

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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We're late, but we hope our members receive this issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS in time to plan for the Spring Wildflower hikes April 17 and 18. Again, our April activity will be a prelude to Earth Week, April 18-24. Joining us in sponsorship of the hikes are the Greater Knoxville Area Chapter of the National Audubon Society; the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

The starting point for the hikes will be the caretaker's house in Flat Fork Valley; behind the State Prison Honor Farm, in Frozen Head State Park, formerly Morgan State Forest. There will be a long hike to higher elevations, starting at 9:30 a.m. EST. Shorter hikes of about two hours duration will begin at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Hikers should wear stout shoes. Canteens and lunches are a must on the all-day hike.

President Todd writes: "Sunday's activities will begin at 1:00 p.m. Those who would like to come in the morning will have no trouble in finding the trails to the wildflower areas. A map of the hikes will be posted near the Caretaker's cabin."

From the Nashville area, hikers should leave I-40 and U.S. 70 at Rockwood, following U.S. 27 to Wartburg. Turn right on State Route 62 and turn left at the sign pointing to the Prison Farm, a short distance from Wartburg. From the east, hikers should follow State Route 62 from Knoxville through Oak Ridge to the Prison Farm.

John McIntyre reports that the Cumberland Trail is now open from Lake City to the Fire Tower above Dutch Valley in Anderson County. The Trail will be complete from Caryville to Oliver Springs by summer, along Walden's Ridge. John expresses thanks to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops which have worked on the CT as part of Project SOAR. He has help from Kingston, Oak Ridge, Clinton and Maryville. They will receive CT patches in recognition.

John also has 100 heavy plastic signs for marking the CT, courtesy of the Bill McIntyre Sign Co., Sherman, Texas. Because of the difficulty in mailing, workers should see John to get the signs. The trail is in constant use.

Susan McIntyre, our hard-working secretary-treasurer, tells us that 46 individual, 7 supporting, and 6 student members had paid dues through April 1. That is the cut-off date for non-payment of dues. If you hear of anyone who failed to get the April issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS, that may be the reason. Susan thanks three student members: Jim Tunnell, Jackie McBride, and Gary Bass, for helping her address the newsletters.

The Tennessee Trails System Act, H.B. 44, passed the house last month. Sponsored by Sen. Doug Henry, it hadn't come to a vote in the Senate as this was written.

A three-day National Symposium on Trails will be held in Washington, D.C. June 2-4, sponsored by the Depts. of Interior and Agriculture and the Open Lands Project, of Chicago. For information, write to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.