



Tennessee rails

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Parks, Rivers, & Forests Threatened

From Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning 1-89 Newsletter

The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is proposing a rules change that would make our national parks and similar areas subject to strip-mining. Heavy involvement from our membership is needed immediately to avert this danger.

Section 522(e) of the 1977 Federal Surface Mining Act prohibits surface coal mining operations on lands within units of the National Park System, Nat'l Wildlife Refuge System, Wild & Scenic Rivers System, Trails System, Wilderness Preservation System, and in National Recreation Areas and Forests. This prohibition is subject to "Valid Existing Rights" (VER), and it is the definition of VER that is now the subject of the proposed rules change.

The VER standard currently in effect is the so-called "modified all permits" standard. An applicant for VER must demonstrate that he had obtained (or made a good faith effort to obtain) all permits for surface mining operations *before* 8/3/77. This means that almost no one now qualifies for a VER.

The proposed new rule, however, would add a second and dangerous option under which one could qualify for a VER, namely the "ownership and authority" option. Under this, an applicant needs only to demonstrate that as of 8/3/77 he had a right (under State law) to extract the particular coal resource, or the authority to operate a coal-preparation plant. This means that

anyone who owned coal on that date would now have a VER to strip mine it, even though the land overlying the coal is within a park, wild & scenic river corridor, etc.

As if that were not permissive enough, coal can also be strip-mined from a park, etc., if it is "both needed for, and immediately adjacent to," a strip-mine operation existing as of 8/3/77.

The following areas in Tennessee would be affected:

Obed Wild & Scenic River — 5,010 acres
Big South Fork NRR — 106,000 acres
Cumberland Gap NHP — 90 acres
Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP — 10 acres

In addition, 16,200 acres of state and local park and recreation areas in Tennessee are potentially affected.

The acting director of OSM is Bob Gentile, formerly an Ohio coal operator and active member of MARC, a coal-industry lobbying group. Several rule changes advocated by MARC have been pushed for (and in some cases brought about) by Mr. Gentile since he joined the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Gentile has also placed coal industry supporters in high career positions within OSM, where they may be with us for some time to come. His efforts to remove several OSM field managers who had

strong enforcement histories were, however, largely thwarted when environmental groups got the House Civil Service Subcommittee to look into OSM personnel moves.

Bob Gentile was nominated by former Pres. Reagan to become OSM Director, but confirmation hearings were postponed to 1989. Virtually all national and several local environmental groups plan to oppose his confirmation if Pres. Bush does not nominate his own person for the position.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Senator Jim Sasser's request for public hearings to be held in East Tennessee has been honored by OSM and will take place before you receive this newsletter. Written comments, however, are also needed and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., **MARCH 7.**

So, you can still help by sending letters of opposition immediately to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Administrative Record, Room 5131L, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20240. Also, please write to Senator Sasser and thank him for what he has already done in this matter and encourage him to continue his efforts. In addition, please write Senator Gore, your U. S. Representative, and Governor McWherter. Be sure to thank Gov. McWherter for his strong stand on the recent Pigeon River issue.

Cumberland Trail History

Big Creek Gap to Cove Creek, Part 2

- By Bob Brown -

During the early years of Campbell County, the Kentucky Road (or Jacksboro) which was authorized in 1805 was built. Going north from Jacksboro, it climbed Cumberland Mountain to a shallow gap at the east end of Eagle Bluff and followed the crest of the mountain southwest for a mile. It then turned westward toward the head of Stinking Creek which it followed for six miles before crossing Pine Mountain and descending Elk Fork Creek and Clear Fork to a ford on the Cumberland River.

The Old Kentucky Road was a rough wagon track maintained by citizens. In Campbell County, between 1810 and 1830, landowners were required to work two days per month on county roads that ran near their property. During this period, the Kentucky Road was used mainly to move herds of cattle and hogs from Powell Valley to markets at Richmond in central Kentucky. Despite its earlier reputation as the garden spot of East Tennessee, by 1837 the farm lands of Campbell County were depleted, many of her former citizens had moved west, and those who remained had turned from row-cropping to raising livestock.

