.

Numbering about 300 members with local chapters in Nashville and Murfreesboro, TTA sponsors a variety of trail-oriented activities. The chapters hold bi-monthly meetings and an annual state membership meeting. Other activities include at least two hikes per month (open to the public), work hikes, and special programs emphasizing conservation and the preservation of natural resources. A monthly newsletter contains hike agendas, chapter news and trail information.

In the past year, TTA has participated in the Litter Pick-Up Campaign, Earth Day and People's Weekend at the Warner Parks. The Nashville Chapter is near completion on the Long Hunter Trail at Percy Priest Lake and the Murfreesboro Chapter has adopted the Twin Forks Trail at the Stones River as a work project. An Adopt-a-Trail program has recently been implemented by the State Chapter.

TTA maintains a seat on the TEC Board with Evelyn Tretter as representative. Bertha Chrietberg is the current State President. Diane Davidson chairs the Nashville Chapter and Mike Rice the Murfreesboro group.

State Trail News

OVER MOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL-Funds for the Over Mt. Victory Trail in Carter Co. have been cut from the trails budget of the Dept. Of Conservation. Fourty thousand dollars in the capital improvement budget scheduled for land appraisal were withdrawn, and an attempt to transfer funds from a defunct project also failed. The loss of the project is threefold: heritage would have been served as this is the route the Over Mountain Men took to Kings Mt. Several endangered species would have been protected. The Doe River would have been added to the State rivers inventory. Write to Senator Bob Burlsor and express your disappointment in the loss of this excellent trail project.

STATE SCENIC TRAILS-AN UPDATE

Active Projects: Cumberland Trail

Phase I Trail of the Lonesome Pine Trails Lost in Past Year: C&O&TP

Phase II Trail of the Lonesome Pine Over Mt Victory Trail
Trails in Jeopardy: John Muir Trail

BAD NEWS Trails accounts funds may be transfered to other programs to cover budget losses.

NEW EAST TN ADMINISTRATOR- Jim Greenway has replaced Lynn Coward as E. TN. Trails Admin. for the Dept. of Consv.. Jim will be in charge of the TLP.

TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE-UPDATE-The TN Eastman Hiking Club will soon sign a cooperative agreement to maintain the TLP with the Dept. Consv. Gordon Newland will be the coordinator.

GOOD NEWS

On Thursday, April 30, the Tennessee House of Representatives passed the Tennessee Conservation Easement Act which had passed the Senate a few weeks earlier. Conservation easements allow landowners to transfer some of their development rights to a public or non-profit organization in exchange for tax benefits. This makes it possible to protect some natural resource on a certain piece of property without removing all of the land from the tax base. This will help such groups as the Nature Conservancy, state agencies and municipalities which seek to protect unique habitats. Sponsored by Representative Mike Murphy of Nashville, this bill makes Tennessee one of the first states to pass such legislation. (from TN Envir. Report)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1981

- 28 May--Nashville Chapter meeting, 6 pm, Rockland Rec. Area
- 30 May--Lady Finger Bluff Small Wild Area-Bill Jarrell(373-8259/251-7424)
- 31 May-24 June--Sav-A-River Days. See May newsletter for details.
- 6 June--Piney Falls State Natural Area (see this newsletter).
- 11 June--Murfreesboro Ch. meeting, MTSU.
- 12-14 June--TSRA canoeing school - Ronnie Nichols (331-0213).
- 14 June-- Narrows of the Harpeth (see this newsletter).
- 20-21 June--Cohutta Wilderness-Big Frog Mt. backpack (see this newsletter).
- 21 June--Father's Day
- 21-27 June--Youth Conservation Summit, Land Between the Lakes, TN Conservation League (329-4230).
- 26 June-3 July--Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference, Cullahee, NC, Jim Botts (986-5800). See May newsletter for details.
- 27-28 June--Roan Mt.-Little Hump Bald backpack (see this newsletter).
- 28 June-1 July--Sixth National Trails Conference, Davis, CA. See May nl.
- 3-5 July--Biennial National Convention of the National Audubon Society, Estes Park, CO
- 9 July--Murfreesboro Ch. meeting.
- 10 July--TTA Board Meeting, MTSU Murphy Center, Murfreesboro.
- 11 July--Bald River Trail, Cherokee Nat'l. Forest - Bucky Crowell - (269-6579/259-5860).
- 17-24 July--Eighth International Congress of Speleology, Western KY Univ., Bowling Green, KY. Write to Dept. of Geography & Geology, WKU, 42101 for info.
- 18-19 July--Cordell Hull Lake Hike and Campout - Betty Smith (327-2671/329-7011) and Mildred Lassiter (526-7304).
- 23 July--Nashville Chapter meeting.
- 3-6 August--Annual Conference of the Conservation Education Assoc., Warren Wilson College, NC.
- 24-25 Oct.--TTA Annual Meeting, Cumberland Camp, Crossville.

