



TENNESSEE TRAILS

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DECEMBER 1986

A Look at the History of Fall Creek Falls State Park

- Adapted from article by Tony Bayless -

A large portion of Van Buren County is made up of Fall Creek Falls State Park. The park seems relatively isolated from the rest of the county since the Cane Creek Gorge separates it from the county seat and also from the Bone Cave area where the early population was centered in the county.

Because of its isolation, this area has had few changes through the years. The greatest changes have been made by the land companies which saw the timberland as a money-making resource. They moved band and stave mills into the area and because these mills needed manpower, more people moved into the county. Most of the park land has been stripped of its virgin timber with the exception of the timber in the gorges where they were inaccessible.

Around the year 1931, James M. "Judge" Taft and his family moved into the area. Judge Taft was a dreamer and an idealist. One of his dreams was to preserve the area which is now Fall Creek Falls State Park for future generations. He dreamed of making the area into a park and he proceeded to devote all of his energy to make this dream a reality.

Taft persuaded a man from the Archives in Nashville to make a film to promote Taft's park idea. The film was called

"Dawn of Day", and pictures from this film were used in the May 1939 issue of National Geographic. Taft also enlisted the help of Governor Gordon Browning. Through the Governor, Taft was able to meet with Park Commissioners and to convince some influential people to visit the area.

Judge Taft stunned a number of the local residents when he succeeded in convincing the National Park Service to appropriate moneys for and purchase the land. Some folks were angry at Taft and could not understand how the government could force them to give up their property. After the shock wore off, however, their relocation went smoothly.

In these early days, the park was known as a "rustic" park, which meant that only a minimum of facilities would be available, leaving the land in almost its natural state. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration constructed the first facilities. The main headquarters of the park was built at the North entrance and consisted of a staff house, tool shed, garages, blacksmith shop, and a saw-mill.

Despite the bad roads to the park and a lack of publicity, the Girl Scouts began using the park in 1945. Theirs

was about the only group frequenting the park on a regular basis. By 1950 a bridge had been built over Fall Creek, plus new picnic sites and a tent camping site had been cleared with two group camps. In 1954, a bathhouse and a natural pool were constructed on Cane Creek. These facilities were the sum total of the available conveniences until the early 1970s.

From the start, the park was stocked with most animals and fish native to the area. The white tailed deer was shipped in from Vermont. Residents of the area were unfamiliar with animals such as the deer, wild turkey, and bobcat since these had been hunted to extinction long before.

In the late 1960s during Governor Winfield Dunn's term, the park's facilities were expanded. Tourism had become a big business in Tennessee and expansions were made to attract more visitors. These expansions included: a 350 acre lake, a 72-room inn, 20 cabins, additional camping areas, better roads, an 18-hole golf course, horse stable, recreation hall, nature center, tennis and ball courts, swimming pool, group lodge, amphitheater, general store, laundromat, and additional housing for employees.

Since its beginnings in 1936 as a recreational demonstration area, Fall Creek Falls State Park has become a great asset of the state and county. The beauty of this land will remain as a constant reminder of how Judge Taft saw it many years ago and as such, serves as a living memorial to him.



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CUMBERLAND TRAIL NEWS

C.T. SCOUTING TRIP
RESCHEDULED TO DECEMBER 13

The scouting trip originally scheduled for November 8 has been rescheduled for December 13. David Rhine and Bob Brown will be exploring the upper section of the Piney River for future development of the Cumberland Trail in that area. They invite you to join them as they scout out a possible route up an old railroad grade beside the Piney River. Call Bob Brown (615-748-4816) or David Rhine (615-745-4289) for more details such as duration of trip and where to meet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL PART II

- By Bob Brown -

Archeological digs at Russell and Nickajack Caves near the southern end of Sequatchie Valley indicate the area was inhabited by Native Americans as early as 9000 years ago. First came nomadic hunters and gatherers and accomplished flintworkers, Paleo Indians who occupied the caves sporadically. Then came Archaic Indians, somewhat less nomadic and more skillful craftsmen, but still hunters and gatherers using the caves seasonally.