In 1861, Captain William Fisk Foster of Nashville was engaged in building Confederate defensive works at Cumberland Gap. As chief engineer in Buckner's corps of the Army of Tennessee, he drafted a topo map of the area showing all the gaps along Cumberland Mountain and evaluating their military potential. He found at Jacksboro Gap "the best wagon road west of Cumberland Gap" but "blockaded with trees and masses of rocks." During the next four years, control of the Kentucky Road changed hands several times. In 1864 a large train of over 600 wagons loaded with equipment and supplies was moved by the Union Army along this road from central Kentucky to

Knoxville, Tennessee. It took 93 days to make the trip. After the war, the road continued to be used for moving livestock to Kentucky until the construction of railroads in Campbell County.

In the early 1800s, roads had also been built through Big Creek Gap and Bruce Gap. In 1822 the General Assembly authorized the privately operated Helms Turnpike, a toll road, from Jacksboro west through Wheeler's Gap along the route of an old Indian path, the East and West Trail. In the early 1870s, this road was used by wagon trains to carry supplies to construction crews in Scott County working on a new railroad from Cincinnati to Chattanooga.

Also in the 1870s, a railroad was extended from Coal Creek (Lake City) to Wheeler's Grove, soon renamed Caryville for former merchant and County Court Clerk, William Carey, son-in-law of Thomas Wheeler. In the early 1880s, the railroad was pushed through Wheeler's Gap, up Cove Creek to Pioneer and then down Elk Creek to Jellico. With the railroads came the opening of new coal mines by large companies.

In 1892-93, principals of the Big Creek Coal and Iron Company hosted an inspection trip to Big Creek Gap by Harvey M. LaFollette, a wealthy Indianan and first cousin of Senator Robert M. LaFollette. Impressed with industrial prospects for the area, he acquired thousands of acres in Powell Valley, Big Creek Gap and the Cumberland Block, and began promoting development. In 1894 the Big Creek Gap post office changed its name to LaFollette. It was soon surrounded by a mining camp with a thousand inhabitants, mostly from other parts of the country.

In 1897 a railroad was built from Caryville to LaFollette. LaFollette Coal and Iron Company built one of the largest iron furnaces in the South with coke ovens nearby. Then began the "Great Railroad War", between the Louisville and Nashville and the Southern, to be the first to build a line across the Cumberland Block from Jellico through the Narrows at High Cliff, up Lick Creek and down Big Creek to LaFollette. An L&N line already entered Jellico from the north and a Southern system line entered from the south.

The major battles in the "War" were fought in the courts to secure right-of-way. Meanwhile, an actual shooting war erupted between rival companies' grading crews trying to be first to lay temporary track, and armed mercenaries hired by both sides entered the fray. Miraculously, no fatalities — accidental or intentional — resulted. The courts settled the matter, the line was built, and new coal camps sprang up along it and its spurs throughout the Block.

The monumental forces that created Cumberland Mountain long ago determined the plant and animal life seen along its crest today. They also decisively affected the currents of human history that flowed around it and through its gaps. Man had little effect on its natural features until the coming of the Longhunters.

Even before the first settlers arrived, the last of the elk and buffalo had been killed, and before long the wolf was eliminated. Soon after the Civil War, the great flocks of Passenger Pigeons that roosted along Powell River were but a memory. The last bear was killed on Stinking Creek in the 1890s. By 1900 the dynamiting of streams and pollution by industry threatened to wipe out the fish in Powell River.

Then, the conservation movement and the coming of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1930s halted and began reversing some of these trends. Cove Lake and Park were built as a recreation demonstration project of TVA, the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, and it was deeded to the State in 1950 along with additional acreage given by Campbell County.

Despite such progress, some of the ugliest scars of man's intrusion appeared in the last three decades with the strip mining of the high peaks in the Cumberland Block and along the summit of Cross Mountain. Irresponsible miners gouged out the coal-bearing contours of the high mountains without attempting to replant and reforest their strip pits, leaving the muddy spoil and acidic tailings to pollute streams and destroy aquatic life in the watersheds below. More recently, government regulation, better mining technology, and more responsible miners show some promise of reclaiming the mountain tops and restoring the watersheds over time.

Today, however, along the Cumberland Trail much of the plant and animal life is unchanged from the time of the first Longhunters. And, in the deep shadows of dawn or dusk, or when mists shroud the high mountains and fog blankets all but the wooded hilltops in Powell Valley, the views from Eagle Bluff are still those seen by Indian hunters who came here centuries ago to pay homage to the chief of all birds and our symbol of freedom and majesty.

