



# TENNESSEE TRAILS

Official publication of the  
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

VOLUME XVI, NO. 6

JUNE 1985

## DON TODD CITED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Don Todd, TTA member in Wartburg, has received a 1985 Gulf Oil Conservation Award for his efforts to preserve Cumberland Mountains wilderness. Don is a retired science teacher and one of TTA's wildflower experts. Don organized the successful citizen campaign to keep the land adjacent to Frozen Head State Natural Area free from surface mining. Their petition against strip mining was not only the first to be granted in Tennessee, but also one of just a few in the nation. Now in its 31st year, the Gulf conservation awards program recognizes volunteers and professional conservationists for their work in protecting the earth's renewable natural resources. Don received a \$1,000 cash award, citation and bronze plaque at the awards ceremony in Washington DC On May 23rd.

TTA BOARD MEETING - meet at 7:30 pm Central Time at the restaurant at Cumberland Mountain State Park following the CT work trip. Meet us at 6:30 for dinner.

TO: TTA Chapter chairs

FROM: Gene Curp

SUBJECT: Annual Meeting Door Prizes

A reminder to please have your chapter solicit 2 door prizes from your area. Please notify me of the pledge and name of donor as soon as available.

We have pledges to date:

Sports and Trails

Cumberland Transit

a friend of TTA

American Fitness

Tn Div of Forestry

Fintech Group

Tn Div of Parks

candle lantern, compass, boot care kit  
daypack

set of topos for Big South Fork NRA

2 free 2-week passes

set of nature posters

8 copies-Nashville historic buildings

2 books (Natural Bridges & Spirit of Mtns)

Go get 'em! Gene

## Chapter News

### Nashville

NASHVILLE CHAPTER MEMBERS: Gene Curp is in charge of door prizes for the annual meeting. Members who have a connection with a place of business which might donate a prize are asked to contact the business, but please check with Gene first so there will not be duplications. This applies to Nashville only. In other places go ahead with your contacts. When you have a prize in hand or promised, please let Gene know so he can keep a record and also thank the donor. Gene's phone: 824-1171.

#### NASHVILLE CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, June 27 - 6:30 pm

COME JOIN US for Pot Luck Supper at Warner Park Nature Center, Hwy 100 at Old Hickory Blvd. Staff Member Deb Beazley will give us a history of Warner Parks and tell us about the trails, including a new trail being built. Bring your friends, a dish to share, and your own drink. Plates and utensils will be furnished.

South Cumberland Recreation Area schedule of hikes is printed after the TTA Newsletter has gone to the printer leaving us wondering about all the interesting hikes schedule in and around the **STONE DOOR AREA**. Randy Hedgepath, Ranger/Naturalist, has graciously agreed to mail the schedule to us, saving a long distance call for information. Nashville Chapter Members call Pat Anderson, 383-2355, for current

### Memphis

Our June meeting will feature Betty Tabatabai and slides of western wildflowers. This should get Betty Porter and Gene Jacobson geared up for their "flight" through the Grand Canyon. Betty will also show slides of native wildflowers to compare with their western counterparts. So bring a friend and your favorite trail snack to share to Memphis Chapter's June 20 meeting, 7:30 at Kingsway Christian Church.

PLEASE NOTE: The TTA trip to the Ocoee River on August 11 has 15 spaces reserved at the Nantahala Outdoor Center for the 10:15 rafting. If you would like to go, call Betty Porter (901) 363-0213 before June 7 or send a check to her for \$22 before June 7 - 3056 Clearbrook, Memphis 38118

Send material for Tennessee Trails to: David Stidham, Editor  
1015 Hitt Lane  
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

The deadline is the 20th of each month. If possible, submit material camera ready, typed in a full 4½ inch column. Artwork is welcomed.

## HIKES

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Leader: Bob Barnett 767-9347

TTA-Murfreesboro Chapter  
Walls of Jericho Hike  
Saturday, June 15, 1985  
Hike Leader: Bob Richards

We will be meeting at 10:00 A.M. at the National Guard Armory in Winchester. The Armory is located approximately 1.0 miles west of the courthouse square on Highway 64. We will be parking the cars and starting the hike just across the Alabama State Line on Tennessee State Highway 16. We will hike back to Tennessee.

This hike is fairly strenuous with a 1000' elevation change (drop in, climb out). The group will be crossing Hurricane Mill Creek and then hiking (rock hopping) up the Turkey Creek Gorge to the Walls of Jericho. We eat lunch by the spring and relax for a while before starting back. If you are brave, bring your swimsuit.

Hikers will need good shoes/boots, water and a lunch. This is a go-rain-or-shine.

Bob Richards 615-742-6680 (o)

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The Memphis Chapter third annual trek across the state! We'll camp at Elkmont and day hike. Some are going early in the week and staying later. Call Betty for more info.

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Raccoon Mountain, Nickajack Cave trip set for June 8 by Nashville Chapter has been postponed. Nashville hikers may like to join Memphis members for their hike at Davy Crockett State Park on that date. (See details this issue.)

