

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- Oct. 7, Work session, Nashville Chapter.
- Oct. 14, Hike, Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, Sarah Smith, Fay Harrington
- Oct. 19, Regular meeting, Nashville Chapter.
- Oct. 28, Work session, Nashville Chapter.
- Nov. 4, Hike, Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness, Rufus Pigg, leader.
- Nov. 18, Annual meeting, Site to be announced
- Dec. 9, Hike, Fiery Gizzard Trail, Bob Richards.

The hike scheduled for Oct. 21 on the Red Leaves Trail in Natchez Trace State Park has been cancelled. A women's deer hunt was scheduled for that weekend and other users are not allowed in wildlife management areas during big game hunts. Maybe that hike can be rescheduled next spring.

Our East Tennessee members might like to join the November 4 hike set for Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness by the Nashville Chapter. We don't have the time schedule, but the hike will probably start from the parking area around 10 a.m. Eastern time. Rufus Pigg will be the leader.

The Virgin Falls hike Oct. 14 should find the fall colors near their peak on the Cumberland Plateau. The leaves were turning in Middle Tennessee in mid-September. Hikers should meet at the turnoff from U. S. 70 at DeRossett, between Crossville and Sparta, at 9:30 a.m. Central Time. It is an 8-mile drive from there to the parking area. Wear rugged shoes and carry lunch and a canteen. There is about 800 foot elevation change from the parking area to the lowest point on the trail. There is also a backpack camp near Virgin Falls if anyone wished to make it an overnight trip.

David Stidham, chairman of the Nashville Chapter, has scheduled work sessions on the Long Hunter Trail on Percy Priest Reservoir Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 and 28. Dave says "For all work trips, meet at the Minit Burger at the Mt. Juliet exit on I-40 east of Nashville at 8:30 a.m. Central Time. Bring trail tools, if you have them, and work clothes." If there are any questions, call Dave at 298-5735.

Lack of communication and schedule conflicts held the attendance at the Southeast Trail Conference down to around 70 persons. The workshop sessions were cut short to get the Kentucky Trail Festival under way Saturday and the members of the private industry panel felt they were "torpedoed". However, we heard good comments on the program and much information was exchanged privately. There was a lot of Show and Tell, which carried over from Thursday night to Friday afternoon.

There was a lot of interest in the boys from a private school at Douglasville, Georgia, who rode their horses all the way to Kentucky, arriving Thursday afternoon. The first to arrive at Cumberland Falls were Bill Sterling and two fellow-members of the North Alabama Backpackers Association, Huntsville. Bill is also a member of TTA. Other TTA members there were Evelyn Tretter, Betty Smith, Joe Gaines and David Stidham, all of Nashville; Dot Ventress and Elizabeth Cade, from Chattanooga; and Diane Davidson and Ewen Means, of Oak Ridge.

Harry Williamson, State Trails System Administrator, was accompanied by Bob Richards, Mike Dahl, David Shupe and Dick Weinberg, trail crew supervisor on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. TVA was represented by Bob Marks of Norris and Rise (pronounced "Reesa") Daniels of the Land Between the Lakes. Joe Gaines spoke for Miller, Wihry & Lee on the private industry panel.

Sam Powell was unable to get off to bring his excellent Cumberland Trail exhibit to the conference, but we had plenty of brochures and the State trail crew brought a lot of maps.

Dot Lingerfelt had a last-minute job assignment that kept her in Chattanooga and President Grimes Slaughter had to deliver a scientific paper at a meeting at Brookhaven National Laboratory. David Rhyno also had another assignment and Stan Malone did a good job of representing Bowater and Hiwassee Land Company. David Shupe presented David Rhyno's trail construction slide show and all the Tennessee crew teamed up on the state report session Friday afternoon.

One of the largest delegations at Cumberland Falls represented community development leaders from the Hattiesburg, Mississippi area.

The Nashville Chapter's bi-monthly meeting will be held Oct. 19, which is the third instead of the customary fourth Thursday. The meeting will follow a wiener roast at Cook's Recreation Area on Percy Priest Lake. From Nashville, go east on I-40 and exit at Old Hickory Blvd.; go right to Bell Road, then left on Bell and follow the signs to Cook's. In the area, take the first right, then left past the amphitheater to the parking lot and shelter. Meet at 6:30 and bring your own weiners. Other items will be furnished and there will be a small charge to cover the cost. Annie Martin is in charge of food. If convenient, let her know if you are coming, but come anyway! A program on Nashville Heritage Trails will be presented by Lewis Morgan.

We have a late report on the July 22 hike at Big Ridge State Park, which was attended by Evan Moans, leader; Betty Smith, her brother Jim and wife, Jolene and daughter Hope; Margaret Mann and Annette Chapin, all of Nashville; and Anna Dobbins and Peggy Turner of Oak Ridge. A high point of the trip was the discovery of a pair of baby raccoons and their mother in a hollow stump.

There was perfect weather, with a full moon, for the Nashville Chapter's overnight backpacking trip in Montgomery Bell State Park Sept. 16 and 17. Russell Fryor, leader, Jan Fryor, Oscar and Eric Krosnes and Carroll Miller spent the night at the primitive campsite. They set up camp about 3 p.m. and doubled back to watch beavers at work in late afternoon. A total of 27 people hiked on Saturday, including members and three parents from Girl Scout Troop 127, Dodson Chapel Church, Hermitage. They hiked a 5-mile loop, their first Scout hike.

The Nashville Chapter trip to Rugby on August 26 was a big success. Oscar Martin, the first president of the new Rugby Restoration Association and his brother conducted a tour of the restoration project. The group ate lunch next to the Percy Cottage and then hiked to and along the Clear Fork River. Most of them enjoyed a swim at the "Gentlemen's Swimming Hole". There was beautiful weather and a good time was had by all.

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCERS) designated the Bearwall Gap Hiking Trail on Cordell Hull Reservoir a National Recreation Trail on August 2.

Mike Dahl invites all to make use of seven miles of ski trails which will be open on an experimental basis next winter in Roan Mountain State Park. If they are a success the system will be expanded.

Friends of Al Leokowski, former ranger at Cordell Hull, will be happy to hear of the arrival of a new baby girl, Sarah Elizabeth, last summer. Al is now stationed at Lake Shelbyville in Illinois.

The field research is nearly finished and we start assembling the manuscript for the Tennessee Trail Guide this month. If anyone hasn't completed his or her assignment, please do so as early as possible. The publication date has been announced for May 1979.