Adapted from:

The Land of the Lake, by Dr. G.L. Ridenour, Action Printing Ltd., Jacksboro, TN 1985

Pennsylvanian Geology of the Cumberland Mountains, by Charles W. Wilson, Jr., John W. Jewell, and Edward T. Luther, Tennessee Dept. of Conservation, Nashville, TN, 1956

Indians to Interstate — A Book About Caryville Tennessee, by Melba Jackson, Action Printing, Ltd., Jacksboro, TN, 1986

The Old Kentucky Road, Unpublished memorandum by Edward A. Carr, Jr., Campbell County Historian, LaFollette, TN, 1988

The Upper Cumberland of Pioneer Times, by Alvin B. Wirt, Washington, D.C., 1954

Suck Creek Suspension Bridge Re-Built

The Chattanooga newspaper recently included a very nice write-up (including a picture of TTA founding member, Sam Powell) about the re-opening of the Cumberland Trail in southeast Tennessee after completion of the Suck Creek suspension bridge by the state. The 222-foot long swinging span is the most remote bridge the state has ever built and is an hour's hike from the nearest asphalt road, state Highway 27.

Now that the bridge has been rebuilt, hikers may trek from the National Military Reservation atop Signal Mountain along the rocky

bluffs of Hamilton, Sequatchie and Marion counties that overlook the Tennessee River, through gorges carved by mountain creeks, past rock houses that sheltered Indians, and into the heart of the Prentice-Cooper State Forest.

The labor of many volunteers on the original bridge was washed away with the bridge on August 17, 1982. An unpredicted deluge caused many mudslides, some of which still scar the Tennessee River gorge, and swelled normally placid creeks into raging rivers of destruction that swept away highways and bridges, killed three Marion County residents, and wrecked a freight train bound for Chattanooga.

It has taken more than five years for TTA, volunteers, and state workers to rework what a torrent ravaged in a single night. Ironically, however, the flood actually spawned a major improvement to the Cumberland Trail. The path once followed a course along the shoulder of Signal Mountain beneath bluffs such as Edwards Point. While the trail was being rebuilt, a survey of Prentice Cooper Forest showed that the state owned a narrow strip of land along the bluffs. Volunteers thus rerouted the trail along the mountaintop, offering hikers a far more lofty and scenic view.

Interest in the Cumberland Trail has grown in recent years and letters requesting more information have wound up in Sam Powell's hands from places as far away as the African nation of Ghana.

State News

TTA Board Meeting Saturday, March 4

The Board Meeting will be held at the Natchez Trace State Park. Meet in the restaurant between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. for a good meal and fellowship. The Board will meet promptly at 7:00 in the restaurant building and all TTA members are encouraged to attend. Call Pat Anderson at 615-383-2355 for more details.

For the Record...

According to the Worldwatch Institute, the annual budget required to reverse the world's most pressing environmental crises: \$149 billion

The world's annual military budget: \$900 billion

Attempts to Start a Clarksville Chapter Organization Meeting

Saturday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m. there will be a meeting in Clarksville, Tennessee at the Lutheran Church, 2041 Madison Street to encourage TTA members in the area and other interested residents to form a Clarksville Chapter of TTA.

Contact June Adams at 552-1148 (Clarksville) or Pat Anderson at 383-2355 (Nashville) for more information or to volunteer your services. Bob Barnett and Pat Anderson will be on hand to show slides of TTA outings, discuss TTA, hiking equipment and hiking areas near Clarksville, as well as to answer questions.

The Clarksville area already has TTA members and we hope this meeting plus the local newspaper's upcoming article on TTA will generate an interest in forming a new and bustling chapter. Spread the word!

Long Hunter Zoo Issue From Bob Barnett

The recent joint TTA/Sierra Club hike on the Volunteer Trail was a way for me to say "Thank you" to the people who have participated in TTA's and my efforts to prevent a zoo from being built in Long Hunter State Park. It also allowed me to show off the trail to people from across the state who had not yet hiked it.