About 2500 years ago, Woodland Indians appeared, living in the caves in winter and in small villages in summer. These Indians hunted and gathered food and grew sunflowers, gourds, squash, and later, primitive varieties of corn. They also made stone, bone, and shell implements, clay pottery, and built burial mounds. Later, these Indians developed an extensive trade with places as far away as the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and the Great Lakes.

Around 1000 years ago, the Mississippian Indians began living in permanent towns in the valley, growing corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins in the river bottoms, making more refined implements and ornaments, intricately decorated polished pottery and building large temple mounds.

One Mississippian tribe, later called the Ocheese Creek Indians by early English traders, organized the largest of the prehistoric confederacies, mostly among Muskogean speaking tribes, united by common ceremonial forms and intertribal trade and ball-play. It held sway over east and middle Tennessee when De Soto entered this region in 1540 via the Hiwassee River valley. Possibly following the Great Warpath to the southwest, he came to Chiaha, a Creek town on an island in the Tennessee, perhaps Burns Island just downstream from Sequatchie River.

A few miles farther downstream, at the south end of Long Island, was a ford in the Tennessee called by early whites "the Old Creek Crossing" where many ancient Indian Trails came together.

The Cisca (a town possibly at Old Stone Fort) and St. Augustine trail reportedly was an old trading route between the Shawnee in middle Tennessee and the Spanish in Florida. The Great Warpath ran from Alabama to the Crossing and then up the east side at the Tennessee and Molsten valleys to Long Island (now Kingsport) where it branched, one branch proceeding up the Holston's north fork and down the New and Kanawha Rivers to a trail junction on the Ohio, and the other, north into Virginia, Pennsylvania, and beyond.

Two other trails led north from the Old Creek Crossing. The Chickamauga Path went up Battle Creek and across the Plateau near Coalmont and Beersheba to the Rock Island crossing of the Caney Fork and to an old, fortified town on the Calf Killer, where it branched; one branch going north to

mounds near Algood, and the other northeast to a settlement near Jamestown. The Sequatchie Trail went up that valley to mounds south of Pikeville.

Upstream from the Old Creek Crossing, the Great Lakes Trail led from towns in the Chattanooga area north along the foot of Walden's Ridge. At Emory Gap, it turned northwest up Emory River and down New River and Big South Fork valleys, and on north through Kentucky and Ohio to Lake Erie.

The Great Lakes Trail was crossed near Dayton, Tennessee, by the Black Fox Trail leading from the Hiwassee River towns across Walden's Ridge, the Sequatchie Trail near Pikeville, Fall Creek on the Plateau, and the Chickamauga Path near Rocky River, up Mountain Creek past Short Mountain, and on to Black Fox Spring at the present Murfreesboro.

Branching off the Great Lakes Trail near Rockwood was an ancient route, known by early whites as Tollunteeskee's Trail, the Cherokee Path, or the Cumberland Trace, leading from towns around the mouth of the Clinch, through gaps in Walden's Ridge and at Crab Orchard, and on past the "Standing Stone" at present Monterey to towns near the salt licks on the Cumberland in middle Tennessee.

At the mouth of the Emory, another trail branched off the Great Lakes Trail and continued north along the foot of Walden's Ridge, probably up Dutch Valley, then up Powell Valley at the foot of Cumberland Mountain to Cumberland Gap. Here it intersected the Warrior's Path, coming south from various crossings of the Ohio through Kentucky and another trail coming northwest from the French Broad Valley.

W.E. Myer mentions an East-West Trail that crossed Walden's Ridge between present Lake City and Oliver Springs, wound around the head waters of New River and Brimstone Creek through the vicinity of present Rugby and

Jamestown, and on to settlements along the Wolf and Obey Rivers. Another trail, known as the Holston Trace, may have gone through Walden's Ridge up Geise Creek and the north side of the middle fork of the Little Emory, then down Crooked Fork and the north side of the Emory and Obed watersheds into Tollunteeskee's Trail.

