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Coal Creek to Little Emory River Historical Significance of the Cumberland Trail

- By Bob Brown -

The rocks exposed today over most of the Cumberland Plateau are sandstones formed from lower Pennsylvania Period sediments deposited in shallow seas over 300 million years ago. The younger strata of lower Pennsylvanian sandstones were long ago eroded away all over the Plateau except in the area just to the northwest of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Cumberland Trail. Most of this area is known as the Cumberland Mountains distinguishing it from the rest of the Cumberland Plateau.

Interbedded with sandstones in the younger Pennsylvanian strata of the Cumberland Mountains are numerous layers of coal, making this the most important coal mining part of the state. The high walls of coal strip mines give many of the Cumberland Mountains their butte-like appearance.

The rugged topography of the Cumberland Mountains discouraged occupation by Native Americans and white pioneers alike. There is no evidence of Indian towns here in prehistoric times, though the Cherokee claimed the area and hunted here. Four burial mounds of the Woodland Indians period (1000 BC to 1000 AD) lie on the upper Emory River.

An old Indian trail, known as the Holsten Trace by early whites, passed through Waldens Ridge at Winters Gap and followed the Crooked Fork and Emory River northwest toward middle Tennessee. Elisha Walden was one of the earliest Longhunters in the region, and Moses Winter was the first

to enter a tract of land in the present Oliver Springs area.

In 1786, at James Robertson's request, the North Carolina House of Commons authorized enlistment of 201 militiamen to build a good wagon road to Nashville. Only 80 volunteers showed up for this duty at Clinch Mountain in August 1787. They proceeded to cut a trace wide enough for wagons along the route of the old Holsten Trace and reached Nashville in September 1788. By 1795 William Emory had improved the eastern half of this North Carolina Military Trace into a graded wagon road re-routed to pass through d'Armand Gap (Little Emory River) rather than Winters Gap.

During the 1790s, most of the travelers on the Emory Road were hurrying to settle in Middle Tennessee, and they didn't tarry at the foot of Walden's Ridge or in the Cumberland Mountains. Not until 1796, the year Tennessee became a state, was the first house built in Anderson County, by Virginian Thomas Frost just south of present Clinton.

Statehood brought more settlers to Tennessee, many of them veterans with Revolutionary War land grants, and some of them stopped in Anderson County. In 1800 Frederick Sadler, a wagonmaker from Pennsylvania, led a German colony to settle in "Dutch Valley" at the foot of Walden's Ridge.

Settlement of Morgan County in the Cumberland Mountains did not begin

until this land had been purchased from the Cherokee at the Third Treaty of Tellico in 1805. In 1807-08 the Hall brothers, the Stoneciphers and others began homesteading on the lower Flat Fork and along the Crooked Fork.

Soon, John Oliver was running an inn at Winters Gap and beginning to popularize the nearby sulfur springs. When he started a post office in 1826, it became known as Oliver's and still later, Oliver Springs. John Estabrook operated a small salt mine near here sometime after 1850. About 1880, Welsh emigrants Joseph and Ann Richards came from Pennsylvania, and they soon owned coal mines, timberland, sawmills, and farms. In the 1890s they ran a large summer resort, the Oliver Springs Hotel, on the Southern Railway line. Besides several mineral springs, the grounds included a grape arbor, croquet courts, a bowling alley, an auditorium, a ballroom, and a park.

Small coal mines were operated by individuals in the area as early as the 1830s, but after the Civil War the simultaneous entry of railroads and big landowning companies brought large scale coal mining. One of the oldest settlements in Morgan County was Ruffner's Station on the Little Emory River where Shack Ruffner ran a grist mill as early as 1850. The name officially changed to Coalfield in 1900 soon after the large mines began operating.

In the late 1800s, experienced Welsh miners migrated to Anderson County bringing with them a tradition of or-

ganized labor. In 1873 they formed the Miners, Mechanics, and Laborers Benevolent Association of Tennessee. In 1865 Tennessee had legislated the leasing of convicts to private business in order to aid the depleted State Treasury and to relieve overcrowded prisons. Coal mining companies soon began to use leased prison labor, particularly during strikes by the newly organized miners.

