



TENNESSEE TRAILS

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FINANCIAL REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The state treasurer, Dot Lingerfelt, reports a profit on the annual meeting held at Tech Aqua in October. She shows a profit of \$118.50, plus \$303 taken in at the auction. Auction proceeds have been earmarked to promote the Cumberland Trail.

LATE REPORT ON HIKE DAY

Hike Day at Land Between the Lakes, which has been co-sponsored by TTA and TVA for several years, was held on October 5. TVA advertises this event widely to Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups and in the news media.

TTA conducts short workshops under the trees at the grassy entrance to the Fort Henry hiking trails. This year there were five workshops: outdoor equipment, Gene Curp; photography, John Hart; map and compass, David Stidham; trail etiquette, Evelyn Tretter; and outdoor cooking, Dot Lingerfelt. The group had the pleasure of lunching on Dot's luscious dishes, including chili, gingerbread with chocolate icing and chicken on a spit.

Camping is free at the Boswell Landing campground nearby, one of the most beautiful spots for lakeside camping. The sunset over the wide expanse of lake is spectacular. You can pitch your tent along the shore next to a sandy Florida-like beach. It is primitive. Most of the TTA group camped two nights. Gene and Sarah brought their little daughter and Dot's party included her daughter and two grandchildren. The temperature went down to 34 degrees one night, a record for the area for that date. We ward off the chill with big log fires night and morning.

Middle Creek Trail Worktrip. On Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday Nov. 3 members of the Cumberland Mountain Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association carried out trail maintenance work trips as part of the Volunteers in Parks program with the National Park Service at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. In spite of cold, wet weather, over seven miles of the Middle Creek Trail System were maintained. These work crews removed numerous blowdowns, cleaned waterbars, repaired steps, dug and regraded portions of the trail and picked up litter. The Cumberland Mountain Chapter will be performing these work trips both spring and fall. Howard Ray Duncan

MOUSETAIL LANDING HIKE - Memphis Chapter Oct. 19 seven members and 1 visitor left Memphis in the rain to hike the 8 mile loop trail at Mousetail. This is a rustic 1197 acre state park located in Perry Cty., Tn. near Parsons. Altho the official opening hasn't taken place, there are 11 miles of trails open with two overnight shelters, plus a 28 site camping area. The park is bordered on the east side by Kentucky Lake (Tenn. River) and is between Lick Creek & Spring Creek. The trail follows thru stands of hardwood trees, up and down hills and around ridges with overlooks giving hikers a good view of the Tenn. River. We ate lunch at one of the overnight shelters at such an overlook, and then the rain began again. The remainder of the hike was a little soggy, but we still enjoyed a few wildflowers, a touch of color in fall leaves and some Indian Pipe which we found by the trail. Just as we completed our hike, a wedding was taking place at the park office. It was supposed to be an outdoors wedding but due to the rain was moved inside. We missed catching the bridal bouquet but saw the couple escorted out of the park by the park ranger.

J. Bull

NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST STATE HISTORIC AREA: Fort Johnsonville Redoubts Trail - Memphis Chapter, 26 Oct. Four of my Boy Scouts from Troop 255 in Bartlett joined with 11 TTA members (including one from Nashville, plus her eager-to-hike dog) in hiking this historic trail. The weather was cool, but we were soon overheated from huffing & puffing up the trail to the remains of the two Union fortifications that were abandoned after Forrest's successful attack. We were amazed at how natural the old railroad turntable area looked, except for the bolts sticking out of the block of concrete in the center. The remaining walls looked as if they were natural limestone rocks. About two miles of the trail have been cut off through the low, swampy area (private land), so we soon found ourselves atop the hill next to the fort again in time for lunch. The old infantry rifle pits were still visible. We soon descended through a beautiful oak forest to the river, and enjoyed the change of pace and scenery as we followed the river. We ended the hike with a walk through the ruins of old Johnsonville, which was abandoned by all but the mosquitos in 1943, when TVA created Land Between the Lakes. Ray Burkett

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

^{15th}
The deadline is the ~~20th~~ of each month. If possible, submit material camera ready, typed in a full 4½ inch column. Artwork is welcomed.

Bearwaller Gap Trail-October 13th (Annual Meeting Hike)

The trees around the Cordell Hull Lake area weren't quite as brightly colored as those in the Tech Aqua area. Yet it was rather eerie to see the splendor of autumn while sweltering in conditions that did their best to imitate summer.

