

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association



MISSION: *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.*

Trails Need Work After Big Storm

The area in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky is digging out of the storm that dumped 18-20 inches of snow and toppled thousands of trees. ...initial indications are 80 percent of the trails are significantly blocked by downed trees. Horsebackriders and hikers planning to visit Big South fork should anticipate extremely difficult travel on all park trails, with some trails being impassable, rangers said. Prior to a visit, please contact park headquarters, 1-423-569-9778; Bandy Creek Visitor Center, 1-931-879-3625; or the Kentucky Visitor Center 1-606-376-5073 to check on trails. *From the Knoxville News Sentinel but describes many trails in East Tennessee*



Bloodroot

TENNESSEE GREENWAYS AND TRAILS WORKSHOPS

Public Input Workshops Plan now to attend the greenways and trails public input workshop in your region. These workshops are designed to gain public input on local and regional greenway and trail issues and needs. Workshops are slated across Tennessee during the month of March. Persons with interest in trails for hiking, walking, running, cycling, mountain biking, equestrian use, motorized/off-road recreation, cross-country skiing, and trail accessibility are encouraged to attend. The workshops will also address conservation issues, including the development of linear greenway corridors.

Purpose: For citizens to voice needs, interests, issues and opportunities that are important to the development of a statewide greenways and trails plan.

Meeting locations:

March 9, Memphis Botanic Gardens, 750 Cherry Rd. 901/685-1566

March 10, Southwest, Pickwick State Park, 1-800-250-8615

March 11, UT Martin, 110 Goosh Hall, Northwest Development District 901/587-4215

Contents

Public Input Workshops
Breakaway '98
Murfreesboro Greenway
Hiking schedule and reports
Spring plants

March 16, Nashville, Ellington Agricultural Center, Ed Jones Auditorium

March 17 Southcentral, Henry Horton State Park 931/364-7724

March 19, Cookeville, Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion Upper Cumberland Development District - Nancy Peace 931/432-4111

March 24, Chattanooga, TVA Missionary Ridge Auditorium

March 25, Knoxville, World's Fair Candy Factory, 6th Floor

March 26, Johnson City, First TN Development District, 207 Boone St. 423/928-0224

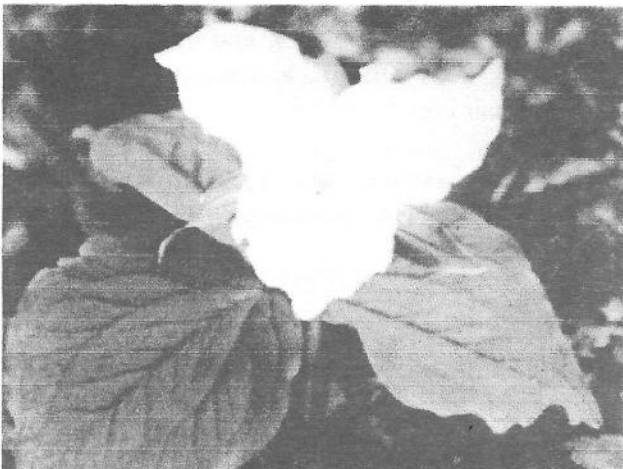
*All greenway and trail workshops will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. local time.

Exhibits: Local Greenways and Trail Groups are welcome to set up exhibits highlighting their projects and interests from 5-6 p.m. local time. Please note that exhibitors should bring their own tables and displays.

Open House: Greenways and trails technical assistance will be provided to individuals, communities and organizations from 3-5 p.m. on the day of your local workshop. Please call the Recreation Services Division (615/532-0748) at least 3 days prior to your area workshop to schedule an appointment.

Sponsors: The workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Recreation Services Division, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the Federal Highway Administration and the Tennessee Development District Association. For more information please contact the Recreation Services Division at (615) 532-0748.