In July, 1891 the Tennessee Mine at Coal Creek brought in leased prisoners and set them to work tearing down the homes of striking miners and building a stockade to house more prisoners. Facing starvation for their families, 300 of the miners marched on the stockade and without bloodshed, forced the convicts and their guards to board a train for Knoxville.

Governor John P. Buchanan responded by sending the convicts back to Coal Creek under the protection of 100 State Militiamen commanded by Col. Granville Sevier, grandson of the state's first governor. Less than a month after the first rebellion, a much larger group of armed miners unobtrusively surrounded the Tennessee Mine stockade. Their leader, Eugene Merrell, advanced to meet with Col. Sevier who suddenly attempted to seize him. Merrell dropped his handkerchief, and at this signal 2,000 miners sprang from beneath rocks and trees with their weapons leveled at the 100 green troopers. Sevier quickly surrendered and was marched with his troops and convicts to the railroad and entrained for Knoxville, again without violence and even with gifts of food and coffee.

Governor Buchanan next sent General Sam Carnes to Knoxville with orders to muster fourteen companies of militia. Meanwhile, in August the General Assembly rejected a bill to end the convict leasing system, by now widely recognized as cruel and inhuman to the prisoners.

The miners felt betrayed by the legislators. In late October and early November 1891, they burned down stockades at Coal Creek and Oliver Springs. They also turned the convicts loose in new clothes taken from the company stores and instructed them to "get lost" in the mountains. The governor offered rewards for the burners, but none were ever collected.

By early 1892 troops and convicts were back, and several engagements and some casualties followed in the ensuing months. By now, war correspondents from 26 American, and a number of European newspapers were covering the *Coal Creek War*.

In August 1892, stockades at Tracy City and Inman in the southern Cumberland Plateau were burned. When some miners were wounded in an unsuccessful assault on the stockade at Oliver Springs, several hundred Kentucky miners commandeered a train at Jellico and, joined by hundreds more at Coal Creek in two more captive trains, they proceeded to Oliver Springs. Here they burned the Big Mountain stockade, put the convicts on a train, and made the militia walk back to Knoxville.

More clashes occurred but with Coal Creek under martial law which was backed up by artillery, Gatling gun, and the entire militia on call, the rebellion effectively ended by mid-1893.

Also that year, on outgoing Governor Buchanan's recommendation, the General Assembly voted to end convict leasing when the leases expired in 1896.

To house most of the convicts removed from the mines, the State purchased lands in 1893 and built a new state prison just northwest of Big Brushy Mountain in a horseshoe shaped hollow on Frozenhead's southern flank. A prison farm and State-owned coal mines were also established to employ the prisoners. To haul the coal, a railway was built from Harriman up the Little Emory through Coalfield to newly named Petros (formerly Joynersville). Petros, from the Latin *petrosus* means "hard, like stone."

Much of the state's land on Frozenhead became Morgan State Forest in the late 1920s and was designated Frozenhead State Natural Area in the late 1970s. Long bypassed by man and then deeply scarred by his removal of its mineral wealth, the rugged terrain of the Cumberland Mountains is thus at last being recognized for its real wealth — its unique wild beauty and natural features.

Adapted from:

- *Our Restless Earth* by Edward T. Luther, University of Tennessee Press, 1977
- *Anderson County* by Katherine B. Hoskins, Memphis State University Press, 1979
- *Morgan County* by W. Calvin Dickinson, Jr., Memphis State University Press, 1987
- *Campbell County News*, Series on the COAL CREEK REBELLION by Charles Winfrey, 1983

Cumberland Trail News

2ND ANNUAL COVE LAKE CT BIRDING WEEKEND

May 14-15

The Cove Lake area is not heavily birded, but the first Annual CT Birding Weekend last year suggested that it deserves more attention. Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers and

Louisiana Waterthrushes were observed in the park, and while none were found, Pine and Swainson's Warblers do nest there. Mike Bierly says the north end of the lake is also good for shorebirds in an area where shorebird habitat is sparse.

