

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume IX

June 1978

Number 7

### Calendar:

- June 3, TTA Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Gray Badger Inn, Kingston.
- June 10, Nashville Chapter hike, Fall Creek Falls.
- June 22, Nashville Chapter meeting and picnic, Percy Warner Park.
- June 24, TTA hike, Roan Mountain, Mike Dahl, leader.
- July 15-16, Nashville Chapter campout & hike, Standing Stone.
- July 21-23, SE Trails Festival, Birmingham.
- July 22, TTA hike, Big Ridge State Park, Evan Means.
- Sept. 21-24, Southeast Trails Conference, Cumberland Falls.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor a hike in Fall Creek Falls State Park Saturday, June 10. The hike will start from the Nature Center at 10:30 a.m. Central Daylight Time, go clockwise to Fall Creek Falls, down into the gorge and follow the creek to the junction with Cane Creek, then up to Cane Creek Falls. This is about two miles, but rated difficult, with strenuous climbing and an unmarked section in the gorge. Meet at Cumberland Museum at 8 a. m. to form car pools. Bring lunch and drink and wear hiking shoes. Call Oscar Krosnes, leader, at 883-1041 for further information.

The Nashville Chapter will have a picnic and moonlight meeting in Percy Warner Park at the Deep Well Picnic Area Thursday, June 22. Meet at 6:30 inside the first entrance on Highway 100. Late comers should proceed to the Deep Well area. Bring a covered dish, drink and a ground cloth to sit on (with chigger repellent?). No lights, please. Naturalist Dennis Gibson will present an informal program on a subject of his own choosing. Gibson is a former assistant curator of the Cumberland Museum, now an instructor at Peabody College. He is working on a project on his own on the turtles at Radnor Lake. There may be a short moonlight hike after the meeting.

The June TTA membership activity will be a hike on Roan Mountain Saturday, June 24, with Mike Dahl as leader. Those who don't camp at Roan Mountain State Park and are coming from west of Knoxville should meet Mike at the Rutledge Pike exit on I-40 in East Knoxville at 7:30 a.m. EDT. Campers and those from upper East Tennessee should meet at the park headquarters at 10. The rhododendrons are already blooming at lower altitudes, but should still be good on the mountain.

The Nashville Chapter will have a campout and a moonlight hike on the Lake Trail at Standing Stone State Park July 15 and 16. We'll have details in the next issue. Both May activities of the Nashville Chapter were washed out by the weather. The Ashland City Marsh trip on the 7th was cancelled and only the leader, Charles Wood, showed up for the work day on Percy Priest on the 13th.

The July 22 hike will be moved from Cumberland Gap to Big Ridge State Park, where there is an excellent loop which will eliminate the need for a car shuttle. We'll swap the noise of traffic through Cumberland Gap and railroad sounds for the more remote hum of outboard motors on Norris Lake. On parts of the trail the only sounds will be of songbirds, barking squirrels and woodpeckers...maybe a crow or two.

The Cumberland-Harpeth Chapter of the National Audubon Society is asking its friends to mail cards bearing stones from an unprotected section of the Obed River to Rep. Albert Gore, Jr., to solicit his support for extension of the scenic river. If the Post Office doesn't object, a card may be included with your copy of TENNESSEE TRAILS.

The Vulcan Trail Association of Birmingham, Alabama will host a Southeastern Trails Festival July 21-23. This will be a weekend of trail

games, workshops, guided trips and an outdoor barbecue. Costs will be less than \$10 for camping, registration and the barbecue. For information write to Tom Lamb, President, Vulcan Trail Association, P.O. Box 31104, Birmingham, AL 35222.

Thirteen persons made the hike on the Cumberland Trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest May 20. Our guide was Robert Campbell, Forestry Division ranger assigned to Prentice Cooper. Bob has worked with Sam Powell and David Shupe on the route of the trail. A few rhododendrons were already in bloom, along with mountain laurel, maple-leaf viburnum, and a host of smaller wild flowers. The Jack-in-the-pulpit had faded but the bright berries will add color to the trail in the fall.

Those on the trip included Ray and Elsie Slatton, McMinnville; Mildred Lassiter, Cookeville; Helen Kidder, Elizabeth Meyer, Trina Brown, Dot Ventress, Elizabeth Cade, and Dot Lingerfelt, all of Chattanooga; Hank Shafer, Daisy; Nolan Henrich, Hixon, and Evan Means, Oak Ridge. President Grimes Slaughter was recuperating from a sprained ankle and missed the hike. Bill Stutz spent the day at the CT parking area, handing out brochures and enjoying the birds. That section of the trail is getting a lot of traffic.

We had lunch at the campground which is located .2 mile off the trail near Lawson Rock. The rock provides a good view of the Grand Canyon of the Tennessee. Sam and Emily Powell met the group at the State Route 27 crossing and provided shuttle service back to the parking area.

Dot Ventress retired from TVA May 31 and will celebrate by marking the Cumberland Trail from Signal Point to the Prentice Cooper Parking Area. The old markings are becoming indistinct and Dot has persuaded Elizabeth Cade and other young ladies to help renew them.

Mike Dahl reports that about ten miles of The Trail of the Lonesome Pine is complete on the upper end. The purple rhododendron was already blooming on Clinch Mountain in mid-May.

We are slowly progressing on the Tennessee Trail Guide. The complete inventory reveals that we have around 300 trails in Tennessee outside the Smokies. Since the book is limited to about 200 pages, we are having to be selective and will describe the best, including urban trails, state scenic trails, state parks, TVA and the Corps of Engineers, along with Bowater's Pocket Wilderness Trails, and a few selected paths in Cherokee National Forest. Emily Powell, who has a journalistic background, will write the description of the lower end of the Cumberland Trail. Russell Fryer of the Nashville Chapter will cover Montgomery Bell State Park. Lily Rose Claiborne will take on the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge. We would appreciate any help TTA members can give in making the final selection of trails to be included in the book. So much has been written about the Appalachian Trail and the Smokies that the publisher has agreed we can take them lightly.

Plans are moving forward on the program for the Southeast Trails Conference to be held at Cumberland Falls Sept. 21-24. The committee met with state and local representatives in Somerset May 23. Invitations should be out in a short while.

Col. Tener, District Engineer for the Nashville District, Corps of Engineers, is interested in the development of a Cumberland River Valley Trail from the headwaters in the Kentucky mountains to the confluence with the Ohio River. Travellers from the old Watauga District followed the wilderness Road through Cumberland Gap and went down the Cumberland River valley to Nashville.