



# TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

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February 1984

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow-members of TTA:

It's a little late for New Year's greetings, but I wish all of you the best for 1984. I am getting off to a slow start as president, partly because my wife, Virginia, had major surgery for removal of her gall bladder October 21. She has recovered nicely but her arthritis still slows her down.

I have been in touch with the Department of Conservation about co-hosting a meeting with us to discuss trail-related problems and plans for completion of the State Trails System. Bob Richards is looking into the possibility of a meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park March 31. Any firm plans will be approved by the Board of Directors, with input from the members. This is your Association, not a one-man operation.

I appreciate the efforts of the Cumberland Chapter in heading off the proposal to change the name of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area to John Shercan Cooper National Recreation Area. I am happy to note that Senator Cooper asked the sponsors of the bill to withdraw the proposal. I have a great respect for Sen. Cooper and hope that his friends will find a suitable alternate means of honoring him.

I hope to attend some of the chapter meetings this year and get acquainted with all of you. I waited too long to contact the Cumberland Chapter and couldn't get information on how to get to its January 7 meeting. I have chickened out on trying to get to Memphis for the January 19 meeting, but will try to get to the Nashville Chapter meeting Jan. 26.

Sincerely, Evan Means, President

## RARE PLANT PROTECTION CONFERENCE MONTGOMERY BELL STATE PARK DECEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1983

A Rare Plant Protection Conference was held at Montgomery Bell State Park on December 6, 7, 8, 1983. Approximately 85 Botanist, Naturalists, and Nature Enthusiasts, from many different conservation-oriented state organizations were in attendance. The purpose of the Conference was to discuss the various forms of plant life, particularly rare forms, in Tennessee. This state is unique in its land forms with more species of plant life than most other states, ranging from the Canadian Zone of the Great Smoky Mountains, to the rare and unusual plants of the Cedar Glades of Middle Tennessee, to the lowlands of the Mississippi Deltas in West Tennessee. There are approximately 75 species of plants endangered in Tennessee with 119 species threatened and likely to become endangered in the near future, and 71 that are probably extirpated as they have not been seen or located in many years. Many ideas for plant protection were offered at the Conference. One of those was that various interested persons that have some knowledge of wild flowers should be on the lookout for unusual species of flowers. On your hikes around the state, if you suspect that you have found an unusual species, don't disturb the plant in any way, but note its location, characteristics, and if possible photograph it, and report it to Dr. Paul Somers in the Department of Conservation. Another idea on plant protection that came out of the Conference was to introduce legislature to protect those plants in danger of extinction. Petitions to support such legislature will be circulated at a later time among conservation organizations. \*

-- Bertha C. Chrietberg  
TTA representative to TEC

## TENNESSEE RARE PLANT PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1984

Acknowledging human needs and enjoyment, the interests of science, the economy of the state, and recognizing the importance of preserving Tennessee's biological diversity; the goals of this act are to ensure that rare plants are protected and conserved, that their numbers are maintained and enhanced, and that their habitats are protected.

### PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF LEGISLATION

- 1) to provide for the investigation and publication of a rare plant list by the Natural Heritage Division, which will be reviewed at least every two years, and for the promulgation of rules and regulations providing for public participation in the listing process.
- 2) to protect listed plant species and their habitats from damage and to limit taking by any person of plants designated as rare from state and federal lands and from privately-owned registered state natural areas, by prohibiting such damage or taking, and to provide for penalties (\$1000 fine and injunctive relief by Davidson County Chancery Court) for such acts.
- 3) to provide for the issuance of permits by the Natural Heritage Division which will regulate the collection of listed species on state and federally owned lands and state registered natural areas for purposes of scientific research, educational uses, and propagation measures which will enhance the survival of the species; and which will regulate the interstate sale of listed species.
- 4) to provide for inspection and regulation by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture of nurseries and other growers and dealers of plants in order to ensure that rare plants are propagated or collected under permit (see 3 above); and to provide for education of nursery inspectors by Natural Heritage Division in regard to Tennessee's rare plants.
- 5) to provide for the Natural Heritage Division's entering into co-operative agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 6 of Endangered Species Act, and for receipt of grants, donations, gifts and other monies to further purposes of the act.
- 6) to provide for the Natural Heritage Division to develop and implement recovery plans and management which will protect or enhance the survival of rare plant species.

\* See next page and opposite.

# HIKES

February 5 - MISSISSIPPI RIVER WALK, Shelby For.

Join the Memphis Chapter in a walk to the River. We will meet at the Check-In Station at 9:00. (follow the signs thru the Park or stop by the Park Office for directions) and walk through the Wildlife Management Area to the River. Be prepared for winter weather (i.e. snow!) Bring warm clothers, mud boots. and a friend.

Leader: Ray Burkett 357-5520

February 11 - LICK CREEK CAVE

Ever been in a wild cave? Now's your chance! Join the Memphis Chapter through the hidden world of salamanders and cave crickets with Memphis Museum's Robbie Krampf (an expert spelunker) Meet Robbie at Mouse Tail Landing State Park's Visitor's Center at 11:00 a.m. Bring a flashlight, a change of clothes, and lunch. Robbie will present a quick program before driving to the cave. Since this is part of his work at the Museum, Robbie is charging \$65. The group will split the cost - the more participants, the less the cost per person!

