

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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OCTOBER 1986

Bledsoe Creek State Park

- By Bob Barnett -

Bledsoe Creek State Park is a small gem of a park. To be more precise, it is a 164-acre park, classed as an environmental education area and as a camping park. Bledsoe Creek is located six miles east of Gallatin in Sumner County, just south of state Highway 25; situated on the Bledsoe Creek embayment of Old Hickory Lake.

Do not let the relatively small size of Bledsoe Creek fool you; there is a wide variety of terrain and activities to be found. Use of this park has grown rapidly in recent years. The year before the arrival of Superintendent Wayne Bomar, several years ago, the number of visitors was around 7,000. The most recent count revealed a number of very close to 200,000 visitors annually!

In an interview published in the <u>Nashville Banner</u> several years ago, Superintendent Bomar described the park as an "immaculate showplace," and said the area is unique for the large deer population roaming the park which borders Old Hickory Lake.

"I have seen as many as 27 deer at one time feeding in the playground area," Bomar said. "It is unique since the deer living here have become so used to the area that they will graze right outside the camping sites."

The camping area features 126 sites, most wooded, with each area providing a picnic table, grill, water, paved pad, and electrical hookup. Some sites are level and well suited for tent campers. Camp sites can be found adjacent to the water, as well. The park features signs that depict wildlife and many of them denote the names of the park roads at the same time.

Recently, I camped along Blue Heron Drive which features a carving of the bird commonly seen in the park in both spring and summer. The park features humorous signs, too. Examples of signs bringing chuckles are "Chigger Crossing" and "Rabbit Jump Hill." I did not attempt to become personally involved

with the residents of Chigger Crossing, but, believe it or not, I have seen numerous rabbits leaping off the hill bearing their name. One park publication states that more than fifty rabbits were once counted during a thirty minute drive through the park in the evening.

A Wilson County fisherman I spoke with praised the fishing opportunities to be found along Bledsoe Creek. Two boat ramps are provided in the park, one of which is for exclusive use by Bledsoe Creek State Park campers.

Those of you who are stargazers would enjoy the astronomy platform plus the motor driven telescope which can be utilized for special programming. In addition, the park features playgrounds, horseshoe pits, a regulation volleyball court, and several trails.

Superintendent Bomar told me that the park also features special astronomy programs, guided walks and other activities, such as occasional canoe floats. The park staff will gladly schedule special programs for school groups or such groups as TTA, as long as they are scheduled well in advance.

Walkers, the park has a multitude of short trails, or, if a longer walk is desired, the trails can be connected to result in a hike of a bit over five miles. I have seen more turtles on the trails than hikers, but despite this, the trails are in good condition. Also, walking along the paved roads in this park can result in rewards like hearing and/or seeing such wildlife as the Virginia Oppossum, White-Tailed Deer, Raccoon, Cottontail Rabbit, Gray Squirrel, and numerous birds. Dusk or dawn is the best time to catch these creatures out and about.

Among the park's trails are the Birdsong/Wood Duck Cove Interpretive Trails (Class I), the Big Oak (Class I), the Shoreline (Class I), the High Ridge (Class II) Cedar Ridge (Class II). The Interpretive trails are the easiest of all, but for many, this self-guided trail system could easily be the most interesting. Accord-

ing to Bomar, this is the only nature trail in the state park system devoted primarily to the study of birds. The joint trails feature 25 teaching stations devoted to birds and a few mammals which are commonly seen or heard in the area. Over 100 species of birds visit Bledsoe Creek during the year.

Possible changes and/or additions are on the horizon at Bledsoe Creek State Park which may make the park even more attractive to visitors (especially TTA members). These changes and/or additions are not definite at this time. I will update you on these in future newsletters once they become reality. Meanwhile, check out this beauty of a park. It will provide ample activity and hours of enjoyment.



TRIP REPORT Cumberland Trail Backpack Worktrip August 16-17

Since only one volunteer showed up, Plan B was put into effect. On Saturday, the volunteer joined C.T. Manager, Bobby Harbin and son, Robbie, on a trip to Eagle Bluff to post NO VEHICLE/NO HUNTING signs on the C.T. Harbin opportunely apprehended five or six back-country vehicle drivers who failed to heed the signs, gave them warning citations, and courteously, but firmly, explained to them the C.T. and its regulations.