Bill Hager started the hike with us and provided some informative highlights on the area. There was a pear tree with apple-shaped fruit, the remains of a huge buckeye tree destroyed by people and the roosting place for a buzzard in the skeleton of another tree. Bill, also, pointed out a couple of spots where he frequently spotted deer. As we walked along later without Bill I speculated that he could have provided much more information about the trail. I was sorry that he didn't continue with us the whole way.

The trail was a moderate roller coaster with only a spot or two that resembled a run-away truck lane. Bearwaller Gap Trail extends six miles around Horseshoe Bend along Cordell Hull Lake. There were quite a few wild flowers but only of limited variety including the New York Aster. Views of the lake from high

and low points were enjoyable. It was delightful to walk through the various forest types except for the few overgrown places.

My apologies to those that hiked for the brief foray into bush whacking country. Thanks to Paul Smith for righting our course. Special thanks to the shuttle car drivers that were willing to delay their departure homeward. Thanks again to Bill for getting the hike off to a good start!

Special thanks to Anne, Betty, Dean, Gene, Howard Ray, J.T., Ken, Pam, Pat, Sally, Steve and Yoshiko for putting up with me as a leader. I'll be happy to be co-leader with Paul Smith anytime. I would love to garner more nuggets of knowledge about the Bearwaller Gap Trail from Bill Hager sometime. Perhaps after another talk with Bill I can determine where the bears "wallering" place was that gave the trail its name.

I still haven't sent for trail patches so I'll take care of it Thanksgiving or Christmas. Send me your name and address if you want one. My address is:

Bob Barnett
4294 Goldie
Memphis, TN 38122

HIKES

Saturday 1:00 December 7, 1985
Long Hunter State Park
Leaders: Reggie and Jody Reeves

Join us for a joint ITA & TSRA canoe trip along the shores of Long Hunter State Park in J. Percy Priest Lake. This 3 mile flatwater trip will originate at the Couchville Launch Ramp near the park office just off State Route 171. We will follow the lakeshore to the Bryant Grove Recreation Area of Long Hunter State Park where a warm fire will be awaiting us.

We should be able to see migratory waterfowl, wading birds and a beautiful sunset. We have 6 canoes that may be reserved for those without boats. To reserve canoes or for further information call the Park Office at 885-2422 Monday - Friday.

Join us for this very pleasurable trip!

FISHERVILLE NATURE TRAIL - Memphis
Chapter - Sun. Dec. 8, 1985

Join chapter members for an approx. 8 mile hike around Herb Parsons Lake. Hike will begin at park office at Fisherville at 9:00 a.m. Carpool will leave Oshman's parking lot at Park Place Mall at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and wear comfortable clothes.

LEADER: John Parish - 901-795-7510

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has released its final draft of the Backcountry Management Plan which has been in preparation for several years. It is now available for study and comment. Recently the superintendent has provided for calendar "windows" in wilderness backcountry, which permit trail crews to use chainsaws at certain times of year. Chainsaws are fast but aesthetically offensive, ATC volunteer work crews have discovered.

from "The Register", newsletter of the Appalachian Trail Conference

Angel Falls Overlook (Big South Fork NRA)
January 1, 1986
Class II - 5 Miles

On January 1 the Cumberland Mountain Chapter plans to kick off the new year, by hiking the John Muir Trail downstream from Leatherwood Ford to Angel Falls Overlook. The trail follows along the banks of the river approximately 2 miles, before ascending to the top of the plateau via a series of switchbacks. Once atop the overlook we will be greeted by one of the most outstanding views of the gorge found anywhere in the National Area. We plan to meet at Leatherwood Ford Parking Area at 10:00 a.m. CST. Everyone should bring lunch and water. So, come on along and bring in the New Year with the Cumberland Mountain Chapter. Remember, it is a proven fact that a brisk walk will help to get the body's chemistry back on track if one is suffering from the effects of certain pollutant's indulged in the night before.

Leader: Ken Pittman 879-8724
Jamestown

Chapter News

Memphis

MEMPHIS CHAPTER - Get in the holiday spirit by joining us for our Dec. meeting at Kingsway Christian Church at 6:00 p.m. Dec. 19th. Bring your favorite dish and a friend.