In 1715-16, in "revolt against the abuses of the English trading system" the Creeks instigated the Yamassee War. The Creeks and allied tribes were defeated by their archrivals, the Cherokee, who sided with the English. By the mid-1700s, the powerful Cherokee had driven out the Creeks and Shawnee to dominate most of east and middle Tennessee.

Next month, Part III -- The importance of Cumberland Gap and the Grand Canyon of the Tennessee to the settlement of middle Tennessee.

References: Sequatchie, a Story of the Southern Cumberlands, J.L. Raulston & J. W. Livingood, The University of Tennessee Press, 1974

Indian Trails of the Southeast, W. E. Myer, Blue and Gray Press, 1971

Tribes That Slumber, M. N. Lewis and Madeline Kneberg, The University of Tennessee Press, 1958



Adopt-a-Trail Coordinators

CHATTANOOGA: Jeri Shutters 870-9104

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN: Howard Ray
Duncan, 615-879-8245

MEMPHIS: Bob Barnett, 901-767-9347

NASHVILLE: Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355

A REPORT ON THE TTA ANNUAL MEETING

- By Gene Jacobson -

The Memphis Chapter decided to submit a report on its reactions to the 1986 TTA Annual Meeting, held at Lookout Mountain. One reason for this is that we feel the Chattanooga Chapter, though small in number, did an outstanding job in hosting the meeting and we want to use this opportunity to say, "Thank you!"

Ten members and friends of the Memphis Chapter braved the fog and mountain curves of southeast Tennessee to make the long trek to Lookout Mountain. My caravan was lucky enough to get up the mountain before nightfall that Friday night, and even though there was more fog than we "flatlanders" see in a year, we managed to find the camp with a minimal of difficulty. The remaining Memphis contingent arrived at different times that evening and the next day.

We all found accommodations to suit us and even made time for a short hike out the back of the lodge before the evening events began. The five of us in my caravan enjoyed the chance to stretch our legs and see a little of the lovely area surrounding the camp.

Dinner brought a feast of amazing proportions and variety, proving once again that TTA folks can cook as well as they hike. The dining room also provided the perfect opportunity for those of us from all over the state to renew acquaintances with some of our far-flung friends, and to meet a whole host of new folks, whom we look forward to seeing and hiking with at future TTA gatherings.

The business meetings and programs provided us all with important information about issues which were relevant to everyone involved in the outdoors, and with entertainment which we can still enjoy chuckling over...dancing in hiking boots, even though it is square dancing, is quite a feat and a sight! The auction

provided more laughs, with comments heard from first-time attendants wondering how David Stidham could come up with such amusing patter for such a long time, and still stay witty and fresh.

The hikes on Saturday, led by the friendly Chattanooga folks, provided us with spectacular vistas, beautiful fall foliage, and stairs steep enough to have most of us huffing and puffing on the Ridge Trail in Cloudlands Canyon. I'd like to say a special thanks to Inez Jenkins and the other trail leaders who made the hikes informative as well as fun.

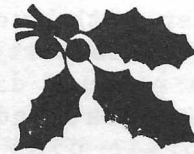
The rain on Sunday caused many of us to change our hiking plans, but the ever adaptable Chattanooga folks proved that making alternative plans was no problem for them. Some of us "hiked" in the nature center, Reflection Riding, and others went to the Raccoon Mountain Pump and Storage Station, both of which were very enjoyable.

As we left Chattanooga, I think we all felt that someday soon we'd like to return to hike more of those inviting mountain trails which we just didn't have time to try on this visit. We'd also like to spend more time with our gracious hosts from that area. Again, I think I speak for the other chapters in expressing a heartfelt thank-you to our Chattanooga Chapter for a successful, informative, and extremely pleasant weekend!



Chapter News

Cumberland Mountain Chapter



CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, December 13

This year's Christmas party will be held at Chalet 15 in Pickett State Park on Saturday, December 13, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (CST). All members and interested persons are invited. Persons attending are requested to bring a covered dish for a potluck supper. As in the past, we will be exchanging "gag" gifts so bring a suitable gift to exchange.