After "camping" Saturday night at the local Holiday Inn, I extended swingblade work another 3/4 mile south of Walden's Ridge firetower from where Bob Day and I left off a month ago. On Monday, I joined Harbin and Joe England in helping Chuck Chambers' trail crew with sidehill digging on the C.T. rerouting near Lake City which had been requested by a landowner planning to build atop Walden's Ridge. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent with Robbie Harbin and Joe England lopping and swingblading south of the firetower to Campsite 4.

On Thursday, with Bobby Harbin, a call was made on BSA Smoky Mountain Council Program Director Ron Turpin. Bobby, an active Scouter, presented a proposal for a fifty-mile C.T. hike for scout troops wishing to earn special C.T. patches.

The hike would involve some conservation work on the C.T., instruction in related merit badge subjects by State Parks personnel and TTA (or other) volunteers, and logistical support from the Cove Lake C.T. Office. Ron enthusiastically endorsed the idea and asked Bobby to prepare a hike itinerary to be published in the Council's October newsletter and to be put on display along with C.T. Section 2 Trail Maps in the Council's brand new store.

Thursday afternoon, Friday, and Saturday were spent lopping and swingblading on the C.T. up Clear Branch and the N.W. ridge approach to Black Mountain.

The botanical and ornithological finds of the week were Robbie Harbin's spottings of a fruiting Buffalo-nut shrub on Walden's Ridge and a Sharpshinned Hawk crossing Cumberland Mountain below treetops just a few feet over the Trail near Eagle Bluff. Also memorable were Cliff Swallows soaring and singing their "single melodious note" over Devil's Racetrack; an early morning Beaver swimming; Great Blue and Green Herons taking off near the C.T. boardwalk in Cove Lake; blooming Grass-leaved Golden Asters, Indian Tobacco (lobelia inflata), and Virgin's Bower on Cumberland Mountain; a duskily beautiful Copperhead and profuse Shrub Yellowroot, Cinnamon Fern, and blooming Cardinal Flower along Clear Branch; lots of blooming Southern Harebell, Hoary Mountain Mint, and Starry Campion on Black Mountain; and yellowjackets everywhere!

-- Bob Brown

TRIP REPORT Black Mountain C.T. Worktrip September 4

With help from Cumberland Mountain State Park maintenance men, we set out Cumberland Trail signs at the top of Black Mountain, Cox's Valley Road, and Low Gap. Then, David Stidham with his trusty chainsaw cut through numerous deadfalls which had been left along the trail at the foot of Black Mountain's steep west slope by a 1985 ice storm.

Rita Sturdivant, from Ozone, Russell Jarrell, and I cleared out the cuttings and did the remaining lopping and swingblading on this section. Rita and her husband had recently cleared a mile through woods for a road to their homesite on Fall Creek and are putting in trails on their land, so she was a most welcome new C.T. volunteer.

We found considerable Goatsbeard (Aruncus dioicus), Bloodroot, fruiting Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and some blooming Citronella (Collinsonia Canadensis) where we were working below the west slope.

-- Bob Brown



Adopt-a-Trail Coordinators

CHATTANOOGA: Jeri Shutters

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN: Howard Ray

Duncan, 615-879-8245

MEMPHIS: Bob Barnett, 901-767-9347

NASHVILLE: Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355



CARPOOL COORDINATORS

CHATTANOOGA: Dot Lingerfelt, 615-842-8043 (Hm.)

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MEMPHIS: Gene Jacobson, 901-755-9073

MURFREESBORO: Maryedith McFarlin, 615-896-1344

NASHVILLE: Evelyn Tretter, 615-859-0566

News From Our Parks



LONG HUNTER STATE PARK ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 4: Saturday, 9:00 a.m., marks the beginning of an overnight backpacking tour. You must provide your own equipment and provisions as we pack down the Volunteer Trail to a secluded lakeside campsite. Registration opens September 29.

OCTOBER 11: Saturday, 9:00 a.m., we will take an overnight

bicycle tour. You must provide your own bike, provisions, and camping equipment, and we will provide a support truck and 50 to 60 miles of Tennessee scenic highway as we tour part of our beautiful state and camp in one of our state parks. Registration opens October 6.

OCTOBER 17: Friday, 8:00 p.m., come experience with us the lunar eclipse and get a preview of the coming conjunction of Mars and Venus. No registration required. This activity is accessable to wheelchairs.

OCTOBER 18: Saturday, 1:00 p.m., we will take a Fall Color Hike. Enjoy an afternoon stroll through the vibrant fall colors. Registration opens October 13.

OCTOBER 25: Saturday, 10:00 a.m., is your chance to experience the beauty of autumn from the water as we retrace the path of Stones River on what is now Percy Priest Lake. Registration opens October 20.

