



TENNESSEE TRAILS

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STANDING STONE STATE PARK

Standing Stone State Park and Forest, located in Overton County, consists of 11,000 acres, about 9500 of which are managed by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The park is located approximately five miles from Dale Hollow Lake. Standing Stone has its own 69-acre lake for fishing and boating.

Situated on the Cumberland Plateau of north-central Tennessee, this area is part of the great plateau or "tableland" which extends unbroken from New York to Alabama. The park takes its name from the "standing stone," which was supposedly used as a boundary line between two separate Indian tribes. The stone was sandstone, about eight feet tall and sat upright on a sandstone ledge. After it fell, the Indians placed it on an improvised monument to preserve it. The stone is still preserved at Monterey, Tennessee.

Standing Stone offers something for everyone, young and old alike. Comfortable rustic cabins and family lodges are located near the lake, plus there are group cabins and a group lodge. Campsites are available for tents and trailers.

Short nature trails and more challenging hiking trails lead into beautiful, primitive woodlands. Ten miles of trails wind through the wilds of the park and forest. Wildlife abounds in both the State Forest and in the developed area of the park. Standing Stone is home for many birds, raccoons, opossums, deer, skunks, and other animals and plants.

Spring finds the Standing Stone trails lined with colorful wildflowers. Interpretive programs are scheduled throughout the year for park visitors and school groups, and daily interpretive and recreation programs are scheduled over the summer.

For the less nature-minded folks, there's still plenty to do. A swimming pool will cool you off in the summer; there's fishing and boating on the lake; tennis, softball, volleyball, playfields, picnicing and a recreation hall are also available. If you come to Standing Stone for a lazy vacation, there are also activities that don't take a lot of energy. For example, the National Rolley Hole Marbles Championship is held at Standing Stone every August. In addition, there are slide and campfire programs that will take you through the park without you ever having to leave your chair!

If you run out of things to do at Standing Stone, you can travel north approximately twenty miles to the Cordell Hull Birthplace in Byrdstown and get to know one of America's great statesmen known as the "Father of the United Nations".

Standing Stone State Park and Cordell Hull Birthplace are rich in natural and cultural resources. We invite you to visit both locations and share the discovery of Tennessee's heritage with us. For more information, contact Candy Swan, Interpretive Specialist, at 615-823-6347 or 615-864-3247.

Standing Stone is located on Highway 52 in Livingston, Tennessee (38570). Cordell Hull Birthplace is located off Highway 42, three miles south of Byrdstown.



CARPOOL COORDINATORS

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CUMBERLAND TRAIL NEWS

C.T. SCOUTING TRIP

February 21

Once again, Bob Brown and David Rhyne will attempt to scout a path for the C.T. in the upper section of the Piney River. Bad weather has caused them to cancel this trip twice in the past, but they are hopeful that the third try will be the winner. Both invite you to join them as they scout a possible trail route up an old railroad grade which runs beside the Piney River. Call Bob Brown (615-748-4816) or David Rhyne (615-745-4289) for details.

UPDATE YOUR TTA HIKING SCHEDULE

Change the Cove Lake hike scheduled for May 16-17 on your 1987 Hiking Schedule to May 23-24.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL, PART IV

- By Bob Brown -

As mentioned in Part I, during the early Mesozoic Era, cracks in the sandstone caprock of the Sequatchie anticline allowed surface water to penetrate to the underlying, more soluble, limestone. Large sinkhole coves resulted as cave systems developed in the limestone and their roofs subsequently collapsed or settled. Sequatchie Valley evolved as the ancestral Sequatchie River eroded away up the anticline axis through successive sinkhole coves.

This valley lengthening continues today in Grassy Cove (and Little Cove) just north of Sequatchie Valley. Here the underlying limestone has been weathered to a depth of more than 300 feet below the surrounding Cumberland Plateau. The cove extends about five miles along the anticline axis and two miles across it.

Brady (2,920+ ft.) and Hinch (3,048 ft.) Mountains separate Grassy Cove from Sequatchie Valley, but the waters of the cove gather at its north end to flow into Mill Cave (1,540 ft.) and through passages beneath Brady Mountain to reappear as a large spring (and cave) at the head of Sequatchie Valley some 500 feet lower. The National Park Service has designated Grassy Cove a National Natural Landmark and describes it as "one of the Nation's best illustrations of Karst development and underground drainage." Northeast of Grassy Cove, beyond Black Mountain (2,828 ft.), Crab Orchard Cove and two smaller coves were similarly formed along the anticline and are underlain by extensive cave systems.