Nashville

The Nashville Chapter's December meeting will be a joint Christmas dinner with the Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Chapter at the Cumberland Museum, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5.

Bring a favorite dish for potluck meal, and 10 or 12 slides for show and tell.

NEWS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

On Nov. 2nd, the Big South Fork Club followed the 10-mile loop of the Hidden Passage Trail in Pickett State Park. Vestiges of Hurricane Juan left the earth inundated. All this moisture on a carpet of fallen leaves demanded more attention to where one stepped than is normally required. However, despite this extra labor, each hiker felt abundantly rewarded for the following reasons and much, much more.

The wide vistas of late fall colors made the day a "classic". The many giant rock ledges under which the trail disappeared, some 35 to 40 feet high, yawning at the base for more than a 100ft, were memorable. Most had a floor of clean white sand and the upper face bore intricate patterns patiently carved over millions of years. It was under these massive shelters that we paused to snack, listen to the distant sounds of a grouse, identify wildlife tracks and even be mesmerized by a preoccupied spider. The great variety of growth and landforms kept the trail full of surprises. As we passed the Group Camp, we wished we could "check in" for the night. How peaceful it appeared! When we reached our camper, it was like reading a good book, we weren't ready for it to end. We had fallen in love with Hidden Passage Trail.

TTA deserves a BIG A+ for the care and attention given its trails; we have come to appreciate them so much. For all this we say a sincere thank you!

Driving back to Whitley City, we passed over Rattlesnake Ridge where miles and miles of muted pinks, yellows and greens seemed to blur into a moving Matisse painting. It was as though one constantly turned a kaleidoscope. Even the elements cooperated; it didn't rain until we reached home.

Cumberland Mountain

The Cumberland Mountain Chapter met on Nov. 9, at the Pickett State Park Lodge for the final chapter meeting of 1985. There was alot of business that needed to be finalized along with the election of officers for the coming 1986 year. The evening began with the traditional year end review of the past years activities via a slide presentation which was given by Howard Duncan. The slide presentation was capped off by a series of slides which were made at Colditz Cove State Natural Area, for promotional purposes. In past years the chapter has had to borrow a slide projector, however, a Kodak Carousel projector was recently purchased with chapter funds, which we are very pleased with. Steven Burke announced that the chapter had ordered Colditz Cove brochures. The initial order is to consist of 5000 copies at a cost of just under one hundred dollars. The brochures are to be distributed locally. It was proposed to step up efforts on the Adopt-a-Trail program, with the Vice-President of the chapter automatically taking on the responsibility of Adopt-a-Trail Chairman. The idea was briefly discussed, with all in favor of the motion. The question was then asked whether the Cumberland Mountain Chapter would like to take over the Big South Fork a Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage entirely. After discussion it was decided that the Cumberland Mountain Chapter would head up a coalition of local groups and be the chief party responsible for the annual event. Upon discussion of business, the time came to elect new officers for 1986. Dean Pittman made the motion that the chapter restructure the office of president in a manner similar to that of the state board. The measure passed with Steven Burke becoming Immediate Past President, and Howard Duncan being Vice-President automatically assuming the office of President. Nominations for the other positions were then made with new officers being: Tom Sells - Vice-President, Dean Pittman - Secretary, Martha Sells - Treasurer, Ken Pittman - Board Member, and due to her keeping a chapter scrapbook for the past four years Pamela Burke was elected chapter Historian.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND HIKE (Saturday, Dec. 14 & Sunday, Dec. 15) Fentress County, Tennessee.

Once again the Cumberland Mountain Chapter will be having its third annual Christmas party at the remote mountain cabin of Ken and Dean Pittman. The party will begin at 6:00 P.M., but Ken and Dean will be there all day Saturday to welcome anyone that wishes to arrive earlier. Also, everyone is invited to bring there sleeping bags, tents, etc. and spend the night at the cabin. It is requested that everyone bring a covered dish of some type. As in the past we will also be exchanging "gag" gifts to add to the fun. On Sunday at 10:00 A.M. we will be leaving from the cabin on an exploring/bush-whacking trip around the bluffs near the cabin. For more information or directions call:

Ken and Dean Pittman : (615)879-8724
For hike information call:
Howard Ray Duncan : (615)879-8245 or
(615)569-6963