

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume X

November 1979

Number 12

Calendar:

- Nov. 3-4, Nashville Chapter, overnight, Virgin Falls, Ron Edwards.
- Nov. 17, Pickett State Park (optional overnight), Harry Williamson.
- Dec. 1, Nashville Chapter hike, Ashland City Marsh, Margaret Mann.
- Dec. 8, Roan Mtn. or Trail of Lonesome Pine, Mike Dahl.

Ron and Barbara Edwards will be the leaders for the Nashville Chapter hike and overnight campout in the Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness Nov. 3 and 4. Nashville members who may wish to go in a caravan or car pool should meet at the Cumberland Museum at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Others may meet at the Courthouse in Sparta at 9:30 a.m. CST.

For the overnights there is a primitive campground at the Caney Fork River, within a few hundred yards of Virgin Falls. Drinking water is available. For those who wish to make a day hike only, there will be ample time to hike out before dark. The round trip is about 8 miles.

This wilderness area is picturesque, with bluffs, waterfalls and caves along the trail. The 110-foot Virgin Falls emerges from a cave at the top of a cliff and disappears back into a cave at the bottom. For additional information, call 615-883-0615.

Harry Williamson will lead the hike on the Hidden Passage Trail in Pickett State Rustic Park Nov. 17. This trail is described by George Minnigh in TENNESSEE TRAILS. There will be side trips on shorter trails as time permits. There will be an optional overnight hike. Meet at Park headquarters at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Nashville members call Evelyn Tretter at 859-0566 for car pool arrangements.

Margaret Mann will lead the Nashville Chapter hike at the Ashland City Marsh Saturday, Dec. 1. Meet at the Ashland City Courthouse at 1:30 p.m.

In order to meet our publication schedule and get "Tennessee Trails" to our members by the first of the month, we went to press before the State Trails Symposium and the annual meeting. President Joe Gaines expected a good turnout and an excellent program had been arranged. A final meeting of the Program Committee was held at the President's home Oct. 21. We give special thanks to the donors of door prizes and to the participants who made the Symposium possible.

TTA Member James Woodring of Chenoa, Kentucky, writes about conditions in Frozen Head State Natural Area. He and his wife and their four children spent three nights on trails there over the Labor Day weekend. He writes:

"The trails were marked well enough and in good condition, but on top and along the jeep road it was a dump. On Saturday afternoon at the tower on Frozen Head, 8 vehicles came up. Two of them had drunken drivers; three car-leads were drinking, and the other three were sober. On Sunday morning we were cooking breakfast at Tub Spring when 6 trucks drove by within an hour - hunters? There were cans and bottles and other trash all up and down the road."

His final statement: "It looks as if the local people run the park for their own drinking and hunting pleasure and that should not be." There is a small inholding at Mart Field, not far from Tub Spring, that is a source of embarrassment for the State Parks Division. The owner forces the State to provide access to the property, which has a small cabin and a spring. Four young men, school teachers from Gainesville, Fla., who were backpacking in Frozen Head last Thanksgiving, made a dry camp out on the ridge rather than bed down amid the litter at the spring.

Woodring is a leader for both Boy and Girl Scouts and is interested in

trail-building. He asks how to get to the Cumberland Trail at Cumberland Gap. To get to the trail head, leave cars at the top of the Gap in the parking area for Tri-States Peak on Highway U.S. 25E and follow the trail to the peak. The Cumberland Trail follows the top of the ridge to the left past Fort Farragut, a civil war breastwork, and ascends to the crest of Cumberland Mountain. At last word, the State crews had only reached Baptist Gap on the 22-mile leg from Cumberland Gap to Childress Gap. TTA had that section marked and mapped in the early seventies.

In his second environmental message, issued Aug. 2 by President Carter, he directed the U. S. Forest Service to establish 145 additional recreation trails on National Forest lands by 1980, and other Federal land-managing agencies to designate a total of at least 75 new National Recreation trails by the end of next year. The Secretary of the Interior was also directed to make a nationwide assessment of trail needs, to be accomplished through a series of 15 regional workshops.

In addition, the President said he plans to submit legislation to establish a 513-mile Natchez Trace National Trail from Nashville to Natchez, Miss. This could give a boost to our Natchez Trace State Scenic Trail.

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) is coordinating the regional workshops. An insert in this issue of "Tennessee Trails" outlines the President's program and gives the schedule for workshops in this region. We urge all TTA members to attend the workshop nearest to their homes.

Bill Stutz sent us a clipping of the obituary of TTA Member John Rankin of Signal Mountain, who died Sept. 21 as the result of an accident on one of his home-construction jobs.

Bill also sent a clipping with a picture of Bob Richards, project administrator for the South Cumberland Recreation Area and TTA member, with other people at the Hunting and Fishing Day booth at Eastgate Center in Chattanooga Sept. 22. Bill suggests two annual awards by TTA for outstanding work on trails, one for a volunteer and one for a government employee.

Jeanette Fitzwilliams, president of the Virginia Trails Association, wants to see the Southeastern Trails Conference held again next year. She suggests that it be tied in with the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Oct. 10, 1980. However, there is the question of local area organizations to handle the mechanics of the meeting and the only overnight accommodations at South Carolina's Kings Mountain State Park are a campground and a group camp.

Previous regional conferences have been held in State Parks. If we can set up a committee among Southeastern trail organizations, we can hold the 1980 meeting in Oak Ridge. The TTA Board of Directors was to discuss its part in the 1980 SE Conference at its quarterly meeting at Standing Stone Oct. 26.

The members of the Board at the last meeting agreed to submit a resolution to the Department of Conservation, calling for special tent camping areas away from noisy generators and recreation vehicles at State Park Campgrounds; better control of glare from lights; an educational program covering the impact of lights, noise and misbehavior on the recreational experience of other park visitors; screening of campsites by use of vegetation, etc., and installation of brackets for gasoline lanterns to protect trees.

According to the draft master plan for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, more than 400 miles of hiking trails are in the works. President Joe Gaines is the trail planner with Miller, Wihry & Lee, contractor for planning facilities in the BSNRAA. The plan includes also more than 100 miles of horseback trails which will be separated from the foot trails.