



# TENNESSEE TRAILS

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AUGUST 1987

## Natchez Trace Parkway From Start to Finish

- By Bob Barnett -

Driving from start to finish on the Natchez Trace Parkway increases the appreciation of the road. After visiting the Ridgeland Crafts Center just north of Jackson, Mississippi, the Parkway runs out and a detour is needed. Someone from New York City or even Atlanta, Georgia might think of Jackson as just a step above a sleepy, southern town. Jackson is like life in the fast lane compared to the drive on the parkway.

The parkway allows people to study early American history and Native American, too. The rangers enforce a 50-mile per hour speed limit, but if a driver is so inclined, s/he could slow down even more and not risk being blown off the road. Traffic is sparse enough that long distance bicyclists can be seen safely traveling the roadway.

Time out can easily be taken for hikes on nature trails without driving miles off and then back on the parkway. Most walking opportunities are right outside the car window.

Parkway nature trails may be walked in five to twenty minutes. Longer hikes are available at the campgrounds located at Rocky Springs (54.8), Jeff Busby (193.1), and Merriwether Lewis

(385.9). Tishemingo State Park (303.0) is cut in half by the parkway and offers more than thirteen miles of trails plus a place for beginning rock climbers in the last rock outcroppings from the Appalachian range. It doesn't resemble the rock climbing meccas in Tennessee, but it almost seems like a mirage in Mississippi.

Picnic areas are nestled on one side of a lake and a camping area on the other. A swinging bridge fords Bear Creek which may take on river proportions at times. Tishemingo is indeed the jewel of the Mississippi park system. Other parks in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee are near by, but not on the parkway itself.

The Mississippi locale at Jeff Busby is the only campground on the parkway that has food and gas. None of the parkway campgrounds charge a fee, but they don't have showers either so campers may want to seek out the locales of the state parks close to the parkway, such as David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Non-campers should keep in mind that it can be a good many miles between towns which offer motel accommodations, restaurants, and shopping. Study the map and locate your easiest access to such places, keeping time in mind else your needs and the road's access points come into conflict.

Many of the nature trails focus on one particular feature of the natural environment or some significant historical event. Examples some natural features of this parkway are the Loess Bluff (12.4), Owens Creek Falls (52.4), Cypress swamp (283.3), sink hole (323.9), and Jackson Falls (404.7). Jackson Falls is followed by a gap of parkway intended to lead to Nashville when complete. Trails which are related to a historical significance are, among others, Upper Choctaw Boundary (126.4), and Chickasaw Village (261.8).

Grab a handy Travel Planner before getting on the parkway. It will classify and locate for you such things as Indian history and other exhibits, the nature trails, natural features, picnic areas, water recreation to be found, and the ever important list of available restrooms (most a bit better equipped than the nearest bush or tree).

Some of the most enticing places to walk are where the Old Trace is found adjacent to the roadway. These footpaths seem to lead into the woods, but they seldom go very far. Thinking of the southern reaches of the parkway evokes memories of split rail fences and Spanish Moss dripping with humidity and providing a canopy for the Sunken Trace. Such sites can be seen near Mount Locust, one of the oldest structures in Mississippi which originated as a one-room cabin around 1780. Also, nearby is Emerald Mound which is the second largest Indian mound of its kind in the United States. All of these sights are to be found just north of historic and picturesque Natchez, Mississippi, near the parkway's southern terminus.

You cannot appreciate the Natchez Trace Parkway if you are in a hurry. You also cannot stop at all exhibits, nature trails, etc., unless you have allotted more time than most people can spare. Preplanning helps, but it

may be scuttled in a hurry if some sight really appeals to you.

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a good way to see a large chunk of Middle Tennessee, a small portion of northern Alabama, and a large part of Mississippi from north to south. The parkway is sure to offer unique scenery during each of the four seasons, though summer months are likely to be sweltering. If traveling in the summer, you might plan to visit all the water recreational locales which are listed in the Travel Planner.

One final note - a word of caution - to folks traveling the lower Trace. From Jackson south, warnings are posted about the indigenous poisonous snakes and fire ants. Make yourself familiar with the information on these signs since I saw some fire anthills which otherwise appeared very innocent had I not been forewarned.