OCTOBER 31: Friday, 8:00 p.m. till ...? Climb on the hay wagon and ride to a trail that leads to an abandoned graveyard in the woods. Registration opens October 27.

All of these activities are free. If you would like to register or request more information, call the park office at 615-885-2422.

ROCK ISLAND STATE PARK ACTIVITIES

Our thanks to Mary Lou Wilcox for submitting the following schedule of activities.

OCTOBER 4-5: Lions Club Arts & Craft Fair at Rock Island State Park. Included in this weekend of arts and crafts will be a checker tournament (double elimination, playoff on Sunday at 2 p.m.), over 100 craft exhibitors (at the Sandbar), potluck supper (6:30 p.m. on Friday at Campground Pavillion), and entertainment on Friday night by the Kountry Kickers. This event is to support a very worth cause.

OCTOBER 11: Fall Colors Cruise and Bluegrass Jamboree. The cruise is open to all water vehicles wishing to join the water parade south on Center Hill Lake. The flotilla will leave Edgar Evins State Park at 11:00 a.m. on October 11th and arrive at Rock Island State Park at approximately 5:00 that afternoon. Boats are invited to anchor or tie up at our Sandbar beach for an evening of good music in the form of a bluegrass "battle of the bands". This competition will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandbar. A cash prize will be awarded to the winning band. There is a \$25.00 entry fee for each band. The entertainment is free to the public and refreshments will be offered by the Warren County Rescue Squad.

For more information on these or other Rock Island activities, contact the office at:



Rock Island State Park Route 2 Rock Island, TN 38581 615-686-2471

SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA ACTIVITIES

Our good buddies at SCRA passed along the following list of October activities.

OCTOBER 4: Naturalist at the Door. Meet at the Stone Door Ranger Station (1:00 p.m.) and join "Ranger Randy" for a nature walk out to the Stone Door where you can see one of the most panoramic views to be found. 2 miles -- easy.

OCTOBER 5: Laurel Loop Trail. Meet at the Stone Door Ranger Station at 1:00 p.m. Great views of Big Creek Gulf and the early fall colors are the main features of this pleasant walk through the woods. 7 miles -- moderate.

OCTOBER 12: Greeter Point Excursion. Meet at the Stone Door Ranger Station at 1:00 p.m. This is a great overlook near Altamont which few people have seen and is one of the most beautiful forests on the mountain. 12 mile drive and 2 mile walk -- easy.

OCTOBER 18: Old Stagecoach Road. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Walk along a road built by slave labor in the 1830s and along the rim of Collins Gulf to a spectacular fall color overlook. 3 miles -- moderate.

OCTOBER 19: Rocky Mountain Creek. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Overlooks with fall colors, waterfalls, and a spectacular stream gorge make this an outstanding excursion. 1 mile -- strenuous.

OCTOBER 25: Foster Falls to Small Wilds. Meet at the Foster Falls Picnic Shelter. This is a very pleasant walk along the flat-topped bluffs of Little Gizzard Gorge with overlooks, waterfalls, and diverse fall colors. 5 miles -- moderate.

OCTOBER 26: Raven Point Excursion. Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m. The most spectacular overlook on the Fiery Gizzard is the highlight of this interesting nature walk. 2 miles -- easy.

For more information on any of these hikes, call the South Cumberland Visitor Recreation Center (Hwy 56/U.S. 41, 3 miles from I-24) at 615-924-2980 or 924-2956.

TTA SUPPORTER NEWS

A new book called the <u>South Cumberland Hiker's Guide</u> has just been released by Wanamaker Studio in Monteagle. The cover is an original watercolor painting of Savage Gulf from Rattlesnake Point Overlook painted by Monty Wanamaker. There are also three original pen and ink illustrations inside.

Trail descriptions and black and white photographs make up the largest part of the book and are by Park Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath. The Buggytop and Fiery Gizzard trails are described, as well as the wonderful Savage Gulf/Stone Door system.

Copies of the book can be obtained at the South Cumberland Visitor Center, various businesses around Monteagle and Tracy City, or by sending \$3.50 to South Cumberland State Recreation Area, Rt. 1 Box 144-H, Tracy City, TN 37387.

Maps of the Savage Gulf/Stone Door and Fiery Gizzard trails, based on topographical sheets, can be obtained from the same address for fifty cents each.