The first Long Hunters coming into this region found an old Indian trail passing through Crab Orchard Gap, between Haley (2,660+ ft.) and Crab Orchard (2,700+ ft.) Mountains just east of the cove. It connected ancient towns around the mouth of Clinch River with towns at the Cumberland River salt licks in middle Tennessee. Early whites called it the Cherokee Path or Cumberland Trace and, later, Tollunteeskee's Trail for a Cherokee Chief who lived where

the trail branched off the Great Lakes Trail (in present Rockwood).

By the 1790's, this trace was being increasingly used by settlers headed for Nashville and middle Tennessee. Many travellers were ambushed, however, by Chickamaugas and roving Creeks, often at "the Crab Orchard", a favorite resting place because of its springs, cool cave, wild crabapples, and tall, rich grass (probably a mixture of Big Bluestem and Indian Grass according to botanist Paul Somers).

The second place named in Cumberland County (after Crab Orchard) was Spencer's Hill, just east of the orchard where the trace dropped steeply into the gap. Here Thomas Sharpe (Big Foot) Spencer, a Virginia cavalier "of giant proportions and herculean strength" and one of the earliest and most colorful of the Long Hunters, was killed from ambush in April, 1794, by Doublehead, a Chickamauga Chief. Spencer Rock, where legend says he fell, can still be seen on the north side of I-40.

In 1795, William Walton, who was operating a ferry across the Cumberland near the mouth of the Caney Fork, opened a wagon road from there to the top of Chestnut Mound hill, thence east across the highland rim and up Cumberland Plateau to the Forks of the Road (at present Brotherton east of Cookeville).

In 1799 the Tennessee Legislature directed Governor Blount to request that President Adams have a Federal road marked out "the nearest and best way" between the Forks of the Road and the ford on the Clinch below Emory's mouth. This turned out to be the route of the old Cumberland Trace.

Two years later the Cumberland Turnpike Company was incorporated by Walton and three others to complete this project. They opened the Cumberland Turnpike in October 1802. It was commonly known as the Walton Road, and one of its first travelers was botanist F.A. Michaux.

It was soon provided with "stands", ordinaries or taverns, at intervals along the way. Sidnor's Stand opened at Crab Orchard

in 1800 and was succeeded in 1827 by the two-story brick Crab Orchard Inn.

"In the fall of the year...the lines of wagons moved in unbroken formation across Cumberland County," said H. B. and J. M. Krechniak. "At first...to...middle Tennessee but this was also the period of settlement for all the southern and western states." By 1834, they added, the Walton Road was part of a great post road "carrying much of the traffic from the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania westward."

The Burke Road, opened about 1822, branched off the Walton Road at Kemmer's Stand about three miles west of Crab Orchard. It later became the Great Stage Road from Nashville through Sparta to Knoxville.

A rival to the Walton Road, the Gordon Road, was built around 1828. It came through Walden's Ridge up White's and Piney Creeks and Wildcat Hollow past Gibson's Inn, through Little Cove past Greer's Stand, out the north end of Grassy Cove and on to join the Great Stage Road. Another old road over Owl Roost Gap connected the Gordon Road at Dogwood with the Walton Road at Crab Orchard.

One of the early families settling in Grassy Cove, the Bristows, were tanners and cobblers attracted, in part, by the abundance of deer and elk for buckskins. They set up a tanyard in Little Cove on the Gordon Road and later tanned leather for the Confederate Army. At Saltpeter Cave on Brady Mountain, the Mathews family early on made gunpowder for sale at a Walton Road chestnut-whiskey-gunpowder stand and continued production during the Civil War. Weatherston Greer built a grist and sawmill in 1848 at the mouth of Mill Cave where the water starts under Brady Mountain.

