



Tennessee Trails Association

Coffee Crisis at Frozen Head

- By Gene Hawkins

Frozen Head — the name sounded appropriate for a cold February backpack. Early Saturday morning, I picked up TTA member Patricia Summers. Together we motored to Harriman, thence on to Wartburg and Frozen Head State Park. We stopped at the ranger station to file our “flight plan”. We would hike up Old Mac Mountain by way of its northern trail, camp near a fire tower atop the mountain, and return Sunday by way of the southern trail.

The day was damp and raw as we climbed Old Mac Mountain (promptly renamed “Big Mac”). After lunching beside a frozen waterfall, we reached the 3324-foot summit by three o’clock. The northern wind howled as we pitched tents. We fetched water from a stone springhouse and built a fire in the big stone fireplace, both legacies from Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps.

“Gonna get cold tonight,” I said to Pat, eyeing our pack thermometer, which was headed down to a nighttime low of 18°. “Hope you brought lots of coffee. We’re gonna need it!”

Patricia did not reply immediately. There was a long pause in the conversation, the kind one writer aptly termed a “pregnant pause”. When she finally did reply, she did not look me straight in the eye. Her gaze remained fixed on the firewood she was gathering. Her lips slowly and distinctly formed the words,

“I... thought... you... were... bringing... the... coffee.”

The gravity of our situation was immediately apparent. To packers of our vintage, morning coffee isn’t just a pleasant luxury; it’s an essential chemical stimulus. Veteran packers that we are, Patricia and I did not panic, but simply put into effect Survival Plan A. We proceeded to our packs, unzipped them, and commenced to scrape the bottom of every grungy pocket therein. It is a proven fact that a packer can survive for days from the scrapings of pack pockets. We extracted from our unwashed packs the residue of expeditions past: dead bugs, dead noodles, collected seedpods of long forgotten flora, and a few grains of what was hopefully coffee. After much labor, we gleaned some two spoonfuls of precious coffee grounds — enough,

we hoped, to jump-start our metabolisms the following morning.

With no coffee, we didn’t linger around the campfire that night, though it was a clear, crisp night and the lights of Wartburg glittered far below us. As we prepared to retire, Patricia grabbed the baggie of coffee and said, “I guess I’ll sleep with this, so no varmints will get it.”

“Nice try,” I smirked. I knew full well that any coffee in Patricia’s tent that night would never behold the dawn. “I’ll safeguard the coffee tonight.”

“Fat chance,” Patricia snarled. I got the distinct impression that she mistrusted my motives.

And so it came to pass that our coffee sojourned in no-man’s-land that night, between our tents. Adding insult to injury, Patricia remained awake all night, spying on me from her tent. She actually imagined that I might secretly abscond with the coffee during the dead of night. I was deeply hurt that she should so mistrust my integrity. I am certain that she remained awake all night, because I remained awake all night making sure she didn’t filch the coffee.

Dawn finally came to Old Mac, and groggy from a sleepless night, we both desperately needed the kick of our morning coffee. I fondly remembered my grandmother’s potent coffee, so strong it would arise from its cup and kick your



butt. I meticulously meted out the coffee grains while Patricia boiled water. Still mistrustful of me, she double-checked my count of the grains. She failed to notice the three expired bugs I pushed into her pile.

Patricia poured the boiling water, and we settled back to savor our one and only cup of coffee. I closed my eyes and raised the steaming cup to my lips, anticipating the friendly fragrance of coffee. Instead, my nostrils were assaulted by a vile, fishy stench. I once knew a fisherman who unknowingly kept a catch of crappe locked in his Volkswagen for four, sultry August days. My coffee smelled exactly like his Volkswagen. I recoiled in disgust. There was a bubbling green scum floating on the surface of my coffee. I gagged.

"What is that *#%#&#!?" I spat. "It smells like ..." I grasped for an appropriate simile.

"Frogpiddle?" Patricia suggested, daintily sipping her coffee.

"FROGPIDDLE!" I repeated. "Yeah, it smells like frogpiddle! Where did you get that water?"

"There," she pointed, indicating a swampy green puddle near the camp. As she spoke, she continued slurping the slimy coffee.

I stared in disbelief. "That's a FROGPUDDLE! There's a fine springhouse right over there. Why would you get water from a frogpuddle?"

"It was closer," she shrugged. "Not to worry, it's been iodized."

I watched amazed as Patricia slurped her froggy coffee. Then I figured it out: females have a higher gag-point than males. That's a well-known medical fact. Evolution made them that way so that they could change baby diapers. That conniving woman had

sabotaged the coffee so I couldn't drink it and she could get it all. I refused to be outdone by her trickery. I shut my eyes and determined to swallow the coffee. It refused to go down. I gagged and sputtered, turning green as the vile coffee.

