

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

- March 10, Hike, Nashville Chapter, Nashville Historic Trail.
- March 24, Hike, Big Ridge State Park, Evan Means, leader.
- April 21, Hike, Frozen Head State Park, Donald Todd.
- April 28, Hike, Piney River Trail, David Rhyne.
- Sept. 4-7, Fifth National Trails Symposium, Duluth, Minnesota.

The Nashville Historic Trail is a self-guided 11-mile loop, passing through the heart of downtown Nashville. Some points of interest are Fort Nashboro, Ryman Auditorium (former home of Grand Ole Opry), State Capitol Building; Tennessee State Museum (in the War Memorial Building), Parthenon, and Music Row. A guide booklet will be furnished and a patch is available on completion of the trail. The cost of the patch is \$2.50.

The hike will start at the State Fairgrounds parking area near Wedgewood. avenue at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. Most of the walking will be on Asphalt and concrete. Five or six hours should be allowed for hiking, plus time for lunch break. There are several short order lunch shops along West End Avenue on the way to Centennial Park. There may be brief tours at some of the points of historic interest - an excellent opportunity to learn some Nashville history. For information call Hike Leader Louis Morgan, 865-8947.

We hope for some early wildflowers in Big Ridge Park for the March 24 hike. We'll vary the route from that taken last July, following the Ghost House Trail from the Group Camp, then the Big Valley Trail to the top of Big Ridge. We'll follow the crest of the ridge past Indian Rock, then turn down a steep slope to a cedar glade and follow a section of trail that was cleared last summer, to the historical marker for Sharp's Station, one of the first two settlements west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This will be a Class III trail most of the way, with a short stretch of Class IV, and Class II the rest of the way. Carry lunch and canteen. We have invited Conservation Commissioner Ann Tuck to take this hike with us.

To get to Big Ridge from the west, take the Oak Ridge exit, State Route 58, bear left on SR 95 through Oak Ridge to SR61, then stay on 61 through Clinton, Norris and Andersonville to the park. Meet at the Visitor's Center at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

President Joe Gaines has submitted comment on behalf of TTA on the proposed master plan for Savage Gulf State Natural Area. He suggested that management of the Savage Gulf-Stone Door area be geared to the carrying capacity of the land; and that vehicular access be limited. He feels that a water quality monitoring program is needed within the area, since back country hikers will be using the streams as a potable water supply. He suggests that bridges over the streams might have an adverse environmental impact and the trails could be closed during short periods of high flow.

Pres. Gaines suggested that if it becomes necessary to allow some hunting in the general area, that it be done so as to allow hiking on weekends. Only the Warner Big Timber was open to hunting in 1978, but trails were closed during the hunt period.

This issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS is short, as we didn't get Vice-president Russell Fryer's biography or the report of the Savage Gulf hike. The Editor was in Nashville Feb. 16-17 for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association, but between car trouble, a busy schedule and snow, we didn't get a chance to call anybody.

Secretary Evelyn Tretter attended the legislative committee hearing on the proposed "Bottle Bill" Feb. 19. She wasn't very optimistic about its passing when we talked with her that evening.