For persons wishing to spend the night, the chalet will be available. It is recommended that you bring sleeping bags and pads as bunk space is limited. There is a small kitchen in the chalet with a stove, refrigerator, etc. If desired, a hike may be planned for Sunday, December 14. For additional information, contact: Tom Sells at 879-8017 or Howard Ray Duncan at 569-6963 or 879-8245.

TRIP REPORT: MIDDLE CREEK TRAIL WORK TRIP

Four members of the Cumberland Mountain Chapter turned out for the work trip despite the downpour of rain. We removed blown down trees, replaced some steps, and cleaned water bars.

The section of trail worked was from Sawmill Trailhead to Jake's Place. The trail was in exceptionally good condition. The members participating were Tom Sells, David Sells, and Dan and Myra Bickford. Thanks to everyone who turned out.

--Tom Sells



Memphis Chapter

MEMPHIS CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY December 18

On December 18th, we will have our annual Christmas party. Meet at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner. We will furnish the meat and you can bring your favorite dish and a friend. Please bring one gift to exchange.

MEMPHIS HISTORICAL HIKE December 13

This is a ten-mile hike through beautiful, downtown, historical Memphis. The carpool will leave from Kingsway Christian Church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or you can meet us at 8:00 a.m. in the downtown Unitarian Church of the River parking lot. You will need lunch and a drink and will need comfortable shoes for walking on pavement. For more information, contact Betty Porter at 363-0213.

TRIP REPORT: HAPPY TIMES AT BIG HILL POND

It was like "old times" for me being with my hiking friends again. It's been a long time. To top it off, we were together at one of my favorite places in Tennessee, Big Hill Pond State Park. I brought along TTA's youngest hiker, too (and one of my favorite buddies), who else, but James Andrew, my 14-month-old best friend.

I carried James in a backpack the entire 8-10 miles. The trees were peaking their autumn colors -- the hickories were brilliant gold and the dogwoods were deep red. We saw signs of beaver along the marshy shoreline of Bill Hill Lake. Acorns that had not already been munched or hoarded by squirrels had fallen to the ground and were giving a new crunchy surface to the trail. We discovered twig girdler beetles and their work of art girdling twigs. We found deer, raccoon, and

fox tracks as well. It was a good day for "getting close" to wildlife.

The weather was very cooperative. It rained hard during lunch, but we were safe and dry in an overnight shelter. By the time everyone had rearranged their pack and gotten comfortably into their raingear, it quit. Lucky for me and my son since we were not so comfortable in our make-shift garbage bag rain apparel!

As always with this group, the walk was fun. There was lots of talk and laughter, good food, and reminiscing of past hikes. James and I will be back.

Happy Trails, Jill Norvell

Murfreesboro Chapter



TRIP REPORT: STONES RIVER CANOE FLOAT

Saturday, the 1st of November, was a cloudy day which looked like rain. Since this was a canoe trip, we wanted water under us, not over us. Well, the clouds finally broke up and the sun came out to warm us making for a perfect day for paddling.

Having spent previous trips on the East fork, this trip we gave the West fork a try. The section chosen, Battlefield Monument to Nice Mill Dam, seemed to have more wild life than the East fork...especially birds. This was a bird watcher's paradise! There were blue heron, ducks in large flocks, kingfishers, large woodpeckers, flickers, and even a parakeet!

There was ample water to get through. My 16-foot Bluehole, solo, floated clear except when I tried different routes and hit an occasional rock. Some canoes with less freeboard scraped bottom in a few places, but no problems.

A very pleasant float.

-- John Clark

Nashville Chapter

NASHVILLE CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY December 4

The Nashville Chapter will have its annual Christmas dinner with the Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Chapter on December 4 at the Cumberland Museum beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Coffee, apple juice and utensils will be furnished. As in the past, please bring your slides of special trips you have taken to show to the others. Limit is 10-15 slides per person. For more information, contact Evelyn Tretter at 859-0566.