"Oh HERE!" I finally surrendered, shoving the cup toward Patricia. "I can't drink this \$#!*. You can have it."

"Well alright, if you're certain you don't want it," she said smugly. She grabbed the precious brew and bolted it down, demurely wiping some green slime from her ruby lips.

Backpackers routinely employ something called the "buddy system". You watch out after your friends, they watch out for you. The buddy system works fine as long as there's plenty of coffee to go around. But when the coffee runs out, believe me — it's every camper for himself!

State News

New Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator

Ninez Giles has resigned as our Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator. We thank her for the hours she has given to this worthy task.

James Leininger has volunteered to take Ninez's place. Thank you James! James brings with him enthusiasm for TTA and hiking as well as some much needed computer skills. Please give James your help by sending regular reports on your adopted trail or on other trails you may hike. Mail to:

James Leininger
1560 Murfreesboro Road
Franklin, TN 37064

New Board Member

Bob Brown has been added to TTA's Board of Directors. In his capacity as TTA's Chairman of the Cumberland Trail, Bob has been

attending Board meetings for years, so we decided it was about time we officially gave him Board voting privileges.

Note Date Change

You may not have noticed that the date for the Annual Meeting is different on the Hiking Schedule from the original date given. We were unable to get reservations for the original date. So, be sure your calendars are marked for October 6-8, 1989. This year's Meeting promises to be a landmark occasion.

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.

Topographical Maps

Davis-Kidd Booksellers (Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis) are now official agents for selling U.S. Geological Survey Topographical maps.

Bag-a-Thon

Nashville will have its first Bag-a-Thon on April 22 (rain date April 29). Public works trucks will be located at various school and park sites throughout the county to receive items for disposal from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are asked to remove roadside litter from their immediate

area or join the Richland Creek group which will focus on cleaning up from the Cumberland River to Warner Parks as teams. Register for the latter at Richland Park

Library, 46th and Charlotte, at 8:00 a.m.

Glad Bags, a sponsor of the event, will provide trash bags for removing litter and recyclable bags will be provided for collection of aluminum

cans, color separated glass, and plastic beverage containers. For more details on the various activities planned around this event, call Ann Chapman, Metro Beautification, 259-6285.

Cumberland Trail News

Work/Play Weekend April 1&2

Trailwork on Saturday will involve mostly clearing away winter blowdowns on the 5.2 mile unit from Walden Ridge Road (Laurel Grove firetower) north to Campsite 2 on old Shults Road. If eight or more workers show up, we will start a party form each end and meet near Campsite 3. We worked this section about three years ago and it should not be too difficult.

On Sunday, anyone interested can take a moderate 10-mile walk with me on the Eagle Bluff unit of Section 1 (Big Creek Gap to Cove Lake) or opt for a shorter hike on their own—such as “Suck Air” to Devil’s Racetrack.

Anyone wishing to share the 6-person cabin reserved at Norris Dam State Park Friday and/or Saturday nights, please let me know by Wednesday, March 29th (if newsletter received in time). Trailworkers may also camp free at Cove Lake State Park if they let Bobby Harbin or me know by March 29th.

Meet at Cumberland Scenic Trail office at Cove Lake State Park at 8:00 a.m. EST both days. Transport and tools will be provided. Bring gloves, water, lunch and raingear.

We need a good turnout in this our first, and most important worktrip of the season to fulfill TTA’s C.T. maintenance contract with the State. Call me, Bob Brown at 615-748-4816 (work) or Bob Harbin at 615-566-0902 (work) for more details.

First Tennessee River Gorge Ramble C.T. Section 9 April 8

First Tennessee National Bank will donate \$1.00 to the Tennessee River Gorge Trust for each mile walked by each registered hiker on the 10-mile Mullens Cove Loop off C.T. Section 9. Hikers may register at the trailhead by paying a \$5.00 entry fee for the hike, a T-shirt, and a raffle ticket for many nice prizes.

Significant and rare plants along the hike route will be marked for wildflower enthusiasts. The Mullens Cove Loop Trail starts at the C.T. parking lot near the Prentice Cooper State Forest lookout tower, passes the Indian Rockhouse and follows the rim of the Tennessee River Gorge south to Snoopers Rock overlook. Turning west, it passes the Hemlock Branch campsite and at Mullens Cove overlook, it turns north to follow the rim of the Mullens Creek gorge. It completes the loop by turning east up Short Creek and then jogging south to the starting point.

