

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

Dec. 10, hike, Pickett State Park, Grimes Slaughter, leader.

Dec. 17 and Jan. 7, Work sessions, Nashville Chapter.

Jan. 14, hike, H&NE Railroad bed, Harriman, Grimes Slaughter.

The final membership activity of TTA for 1977 will be a hike to the Arches in Pickett State Park Saturday, Dec. 10. This will be a short hike, mostly on old roads, but one of the most scenic of the year. Meet at Park headquarters at 10:30 a.m. CST and bring lunch and canteen. To get to Pickett, turn right off U. S. 127 north of Jamestown on State Route 154.

The dedication of the Rutherford County trail complex, originally set for Nov. 5, was postponed a week because of heavy rains the night before. The horseback riders went anyway. The Editor found Bertha Chrietberg at Nice's Mill, where she was meeting people who didn't get the word. Dave Stidham, Evelyn Tretter and others hiked anyway on a wet trail and a few canoes sailed up. We have no report on the dedication Nov. 12.

Attendance was light at the annual meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park Nov. 19. Perhaps this was partly due to the fact that the November issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS was lost in the mail between Oak Ridge and Chattanooga. Dot Lingerfelt did a hasty rewrite from the proof copy and the individual copies were finally mailed Nov. 11, 18 days after the package was sent from Oak Ridge. We hope to have better luck this month.

It was a very productive annual meeting. Joe Gaines reported that a total of 200 miles of trail have been built in Tennessee in the past two years, in State Parks and elsewhere. These include an 18-mile backpack loop in Savage Gulf, the Fiery Gizzard Trail, a 40-mile trail system in Natchez Trace State Park and Forest, and 10½ miles of trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest (Cumberland Trail) and several miles in Frozen Head State Park.

Ellra and Floy Bostic reported of their experiences in getting landowner permission for the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. This was a monumental task, with 400 individual property owners. TTA voted thanks to the Bostics and to Gordon Newland who supervised their efforts.

Joe Gaines introduced Mike Dahl who will be trails coordinator for East Tennessee, with headquarters in Knoxville. Mike will be responsible for the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, trails on Roan Mountain and other areas. David Shupe will coordinate trails on the Cumberland Plateau. Hank Landers has succeeded Steve Trussler as project administrator for the South Cumberland complex which includes Savage Gulf. Bob Richards is senior trail supervisor.

Joe reported that the Division of State Parks has employed three lady rangers, of whom one is stationed at the Great Stone Door in Savage Gulf. A trail will be built connecting Pickett State Park and the John Muir Trail with the Chiltowee Trace Trail in Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky.

A meeting will be held at the headquarters of Cherokee National Forest in Cleveland at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 6 to discuss the Bartram Trail. The Bartram Trail Conference has received a Federal grant to study the proposed trail. About 8 miles of the Bartram trail will be in Tennessee and will connect with the John Muir Trail, sections of which have been built by the Forest Service.

The Trail of Tears study is complete and this will be a scenic route with connecting hiking trails along the way. Some work has been done in West Tennessee on segments that may eventually become part of the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail.

TTA voted to sponsor a Tennessee State Trails Symposium in connection with an in-service training session for state trail workers in late winter or early spring. Evan Means was appointed to work with Joe Gaines on the

program.

Donald Todd called on TTA members to call on the Tennessee State Building Commission to approve the acquisition of the abandoned Harriman and Northeast Railroad right-of-way for a trail. The property belongs to the Southern RR which has removed the tracks, leaving the bridges intact. A TTA hike has been scheduled for Jan. 14 along the route. It would make an excellent hike-bike route, linking the Cumberland and the John Muir Trails. Contact should be made through members of the House and Senate.

Evelyn Tretter presented a call for support from the Tennessee Hobos Retirees Chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association in an effort to get better enforcement of anti-litter laws and to pass a Tennessee Bottle Bill (S-876, HB-885). A questionnaire drawn up by the Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Association is included with this issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. The Association wants a statewide sample of public opinion before the General Assembly meets in January. Please make copies and get your friends to fill them out. Return them to Evelyn Tretter, 306 Frances St., Goodlettsville, TN 37072 by Dec. 15.

Dot Lingerfelt reports that TTA membership has shown a steady growth in 1977, with 195 paid members at meeting time. We have more than \$400 in the bank. Evelyn Tretter has sold a lot of TTA patches, helping liquidate our inventory. TTA brochures are sent out with the response to each request for information on Tennessee Trails. Membership chairman Bill Stutz said he has placed TTA brochures in State Parks and other public places. He has answered a lot of mail enquiries.

All officers were re-elected for 1978. They are:

President: Grimes G. Slaughter, 240 North Purdue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Vice-president, F. David Rhyne, Route 1, Box 283A, Athens, TN 37303.

Recording Secretary, Evelyn Tretter (See address above).

Corresponding Sec.-Treas., Dorothy R. Lingerfelt, Box 4913, Chattanooga 37405.

Director, Wm. T. Stutz, 1701 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga 37404.

Remaining on the Board of Directors are Donald Todd, Sr., Box 331, Wartburg, 37887; Gordon C. Newland, 1917 East Sevier Ave., Kingsport, 37664; Evan W. Means, 200 Butler Road, Oak Ridge, past president, and David Stidham, chairman of the Nashville Chapter. Todd's term expires in 1979 and Newland's in '78.

David Stidham reported that the Nashville Chapter had a trip each month in 1977. Some were Sunday afternoon walks and others were long hikes. One mile of the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile North Shore Trail around Percy Priest Reservoir has been built by the Chapter and work session are set for Dec. 17 and Jan. 7. Workers will meet at the Waffle House at the Mt. Juliet exit off I-40 at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. Wear work clothes and bring trail-clearing tools if you have them. Call David at 298-5735 if you plan to go.

The Nashville Chapter enjoyed a 3-mile hike and cookout in Edwin Warner Park in Nashville Oct. 23. There was a bright moon and they stayed around the campfire until 9 p.m.

Dot Lingerfelt reminds us that it's time to pay dues for 1978. See her address above.

1977 has been a banner year for TTA. We got things moving again on the north end of the Cumberland Trail and progress was made on the south end, thanks to Sam Powell and his committee. Accomplishments by Gordon Newland and the Bostics on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine have been spectacular. Let's accomplish much more in 1978.

A full calendar of activities for 1978 was drawn up at the annual meeting and will be published in the January issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS.

We wish all of our members a Happy Holiday Season.