## STATE NEWS

### BOARD MEETING

The Third Quarter Board of Directors meeting will be held at Rock Island State Park on Saturday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m. Meet at the overflow campground. All members of TTA are invited to attend.

### ANNUAL AWARDS

It is time to submit candidates for the two annual awards given at the annual meeting. The TTA Award is given to a person or group for outstanding contributions to the association or for the furtherance of trails and natural resources programs and opportunities within Tennessee. The recipient may or may not be a member of TTA. Any member may suggest candidates with the final decision being made by the Board of Directors.

The Bill Stutz Award, in honor of the late Bill Stutz (past TTA director and beloved hiker), is given to an active hiker for his or her individual contribution to the association or one of its chapters. This person must be a TTA member. Each chapter selects one member to compete with candidates from the other chapters. The Board of Directors makes the final selection.

Send all nominations to Howard Ray Duncan, president of TTA, before August 22, or submit at the Board of Directors meeting on August 22. Qualifications should be submitted in writing.

COME ONE, COME ALL!  
TO THE 1987 TTA ANNUAL MEETING!

- By Howard Ray Duncan -

The 1987 Tennessee Trails Association Annual Meeting will be held October 9, 10, and 11 at the Bandy Creek Campground within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Bandy Creek is located on Highway 297 between Jamestown and Oneida, near Pickett State Park. It features both tent and R.V. camp sites with water and electrical hook-ups. We have reserved Group Area E (has only tent sites) for all TTA folks who attend this year's Annual Meeting. This area has showers and a large picnic shelter with a fireplace and grills. Costs are \$2.00 per person per night in the group area. Regular tent sites cost \$8.00 per night, while R.V. sites cost \$10.00 per night.

For those of you not wishing to camp out, nearby Pickett State Park has cabins and chalets. Reservations should be made early by calling 879-5821. Pickett is approximately 25 minutes from Bandy Creek.

Lodging may also be found at the Big South Fork Motor Lodge just outside the west boundary (10 mins. from Bandy

Creek). This privately operated motel has rooms and efficiency apartments. Reservations may be made by calling 879-4230.

Next month's newsletter will have more details and a registration form. This could be the best Annual Meeting ever, so make plans now to attend!

#### STATE TRIP REPORT ANNUAL WATERFALL HIKE May 30 -- June 1



Ten TTA members and one visitor participated in what has become a tradition for TTA: our annual spring waterfalls trip, this year to the upper Cumberlands near Cookeville.

On Saturday, the group lowered themselves down a rope to the bottom of Fancher's Falls (Taylor Creek) for a swim and cool breeze. Another rope climb and stream wade brought us to the bottom of Cummins Falls (Blackburn Fork). A hike up a bone dry creek bed (Dry Creek) ended the day with two big surprises, very much wet twin waterfalls.

Saturday night was spent in a delightful cabin as guests of Hidden Springs nursery, although the guests were disturbed by eerie sounds in the night!

Sunday, five of us continued our exploration with stops at the always fascinating Hardscrabble Falls (Dodson Branch) and Dave's Falls (Pole Bridge Branch). We'll not soon forget the "trail" to Dave's Bluff; that is, the good times spent hanging on for dear life to a tilted mountain side (was that a Class 10?).

As Evelyn Tretter so eloquently puts it, the danger and hard scrabbling required to follow this leader to a few choice spots is not so much a pain, but a privilege. How many others can say they have done it? You



can be one of the privileged few when we do it again next year.

— David Stidham

#### CARPOOL COORDINATORS

CHATTANOOGA: Dot Lingerfelt, 615-842-8043 (Hm.)  
or 615-751-3292 (Wk.)

MEMPHIS: Gene Jacobson, 901-755-9073

MURFREESBORO: Maryedith McFarlin, 615-896-1344

NASHVILLE: Evelyn Tretter, 615-859-0566

### CUMBERLAND TRAIL NEWS

#### TRIP REPORT EAGLE BLUFF HIKE July 4, 1987

Despite heavy, low-hanging clouds and threat of thundershowers David Vogt, Heloise Shilstat, Beverly Kelly, Chris Adkinson, and I were led up the Old Kentucky Road to Eagle Bluff by Joe England and younger brother, Pokey.