Tennessee River Gorge Trust, an offspring of The Nature Conservancy, has for a number of years been quietly and effectively working to preserve and protect the Grand Canyon of the Tennessee. This is one of the richest areas in terms of natural and scenic features and historical significance through which the Cumberland Trail passes, and is its southern anchor.

The Trust has been the Cumberland Trail’s most active user and loyal booster. The Ramble will give TTA members a unique opportunity to experience spring in the Gorge and

to boost in a tangible way, the vital work of the Trust.

I plan to be at the C.T. parking lot at 8:00 a.m. EST, but hikers may register all day and walk as much or little of the loop as they wish. For more details, call me, Bob Brown at 615-748-4816 (work) or Graham Hawks at 615-266-0314 (work).

C.T. Section III Hike April 30

The Cumberland Mountain Chapter is sponsoring a hike on Section III of the C.T. Details are given in the Chapter News section of this newsletter.

Trip Report C.T. Section 9 Snow Hike

On February 11, there was no snow but we had the next best thing — a clear, cold, sunny day. Our small group allowed us to scrap the planned walk to Edwards Point and take a longer hike from the Prentice Cooper firetower to Highway 27. This part of the C.T. follows the north rim of the Tennessee River Gorge from Deadman’s Eddy and Suck Shoals to Suck Creek Gorge, and then follows the latter’s west rim.

Dot Lingerfelt, Marilyn Wolven, Micky Sutton, John Howard, and sons Austin and Jerry, James Leininger, Charley Winger, and I followed Graham Hawks down through a “Stone Door” cleft in the rimrock. We emerged at the Indian Rockhouse warmed by the south-swinging sun, shielded from north winds, sheltered from blowing rain or snow, and long a favorite spot for artifact hunters. It

overlooks a 180° bend of the river wrapping around the north end of Raccoon Mountain.

We then walked east along the 1600 ft. contour on a south-facing forested slope just below alternating rockhouses and small stream drainages on our left and just above an unbroken 100-200 ft. cliff on our right. Chestnut oaks dominated the woods along with red oaks, hickories, red maples, flowering dogwoods, and a few sour gums and black locusts.

Graham stopped several times to talk local history and to note the status of tracts acquired or sought by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust working to preserve this natural and scenic treasure. He pointed out the old Haley Road, a stagecoach route from Chattanooga to Nashville, that ran along the north bank of the river below us and turned up Haley Branch to cross Walden's Ridge west of us. This was the same route as the McMinnville Stage Road that descends Peak Mountain to the Collins River just south of Savage Gulf.

After about an hour we rounded Lusk Point overlooking the Suck, and turning gradually northwest, we dropped 200 ft. to Sulfur Branch. Here we found lots of Sweet Gums and Tulip trees and a profusion of the green fernlike basal leaves of threatened *Polymnia laevigata*. Here also several of us followed Graham eastward a short way down the tumbling branch to a point where it plunges over a 100 ft. cliff and rushes to join Suck Creek 600 ft. below.

Working carefully to the left along a piney slope above the precipice, we found a precarious overlook and a spectacular view of the falls behind us and the river entering the "Grand Canyon" before us between Signal and Raccoon Mountains with Chattanooga and the ridge and valley unfolding beyond. Soon a "Killy, Killy, Killy" cry alerted us to a kestrel (or maybe a peregrine?) sweeping down Suck Creek and around the point, and later a big brown owl skimmed through the treetops far below.

Graham is convinced that a spot we passed just upstream from the waterfall was the vantage point for sketches done by Alexander Wyant for his oil canvas *Tennessee* depicting the above scene. Wyant was a renowned landscape painter of the Hudson Valley School who made a trip to the Chattanooga area in the 1850s or 1860s and actually did this painting later while studying in Germany. He first showed his *Tennessee* at New York's National Academy of Design in 1866, and it now hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A footnote in a recent article on Wyant states: "While researching *Tennessee* for his exhibition of Tennessee paintings, James C. Kelly believed Wyant had exercised artistic license in depicting the waterfall in the foreground, but when Graham Hawks, Jr., Director of the Tennessee River Nature Conservancy, visited the exhibition he recognized the view Wyant portrayed: he knew a ravine on the plateau similar to that in Wyant's painting... He also confirmed that the features of the site — from the kind of soil to the indigenous sandstone — were precisely portrayed."

Back on the trail we followed the rimrock north and then northwest crossing several small stream drainages through hemlocks, sweet birches and rhododendron and passing many northeast facing cliffs festooned with huge icicles.

