



# TENNESSEE TRAILS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME XVIII, NO.3

MARCH 1987

## FORT PILLOW STATE HISTORIC AREA

Fort Pillow, which is located in Lauderdale County near Henning, was occupied throughout most of the Civil War by Union or Confederate forces. The fortification was named after General Gideon J. Pillow, a Mexican War hero.

Early during the war, the Confederacy saw the necessity for defending against a Union invasion of the south by way of the Mississippi River. Fort Pillow was one of several fortifications constructed on the river as a part of a river defense system.

The fort was built on Chickasaw Bluff No. 1 overlooking the river. An extensive system of breastworks was dug for the protection of the river batteries in case of land attack. During the war, the fort's river batteries were close to the river, but since the war, erosion factors have caused the river to move a mile west.

The Union Navy did launch an invasion on the river. Following the fall of Island No. 10 and other Confederate losses to the north and east of Fort Pillow, the main U.S. Navy flotilla on the Mississippi River proceeded to work its way down river. On May 10, 1862, they met the Confederate River Defense Fleet in the naval battle of Plum

Point Bend, within sight of Fort Pillow. The Confederate gunboats were victorious, but the Union gunboats were soon able to proceed down river and attack Memphis a month later.

During the spring and early summer of 1862, the Union Navy bombarded Fort Pillow from its mortar boats. Few casualties resulted, but with the increasing danger of being cut off from the main army, the Confederate Army evacuated Fort Pillow in June of 1862. Union forces immediately occupied the fort and held it for almost two years.

On April 12, 1864, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and approximately 1500 Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Pillow. The Union garrison, commanded by Major Lionel F. Booth, was manned by approximately 550 soldiers; almost half were black troops. Major Booth was killed early in the day and Major William F. Bradford took command.

The Confederate Army was able to gain a commanding position on the field of battle. General Forrest asked for surrender, which Major Bradford refused. The Confederate Army then stormed the fort and easily won the battle. After April 12, 1864, neither Union nor Confe-

derate forces occupied Fort Pillow. Because of high Union casualties and the presence of black Union troops, controversy surrounding this battle still exists today.

In present times, Fort Pillow has been designated as a Wildlife Observation Area by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Interpretive signs identify certain species and their habitat.

This 1650-acre park provides sanctuary for deer, turkey, and many other animals. It is frequented by bird watchers. The Mississippi kite can often be viewed from the bluffs during the summer, plus many other species of small birds can be observed as they follow their spring and fall migration routes.

The Interpretive Center near the north end of the park houses displays and an auditorium for various programs. An audiovisual program is provided on the history of Fort Pillow.

Fifteen miles of hiking trails guide the hiker by the breastworks and battle site. The hilly terrain, hardwood forests, and presence of wildlife provide the hiker with the opportunity to enjoy, study, and appreciate nature.

Three trails are available. The 5-mile TREK and 10-mile TRAIL make full circles. A segment of the Chickasaw Bluff State Scenic Trail runs from the south end of the park to a road near the park's north end. This is an ideal trail for backpackers who can camp at the Chickasaw Bluff Trail camping area. This area can only be reached by hiking and overlooks the Mississippi River.

Fort Pillow has a rustic campground of 40 sites designed primarily for

tent camping, although pop-ups, pickups, small trailers, and RVs are accommodated. The sites consist of tables, grills, and tent locations. Two modern bathhouses, restrooms, and a laundry facility are centrally located. Water faucets are provided but there are no electrical hookups. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Also available is a group tent area which is utilized by supervised groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church groups. Up to 200 campers can set up their tents in the wooded area surrounding the pavilion. The pavilion has picnic tables, a fire pit, electric stove, water, and restrooms. A fee is charged for the use of this area and reservations are required.

For further information, contact:  
Fort Pillow State Historic Area  
Route 2, Box 108 B-1  
Henning, Tennessee 38041  
901-738-5581



#### CARPOOL COORDINATORS

CHATTANOOGA: Dot Lingerfelt, 615-842-8043 (Hm.)  
or 615-751-3292 (Wk.)  
MEMPHIS: Gene Jacobson, 901-755-9073  
MURFREESBORO: Maryedith McFarlin, 615-896-1344  
NASHVILLE: Evelyn Tretter, 615-859-0566



## CUMBERLAND TRAIL NEWS

### CUMBERLAND TRAIL WORK-PLAY WEEKEND March 14-15

Saturday we shall meet at the Cumberland Trail office in Cove Lake State Park at 8:00 a.m. EST. The day will be spent working on C.T. Section 2, probably between Caryville and Lake City. Tools and transportation will be provided.

A six-person cabin (3 bedrooms with a double bed in each, kitchen, dining area, living room with a sofa) has been reserved on a first-come, first-served basis for Friday and Saturday nights at Norris Dam State Park (close to both Cove Lake and Big Ridge State Parks). Call Bob Brown at 615-748-4816 to reserve space in the cabin.

