

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

April 5-6, Rappelling and rock climbing, Monterey, Terry Stout
April 19, Wildflower hike, Frozen Head State Park, Donald Todd
April 26, Wildflower hike, Virgin Falls, David Rhyne
May 17, Chickasaw Bluffs Trail, Henry Hall and Gene Hyde.
June 14, Mt. Rogers, Va., Don Shields
June 20-27, Appalachian Trail Conference, Boone, N.C.

April will be a busy month, starting with the weekend outing at Bee Rock. Headquarters will be the KOA campground near Monterey on U. S. 70. See the March issue for details. Activities start at noon Central time.

The annual wildflower hike will be in Frozen Head State Park Saturday, April 19. Donald Todd, Sr. will lead the long hike to the higher elevations, leaving park headquarters, near Wartburg, at 10 a.m. Eastern time. We lost the last TCWF newsletter, but we assume they will be with us again this year. If so, there will be short hikes in the afternoon, both Saturday and Sunday. There is a primitive campground for those who would like to stay and hike both days.

A second April hike will be the more rugged trip to Virgin Falls in the Bowaters Pocket Wilderness. Turn south from Highway U.S. 70S at DeRossett, between Sparta and Crossville. Meet at the turnoff at DeRossett at 9:00 a.m. Central time.

Stan Murray, chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference, writes that the meeting at Boone, N. C. is the first to be held in the South since the one at Cashiers, N.C. in 1967. The last meeting was held at Plymouth, New Hampshire in 1972. The meeting will start at noon on Saturday, June 21, and will end officially at noon Monday, June 23. There will be a series of organized hikes and evening meetings through June 27. All TTA members are invited to attend.

Sam Powell says things are continuing to move on the South Cumberland Trail. There is a section about 20 miles long under development and it is hoped that the part from Signal Point to Highway 27 on Suck Creek Mountain will be ready for use in a few months. The section between Signal Point and Edwards Point can be hiked now, although there are a few rough places yet to be worked.

Congratulations to Scouts Steve Swink, Troop 130, and Bruce McLellan, Troop 116, who earned their Cumberland Trail patches last month. Sam says the annual campout in Irentice Cooper State Forest has been set tentatively for May 17-18. He promises details for the May issue.

Clarence Streetman tells us that we may lose the bid to host the Third National Trails Symposium in Oak Ridge. TVA and the Land Between the Lakes have better bait. Gunnar Ieter- sen has resigned as chairman of the National Trails Council to take a job in Canada and Wm. Nemec of the Chicago area is acting chairman.

The Missouri Trails Association will hold its second Annual Trails Conference at Camp Rising Sun in Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Kaiser, Mo. April 25-27.

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President's Message

Dear Fellow-members:

The past month has been a busy time for your truly. We were alerted on March 6 that House Bill 129 had been introduced by Rep. U. A. Moore of Millington and signed by 13 other representatives, to amend the State Trails System Act by removing the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail from the scenic trails system.

We have many friends working to defeat this bill. The Tennessee Conservation League adopted a resolution in opposition to the bill at its convention in Chattanooga March 22. Conservation Commissioner Buck Allison spoke in favor of the resolution, as did Henry Reynolds, outdoor editor of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. The Commercial Appeal has published a number of letters from friends of the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail. Members of the Memphis-Shelby County delegation have received a large volume of mail in opposition to H.B.129.

I give my sincere thanks to Memphis members Henry Hall and Wm. Leighton Reed, who are keeping us posted on the situation at that end and are rallying support for the Trail. A public meeting was scheduled in Memphis March 28 to work out a compromise on the location of the trail and that may resolve the issue in our favor.

We had a very successful meeting of the advisory committee for the Trail of the Lonesome Pine in Rogersville March 12. Gordon Newland, chairman for TTA of the section between Bean's Gap and the Virginia Line, and your President represented TTA. Gordon also represented the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Recreation Club, which has been mapping that section and helping in contacting landowners. Relations with the landowners have been very good on that section.

We regret to learn that Bill Phillips, supervisor of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, resigned March 1 to return to his chosen profession, Forestry. We wish him the best of luck.

We have learned that funds for scenic rivers and scenic trails for the rest of FY'75 have been impounded and that appropriations for \$600,000 for the two programs have been deleted from the budget for FY1976, which will begin July 1. The TCL Board of Directors was expected to take action in its March 23 meeting to get the funds restored. TTA members are urged to contact your senators and representatives. \$600,000 is a small percentage of a \$2 billion budget. We must be able to meet the obligation to landowners who have agreed to scenic easements on their land.

We congratulate Rep. Bob Bible, author of the Tennessee Trails System Act, who received the award for Legislative Conservationist of the Year, presented by TCL and Sears, Roebuck and Co. Congratulations are also in order for Bowaters Southern Paper Corp, Conservation Organization of the Year, recognized for work in wildlife habitat and recreation. Edward L. Thackston, who was Gov. Winfield Dunn's environmental advisor, received the Governor's Award for the Conservationist of the Year.

We'll see you on the Trail. Evan Means, President