After a final view from Lawson's Rock and a good look at a Redtailed Hawk soaring over Suck Creek we came too soon to the end of our hike. We left Graham with many thanks and plans to return with him to C.T. Section 9 for spring wildflowers on April 8, and

Quotable Quote

"God gave us two ends — one to sit on and one to think with. Success depends upon which one we use most. Heads we win. Tails we lose"

— Unknown

fall wildflowers and foliage on October 14.

Cumberland Mtn. Chapter

Cumberland Trail, Section III Hike April 30

This will be a moderately difficult hike along the C.T. from Doug Hollow near the Little Emery River, over Whetstone Mountain, across Butler Creek and around Little Brushy Mountain. The trail from Doug Hollow to Butler Creek is approximately ten miles, but shuttle vehicles can be left at the five mile point.

Wear sturdy boots and bring rain gear, lunch, and water. Meet at Darnell's Grocery on Highway 27, fifteen miles north of Harriman and six miles south of Wartburg, at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Overnight primitive camping is available at nearby Frozen Head State Natural Area. Call Ken Pittman in Jamestown at 615-879-8724 for more information.

Memphis Chapter

Meets Third Thursday
Kingsway Christian Church
7:30 p.m.

April Meeting April 20

On your mark, get set, walk! Gillian Galanter, a personal fitness trainer, will discuss racewalking. Come learn about this sport that's enjoying a new surge of popularity.

1st Annual Super Cities Walk April 9

Attention all walkers! We need you for the First Annual Super Cities Walk! Memphis is one of thirty Multiple Sclerosis Chapters chosen to participate in this first time event which will take place on April 9. The walk was originated by the Minnesota chapter in 1988, and was such a success that the Society decided to make it a national event. It is hoped that all 95 Multiple Sclerosis chapters will be participating in the walk by 1990. The walk is sponsored nationally by Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Keebler Cookies, and Tetley Tea. Locally it is sponsored by KIX 106-FM.

Walkers will begin from two starting points and meet halfway for a picnic lunch. Walkers may then continue on to the opposite starting point or double back and finish where they started. Shuttle buses return everyone to their cars at the starting points.

Walkers raise money based on pledges for every mile walked. It is expected that 500 people will participate and raise \$50,000 for MS. All walkers receive an official walk bandanna and certificate. There will be food and drink provided at rest stops, support from sag wagons, and prizes for everyone based on the amount of pledges raised.

We'd love for you to walk with us! If you would like to participate in the Super Cities Walk (either by walking or as a volunteer), please call us at the Walk Hotline, 901-763-3601 or 1-800-631-7712. We will send you a Walk brochure along with some hot tips to get those feet ready for walking.

Petit Jean State Park April 8-9

One of Arkansas' finest state park facilities, Petit Jean lies in a unique area between the Ozark and

Ouachita Mountain ranges in west-central Arkansas. Situated on beautiful Petit Jean Mountain, the park encompasses 3,471 acres of rare natural beauty. In this lovely mountain setting are an abundance of unmarred woods, ravines, streams, springs, spectacular views and interesting geological formations preserved almost as French explorers found them 300 years ago. More than 24 miles of trails guide you to Petit Jean's secrets. Walk to Cedar Falls; meander through Seven Hollows; enter into Indian Rock House Cave and much more.

One housekeeping cabin and two double rooms have been reserved. A few spaces may be available; call by 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, if you are interested in joining us. The park has a very nice campground for tents or trailers. The park is located west of Little Rock. Take Hwy. 9 (Exit 108) off I-40 at Morrilton south 9 miles to Oppelo. Then head west 12 miles on Hwy. 154 to the park.

Meet at Mather Lodge at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday for hiking. For more information, call Betty Porter at 901-363-0213.

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.

Spring In the Forest April 22

A full day of activities at Meeman-Shelby State Park is planned for this annual event. The TTA-sponsored hike begins at 9:00 a.m. at the park recreation center. We'll walk about three miles on the Pioneer Springs Trail. Bring water and mosquito repellent. For information on the day's other events, call Gary McIntyre at 876-5215.

Big Hill Pond Hike May 6th

This will be a joint TTA/Sierra Club hike and is not on our regular schedule. Carpool will leave the parking lot at Memphis Pink Palace Museum at 7:30 a.m. or meet us at the park office at 9:30 a.m.

We will hike approximately eight miles on fairly easy terrain. Bring water and food and dress for the weather. If you need further information, call Jerri Bull at 363-4408. We will not carpool from Kingsway on this trip.

Miscellaneous Memphis News

- Those of you concerned about the proposed drawdown of Reelfoot Lake may be interested in reading Debbie Gilbert's article in the April issue of *Memphis* magazine.
- Congratulations to Edith Caywood, whose exhibition of paintings, titled *Undertones*, opened to critical acclaim at the Lisa Kurts Gallery in downtown Memphis. We all knew Edith was a tireless hiker, but we had no idea she was such a talented artist!

