

TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

Volume XI

December 1979

Number 1

Calendar:

- Dec. 1, Hike, Nashville Chapter, Ashland City Marsh, Margaret Mann.
- Dec. 6, Joint meeting, Nashville Chapter and Audubon Society,
- Dec. 8, Hike, Trail of the Lonesome Pine, Mike Dahl.

The hour has been changed for the Dec. 1 hike. Meet at the Ashland City Courthouse at 11:00 a.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. Park in the lot behind the Courthouse, as Ashland City is a busy place on Saturday. Margaret says to bring lunch and you can watch for a bald eagle while you eat. There may also be ospreys and herons.

There will be a joint meeting of the Nashville Chapter and the Cumberland-Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society, with a potluck dinner at the Cumberland Museum Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m. Bring show and tell slides, a maximum of 12 - pictures of grandchildren not allowed. There will not be a meeting on the 27th as stated in the Museum's "Cumberland Notes."

The December TTA hike will be on the section of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine between State Highways 31 and 66. Meet the leader, Mike Dahl, at Shoney's Restaurant off the Rutledge Pike (U.S. 11W) exit of I-40 in Knoxville for car-pooling at 8:30 a.m. EST. Those who miss the group should take 11W to Mooresburg and turn north on SR31 to the trailhead on the crest of Clinch Mountain. Be there by 10 a.m. There will be views of the Clinch River valley to the north and Cherokee Lake to the south. Bring lunch and canteen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank everyone who worked on and attended the Fourth State Trails Symposium and annual meeting. It was a great success and should set the stage for a good year.

Plans are under way for the establishment of a TTA chapter in Memphis. Helen Keith, Larry Turner and Doug Davis are making plans for a January organizational meeting. More information will be sent out about this meeting and I hope that all West Tennessee members will be able to attend. Local chapters are the way to a strong and active TTA.

The State is currently planning to do away with THE TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST Magazine. This publication has been in existence more than 40 years and is one of the few forums for conservation interests in Tennessee. Its suspension will be a severe loss to all Tennesseans. I would like for each TTA member to write to Commissioner Ann Tuck, Department of Conservation, 2611 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203, opposing this action.

In case our letters are too late to change Department action, contact your local State Senators and Representatives and ask that the Legislature restore funds for the CONSERVATIONIST. Please take a few minutes to help save this important publication.

Everyone, please remember our challenge for each to sign up at least one new TTA member! We want our Association to grow stronger.

Joe Gaines, President.

The Fourth State Trails Symposium was a big success. We had people attending from Kentucky, Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and Washington, D.C., as well as a lot of home folks. The attendance matched that of the 1978 Southeast Trails Conference. Too much went on to get it into our short newsletter, so we hope that the Dept. of Conservation and Pres. Joe Gaines will find a way to publish the proceedings.

Joe Gaines was re-elected president at the annual meeting Oct. 27. Russell Fryer asked to be relieved as Vice-president and David Stidham was elected to succeed him. Evelyn Tretter and Dot Lingerfelt were re-elected as Secretary and Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer. Bertha Chrietzberg of MSU,

Murfreesboro, was elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors, succeeding Donald Todd, Sr. of Wartburg.

AWARDS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

The big news from the annual meeting is the establishment of the TENNESSEE TRAILS AWARD. The amendment proposed in the October issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS was adopted, except that the wording was changed. Any member may nominate persons or groups to receive the annual award. One award will be given each year and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Three awards were given the first time.

Paul Adams of Crab Orchard, a life member of TTA and founder of the camp on Mt. LeConte in 1925, was on hand to receive the first award. Mack Prichard made the presentation speech and Paul talked briefly about his observations of nature. Dot Lingerfelt made the presentation speech for Wm. E. Stutz, who was unable to attend because of poor health. Bill Stutz is a pioneer member of the Tristate Trail Club and has been membership chairman of TTA the past several years. His was the second award.

Bill made a prototype trophy which we have named the Bill Stutz Trailblazer Trophy. Dot Lingerfelt brought it to the annual meeting. It has a gilded hiking boot (Bill's own) mounted on a green stand with flowers at each end. The words, "Hiker No. 1" are on one side and "Trailblazer" is on the other. It will be rotated annually to the recipient of the Tennessee Trails Award.

Grimes Slaughter made the presentation speech and gave the Bill Stutz Trophy to Evan Means, originator of the Cumberland Trail, co-founder with Mack Prichard and Bob Brown of the Tennessee Trails Association; editor of the newsletter, TENNESSEE TRAILS, since 1969, and author of the book of the same name. Needless to say, the Editor appreciates all the nice things that were said about him and will try to live up to them.

An amendment to the by-laws was adopted, raising the student membership dues to \$3.00 a year. The newsletter alone costs nearly that much per member.

An amendment was proposed, creating a Life Membership at \$100, and the members will be polled by mail to ratify it. Mack Prichard bought the first life membership. This is in addition to the life membership conferred on deserving individuals. Paul Adams is the only life member in that category.

We give special thanks to David Rhyne and Sherri Reynolds, who presided over the punch bowl and hors d'oeuvres provided by Bowater for the social hour Friday evening. David won the backpack and Deborah Beaseley won the Camp 7 sleeping bag donated by Cumberland Transit of Nashville. Assistant Conservation Commissioner Tim McCall won the Eaureka two-man mountain tent donated by Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, of Knoxville.

We were especially honored by the presence of Conservation Commissioner Ann Tuck, who accepted the certificate designating the South Cumberland Trail System a National Recreation Trail, presented by Richard Sussman of HCRS.

We thank the people from government agencies who participated in the Symposium, including Sussman, David Pack from TVA; David Stidham, Corps of Engineers; Marvin K. Lautitsen, Cherokee National Forest; Merrill D. Beal, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Commissioner Tuck, Tim McCall, Harry Williamson, and all the others.

The findings of the workshops led by Russell Fryer, Joe Gaines, Bertha Christzberg, Richard Weinberger, Bob Brown, Mike Dahl, David Rhyne and Bob Richards will be compiled as guidelines for TTA and the State in developing the trails program for Tennessee.

Those who were unable to go to Standing Stone missed a great meeting.