#### MARCH 15 -- BIG RIDGE STATE PARK

The second half of the Work-Play weekend consists of a hike.

We'll follow the Lake Trail - Dark Hollow - Big Valley Loop, described on page 77 in Tennessee Trails, starting from the Group Camp on the Lake Trail. We'll return to the starting point on the Ghost House Trail, past the old Norton Cemetery. There will be a side trip to Indian Rock on top of Big Ridge, where we'll have lunch at the historical marker where Indians ambushed the pioneer, Peter Graves in 1794.

Those who work on the C.T. on the 14th may be a little tired, so we won't descend to the Sharp's Station marker on the shore of Norris Lake. Those who have

traveled a great distance may want to get home reasonably early on Sunday evening.

We'll be too early for many of the spring flowers but the leaves won't be out and we'll have some very good views. Spring beauties and bloodroot should begin to show by then. We'll be ahead of the crested dwarf iris and the pink lady slippers. There are many species of wildflowers along the trails in Big Ridge Park and some may want to go back for the bigger displays which begin in late March and last into May.

We'll meet at the Visitor's Center at park headquarters between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. EST and plan to start the hike from the Group Camp at 9:30. Late arrivals may take a shortcut on the west end of the Lake Trail from the park office and may catch up with the main group at the Big Ridge Dam. March 15 will be full moon, so be prepared for rain. Carry lunch and a canteen. For more information, call Evan Means, 615-483-5555.

#### BRADY MOUNTAIN DAY HIKE Saturday, March 28

This will be an opportunity for those who hiked off Black Mountain at the dedication of the Cumberland Trail, Section 2 (Grassy Cove) last September to hike the rest of this section. It will be a moderately difficult hike of 7-1/2 miles involving a 300-ft. climb out of Hinch Gap in the first mile and an 800-ft. descent to Low Gap in the last mile. Great views of Grassy Cove should be had at several bluffs and rocky outcrops, and some early wildflowers should be up.

Meet at the Cumberland Mountain State Park restaurant parking lot at 9:00 a.m. CST. For more information, call Bob Brown at 615-748-4816.

# Chapter News

## Cumberland Mountain Chapter

### TRIP REPORT: New Year's Day Hike

New Year's Day once again came to the Cumberland Plateau, and 13 people from the Cumberland Mountain, Nashville, and Memphis chapters congregated at the BSF Visitor Center for the annual New Year's Day Hike. The event is usually sponsored by the Cumberland Mountain chapter, but this year, the hike was led by Pat Anderson of Nashville and myself, as a joint activity of both chapters.

We were to hike the 3.6-mile Leatherwood Loop Trail, which is yet another addition to the BSFNNRA trails system. The hike began at the Visitor's Center and followed what was formerly a section of the River Overlook Nature Trail, past an old home site before breaking off to an overlook that rewarded the group to a breathtaking view of the river gorge and the river below. From the overlook we made our way down the winding trail into the gorge and along the river to the Leatherwood Trail Head, where the trail turns uphill, winding its way back to the top of the plateau.

The Leatherwood Loop Trail is a trail of moderate difficulty and due to the diversity of the terrain and vegetation, it is a pleasurable hike any time of the year. The trail even boasts a connection with local history as sections of it follow the old wagon road that once led to Leatherwood Ford from the east side of the river.

The weather for our outing was cool, but pleasant, and made for a

perfect winter hike. Upon returning to the Visitor Center, Howard Ray Duncan had the traditional blackeyed peas, hog jowl, and cornbread ready. Everyone ate, at least a taste, in keeping with tradition.

Several took a second trip to the O & W Overlook in the afternoon. Later that evening, part of the group had dinner at the Jordan Restaurant in Jamestown, in what was a delightful ending to a most enjoyable day. -- Steven Burke



## Memphis Chapter

MEMPHIS CHAPTER MEETING  
March 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Kingsway Christian Church

Bob Barni from Lichterman Nature Center will be the guest speaker with slides from his February, 1986 trip to Florida, including several wildlife refuges and the Everglades.

Additionally, we will elect officers for the coming year (Chairman, Sect. Treasurer, Hospitality Chairman, Carpool Coordinator, and Publicity Chairman). If you would like to fill any of these positions or have anyone in mind for them, please be present. Before nominating anyone, make certain they are agreeable to this.

### WOLF RIVER HIKES

Larry Smith will be leading hikes along the Wolf River every second Saturday of each month this year, beginning on February 14. Meet Larry and fellow hikers at 8:00 a.m. at the soccer field parking lot at Shelby Farms. Trails may be muddy after recent rains, so dress accordingly. Bring snacks and



water.

