

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

Dec. 13, 10 a.m. EST, Board meeting, Gray Badger Inn, Kingston

Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m. EST, Hike on South Section, Cumberland Trail, Sam Powell leader.

Attendance at the annual meeting on Nov. 15 was light. All enjoyed Paul Adams' slides and report of the 50th anniversary of the Mt. LeConte camp. Joe Gaines reported that work continues on the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail in Fort Pillow and Menmanshly State Parks. The bill to remove that trail from the state system is still pending in the General Assembly.

Opposition to the Obed Wild River project has affected work on the Cumberland Trail in Cumberland Co. A little work was done between Cove Lake and Lake City this year. Sam Powell missed the annual meeting to direct a crew fabricating a bridge for the South section near Signal Mountain.

Stan Gorin reported some work on mapping the Trail of Tears in the McMinnville area. A Federal Task Force has completed a study of the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. This would be a multiple use route, providing for horseback, bike and hiking trails within the corridor of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

The Dept. of Conservation and TVA are studying a plan to acquire two abandoned railways to be used as trails. One, from DeArmond to Petros, could be part of the John Muir Trail. The other would provide needed trail facilities near Dickson. Mack Prichard is working to get the Eastern John Muir Trail included in the National Trails System. The Dept. of Conservation is drawing up proposed legislation to provide for state patrols on trails built by TTA and similar groups.

The annual meeting closed with a dedication hike on the new backpacking trail in Fall Creek Falls State Park.

The officers for 1976 are Grimes G. Slaughter, Oak Ridge, president; David Rhyne, Cleveland, vice-president; Evelyn Tretter, Goodlettsville, recording secretary; Dot Lingerfelt, Chattanooga, corresponding secretary-treasurer; Gordon Newland, Kingsport, director for 3-year term, and Wm. T. Stutz, Chattanooga, filling the unexpired term of David Rhyne. Holdover directors are Donald Todd, Sr., Wartburg, and E. W. Means, retiring president.

The Nashville chapter of TTA was formally organized Nov. 7 at Cheekwood. Jim Whittle who runs a backpacking supply store at 4004 Hillsboro Road is the chairman, which automatically makes him a member of the Board of Directors.

Dot Ventress reports on the summer activities of the South Cumberland Trail Committee:

"Summer Wednesday nights were reserved by a group from the Division of Environmental Planning, TVA, for work on the Cumberland Trail. The gang dressed up after work and headed for Signal Mountain for a couple of hours of sweaty work. They fixed up the portion of the trail from Point Park to Middle Creek. The bunch tried everything from clipping briars to breaking racks.

"In all, those involved were delighted to help in their little

way to make the trail a reality. Some of the workers are now back in school and we wish them luck in their endeavors. Those who pitched in included Richard Toussaint, Rick Brown, Jim Brown, Dave Bruggink, Christy Doolittle, Doye Cox, Julian Chu, Gil Burnet and Peter Ostrowski.

Pete Ostrowski headed this group and is continuing work on the trail. South Cumberland TTA is grateful to him and his helpers.

President-elect's message:

"I wish to express a "Well Done" to the TTA officers of this year. They reacted to the total collapse of capital money support from the current State Administration in a very positive way. The most important move was to incorporate TTA to enable us to enter agreements with landowners. If this dearth of support is going to continue for another three years, then TTA must attempt to compensate. Historically, most of the trail building has been done with youth power, through the good graces of the Boy Scout organization. John McIntyre built many miles of trail with squads of non-voters, and Sam Powell is doing good work on the south end of the Cumberland Trail, using the same talents which John evidently possessed.

"We need to get more scoutmasters and troops interested and enthused, and give them copies of the Trail Construction Manual. Some of the sections may not be built to full David Rhyne standards, but that could come later. We can capitalize on the Bicentennial Year plan to "Give a day for Trail Construction". (I know it says an Hour instead of Day but we can do better.) I have gotten very positive responses from many people concerning participation in such a plan. In '76 let's see how many people we can enthruse, shame, or blackmail into working on trails."

President-elect G. G. Slaughter submits the following biographical sketch:

"Son of a Methodist minister, lived all over eastern half of North Carolina during pre-college years. Attended Duke University College of Engineering 1942-44; cruise to Far East (courtesy of U.S. Navy) 1944-46; Duke College of Engineering again 1946-48. On faculty 1948-50; graduate school 1950-56; Oak Ridge National Laboratory 1956 to present. Enjoys swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, tennis, white water boating, hiking (think I was going to leave that one out?). Member TTA, TCWP, TSRA, ETWWC, Interested in all phases of conservation; sworn enemy of Corps of Engineers, TVA, all Development Districts, some Chambers of Commerce."

Which leaves us just enough room to give directions for Sam Powell's hike for Dec. 20. Meet at Signal Point Park in Signal Mountain at 9:30 a.m. EST. Highway U.S. 127 passes through Signal Mountain. One feature of the hike will be the new bridge which was erected last month. Let's have a big turnout to support the most active group in TTA.

TTA President Means and members Davif Rhyne, Bertha Chrietzberg and Herbert H. Wiggins, Jr. of Decatur, Ala. attended the Third National Trails Symposium at Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Kentucky Nov. 9-13.