TRIP TO CROSS CREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE December 13

Are you interested in viewing the natural nesting of our National Emblem, the Bald Eagle? If so, the Cross Creek Wildlife Refuge, the Audubon Society, and Tennessee Trails invite you to join them as they jointly host a trip to Cross Creek near Dover, Tennessee.

Meet at the Cumberland Museum at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to see Pintails, Shoveler, Gadwall, Widgeon, Redheads, Canvasback, Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, or Wood ducks. This is also an excellent habitat for Water Pipit or Horn larks, Savanaha Swamp, song, field, or Lincoln's sparrows.

Mr. Robertson and Ms. McCellan, both with the refuge, will lead us through the refuge. Remember, a refuge can be wet! Wear boots and take rain gear, since water does not deter birds as readily as Homo Sapiens. Since the refuge borders the river, warm clothing is advocated, too. For more details, contact Margaret Mann, 883-6212.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- By Bob Barnett -

It's time to start looking at replacing your 1986 calendars with the latest model. Calendars also make very nice gifts. Here, for your consideration, is a review of two 1987 calendars which I checked out.

This year, while in East Tennessee, a wonderful 1987 Great Smoky Mountains National Park calendar by Dream Garden press attracted me like a magnet. Through use of magnificent photographs, it represents many splendid locales in the Smokies, making it irresistible, but it also reflects the variety of the seasons in that area.