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#### Work Trip

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Most of the "work" will consist of cleaning limbs off the treadway "barehanded". There will be a one mile walk in to the work area. Sightseeing and joke telling encouraged.

Bring lunch, water, and workgloves. Bow saws, swing blades, pruning shears will help if you have these.

Plan to stay over for the TTA Board meeting on Saturday night at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Informal pedestrian sightseeing will be conducted on Sunday for the diehards.

Gene Curp  
(615) 256-2566 days  
(615) 824-1171 evenings

### John Muir Trail-Rhododendron Hike (Pickett State-Forest)

June 9, 1985

This hike will take us into a newly opened area of Pickett State Forest via a section of the John Muir Trail. We will meet at the Pickett State Park Office at 9:30 a.m. CDT. The hike will wind along Rock Creek for six miles and there will be approximately twenty-seven creek crossings; welcome refreshers for a warm day in June. The scenery should be outstanding, as we will be hiking through a forest of huge white pine and hemlock with thick growths of rhododendron. The rhododendron should be in full bloom at this time. This is the first section of the John Muir Trail that has been constructed by the State of Tennessee.

Leaders: James Smith 879-9325  
Jamestown  
Terry Bonham 228-3664  
Nashville

IV	8	HOWARD RAY DUNCAN	(615)879-8245
II	10	JOANN PHILLIPS	(901)363-6485/454-2716
III		ARTHUR YATES	(615)459-5661X222 (W)
		RAY BURKETT	(901)358-7150



## TRIP REPORTS

Big South Fork Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, May 3 & 4, 1985 - The Second Annual Big South Fork Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, which was held on Friday and Saturday on the weekend of May 3 & 4, was termed a success, with people coming from throughout Tennessee to attend the orientation meeting on Friday and the tours which were led on Saturday. The Friday night program consisted of presentations and slides which were given by representatives of the National Park Service, the Department of Conservation - State Parks Division, the Tennessee Division of Forestry, and the Cumberland Mountain Chapter. There was a good turnout on Saturday for most of the ten tours that were led on area hiking trails. Mother Nature cooperated well as flowers of all types were in bloom and the weather was perfect. The Big South Fork Wildflower Pilgrimage is an annual event that was founded by several local organizations. This section of the Cumberland is home to one of the widest varieties of wildflowers outside the Great Smokey Mountain, and its unique scenery is unrivaled...Steven Burke.

Tishomingo State Park, MS. May 5th (Memphis)

The day was almost perfect for hiking with the temperature in the 70's and partly cloudy skies. Occasional breezes boosted the spirit and hiking pace of the ten Memphians that enjoyed this trip.

At the start of the hiking day we walked over the swinging bridge into the midst of the bulk of the rock outcroppings. The day before the trip leader had observed people rock climbing in this part of the park but no one was seen participating in this activity on Sunday. Our hike out of this region was on a trail along Bear Creek. The creek was near flood stage on Friday and so all canoe trips for the week-end had been cancelled, but had receded some by Sunday.

The group ate lunch in the pleasant area around the 1800's cabin. After lunch we hiked a trail that initially lead us past a rocky stream and through some more rock outcroppings. After that the trail lead us on a roller coaster walk to Haynes Lake. The group opted to return via the same route rather than circling around Haynes Lake.

As our final hike the group took a trail that lead us across the Natchez Trace Parkway and back to the cabin area. From there we hiked along the road past the Saddleback Ridge Trail and through the campground area that surrounds Haynes Lake back to the cars.

Near Tishomingo State Park are some sights that the leader hopes to share with the group on an outing in 1986. Not far away from the park are three stops along the Natchez Trace Parkway that are worth the time it takes to see them. These stops are at the Bear Creek Indian Mound, Bear Cave Springs and at a ½ mile uphill trail that provides a scenic look out of the whole area at the terminus. It would be especially delightful at sunrise or sunset. Also, between the park and Iuka is the turnoff for Woodall Mountain. This little mountain isn't as high by Tennessee standards, but it is the highest point in Mississippi.

Happy Trails,  
Bob Barnett

CUMBERLAND TRAIL WORK TRIP, 11 May 1985 - Bob Brown was met by 0 (zero) people who carpooled in mass to Brady Mountain for a little trail work. Bob blazed a side trail to the second overlook on this trip..