On Cross Mountain last year we saw and heard Rose-breasted Grosbeaks,

Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and various warblers, including Blackburnian, Redstarts, Golden-winged, Ceruleans, Kentuckys, Chestnut-sideds, Ovenbirds, Hoodeds and Black and Whites. We also heard Veerys and saw Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

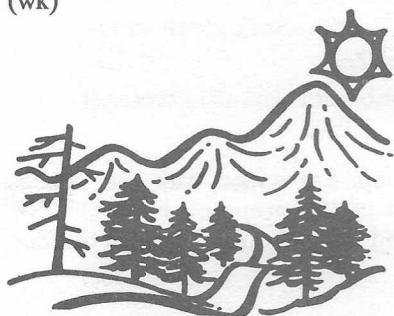
Again our leader on Saturday will be past TOS president, Boyd Sharp and on Sunday, Chuck Nicholson, who with Paul Hamel started the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Both these top-notch birders know the area well and obviously enjoy sharing their knowledge.

A six-person cabin has been reserved at Norris Dam State Park for Friday and Saturday nights, and anyone wishing to use these accommodations must call Bob Brown no later than Thursday, May 6.

We will meet each day at 7:00 a.m. EDT at the Cumberland Trail Manager's office in Cove Lake State Park.

For further information, please call:

- Boyd Sharp, Knoxville at 693-3232 (wk)
- Chuck Nicholson, Norris at 494-0705 (wk)
- Bob Brown, Nashville at 748-4816 (wk)



BLACK & BRADY MOUNTAIN OVERNIGHT HIKE

May 21-22

The Scouts of BSA Great Smoky Mountain Council Troop 374 of Crossville and Troop 170 of Pleasant Hill will host this 12-mile hike. Troop 170 supported Scout Jeff Anderson last year in his Eagle Scout Project upgrading the Black Mountain part of Cumberland Trail Section 5 (Grassy Cove). Troop 374 holds the Cumberland Trail Stewardship Award for maintaining the Brady Mountain part of CT Section 5 for the past four years.

Late Spring wildflowers and greenery should be at their peak on Black and Brady as should also migrating Warblers. The hike will start from the top of Black Mountain, and anyone wanting just a 5-mile day hike can stop at Highway 68 about noon.

From Hwy. 68 we will hike 3 1/2 miles and climb 1,000 feet to a campsite about midway across Brady Mountain. Here the Scouts will have camp set up and will further demonstrate their skills by serving supper — a choice of homemade chili or beef stew, peach cobbler for dessert, and plenty of Kool-Aid and hot coffee. The nearby Looney Hollow overlook should offer good evening views of Grassy Cove and maybe the Smokies in the distance,

plus a few campfire stories might be told.

Sunday morning, the Scouts will serve a breakfast of bacon, sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, and coffee. While the Scouts break camp, the hikers will then have a leisurely 3-mile walk to Hinch Gap with plenty of views, interesting wildflowers, and maybe a grouse or two, to see.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. CDT Saturday morning at the Homestead School parking lot near the junction of State Highway 127 and 68, about five miles southeast of Crossville. Car shuttles will be provided for both day and overnight hikers who will need to carry only water, lunch, and rain gear. The Scouts will transport overnight hikers' sleeping bags and tents to the campsite, and we can even provide these for anyone who lets us know a week in advance. Overnighters should be back to Homestead School no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday.

The cost of meals for overnight hikers will be \$5.00 per person. To sign up for the overnight hike, call no later than May 15:

- Ed Hargis, 615-484-7179 (Crossville) or
- Bob Brown, 615-748-4816 (Nashville)

State News

STATE TRAILS COUNCIL UPDATE

There have been no new developments in our efforts to get the State Trails Administrator position re-instated. In any event, however, we are deeply grateful for the interest, support, and council of Rep. Shirley Duer of Crossville, Rep. I. V. Hillis, Jr. of Sparta, Sen. Anna Belle O'Brien of Crossville, Sen. J. Ronnie Greer of Greenville, and as always, a long time friend of TTA, Sen. Douglas Henry, Jr. of Nashville. Also, our thanks go to all the TTA members and others who wrote letters to Rep. Hillis and Sen. Greer.