The clouds had lifted just enough to give us a surprisingly good view of Powell Valley and nearby mountains when we got to the top.

Birding was Ok for this late in the season, but trying to identify several different mints and such shrubs as maple leaf viburnum and southern blackhaw was more interesting. Heloise found blooming goats rue, alumroot, and fringed loosestrife.

Recent rains had produced lots of mushrooms including amanitas, boletes, chantarelles, russulas, crowded parchment, tree ears, stinkhorns, and false turkey-tails. Devil's Racetrack was impressive as always, and the cold watermelon Bobby Harbin had waiting at the end was most welcome.

CHATTANOOGA: Jeri Shutters 870-9104  
Adopt-a-Trail CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN: Howard Ray  
Coordinators Duncan, 615-879-8245  
NASHVILLE: Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355

## Chapter News

### Cumberland Mountain Chapter

#### AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING August 8

The Cumberland Mountain Chapter will hold a meeting of its members on Saturday, August 8, 7:00 p.m., at Pickett State Park. We will have a cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs. The chapter will supply the meats and buns, and you are requested to bring your favorite covered dish vegetable.

In addition to all the fun and food, we will conduct a meeting as we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting in October. Everyone is welcome to attend and guests are invited.

We need everyone's support to get our chapter active again. Let's uphold our past tradition and become the most active of TTA's chapters. For more information, call Howard Ray Duncan (879-4787) or Tom Sells (879-7759).

### Memphis Chapter

#### ANNUAL PICNIC Camp Kiwani, Middleton August 23

Bring your family and friends and join us on August 23 for an old-fashioned picnic at the Girl Scout camp at Middleton, Tennessee from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The carpool will leave Oshman's parking lot at Park Place Mall at 8:45 a.m. or you can meet us at the camp.



Bring food for yourself and your guests; if you wish to fish, bring fishing equipment. There will also be swimming, canoeing, and possibly sailing. We also plan to work on next year's hiking schedule, so bring your ideas and suggestions for trips and activities in 1988.

From Memphis, follow Hwy. 72 East to Collierville; take Hwy. 57 to Middleton, which is approximately 60 miles. Take a left at the 4-way stop in Middleton, and follow this road through the town until you come to the Girl Scout camp sign which will be to your right, approximately 3-4 miles from the 4-way stop. This road will take you through the gate and into the camp to the parking lot. If you have questions, call Jerri Bull at 363-4408.



## Murfreesboro Chapter

MEADOW WILDFLOWER WALK &  
BUGGY TOP CAVE TOUR  
August 15

Meet at 9:00 CDT at the South Cumberland Recreation Area Visitor Center, located about three miles from I-24 on Highway 56 between Monteagle and Tracy City. The area behind the Visitor Center abounds with a variety of wildflowers, including two wild orchids, the yellow fringed and the yellow crested. After an easy stroll through these meadows with Bertha Chrietberg, the group will meet in the picnic area for individual lunches.

Immediately following lunch (12:30 p.m.), Randy Hedgepath will take the group on a cave tour of Buggy Top Cave. This will include a hike of 4-5 miles with a steep descent into the cave. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and plan for a cool day in the cave's 58-degree temperature. The Buggy Top Cave trail

has its own display of summer wildflowers, including one rare flower, the Cumberland rosinweed.

Contact Bertha Chrietberg (896-1146) or Randy Hedgepath (924-2956) for more details.



## Nashville Chapter

ANNUAL ROCK ISLAND SPLASH!

August 22-23

The 883-acre Rock Island State Rustic Park is located at the falls of the Caney Fork River between McMinnville and Sparta just off Hwy. 70-S. We will set up camp in the overflow campground and spend two days hiking the trails and/or swimming in the cold waters of the gorge.

To caravan, meet at the Cracker Barrel at the Bell Road exit off I-24 at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, or meet us at the park office at 10:00 a.m. that day.

For those who wish to camp: bring insect repellent, sunscreen, your own vittles and drinks, and something to share for a Saturday night campground pot luck supper.

For those not wishing to camp: join us for a cool way to enjoy an August day in good company.

Any questions? Call Pat Anderson or her TRUSTY code-a-phone at 383-2355.

