

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The September activity of the Tenn. Trails Association will be a two-day session between Cumberland Gap and Baptist Gap. Back packers will have a chance for an overnight trip, but TTA members are welcome to come either day, Saturday, Sept. 25 or Sunday, the 26th.

The meeting point will be the parking lot for Tri-state Peak, where U.S. Highway 25E crosses Cumberland Gap. John McIntyre will ferry part of the group to Baptist Gap, where they will work toward Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of this trail is not cleared. The rest will touch up the trail cleared a year ago. Meeting time is 9:00 a.m. EDT. John will meet newcomers Sunday morning and ferry them to that day's activity.

There is a good spring at Baptist Gap, along with two caves that may serve as shelter. This will be the overnight camp site. John will serve as guide for those who would like to explore a cave. He says he doesn't expect to get anyone dirty, but spare clothes are a good idea. It always rains when TTA works. Bring lopping shears, machetes, hand axes or weed whips.

We are not sure of the date for the fall color hike, which will probably be in Frozen Head State Park. It will be announced in the October issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors that night, to make plans for the annual meeting.

The Trails Progress Meeting, mentioned last month, has been postponed until January at the request of Max Young of the Division of Planning and Development of the Department of Conservation. Max is coordinator of the State Scenic Rivers System and the Tennessee Trails System.

We had a good turnout for the hike on the Sergeant York Trail on August 14. Wet weather had delayed clearing of the trail and we dodged spiderwebs and branches the last quarter-mile to Wagon Gap, where we had a magnificent view of Wolf River Valley. Part of the group hiked on to the end of the trail. Denis Lovell, naturalist for Pickett State Park, was hike leader and showed us interesting plants along the way, including a bearing American chestnut tree. Youngsters were delighted by a snapping turtle in a puddle along the way.

Bob Brown announces that Gerry Cunningham and his wife, Ann, of Boulder, Colorado, will present a program on lightweight back packing in Nashville on September 21 at 7:30 p.m. Many of our members have equipment developed by Gerry. His appearance will be sponsored by the Nashville Sportsman's Store in cooperation with TTA, TSRA and the Sierra Club. The program will be presented at the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood. This is located on Cheek Road, to the left off State Route 100, a half mile past the junction of U. S. 70 and Route 100.

We would like to have news of hiking or trails work by TTA members. Send information to Tennessee Trails Association, Box 733, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.