IF YOU PLAN TO COME, CALL BETTY PORTER BEFORE FEBRUARY 7 AT 363-0213, EVENINGS BEFORE 11:00. At least 10 people must go!

LEADER: ROBBIE KRAMPF 454-5600

ANGEL FALLS HIKE (Scott County)  
Sunday, February 12, 1984

On February 12 the Cumberland Mountain Chapter will hike to Angel Falls in the Big South Fork-NRRA. The meeting location will be at the new Leatherwood Ford Bridge at 9:00 a.m. CST, where we will hike two miles along the banks of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River to Angel Falls. Angel Falls is actually not a water fall. It is a section of rough rapids well known and respected to white water enthusiasts all across the country. After spending time around the falls, we will hike back the same route to the vehicles. The hike will be 4 miles and class II. Bring lunch, water, and your camera.

LEADER: George Minnigh 879-5930  
Jamestown

## CARPOOL COORDINATORS:

Memphis - Gene Jacobson 901-755-9073  
Nashville - Evelyn Tretter 615-859-0566  
Murfreesboro - Maryedith McFarlin  
615-896-1344  
Chattanooga - Dot Lingerfelt  
615-842-8043  
615-751-3292  
(work)

**Sock Your Ford!** When fording cold, rocky streams, carry your boots and wear heavy wool socks. They help your feet grip slippery rocks, protect you from sharp rocks and provide a bit of warmth in icy water. After crossing, wring 'em out and attach them to your pack frame to dry.

WINTER RIDE AT CEDARS OF LEBANON  
18 February 1984

The trail ride at Cedars will begin 2:00 P.M. C.S.T. at the rental stables following the five mile hike along hidden Springs Trail led by Jodi Reeves. Rental equine are available upon first come first serve basis. For the purpose of this ride the cost of the 2 hour ride will be (5) five dollars per hours; (SPECIAL RATE). The horse trail is heavily "Cedared" and Sinkhole." The month of Feb. offers a unique view of the park's many features. One is welcome to bring their own horse. Facilities are available for overnight boarding. LEADER: Sandy Suddarth (Cedars of Lebanon) (615) 444-9394 or 444-4566

February 25 - CHICKASAW STATE PARK

Hike through the pines of Chickasaw with the Memphis Chapter. Meet at 9:30 at the Park Office. This is a beautiful and convenient state park to Memphis, so bring your lunch and enjoy another winter walk.

Leader: TBA at Feb. meeting

Savage Gulf Snowbird Backpack Trip (Grundy County)  
February 25 & 26, 1984

For the hearty hiker who's not afraid of the cold, but who is thrilled by winter's frozen splendor. Trip will be at Savage Gulf, to the Hobb's Cabin and return. The cabin has eight hard bunks (first come first served) and a primitive camp nearby. We will start at 10:00 a.m. Saturday and return by 3:00 p.m. Sunday via the North Plateau trail. Join us and hope for snow.

Leader: Ranger Naturalist Randy Hedgepath 924-2980  
(8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

*Notice: The Joyce Kilmer-Snowbird trip scheduled for June 1987 has been cancelled due to lack of pre-registrations and personal conflicts.*

Carol Shelton

The  
Nature  
Conservancy

TENNESSEE FIELD OFFICE  
202 Capitol Boulevard Building • P.O. Box 3017 • Nashville, Tennessee 37219 • Telephone (615) 242-4767

January 18, 1984

Dear Newsletter Editor:

As a result of a two-day Rare Plant Workshop held in early December, work has begun toward the passage of a Tennessee Rare Plant Protection Law. The objectives of this law are described on the enclosed sheet. I want to emphasize that this law will not affect private landowners unless they voluntarily register their land as a State Natural Area.

At the request of the Environmental Action Fund, Representative Steve Cobb of Nashville (Democrat, District 56) has offered to sponsor the proposed legislation in the House and has initiated drafting of a bill. A Senate sponsor is still being sought.

In order for this bill to pass, strong support must be demonstrated by the conservation community and all who care about Tennessee's rare native plants. Please include an article describing this effort to pass a rare plant protection law in the next issue of your newsletter.

Thanks for your cooperation and support. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Linda Pearsall*  
Linda Pearsall  
Assistant Director



## TRIP REPORTS

**Rock Castle Bushwhackers Trip, December 4** (Cumberland Mountain Chapter) - On the rainy Sunday morning of December 4 six adventure-seeking hikers braved the elements to venture into the untamed depths of Rock Castle. Rock Castle is a rugged, steep sided gorge on the western escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau. The rainy weather forecast was probably responsible for the low turnout of this hike, but it also helped provide some interesting attractions. As a result of the recent heavy rains the numerous waterfalls (at least four) and cascades were flowing full force. After descending to the bottom of the gorge, partially via an old mining road and partially via seat-of-the-pants, the group then climbed back up Rock Castle Creek by crawling up, over, under, and around the many large boulders. We chose to come back up the creek in order to see all the waterfalls and cascades. Once back on top of the plateau the group hiked to a very nice overlook of Rock Castle. Although the total distance covered was probably not over three or four miles, the going was so rough and there was so much to see that the hike took the whole day. Those attending were Larry Bruce, Amanda, and Larry Beaty, Steven and Pamela Burke, and Howard Ray Duncan...H. R. Duncan.

