

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- Feb. 9, Roan Mountain Ski Trails, Mike Dahl, leader
- Feb. 12-17, Great Lakes of the South Outdoor Show, Nashville.
- Feb. 16, Nashville Chapter hike, Old Stone Fort, Betty Smith
- March 15, Cumberland Plateau hike, David Stidham.
- March 29-30, Backpack trip, Big South Fork, Joe Gaines.

The February membership activity will be on the ski trails at Roan Mountain State Park - skiing if we have snow - otherwise, hiking. Mike Dahl needs to hear from those who intend to go as soon as possible so he can arrange ski rentals. The equipment rental will be \$20 per person. Call Mike at 588-7695. Meet at Shoney's, off the Rutledge Pike exit from I-40 (U.S. 11W) at 7:30 a.m. EST or at Park Headquarters at Roan Mountain at 10 a.m.

Betty Smith will lead the Nashville Chapter hike at Old Stone Fort State Park Saturday, Feb. 16. Meet at Cumberland Museum at 8:15 a.m. for car-pooling, or at the Park museum at 10:00. The park entrance is on U. S. 41 just north of Manchester. The group will go through the museum before starting the 4-mile hike.

The trail follows Duck River downstream, past spectacular waterfalls and the site of the first papermill in Tennessee, then across the old fortification and up the Little Duck River before crossing a meadow to the starting point. This is one of the best trails in the State Park system. It is a Class II trail, mostly easy walking with some moderate climbing down the river bluffs. Call Betty at 327-2671 for further information.

The Nashville Chapter's first meeting of the new year will be at the Cumberland Museum Thursday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. The main item of business will be the election of officers. The nominees so far are Diane Davidson, president; Oscar Krosnes, vice-president, and Evelyn Tretter, secretary. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Members are asked to bring slides for Show and Tell. All members and prospective members are urged to attend, whether they hike or just offer moral support, and get acquainted.

Diane Davidson coordinated pick-up crews for the special litter collection Jan. 12 to gather data in support of the "Bottle Bills", HB343 and SB-742. Evelyn Tretter led a TTA crew near Goodlettsville, including David Stidham, Margaret Mann, John Hart, Russell Fryer, Gene Curp, Ronald Raines and three boys who came with him: Pat Raines, Lenny Kostelic and Rick Huffines. The Tennessee Alliance for Container Legislation is monitoring legislative committee meetings on these bills and also on the alternative "Litter Tax" bill which TACL opposes.

Bill Stutz didn't go to the Alexian Brothers Rest Home after all, as TTA folks who wrote to him discovered. Instead, he is in the Parkwood Convalescent and Nursing Center, 2700 Parkwood Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37407. Plans were changed after Dot Lingerfelt obtained the Signal Mountain address from Bill's brother.

The hikers on the Brady Mountain trip Jan. 19 enjoyed a very pleasant day. We don't have a complete report, but we hear that everyone was pleased to see former secretary Robbie Hasler on her first hike in some time. We hope Robbie and David will be with us more often from now on.

News of the Tennessee Conservationist

President Joe Gaines writes:

"With this issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS you will find enclosed a letter from Conservation Commissioner Ann Tuck concerning the plight of the TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST Magazine. Unless the circulation of this publication increases by 4,000 by July 1980, it will be terminated.

The CONSERVATIONIST has been an important contributor to the conservation movement in Tennessee for almost 40 years. It has presented many articles on trails and natural area protection and its loss will be a severe blow to all Tennessee outdoor people.

"Conservation groups all across the State are accepting the Commissioner's challenge to help in increasing circulation. We in TTA have set a goal of acquiring 500 new subscriptions. This means that each member will need to obtain at least two subscriptions. Please help! Subscribe yourself, or if you are already receiving the magazine, sign up two new subscribers. I can't emphasize too strongly the need for your prompt actions. Be sure to add the initials "TTA" after your name when subscribing so that we'll know when we reach our goal.

Sincerely, Joe Gaines, president."

