

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Calendar:

May 12-13, Nashville Chapter Waterfall trip, David Stidham.
May 18, 7:30 p.m., Meeting, Board of Directors, Jamestown.
May 19-20, Overnight trip, No Business Creek, Joe Gaines, leader.
May 26, Dedication, Big Hill Pond National Recreation Trail.
June 9-10, Nashville Chapter, Fort Henry Trails, Diane Davidson.
June 23, Roan Mountain Rhododendron hike, Mike Dahl.
Sept. 4-9, Fifth National Trails Symposium, Duluth, Minnesota.

David Stidham writes: "Join the Nashville Chapter May 12 and 13 to visit some of Tennessee's most spectacular waterfalls in the Center Hill Lake-Rocking River System areas of Middle Tennessee. Come, bring your camera and enjoy the spray at Burgess (a state natural area), Fanchers (a Corps of Engineers natural area), Cul-Ce-Mac (spectacular). Cummings, Big Falls at Waterloo, Hardscrabble (This one will be worth the trip.), Johnson's, Mill Creek, Pine Creek, and others if there's time.

"That's not all. There will be wildflowers, beautiful vistas, old mills, old mill sites, and more. We'll drive from one waterfall to the next, with short hikes to the falls. There will be some Class IV scrambling around the bluffs and hillsides, so wear sturdy footgear. Meet Saturday morning at the Cumberland Museum in Nashville at 8:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time, or at Burgess Falls Natural Area parking lot at 9:30. We'll car camp Saturday night at the Ragland Bottom Recreation Area on Center Hill Lake near Smithville. The camping fee is \$3.50 per night, with a controlled gate."

The Board of Directors will meet Friday evening, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. CDT at the Jamestown office of Miller, Wihry & Lee, Inc., planning contractor for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Joe Gaines' employer. The office is located a mile south of Jamestown on U. S. 127.

The overnight trip into No Business Creek will not be on a developed trail and there are a couple of steep places to descend. Hikers should meet Leader Joe Gaines at the park office in Pickett State Park at 9:00 a.m. CDT Saturday, May 19. The trip should be finished around noon on Sunday. To get to Pickett, turn right on State Highway 154 just north of Jamestown.

Everyone enjoyed the March 24 hike in Big Ridge State Park. The park staff had cleared some bad windfalls and had marked the lakeshore loop on the Big Valley Trail, anticipating the visit of Conservation Commissioner Ann Tuck. Mrs. Tuck and her husband had spent the night of March 23 at Norris Dam State Resort Park and were escorted to Big Ridge the next morning by Norris Superintendent Dean Farmer.

It had rained all day Friday, but a cold front passed through during the night and we had only a couple of light sprinkles Saturday morning. It was wet under foot at the start at the Group Camp, but after we got onto the ridges, the footing was good. Big Ridge Supt. Jerry Nelson met us at the Sharp's Station historical marker in the park patrol boat and ferried the Tucks and Dot Lingerfelt back to park headquarters. The rest followed the lakeshore loop and climbed back across Big Ridge.

Those on the hike were Evan Means, leader; Commissioner Tuck and her husband, Edward; Ruth Slusher, Helen Kapral, Grimes Slaughter and Sandra Plant, all of Oak Ridge; David Fulmer, Elizabeth Cade, Dot Ventress and Dot Lingerfelt, Chattanooga; Sharon Patterson, Lynn Miller and Harry Williamson, Nashville, and Mike and Fran Dahl, Knoxville. Bill Stutz accompanied Dot Lingerfelt to Big Ridge and spent the day selling TTA to visitors at park headquarters.

Bill Stutz writes: "Sunday, April 1, I attended the funeral of Mr. Cooke

Morgan at Morgan Springs Cemetery on Walden Ridge. He died in Florida at age 84. He was a member of TTA and helped me plan the trip two years ago to the top of Snow Falls and Buzzard Point...and the watermelons. He was a friend to all hiking clubs."

The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association will hold its annual school of river canoeing on the Hiwassee River June 22-24, 1979. The school is now in its tenth year. It is limited to 200 students, who must be ten years of age or older, reasonably healthy, able to swim, and can beg, borrow or otherwise acquire the necessary equipment. Students must furnish their own equipment, which includes one canoe for each two students, paddles, knee pads and life jackets.

The school will be held on the Hiwassee State Scenic River about 20 miles east of Cleveland. Classes and camping will be at the Gee Creek Campground, one mile off U. S. 411 south of Etowah. An informational brochure may be obtained by writing to Audrey and Frank Jones, 724 Summerly Drive, Nashville, TN 37209, or by calling them at 615-352-3191.

Harry Williamson, State Trails System Administrator, reports that the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) has designated the new trail system at Big Hill Pond State Environmental Education Area as a National Recreation Trail. The Editor previewed the Big Hill Pond trail system last September for inclusion in our guide, TENNESSEE TRAILS. There are marshes, rolling terrain, a board walk across a swamp, and a footbridge across the end of the lake.

The formal dedication will be held Saturday, May 26 at 10 a.m. CDT. To get to Big Hill Pond, go west from U. S. 45 south of Selmer on State Highway 57 and watch for the sign about seven miles west of Romer. From Memphis, go east on Route 57 through Germantown, Collierville, Grand Junction and Pocahton. This new trail system provides an excellent facility for West Tennessee hikers.

Fourteen hikers and a golden retriever named "Shannon" made the ten-mile trip on the Piney River Trail April 14. They made good time and the Editor met them only a couple of miles from the Piney River Picnic Area before 4 p.m. We had expected to meet them at the suspension bridge, a mile farther up the trail. The flowers were not at their peak, but the Big Cove on Duskin Creek was carpeted with blossoms. Piney River Trail will be a good place to see wildflowers well into May.

Those on the hike were the leader, David Rhyne and his pal, "Shannon"; Harry Williamson, Sharon Patterson, Lynn Miller, Russell Fryer and Bill Hager, all from the Nashville area; Karen and Henry Shafer, John Heiskell and Dot Lingerfelt, all from Chattanooga; Ruth Slusher, Grimes Slaughter and Evan Means, Oak Ridge; and Carroll Miller and Sarah Sawey, Cookeville. Bill Stutz spent the day at the picnic area. Shannon was well-behaved and stayed at her boss' heel most of the time.

The Editor vacationed at Fontana Village Resort in North Carolina the week of April 16-21 and missed the Frozen Head wildflower hike on the 21st. A good turnout was expected, including Commissioner Tuck. Smoky Mountains Hiking Club had more than 50 hikers in Frozen Head April 14.

This was written before the reception honoring "Friends in Government" on April 24. We regret the mistake in the April issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. The reception was held at Tennessee Botanical Gardens (Cheekwood, not the Sheraton Hotel). The March-April issue of the Tennessee Environmental Report, published by the Tenn. Environmental Council, gave credit to President Joe Gaines and TTA volunteers as the real work force behind the reception. The invitation sent out by the sponsors listed TTA last.