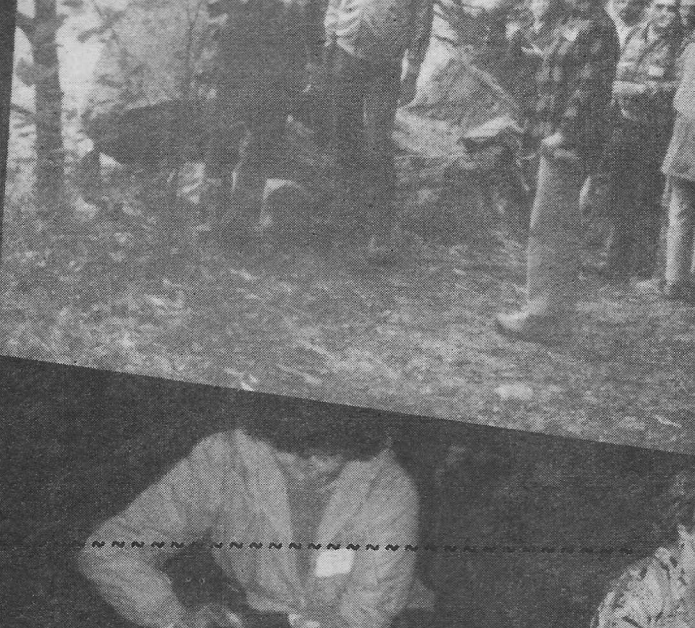
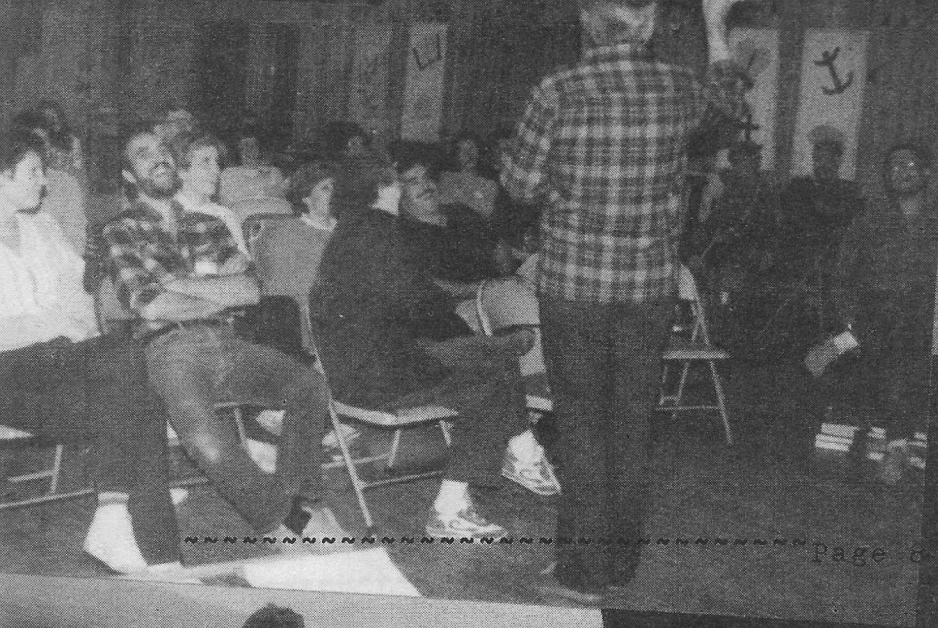
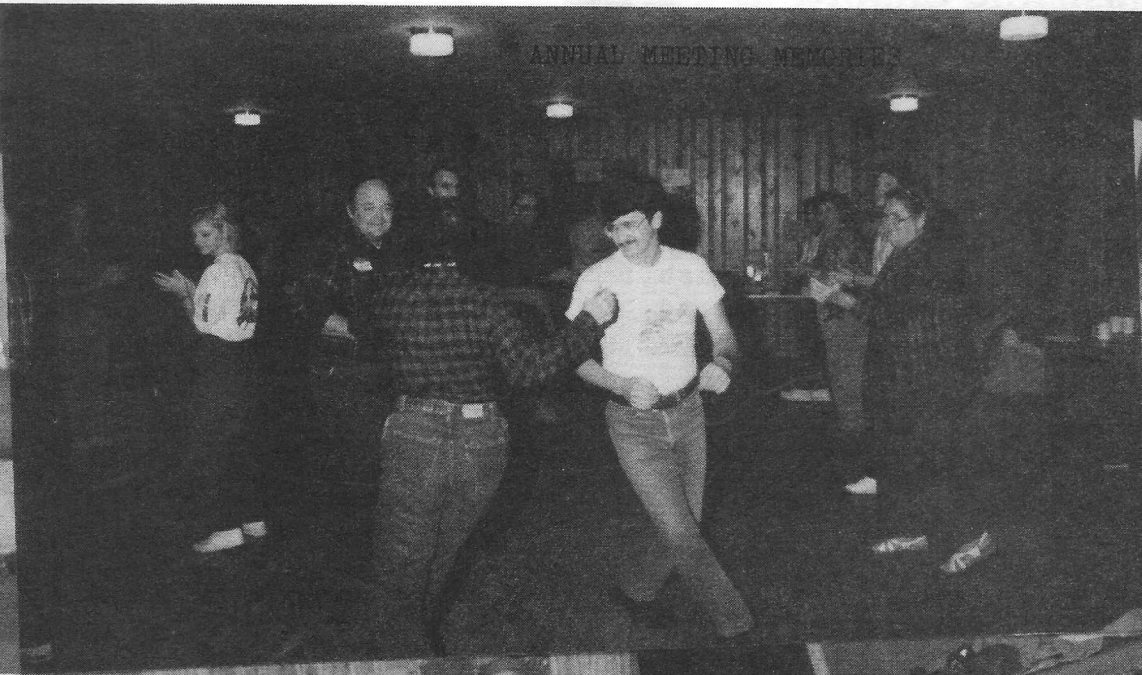
The calendar has text dealing with climate, chronology of the park, William Bartram's visits in the Smokies, plus an account of the vast biological diversity of the area. Also included are discussions of the Cherokee alphabet and Cherokee myths.

The Robert Bateman Naturalist's Diary -- 1987 contains some animal paintings which are very familiar to me. Anyone who is knowledgeable of Bateman's art knows that his paintings are vividly realistic and literally "leap off" the page, or off the canvas.

This diary/calendar has written accounts of national parks in America, Canada, South America, Australia, Africa, and Nepal. These accounts read like personalized excerpts from Robert Bateman's travel diary. The text and photographs and especially Bateman's drawings, live up to the project's theme: "Where Man and Wilderness Meet."