Place names along, or near, the Cumberland Trail are often those of early settlers in the Grassy and Crab Orchard Cove area, e.g., Kemmer's Stand, Gibson Inn, Greer's Stand, Hinch, Brady, Haley, and Loden Mountains, Dorton Knob, Bristow Cave, Goodstock Hollow, and Cox's Valley. Descendents of some of these and other pioneer families inhabit Grassy Cove today. Their love for, and good stewardship of, their land is evident in the pastoral beauty of the Cove's 3,000 acres,

still exclusively devoted to farming and grazing. The entire Grassy Cove section of the Cumberland Trail is privately owned, much of it by residents of Grassy and Crab Orchard Coves.

The Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church owns several hundred acres on Black Mountain including the summit. Several years ago, the Conference worked with the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program to secure Black Mountain's designation as a State Natural Area. Paul Adams was consulted during the biological surveys.

This tract had been given to the Methodist Cumberland Mountain School in Crossville in 1934 by Ella Eaton Gill who had earlier lived near the summit with her husband, A. C. Gill, a Cornell University botany professor. Her gift was made with the "wish and earnest desire that there never be any hunting or trapping on this property and that it shall be maintained as a wildlife preserve for both animals and plants except that collection of plant life and insects for educational purposes shall be permitted..." Her interest in preserving this unique natural heritage for future generations is typical of today's landowners along this section of the Cumberland Trail.

REFERENCES:

THE GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF TENNESSEE, by Robert A. Miller, Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology, Bulletin 74

CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS, by H. B. and J. M. Krechniak, Centennial Committee, Crossville, Tennessee, 1956

THE UPPER CUMBERLAND OF PIONEER TIMES, by Alvin B. Wirt, Washington, DC, 1954

Adopt-a-Trail Coordinators

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CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN: Howard Ray
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MEMPHIS: Bob Barnett, 901-767-9347

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News From Our Parks

South Cumberland State Recreation Area
February Activities
615-924-2980 or 924-2956

The following activities are planned at SCRA this month:

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 Snowbird Backpack Trip -- Meet at 10:00 a.m. CST at the Stone Door Ranger Station. Bring your heavy gear and join the park Naturalist for a chilly campout in the depths of a mountain gorge. For properly equipped backpackers only. Call for reservation by January 28. 10 miles round trip, strenuous

Feb. 7 Deerlick Falls -- Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. The incredible fairyland castle of this place in winter has to be seen to be believed. 1 mile roundtrip, strenuous

Feb. 21 Greeter Falls Excursion -- Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Stone Door Ranger Station. This popular summer cooling-off spot is extremely beautiful in the winter. 3 miles, roundtrip, moderate difficulty.

The editor wishes to apologize to Randy and Jill Hedgepath for erroneously referring to Jill as Wendy in last month's issue. Now, if only I could figure out who Wendy is.

FRIENDS OF TTA

BIG SOUTH FORK HIKING CLUB

Feb. 28 Sheltoewe Trace -- Begin at Flat Rock and end at Alum Ford Campground. 9.8 miles, strenuous. Leave Burger King in Somerset at 8:15 a.m. or leave Whitley City Motel at 8:45 a.m. Meet at Hwy. 27 at Flat Rock at 9:00 a.m.

March 21 Sheltoewe Trace -- Begin at Hemlock Grove and end at Hwy. 154 at Rock Creek. 10 miles, strenuous. Leave Burger King

in Somerset at 8:00 a.m. or leave Whitley City Motel at 8:45 a.m. Cross creek 3 times so bring boots.

TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL INTERGROUP CONFERENCE REPORT

- By Bertha Chrietzberg -

SAVE SHELBY FARMS FOREST COMMITTEE

One of the ideas put forth by the Governor's Commission on Outdoors is for Urban Open Space, something those of us who live in or near large cities will agree is needed. The Commission proposes a matching grants program through the Department of Conservation to help cities identify and preserve these natural open spaces.

One such area which is important to many Memphis residents is the Wolf River corridor. We are familiar with the Wolf River Conservancy's efforts to preserve this greenbelt. One of the greatest assets of the area is a 413-acre tract of hardwoods which is approximately 75-80 years old and is located on the north bank of the Wolf River. This area is known as Shelby Farms Forest and contains several miles of hiking trails which are used by TTA and other groups/individuals.

This forest, with its wildflowers and many species of birds and animals is now threatened by plans by the Tennessee Department of Transportation as well as city and county officials, to extend Kirby Parkway (a six-lane highway) directly through the forest.

