

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

- Sept. 4-7, Fifth National Trails Symposium, Duluth, Minnesota.
- Sept. 15, Hike, Nashville Chapter, Meriwether Lewis Nat'l Mon.
- Sept. 29, Hike, Trail of Tears, Stan Gorin, leader.
- Oct. 21, Fall color hike, Nashville Chapter, Percy Warner Park.
- Oct. 25-27, Fourth Tennessee Trails Symposium, Standing Stone.
- Oct. 27, Annual meeting, Standing Stone State Rustic Park.
- Nov. 17, Overnight trip, Pickett, Harry Williamson.

After a busy August, September will be a fairly quiet month. Harry Williamson appears to be the only TTA member going to Duluth. Evan Means cancelled because of Virginia's surgery and President Joe Gaines is tied up with Big South Fork trail planning.

The Nashville Chapter will sponsor a hike on Sept. 15 on the old Natchez Trace near the place where Meriwether Lewis met his death mysteriously. It is a Class II trail, a 5-mile loop through a very scenic and historic area. Bring lunch and meet at the museum in Meriwether Lewis State Park at 10 a.m. CDT. From Nashville, take I-65 south to State Route 99, Columbia exit. Go through Columbia to Gordonsburg, then proceed south on the Natchez Trace Parkway 6 miles to the exit for the park. To carpool from Nashville, meet at the Cumberland Museum at 8:30 a.m. For information, call Russell Fryer at 865-1790.

The TTA membership activity for September is a hike on the Shellsford-Cardwell Mountain Trail, off the Trail of Tears State Scenic Route, on the 29th. Meet Stan Gorin at Cumberland Caverns at 9:30 a.m. CDT. In case of rain, take along a hard hat and flashlight for an alternate cave trip. To get to Cumberland Caverns, take U.S. 70S between Sparta and McMinnville and watch for the sign, or go southeast from McMinnville on SR8.

The big news at this time is the Fourth State Trails Symposium, to be held at Standing Stone State Rustic Park Oct. 25-27. Copies of the program and a reservation form have been mailed to TTA members and interested persons. Pres. Gaines says he would like for as many as possible to return the reservation blank so he can get an idea how many will be attending. It is not necessary to send payment with the blank.

Pres. Gaines writes: "I would like to encourage everyone to come to our annual meeting and the Trail Symposium at Standing Stone. The meeting should be interesting, productive - and fun. We will have an opportunity to learn a lot about trail facilities and programs across the State, as well as to prepare policy statements on a variety of topics.

"I hope that we will have a large turnout for both the Friday and Saturday programs. An open discussion period with government officials Friday afternoon will allow us to express our views and discuss our trails and environmental programs. If anyone has trouble finding a place to stay, contact me at 356-4899 or Harry Williamson, 741-3852.

"Bob Clement, the newly-appointed director of TVA, has written to TTA expressing his desire to work closely with us on trail programs. He has extended an invitation to meet with him in Knoxville to discuss mutual interests. The Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers is finalizing recommendations for an extensive system of foot trails in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, including 65 spectacular miles of the John Muir State Scenic Trail.

"Commissioner Ann Tuck, Assistant Commissioner Tim McCall, and State Parks Director Don Charpio have all discussed with me their priorities for trail development and maintenance within State areas. The active role of

TTA in supporting these agencies and officials will result in increased trail opportunities."

David Stidham reports that 33 people showed up for the Walls of Jericho hike July 21 on a rainy weekend. Thirty-one started on the hike and about half of them gave up by noon. The creek was high, so that the route had to be changed somewhat. It was quite an adventure.

Evelyn Tretter reports that 12 adults and three children participated in the Nashville Chapter's hike Sunday afternoon, Aug. 5, to Round Bottom and the Narrows of the Harpeth, an archaeological and natural area recently purchased by the State. A temporary headquarters building for the complex is open and rangers are on duty at the Narrows. Round Bottom was an Indian town dating back to about 1100 A.D. and contains about 15 mounds, some of which have been excavated by the Division of Archaeology. The group walked to the Bottom, then returned to the cars and went to the Narrows, where there is a scenic ridgetop trail, historic tunnel which routed water to the site of an old iron foundry, and a marvelous swimming hole. This was greatly enjoyed by some of the group, in the mid-nineties heat. John Hart and Harry Williamson were the leaders.

The Weekend on the Hiwassee Aug. 17-18 was a rousing success. Thirty-two people went on the raft trip and 12 hiked the Oswald Dome Trail with Harry Williamson. Dave Rhyne and lady friend did a great barbecue with all the trimmings at Quinn Springs. About 40 people ate all they could hold. Those who camped overnight on Oswald Dome were Harry Williamson, Sharen Patterson, John Hart, Evelyn Tretter, Jack Neff, Elizabeth and Jeff Gurlick, and Dennis and Dean Horn.

TTA's exhibits at the Tenn. Tech Educational Conference Aug. 14 and the Tenn. Environmental Education Association conference at Sewanee Aug. 17-18 were well received. Quite a few people picked up TTA brochures and the August newsletter. The Cumberland Trail brochure was popular and we soon ran out of copies of THE TENNESSEE SPORTSMAN with trails stories. We sold ten copies of TENNESSEE TRAILS, plus two more when we gave a program for Cumberland County Beautiful at Ozone Aug. 13. The profit from sale of the books helps finance TTA projects.

Programs on trails for civic, church, and other organizations are good public relations for TTA. Sam Powell has an excellent collection of slides on the southern portion of the Cumberland Trail and Evan Means has nearly 100 slides altogether on Tennessee trails in general. The Nashville Chapter should be able to work up a good selection and has a great potential "market" for TTA presentations.

Before we forget it, Pres. Joe Gaines has appointed a nominating committee for the annual meeting Oct. 27. They are David Stidham, chairman, Russell Fryer and Betty Smith. They would like to have your suggestions of candidates for officers and one director. The term of Donald Todd, Wartburg, expires this year. Holdover directors are Bill Stutz and Evan Means.

We had a letter from TTA member Thurman Simmons of Memphis, telling of trail conditions in Meeman-Shelby State Park. He says the park management wants to close all foot trails but the old Woodland Trail that was built in the 1930's. Copies of Thurman's letter, along with a cover letter from Pres. Joe Gaines, are being sent to Commissioner Ann Tuck and State Trails Administrator Harry Williamson. We need also to stir up public interest in the Memphis area.

Support TTA activities.