BOARD MEETING May 14th, 7|30 p.m.

The second Board Meeting of 1988 will be held May 14 in Pickett State Park. Ask at the park office for the exact location. Preceding the meeting, we will have a pot-luck supper at 6:00 p.m.

If you wish to hike earlier that day, meet at 10:00 a.m. at the park office. For more details, call Bob Barnett at 449-4012.



ANNUAL WATERFALLS HIKE With David Stidham May 28-31

Join us for the traditional Spring waterfall trip. This year we will spend the three-day Memorial Day weekend roaming around the mountains of North Carolina in the Highlands area. Some of the natural attractions will be Bridal Veil Falls, Whitewater Falls (higher than Falls Creek?), Whiteside Mountain (highest cliff face in the East), Dry Falls, Chattooga River (of Deliverance fame), one of the largest waterwheels in the world, mountain

wildflowers, quaint shops and restaurants, etc. There won't be much hiking, but will be plenty of traveling through beautiful, mountainous country. Like a band of nomads, we'll pick up and move on at the whim of the group. A restaurant here, a can of beans there. Don't know where we will spend the nights; just wherever we happen to be at the end of another adventurous day. I think you will enjoy it! Let's meet at the Cumberland Museum on Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m. CDT. We'll be back sometime Monday. For more information, call David Stidham, 859-3621.

Youth of Prison Inmates Explore the Wilderness

During the last week in July, approximately fifteen teenagers who have a parent in one of the Tennessee state prisons will again be camping, hiking, rappelling, and maybe even rafting in the Cumberland Plateau area. These teens will be with a group of volunteers from Reconciliation, a not-for-profit organization who serve families who have a loved one in prison.

This will be the third annual wilderness camp sponsored by Reconciliation. The young people will be between 12-16 years old, many of whom live in inner city areas and have little opportunity to explore the great outdoors and wilderness areas of our state.

If you know of a teenager who would be interested in attending the camp or if you are interested in making a donation of time or money, contact the Reconciliation office in Nashville. The cost for each teen to attend for the one week camp is \$125. All donations are tax deductible. Call or write Barbara Short, Reconciliation, P.O. Box 90827, Nashville, TN 37209, 292-6371.

TRIP REPORT Mt. LeConte Outing

Although this was originally scheduled as a Memphis Chapter outing, it turned out to be a state outing. Linda Bowman, Charlie Hann, Sally Oxford, Micky Sutton, and I ended the first leg of our journey at Rhonda and John Snyder's home in Jefferson City where we were treated not only to great food

and accommodations but to a tour of nearby Panther Creek State Park. A special thanks to Rhonda and John for their hospitality.

The next day we joined J.T. and Marie Jones plus TTA newcomers, Sheila and Terry Lockett at the Sugarlands Visitor Center. We left a shuttle vehicle at the Alum Cave Bluff trailhead and began hiking the Boulevard trail. The high elevation had us hiking in snow immediately. In the course of the 8-mile hike, we found out why the Eskimos have so many names for snow since the appearance of the snow varied. A portion of the trail seemed to be covered in quartz crystals which aptly describes

not only its appearance but also its texture underfoot.

It was a chore hiking through the 7" snow which was even deeper in the drifts. My boots were the only ones which remained waterproof. We all agreed that the snow made the Boulevard Trail a much harder task than normal. The downed trees did not make things any easier. But, arriving at the LeConte Lodge somehow revived us.

Sally, Charlie, Sheila, and Terry made the trek to see the sunset from the clifftops after a substantial supper. The rest of us used the time to soothe our aches and pains and to vegetate.

Mail Call

Honorable Elbert T. Gill, Jr., Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Conservation
701 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-5237

RE: Long Hunter State Park and proposed Zoo

Dear Commissioner Gill:

The Sierra Club, Middle Tennessee Group, has joined with the Tennessee Trails Association to oppose the location of the proposed Nashville Zoo at Long Hunter State Park. Please understand that we do not oppose the Zoo or the Zoo concept.