Doesn't this sound inviting to all you members in Memphis, Chattanooga, Jamestown, and Murfreesboro? And you, too, Rhonda, in Jefferson City? The Nashville Chapter hopes to see lots and lots of state-wide members and guests!

CHAPTER MEETING  
August 27

Our August meeting will be held at the Cumberland Museum at 7:30 p.m. We will plan our hikes for 1988 to be presented at the Annual Meeting in October. Also, anyone wishing to share their photos or slides of recent trips, bring 'em along! If you have any questions, call Sally Garrard (371-8469).

NASHVILLE NEWS

James Galloway, a member of the Nashville chapter, is running for Councilman-at-Large in the August 6th Metro Nashville General Election.



NEWS FROM OUR PARKS

ROCK ISLAND STATE PARK  
INVITES CRAFTS PEOPLE

The 12th Annual Sand Bar Arts and Craft Show will be held at the park on Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, 1987. All items displayed are to be made by the craftsmen. No foreign merchandise flea market type items are allowed. If possible, demonstration of work should be given during the show.

Overnight campsites are available in the park. Sites have water, electricity, and bathhouses. Cost is approximately \$9.00 per night depending on the number of persons.

Contact H. G. Deaton, Ranger, for more details at Rock Island State Park, Rock Island, TN 38581, 615-686-2471.

SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE  
RECREATION AREA  
924-2980

Every Saturday: RAVEN'S POINT EXCURSION at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitor Center. 2 miles roundtrip, easy

SAVAGE FALLS at 1:00 p.m. Meet at Savage Ranger Station. 3 miles roundtrip, easy

8/1/87 HAWKINS COVE at 1:00. Meet at Visitor Center. 2 miles, moderate

LAUREL TRAIL - BIG CREEK RIM at 1:00. Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles roundtrip, easy

8/2/87 SMALL WILDS at 1:00. Meet at Foster Falls Picnic Shelter. Bring water & a snack. 5 miles roundtrip, easy

GREETER FALLS at 1:00. Meet at the Stone Door Ranger Station. 3 miles roundtrip, easy

8/8/87 LAUREL TRAIL - BIG CREEK RIM at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles roundtrip, easy

8/9/87 BRIDAL VEIL OF SEWANEE at 1:00 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center. 4 miles, strenuous

STONE DOOR GULF at 1:00. Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station. Bring your swimsuit. 4 miles, strenuous.

8/15/87 MEADOW BEAUTIES at 9:00 a.m. Meet at Visitor Center. 1 mile, easy

LOST COVE CAVE TOUR at noon. Bring water. 4 miles (2 hours), strenuous

8/16/87 PINEY POINT OVERLOOK at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitor Center. 1 mile, easy



8/22/87 COOL WALK ON THE FIERY  
GIZZARD at 1:00. Meet at Grundy  
Forest Parking Area. 3 miles,  
moderate

8/23/87 COLLINS BOULDER CROSSING at  
1:00. Meet at Savage Ranger  
Station. 3 miles, moderate

BELOW FOSTER FALLS at 2:00. Meet  
at Foster Falls picnic shelter.  
1/2 mile, strenuous

8/29/87 DOG BOLE TRAIL at 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at the Visitor Center.  
Bring a lunch and swimsuit. 4.8  
miles, moderate

GRUNDY FOREST LOOP TRAIL at 1:00.  
Meet at Grundy Forest Parking  
Lot. 2 miles, moderate

8/30/87 LOST COVE CAVE TOUR at 10:00  
a.m. Meet at Carter State  
Natural Area parking lot. Bring  
water. 4 miles, strenuous

LONE ROCK TRAIL at 1:00. Meet at  
Grundy Lakes Swim Beach. 1 mile,  
easy

FALL CREEK FALLS  
881-3708

8/8/87 HAWAIIAN LUAU -- music by  
the Blue Lights of Nashville.

8/22-24 CANOE WORKSHOP -- for  
beginners

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER  
352-6299

8/5/87 CHILDREN'S STREAM INVESTIGA-  
TION: 1:00 - 4:00

8/8/87 STREAM INVESTIGATION: for  
folks 12 and older.

