

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

July 9, Nashville Chapter hike, Window Cliffs and Burgess Falls

July 23, Balsam Mountain, N. C., Donald Todd, leader.

August 13, Cades Cove bicycle trail, Al Lookofsky

Sept. 8, 9, 10, Fourth National Trails Symposium, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

The July TTA activity will be a hike on Balsam Mountain in North Carolina, with Donald Todd, Sr. as leader. Donald scouted the trip a couple of weeks ago, while the rhododendrons were in bloom, and expects a spectacular hike, even though those blooms will be gone. It's a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour trip from Knoxville. Take U. S. 441 from Gatlinburg through the National Park to the Blue Ridge Parkway; turn left onto the Parkway and turn left again at the sign for Balsam Mountain Campground and go to Heintooga Overlook. Meet at the Overlook at 10:30 a.m. EDT. The park will be crowded in July, so we suggest camping on the Tennessee side, for those who don't want to drive the whole distance Saturday morning. The length of the hike will be tailored to the feelings of the hikers and the time consumed along the way.

This issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS was published early so the Editor could attend the annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America in Macon, Ga., June 19-23. We don't have details of the Nashville Chapter hike July 9 but it sounds exciting. Call David Stidham, trip leader, at 298-5735 for information.

Those who visited the Land Between the Lakes during the Southeastern Regional Trails Conference last fall, will be interested in the news that 12 new buffalo calves were born there this spring. The Buffalo Range is a major attraction in LBL.

The Department of Conservation is carrying on trail work in several areas this summer. TTA assisted Joe Gaines in recruiting two backpacking trail workers for Frozen Head State Park in June. News releases were published in the Morgan County News and the Oak Ridger, with Evan Means receiving calls from prospective workers. More than 25 calls were received, with 18 men turning up at the Oak Ridge City Hall for interviews June 14. Joe interviewed 16 of them and reported some excellent prospects. He regretted that he could only hire two of them. The men he hired will spend two weeks with the Savage Gulf trail crew for in-service training.

The Frozen Head crew will spend ten weeks in the "back country", clearing old CCC trails and restoring washed out treads. A section of the Cumberland Trail is included in the project.

We are pleased to report that House Bill 199, authorizing the Commissioner of Conservation to enter agreements with non-profit corporations with regard to recreational and natural areas and facilities, passed and was signed by Governor Ray Blanton May 26. The bill also authorizes the Commissioner to provide park rangers on such publicly and privately-owned areas used by the general public. This should be a selling point in getting permission to run our trails across private lands.

Work is under way to acquire permission from landowners to route the Trail of the Lonesome Pine along Clinch Mountain. There have been some refusals, but Garden Newland's committee is getting some agreements. The letters of refusal, including one withdrawal of permission, indicate that some people are spreading misinformation. One lady said she didn't want her young timber cut. TTA has never cut any timber.

We'll see you on the trail.

The deadline for news for the August issue will be July 20. Send information to Evan Means, 200 Butler Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830