We respectfully feel that the taking and using of public recreational land and public forest land for private use should be strongly discouraged by the Department. The site chosen by the Zoo Boosters was examined last November by Dr. Paul Somers, a botanist with the Ecological Services Division. Dr. Somers found the site "occupied by oak-hickory forest of average age and quality for the current Central Basin. The age of the overstory trees appears to be 40 to 60 years with a maximum age for a few at around 150 years." He goes on to say that "its conversion to a zoo should be recognized as a loss of public-land forest in park management, no matter how wisely the Zoo is planned."

I am certain you have a copy of his letter to Connie Cloak dated November 16, 1987. I only quoted from it to emphasize that the loss of that portion of Long Hunter State Park to a use that is not compatible with its existing uses is not only a loss of park managed outdoor recreation, but the destruction of a natural ecosystem as well.

We urge the Department to officially notify the Corps of Engineers that it opposes the use of Long Hunter State Park for a Zoo.

Respectfully,
James Galloway, Chair
Middle Tennessee Group
Sierra Club - Tennessee Chapter

Charlie, Sally, and I joined some folks from North Carolina in singing a combination of folk, gospel, and bawdier songs for quite some time. I kept it up until eleven when the Carolina song leader began blowing out the lamps on us.

Charlie was the lone soul to make it back to the clifftops for sunrise, but that did not dampen anyone else's appetite for the bountiful carbohydrate-laden breakfast. After the feast, we were singing Paul Simon's "Slip Sliding Away" as we started down the Alum Cave Bluff trail.

Fortunately, the snow had disappeared from the trail by the time we reached the bluffs. That was none too soon because we needed to ease our legs after stomping through the snow. Walking beside the furiously flowing stream as the trail leveled out was a fitting way to end two days in the Smokies.

Join me on a trip to LeConte again next year, probably the same weekend. If anyone has a pair of campons and an ice axe you want to sell, let me know. I plan to be better equipped just in case, next year.

Thanks go out to the Memphis folks who made the LeConte reservations even though they were not able to use them. Better luck next year! — Bob Barnett

Chattanooga Chapter

PRENTICE COOPER STATE PARK HIKE

May 14, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)

Come join the Chattanooga chapter as we hike to Snoopers Rock in Prentice Cooper State Park. We will meet at the Cumberland Trail parking area in the park (follow Tower Drive) at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time. This is approximately ten miles round trip and is not difficult terrain. You are welcome to hike the entire distance or a part of it with us. Bring a lunch and fluids.

For more information, contact Dot Lingerfelt, 615-842-8043.

Memphis Chapter

MONTHLY MEETING

May 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Join us at Kingsway Church as Glenn Faulk, who teaches Emergency Medical Technicians at Shelby State Community College, demonstrates first-aid techniques that can be used on the trail. You might learn something that could someday save a life, including your own.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The March 12 workday at Shelby Forest was rained out and has been rescheduled for May 14th. Details remain the same. Meet at the park office at 9:00 a.m. For more information, contact Jerri Bull, 363-4408.

Many thanks to these volunteers who answered phones for the WKNO pledge drive on March 10th: Gene Jacobson, Betty Porter, Bob Shields, Bobby Craft, Jerri Bull, Freddie Felt, Cynthia Brubaker, Jo DeWitt, Patricia Porter, and Connie King. Your support was appreciated!

CAMPING! Ray Skinner has invited both TTA and Sierra Club members to camp May 7-8 at his 2,000-acre vineyard on the Tennessee-Buffalo River. Saturday, there will be a hike of approximately seven miles through some very scenic country, and since this is private land, we will have the entire place to ourselves! For more information, including directions, call Ray at 725-0377.

BIG HILL POND STATE PARK

Saturday, May 21

The hike originally scheduled for Petit Jean State Park has been canceled. Those of you interested in a day hike closer to home can instead hike with us at Big Hill Pond State Park.

