

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- April 10, Hike, Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, David Rhynes Leader.
- April 17, Wildflower Hike, Frozen Head State Park, Donald Todd, Sr.
- April 22, Meeting, Nashville Chapter, TTA, Cumberland Museum
- May 15, Hike, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Bob Richards.
- June 12, Hike, Montgomery Bell State Park, Russell Fryer.

Program Chairman David Rhynes announces two hikes for April. He will lead the first on the 10th. Hikers will meet at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time at the grocery store in De Rossett, intersection of U. S. Highway 70 and the road to Virgin Falls. This is a fairly rugged hike, 7 or 8 miles, and will take most of the day. bring a lunch and canteen.

Donald Todd, Sr. will lead the traditional wildflower hike in Frozen Head State Park Saturday, April 17. Meet Donald at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time, at the park ranger headquarters. Hikers coming from Nashville might like to take a different and shorter route this time. Take State Route 62 from Monterey and turn left toward the park after you pass through Wartburg. This hike offers some spectacular views on this hike.

There is an option of a day hike or an overnight trip May 15 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The meeting place will be the Nature Center, about a mile from the North Entrance, at 10 a.m. CDT. The June 12 hike will be in Montgomery Bell State Park instead of Nashville Metro Parks, as previously announced.

There was big turnout when Conservation Commissioner Buck Allison visited the Cumberland Trail at Signal Mountain March 4. We had a delicious bean soup lunch at the Episcopal Church before taking the trail to the famous bridge over Middle Creek, now being called "Three Bridges" (It has three sections). We had a lot of TV cameramen and reporters at the starting point, but only the reporter from the Chattanooga News-Free Press went all the way.

Dot Lingerfelt, Dot Vontress and Emily (Mrs. Sam) Powell were among the ladies serving lunch. (We apologize for not getting the other ladies' names.) Membership Chairman Bill Stutz was busy recruiting new members, between puns and quips. Commissioner Allison was much impressed with the work of Sam Powell's committee and promised an early article in the Tennessee Conservationist.

President Grimes Slaughter reports: "The Honey Creek hike March 20 was attended by a total of 29 people, but this does not tell the whole story. The count was thought to be as low as 21 and as high as 38, since various groups joined and rejoined other groups. At one time the cross-country group was walking down a road to enter the gorge to get to the parking lot. They met the trail group walking in the opposite direction, to get to the parking lot! Everyone re-entered the gorge and finished up on the last part of the Honey Creek Trail, collecting the groups of lost hikers and stragglers on the way. Everyone was most appreciative of the beautiful scenery furnished by Dave Rhynes and Bowaters (but, Dave, there are a couple of little places where the trail markings could stand a little touching up. OK?) The weather was beautiful: some sunshine, no rain."

The March 7 edition of the Nashville Tennessean carried a full page feature on Tennessee Trails, with a picture of Joe Gaines on the trail in Montgomery Bell State Park and a map showing the 7 scenic trails designated in the 1971 Act.

David and Pat Rhynes are settled in their new home at last. The address is Route 1, Box 283A, Athens, TN 37303, Phone 745-4289.