Trip Report

Ft. Pillow

After a week of rain in Memphis, seven TTA hikers braved the weather on February 18th to walk the ten-mile Ft. Pillow Trail. Although the trail was muddy and soggy, a light dusting of snow which had fallen early that morning, gave the area a quiet beauty. Red-headed woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, and titmice were observed, and clumps of daffodils lifting their blossoms through the snow were the only harbingers of spring.

We were glad to come to the group camp with its enclosed picnic tables to eat lunch out of the damp and cold. It was a great hike, and we enjoyed sharing it with fellow hikers, Anne Lindholm, Betty Porter, Freddi Felt, Bob Beger, Pat Wise, and Linda Koss. —Jerri Bull

Trip Report

Pinson Mounds

Despite the threat of bad weather, nine people met at the Museum/Visitor Center for an interesting film explaining the site and showing the 1983 excavation activities. Our guide then walked with us up the 132 steps to the top of Saul's Mound and showed us points of interest in the park and surrounding countryside.

On our own, we walked around the various mounds, through the woods and along the boardwalk. Although a few rain showers did not stop us from having a good time, it was hard to eat soggy sandwiches.

In the afternoon, we tried to locate the Cypress Grove Nature Center near Jackson. Bad directions, however, and more rain ended the day. Jerri and I finally found the place after everyone else had started home and we walked the mile of boardwalk to the observation tower. It will be a real neat place to visit when Spring finally arrives.

April Showers

-By Debbie Gilbert-

I watch the patterns raindrops make,
Concentric circles on the lake.
I shake the droplets from my hair
And breathe the moisture-laden air.

My boots and socks are soaking wet,
But none of this do I regret,
Recalling when we did without,
And how we thirsted in the drought.

This downpour doesn't bother me;
It is what springtime's meant to be.
I welcome it, and don't complain.
Oh what a precious gift is rain!



Murfreesboro Chapter

Meets Third Thursday
St. Mark's Methodist Church
7:00 p.m.
896-4356

April Meeting

Sherrie Williams, Naturalist at Rock Island State Park, will present a slide program the park. Sherrie also plans to bring two birds of prey. She will also discuss plans to develop and expand the facilities at Rock Island, including the need to establish and maintain hiking trails there.

Short Springs Wildflower Hike

April 9

The annual spring wildflower hike to the Short Springs Nature Area has become a tradition among Tullahoma area residents. Join fellow TTA members and members of the Tullahoma Historical Society for a short afternoon hike to a site rich with spring wildflowers.

Short Springs is a 550 acre tract owned by the City of Tullahoma and was previously the city water supply.

It has recently been proposed for protection as a State Natural Area and a city day-use park. The tract contains numerous ravines, bluffs, and waterfalls. There are moss-covered seepage slopes and dripping springs. Wildflowers are abundant below the waterfalls and along the creeks.

Be prepared for a round trip hike of less than one mile into a moderately steep ravine, to the base of beautiful Machine Falls, then rock hop across BoBo Creek to Busby Falls. A short (but steep) climb above the falls leads to an unusual parquet floor, a creek bottom composed of Chattanooga shale. Expect ankle-deep wading at a couple of creek crossings for those hiking the entire loop.

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Dairy Queen in Tullahoma. Coming from Manchester, leave I-24E at Exit 111 and take state highway 55 to Tullahoma. The Dairy Queen is on the left, one block past the first traffic light. Call Dennis Horn at 615-455-5742 or Bertha Chrietberg at 615-896-1146 for more details.

February Meeting Report

Mountain Goat Trail

Twenty-one members and guests met on Thursday, February 16 to hear Carrie Ashton discuss the Mountain Goat Trail which is an approximately 21-mile trail from Cowan to Tracy City. This trail, on the abandoned road bed of the CSX Railroad, is the first Rails-to-Trails in Tennessee and one of the first in the southeast.

Organizers of the mountain goat trail are in the process of trying to persuade the state to acquire this land. The acquisition would be part of the South Cumberland Recreation Area. Carrie asked TTA members to sent letters to Gov. McWherter State Senator Terry Cooper, Speaker Ed Murray, and Commissioner Elbert T. Gill, Jr. requesting their support for this project.

Trip Report

Long Hunter State Park

Six hardy souls braved wet trail conditions and the threat of foul weather on Saturday, February 18 at Long Hunter. Five inches of rain had fallen just prior to the hike. With the aid of four strong backs and much encouragement and supervision from the ladies on the hike, we returned two walk bridges to the original resting places across small streams. The weather cooperated on this day and we covered the eight miles in fine form and cheery spirits.