Special thanks go to the following:

- All who have written or called officials about the issue
- Those who wrote letters to the editor of their newspapers
- The folks who have built, maintained and/or regularly hiked the Volunteer Trail
- Joe McCaleb, Judy Luna, James Galloway, and all other Sierra Club members who joined the campaign against the zoo at Long Hunter
- Dot Fowler for covering the issue appropriately in the newsletter
- Audubon, Cumberland Wildlife Foundation, State Trails Council of Tennessee, and Tennessee Network for Animals for your support
- Neighbors of Long Hunter who have voiced their concern about the zoo's impact

The issue is far from settled. If at all possible, please attend the public hearings in March to demonstrate your support for the Volunteer Trail and all other trails in Tennessee which may be endangered if the zoo

succeeds in locating in Long Hunter State Park and this precedence is set. The meetings are:
March 14th, 7:00 p.m. at West End Middle School and
March 16th, 7:00 p.m. at Lake View Annex—Mount View across from Starwood.

If you wish to continue writing letters, please write to the following:

Honorable Ned Ray McWherter
Governor, State of Tennessee
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Sen. Douglas Henry, Jr.
Suite 11, Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37219

Elbert T. Gill
Commissioner, Tennessee Dept. of Conservation
701 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37219-5237

Col. Edward Starbird
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-0107

Quotable Quote

"Let us take the risks of peace upon our lives, not impose the risks of war upon the world."

— Quaker Proverb

Adopt-a-Trail Update

I received two trail inspection forms this past month. I hope I will be receiving more this month. Please take a form along on your next hike and note the condition of the trail. If everyone did this we could have a much clearer picture of the condition of our state's trails. — Ninez Giles



Tennessee Mountain Rescue School

The Tennessee Mountain Rescue School, conducted by Bobby Harbin, will be held the weekends of April 7, 14, and 21. Each session begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and continues through approximately 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The first and last weekend sessions will be held at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and the April 14th session will be held at Fall Creek Falls. For more information, call Bobby Harbin at 615-566-0902.

New Outdoors Magazine Created

Tennessee Explorer

As fellow Tennesseans and explorers, we invite you to join us as we explore Tennessee's natural beauty; its wondrous outdoor recreational opportunities; its rich cultural heritage; its well-known amusements; and its unique manmade and natural attractions. We will also explore important issues and topics that concern us all as well as provide timely information you need or want to know.

Our bi-monthly magazine begins with the March/April 1989 issue. This issue will include articles about Spring River Trips, the Battle of Shiloh, Knoxville's Dogwood Festival, Hundred Oaks Castle in Winchester, and a wildflower pictorial.

Regular departments will include information of weekend getaways, Tennessee eateries, etc., a comprehensive calendar of upcoming events from Mississippi to the Smokies, environmental news, personality profiles, state agency reports, etc.

We invite you to join us as a Charter Member of this important endeavor and invite your comments and suggestions. Subscription rate for Charter Members is \$17.95 as opposed to \$3.95 per issue. Bank cards and being billed later are also acceptable payment options. Make checks payable to Tennessee Explorer and mail to Tennessee Ex-

plorer, Patton House, 900 44th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37209. Call 1-800-365-7608 for more information.

1989 Arts Inforum, "Arts and Nature"

March 14-16

Arts Inforum is an annual spring workshop sponsored jointly by Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn.

(TRPA) and Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation Dept.'s Cultural Arts Section. This is informal hands-on workshop especially designed for programmers of outdoor recreation and environmental education and will send you home loaded with ideas, instructive materials, and enthusiasm! We'll be playing games, making music, dancing, writing Haiku, and taking pictures plus other fun activities.

Call Donnie Pack at Montgomery Bell Inn to make your room or cabin reservation (615-797-3101). Rooms are \$29.00 plus tax, single or double. Cabins are \$45.50 plus tax. After March 1st, all rooms and cabins will be available to the general public. Call Sandra Bivens (615-352-6299) regarding registration fees for the 2-day seminar.

Chapter News

Memphis Chapter

New Chapter Officers Elected

The 1989 Memphis Chapter officers are:

President— Debbie Gilbert
Programming Chairwomen— Julie Barham and Glenda Graff
Hospitality— Maryanne Martin
Treasurer— Betty Porter
Carpool Coordinator— Ray Burkett
State Board Representative— Jerri Bull

March Chapter Meeting Kingsway Church, 7:30 p.m.