PRIORITIES FOR 1980

President Gaines has outlined the following priorities for 1980:

1. Continued support of the State's efforts on the Cumberland Trail. We have word that this year will see fresh and concentrated actions.
2. Establishment and support of local chapters. We hope to revive the one in Oak Ridge and establish new chapters in Murfreesboro, Knoxville and Memphis. While we never had chapters as such in Kingsport and Chattanooga, we had supporting member organizations there. Those are potential chapter locations also.
3. Sponsorship of the 1980 Southeast Trail Conference.
4. Increase our membership. We have experienced a slow but steady growth, but we need to identify new sources of membership and schedule programs to enlist them. Any suggestions on membership programs will be appreciated, as well as appropriate individuals to run them.

Other items to be considered this year are a) possible dues increase; b) a life membership program; c) liaison with other groups for activities, to conserve fuel; and d) trail maintenance activities.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL NOMINEES

Cherokee National Forest Supervisor Marvin K. Lauritsen has nominated the John Muir Scenic Trail, which is a segment of the John Muir State Scenic Trail, in Polk County and the Warrior's Passage Trail in Monroe County for designation as National Recreation Trails.

The segment of the John Muir Trail follows the Hiwassee River from Reliance to State Highway 68, a total distance of about 16 miles. Work on this section began with Youth Conservation Corps labor in 1972 and was completed in 1978. It follows closely the route of the great naturalist, John Muir, on his "1,000-mile Walk".

Muir spent several days in the vicinity of Coker Creek "botanizing, blacksmithing, and examining a grist mill." There is still gold in Coker Creek and he mentions that his host promised to show him a mine. As he moved on to Murphy, North Carolina, he writes that he "walked all day along the leafy banks of the Hiwassee River." Thanks to the U. S. Forest Service, the banks are still leafy.

We were unable to define the Warrior's Passage Trail on Forest Service maps while doing research for the book, TENNESSEE TRAILS, but it is listed in the Boy Scout publication, HIKING TRAILS FOR AMERICA. We did run across reference to the Waucheesi Trail and the historic Warrior's Path several times. The section nominated for NRT designation is 3 miles from Old Furnace Road to Twin Springs primitive campground near the top of 3,600-foot Waucheesi Mountain, with an elevation change of 2,000 feet. It was in the Forest Service's trail improvement program for 1979.

If you haven't paid your dues for 1980, send check to TTA. P.O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

Wilderness recreationists have recently released a plan for establishing the Benton MacKaye National Recreation Trail in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

The Trail, which will run from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Davenport Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will be 238 miles in length. It will provide an alternative route to the Appalachian Trail into the park by generally following the high ridges of the western range of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The route, which will utilize many existing trails, will run northwest through the Chattahoochee National Forest from Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, to the Cohutta Wilderness on the Georgia/Tennessee border, then trend northward through the Cherokee National Forest along the Tennessee/North Carolina stateline. After passing through the Unicoi Mountains the trail will enter the Great Smokies near Fontana Dam and hook-up with the national park's trail system on what is known as the Perimeter Trail.