Nashville Chapter

Meets 4th Thursday
Cumberland Museum
7:30 p.m.
859-0566

April Meeting

April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Join us at the Cumberland Museum at 7:30 p.m. to hear Bob Hollingsworth talk about the Tennessee Long Hunter. Mr. Hollingsworth has studied these historical figures and their impact on Tennessee's history. He has also made a number of Long Hunter artifacts which should make for an interesting evening. It should be noted that Mr. Hollingsworth was raised with artifacts since he grew up at the Hermitage.

Stagecoach Road Backpack

April 8-9

I hope you're ready for a wonderful overnight trip to beautiful Savage Gulf, hiking down Stagecoach Road Trail. It's an easy walk of about six miles, beginning at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station on the Tracy City side of the park.

Along the way, you will witness some of the most breathtaking overlooks in the gulf. Once we

reach our camp site, we will day hike over to a section of the old McMinnville Stage Road, circa 1870s. Some of the road is still there. Look forward to a wonderful trip.

Meet at the K-Mart on Donelson Pk. at I-40 at 7:30 a.m. to carpool or meet us at the trailhead no later than 10:00 a.m. If you need directions to the trailhead, call me with a Tennessee map in hand. For more details, call Michael England at 366-6213.

Honey Creek Day Hike

Saturday, April 15

Join the Nashville Chapter on an unforgettable hike to the beautiful and fascinating Honey Creek Gorge, located on the southwestern edge of the Big South Fork area in Scott County.

This outstanding natural area has small pristine waterfalls, massive boulders in rugged creek beds, unusual rock formations, Indian rock houses, thick tangles of rhododendron, rare wildflowers, and scenic overlooks.

The hike is five miles in length, and is rated Class IV (difficult). Total hiking time is about six hours, so we should arrive back in Nashville after 8:00 p.m. Sturdy boots are a must and rain gear is recommended. Bring lunch, snacks and water.

We will carpool from the K-Mart parking lot at Donelson Pike and I-40 at 6:30 a.m. CST. To **PRE-REGISTER**, and receive more information, call Kevin Kimbro at 615-333-0629.

Fiery Gizzard Hike

April 23

Come and join us Sunday, April 23, for a hike on the Fiery Gizzard Trail. We will hike from the Raven Point overlook to the north parking lot, a distance of 5½ miles (difficult Grade III).

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel, I-24 and Bell Road, or at the

South Cumberland Park office at 9:30 a.m. (Hwy. 56 in Tracy City). Call Paul Smith in Columbia for more information at 388-0215.

Frozenhead State Natural Area Hike

April 29

Meet us at the Donelson K-Mart at I-40 on Saturday, April 29 at 6:30 a.m. CST. We will go to Chimney Top via the Spicewood Branch Trail and return on the Chimney Top Trail. At the trailhead (approx. 1200 ft.) we will climb to Chimney Rock at 3100 ft. This trail is rated strenuous/difficult, but has a beautiful view from the top.

Bring lots of lunch, water, etc., and rain gear. The wildflowers will be out, so bring your camera gear along, too. For more information, call Charlie Hann at 781-6043.

Snyders Returning!

I'm happy to report that John and Rhonda (Turner) Snyder are moving back from East Tennessee to Middle Tennessee. John has accepted a job in Murfreesboro and Rhonda will return as soon as their house is sold. While we will miss having their wonderful house as the TTA Motel when visiting the Smokies, we will be far happier having them both nearby again. Rhonda, Hickory Hollow Mall is wildly celebrating the imminent return of their favorite shopper. Welcome home!

Trip Report

Radnor Lake

It was a cold and icy Sunday afternoon that saw nine brave hikers challenge Gainer Ridge at Radnor Lake Natural Area. The trails were in good shape but the wood bridges were ice covered and somewhat treacherous. In spite of the weather, we all made the two hour journey in good form and without incident.

The lake itself had only a few waterfowl visitors. A cold, foggy

mist covered the water, giving the lake a different kind of tranquility.

This outing was just the remedy to change a dreary, overcast winter day into a warm, friendly winter day. — Ninez Giles

Trip Report Virgin Falls Day Hike

Fourteen determined and enthusiastic hikers car-pooled from Nashville on a menacing Saturday morning with wind gusts and showers overhead. These cleared up in Cookeville which confirmed my predictions that Tennessee weather is very *un* predictable. Our eagerness to see the falls was highly rewarded with tons of water flowing at the falls. It was more, in fact, than I have ever seen there and it made our trip a challenging but beautiful one.

