



Tennessee Trails

John Muir's Tennessee Trek - from 1966 Nashville Banner Article by Carolyn McGnee

Along the seashores of Scotland, in the mountains of Tennessee, or on the gigantic glaciers of Alaska, John Muir was equally at home. His home was the wilderness.

In 1867, he walked through the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee during a 1000-mile trek from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. Although depressed by the dreariness of the villages he saw in Tennessee, Muir was impressed by the beauty of the mountains and streams. While walking through the Cumberlands, he had gone for almost a day without seeing a house and was hungry and lonely.

"But," he wrote, "in crossing a dark-shaded stream whose border trees closed over it like a leafy sky, I found the frail Dicksonia that I had looked for so long, and the first Magnolia, too, that I had ever seen. I sat down and reveled in the glory of my discoveries. A mysterious breathing of wind moving in the trees, and the stream sang cheerily at every ripple. There is no place so impressively solitary as a dense forest with a stream passing over a rocky bed at a moderate inclination.

"Feelings of isolation soon caught me again among these hushed sounds, but one of the Lord's smallest birds came out to me from some bushes at the side of a moss-clad rock. It had a wonderfully expressive eye, and in one moment that cheerful, confiding bird preached me the most effectual sermon on heavenly trust that I had

ever heard through all the measured hours of Sabbath, and I went on not half so heart-sick nor half so weary."

Muir carried only the barest essentials, dried bread and tea, and walked even the snowy Sierras and Alaskan terrain without a long coat and without a blanket. At night he would gather pine needles for a bed or sometimes even sleep on a huge rock.

Of his 1000-mile trek, he wrote, "My plan was simply to push on a general southward direction by the wildest, leafiest, and least trodden way I could find, promising the greatest extent of virgin forest."

At houses along the way, he would stop for food, but usually he slept outside. In a humorous remembrance of a meal of string beans, buttermilk, and corn bread, he wrote, "At the table I was seated in a bottomless chair, and as I become sore and heavy, I sank deeper and deeper, pressing my knees against my breast, and my mouth settled to the level of my plate. But wild hunger cares for none of these things, and my curiously compressed position prevented the too free indulgence of boisterous appetite."

After Muir's trek through the South, next came California. Once, upon encountering a cinnamon bear which weighed about five hundred pounds, Muir made a sudden rush at the bear, thinking it would run away and he could observe its gait

in running. "On the contrary, he stood his ground ready to fight and defend himself..."

"Then I suddenly began to fear that upon me would fall the work of running; but I was afraid to run, and therefore, like the bear held my ground. We stood staring at each other in solemn silence within a dozen yards or thereabout, while I fervently hoped that the power of the human eye over wild beasts would prove as great as it is said to be. How long our awfully strenuous interview lasted, I don't know; but at length in the slow fullness of time he pulled his huge paws down off the log, and with magnificent deliberation turned and walked leisurely up the meadow, stopping frequently to look back over his shoulder to see whether I was pursuing him, then moving on again, evidently neither fearing me very much nor trusting me."

Muir deplored man's tamperings with Nature. Fighting a losing battle against the dam builders, he said of them, "These temple-destroyers, devotees of ravaging commercialism, seem to have a perfect contempt for Nature, and instead of lifting their eyes to the God of the mountains, lift them to the Almighty Dollar."

"In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world," he said, "the great fresh, unblighted, unredeemed wilderness. The galling harness of civilization drops off, and the wounds heal ere we are aware."

Cumberland Trail News

Black & Brady Mountains Backpack

C.T. Section 5, May 6&7

The Scouts of BSA Great Smoky Mountain Council Troop 374 of Crossville will again host this moderately strenuous 12-mile hike. If ten or more hikers pre-register by Monday, May 1st, Troop 374 will transport our packs to the campsite, pitch our tents and prepare a great home-cooked supper and breakfast for \$5.00 per hiker. This is a great opportunity for non-backpackers to see how it's done without doing it, while enjoying campfire cookery at its best. Last year's hike also featured excellent views, wildflowers, and birding. Dayhikers may join us on Saturday just for the 4-mile easy descent of Black Mountain.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Homestead School parking lot within sight of the junction of State Highways 127 and 68, about 5 miles southeast of Crossville. Car shuttles will be arranged to the top of Black Mountain where the hike will start. Overnighters should be back to Homestead School by 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

Pre-register by calling no later than Monday, May 1st:
Ed Hargis (Crossville)
615-484-7179.