TTA Affairs

WELCOME NEW TTA DIRECTOR - Mike Rice, an Instructor in the Health Physical Ed. & Recreation Dept. at MTSU, is the newly elected Chairman of the Murfreesboro Ch. This automatically gives him a seat on the TTA Board of Directors. Mike is a graduate of the Parks and Recreation Administration program at Western KY Univ., and spent several years as a District Executive with the Boy Scouts of America in Owensboro, KY. Mike, his wife Sinda, and their three children have lived in Murfreesboro since August 1979.

TRIP REPORT-19 April-As I found out, Easter Sunday is not a good day to expect hikers to turn out for a hike. Only 2 people showed up for the Piney River hike, so we decided to make the Stinging Fork Falls Trail instead. The hike was very enjoyable--lots of water, some flowers, and a convenient thunderstorm during lunch. Next time, I'll pick a better date.--Rhyne

FROZEN HEAD STATE NATURAL AREA WILD FLOWER HIKE-TRIP REPORT

TTA's wildflower weekend, April 24-26, was very successful. The weather was cold at night, but clear and sunshiny during the day. A Board Meeting, with many guests present, was held in Ranger Duane Wyrick's living room on Friday evening followed by a slide presentation of early days at Frozen Head, winter scenes, water falls wild flowers, etc. Twenty-five persons were assembled for these slides. Twenty-four persons started out on Saturday morning for the wildflower hike climbing up the Panther Creek Trail. The group separated after lunch at the five mile point, one group going back down the mountain on the North Old Mac Trail (6 miles), and the others continuing on to the top of Frozen Head to return on the South Old Mac Trail (10 miles). Frozen Head's wildflowers were out in all their glory. Approximately 45-50 wild flowers were identified. Some of those seen in

profusion were: Dwarf Crested Iris, Wild Geranium, Yellow Mandarin, Bellwort, Wood Betony, Solomon's Seal, and several kinds of Trillium and Violets.

The view from Frozen Head's Fire Tower is spectacular. We could see the range of the Smokies in the distance. Brushy Mountain State Prison lay directly under the mountain, and beyond the prison we viewed range upon range of once beautiful Cumberlands severely scarred with strip mines. An occasional distant rumble reminded us that this type of destruction is still continuing. A few of us stayed overnighted and enjoyed Donald Todd's wildflower slides on Saturday Night.

Frozen Head is a beautiful park with many miles of trails, many of them established by the CCC boys in the early thirties. The park is still primitive with very little development, and a pleasure for those of us who appreciate at least some of our parks being left in their natural state.

--Bertha Chrietberg

TRIP REPORT-The River Bluff Trail hike on May 17 was a happy occasion for 6 people. We botanized thru beds of ferns snow-like petal-fall of yellowwood, and pillared garden of river cane, returning to the cars just as it began to rain. A picnic in the State Park shelter topped off the trip.--Cain, Craven, Foster, Leveretts & Ostrowski.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM-So far, 5 people have adopted a trail:

Frank Erlanger--North Plateau/Savage
Bob Todd--Laurel Falls Day Loop
Betty Smith--Long Hunter Trail
Bill Hager--Bearwaller Gap Trail
Vickie Thomas--Narrows of the Harpeth Nature Trail

If you would like to adopt a trail, but can't decide on one, call Bertha Chrietberg(898-2172), Diane Davidson(741-7918), or Terry Bonham(741-2019) for suggestions.