Edith Caywood will speak and show slides of her recent trip to Ethiopia and Yemen. Definitely not your usual vacation, and Edith's perspective is quite different from what you'd get on the 6 o'clock news. Do join us.

WKNO Fundraising Night March 14

Last year we had so much fun working with our local PBS telethon that we've decided to do it again. We need at least eight volunteers to work from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m., but if you can't stay the entire time, please come for as long as you can spare. We first did the telethon to get some free publicity for TTA, and we were surprised at what an enjoyable experience it turned out to be. If you can help, call Jerri at 363-4408.

Mousetail Landing Hike March 18

Carpool leaves Kingsway Church at 7:00 a.m. or meet us at the Mousetail Landing State Park office no later than 10:00 a.m. We will hike about 8 miles over terrain similar to Big Hill Pond — fairly easy, with just enough hills to challenge. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. The weather is fickle this time of year, so be prepared for hot, cool, or wet conditions. Call Debbie Gilbert at 456-0613 for more details.

Downtown Memphis Historical Hike April 15

The February 4th hike was canceled due to extremely low temperatures so we'll try again in April.

To carpool, meet at 8:15 a.m. at Kingsway or meet us in the parking lot of the Church of the River (next to the former Rivermont Hotel) at 9:00. We'll cover ten miles, visiting all the famous landmarks — Beale Street, the Peabody, Victorian Village, and much more. A very nice guide booklet is available for \$1.50. If you want one, call me.

Bring water and lunch. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended, since hiking boots can be uncomfortable on the hard, city pavement. This hike is no fun in the rain so we will reschedule again if we have bad weather. For more information call Betty Porter at 901-363-0213.

Mystification Trip Report Village Creek State Park

It's off to the woods, fellows, if you want to find a date. On Saturday, January 21st, ten ladies were to be seen traipsing through the woods at Village Creek Park, Arkansas. Not a man amongst 'em.

Julie Barham led the way with her new and amiable dog, Amber. Edith Caywood brought her Lab, Maggie (who was happiest when retrieving sticks from the lake). Newcomer Charlotte Wolf brought her shepherd to join the canine corps which runs scout on such treks.

Old timers Betty Porter and Jo DeWitt, who has lately shifted her residence from Memphis to Little Rock, followed. Freddie Felt was rear guard. A very old member of TTA, and one seen far too seldom, Mimi Loeb, arriving late caught up with the snacking, winsome group in repose at the lake. Helen Christianson's smiling face — an additional pleasure — warmed up the crisp, sunlit day. As they marched along (for 9½ miles) the voices of ten softly spoken women rang through the trees creating the thread that has bound so many of their lives closer and closer together. Thank you, friends; thank you TTA; and thanks to the canine corps for this meaningful day. — For Edith Caywood by her associate, Maggie

Greenhouse Blues

Debbie Gilbert

It was the strangest winter yet,
Warm as April, mild and wet.
Blooms appeared on everything.
At night, the frogs began to sing.
People played at summer sports,
And went out jogging in their shorts.

But winter finally rained its blows.
The flowers died; my plumbing
froze.
Now streets are slick with ice and
snow,
And summer seems so long ago.
This greenhouse wave has me con-
fused.
Nature's joking, but I'm not amused.

Murfreesboro Chapter

Chapter Meeting

March 16, St. Marks Methodist
Church
7:00 p.m.

Our March meeting will be a
wildflower slide presentation by Ber-
tha Chrietzberg of Murfreesboro.
As many of you know, Bertha is a
founding member of TTA and a
local published authority on
wildflowers. This promises to be a
very interesting meeting with lots of
beautiful pictures.

We meet on the third Thursday of
each month at St. Marks. Plan to
join us and bring a friend!

Pioneer Loop Trail Hike

March 18-19

This will be a combination day hike
and overnight backpack on the
Pioneer Loop Trail in Cumberland
Mountain State Park, Crossville,
Tennessee. The day loop will be ap-
proximately five miles and will be
led by Ruth Ann Henry (473-6298).
The overnight trip will be an exten-
sion of the same trail for anyone
who wants to spend the night. Both
hikes are Class II. Heloise Shilstat
(896-6298) will be leading the back-
pack.

Backpack, Watauga Lake

March 18-23

This will be a backpack from
Watauga Lake to Damascus, Vir-
ginia. This is a Class III backpack
of 40 miles. Call trip leader, Glenn
Hanley at 898-2104 for more details.