An ad hoc citizen's group named Save Shelby Farms Forest has been formed to persuade officials to re-direct this road from its present path to near the rifle range, soccer field, or landfill putting it outside the main part of the forest. In this way, the ecological damage would be minimized.

This cause is important not only to Memphis TTA members, but to everyone across the state. We hope that you will join us in contacting the officials involved and letting them hear your displeasure with the present plans. If you need further information, please contact Betty Tabatabai of the Save Shelby Farms Forest Committee at 901-452-6330.

The Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), held their Intergroup Conference December 5-7 at the Joe L. Evins Craft Center near Smithville. This group represents an umbrella organization for most of the environmental groups throughout the state. Presently, about 42 groups are members and are represented on the board.

TEC does an excellent job of representing us environmentally at the state level and keeping us updated on environmental issues. At this annual Intergroup Conference, reports and updates were presented on many different environmental matters facing the State of Tennessee. Officials from State Government were in attendance as were legislative assistants for Senators Gore and Sasser. The various environmental organizations from across the state had representatives present also and there were many persons present who simply like to be kept abreast of environmental matters. Some of the highlights of this conference were as follows:

Tennesseans Outdoors Commission Report -- Ann Tidwell, Chairperson of this commission gave an update on the final report, and had copies available ofr those present. Some of the issues this commission addressed were:

- o Continuanace of funding for natural areas
- o Cleaning up abandoned mines
- o Liability problems in recreation
- o Protection of water quality
- o Protection of natural corridors in the state, in the form of rivers, trails, and areas of scenic beauty

Other recommendations and more details are included in this final report.

Groundwater: Report on Policy Group -- Dr. Ruth Neff gave an excellent report on the goals that this group has decided upon which included a recommendation for a single state agency to manage and maintain ground water by protection and conservation of present sources, as well as the restoration of contaminated sources.

Petroleum Overcharge -- Jim Johnson gave a good explanation as to this one-time windfall of 34.6 million dollars received by the state following the lawsuit won by the Federal Government against Exxon. Most of this fund is earmarked for schools, hospitals, small business loans and human services.

Radon -- A good explanation of exactly what radon gas is and how the testing will proceed was given by Bill French and Jack Neff which left us all with a better understanding of this Chattanooga shale culprit.

Monitored Retrievable Storage of Atomic Waste (MRS) -- Albert Bates alerted us that this monster will soon be rearing its ugly head on the Tennessee landscape again, and that we need to fortify ourselves for another battle to convince the Government to look at a permanent facility, instead of a temporary storage facility at Oak Ridge.

Billboard Control -- This was brought up several times during the weekend. Mack Prichard has an excellent slide presentation on these sign pollutants, and suggestions for alternatives. Tennessee would present a much more beautiful impression as we travel through it if we could control the number and kinds of signs on our highways, not to mention controlling the litter.

These are but a few of the topics that were covered during this weekend. There were some good panel discussions and open question/answer sessions. Several resolutions came out of the conference which will be published later in the TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER.

If you are interested in environmental issues in our state, I urge you to become a member of the Tennessee Environmental Council which entitles you to receive their newsletters, to attend their annual meeting in the spring, and their intergroup conference in December. Regular membership is \$20.00 and may be mailed to Tennessee Environmental Council, 1719 West End Avenue, Suite 227, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.



Chapter News

Cumberland Mountain Chapter

CHAPTER MEETING
FEBRUARY 10

The Cumberland Mountain Chapter of TTA will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10th at the Fentress County Chamber of Commerce. All members are urged to attend and interested parties are invited. For more information, call Howard Ray Duncan, 615-879-8245.

FUTURE TTA HIKER BORN

Nine days after losing Dean's father, Ken Pittman's father died as well. We are happy, however, to announce some good news from the Pittman household. Ken and Dean are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Rachael Marie Vosherg who was born December 29th in Knoxville weighing 8 lbs., 2 1/4 oz. Her mother is excellent; her father is recuperating; her grandparents are glowing; and Rachael Marie is a happy, noisy baby.