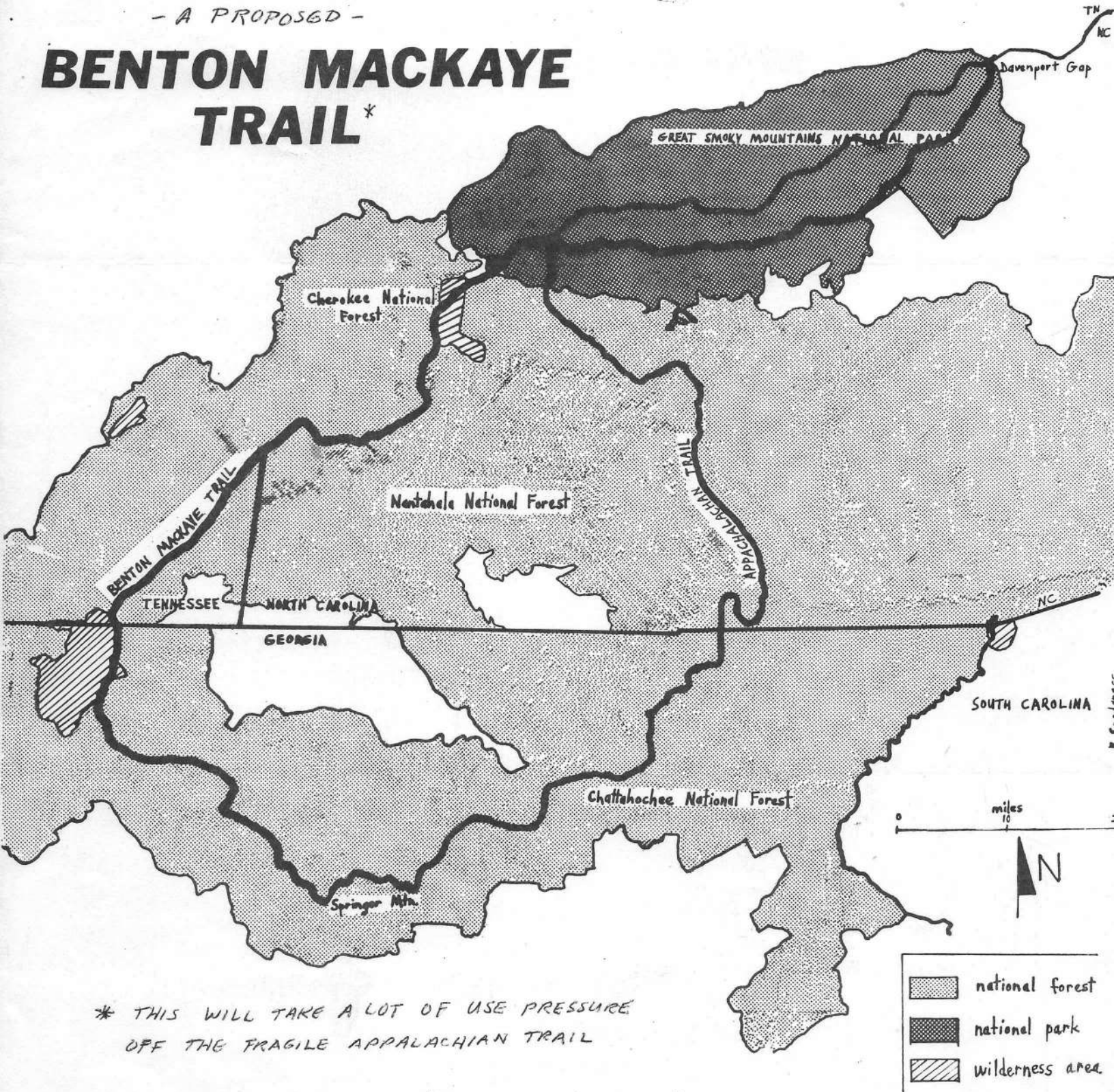
Hikers who seek solitude will particularly enjoy this Appalachian Trail alternative for it is expected to link the Cohutta and Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Creek Wildernesses with the Big Frog and Citico Creek Wilderness Study Areas and two national forest roadless areas.

The Benton MacKaye Trail, named in honor of the "father" of the Appalachian Trail, will soon provide the longest loop trail in the Southeast. Ninety-five percent of the proposed route is on public land. Only one-half of the trail mileage is complete, but the U.S. Forest Service and the many trail groups in the southern mountains will team up to complete the trail during the next few field seasons. When completed the National Park Service and Forest Service will jointly dedicate and manage this superb new footpath.

If you are interested in more information, maps, or would like to volunteer to help coordinate or construct the Benton MacKaye Trail, please contact Randy Snodgrass, 3110 Maple Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30305. [A scouting party is planned for April 5, 1980. Come and help lay-out and flag the route of this new trail in north Georgia. To register call 404-262-1357 or write to the above address.] (S/E office - Wilderness Society)

- A PROPOSED -

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL*



* THIS WILL TAKE A LOT OF USE PRESSURE
OFF THE FRAGILE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

NEW LOOP TRAIL PLANNED FOR SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

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