

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The June activity of the Tennessee Trails Association will be a trail clearing session at the head of the Sequatchie Valley on Saturday, the 19th. Workers will meet at 9 a.m. Central Daylight time at the entrance to Cumberland Mountain State park. Bring lopping shears, grass whips and belt axes. There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors that evening, following dinner at the State Park at 6:30 p.m.

President Donald Todd is scheduled to chair a panel on citizen action in establishing a state trails system, on the program of the National Symposium on Trails to be held in Washington, D.C. June 2-4. Walter Criley, chief of Development and Planning for the Department of Conservation, is also on the program. The symposium is sponsored jointly by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the Open Lands Project, a Chicago-based foundation with an active trails program.

The hike on Clinch Mountain on May 15 was a rugged trip, taking more than eight hours to go seven miles. We hiked in a drizzle part of the time. There were many wildflowers, including the first mountain laurel and rhododendron blooms of the season. We saw some magnificent views, but were never out of range of the sound of trucks on Highway U.S. 11W.

Those who made the hike were Bob Brown and his mother, Mrs. Norma Brown, and Max and Joyce Young, all of Nashville; Donald Todd and son, Steve, Wartburg; Charles and Virginia Coleman and son, Arthur, Jean Bangham, E. W. Means, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Haydon, all from Oak Ridge. Young Arthur Coleman came through in the best condition, but then he carried less weight than the rest of us. Mrs. Brown and Polly Haydon stood up better than most of the men.

John McIntyre reported that he planned to put up signs at access points to the Cumberland Trail on Walden's Ridge over the Memorial Day week-end. He asks us to give instructions for reaching the trail. To reach the Lake City end, turn west at the traffic signal at State Route 116 and cross the first bridge after leaving U.S. 25W. The trail goes up the hill 50 to 75 yards beyond the bridge.

Another approach to the Trail is the road to the fire tower on Walden's Ridge from Laurel Grove and Dutch Valley. Turn at the fire tower sign on Dutch Valley Road in Anderson Co. It is about 8 miles between the two access points.

There is a campsite with a spring about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Lake City. A Girl Scout Troop camped there a couple of weeks ago. The spring will be cemented and we have permission to cut timber for a trail shelter. There are other springs along the trail which can be cemented. John asks for help with this work. He needs old water pipe, cement, and roofing materials (for the shelter).

The Tennessee Trails System Act passed both houses and has been signed by Governor Dunn. We hope to have copies of a summary of the Act for our members in the near future. A final amendment before passage forbids hunting on the trails without consent of the contiguous land owners.