

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

- Sept. 16-17, Nashville Chapter backpack trip, Montgomery Bell.
- Sept. 21-24, Southeast Trails Conference, Cumberland Falls, Ky.
- Sept. 23, Hike, Little River Canyon, Edward Oliver, Leader.
- Oct. 14, Hike, Virgin Falls, Sarah Smith and Fay Harrington
- Oct. 21, Red Leaves Trail, Natchez Trace, overnight opt. Joe Gaines.
- Nov. 4, Hike, Homey Creek Pocket Wilderness, R. L. Pigg.
- Nov. 18, Annual meetin , site to be announced.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor an overnight backpacking hike in Montgomery Bell State Park Sept, 16 and 17, with Russell Fryer as leader. Meet at park headquarters just off U.S. Highway 70 at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The trail is about 13 miles long with an overnight stop at a primitive camping area midway. There is a shelter but tents may come in handy. A fire can be built at this location. See active beaver dams and inactive iron ore pits and slag heaps from some of the first iron processing operations in our country. Hikers should be able to get back to park headquarters by 3:00 p.m. Sunday.

Ed Oliver writes: "The Sept. 23 hike is from the lower end of Little River Canyon. We will meet at the "trail end" of Mouth Park at 10 a.m. GDT. Bring lunch and drink and wear hiking shoes. We'll decide there whether to form a car shuttle or go half way and double back. (We doubled back from the other end of the canyon on the last hike.) The easiest way to get to Little River Canyon Mouth Park is to exit I-59 at the Ala. 68 Collinsville interchange, go east to junction of Ala. 176, turn right from 176 just a short distance and follow this road to the park.

"The park offers camping, fishing, hiking, and a playground. It is also referred to as Cherokee County Park. The most scenic route is by way of Ala. 35 from the Fort Payne exit off I-59, turning south on Ala. 176 to 275 and follow 275 into the park."

Since it will be late in the season, swimming will depend on the weather and individual daring. The trail is thought to be moderately difficult, Ed says, DeSoto State Park, Route 1, Box 210, Fort Payne, AL 35967, phone 205-845-0051, has overnight accommodations. Scenic attractions along the way include DeSoto Falls, Manitou Cave, Sequoyah Caverns, and others.

The Trail Conference Committee met at Cumberland Falls Aug. 23 to finalize plans for the Southeastern Trail Conference to be held Sept. 21-24 at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park in Kentucky. Evan Means is representing TTA on the Committee.

The Conference will begin with the opening of the registration desk at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. There will be a social get-acquainted hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner on your own. There will be "Show and Tell" from 8:00 p.m. until everyone gets tired of looking and listening.

The theme of the Conference is "Trail Development for the Next Ten Years". The first panel, at 9:00 a.m. Friday, will tell of Federal plans, policies and problems. Members of the panel will include representatives of TVA, Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and U. S. Forest Service. At 1:30 p.m. State agencies, trail councils and Associations will tell of plans, problems and achievements. The conference banquet will be held Friday night.

Saturday at 8:00 a.m. the role of private planners and industrial agencies will be discussed. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a roundtable discussion of matters of interest to trail organizations.

The indoor program will end before lunch Saturday and will be followed by the Kentucky Festival of Trails. There will be day hikes, overnight backpack hike, day and overnight canoe trips on whitewater; saddle trail rides, and trail bike and bicycle runs. All trail events are planned to end at the McCreary County 4-H campground in time for a chicken barbecue on Sunday, the 24th. Those completing their trail event will receive the 1978 Kentucky Trail Festival Award.

There will be a tour of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Sunday morning. The tour will end in time for the chicken barbecue lunch.

There will be exhibits by conference participants and suppliers of trail equipment. TTA will have a large exhibit with slides of the Cumberland Trail. Harry Williamson will have a show and tell program and may add slides to the TTA exhibit.

For accommodations, call or write to Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin, KY 40701, phone 1-606-4121. Parker's Lake Motel, phone 606-376-5986, and Holiday Motor Lodge, 606-376-2732, both at Parker's Lake, KY 42634, are just across the river from the park. In addition, there are several national chain motels in nearby towns.

President Grimes Slaughter reports that 17 people sent reservation cards to David Rhyno, but only eight showed up for the Hiwassee River float trip August 12. Two rafts made the trip and the passengers had a great time. David was the best "water fighter", splashing a mean paddle. Grimes left the trip early to go gliding at a nearby glider port.

Dot Ventross, Sam and Emilie Powell, Evan Means and Dot Lingerfelt missed the raft trip, as they were attending the conference of the Tennessee Environmental Education Association at the University of the South at Sewanee. Sam worked up an excellent exhibit, assisted by Dot Ventross, and we attracted a lot of attention. The exhibit will also be shown at Cumberland Falls. Tennessee Environmental Council, with which we are affiliated, also gave out TTA brochures at their exhibit.

The Purple Bookcase, No. 7 Genesis Center, Crossville, TN 38555, has notified us that Paul Adams' book, "Mt. LeConte", is again available after its third printing. The price is \$3.00 postpaid at the above address.

Miller, Wihry & Lee, Inc., which has the contract to draw up the master plan for the Big South Fork project, has invited TTA to present thoughts and comments regarding this project. Joe Gaines has been working on trail plans since March 1. The Corps of Engineers has announced public meetings to hear comments and ideas about planning recreation facilities for the BSF. The first meeting will be at Scott High School, Huntsville, Tenn. Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. The second will be at Whitley City, Ky. Middle School Sept. 6 and the third will be at the Fontress County Courthouse in Jamestown Sept. 7.

The Alabama Environmental Quality Association has announced the publication of "Trails of Alabama", the State's first directory of trails used for hiking, backpacking, bicycling and the study of nature. Copies may be ordered from AEQA at \$4.00 each. The address is 3815 Interstate Court, Montgomery, AL 36109.

East & McMillan Publishers, Inc., Charlotte, N.C., has announced the publication of our Tennessee trail guide in May 1979. We found 283 trails in Tennessee outside Great Smoky Mountains National Park and were still counting. The guide will list selected trails from the overall list. TTA members who are working on descriptions are urged to get their copy to Evan Means as early as possible.