SAVAGE GULF PRESERVATION LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Savage Gulf Preservation League takes pleasure in announcing that the annual meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, October 23, at the hotel of the United Methodist Assembly Grounds in Beersheba Springs. Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the dinner to be served promptly at 6:30. Registration will continue after the dinner as needed. A business meeting and program will follow.

Anyone interested in the Savage Gulf/Stone Door area is invited and encouraged to attend. You will enjoy the program and learn more about the area that you enjoy and appreciate.

Advance reservations are necessary in order to sufficiently prepare for the dinner. We are therefore requesting that you telephone Dennis Brown at 615-668-8154 or Mrs. Margaret Coppinger at 615-692-3522 to make your reservations. We further request that reservations be made by the weekend before, or at least by Monday, October 20.

The cost of the dinner is a real treat at \$5.00 per person. Dues are \$3.00 for adults, 50 cents for students, and \$25.00 for sustaining members. If you so desire, you can mail your check for dues and reservations so that your membership cards can be ready, thus avoiding delay at the meeting. This can be mailed to me at 215 West Sparta Street, McMinnville, TN 37110.

Members are encouraged to bring guests for possible membership. We encourage new members, but you do not have to be a member to attend.

-- Edward B. Oliver, Secretary

THE WALKING MAGAZINE

Look for a new publication called, The Walking Magazine. It has articles on exercise walking, race walking, trekking, what kind of shoes to wear, profiles of long distance walkers, gear, and equipment. Published quarterly for \$10.00 a year, or 12 issues for \$17.95, it is available at newstands or by writing:

The Walking Machine
Dept. W1
711 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

-- Judith Bartlow

Chapter News

Cumberland Mountain Chapter

CAVE TRIP November 2

The Cumberland Mountain Chapter will sponsor an amateur level spelunking trip on November 2, 1986. This will be equal to a Class III or IV hike on a regular trail. We will stay inside the cave for five to six hours and the whole trip will take approximately eight hours.

We will meet at the Allardt School near Jamestown at 8:00 a.m. and carpool to the cave near Clarkrange. Four-wheel-drive is required to reach the cave entrance.

Sorry, but due to the type of trip, we must limit the number to the first twenty to notify the leader. This trip will be cancelled if there is sufficient rain to cause the river to rise.

Things to bring: old clothes, shoes or boots, long-sleeved shirt, light, lunch and water, hardhat (optional).

You will get tired and dirty, but you will experience cave exploring first hand. For information and directions, please contact Tom Maddox before October 13. Phone 615-879-8404 after 4:00 p.m.

MIDDLE CREEK TRAIL WORK TRIP November 8 & 9

In keeping with the Cumberland Mountain chapter's VIP agreement with the National Park Service at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, we will hold work trips on Saturday, November 8 and Sunday, November 9. Both work trips will meet at the Middle Creek Trailhead.

The Saturday work trip will begin at 9:00 a.m. (CST) and will perform work on the Slave Falls to Jakes Place trail. The Sunday trip will meet at 1:00 p.m. (CST) and will work on the Middle Creek Loop Trail. Wear work clothes, bring gloves, lunch and water. Tools will be provided at the work site. For further information, call Howard Ray Duncan, 615-569-6963 (days) and 615-879-8245 (nights) or call Tom Sells at 615-879-8017 (days).

CHAPTER MEETING REPORT

On Tuesday, September 9, the Cumberland Mountain Chapter held its regular bi-monthly meeting. Attendance was good with thirteen members present. The largest item of business was preparing the Annual Hike Schedule. The upcoming Annual Meeting was also discussed. Thanks are extended to all who participated.

-- Howard Ray Duncan

TRIP REPORT

Mammoth Cave National Park August 17

After traveling 1553 miles from Thunder Bay, Canada to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, we were disappointed to not find anyone else that we knew at the Visitor's Center.

We arrived three minutes before the last 1/2 day hike. The ranger leading the hike was an excellent storyteller. We could truly visualize the history through her words.

1.9 inches of rain on Saturday night caused several hikes to be cancelled since Echo River had risen making some trails impassable.

Howard Ray Duncan later told me that three ladies from Oneida had been there for the weekend and had made three hikes into the caverns. Sorry we missed you!

-- Dean Pittman



Murfreesboro Chapter

STONES RIVER CANOE FLOAT, EAST FORK

Class I November 1, 1986

This trip will consist of about an eight-mile paddle on the East Fork of Stones River. This pastoral stream has interesting rock bluffs with occasional fast curves and shoals, and two old water mills. Many varieties of birds are usually spotted and we will portage or run an old mill dam. This is a day's float and a nice family outing. Bring a canoe, life jackets, lunch and water, and meet at 9:00 a.m. (CST) in Murfreesboro at the Greenland Parking Lot, behind Murphy Center (the large athletic complex on the MTSU campus). For further information or preregistration, call John Clark or Bertha Chrietzberg at 615-896-1146.