Trillium



Breakaway '98

If you are still undecided about helping with breakaway, now is the time to join us for an experience you won't soon forget. From March 9 - 13, you can spend time with students from Michigan State University and Florida State University while we work in the Prentice - Cooper area atop Signal Mountain.

From March 16 - 20, you can work with students from Hamilton College, in New York State and Eastern Illinois University. We will spend another week on Signal Mountain trying to finish the suspension bridge and rebuild the trail.

From March 23 - 27, you can join students from Northwestern University while we open up the trail at the Cumberland Gap. We will stay at Norris Dam State Park. If you feel that trail work is too strenuous for you, why not volunteer to cook for the other volunteers?

Please contact Rob Weber if you are interested in volunteering your time to the breakaway program.

Recently, we e-mailed a supply list for this program, and we appreciate those who were able to help. (The list is repeated below) We would like to use as much recycled wood as possible, so please do not hesitate to pass out copies of the supply list in your meetings. Maybe someone out there is tearing down an old deck??

Lastly, this year's program is more expensive than those in the past due to the potential costs for the construction projects on the Tennessee River Gorge Segment. The chapters helped tremendously last year in deferring costs. Any financial help for BreakAway this year would be appreciated.

CT Tennessee River Gorge Segment Revitalization Project Supply Needs for the Middle Creek Suspension Bridge and the Signal Point Access Trail.

Middle Creek Suspension Bridge:

Telephone Poles at 25ft+
Main Cable 1" 100ft each
Support Cable 100ft each
Guide (Guy) Wire
Angle Iron

Bolts
Quick Set Cement
4x4x8 Treated Posts
5/8x6x8 Treated Deck Planking
Deck Screws
12,14,16p Galvanized Nails
Landscape Nails
Rock Drill: Gas Powered

Signal Mountain Access:

Telephone Poles at 25ft+
Guide (Guy) Wire
Metal Posts w/caps 1 1/2x6
Quick Set Cement
Corner Posts Treated
2x4x8 Treated
2x8x8 Treated
5/8x6x8 Treated Deck Planking
4x4x8 Treated Posts
3/8 Rod
1/2 Rod
Deck Screws
12,14,16p Galvanized Nails
Electric Rock Drill/Generator
Drill, 4000W
Generator, and a Bit.
(end of supply list)

MURFREESBORO GREENWAY

When you are in a mood to go for a walk but don't want to go for a long trek or long drive to get there, try the new Murfreesboro Greenway. Here are a few facts about it: officially opens on April 17th, four and a half miles long and accomodates walkers, joggers, bicyclists and roller bladers, open from dawn to dusk and patrolled by policemen on bicycles, see a bit of Civil War history, wildflowers along the Greenway from spring through fall.

To get there from I-24, take the 78 exit onto Old Fort Parkway, then an immediate left onto Thompson Lane. Continue on and there will be a parking lot on the right just before the Stones River Bridge in downtown Murfreesboro.

(From information submitted by Bertha Chrietberg)

CLARKSVILLE

MARCH 14 Edwin Warner Park, Nashville; June Miller, 648-4195

MARCH 21 Hematite Lake Hike (LBL); Marilyn and Ray Carroll, 648-9739

MARCH 28 Fall Creek Falls Hike; June Miller, 648-4195

CUMBERLAND MTN.

By now I suspect everyone has heard about the disastrous snow storm that hit the Big South Fork and surrounding parts of the Cumberland Plateau on February 3. Our February hike scheduled for the 14th was a victim of the storm damage as the Park Service closed all the trails in the park. We had a perfect weekend too, the first warm sunny weather in quite a while. Vi and I did get out ourselves, taking advantage of our status as official Park volunteers. On Saturday we worked for about three hours to clear perhaps half a mile of the Beaver Falls trail and on Sunday we worked another three hours clearing the .4 mile Gentleman's Swimming Hole trail. There are lots of trees down on the trails!