3rd Annual Cumberland Trail Cove Lake Birding Weekend May 20-21

Once again Chuck Nicholson, co-founder with Paul Hamel of the Tennessee Breeding Bird Project, will lead us on Saturday in our foray starting at the upper end of Cove Lake and preceding gradually by car up Cross Mountain and then along its crest. Last year's trip produced twenty species of warblers (including Swainson's, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blackthroated Blues and Greens, Chestnut-sided,

Golden-winged, Cerulean, Canada, Worm-eating, and Blackburnian), six of fringillidae (including Rose-breasted Grosbeak), five of flycatchers (including Acadian), four of thrushes (including Swainson's and Veery), four of Vireos (including Solitary), three of hawks (Red-tailed, Broadwinged, and Sharp-shinned), two of ducks (Wood and Mallard), and a Barred Owl.

If anyone shows up Sunday, I will attempt to lead a repeat of Saturday's trip in Boyd Sharp's absence (his daughter's wedding day). Serious birders should be sure to make Chuck's trip on Saturday.

Meet both days at 7:00 a.m. EDT with binoculars, water, and raingear at C.T. Scenic Trail Office in Cove Lake State Park.

— Bob Brown (Nashville)
615-748-4816.

Trip Report Work/Play Weekend April 1&2

Betty and James Herring, Bobby Harbin, and I spent Saturday morning clearing out blowdowns and clipping branches from Laurel Grove Road to "Lunch Rock" on C.T. Section 2. After lunch on the rock, James and I walked on to Shultz Road and Campsite 2 noting another ten or twelve blowdowns to be cleared and much reblazing to be done on our next trip.

Bobby, suffering some discomfort from a recently bruised (probably broken) big toe, meanwhile returned with Betty to the vehicles and drove around to meet James and I.

Next day, the Herrings visited Cumberland Gap National Historic Park while Ellen Harbin and I hiked the Eagle Bluff unit of C.T. Section 1, about nine fairly strenuous miles with some easy, but fun, rock climbing, and superb views of the

dramatic palisades of Big Creek Gap, McLean Rock, Powell Valley, Cross and Vowell Mountains, the northern end of Walden's Ridge, Clinch and House Mountains, and the Smokies, vaguely beyond.

Spring blooming and leafing-out had only partially progressed up the slopes of Walden's Ridge and Cumberland Mountain, but the sarvis was flowering all along the crests, and both days we often heard Pine and Black & White Warblers and Solitary Vireos singing. — Bob Brown

Trip Report First Tennessee River Gorge Ramble April 8

It was cold, windy, and alternately pouring down rain and drizzling when Charley and Barbara Winger and Mother and I reluctantly left the Holiday Inn restaurant. Fog lay in the Grand Canyon of the Tennessee and blanketed the mountaintop. We were sure no one would show for the hike on C.T. Section 9. We were wrong.

Not only were Graham and ten or twelve volunteers of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust (including Same Powell and former Chattanooga mayor William Raoul) busily getting things organized, but soon 73 folks showed up to register and get their *Keep the Tennessee River Gorge-ous* t-shirt.

At 9:00 a.m., 50 hikers actually set out in the rain for a 3¹/₂ mile tramp along the Mullens Cove loop. Graham decided the full 10-mile circuit wasn't advisable, and, mindful of several small stream crossings with slippery rocks, he had the column bracketed fore and aft with walkie-talkie radios, and State Forest Service vehicles were waiting at Snoopers Rock to shuttle us back to our cars.

The rain stopped and fog banks parted often enough to give some

brief stunning views of the Gorge, and many blooming wildflower species kept the walk interesting.