TRIP REPORT

Wildflower and Cave Hike August 16

Thirty persons arrived for the wildflower and cave hike at South Cumberland Visitor Center. The grown-over golf course behind the center is rich with summer wildflowers, and we were rewarded with a blaze of color in spite of the drought this season. Blazing star, several lobelias, meadow beauty, polygala, mints, and many other wildflowers were seen, and we even found two varieties of the yellow fringed orchid, <u>Habernaria cilaris</u> and <u>H. cristata</u>.

Lunch in the picnic area was followed by a trip to Buggytop Cave led by Ranger Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath. Participants could cool off in the cave's 58 degree temperature, emerging from the cave two hours later, for a rainy trip back to their cars. A successful hike, well attended, and enjoyed by all.

-- Bertha Chrietzberg

Memphis Chapter

BIG HILL POND STATE PARK HIKE

Sunday, October 26

The carpool for this hike will leave Oshman's parking lot at Park Place Mall at 8:00 a.m., or you can meet at Wilmeth's Grocery on Highway 57 just past the park entrance at 10:00 a.m. The hike will be approximately nine miles, and hikers should wear comfortable shoes and clothes, as well as bring food and water. This is not a strenuous hike, but we will have some hills to traverse. The weather should be cooler, and the park will be beautiful this time of year.

Bring a friend and join us for a fun hike in West Tennessee. If you need more information, call Jill Norvell, hike leader, at 873-2149 or Jerri Bull, 363-4408.

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

October 23

This is the fourth Thursday of the month, but since several members will be away on our usual meeting night, we changed it to the 23rd. Our guests will be Ed Holt and Kent Pettigrew of the Tennessee Conservation League. They will bring us up to date on the work of this organization, especially the work they are doing on trails in West Tennessee. Hiking trails don't just happen! It takes different groups working together to make them possible and to maintain them. So, join us and bring a friend!

WORK DAY AT MEEMAN-SHELBY

November 22

On November 22nd, our chapter will sponsor a workday on the Chickasaw Bluff Trail. We will have more information in the November newsletter, but thought you might want to mark this date on your calendar.

Nashville Chapter

SHORT MOUNTAIN HIKE

October 25

Saturday, October 25, the Nashville Chapter is sponsoring a hike at Short Mountain. Short Mountain is a geological curiosity and shouldn't be missed.

The carpool will meet at Cumberland Museum at 8:00 a.m., or you can meet us in front of the Cannon County Courthouse in Woodbury at 9:15 a.m.

We will hike around Short Mountain and visit the old Millstone Quarry on top. This is a moderate hike of about four or five miles. If time permits, we will visit the waterfalls in the area. For more information, contact Warren G. Dixon, 615-833-1199 or 363-6940.

CHAPTER MEETING REPORT

A nice-sized group of Nashville Chapter members met at the Cove Lake picnic area in Long Hunter State Park for a picnic beside Percy Priest Lake. We met some new faces and saw some familiar ones, and shared snapshots of people's summer trips. The light gradually faded into a brilliant sunset over the lake.

Thanks to Pat Anderson, not only for her splendid map, but also for making arrangements to meet in such a peaceful setting. Also, thanks to Reggie Reeves of Long Hunter State Park for making us feel at home.

NEWS FROM DISTANT MEMBER

Rhonda Turner Snyder, formerly active in the Nashville Chapter was back in town recently and visited with Ninas, Pat, and myself. In a recent letter, Rhonda shared with me memories of a white water trip she and her hubby, John, took this summer on the Tellico. "We saw three deer, a mother and two spotted babies. They were on an island in the river and crossed the river in front of us, about thirty feet away. The babies were squealing at their mother to slow down and wait for them! On the way to the put-in point, we saw three wild turkeys in flight. They looked very odd!"



MIXED CHAPTER TRIP REPORT

North Woods Trip -- August 2-16

- By Bob "Glowfinger" Barnett -

August 2nd, Paul Goldstein and I left Memphis during a welcome rain and met Pat Anderson, "Ed" Norfleet, Ken and Dean Pittman, Regina McDowell, and Vic Canada in Marion, Illinois. We then changed into our C.B. personalities for our "convoy" trip to the big woods of Wisconsin. Such names as Traveler, Little Foot, Big Foot, #9, HayLady, Gater, Gatorade, Murdock, Puddle Jumper and other such descriptive names became the rule.

