

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume IX

April 1978

Number 5

Calendar:

April 23, Dedication, Lady Finger Bluffs Trail, Bob Marks.
April 15, Wildflower hike, Frozen Head State Park, Donald Todd.
April 22, Dedication, Piney River Trail, David Rhyne.
April 15, Gravel Hill Forest Trail, Nashville Chapter, Bill Hager.
April 27, Meeting, Nashville Chapter, Cumberland Museum.
May 20, Cumberland Trail, Prentice Cooper Forest, Dot Lingerfelt.
Sept. 22-24, Southeast Trails Conference, Cumberland Falls, KY.

April promises to be the busiest month in the history of TTA. The Lady Finger Bluff Trail, in the TVA Small Wild Area on Kentucky Lake will be dedicated as a State and National Recreation Trail Thursday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m. The 2.7-mile trail features limestone bluffs capped with gnarled cedars and upland hardwoods overlooking Kentucky Lake and a National Wildlife Refuge. To reach Lady Finger Bluff Small Wild Area, follow State Route 20/100 from Linden to Pine View Road, to Lick Creek and follow the signs.

Donald Todd will lead the annual Wildflower Hike in Frozen Head State Park Saturday, April 15. Meet at the park ranger's headquarters, off State Highway 62 east of Wartburg, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time. Having the hike a week earlier this year should afford some magnificent views of the Cumberland Mountains.

The dedication of Bowater's Piney River Trail will be held at the Piney River picnic area near Spring City Saturday, April 22, at 9:30 a.m. EST. There will be commemorative patches for those who take the dedication hike. The Piney River Trail is one of the finest in Tennessee. It will be worth the trip to see the bridges for which the material was flown in by helicopter. The suspension bridge over the Piney River is particularly spectacular. To get there, turn north off State Route 68 in the west edge of Spring City.

The Nashville Chapter hike on the Gravel Hill Forest Trail April 15 will be a 10-mile round trip on backwoods dirt roads and logging trails in the Cumberland foothills northwest of Hartsville, altitude up to 1000 feet. There may be dogwoods and redbuds in bloom, plus spring flowers and unusual herbs. Bill Hager is the leader and Oscar Krosnes, 883-1041, is the Nashville contact for information. Meet at Cumberland Museum at 8:30 a.m. to form car pools, or meet the group at the Mini-Mart on State Route 25 at Andrews Avenue in Hartsville at 10 o'clock.

The Nashville Chapter will hold its bi-monthly meeting at the Cumberland Museum Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. The annual election will be held and there will be a film on hypothermia. There will also be a discussion of the Tennessee Trail Guide which will be published in early spring of 1979. The candidates for office are David Stidham for Chairman; John Hart for Vice-chairman; add Evelyn Tretter for Secretary-treasurer.

The big news this month is the signing of a contract with Fast & McMillan, Publishers, to produce a Tennessee Trail Guide. Evan Means will write the historical chapters and edit the manuscript. Our members will help with the trail descriptions and folklore of the various trails and the royalties have been assigned to TTA. If the book sells well, it could add a lot of money to the TTA treasury. We want to list all trails that are open to the public, from city parks to the State Scenic Trails. If you know of any trails, send the information to Evan Means, 200 Butler Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Fourteen people from Nashville, Chattanooga, Columbia and Cookeville braved snow and icy highways to take the hike on the Trail of Tears March 18. There was enough snow in the woods to make it pretty, as Stan Gorin conducted

a trip around the Cumberland Caverns property, after which they had lunch in the cave dining room, with Stan furnishing the soft drinks. In the afternoon they hiked about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles round trip on the Trail of Tears, over Cardwell Mountain, down the old stagecoach road along Collins River. Bill Stutz says Cumberland Caverns may be second in size in the U.S.A., but they are first in hospitality.

The Nashville Chapter's trip to Big Bone Cave State Natural Area February 25 was attended by David Stidham, Jack Neff, Betty Smith and visitors Dave Rudwall, Martin Wong, Jim, Jolene and Hope Smith, Juanita and Aaron Isherwood and Gordon Grissom.

Big Bone Cave, the site of extensive saltpeter mining during the war of 1812 and the Civil War, is now the site of some of the best-preserved saltpeter mining artifacts in the U.S. However, they have been heavily vandalized in the past 10 to 15 years. At the urging of concerned citizens, primarily the Nashville Grotto of the National Speleological Society, the State acquired the site and put a gate at the entrance in 1975. Now, access to the cave and historical remains is strictly controlled by personnel of Rock Island State Park.

Frank Jones of Nashville, enclosed information about the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association's Canoe School, to be held on the Hiwassee River 20 miles east of Cleveland, Tenn. Friday through Sunday, June 16-18. Classes and camping will be at the Gee Creek Campground, one mile off U. S. 411 near Etowah. For information, contact Audrey or Frank Jones, 724 Summerly Drive, Nashville, TN 37209. No registration will be accepted before May 1 or after June 9.

Evan Means, Joe Gaines, Mike Dahl and Mack Prichard attended the Bartram Heritage Workshop at the headquarters of Cherokee National Forest in Cleveland March 15. The purpose of the meeting was to identify features connected with Bartram's travels within the Bartram Trail corridor.

Mike Dahl, trail system coordinator for East Tennessee, reports that he has four YACC crews working, two on the Trail of the Longsore Pine and two on Roan Mountain. Bob Marks, trail planner for TVA, reports that YACC crews are working with David Shupe on 35 miles of the Cumberland Trail.

President Grimes Slaughter and Evan Means are scheduled to meet with Dr. Carl Clark, president of the Kentucky Trails Association, at Lake Cumberland State Park in Kentucky Saturday, April 8, to plan for the Southeast Trails Conference, to be held at Cumberland Falls Sept. 22-24. The theme of the conference will be "The Next Ten Years."

Joe Gaines has resigned from the State Division of Planning and Development in the Dept. of Conservation, to take a position as recreation planner with Miller, Wihry and Lee, Inc., contractors for planning and design of the Big South Fork National Recreation Area. Joe will be working on trail system plans for the project. He is very pleased with his new job.

Harry Williamson, who did the study of the Trail of Tears last year, assumed the position of State Trails System Administrator April 1. He completed work on a Master's degree in planning in March. He will report to Mike Countiss, who is responsible for State Scenic Rivers and the State Trails System.

The Legislature passed a resolution approving the Trail of Tears a few days ago. It will be scenic route, following existing roads from Red Clay in Bradley County to the Kentucky line near Guthrie, Ky. There will be side hiking trails to points of interest along the way.