March outings:

Remember that Breakaway '98 will be going on through most of March. Volunteers are always appreciated. For those of you who cannot get away during the week, however, we will have a volunteer trail clean-up day in the BSF on March 14. Call Eric Wilson or Vi Biehl by March 7 so we can make arrangements with the Park Service. (423 628 2817 or e-mail ericavi@infoave.net)

As of mid February a few yard flowers are already blooming in Rugby. Perhaps we will have an early spring and if so the spring wildflower season could get under way this month. Eric and Vi are always ready to take to the woods, so if you find yourselves headed up this way, we would be happy to get together with you for an outing.

EAST TENNESSEE

March 14 (Saturday) - Starr Mtn. Hike. Martin High will lead a 5 mile hike in the Cherokee National Forest to Starr Mtn. This is the site of an unusual mountain bog. Hike is considered easy, but with some wet areas, 2 stream crossings and some cross country hiking. Meet at Hardees in Madisonville just east of Highway 411 on Highway 68 at 9:30 a.m.

March 17 (Tuesday). Monthly meeting at 1st Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge, 7:00 p.m., Room 101. Don Forster of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area will speak on the Big South Fork General Management Plan process and its potential impacts on trails in the national park. Background: By law, each National Park Service area is required to develop a General Management Plan. This plan guides park managers in making decisions on what recreation areas and developments to build, including what trails to build, maintain or close. Because this is a federal decision making process, public participation is required and will influence the decisions that are made. Therefore, it is very important for hikers to participate in the planning process.

March 28 (Saturday). Natural Arch Scenic Area hike led by Harold Draper. Meet at Norris Middle School at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead in McCreary County, Kentucky. We will hike the Buffalo Canyon Loop Trail through the impressive Natural Arch and typical Cumberland Mountain topography for 6 miles. This area was hard hit by a snowstorm in early February 1998, so the hike may be an adventure. Be prepared for a few blowdowns. Call Harold at (423)689-7757 for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

January 31, North Ridge Trail. Sixteen hearty individuals joined coleaders Helen Kapral and Celia Nobles for a 6.1 mile hike along the North Ridge Trail just outside the historic town of Oak Ridge. Everyone was treated to relatively warm temperatures and a welcomed day of winter sunshine. The group was surprised by the availability of a seemingly remote trail right on the outskirts of a busy community.

February 7, Cumberland Trail Maintenance. Hike leader, Harold Draper, was joined by two volunteers at breakfast. After a short walk into ever-deepening snow on Cumberland Mountain, we decided to cut short the hike and reschedule the maintenance for another time. However, the dedicated volunteers did insist on sawing three blowdowns encountered on the first portion of the trail, and conducting other light maintenance. We also got a look at the railroad repairs after a recent derailment at the Ollis Creek trestle.

NOTE>From Knoxville News Sentinel, January 17, 1998. The U.S. Forest Service will use \$200,000 in recently appropriated federal money to begin building a put-in ramp on the upper Ocoee River and a 44-mile trail system in the surrounding Cherokee National Forest. The Forest Service can construct 16 miles of new trail open to horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers, and 28 miles of trail for mountain biking and hiking only...a number of biking and hiking clubs have volunteered to help the Forest Service with the trail project. The new trail system will have the Ocoee Whitewater Center as its hub.

Spring
Beauty



MEMPHIS

Monthly meeting: 7 p.m. Thur., March 19 at Davis-Kidd. Ken Novak will show slides of his recent trip hiking and kayaking off the sea coast of New Zealand.

March 6-8: FLATSIDE PINNACLE AND PINNACLE MOUNTAIN, Arkansas. Saturday's hike meets 8 a.m. at Lake Sylvia campground. The Flatside Pinnacle trail is about 10 miles through the Ouachita National Forest, moderate terrain. Does not loop, so shuttling cars is necessary. Sunday's hike meets 9 a.m. at the East Summit trailhead of Pinnacle Mountain. We'll climb up the difficult side, go down the easy side. Accommodations: There are a number of budget motels on Hwy. 430 near Maumelle. For more info, call Kathleen Dodd, 901-327-1910.

