

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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### Calendar:

- May 9, 7:30 p.m., TTA Board meeting, Cumberland Mountain State Park.
- May 10, Hike, Big Creek Day Loop, Beersheba Springs, Bob Richards.
- May 24-25, Nashville Chapter trip to Mammoth Cave, Gene Curp.
- June 13-15, TSRA Canoe School, Hiwassee River.
- June 21, Roan Mountain rhododendron hike, Mike Dahl.
- October 17-19, Annual meeting and outing, Camp Ocoee.

The second quarter Board meeting will be held at Cumberland Mountain State Park Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. The agenda will include plans for the annual meeting; a financial report; discussion of a possible new format for the Newsletter, and a proposed dues increase for 1981. Board meetings are open to the membership.

Bob Richards will lead the hike on the Big Creek Day Loop in the Great Stone Door Natural Area Saturday, May 10. Hikers should meet Bob at 9 a.m. Central Daylight Time at the roadside park on the south side of State Highway 56 in Beersheba Springs. This is 26 miles south of McMinnville, on the left as you top the mountain from the Collins River Valley, or 28 miles from Monteagle via Tracy City.

The hike will be 8 to 9 miles and will go down through the Great Stone Door into the Big Creek Gulf, returning after the halfway mark along the rim of the Big Creek gorge. The trail is described on page 126 of TENNESSEE TRAILS. Hikers should bring sturdy hiking boots, water and lunch.

Gene Curp invites all TTA members to join the Nashville Chapter on the trip to Mammoth Cave National Park May 24 for an easy (Class I & II) 7.1-mile day hike. Gene says, "See a blind valley, numerous old homesites, ridges, bluffs, and an old country church and graveyard. Eleven deer were sighted while scouting the trail. Bring a trail lunch and water.

"Camp overnight with us at our reserved site, Great Onyx Meadows. A picnic shelter with two fireplaces, tables and chemical toilets are the facilities offered. Plan on hauling water from Park Headquarters. Children, tyros, and tenderfeet of all ages are welcome. Should you have any concern over the distance, relax. Three escape points are located along the loop.

"Carpeolers from Nashville meet at 7:30 a.m. at Cumberland Museum. Rendezvous at the gas station and postoffice at Park Headquarters at 9:30. Campers will be given time to lock up their gear before the hike. Departure from the gas station for the trailhead, Good Spring Church, will be promptly at 10:15 a.m. A leisurely pace should get us back to our cars about 3:30 p.m."

### PLAQUE PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR

President Joe Gaines writes: "Bertha Chrietzberg and I met with Governor Alexander on March 19. We had a very pleasant meeting and discussion of Tennessee Trails. He was very pleased with the plaque we gave him. Sorry that Evan and Paul were ill and could not meet with us."

In a letter dated March 25, Governor Alexander wrote: "Dear Joe: Thank you and every member of TTA very much for the absolutely beautiful plaque you presented me commemorating my walk across our state. It is particularly meaningful, being made from Tennessee Walnut and fashioned by Tennesseans.

"It will certainly remain among my special souvenirs, and again, thank you and TTA for your kindness in remembering me.

"My best wishes to Tennessee Trails Association for their continued efforts in developing their programs to insure that many more of our state's citizens enjoy the blessings I received from my 'walk'

Sincerely, Lamar Alexander."

Evan Means and Paul Adams were scheduled to receive their plaques for the

Tennessee Trails Award but Paul's doctor wouldn't let him make the trip and Evan was recovering from major surgery in Oak Ridge hospital. A card was mailed to Joe Gaines on the 13th, the day after the operation, and he didn't get it until March 20th. Evan hopes the Governor doesn't think he missed the meeting for political reasons.

#### THANKS FROM THE EDITOR

I appreciate all the cards and calls from friends and I particularly thank Dot Lingerfelt for getting out the April issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. My recovery has been rapid and I am again walking short trails, building up to longer hikes. I'll be receiving precautionary chemo-therapy in the near future, to be sure that no cancer cells remain in my system. That may be worse than the operation.

#### HIKE REPORTS

The weather has been rough on TTA activities this year. First, the Bearwaller Gap hike was postponed, then Margaret Mann's hike in Edwin Warner Park April 13 was rained out. In addition, work has been slowed on the Long Hunter Trail around J. Percy Priest Reservoir.

Bill Hager reports: "There were five participants, including myself, Mark Wolcott, Gallatin, and Pat Stallings, Betty Richards and Margaret Mann, all of Nashville, on the rescheduled Bearwaller Gap hike April 5. It was a fine spring day, bright sunshine and 60 degrees. We observed much erosion on some sections of the trail, due to heavy winter rains, and much evidence of "Spring in bloom".

"Mark, Betty and Margaret climbed a hollow tree near the primitive campsite to observe the nest of a buzzard which flew off so they could see the eggs."

President Gaines had to cancel the Big South Fork backpack trip because he had the flu. He hopes to reschedule the trip.

Evelyn White McKinney of Knoxville and Helen W. McGregor of Nashville participated in the annual Wildflower Walks at Fontana Village Resort in the mountains of North Carolina April 14-19. Evan Means was there with a group of outdoor writers, several of whom enjoyed the slide shows that were part of the activities. TENNESSEE TRAILS is on sale in Fontana gift shops and is moving well.

Sally Hill McMillan, director of The East Woods Press, reported total sales of 2201 copies of the book through the end of March.

Sherry Anderson, TTA member from Hendersonville, is working this season at Mount LeCente and hopes fellow-members will hike up to see her.

#### PLEASE RETURN BALLOTS

All members who haven't voted are urged to return their ballots, which were enclosed with the April issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. We need a majority affirmative vote to ratify the proposed amendment creating life memberships.

#### EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

TTA members had a big part in the activities connected with Earth Day, April 22. Diane Davidson was a member of the steering committee in the Nashville area. Dot Ventress had charge of a TTA exhibit at the Nature Center in Reflection. Riding on Lookout Mountain April 26. TTA had an exhibit in Percy Warner Park in Nashville April 26 and 27. Jimmy Whittle showed the latest in backpacking equipment and techniques.

In Oak Ridge, the Environmental Quality Advisory Board, of which Evan Means is chairman, presented certificates of appreciation to five business firms that had enhanced the environment around their buildings, and to the Campfire Girls and Girl Scout Troop No. 69. The Girl Scouts have maintained a paper recycling center for several years.