

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

August 20, Hike, Walls of Jericho, David Stidham, leader.

August 25, Meeting, Nashville Chapter, Morrison's Cafeteria.

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

Sept. 24 'tentative', Moonbow Trail, Cumberland Falls, KY., Dave Stidham.

Sept. (?) Tennessee Forrest Trail, Nashville Chapter.

We are sorry to report that Al Lookofsky has been transferred from the Cordell Hull Project to Lake Shelbyville, Illinois, moving August 1. As a result, we have no leader for the Aug. 13 Cades Cove trip and President Grimes Slaughter feels we should cancel it. He will be on vacation.

Instead of the Cades Cove trip, we suggest that those who want to take part in a TTA activity in August should join the Nashville Chapter on the 20th. Chairman David Stidham writes that the August date has been changed from the 27th to the 20th and he will be leading the hike. He says:

"We will leave the Cumberland Museum in Nashville at 7:30 a.m. CDT. A second meeting point will be the National Guard Armory 2 miles west of Winchester on U. S. 64 at 10 a.m. CDT. The trail begins 10 miles south of Winchester at the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. An old logging road descends the Plateau to Turkey Creek. We will follow Turkey Creek for 1½ miles to the "Walls of Jericho", a unique gorge carved through the Cumberland escarpment with caves, springs, sheer cliffs, a huge stone amphitheater, bedrock stream bed, and a fantastic swimming hole...bring your swim suit. The hike back to the top of the Plateau will be a gradual climb with 1,060 feet change in elevation, following old logging roads. The hike should be rated as medium in difficulty: round trip hiking distance of 9 miles, and all of it on trail except the 1½ miles of fairly easy rock-hopping down Turkey Creek."

Dave also reports on the hike to the Burgess Falls Natural Area:

"16 members and guests from Nashville, Chattanooga, and McMinnville turned out for a beautiful day of hiking on July 9 to Burgess Falls Natural Area. The group visited the five falls or cascades along the Falling Water River, including the breath-taking Burgess Falls, and explored the ruins of Cookeville's old hydro-electric plant. From the natural area, the group went to nearby Window Cliffs and enjoyed the spectacular views, then climbed around the natural bridge and pinnacles of the knife-edged ridge. The afternoon was topped off with a refreshing swim in Cane Creek."

The next meeting of the Nashville Chapter will be August 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Morrison's Cafeteria, 1720 West End Avenue. Come at 6:30 for dinner.

At the Board meeting July 16, it was discovered that there will be no moonlight to provide a moonbow at Cumberland falls Sept. 17. The full moon will be Sept. 27 and the 24th will be the nearest Saturday. That is the date set for the Nashville Chapter trip to Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, and David Stidham was in Somerset, Ky. when he sent his report. Therefore, we'll have to wait until the September issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS for final details.

Things are moving on the Tennessee Trails System. Gordon Newland, chairman of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine Committee, reports that five miles of trail have been cleared from the Virginia line westward. Elmer and Floy Bostic, both hikers, were hired by the Department of Conservation to work with Gordon in contacting landowners along Clinch Mountain. As of July 15 they had contacted 80% of the owners and had 87% success in getting permission to locate the trail on private land. The Board gave Gordon a vote of appreciation for his work.

David Shupe, supervisor for the Cumberland Trail, reported that Kent Alford of Knoxville and Allen Veach of Maryville were employed to work on

trails in Frozen Head State Park this summer. Kent is a 1977 forestry graduate from UT and Allen is a horticulture major who will be a senior this fall.

The men are clearing out the old Boundary Trail, originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and rebuilding sections where needed. David says they have a tough job on a trail with many switchbacks, great changes in elevation, and little scenic value. Future hikers will find it challenging. The men spend two and a half days on the trail and another day at park headquarters updating maps and reports each week.

The South Cumberland Trail Committee is losing one of its leaders. Pete Ostrowski will be leaving Chattanooga to work on an advanced degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this fall. Pete is also getting married and we offer our sincere congratulations.

Robert L. Herbst, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, announced June 20 that Paul C. Pritchard, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conference, Harpers Ferry, West Va., would be appointed as deputy director of the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Chris T. Delaporte is director of BOR.

Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus has sent to Congress a legislative proposal to establish a new category, National Historic Trails, in the National Trails System. Currently, the National Trails system includes Scenic Trails, Recreation Trails, and connecting or side trails.

BOR announced on June 30 that Secretary Andrus had designated the Third Creek Bicycle Trail within the city limits of Knoxville, a National Recreation Trail. The 2.3-mile trail is located within the flood plain of Third Creek, near the campus of the University of Tennessee. The Trail is the 10th National Recreation Trail in Tennessee. It is administered by the City of Knoxville Recreation Department.

Two separate grants were given during June for land acquisition along the Appalachian Trail. A \$140,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will enable the State of New York to acquire about 250 acres of land along a 5-mile segment of the AT. The State will match this grant with a like amount of money and land donations. It will make possible the acquisition of four parcels of land in the towns of Kent and Phillipstown, so that a segment of the AT can be relocated from a public roadway to a wooded area.

The second grant, \$400,000, went to New Jersey to acquire approximately 744 acres along a 17.1-mile segment of the AT. The acquisitions, 60 parcels of land in Passaic and Sussex Counties, will help protect the Trail beginning at Wawayanda State Park and running westerly to Highpoint State Park.

The following amendment to the Bylaws of Tennessee Trails Association will be presented to the membership for ratification at the annual meeting November 19:

"7. Officers for Local Chapters. The members of a local chapter may, at their discretion, elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. The conditions of office shall be the same as set forth in the Constitution of the Tennessee Trails Association for officers of the Association."

A tentative formal agreement has been worked out between TTA and the American Association for the Route of the Cumberland Trail across its lands in Claiborne County. It will be presented to Mr. Al Funk, general manager for the American Association, in the near future for approval. TTA will begin contacting other landowners on the north end of the CT this month.