

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

March 4, Dedication, Signal Point section, Cumberland Trail.
March 20, Hike, Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness, Bob Brown, leader.
April, Hike, Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, David Rhyne.
May 15, Hike, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Bob Richards.

The first March activity will be the dedication of the Signal Point-Edwards Point section of the Cumberland Trail, Thursday, March 4. B. R. Allison, Commissioner of Conservation, will do the honors. TTA members who expect to attend should call Sam Powell at 886-2689 for details. Activities will start around noon.

Bob Brown called last week to change the schedule of the March hike from the 27th to the 20th. Meeting time will be 9:30 a.m. Central Standard Time (10:30 Eastern Time) at the Honey Creek parking area. To get there, turn west off U. S. 27 on State Route 52 at Elgin, go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and turn right on paved rural road.

There will be two choices, an easy hike on the Honey Creek Trail and a cross country hike. Bob will lead the cross country hike along the top of the bluffs, going downriver to the Onocida and Western Railroad Bridge, then back along old logging roads. The route will dip down under the bluff occasionally, climbing back to the top after a while. Carry a lunch and canteen.

The Nashville Chapter of TTA met at Cheekwood Jan. 29, Chairman Jim Whittle presiding. About 30 persons attended. Possible projects were discussed and hikes were scheduled for Feb. 1 and Feb. 14-15. Margaret Mann led a group of five on a hike in Percy Warner Park in Nashville Feb. 1. A group from Murfreesboro failed to make it because of illness in the family of a member.

President Grimes Slaughter reports: "The Cumberland Caverns Hike, led by Stan Gorin Feb. 21, was the shortest yet (about a mile) for TTA but it yielded more in the way of unusual scenery and aching muscles than any so far. The one mile consisted of scrambling up and down huge rocks, climbing up and down ladders, and squeezing through passageways which allowed little room for breathing. Everyone will remember the "Lemin Squeezer", in which headway was made by judicious use of fingernails, toenails and teeth.

"After the 'wild' hike from the historic entrance to the main room, Stan led us on a further excursion to a waterfall which fell into a 90-foot pit, and to the Monument Pillar, a magnificent formation which glowed in the dark after illumination by a flash gun. It rained during the 5 or 6 hour period of the hike, but we were oblivious to it in the labyrinth of the cave, far underground."

Ray Amidon, who is a strong supporter of TTA in the Chattanooga area, sends word on a course in Beginning Backpacking for Adults at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The cost will be \$20 a person, \$35 a couple for seven nights of instruction and two backpacking trips. The groups will be limited to 15 persons each, with a minimum of ten. Group I starts Monday, March 22, 7-9 p.m., and Group II starts Thursday, March 25. For information, call Ray, who will be the instructor, at 894-8444 or 698-8711, Ext 402.

Ray writes: "I'm still hiking on the Appalachian Trail, but did get in a 3-day canoe trip in the Okefenokee Swamp which was a thriller. Am hoping to do 65 miles of the Florida Trail in Ocala National Forest in February. Hope I can get more active with TTA soon.

If you have not paid your dues for 1976, this will be the last issue of TENNESSEE Trails you will receive. Send check to P.O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405.