NATCHEZ TRACE STATE PARK HIKE  
Sunday, March 8

The carpool for this hike will meet at Oshman's parking lot at Park Place Mall at 7:30 p.m. or the park office at Natchez Trace at 10:00 a.m. to begin hiking. The hike will be approximately 8-10 miles and you will need lunch and water. This is not a difficult hike, but there will be some hills making comfortable shoes and clothing necessary. For further information, call Gene Jacobson at 901-755-9073.

WORK DAY AT MEEMAN SHELBY FOREST  
Saturday, March 14

Meet us at the park office at 9:00 a.m. We will be working with Ranger Gary McEntire who needs help in constructing some bridges on some of the trails. Bring lunch and water. Wear work clothes and bring work gloves if you have them. We need lots of help for this, so make room for this on your schedule. Call Jerri Bull, 901-363-4408, if you need more information.

TRIP REPORT:  
Reelfoot State Park  
January 18

Rain is not as much fun for people or eagles! That's what we found out on this return visit to Reelfoot, but, thank goodness, the rain stopped just as we got on the tour bus. Although we spotted only a few of the approximately 190 eagles, some were only 50-75 yards away, providing us with great views.

Thanks, John, for setting up your telescope. Naturalist David Haggard was an excellent guide, very informative and entertaining, and gave us the deluxe tour, including a stop at the northern

refuge to view some of the 20,000 Canadian Geese (2 Snow Geese were also observed). We were sorry that the refuge was closed and we were not allowed to walk in there.

A lot of birdwatching was done by simply looking out the windows at the Inn. The bad weather did not keep several cardinals, chickadees, red-bellied woodpecker, and various other birds from trying to get something to eat.

After a wonderful meal at Boyette's, we hiked through the Interpretive Center looking at the very nice exhibits, testing the earthquake simulator, and watching David feed the turtles, gar and fish. We hope that Ellen Cain and her three friends from Oak Ridge were not disappointed with the gray, cold day; we're glad they made the long trip to join us. We also enjoyed the company of one of our new members, Cathy and her son Carter and friend, Dan.

-- Anne, Julie, Patricia, Betty

## Nashville Chapter

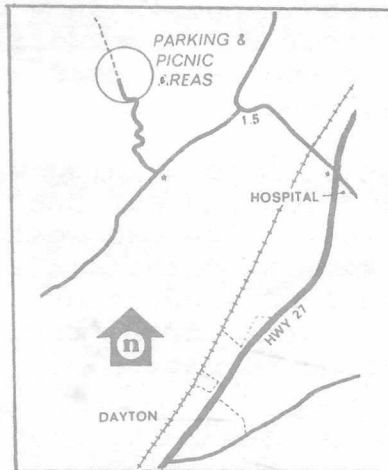
LAUREL-SNOW POCKET WILDERNESS  
March 7

The 710 acres set aside for this area makes this the largest of Bowater's Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is named for two waterfalls on the trail. The complete hike involves two ascents of about 900 feet, and at least six to eight hours should be allowed to complete the hike.

The carpool will leave from the Cracker Barrel at I-24 and Bell Road at 6:30 a.m. or you can meet us at the trail head at 10:00 a.m. CST. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. For more information,

contact Charlie Hann, 615-367-2679.

## LAUREL-SNOW TRAILHEAD



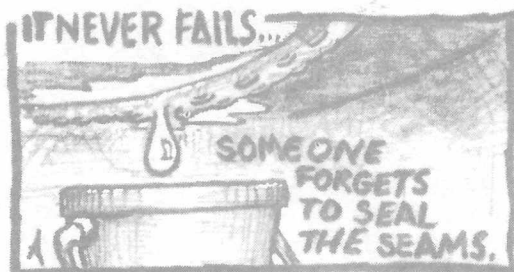
MARCH MEETING  
March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Meet us at the Cumberland Museum for an entertaining slide show by Warren Dixon of Pulaski. His show will include slides of his trips in the West.

### UNSCHEDULED HIKES

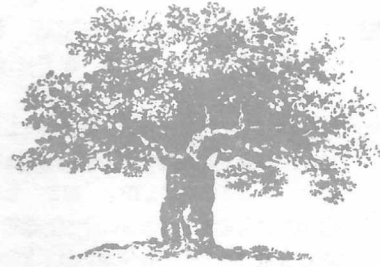
Some Nashville Chapter recent hikes not listed on the schedule include: Cedars of Lebanon, Radnor Lake, the Mossy Ridge and Warner Woods trails at Percy Warner Park, and the O & W Railroad Bridge Trail at Big South Fork.

Unscheduled hikes are planned for most weekends if the weather forecast is favorable. For information on these outings, call hike coordinators; Charlie Hann at 615-367-2679 or Pat Anderson at 615-383-2355.