The format of the calendar/diary is great for amateur naturalists such as myself. I plan to use the diary to record my daily walks during 1987. The publication is ready-made for that purpose as the twelve months are printed in typical fashion. Also, each day of the year is listed in diary fashion with three lines provided for each day's writing.

The calendar concludes with Year At a Glance for 1986, 1987, and 1988. Additionally, a Naturalist's Bookshelf is listed plus Naturalists' associations.



ANNUAL MEETING MEMORIES



EDITOR'S TIDBITS

- By Dot Fowler -

Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas, boys and girls of TTA! Have you been good little hikers this year? If not, perhaps you should make 1987 your year to get out and explore Tennessee's trails.

Speaking of New Year's resolutions, be sure to fill in the membership renewal form in this issue so that you will continue to receive your TTA newsletter. Just think, for eight measly dollars, you get twelve issues of this exciting publication with its wealth of informative articles, schedules, and amusing anecdotes. More important, your money goes towards building or improving Tennessee's trails. With today's inflation rates, where can you get a better deal?

Bob Barnett asked me to pass along the need for each chapter to elect a local membership chairperson or a strategy for your chapter in increasing membership in your area. Check with him if you have questions.

Thanks to Dave Murrian for his "promo" for TTA in the September/October issue of Tennessee Wildlife. We always appreciate free publicity!

Rhonda Snyder passed along some news from "The Happy Hiker" in Gatlinburg, TN. Room does not permit me to enter all the information, but she felt it particularly important to let you know that this outfit provides a shuttle service, as well as trail tips, for visitors to the Smokies. In addition to a wide variety of hiking goods sold at The Happy Hiker, they now have a "Happy Hiker Club" which can provide up to a 15% discount for regular customers. They are located at 525 Parkway in Gatlinburg (615-436-5632).

Alan Stokes has come through yet again with this month's collage of pictures from the Annual Meeting (pictures donated by Pat Anderson, Vic Canada, and yours truly). He also drew the "It Never Fails" cartoon, which will be a regular feature when room permits.

Submit material for this newsletter by the 15th of the month to:

Dot Fowler
4501 Packard Dr. N-4
Nashville, TN 37211
615-834-2654

Hope you all have a merry, loving, and safe holiday ! See you next year!

Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 4913
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

Date _____

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1987 (Jan. through Dec.) with the type of membership checked:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (fulltime undergraduate and high school)	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family dependent (one who resides with an individual member)	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$150.00

Student members do not have voting privileges. Supporting members may be organizations or individuals. Each organization should designate a representative to cast its vote and up to three addresses to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do not receive a separate newsletter.

NAME _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____ (home) _____ (work) _____

UPCOMING HIKES

Cumberland Mountain Chapter:

December 13 Christmas Party
Details this issue

January 1, Joint hike with
Nashville chapter -- Leatherwood
Ford Trail, 3.2 miles, I & II,
Howard Ray Duncan (879-8245) or
Pat Anderson (383-2355)

Memphis Chapter:

December 13 Hike in Historical
downtown Memphis Details this
issue

January 3 Wapanocca Wildlife
Refuge, I, Jerri Bull (901-363-
4408)

January 18 -- Reelfoot Lake State
Park Eagle watch, I, Betty Porter
(901) 363-0213

Murfreesboro Chapter:

December 6 Percy Priest Canoe
Float--No details received. Call
Reggie Reeves (885-2422) to see
if still scheduled.

Nashville Chapter:

December 4 Christmas Party
Details this issue

December 13 -- Cross Creek
Wildlife Refuge, details this
issue

January 10, Virgin Falls, 8
miles, IV, Charlie Hann (367-
2679)

Cumberland Trail:

December 13 Scouting Trip
Details this issue

South Cumberland Recreation Area:

December 20-21 Holiday over-
nighter. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at
Savage Gulf Ranger Station 6
miles roundtrip, easy terrain
615-924-2980

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.

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