The carpool will leave Kingsway Church, 6310 Poplar, at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, or you can meet us at Wilmeth's Grocery just past the park entrance at 10:00 a.m. We will hike approximately eight miles over hilly, but not rugged, terrain. Bring water, snacks, etc.

To get to the park from Memphis, go out Hwy. 57 through Moscow and LaGrange and stay on 57 to Middleton. Stay on 57 through the 4-way stop at Middleton and then go another ten to twelve miles past this stop near Pocahontas. For more information, call Jerri Bull at 901-363-4408.

CANOE THE WOLF

May 29th

Get your paddling arms ready because its time to canoe the Wolf River! This lovely meandering river is one of the last of its kind, and is the home of many aquatic creatures. Along the banks we'll be able to see huge beaver lodges, muskrat holes, great blue heron nests, and lots of other homes of animals that call this place theirs. We'll stop along the banks for a picnic and swim (if you dare).

Meet at the Wolf River Canoe Rental (and cotton gin) in Moscow, TN, on Hwy. 57, at 9:00 a.m. We should be off the river around 1:30 p.m. Canoe rentals are \$10.00 per person. For more information, call Jill Norvell at 901-873-2149.

BODY COUNT

- By Debbie Gilbert -

Who has made it through the night?
By silver shafts of early light,
I scout the roads, to find the ones
Who did not live to see the sun.

Obedying their instinctive drive
To seek, to hunt, to stay alive,
They met a four-wheeled predator
Their genes did not prepare them for.

Now here and there a carcass lies,
Guts on asphalt, drawing flies.
I say a prayer for each of them,
And sing a morning requiem.

TRIP REPORT

Chickasaw State Park

March 26th

Perfect hiking weather — 72°F., with low humidity, clear skies, and refreshing breezes — brought 18 hikers out to Chickasaw on this first Saturday of spring. Among the hikers were Gene Jacobson's daughter Wendy, who had just returned from a 2-year journey around the world; and Bob Shields, whose dog, Moonshine, is now four months old and can no longer hitch a ride in a backpack when the going gets rough.

Leaves were just appearing on the trees, and only the wild crab apples were in blossom. A single wildflower, the exquisite bird's-foot violet, was in evidence. The animals, even the birds, remained hidden, but we did find clusters of frog eggs, and there were deer tracks everywhere.

Unfortunately, our surroundings were no match for the weather. With the exception of a brief loop around the lake, we had to do our walking on dirt fire roads. Hiking trails are clearly very low on the park's list of priorities. Gaping holes have been cut through the forest, and there is much erosion from overzealous road-building. Chickasaw's idea of "Wildlife Management" appears to be to attract as many deer as possible, ignoring species that don't bring in hunting revenue. TTA members could better spend their recreational time elsewhere.

TRIP REPORT

Nathaniel Bedford Forrest State Park
April 8-10

It was a great weekend for camping and hiking. Glenda, Jo, Betty, Jerri, and Steve went up Friday evening and were joined on Saturday by Walter Prien from Dyer, TN for the Saturday hike.

The park rangers are in the process of reworking the trails, and when complete, there will be a twenty mile loop trail in the main section of the park with some cutoffs in some places so you can make a short hike or a long hike for backpackers and other hardy souls. If you plan to do any hiking

here, we would suggest you check at the office first since they also plan to redo the maps.

We hiked approximately nine miles on the Tennessee Forest Trail with five completing this hike and Steve Hudspeth and his dog, Pepper blazing another trail. The day was near perfect for hiking as you will ever have with the dogwood and redbud in their glory. It was too early for laurel, but we saw patches of pawpaw trees in bloom, violets, everlasting, spring beauties, bluets and others still unknown, to us at least.

After a cool, clear night in the campground around Steve's fire, enjoying the beauty of the stars and the hooting of owls in the distance, we retired to our tents for a restful night's sleep.

On Sunday, four of us went across the river and walked some of the Ft. Johnsonville Redoubt's Trail. This trail is also being changed and when complete, is supposed to be approximately seven miles. After losing the trail near the Museum, we met a ranger who told us that we hadn't "lost" the trail as it wasn't yet completed, which made us feel better. This trail is beautiful with patches of rue anemone, spring cress, wild azalea, and in the old cemetery, patches of bluets and hawthorn trees in bloom.