Big Laurel Creek had so much water that our usual rock hop turned into crawling across a large log upstream, or very wet feet for most. But the misery of wet socks was well worth it, to witness the

jewel that lay ahead of us down the trail.

A good time was had by all, and I am eager to return. — Kevin Kimbro

Trip Report

Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness
Seven of Nashville's best hiked to Snow Fall of the Laurel-Snow area. The day was overcast, but warm. With all the rain there was plenty of water coming over the falls, giving us some great pictures. We climbed to the top of the plateau for a great view, ending a good day. — Charlie Hann

Trip Report Impromptu Hikes

Members of the Nashville chapter made unscheduled hikes at Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness and Twin Falls of Dry Creek.

Honey Creek was great with a beautiful ice flow from previous rains and a cold spell. The day of our hike, though was clear and warm.

from "Inscription for the Entrance to a Wood"

By William Cullen Bryant

Stranger, if thou hast learned a truth
which needs
No school of long experience, that
the world
Is full of guilt and misery, and hast
seen
Enough of all its sorrows, crimes,
and cares,
To tire thee of it, enter this wild wood
And view the haunts of Nature. The
calm shade
Shall bring a kindred calm, and the
sweet breeze
That makes the green leaves dance,
shall waft a balm
To thy sick heart. . .

Dry Creek has twin waterfalls and is about one mile from the road. We crossed Dry Creek about five times and contrary to its name, there was plenty of water flowing. This was our mid- February wading hike and the water was *very cold*. But, the Twin Falls were worth the effort. — Charlie Hann

News From Our Parks

Big South Fork

The long awaited reprint of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area trail map is now available. Maps may be purchased at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center for \$2.50 each. Maps may also be purchased by mail.

Personal checks or money orders should be made payable to: *Eastern National Park and Monument Association*. Please enclose \$2.50 plus \$.56 postage and handling for the first map and \$.34 postage and handling for each additional map. Mail to: Big South Fork NRRRA, P.O. Drawer 630, Oneida, TN 37841.

Warner Park Nature Center Nashville, 352-6299

- 4/8 **Nature Photography Class** — Outdoor session, 7:00-9:30 a.m. Registration opens March 27.
- 4/8 **Nature Photography Class** — Indoor session, 10:00 a.m.-noon. Registration opens March 27.
- 4/19 **Frogs, Toads, & Salamanders** — 7:00-9:00 p.m. Registration opens 4/5.
- 4/22 **Discover the Nature Center** — 8:00-4:30 p.m.
- 4/22 **Park Cleanup/Bag-a-Thon** — nationwide recycling event sponsored by Glad Bags. Come join us as we pick up litter in the parks. Your help would be appreciated!
- 4/29 **Bird Hike** — 8:00-11:00 a.m. Registration opens April 17.

Fall Creek Falls Pikeville, TN

- 4/2-7 **Fitness Camp** — For women who want to learn more about leading a healthy life: exercise, stress management, outdoor recreation skills, proper diets, etc. Make reservations at Fall Creek Inn.
- 4/15,16 **Backpack** — 13-mile trek for beginner and experienced backpackers.

South Cumberland 615-924-2980

- 4/1&2 **Collins Gulf Overnighter** — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. Register by March 31. 10 miles, strenuous
- 4/8 **Shake Rag Hollow** — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Green's View, Sewanee. 3 miles, moderate

- 4/9 Fiery Gizzard-Raven Point to Grundy Forest — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Visitor Center. 6 miles, strenuous
- 4/15 Big Sycamore Sink — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. 3 miles, easy
- 4/16 Ranger Falls Adventure — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles, strenuous
- 4/22 Grundy Lakes Fishing Rodeo — Meet at Grundy Lakes Swim Beach in Tracy City at 6:00 a.m. Prizes awarded.
- 4/22 Savage Falls Day Loop Trail — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Savage Ranger Station. 4.2 miles, easy

- 4/23 Rocky Mountain Creek Excursion — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Savage Ranger Station. 1 mile, moderate
- 4/30 The Big Sink of Lost Cove — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Carter Natural Area Parking Lot.

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Lichterman Nature Center

Memphis, 901-767-7322

- 4/1 Meet the Stars — 7:30-9:30 p.m. (\$5.00/7.00)
- 4/1 Landscaping With Native Plants — 12:30-3:30 p.m. (\$25.00/30.00)
- 4/8 Weaving the Natural Way — 10:00-12:00 (\$7.00/8.00)

- 4/15 Spring Celebration — 9:30-5:00 (Free)
- 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.

from letter to the Tennessean by Mary Lynn Dobson

There is a virus attacking our state parks and your help is needed to prevent it from becoming an epidemic. More and more of our state park lands, rich woodland habitats that were wisely chosen to be preserved in their natural state for everyone's enjoyment, are now being targeted for expensive development. In 1988 the General Assembly authorized \$675,000 for golf course feasibility studies in eight of our state parks (Rock Island, Reelfoot Lake, Natchez Trace, Chickasaw, Panther Creek, Cedars of Lebanon, Tim's Ford, and Old Stone Fort-expansion). A 270-acre zoo with a 10-acre parking lot has been proposed to usurp woodland with hiking trails at Long Hunter State Park.