Memphis Chapter

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING



Join us on February 19th at the Kingsway Christian Church. Betty Tabatabai, a member of TTA as well as a member of the Save Shelby Farms Forest Committee, will bring us some information on the committee's efforts to stop a six-lane highway from being built through the forest. She will also have some slides of the area which should be of interest to members and visitors. One of our good hiking trails is being threatened by this highway. Please bring a friend and join us for this important meeting.

OVERTON PARK HIKE
Sunday, February 8

All of you folks who like to sleep late and then hike, here's your chance. Meet John

Parrish, hike leader, and other members of TTA at the doughboy statue in Overton Park, 1:00 p.m., for an estimated two hour stroll. Dress for the weather and bring a snack if you wish since you never know when a good snacking place will present itself. There will be no carpool for this hike.

HERB PARSONS LAKE HIKE
Fisherville
Saturday, February 21

Join us on Saturday, February 21 at Kingsway Christian Church, 6310 Poplar, to carpool at 9:00 a.m. If you do not plan to carpool, the hike will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Fisherville Lake Office. The hike will be approximately 8 miles in length and is easy hiking, though there may be some water in low places (dress accordingly). Bring water and a snack. Our leader will be Anne Lindholm who can be reached at 901-388-4123.

TRIP REPORT:
WAPANOCCA WILDLIFE REFUGE HIKE
January 3, 1987

In spite of a weather forecast of snow, freezing rain, and the whole bit, eight members and two visitors gathered at Wapanocca for our first official hike of 1987.

On our way in to the lake area, we saw some ducks and a few Canadian Geese, but their numbers were down substantially from previous years. Hopefully, there will be more later when weather in the north worsens and they come further south in search of food.

We did see some ruddy ducks, mallards, canvasback, wood duck, coots and a few shovelers. There were also lots of woodpeckers, kildeer in an open field, white-throated sparrows, wrens, chickadees, and other small birds along the field road. The belted kingfisher was in evidence near the water, and beavers had been busy cutting trees and building lodges in the water.

All in all, it was a great hike, especially the last three miles which were walked in a lightly falling snow. The fourteen miles walked should get us set for a great hiking year.

TRIP REPORT:
MEMPHIS HISTORICAL HIKE
December 13

We got a new perspective on this downtown Memphis trail by walking it in cool winter rather than the hot summer as we usually do. There was little traffic or people to disturb the quiet of the city as eight of us hiked about nine miles.

This hike is interesting and informative for both new residents and long-time Memphians. Getting such a close look at the buildings, parks, statues, Indian mounds, etc., and knowing even a little bit about their historical significance is a really neat experience and gives us a new appreciation of our heritage. It is also interesting to know small sites such as the zero mile marker (where map mileage measurements start and end).

After an inspection of the Salvation Army Thrift Store (no purchases), we took a guided tour of the Magevney Home, built in 1831, and decorated for the holiday season. The priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church gladly opened the doors so we could see the beautiful sanctuary. Our lunch stop was in a small park in a patch of sunshine not shaded by the Crown Plaza Hotel. Concrete makes for hard walking, but our sore feet were forgotten in the last mile along the top of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River.

-- Betty Porter

Nashville Chapter

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING
February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Meet us at the Cumberland Museum on February 26 for an interesting meeting. Mack Prichard with the Tennessee Department of Conservation will be our speaker and those of you who know him know that he always has interesting thoughts to share.



FEBRUARY TTA HIKES

RADNOR LAKE HIKE February 8, 1987

We hope to have a clear, crisp winter afternoon for this very scenic hike at Radnor Lake in Nashville. The hike will begin at 1:30 from the west parking lot (one closest to Granny White Pike).

We will travel along the lake trail, up Ganier Ridge where Nashville's skyline can be seen, down the ridge and then back along the lake trail to the parking lot. The distance is about three miles and the difficulty rating is easy to moderate. For more information, contact Ninez Giles, 615-322-1619 (wk) or 615-297-2281 (hm).

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN:

Feb. 15, General Slocum Loop Trail, call Tom Sells, 879-7759, 5.9 miles, Class I/II

CUMBERLAND TRAIL:

Feb. 21, Scouting trip, details this issue.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER:

Feb. 8, Overton Park Hike, details this issue

Feb. 21, Herb Parsons Lake Hike, details this issue

NASHVILLE CHAPTER:

Feb. 8, Radnor Lake, details this issue

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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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