The trip home was spectacular with maple, sassafras, dogwood, and redwood in full bloom and the different shades of green of other trees blending in, providing a perfect ending for the trip. — Betty Porter

Murfreesboro Chapter

HISTORIC MURFREESBORO BICYCLE TOUR

May 21, 7:00 a.m.

Meet at Cannonbury at 9:00 a.m. for a moderate to easy ten-mile loop of historic Murfreesboro. Bring a sack

lunch, water, and money. Helmets are strongly recommended. Your bike should be mechanically sound prior to departure and you should have an extra tube, if possible.

For more information, contact Maryedith McFarlin at 896-1344 or Hap Harrington at 896-4950.

Nashville Chapter

MAY MEETING

May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Please join the ever-growing crowd of Nashville TTA members at the Cumberland Museum, Thursday, May 26. Dr. Paul Somers, Botanist for the Ecological Services Division of the Dept. of Conservation will be our speaker. Dr. Somers is an expert on the rare and endangered plants in Shelby Park and the area known as The Bottoms. He will discuss these wetlands and may touch on the *possible* impact of the Super Collider and the Zoo if either come to pass in our area.

TRIP REPORT

Volunteer Trail Clean-up

March 19

This was a perfect spring day for the scheduled clean-up of our adopted trail at Long Hunter State Park. Six members walked about 4 miles down the Volunteer Trail, mostly retrieving debris left by the rising waters of Percy Priest Lake. Our job was made considerably easier by Boy Scout Troop 150 of Mt. Juliet which had done an excellent trail cleaning job several weeks earlier.

The trail is in excellent shape for backpacking or day hiking, thanks to the combined efforts of so many volunteers and the continuing effort of the park trail crew. Thanks, everyone!



TRIP REPORT

Moonbow Watch

April 1-2-3

It rained and rained and rained during the last week of March. It rained enough to appreciably affect the three year precipitation deficit in Middle Tennessee. And then it rained a tad more. In spite of this, seven of us left for Cumberland Falls State Park on the plateau in Kentucky on Good Friday.

The full moon was obscured by rain clouds on Friday night, the last such clouds we saw until noon on Sunday. Saturday's weather was partly cloudy and perfect for the naturalist-led wildflower walk in the morning and exploring trails and boulders along the Cumberland River after lunch.

The skies did not clear enough for a moonbow to form on Saturday night,

only enough to be able to tell there really was a full moon up there. Sunday's hike along the cliffs of the Cumberland to Eagle Falls was a beautiful ending to a very enjoyable weekend.

One more thought... There really is an Easter Bunny. He lays solid HER-SHEYS chocolate eggs! Thanks E.B. — Pat Anderson

News From Our Parks

CHARIT CREEK HOSTEL IN THE BIG SOUTH FORK

P.O. Box 20, Pall Mall, TN 38577, 879-4289

May is the 1-year anniversary of Charit Creek Hostel. So, they are celebrating a month of Sunday activities at the Hostel. Allow 30 minutes for the drive from Hwy. 154 and 30-45 mins. for the walk from the parking lot.

5/1 BIRDWALK — 7:00 a.m. at hostel (bring binoculars). Free coffee and doughnuts after the walk.

5/8 FREE PICTURES — All mothers walking, riding horseback or bicycle into the hostel will have their pictures taken with their families in front of the main lodge (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Pictures will be mailed.

5/15 SLIDE SHOW AT RUGBY — 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5/22 WILDFLOWER WALK — 1:00 p.m.; view spring flowers at Charit Creek.

5/29 THE STORY OF THE ARCHES — 1:00 p.m. Hike from Charit Creek to Twin Arches and beyond.

MOUSETAIL LANDING STATE PARK

Linden, Tennessee, 901-847-6329

5/28 OUTDOOR/ON WATER BOAT SHOW — At 2:00 p.m., all interested boaters will join in a river

parade.

