

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

June 9-10, Fort Henry hiking trails, Diane Davidson, leader.  
June 23, Roan Mountain Rhododendron hike, Mike Dahl.  
June 28, Nashville Chapter meeting and potluck picnic.  
July 21, Walls of Jericho, David Stidham  
August 18-19, Weekend on the Hiwassee, David Rhyne  
Sept. 4-9, Fifth National Trails Symposium, Duluth, Minnesota,  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Environmental reception for our Friends in Government, hosted by TTA and 10 other conservation groups, was a great success. I would like to thank Coordinator Diane Davidson, Betty Smith, Evelyn Tretter, Mary Davis, Sharen Patterson, Russell Fryer and David Stidham, and all the other TTA volunteers who did such a good job. Their work has reflected well on our organization.

The U. S. Forest Service has a publication which may be of interest to TTA members. It is called "Backpacking" and contains good information on trail use and ethics. Write to Larry Phillips, Southern Region, U. S. Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree Road, N. W., Atlanta, GA 30309.

I have some reprints of articles on snakebite treatment, foot care, and sun glasses. Anyone who is interested may have copies by sending me a stamped, self-addressed envelop at 5635 Kendall. Drive, Nashville, Tn 37209.

Joe Gaines, President

The Nashville Chapter's June activity will be an overnight trip to the Fort Henry Trail System in the Land Between the Lakes. These trails follow the troop movements generally of General Grant's army in the campaign for control of Fort Donelson during the Civil War. The hikers will camp overnight at Piney Campground. Call Diane Davidson at 741-7918 (daytime) or 297-6181 for the meeting time and place.

The purple rhododendrons should be at their best for the June 23 hike on Roan Mountain. Those who made the trip last June enjoyed it immensely. Hikers leaving home Saturday from the Knoxville-Oak Ridge area should meet Leader Mike Dahl at 7:30 a.m. EDT at Shoney's Restaurant near the I-40 Rutledge Pike exit (U.S. 11W) to pool rides. All hikers will meet at Roan Mountain State Park at 10 a.m. The hike will start from the Carver's Gap crossing of the Appalachian Trail and will take in the rhododendron gardens and the AT on Round Bald, elevation 5800 feet.

The Nashville Chapter will combine its monthly meeting with a potluck picnic Thursday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m. CDT at the Cook Recreation Area on Percy Priest Reservoir. Exit I-40 on Old Hickory Blvd. south to Bell Road and follow the signs. As soon as it is dark enough, David Stidham will show slides taken on the Chapter campout and hikes to Highland Rim waterfalls May 12 and 13.

There was a big turnout, estimated at more than 200 people, for the reception for "Friends in Government" at Cheekwood April 24. President Joe Gaines served as master of ceremonies and gave credit to Diane Davidson and Betty Smith for doing all the "leg work". The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a life membership in the Tennessee Environmental Council to former Commissioner of Conservation B. R. "Buck" Allison. Jim Bailey, retired chief of the Educational Division did the honors.

There was a bright, beautiful day for the Nashville Chapter hike at Radnor Lake Sunday afternoon, April 29. Many wildflowers were blooming and a special attraction was the lavender waterleaf which carpeted many of the slopes, along with a fantastic display of fire pinks. Those on the hike

Mary Davis, leader; Tom Yates and daughter, Becky Couch, Kathy Sandlin, Donna Creswell, Lisa Pate, Eric Krosnes, Don Nelson, Betty Smith, Hope Smith, Evelyn Tretter, Russell Fryer, Charles Wood, Margaret Mann and Tippy.

There has been some reassignment of manpower on the Cumberland Trail. David Shupe has moved to the Nashville Office of the Department of Conservation, where he is environmental review coordinator for the A-95 Federal Aid projects. Richard Weinberger has been promoted from crew foreman on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine to project administrator for the CT. Ken Miller is job foreman and Tim King and another worker will backpack to work on the remote reaches of the northern section.

Harry Williamson says his department is studying the possibility of adapting burros to back country trail work. The animals are available through the "Adopt a Horse" program of the U. S. Department of the Interior, which seeks to relieve the pressure of surplus wild horses and burros on the western rangelands. There is an office in Nashville for that program.

The trails in the South Cumberland Recreation Complex have been nominated for designation as National Recreation Trails. These include the Fiery Gizzard, Savage Gulf and Great Stone Door. There was a delay in coordinating with HCRS and the dedication of the Big Hill Pond National Recreation Trail has been postponed until further notice. The dedication was originally set for May 26.

Our book, TENNESSEE TRAILS, is off the press but it still hadn't reached the bookstores May 22, a week after the announced publication date. Review copies were sent to 75 writers and editors the last week in April. Carson Brewer reviewed it in the Knoxville News-Sentinel May 13 and Henry Reynolds mentioned it in the Memphis Commercial Appeal the same day. An interview with the Author was published in the Friday supplement of the Oak Ridger, which covers the arts and entertainment, along with a picture, May 11.

Members of the Board of Directors who attended the meeting at Jamestown May 18 agree that TTA should have copies of the book available for members who do not have access to book stores and backpack shops. However, where we have promoted the book in those shops, we should not compete with them. The cover price is \$6.95 and we could deliver it postpaid at that price. It is a very attractive volume, backpack size, with a picture of Fall Creek Falls on the cover.

The State of Tennessee now has its own lease agreement with J. M. Huber Corporation, which now owns the American Association lands in Claiborne and Campbell Counties, for the route of the Cumberland Trail across those lands. TTA's agreement with the American Association has been cancelled.

In his letter of cancellation, President Gaines wrote: "On behalf of the Tennessee Trails Association, I would like to thank you for your splendid cooperation and interest in the welfare of the hikers who have enjoyed the trail experience afforded by your lands. I look forward to continued relations with your company in the future."

There is growing interest in the classification of trails which originated in the Nashville Chapter and it may be included in the revised trail standards book which will be published in the near future. We have been using the classification to describe hikes in the Newsletter this year. It wasn't used in the guide book because the hiking public has been accustomed to "Easy, Moderate, and Difficult".

TTA offers trails programs to other organizations interested in the outdoors. We would appreciate word from TTA members who have material worth using in such programs, as well as word of groups who would like to have us present them.