

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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October is a good month to hit the trail. The trees put on their fall colors; the streams are clear, and the sky is the bluest at that time of year. You can rest quietly and enjoy the antics of the birds and squirrels. It is true that snakes come out on sunny afternoons, but they usually mind their own business.

Tennessee Trails Association's Fall Color Hike will be in Pickett State Park on Saturday, October 28. Robbie Hassler will lead the hike. We meet at Park Headquarters at 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time. Carry lunch and a canteen.

Activities Chairman Bob Brown will lead a hike and work party on the Cumberland Trail from Tristate Peak in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Saturday, Oct. 21. We need to do some maintenance on that section of the trail and mark it. John McIntyre estimates that the work party on Aug. 19 stopped just 200 yards short of the cleared trail south of the Park boundary.

John May have to go on a business trip, but if he is at home on the 21st, he'll take one man and work from that end to meet the hikers from Tristate Peak. We'll meet at the drug store across from the LMU Campus in Harrogate at 9:00 a.m. EDT.

Bob Brown worked with a group of Boy Scouts last month to clear two miles of old trail from Hinch Gap to the head of Sequatchie Valley in Cumberland County. The Trail is now marked from the head of Sequatchie Valley to Renegade Resort, except for a short stretch that may be relocated away from a jeep road.

Bob and his mother, Mrs. Norma Brown, accompanied a group of 125 people on a 100-mile bike trip on the Natchez Trace Parkway Sept. 24. Bob says it was a great experience. He and his mother followed the route of the Natchez Trace by car from Nashville to the Parkway. He says the scenery was magnificent and the old roads were deserted.

The date for the annual meeting has been set for Saturday, Dec. 2 at Cumberland Mountain State Park. State Trails System Administrator Joe Gaines requests that the Trail Chairmen have their routes ready for presentation at that time. We hope to have a complete program in the November issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. There will be a short hike after the meeting.

Plans are being made for a State Trails Seminar, probably at Cumberland Mountain State Park, in March.

The third annual re-dedication of Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest will be held on Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. EDT. TCWP reports that there will be a total of five hikes after the re-dedication ceremony. There will be a short stroll, three overnight back packs, and a fifth hike at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. Ted Snyder, P. O. Box 232, Greeneville, S. C. 29602, is taking reservations for a group supper on the 14th. The price will be \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

Bob Klant of BOR inspected the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge for Designation as a National Recreation Trail recently. Lily Rose Claiborne says he was impressed.

It will be some time before we know whether the North Ridge Trail will receive national recognition. There are now only three National Recreation Trails in the Southeast: Stone Mountain Trail near Atlanta; Laurel Snow Trail near Dayton, Tenn., and Long Creek Trail, a $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile demonstration trail for handicapped persons on the Land Between the Lakes.

Bad weather held the crowd to 29 for the hike along Daddy 's Creek Sept. 30. Members of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, TCWP and TTA shared the trip. The weather improved as the day progressed and a good time was had by all.

President Donald Todd showed slides and talked about the effects of strip mining on water quality at the annual meeting of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Sept. 24 at Camp Hy-lake, near McMinnville.

Robbie Hassler sends word on the fall color hike. It will be from Pickett State Park to Chimney Rock in Daniel Boone National Forest. Transportation will be pooled at park headquarters for a ten-mile drive to the farm of a Mrs. Sharp. A park truck may be used if there are enough hikers. Robbie writes:

"The first part of the hike will be over an old logging road and through a pasture, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, then up a dry (hopefully) creek bed for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then we start a climb through brush and woods to the base of Chimney Rock, another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. If the creek bed is dry, rock-hopping will be fairly easy. If not, we will have to hike through some underbrush. It is not an easy hike, but not terribly difficult either. Long pants, hiking boots, canteen of water and lunch will be needed by all hikers.

"Chimney Rock juts an estimated 100 feet above the top of the mountain, providing an excellent place for climbing and rappelling for those who care to take along a safety rope and climbing gear. (I hope someone does, as I am dying to climb it.) Potholes on the side of the rock make good hand and foot holds, but a safety rope should be used.

"One section of the rock (there are actually three Chimneys) has a ladder to the lower park, making it an easy climb by those who do not suffer from acrophobia. The view from the top is beautiful. After a leisurely lunch, we'll return by the same route.

"For those who would spend the weekend at the park, contact the park office by phone, 879-7017, or write Pickett State Park, Jamestown, Tenn. 38555. Dave and I will be at the campground through Sunday to lead an exploratory hike to Pinnacle Rock if anyone wants to go. The colors should be good by Oct. 28th. See you at Pickett State Park."

By popular request, Donald Todd will lead a hike in Frozen Head State Park Sunday, Oct. 22. Anyone wishing to go should be at the caretaker's residence near the State Prison Honor Farm at 9:30 a.m. EDT.