March 14: TRAIL WORK DAY AT SHELBY FOREST. Meet 9 a.m. at the visitor center. We'll work on the north end of the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail, probably build some steps. For info, call Ken Novak, 901-377-9127.

March 21: FT. PILLOW STATE PARK, Henning, TN. Carpool 7 a.m. at Davis-Kidd. Hike starts 9 a.m. at the park interpretive center. About 9 miles, mostly easy but several steep hills. For info, call Debbie Gilbert, 901-454-0613.

March 29: SHELBY FARMS SOCIAL HIKE. Meet in the parking lot on the north side of Patriot Lake at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. For info, call Martye Burkett, 901-357-9183.

MURFREESBORO

Overnight Day Hikes Fount Bertram, Leader

Camp at Pickett State Park, **Friday April 24th**, (optional) and/or Saturday April 25th.

Hidden Passage, 10 miles moderate, on **Saturday**. Meet at the park office at 9 am.

Colditz Cove/Northrup Falls, 2 miles moderate, on **Sunday**. Meet at the trail head, 10:30 am.

We will also visit the artesian well in Allardt after the hike. The water has tested at better than 99% pure. Bring your containers, the water is free. Call Fount at (615) 765-5357

or e-mail fbertram@hotmail.com for details and to pre-register for the hikes.

Saturday, March 7. Mid-day float on beautiful pastoral Smith Fork Creek from Liberty to Doweltown, a 4 mile stretch. We'll stop and explore some of the little caves in the bluff. We'll also see water birds and "beaver trees". Along with a canoe and paddles, bring a life jacket, water, snack, and a flashlight. Meet at Heloise's at 10:45 or at West DeKalb School in Liberty at 11:30. If the water level is high we'll float some part of the Stones River. Call Heloise at 896-6278 home or 254-5461 work.

NASHVILLE

Hiking Hotline 367-7045

March 7 - Cumberland Mountain Lake Trail Hike led by Bob Barnett. This hike at Cumberland Mountain State Park near Crossville is 6 miles rated easy. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40. Call Bob at 832-6484 for more information and to preregister.

March 8 - Mullens Cove Loop Hike led by Anne Wesley. In the Prentice Cooper State Forest this hike is rated moderately difficult. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Target on Bell Road off I-24. Call Anne at 851-1052 for more information and to preregister.

March 14 - Hidden Passage Trail Hike led by Elizabeth Gerlock. Interesting rock formations, overlooks, and plants are major features in this 10 mile hike at Pickett State Park rated easy. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40. Call Elizabeth at 356-6260 for more information and to preregister.

March 21 - Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Hike led by Diane Manas. Offering views of Kentucky Lake, this 10 mile hike is rated moderate. Meet at 7:00 a.m. with sturdy shoes, lunch, and water at the Kroger parking lot on Charlotte Avenue off White Bridge Road. Call Diane at 352-7777 for more information and to preregister.

March 22 - North Chickamauga Trail Hike led by Anne Wesley. This 8 mile trail with an optional additional 1.5 miles is in a Bowaters Pocket Wilderness and is rated moderate. With several creek crossings on the trail, your feet may get wet. Call Anne at 851-1052 for meeting time and place and to preregister.

March 28 - Newcomers Get-Acquainted Hike led by Ann Markham. Ann will lead us on the Bicentennial Rails to Trails hike near Ashland City. The trail offers an option to hike 3.7 miles or 7.4 miles rated easy. Following the hike we will go to Stratton's, a 50's diner in Ashland City for the best burgers and shakes in town (and fried pies!). Meet at the Krogers Parking lot on Charlotte Ave. off White Bridge Rd. Call Ann at 269-3958 for more information and to pre-register.

March 29 - *Two hikes to see beautiful wildflowers are offered!!*

- Shake Rag Hollow Hike led by Charlie and Jennifer Hann. Near Sewanee this hike is 5 miles rated moderate and is "wildflower heaven". Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Target parking lot at Bell Rd. near I-24. Call Charlie or Jennifer at 941-1503 for more information and to preregister.