8/12/87 ASTRONOMY CLASS: 8:00-10:00  
p.m. View Saturn and the summer  
constellations

8/19/87 SECRET LIVES OF BUGS: 9:00-  
10:30 a.m. Registration opens  
8/5. For kids

8/22/87 SECRET LIVES OF INSECTS:  
9:00 - noon. For adults

CHICKASAW STATE PARK  
901-658-5761 (Donald Holmes)

8/7 & 8 4th ANNUAL FRONTIER DAYS:  
Wrangler campground area

DAVID CROCKETT STATE PARK  
762-9408

8/14-16 DAVY CROCKETT DAYS: Call  
Ranger Scott in Lawrenceburg, TN.

FROZEN HEAD STATE NATURAL AREA  
346-3318, Wartburg, TN

8/22/87 7TH ANNUAL FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL: 10:00 a.m. -- 7:00  
p.m. Bluegrass music starting at  
11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.  
Gospel music starting at 4:00  
p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

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## Friends of TTA

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THIRD ANNUAL HOHENWALD VOLKSMARCH  
September 26, 1987  
(Sanctioned by AVA/IVV)

The Lewis County Volkssport Club, a  
division of Lewis County Senior  
Citizens, Inc. is sponsoring this  
volksmarch in Hohenwald, TN. The  
starting time is 8:00 a.m. to 1:00  
p.m. with the finish by 5:00 p.m.

DISTANCE/TERRAIN: 6.2 miles, gravel  
and chert roads through rolling hills  
and flat land. Not suitable for  
strollers or handicapped persons.

ELIGIBILITY: All welcome. Leashed  
pets permitted. Children under 12

must be with an adult.

**START FEES:** \$1.50 for IVV credit only. \$4.00 medal & IVV credit if pre-registered (\$5.00 if not). Those desiring neither must carry FREE start card. Pre-registration forms must be postmarked by 9/15/87.

**PROCEDURE:** At the start of the volksmarch, each person will receive a start card. The card will be carried on the walk and personally presented at the check points for stamping. At the finish table, turn in the card to receive your medal and/or IVV credit.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Ice water at all check points. At the finish tent, German & Southern U.S. food and drinks at reasonable prices.

For more information, call Evelyn Tatum or Lucille Gordon (615-796-5558) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. weekdays.

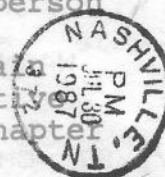
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**Objectives:** To promote, construct, and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail. Regular dues are \$8.00 per year; \$3.00 for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

#### 1987 TTA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Howard Ray Duncan,  
Jamestown, 878-4787  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Pat Anderson,  
Nashville, 383-2355  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Bob Barnett, Memphis  
901-767-9347  
**CORR. SECT./TREASURER:** Dot Lingerfelt,  
Chattanooga, 842-8043  
**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Evelyn Tretter,  
Goodlettsville, 859-0566  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** David Stidham

Carroll Viera, Cookeville 1986-1988  
Sam Powell, Signal Mtn. 1985-1987  
Bertha Chrietberg, Chairperson of  
Murfreesboro Chapter 1987-1989  
Jerri Bull, Memphis Chapter Chairperson  
Charlie Hann, Nashville Chairperson  
Dot Fowler, Newsletter Editor  
Ken Pittman, Cumberland Mountain  
Chapter Board Representative  
Everett Kidder, Chattanooga Chapter  
Chairperson



**EDITOR:** Dot Fowler, 4501 Packard Dr. N-4, Nashville, TN 37211, 615-834-2654  
All submissions for the newsletter due no later than the 15th of each month.

**Come Hike With Us!**

**Tennessee Trails Association**  
**P.O. Box 4913, Chatt. TN 37405**



Mack Prichard  
2408 Belmont - A  
Nashville, TN 37212



#### UPCOMING HIKES

##### CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN:

Aug. 16 Rock Creek, John Muir hike;  
no details received. Call  
Steven Burke, 615-879-7770  
for information

##### MEMPHIS:

Aug. 23 Annual Picnic; details this  
issue

##### MURFREESBORO:

Aug. 15 Summer Wildflowers/Cave  
Trip; details this issue

##### NASHVILLE:

August 22, 23 Rock Island State Park;  
details this issue

