

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The date for the work session on the Cumberland Trail in Claiborne County has been changed to August 19. We announced last month that it would be Aug. 12, with the 19th as a "rain date". The John McIntyres are expecting company on the 12th and Susan asked us to change the date. John is project leader.

Workers will meet at 9:00 a.m. EDT at the restaurant next to the KOA Campground off State Route 63, 8 miles from LaFollette. Those who want to stay overnight have a choice of the KOA or Cove Lake State Park.

We have less than a mile of clearing estimated to tie in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park with Baptist Gap. We also need to do some maintenance on the sections already cleared. We anticipate a fairly easy job this time.

President Donald Todd represented TTA at the "listening session" at UT in Knoxville on July 17, conducted by the U.S. Forest Service to hear public suggestions on management of wild lands in the Southern National Forests. Pres. Todd, Mrs. L. B. Russell of TCWP, and Jim Botts of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, all expressed the opinion that the Wilderness Act of 1964 was adequate to cover wild lands in the region. Stan Murray and Evan Means also attended.

Two bills pending in Congress: H. R. 14392 by Rep. John Kyl of Iowa, and S. 3699 by George Aiken of Vermont, would establish a system of wild areas within the National Forests east of the 100th Meridian. A public hearing on the House Bill was held in Washington July 24.

Several conservation organizations see passage of these bills as setting up a wild areas system in competition with the Wilderness System. This editor views them as a possibility for supplementing the Wilderness System. Perhaps conflicting jurisdiction may be a problem, but administrative action by the Forest Service, with or without the new bills, could provide small wild areas similar to the Bowaters pocket wildernesses and take some of the pressure off the big areas, which should still be preserved.

Pres. Todd reports a good turnout for the hike in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park on July 8. We had hoped for a complete report, but he missed the "deadline".

The trail-clearing session on Cumberland Mountain has been substituted for the West Tennessee activity originally proposed for August, since the Nathan Bedford Forrest hike qualified for that. We plan to hike through Daddy's Creek Canyon with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in September.

We were surprised to hear Paul Cook, travel promotion director for the Southeastern States, speak of a proposed "Trail of Tears" from Georgia to Oklahoma. He was the speaker at the Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce dinner on June 24. Obviously, Mr. Cook had not read our Tennessee Trails System Act, nor had he read his history very closely. It is true that some of the Cherokees were moved from their lands in North Georgia, but the Trail of Tears started in Tennessee.