On August 3rd, we celebrated our entry into Wisconsin with local cheese and beer, at a spot on the outskirts of Madison. Later, we explored Devil's Lake State Park which many claim is the most beautiful park in Wisconsin. It has a large, crystal blue lake, effigy Indian mounds, high bluffs which are remnants of an ancient mountain chain, and the awe-inspiring Devil's Doorway. There were also lots of pesky but charming raccoons.

August 4th, most of us headed for Wisconsin's North Woods. Near nightfall, we arrived at Drummond Woods (a former Boy Scout camp) which became our home base until August 12th.

During our stay, everyone saw deer on or near the property and hummingbirds were daily guests at the feeder just outside the kitchen window. We also saw great gray owls, beaver, chipmunks, groundhogs, pileated woodpeckers, otters, and other such critters. Our lodging, while far from rough, overlooked a lake and was surrounded by thousands of acres of the Chequamegon National Forest. Thus, we enjoyed a very comfortable wilderness experience.

Hiking highlights included the views of falls, rapids, and a covered bridge at Amnicon Falls State Park. The nature trail and the unfinished section of the North Country Trail at Cooper Falls State Park were equally enjoyable. Signs of bear were abundant along the trails, but unfortunately, we never saw one.

At Pattison State Park, we saw the 165-foot Big Manitou Falls. These are the highest falls in Wisconsin and the fourth highest, east of the Rockies. Views of the Black River Gorge in this park are almost as breathtaking as the falls. In addition to these, we also visited Duluth, Minnesota's old railroad station (converted to a mini-museum), Lake Superior, Ashland, Bayfield, and LaPointe on Madeline Island.

On our return trip, the sight-seeing continued. We spent a day in LaCrosse, Wisconsin at the Christiana Winery, the Heilman Brewery, the riverfront area, a wonderful cheese store, plus majestic Grand Dad's Bluff which is 500+ feet above the city, overlooking the river. We also took a scenic route known as River Road which was magnificent!

The trip, as you can tell, was a wonderful experience for all of us. I look forward to seeing seven different sets of snapshots since everyone was busy with their cameras except for me. Special thanks to everyone on the trip, but most of all to the Hancocks of Nashville for sharing their place in Drummond Woods with us. Happy Trails!



EDITOR'S TIDBITS
- By Dot Fowler -

Greetings and Salutations, friendly hikers! We are now entering one of my favorite months. Not only was my big sister born in October (Happy Birthday, Judy!), but the oppressive heat says so long, farewell, which instantly increases my energy level by at least 100%.

I was thrilled to receive all the lists of activities by our State Parks friends. Don't you wish you could be more than one place at a time? All the activities sound like fun, but choosing between them is bound to be torture!

By the time you receive this, it will almost be ANNUAL MEETING TIME! I've heard some great tales of previous meetings and they sound like great fun. I hope there will be a good showing of TTA members and friends down Chattanooga way this month. We'll be making memories for a lifetime. Besides, I want to put some faces to all these names I keep seeing attached to TTA articles. So, be there, or be square! Some of you good folks didn't seem to notice my announcement last month that I have moved. Make a note of this, folks:

Dot Fowler 4501 Packard Drive, N-4 Nashville, TN 37211 615-834-2654 (Hm) 615-329-0031, ext. 228 (Wk)

Next month, we will be publishing a special anniversary issue of our newsletter. Those of you who have agreed to write a special article for this issue, please get busy. I need your copy by October 15. Call me if you have any questions.

OCTOBER HIKES

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN:

OCTOBER 5 -- Chimney Rock, no details received. Contact Tom Sells, 615-879-7759, to see if still scheduled.

NOVEMBER 2 -- Cave Trip, details this issue **MURFREESBORO**:

OCTOBER 4-5 -- Overnight Backpacking Trip on Volunteer Trail, Reggie Reeves, 615-885-2422 NOVEMBER 1 -- Stones River Canoe Float, Details this issue

MEMPHIS:

OCTOBER 26 -- Big Hill Pond State Park, details this issue

NASHVILLE:

OCTOBER 25 -- Short Mountain, details this issue COMBINED TTA CHAPTERS:

OCTOBER 10-12 -- Annual Meeting, hosted by Chattanooga Chapter. See August and September newsletters.

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