

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume IX

February 1978

Number 3

Calendar:

- Feb. 11 or 18, Hike, Savage Gulf, day or overnight, Bob Brown.
- Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., meeting, Nashville Chapter, Cumberland Museum.
- Feb. 25, Nashville Chapter trip to Big Bone Cave.
- March 18, Trail of Tears (Cumb, Caverns alt.) Stan Gorin.

We have an alternate date for the February hike because Bob Brown feels that we need snow to bring out the maximum beauty of Savage Gulf State Natural Area. If there is no snow on the 11th, Bob would like to wait a week. Call Bob on the 9th or 10th to see which date he chooses. His numbers: 352-7474 during banking hours; 352-7474 at home.

We meet at 9:30 a.m. CST at the Ranger's residence. From I-24, take State Route 56 through Tracy City; turn right on SR108 toward Palmer. Four miles north of Palmer, turn left on road to Savage Gulf Natural Area. Cross Savage Creek and turn at sign for Ranger Station. Off U.S. 127, take State Route 8 north of Dunlap; turn left at Cagle and watch for sign 9 miles south. If roads are clear, SR27 from Chattanooga connects with SR108 near Whitwell.

We have an option of a day or overnight trip. Both hikes will be on the 18-mile loop trail from the Ranger Station. Overnight camp will be at a hunters' cabin at the 9-mile point. There are bunks for six or eight and that many more can sleep on the floor. There is a pot-bellied stove and Bob Richards promises plenty of firewood.

Bob Brown says overnights should be properly equipped for winter camping. Each should have a good sleeping bag, rated to 20 below zero; long thermal or wool underwear; wool socks; rain gear with pants and hooded jacket; a pair of wool pants and a wool shirt or sweater; an extra change of underwear, shirt, socks and pants, and a pair of good gloves or mittens with a waterproof overglove; a good tent with a waterproof floor; cooking utensils, including a good stove and fuel; a large capacity pack frame to carry all the above, and waterproof pack cover. All hikers should wear sturdy hiking boots big enough to accommodate two pairs of socks.

Bob's checklist was made for winter camping in northern climes, but it can get pretty cold in the Cumberlands in February.

The length of the day hike depends on the stamina of the trekkers. There are several good scenic overlooks, starting with Savage Falls at 3 miles. The second overlook, at 4 miles, is a good lunch stop, and a 110-foot waterfall at the 5-mile point at Jump-In Branch. All distances are one way. The overnights may continue on around the loop, but Bob says the best views are on the first leg of the trip.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor a trip to Big Bone Cave, near McMinnville, Feb. 25. It's an easy, dry trip. Each person will need a hard hat, and three sources of light (candle, flashlight, etc.) with accessories and/or matches. The temperature in the cave is 56 degrees, so gear warm hiking clothes. Bring lunch and drink. Meet at Cumberland Museum at 8:30 a.m. to form car pools, or at headquarters, Rock Island State Park, at 10 a.m. CST.

Contact Dave Stidham, 298-5735 for details. The cave contains well-preserved saltpeter operations from the Civil War.

We forgot to report on the December hike last month. Pres. Grimes Slaughter writes; "The December hike to the Tandem Arches was not really restricted to Oak Ridgers, but that is the way it turned out. Polly and Tod Haydon, Bo Haydon (Irish setter type), Helen Capral, Ruth Slusher and Grimes Slaughter set out through forest lightly dusted with snow to view the spectacular Tandem Arches near the confluence of Charitt and Station Camp Creeks. The arches are about 110 feet high and each has its own personality.

"The moments of greatest hilarity came in wrestling a struggling 80-pound dog up the ladders. When we returned to the cars, we found the Chattanooga contingent, who had missed us on the start. An unexpected bonus was a long visit with David and Robbie Hassler and Ranger George Minnich at Park Headquarters. George turned out to be a storehouse of information concerning the trails, topography, flora and fauna of Pickett State Park."

State Rep. Keith Bissell of Oak Ridge reported to local area newspapers Jan. 19 that the State Building Commission has approved the expenditure of \$72,000 to acquire 11.2 miles of the Harriman and Northeast Railroad right-of-way, which has been abandoned, between Harriman and Petros to be developed into a hike-bike trail. Rep. Bissell had recommended this acquisition. Donald Todd discussed the proposed acquisition at the annual meeting.

Snow and icy roads kept us from getting to Coalfield for the H&NE hike Jan. 14. Perhaps we can work in an extra hike there later this year. Acquisition of this property from the Southern Railway give us a sizeable link in the John Muir State Scenic Trail.

When we went to press, details had not been worked out for the Fourth State Trails Symposium. Bad weather and snow have kept Joe Gaines and Evan Means from getting together on the program. Evan planned to cover the National Sporting Goods Association show in Houston Jan. 26-29. In recent years hiking and backpacking equipment has occupied a large share of the exhibit space at the Astorhall.

Dr. Carl Clark, Lexington, president of the Kentucky Trails Association, would like to host the 1978 Southeast Trails Conference. He is checking the chances of getting Cumberland Falls State Park in September. If the SE Conference doesn't work out for them, KTA will still hold its annual meeting then. In any event, we'll be invited.

We are happy to welcome T. M. Simmons, Jr. of Memphis as a new member of TTA. Thurman is active in the Memphis Trail Club and was a participant in the first State Trails Symposium at Montgomery Bell State Park April 11, 1970.

If you haven't paid dues for 1978, we include the following form for your convenience. If you have already paid, please use it to sign up a new member.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Tennessee Trails Association

New ☐

Renewal ☐

Name _____ Interested in Trail Work ☐

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Individual, \$5.00 ☐ Supporting, \$10 minimum ☐ Student, \$1.00 ☐

Send to Tennessee Trails Association, P. O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405

Supporting members may be individuals or organizations which contribute \$10 or more. Supporting organizations should designate a representative to cast their vote and receive the newsletter, TENNESSEE TRAILS.