- Short Springs State Natural Area Hike led by Bob Barnett. Meet at the Target parking lot at Bell Rd. near I-24 at 1:30 for a 3 mile hike rated moderate. We expect to see spring wildflowers here also. Call Bob at 832-6484 for more information and to preregister.

Program meeting March 24, 7:30 PM

Radnor Lake Visitors Center

>From Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, the tag team of Bill and Andy will show and tell about the latest camping and backpacking gear. Also, we plan to present the Tennessee Trails Award to Mrs. Alvin G. Beaman in recognition of her gift to Metro Parks. Her generosity will result in the creation of one of the largest parks in Nashville.

Janie Stone is our new Hospitality Chair. If you would like to help with refreshments call Janie at 868-2043.

Trip report

February 1, Frozen Head State Park. The threat of rain held off and sunshine filtered through high clouds all day, making for a very pleasant eleven mile trek. Our group of four spent a perfect February Sunday enjoying the vistas and becoming more familiar with this breathtaking park. It was hard to resist projecting a month or two and thinking of the wildflower displays to come.

PLATEAU

March 14th

Dunlap Coke Ovens in Dunlap, TN

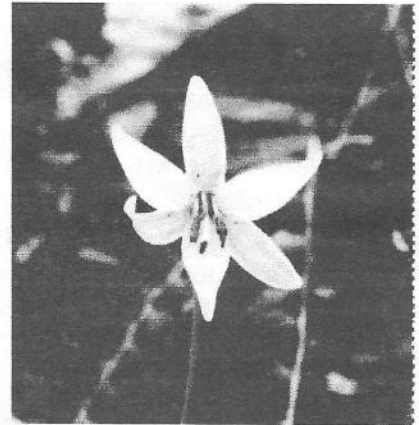
Leader: Sara Senft (931) 456-6936 for more details.

March 28th

Stone Door Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area
7 miles, moderate-difficult

Leader: Gene Holloway (931) 788-1724

Meet at 8 a.m. at Cumberland Mountain State Park office parking lot.



Trout
Lilly

UPPER CUMBERLAND

March 8, 1998: Black Mountain
5 miles moderate

Drive to the top of Black Mountain near Crab Orchard, Tennessee. Hike to Windless Cave and back to check out this recently revitalized section of the Cumberland Trail. There may be wildflowers!

Meet at First Union Bank in Sparta at 8:00 a.m. Trailhead about 9:00 a.m.

March 14, 1997: Rock Island Hike/Chapter Meeting
5 Miles, moderate

Hike the Collins River Loop Trail, the Rock Island Trail and others.

Meet at First Union Bank in Sparta at 8:30 a.m. Trailhead across from power station about 9:00 a.m. Meeting will follow the hike. After-hike lunch at Rock Island Market.

March 28, 1997: Savage Gulf Wildflower Hunt
7 Miles, moderate

Hike from the Savage Gulf Ranger Station to hunt for wildflowers. We are betting you'll find some!
Meet at First Union Bank in Sparta at 8:00 a.m. Ranger Station about 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Life Membership. YES, I want to join Tennessee Trails Association:

☐ Student \$6.00 ☐ Supporting, \$30, \$40, \$50
☐ Individual/Family 15.00 ☐ Life Member \$500
☐ Corporate Sponsor _____ (Amount enclosed)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Please print clearly

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE LIST ME WITH THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER:

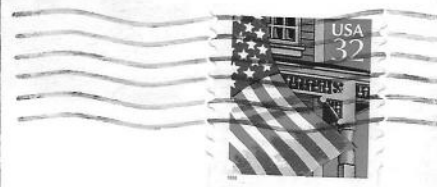
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☐ AT LARGE

Mail to: **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**
P.O. BOX 41446
NASHVILLE, TN 37204

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