Drawn & contributed by Alan Stokes

## News From Our Parks



### 19th ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE Frozen Head State Natural Area Wartburg, Tennessee

During the last three weekends of April, you can participate in nature walks guided by professionals and experienced naturalists. These wildflower and bird walks will be conducted through some of the most unique botanical communities in the state.

Look in next month's Tennessee Trails for the schedule of events or write for a copy: Frozen Head State Natural Area, Route 2, Box 1302, Wartburg, Tennessee 37887, 615-346-3318.

### SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA March Hikes 615-924-2980 or 2956

- 2-28/3-1 Late Winter Overnighter: Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. Hiking the Big Creek Trail through the gorge on Saturday and along the rim on Sunday. Bring own equipment. 10 miles -- strenuous. Call for reservations (limit 15)
- 3-7 Big Creek Rim: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles -- moderate
- 3-8 Greeter's Point Overlook: Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Stone Door Ranger Station. 2 miles

3-21&22 Spring Overnighter: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station for a hike on the spectacular but seldom seen trail called the Collins Gulf Loop. 17 miles -- strenuous. Call for reservations (limit 15).

3-28 Shake Rag Hollow: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Green's View in Sewanee. 2 miles -- moderate

3-28 Buggytop Trail: Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Carter Natural Area Parking Lot. Does not include a cave tour. 4 miles -- strenuous

3-29 Blue Bell Island: Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Tyson Foods Plant on Hwy. 50 at Elk River. 1 mile -- moderate

Numerous wildflower trips are planned for April and May. A schedule will be available soon.

## TTA SUPPORTER NEWS

### BIG SOUTH FORK HIKING CLUB March and April Hikes

March 21: Sheltowee 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. Leave Whitley City Motel at 8:45 a.m. Cross creek three times.

April 18: Sheltowee Trace -- Begin at Devil's Creek Road and end at Hemlock Grove (14.3 miles, strenuous). Leave Burger King in Somerset at 7:30 a.m. or Whitley City Motel at 8:15 a.m.

## UPCOMING HIKEs

### CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN:

- 3-22 Frozen Head State Park, Howard Ray Duncan, 615-879-8245. First quarter Board meeting. No details received.  
4-5 Middle Creek Work Trip, Howard Ray Duncan. To be announced

### CUMBERLAND TRAIL:

- 3-14 Cove Lake Area Workday, details this issue  
3-15 Big Ridge State Park Hike, details this issue

### MEMPHIS:

- 3-8 Natchez Trace State Park, Gene Jacobsen, 901-755-9073, details this issue  
3-14 Shelby Forest Workday, details this issue  
3-28/29 Mousetail Landing Backpack, Vic Canada 615-868-1072 or Bob Barnett 901-767-9347. No details received  
4-11 Shiloh National Military Park, Betty Porter, 901-363-0213  
4-25 Village Creek State Park, Jo DeWitt, 901-452-0911

### MURFREESBORO:

- 4-18 Burnt Mill Bridge Wildflower Hike, Regina McDowell, 615-734-4456

### NASHVILLE:

- 3-7 Laurel-Snow Hike, Charlie Hann, details this issue  
3-8 Natchez Trace State Park, see Memphis section this issue  
3-28/29 Mousetail Landing Backpack, Vic Canada 615-868-1072 No details received  
4-4 Long Hunter Wildflower Hike, Reggie Reeves, 615-885-2422  
4-25 Warner Park Mossy Ridge Trail, Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355



## PARK, FOREST, AND RESOURCE ASSISTANT PROGRAM



Through the Student Conservation Association, Inc.'s PFRA Program, individuals 18 years and older serve in 12-week long volunteer positions in which they serve as an equal member of the hosting agency's resource management team.

Over 700 positions are offered annually, through all seasons, in over 230 resource areas in over 35 different states including Alaska, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands. In exchange for 40 hours of hard work each week, volunteers receive free housing, a stipend to cover basic living expenses, and a travel grant to cover roundtrip transportation from their home to the program area.

Duties include back-country patrol, natural history interpretation,

mountain search & rescue, cave exploration & mapping, cross country ski patrol, river patrol (& other river-ranger duties), back-country trail maintenance, and wildlife research. While many participants volunteer in order to gain experience and to make contacts, others participate in order to travel to, live in, and explore some of the most beautiful and rugged spots in the United States.

A complete listing of summer and fall positions should now be available. For this listing or for more information, write The Student Conservation Association, Inc., P.O. Box 550, Charlestown, New Hampshire 03603 (603-826-5206/5741).

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TENNESSEE TRAILS is printed by Budget Rapid Printers, Nashville, 327-1068

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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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<p>EDITOR: Dot Fowler, 4501 Packard Dr. N-4, Nashville, TN 37211, 615-834-2654 All submissions for the newsletter due no later than the 15th of each month.</p>
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CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