Trip Report

Cedars of Lebanon

Members and guests of the
Murfreesboro Chapter met at
Cedars of Lebanon State Park on
Saturday, January 21 for their first
scheduled hike of 1989. Twenty-
three adults, four children, and two
dogs headed up the trail in bright
sunshine. Hike leader Melissa Tuck-
er pointed out special areas of inter-
est, including the hidden springs for
which the trail is named.

After lunch at the spring, everyone
enjoyed a leisurely walk back to the
trailhead and a chance to visit with
new found friends and discuss fu-
ture hikes. Two of our guests
joined TTA following the hike. This
was the first hike for many of our
new members of which there are
over 40 since our chapter was reor-
ganized in November. Membership
now registers over 100 and en-
thusiasm registers over 110!

Meeting Report

Approximately 25 enthusiastic
hikers met at St. Marks United
Methodist Church on Thursday,
January 19. After Chairman James
Herring recognized new members
and guests, Charlie Spearman, His-
torian at Stones River Battlefield,
presented an interesting program.
First, Charlie gave a brief history of
the Battle of Stones River, using a
map of the area to locate significant
points of interest. Next, he showed
on the map the approximately 50
acres that will be a new addition to
the park. Of particular interest was
a description of the new trail to be
built from the battlefield to Old
Fort Park. The new trail will be ap-
proximately 5-6 miles long.

Nashville Chapter

Monthly Meeting

March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Our speaker this month will be
Tony Campbell of the Tennessee
Department of Conservation. Mr.
Campbell will discuss current issues
in Tennessee natural resources con-
servation.

This promises to be yet another in-
teresting meeting arranged by our
super program coordinator, Marilyn
Wolven. Meet us at the Cumber-
land Museum and stick around after
the meeting to make new friends.

Our Sympathies To...

We extend our sympathies to
Dorothy Sills who recently lost her
father, to Kevin Kimbro who lost his
grandfather, and to Marilyn Wolven
who lost her aunt.

Montgomery Bell Hike

March 4th

NOTE DATE CHANGE OF THIS HIKE

Meet at 9:00 a.m. (or earlier if you
want breakfast) at the Cracker Bar-
rel at Charlotte Pike off I-40W. We
will carpool to the park office park-
ing lot (approx. 40 mins. drive) at
the Highway 70 entrance to
Montgomery Bell. The trailhead for
three trails begins at the office with
trail lengths of 2¹/₂, 3¹/₂, and 8
miles.

I will lead a hike on the 8-mile
moderate trail and those who want
to take the other trails may do so.
Bring snacks, drinks and water and
possibly rain gear. We'll have lunch
at Lake Woodhaven on the trail.
Call Mickey Sutton, 833-1992, if you
need more information. The hike
will not be canceled unless there is
ice or heavy rain. You will also
have plenty of time to get to the
Board Meeting at Natchez Trace
State Park after this hike.

Piney River Hike

March 12

Join hike leader Vic Canada for a 6-8 mile hike of moderate difficulty in the Bowaters area of Tennessee (near Spring City). Meet at 7:00 a.m. (CST) at the Donelson K-Mart off I-40 E to carpool. Bring a lunch, fluids, and rain gear if the elements are threatening. Call Vic at 868-1072 for more details.

Metro Warner Park Day Hike

March 19

Assemble at 8:45 in the parking lot of McClures on Highway 100, just past the split with Highway 70. Bring boots or sturdy walking shoes, rain gear, lunch and water. We'll hike the 4½ mile Mossy Ridge Trail, and maybe the 2½ mile Warner Woods Trail.

Rating: Class II-III with several short, strenuous climbs. For more information, call Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355.

Trip Report SCRA

Six of us left Nashville in a downpour on Sunday, January 29, and were rewarded for our op-

timism with a dry, beautiful trail in the South Cumberland Recreation Area. The four-mile Savage Falls Loop Trail is in excellent condition. It is well signed at all junctures, freshly blazed, cleared of blow downs, and free of litter.

The staff at South Cumberland has made the trails in this state park a rewarding hiking experience for day hikers and backpackers. On a scale of 1 to 10, consider South Cumberland a solid 10. — Pat Anderson

Trip Report

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

There was a good turn-out for this Sunday hike on my adopted trail at Cedars of Lebanon.