Nashville Chapter

A nod of appreciation to the following Chapter members: Helen McGregor, Joe Gains, and Sue Burns for representing TTA at Warner Parks People Weekend. Larry Wilson and Diane Davidson for setting up the TTA traveling exhibit for the kids at Glendale Elem. School's Environmental Fair. Betty Smith for coordinating Long Hunter Trail work trips, and Bob Richards for working on the Trail Insp. Manual,

TRIP REPORT-THE FARM-MERIWETHER LEWIS
2-3 May--About 30 TTA and Audubon members enjoyed an interesting tour of the Farm at Summertown. Afterwards,

11 TTA members and guests camped at Meriwether Lewis Park Campground on the Natchez Trace Parkway (NPS). Identifying wildflowers, skipping stones on the bubbling creek, and getting acquainted with other hikers were some of the activities shared on the hike the next day. A congenial group of 14 hikers enjoyed a leisurely afternoon, exploring the 4½ mile Little Swan Cr. Trail in the Meriwether Lewis Park. The trail criss-crosses the Natchez Trace, the path first used as a buffalo trail, and later used by Indians, European immigrants, and as a military road for Andrew Jackson and others.--McDowell.

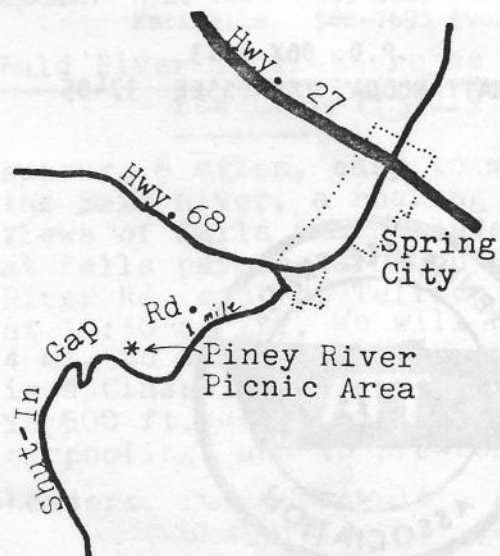
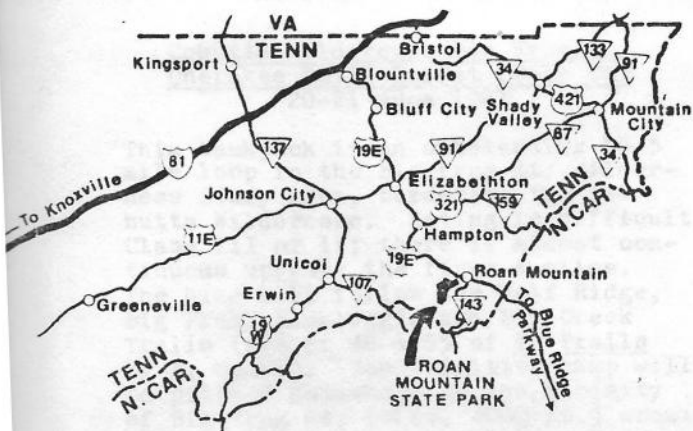
Murfreesboro Chapter

The Murfreesboro Chapter held its monthly meeting on May 14 at MTSU. Dr. Thomas Hemmerly of the MTSU Dept. of Biology gave a very interesting slide presentation on the cedar glades of middle Tn. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11. For further info contact Bertha Chrietberg 898-2172, or Mike Rice 898-2139.

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN STATE PARK OVERNIGHT TRAIL HIKE - TRIP REPORT--

Ten persons joined the leader, Andra Fuson on April 11 and 12 for this Murfreesboro Chapter overnight hike, an easy to moderate

trail of eleven miles. The group hiked in six miles and camped overnight near sand stone bluffs and a creek where many of the group enjoyed a cold swim before supper. Sunday morning, the group held a short prayer service before hiking the five miles out in a mild drizzle. A few of them finished off the day caving in the Sequatchie Valley. This is an easy overnight trail in Cumberland Mountain State Park and a nice one for families to hike. Two children accompanied their parents on this hike with Andra and enjoyed it immensely.



CARPOOL COORDINATOR for the Nashville area - Evelyn Tretter 859-0566



Send material for TENNESSEE TRAILS

to: David Stidham, Editor

1015 Hitt Lane

Goodlettsville, TN 37072

The deadline is the 20th of each month. If possible, submit material camera ready, typed in a full 3½ inch column. Artwork is welcomed.

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.

OBJECTIVES: To promote, construct, and maintain a state wide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail.

TTA Officers-1981

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David Stidham-Goodlettsville

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1981-1983

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Mike Rice-Murfreesboro

Chairman-Murfreesboro Chapter

P.O. BOX 4913
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

