

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

May 3, 10 a.m. EDT, Board meeting, Gray Badger Inn, Kingston.  
May...Campout, Prentice Cooper State Forest (see insert).  
June 14, Mt. Rogers, Va., Don Shields, leader.  
June 20-27, Appalachian Trail Conference, Boone, N. C.  
July 13, 50th anniversary, Mt. LeConte, Paul Adams.  
Aug. 16, Little River Gorge, Bill Stutz.

It's bad news on the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail. The meeting in Memphis March 28 was "stacked" against us. Our people were told it was to be a friendly meeting with landowners to work out a compromise route, so they didn't need to attend. Joe Gaines was confronted by 70 landowners in a mass protest, with no friends to back him. Since then we have heard that the Dept. of Conservation has removed that trail from the TORAS schedule.

House Bill 129 was stalled in the House Calendar Committee at last report, but Sen. Davis of Covington has introduced Senate Bill 1169, calling for removal of the power of eminent domain from the Trails System Act. Henry Hall writes: "If the right of eminent domain is removed from the Trail Act, I do not see any possibility of ever getting any trail established. It is totally unfeasible and unrealistic to expect ever to get 100% of the affected landowners to grant voluntarily the necessary easements." Write to your lawmaker today.

In view of the Chickasaw Bluffs situation and the withdrawal of State funds, the Board of Directors will consider the possibility of incorporating TTA as a non-profit corporation, at its May 3 meeting. This will enable us to make our own agreements with landowners without obligating individual members.

Because of the changes in the Chickasaw Bluffs program, we have checked with program chairman Bob Brown and have cancelled the May 17 hike on that trail. Instead, Sam Powell's annual campout in Prentice Cooper State Forest will be the May activity. Your editor is vacationing in North Carolina Apr. 20-27 and we have asked Dot Lingerfelt and Sam to provide an insert giving details.

The International Backpackers Association has announced a free school of outdoor skills in Chester, Maine, with sessions June 2-7 and Aug. 25-30. The school is open to anyone over 15 who wants to know more basic skills before venturing into the trail country. For details, write to International Backpacking Association, S.O.S., P. O. Box 85, Lincoln Center, MA 04458.

IBA is seeking 1,000,000 hours of volunteer service to trails, nationwide, by Bicentennial Day, July 4, 1976. Each trail-concerned individual is asked to volunteer at least one hour of work towards trail improvement in a state or national park or forest, on a National Scenic Trail, or on local trails..

The rock-climbing and rappelling weekend April 5-6 was a big success. 45 people had registered when the Editor left at 4 p.m. Saturday and many others hadn't registered. The Frozen Head hike Apr. 19 ran into wet weather, but had a good turnout.