**Northrup Falls Loop Trail, January 1** (Cumberland Mountain Chapter) - Thirty-five hikers turned out for the annual Cumberland Mountain Chapter New Years Day hike. This year the Cumberland Mountain Chapter chose to hike around the Northrup Falls Loop Trail, and the choice could not have been better. Due to the recent cold wave, there were icicles weighing tons everywhere! At the base of the falls, where there is usually a deep pool of water, there was a huge ice cone. The hike was some what hazardous due to the trail being coated in ice in many places. But, no one had a serious fall and everyone had a great time. After the hike everyone was invited to the home of Tom and Martha Sells for hot chocolate, coffee and treats of fudge cake and taco chips...S. Burke.

**Eagles - Tenn. Natl. Wildlife Refuge**

A delightful sunny Sunday afternoon was had by all of eight Eagle watchers. A mature bald eagle was most cooperative in a majestic pose displaying its white head, yellow beak and white tail.

Thousands of Canada geese were a pleasant sighting too. One snow and five blue geese added to the interest of our group. Pintails, widgeon and mallards were also complementary to our afternoon on the refuge as well as the great blue herons and the rookery which contains over a hundred nest for their summer nesting sight.

Hot chocolate and homemade banana bread, brought by the leader, were a tasty afternoon snack for the group at the confluence of the Duck and Tennessee Rivers which formed the refuge with the impoundment of the Tennessee River in 1944.

Just an hour and a half drive from Nashville were all these "January Thaw" delights with an afternoon temperature of 58°.

Other birds of interest were a Northern harrier (formerly a marsh hawk) that was being harassed by crows, redtail hawk, yellow rumped warbler (formerly myrtle), ring billed gulls, yellow shafted flicker, pileated woodpecker, chickadee, mourning dove, savannah sparrow and cardinal conclude our list. Margaret Mann, Leader

## Chapter News

### Cumberland Mountain

On January 7 the Cumberland Mountain Chapter members and guests met at the cabin of Ken and Dean Pittman for the first chapter meeting of 1984. Due to the rustic setting of the cabin being an original log house which was built around the turn of the century, we decided to do something special. Everyone dressed in "old timey" clothes and some brought items for show and tell. Upon arriving everyone toured the cabin and enjoyed refreshments of fried apple pies, apple cobbler, hot spiced cider, hot chocolate, and coffee. The group then gathered in the front room of the cabin for the meetings. Steven Burke went over several items of business with everyone. After business was discussed we began our show & tell session. The members brought an assortment of items. Each, dressed in their old timey clothing told the group about the item they had brought. They consisted of: several old tools, guns, brush guards used in the U.S. Army Horse Calvary, baskets, a bread making bowl, doll with porcelain head, china tea set for doll house, an antique purse, a kerosene lantern, and an old family bible with a very interesting story behind it. The meeting was then adjourned being our most enjoyable meeting to date. Thanks to Alta Hicks and Howard Ray Duncan for supplying the delicious refreshments and to Ken and Dean Pittman for making this most unique meeting possible...Pamela Burke.

### Memphis

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - MEMPHIS CHAPTER

Search the winter sky with Craigmont Planetarium Director Ruth Lewis at Memphis Chapter's Feb. meeting. Have you ever wondered where the other planets are or what constellations are visible in the winter sky? Satisfy your galactic questions with the Memphis Chapter on Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Kingsway Christian Church, Poplar and Massey. EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!

### Nashville

Meeting: February 23rd, 7:30 pm

where: Cumberland Museum

Program: The Cumberland Trail - History and Stat  
by David Stidham

Refreshments will be served.

Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4913  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

1984 Dues

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 19\_\_\_\_ (Jan. through Dec.) with the type of membership checked:

- \_\_\_\_ Student (fulltime undergraduate and high school) ..... \$ 3.00  
\_\_\_\_ Individual ..... \$ 8.00  
\_\_\_\_ Family dependent (one who resides with an individual member) ..... \$ 3.00  
\_\_\_\_ Supporting ..... \$ 15.00  
\_\_\_\_ Life ..... \$150.00

Student members do not have voting privileges. Supporting members may be organizations or individuals. Each organization should designate a representative to cast its vote and up to three addresses to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do not receive a separate newsletter.

*Cut and mail today!*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

OBJECTIVES: To promote, construct, and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail. Regular dues are \$8.00 per year: \$3.00 for students and family dependents.

TTA OFFICERS - 1984

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P.O. BOX 4913  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405



Mack Prichard  
Dept. of Conservation  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