If we do not speak out now to stop this tendency to develop the natural areas of our state parks, we may end up losing our woods and hiking trails enjoyed by many, to expensive state supported projects that pollute our environment and are enjoyed by a relative few.

One of the more likely areas to be developed for a golf course is 340 acres of a rich woodland peninsula at Rock Island State Park. For 35 years I have enjoyed walking these woods of Rock Island, Tennessee and for two years I was a naturalist at the state park. I helped plan and mark the Collins River Loop Trail through the Horseshoe Bend peninsula. The trail follows an old roadbed along the Collins River through rich deciduous woods that include trees of oak, hickory, beech, ironwood, maple, magnolia, sour wood, and buckeye. In spring, the floor of the forest is carpeted with ferns and wildflowers. The trail enters patches of dark pine woods that have grown up in the abandoned fields of fifty years ago. There are still a few small stands of cane along the river, remnants of vast canebrakes, typical of the area when the land was first settled by the white man, when buffalo made the only possible traces through the cane and every other stream was named Cane Creek or Caney Fork.

The two power lines that cut across this area provide another type of habitat — one of grass, berries, and brambles. The variety of habitats provide homes for a myriad of different animals as well as plants. I have

watched a white-tailed deer browse, both of us encompassed by the early morning mist from the river. I have disturbed a screech owl from its roost in early afternoon, and enjoyed the cacophony of sounds made by a barred owl and her young in the late August evenings. I have watched a woodchuck amble along the river bank, and a pair of piliated woodpeckers foraging from tree to tree, their call reverberating off the water.

The trail also passes through the homestead of G.W. Cunningham and his wife Sarah Hennessee. Giant oak and maple trees along with naturalized daylilies and daffodils mark the location of their yard. Vinca, graveyard ivy, and a weathered tombstone mark their graves. They raised a family and were buried in these woods in the 1800s.

The forest has reclaimed the land. This area is richer in all aspects of nature and history than my memories can tell. Many other people have enjoyed walking the trail in all seasons. They, too, take with them memories provided by the rich woodland surrounding the Collins River Trail.

A golf course is a petty thing balanced against the richness of these woods; yet this is where consultants have proposed and planned an 18-hole golf course complete with a pro shop, 200-car parking lot, and a practice fairway.

Facts concerning the proposed Rock Island golf course are: an estimated cost of \$7,500,000; projected annual losses as high as \$769,308; hazard to area water quality in Great Falls Lake from runoff of turf maintenance chemicals; nine public golf courses already exist in the area; a noticeable decline in songbird population; another possible location exists.

The General Assembly will soon be considering whether or not to fund this and other golf courses in our state parks. Please take time to call or write your state legislators so that they will have no doubt that there is a large group of voters against destroying our woodland preserves to build expensive golf courses. Now is the time to act — next year may be too late.

Upcoming Hikes

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

4/30 C.T. Section III — details this issue

MEMPHIS

4/8-9 Petit Jean State Park — details this issue

4/22 Spring in the Forest — details this issue

4/23 Wolf River Float Trip — details not received. Call Jill Norvell, 873-2149

5/6 Big Hill Pond — details this issue

5/13-14 Land Between the Lakes — details next month

5/27 Chewalla (Holly Springs, MS) — details next month

MURFREESBORO

4/9 Short Springs Wildflower Hike — details this issue

5/13-14 Virgin Falls Backpack — details next month

5/20 Bike Hike, Historic Murfreesboro — details next month

NASHVILLE

4/8-9 Stagecoach Road Backpack — details this issue

4/15 Honey Creek — details this issue

4/23 Fiery Gizzard — details this issue

4/29 Frozen Head — details this issue

5/21 Hidden Passage — details from Sam McQueen next month

STATE

4/1-2 C.T. Work Trip — details this issue

4/8 C.T. Section 9 details this issue

5/6-7 Brady Mtn. Backpack — details next month

5/27-29 Waterfall Hike in North Carolina — details from David Stidham next month

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Mail dues and address changes/corrections to: TTA, P.O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405

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All submissions for the newsletter due no later than the 15th of each month.

Come Hike With Us!
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