Brooke Chaddick is a six-year-old and this was her first TTA outing. She set the hiking pace on the park's 4½ mile Hidden Springs Trail up until lunch.

The day was so warm that we would not have been surprised to see cedar glade wildflowers even though it was only January. The trail was in fairly good shape, though it could use about half a day's work prior to Spring. Call me at 831-1136 if you can give me a hand on this trail one Saturday or Sunday soon. — Bob Barnett

Trip Report Long Hunter Hike

January 21st was a beautiful day to hike. There was a great turn-out on this joint TTA/Sierra Club venture. Special thanks go to Gene Curp and Paul Koehler who served as alternate sweep on the long hike. Gene may have even swept up a new member, Marilyn Chaddick.

It was nice having a joint hike with the Sierra Club folks. This day's hike was especially nice because it brought together Sierra Club folks from across the state. Folks of all ages and varying degrees of experience from different organizations were with us.

This was the largest number of folks that I have ever seen on the Volunteer Trail's day loop. It is hoped that the day loop will be there for the next generation of hikers, too. — Bob Barnett

Birders of Nashville

A useful local reference book for Nashville birders is Birders of the Nashville Area, which is available for \$4.50 from the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Contact Dick Newton at 522 Indian Lake Road in Hendersonville (37075) for more information.

News From Our Parks

Montgomery Bell State Park 615-797-9052, Burns

The 1989 Spring Festival and Outdoor Fair will be held March 31-April 2. The festival will include a full schedule of interpretive and recreational programs; i.e., wildflower walks, nature photography workshop, outdoor concert, bicycle tour, canoe trip, and more.



Lichterman Nature Center Memphis, 901-767-7322

3/18 Travel Series — This month's armchair tour is to the isolated islands of Galapagos. 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Natural Dyes for Easter Eggs — 10:30-1:30. Bring one egg, raw or blown. Discover beautiful natural dyes from Nature.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (Sept.-May):

Children's Programs — Variety of programs for kids from 4 yrs. up through 4th grade.

PLAN AHEAD:

4/28-30 Great Smoky Mountains Wildflower Pilgrimage — a weekend in the Smokies among colorful spring flowers in the Greenbrier area around the Sugarlands Valley. Accommodations at Tremont, an environmental education facility within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Price, including lodging, transportation (from Memphis), and all but Friday's lunch and Sunday's dinner is \$130/110 (non-member/member). Call the Center for more information.

Upcoming Hikes

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

4/40 Mossy Grove to Bitter Creek
— details from Ken Pittman next month

MEMPHIS

3/4 Pinson Mounds/Big Cypress
Swamp Nature Area — details not rec'd
3/18 Mousetail Landing State Park
— details this issue
4/8-9 Petit Jean State Park —
details next month
4/22 Spring in the Forest — details
next month
4/23 Wolf River Float Trip —
details next month

MURFREESBORO

3/18-19 Pioneer Loop Trail - Day
hike and Backpack — details this
issue
3/18-23 AT Backpack — details this
issue
4/9 Short Springs Wildflower Hike
— details next month

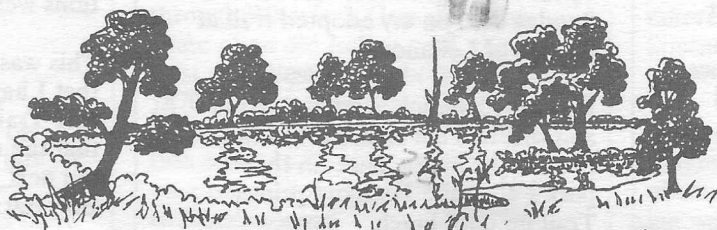
NASHVILLE

3/4 Montgomery Bell State Park —
details this issue
3/12 Piney River Day Hike —
details this issue
3/19 Warner Park — details this
issue

4/8-9 Stagecoach Road Backpack —
details from Mike England next
month
4/15 Honey Creek — details from
Kevin Kimbro next month
4/23 Fiery Gizzard — details from
Paul Smith next month
4/29 Frozen Head — details from
Charlie Hann next month

STATE

3/4 Board of Directors Meeting —
details this issue
4/1-2 C.T. Work Trip — details
next month



Jeannie Arnold '88

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