

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- Feb. 12, Nashville Chapter hike, Indian Town Bluff, John Hart, leader.
- Feb. 19, hike, Cumberland Gap-Baptist Gap, Grimes Slaughter.
- Feb. 24, Nashville Chapter meeting, Cumberland Museum, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 19-20, Fiery Gizzard, overnight or day (optional), Joe Gaines.
- Sept. 8-9-10, 4th National Trails Symposium, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Those going on the Nashville Chapter hike Feb. 12 will meet at 8:30 a.m. CST at the Cumberland Museum. A pickup will be made at River Road and Charlotte Ave. about 8:45. This will be a leisurely 4 1/2 to 5-mile hike over moderately rough terrain atop a spectacular spiny ridge in Cheatham County. Indian Town Bluff overlooks the historic Harpeth Shoals of the Cumberland River, now covered by the waters of Cheatham Reservoir. Indians used the shoals as a crossing place long before the white man came. The shoals blocked Union boats from reaching Nashville during the Civil War. Bring your lunch. John Hart in trip leader.

The Feb. 19 hike will begin at the parking area for Tristates Peak, where U. S. Highway 25E crosses Cumberland Gap, at 9:30 a.m. EST. Take I-75 north from Knoxville and State Route 63 from Cove Lake to Harrogate and turn left on 25E. There is a half-mile walk up a paved trail to the terminal of the Cumberland Trail at Tristates Peak. It is about 5 miles to Baptist Gap. The trail follows a hogback ridge with some interesting views. Carry lunch and a canteen. Grimes Slaughter will be the leader, as Evan Means will be attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association.

Evelyn Tretter reports that 6 people went on the hike in Cedars of Lebanon State Park Jan. 15. Icy roads discouraged East Tennessee members. It was the first day with above freezing temperatures of the New Year, with sunny weather and a high of 35 degrees. Some snow remained under the cedars and in the sinkholes for which the park is noted. Those on the hike were Russell and Kim Fryer, Oscar and Eris Krosnes, Don Nelson and Evelyn Tretter. The group also visited the Park Nature Center.

Bill Stutz writes, "Your attendance at McLean Rock Dec. 4 was good, considering that it was the same day that Smoky Mountains Hiking Club had its 52nd annual meeting in Gatlinburg. (We forgot to check the SMHC Handbook when the date was set. Eg.) It is interesting that the 387 members of SMHC includes approximately 18 TTA members, and most of those 18 are active in SMHC or hold office. Most of them attended the meeting and banquet in Gatlinburg and were Saturday night guests of Mrs. Ruth Hunter, who is a supporting member of TTA, at her Mountain Lodge. 45 persons spent the night and 54 turned up for breakfast before the hike to Rainbow Falls."

Bill is membership chairman of TTA and says, "Let's bring in some new members for 1977. More folks should join from Cumberland Hiking Club, Tri-State Trail Club, Provident Trail Club, and a few more from SMHC." Bill was having trouble with muscular coordination at the time he wrote.

We have been informed that Douglas A. Billups assumed the position of Kentucky Trails Coordinator in the Department of Parks, Division of Planning and Grants, on Jan. 3, 1977. He replaces Janie Daugherty who left the Department at the end of October, 1976.

Since the Editor will be spending the last week in February in Texas, the deadline for material for the March issue of Tennessee Trails will be Feb. 14. We need information on the March activities by that date.

Have you paid your dues for 1977?