6/25-26 ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

924-2980 or 2956

5/1 FIERY GIZZARD TRAIL — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Bring a lunch and water; 5 miles, very strenuous.

5/7 & 21 SAVAGE DAY LOOP — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Bring lunch, water and swimming gear; easy 4-mile.

5/14 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CREEK EXCURSION — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station; 1 mile, moderate.

5/28 MOUNTAIN LAUREL WALK — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Bring lunch and swimsuit; 5 miles, easy.

5/29 BOULDER CROSSING EXCURSION — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station; moderate, 3 miles.

LONG HUNTER STATE PARK Hermitage, 885-2422

Meet at the park headquarters for all events. Make reservations the week prior to the event.

5/1 SPRING WOODLAND HIKE — 1:00 p.m.; 4-mile hike through

Bakers Grove Primitive Area.

5/2 MOONRISE VIGIL — 8:00 p.m.; watch moon rise over Couchville Lake.

5/7 WILDFLOWERS OF THE CEDAR GLADES — 11:00 a.m.

5/7 HIDDEN CAVE HIKE — 2:00 p.m.; 2-mile hike off the beaten path to a small cave unknown to most.

5/7 SNAKES OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE — 8:30 p.m.; Slide presentation and a "hands on" demonstration.

5/8 BICYCLE TOUR FOR ADULT BEGINNERS — 1:00 p.m.; 10-mile ride for those 14 and up.

5/20 ASTRONOMY PROGRAM — Meet at 8:30 p.m.

5/21 MORNING BIRD WALK — 8:00 a.m.; sponsored by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Bring binoculars.

5/21 LIFE IN THE LAKE — 1:00 p.m.; prepare to get a little wet.

5/22 BICYCLE TOUR FOR INTERMEDIATE ADULTS — 1:00 p.m.; 20-mile ride (14 years and up).

5/27 ALL ABOUT OWLS — 8:30 p.m.; film and night exploration of nearby woods.

5/28 3RD ANNUAL DAY FOR THE BIRDS — All day.

5/29 OUTDOOR FILM NIGHT —
8:00 p.m., movies under the stars.

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER
Nashville, 352-6299

Call for reservations 1-2 weeks prior
to the event.

5/5 & 7 BIRD HIKE — 8:00-11:00
a.m.

5/13 BIRD BANDING DAY — 9:30-
2:30p.m. Watch resident "ringers" at
work banding birds.

5/18 MUSHROOM SLIDE SHOW
— 7:30-9:00 p.m.

5/21 DISCOVER THE NATURE
CENTER — 8:00-4:30p.m.
Numerous hikes and events

scheduled.

FALL CREEK FALLS
Rt. 3, Pikeville, TN

5/7-8 SPRING WILDFLOWER
PILGRIMAGE — Multiple events
planned.

Upcoming Events

CHATTANOOGA

5/14 PRENTICE COOPER STATE
PARK — details this issue

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

5/21-22 PETIT JEAN STATE PARK
— changed, see details this issue

5/29 WOLF RIVER FLOAT TRIP
— details this issue

6/18 SWIMMING PARTY — details
next month

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

5/21 BIKE HIKE — details this issue

6/18 STONES RIVER BAT-
TLEFIELD HIKE/PICNIC —
details next month

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

5/14-15 BIG SOUTH FORK
WILDFLOWER WEEKEND —
held in April. See News From Our
Parks section for events held at
Charit Creek Hostel as an alterna-
tive.

6/5 BURNT MILL BRIDGE —
details from Vic Canada next issue

6/11-12 NEVERSINK — details from
Evelyn Tretter next issue

6/25-26 SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BACKPACK — TBA

STATE

5/14-15 2ND ANNUAL COVE
LAKE C.T. BIRDING WEEKEND
— details this issue (Cumberland
Trail News)

5/21-22 BLACK & BRADY MOUN-
TAIN HIKE — details this issue
(Cumberland Trail News)

5/28-30 ANNUAL WATERFALL
HIKE — details this issue (State
News)

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Tennessee Trails Association
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