WATERFALLS, ETC., 25-27 May, 1985 (Chattanooga Chapter) - Three (and sometimes 5) TTA members and 1 guest spent three days in perfect weather hiking to many beautiful and unique natural features in the Chattanooga region. From the South Cumberland Recreation Area visitor center, the group began their adventures at BRIDAL VEIL FALLS. This time the owner welcomed our group and even had the trail cleared! Now is a good time to see this seldom visited waterfall, because its for sale! Next stop was ANDERSON FALLS and RAVENS POINT overlook on the Fiery Gizzard Trail. Adjacent landowner Robert Baggenstoss was super nice, while brother Herman (recipient of the 1984 TTA Award) greeted us at their famous Dutch Maid Bakery with fresh, hot sweetrolls. Supplied with fresh baked goods, we took off for GREETER FALLS in the Savage Gulf area. We missed the trail to the creek, and had to drop off the hillside (er..cliffside!) to the base of the falls. A touchy climb up a ladder and short hike past upper falls and tempting swimming holes brought us back to the jeep trail. We camped the first night at Foster Falls Campground (TVA, free, and convenient) and visited FOSTER FALLS the next morning. On the way to Signal Mountain, we stopped at KETNER MILL In Sequatchie Valley, just in time to meet mill owner Clyde Ketner. We were privileged to see him demonstrate a water powered wool carding machine that has been in his milling family since the Revolutionary War. At Signal Point Park on Signal Mountain, we hiked the tail end of the Cumberland Trail to RAINBOW FALLS and breathtaking views of the Tennessee River Gorge. That little "trail" to the base of the falls is a class 6 at best! That was enough of a hike for one day, but noone complained about the little hike around MONTLAKE. Maybe that is because they were too thrilled studying this unique natural wonder - a several hundred feet deep lake in the bottom of a 600 ft. circular sandstone sinks, ON TOP of a mountain! What is the source of all the water way up there? How did this vertical sided sinkhole form? It's only one of a few similar features in the world, but unfortunately even the owner couldn't answer our questions when we met him on one of the elaborate overlooks of MONTLAKE. After a scenic drive along NORTH CHICAMAUGA GULCH, and studying an abandoned deep mine, we headed for POINT PARK on Lookout Mountain, a unit of the Chic-Chat National Military Park. With a little history learning and views of Moccasin Bend to add to our treasures, we were off to Cloudland Canyon Georgia Park for the second night. On our way, at Lookout Mountain's west brow, we had the thrill of watching a man literally jump off the escarpment and soar gracefully like a bird - in his hang glider. What timing! We were leaving Cloudland Canyon by 9am Monday morning, having already seen DANIEL'S CREEK FALLS in the park's canyon, and viewed the rugged Sitton's Gulch from a rim top overlook. Next stop was DESOTO FALLS in Alabama. This 100 ft. high fall drops off into an incredibly huge hole - half circle of high cliffs forming the head of Little River - and the largest plunge pool I have ever seen! Hernando Desota was no doubt as awe struck as we were when he passed this way over 450 years ago. From DESOTO FALLS, a drive across the Tennessee

(cont'd)



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Valley, past rolling farmland, broad lake, and nuclear power plant, took us to the trail to NEVERSINK. NEVERSINK, perhaps the highlight of the trip, is a 162 ft. deep limestone pit with an opening 60-70 feet across and small stream cascading off the ledges and plunging into the pit's depths. The fern and jack-in-the-pulpit coated ledges, tree-lined rim, waterfall, microclimate with minature clouds and nearly circular rainbows, and a demonstration of rappelling and prussiking made the NEVERSINK experience unforgettable! After a short visit at RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, a tired crew headed for home. If you weren't one of the fortunate participants, you may want to ask one of them about the rhododendron and mountain laurel blooms, flying saucer at rest, copperhead doing same, eight times up and down the Cumberland Plateau by car, six times down and back up the escarpment by foot, a sky full of stars, a lost jail, 4-wheeling in a 2x2, strawberries, and the path meal takes as it is ground between two millstones. One of the participants summed it up for all of us when she said she would never forget this trip - never. Stidham

## Volunteer Vacations

The American Hiking Society offers many Volunteer Vacations each summer, some of which are administered through the U.S. Forest Service. The work consists primarily of trail maintenance and construction performed in groups of ten to fifteen under the supervision of a ranger. The trips range in length from ten to fourteen days and usually take place in remote, backcountry areas. You do not have to be a member of the American Hiking Society to participate, but volunteers must meet certain qualifications because of the rigorous nature of these work trips.

For more information contact:

Kay Beebe  
American Hiking Society  
Volunteer Vacations Director  
P.O. Box 86  
North Scituate, MA 02060

## TTA — The Tennessee Trails Association

**OBJECTIVES:** To promote, construct, and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail. Regular dues are \$8.00 per year; \$3.00 for students and family dependents.

### TTA OFFICERS - 1985

#### President

David Stidham - Goodlettsville

#### Vice President

Howard Ray Duncan - Jamestown

#### Coresponding Secretary-Treasurer

Dot Lingerfelt - Chattanooga

#### Recording Secretary

Evelyn Tretter - Goodlettsville

#### Immediate Past President

Evan Means - Oak Ridge

### TTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Powell - Signal Mountain  
1985-1987

Grimes Slaughter - Oak Ridge  
1983-1985

Bertha Chrietberg - Murfreesboro  
1985-1986

Jill Norvell - Millington  
Chairman, Memphis Chapter

Pat Anderson - Nashville  
Nashville Chapter

Arthur Yates - Smyrna  
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Everett Kidder - Chattanooga  
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