

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

Dec. 2, Hike, Nashville Chapter, Long Hunter Trail, Dave Stidham.

Dec. 9, Fiery Gizzard hike, Bob Richards, leader

Jan. 20, 1979, Hike, CNO&TP Railroad bed, Grimes Slaughter.

We'll publish the entire calendar for 1979 in the January issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS.

The December membership activity will be a hike on the Fiery Gizzard Trail with Bob Richards. Meet at the public square across from the Dutch Maid Bakery in Tracy City, six miles from Monteagle on State Highway 56 9:30 a.m. Central Standard Time.

We had a very good annual meeting at Cordell Hull Dam November 18. Treasurer Dot Lingerfelt reported that we had 199 members at the time. Membership Chairman Bill Stutz said that we lost 45 members during the past year and gained 49 new members, for a net gain of four.

President Grimes Slaughter reported that Stearns Coal and Lumber Co. has agreed to allow construction of a connector trail across its property between the Sheltowee Trace in Daniel Boone National Forest and Pickett State Park, trail head for the John Muir Trail.

State Trails Administrator Harry Williamson reported that the deal was closed earlier in the month, transferring the CNO&TP Railroad, which we have been calling Harriman and Northeast, from Southern Railway to the State. The real name is "Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific." Obviously, builders had high hopes for a 13-mile rail line. There has been some opposition from local residents and there may be some title suits, but The Department of Conservation plans to proceed immediately with a foot trail.

Harry also reported that work is under way between Baptist Gap and Cumberland Gap on the Cumberland Trail. YACC crews have worked in Roan Mountain and Frozen Head State Parks and on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine and Cumberland Trail. A satellite Camp for the YACC has been opened in the Savage Gulf area and trail campsites will be added at Raven Point on the Fiery Gizzard Trail and four miles from the ranger station in Savage Gulf. A trail connecting Savage Gulf with the Stone Door will be opened in January. A new map of the South Cumberland Recreation Complex, including Stone Door, Savage Gulf and Fiery Gizzard Creek, is in the hands of the printers and should be ready for distribution in a few weeks.

Harry says that maintenance of trails is a growing problem, as the emphasis has been on construction up to now. The Department of Transportation has installed signs along the Trail of Tears Scenic Route and work is progressing on identification of hiking trails along the route.

Mike Dahl distributed brochures for the experimental snow trail system in Roan Mountain State Park, which we mentioned in the October issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. He has arranged for backpack shops in Knoxville to handle rental ski equipment. Mike says he expects the Trail of the Lonesome Pine to be complete from the Virginia line to Bean Gap (U.S. 25E) by July 1, 1979. Mike suggests that trail conferences be established for the TLP and the Cumberland Trail.

David Stidham reported on Nashville Chapter activities during the past year. There have been bi-monthly meetings and a membership activity for the families each month. The chapter has been working on the Long Hunter Trail on Percy Priest Lake. A state Park is planned there.

There was beautiful weather for the dedication of the Bearwallor Gap

National Recreation Trail, following the annual meeting, with remarks by the District Engineer, Col. Robert Tenor; Richard Puckett, Resource Manager for Cordell Hull Lake; John Brown, representing the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (formerly BOR); President Slaughter and Don Drayton, of the Nashville Historical Trails. A short hike ended with a boat ride back to the dam. The first boatload got a ride through the locks, but time ran out on the second trip.

The new officers of TTA are Joe Gains, Nashville, President; Russell Fryer, Madison, Vice-president; Evelyn Trotter, Goodlettsville, Secretary; Dot Lingerfelt, Chattanooga, Treasurer; and Evan Means, Oak Ridge, director. Holdover directors are Donald Todd, Sr., Wartburg, and W. E. Stut, Chattanooga. Grimes Slaughter will serve on the Board during the term of his successor.

The Nashville Chapter will have a potluck dinner and meeting jointly with the Cumberland-Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society at the Cumberland Museum Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Any dish will be welcome but those having extra good vegetarian dishes are encouraged to bring them and recipes to exchange. There will be a show and tell slide show. The number of slides should be held to a maximum of 30 and the percent of grandchildren to zero. The Nashville Chapter will not meet Dec. 28, as reported in the November issue.

The Nashville Chapter will have an exhibit at the Cumberland Museum for the Christmas theme show Dec. 2 from ten a.m. to five p.m. The Chapter will also have a hike on the Long Hunter Trail the same day. Meet at Percy Priest Dam, east parking lot, at 8:30 a.m. and bring lunch. This is not a difficult trail. For information, call Dave Stidham at 859-3621.

The Nashville Chapter had a work day on the Long Hunter Trail Oct. 28. The crew consisted of Betty Smith, R. L. Pigg, Tom Forkum, and Bill Hager. They worked several hours, then took a short hike along the lake-shore.

The Honey Creek hike Nov. 4 was a big success, with a total of 18 people and a Labrador Retriever named Pipporia, which had to be carried down the ladders. Dot Lingerfelt and Elizabeth Cado came up from Chattanooga and Ed Sender, Tom Berg and lady friend, and Evan Means, all from Oak Ridge, joined the Nashville hikers. Others on the trip included Rufus Pigg, the leader; Jack Neff, Betty Richards, Pat Stallings, Wayne Anord, Oscar and Eric Kroenke, Richard T. Matthai, Frank, Hammond and Donald Heese; Margaret Mann, and Don Nelson.

Dot Lingerfelt said not to forget to mention the climbing ferns, which we have seen only at Honey Creek and in Pickett State Park. Dot and Elizabeth were so impressed that they propose a New Years Eve party "on the rocks" at Honey Creek. Call her by December 15 if you are interested.

We forget to mention that the membership voted at the annual meeting to adopt "service bars" for additional work on trails, to be added to the trail patches.

The Trail Guide is almost on schedule and we still hope to deliver the manuscript December 1. All TTA members are asked to list backpack shops, book stores and other outlets for the book. The publisher needs names for publicity and promotional purposes. We ran several pages over the limit of 200 and are in the process of condensing some of the copy. Send the names of possible outlets and interested organizations to Evan Means, 200 Butler Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.