Most importantly, First Tennessee National Bank had graciously guaranteed the Trust a \$1,000

donation regardless of the number of hikers who participated. — Bob Brown

State News

Waterfalls and Such

May 27-29

Join us for another adventure-filled Memorial Day weekend exploring waterfalls, clifftops, roaring rapids, and other wild places in Appalachians Mountains.

We will return again to the mountainous triangle where North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia join. Those who went last year will remember the falcon hunt on Whiteside Mountain, "Bust your Butt" Falls, our camping buddies from *Deliverance*, "Toxic" Falls, the "world's largest waterwheel", the "highest waterfall in the East", the "smallest post office in the world", the devil's courthouse, and all the gorgeous scenery around Highlands and Cashiers.

This year we will see a lot of the same, plus many new waterfalls in a place called Transylvania (no joke!). If you are the adventurous type, meet us at the Cumberland Museum at 7:30 a.m., Saturday May 27th to carpool. Or, just meet us at the Whiteside Mountain parking area which will be our base camp. We will be spending Saturday day and night at Whiteside.

To reach Whiteside Mountain, take U.S. Hwy. 64 from Highlands, NC toward Cashiers, NC (Get on U.S. 64 at Cleveland, TN/I-75). Enjoy the drive over through the copper basin, the Ocoee River, and Cullasaja Gorge (we're not in a hurry). About four miles from Highlands, turn right onto Whiteside Mountain Road. This turn is just before the Jackson County line and a fantastic overlook. The parking lot for Whiteside Mountain is on the left, about a mile from U.S. 64.

Be prepared to primitive camp and go to the bathroom in the woods! Not much hiking; no backpacking;

wear rugged shoes for some hard scrabbling. We'll be back late Monday.

For more information, call David Stidham at 615-228-3063 or 736-5115.

It's a Boy!

We have an adopted son, John, born on March 5 (7 lbs., 6 oz.). We're very grateful to all our TTA friends who participated in our search for a baby. We hope eventually to find a baby brother or sister for John.

John is anxious to participate in a TTA hike. He already has a frame pack to grow into.

Hope to see you soon. Carroll and David Viera

First Aid Training

The Middle Tennessee group of the Sierra Club is trying to set up first aid training through the Red Cross, hopefully in May. The rates may be reduced if a number of you sign up. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to attend. Call Bob Barnett for more details and to register (615-831-1136).

Grassmere Trail Workers Needed

Volunteers are needed to work on trails being developed at Grassmere, Nashville's upcoming wildlife park. Bob Richards and Bob Barnett are coordinating these volunteer efforts which will hopefully include TTA, Audubon, and Sierra Club members. If interested in helping, call Bob Barnett at 834-1136.

Letter To the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was delighted by Mr. Hawkin's article, "Coffee Crisis at Frozen Head" (April 1989 issue). It is admirable for him to share with his fellow hikers so openly and honestly an experience which was obviously quite difficult for him.

Being a *Type A* and an accountant, I could not, however, fail to comment on two (unintentional I'm sure) apparent misstatements of fact. First, the fire was laid at the stone fireplace near Tub Spring. This fireplace was erected by Brushy Mountain prison guards for family picnics (without park permission) about 1980. I remember it so vividly because of the time my stove ran out of fuel and I had no idea how I could finish preparing breakfast. My wife observed the stove was resting on a hearth. Dimly I came to realize she was suggesting a fire.

Second, let me submit that a cold February backpack is an unlikely time to draw frogpiddle in with your water when getting water when getting water from a frogpuddle. In truth, frogpuddles probably are nonexistent near the summit in winter. The green may have been brake fluid from some jeep which had come up the road from the Brushy Mountain side.

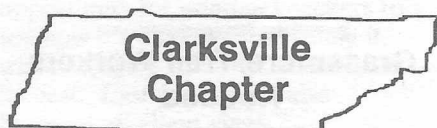
I hope to have the opportunity to hike with Mr. Hawkins soon. And if I do, rest assured I, for one, will have plenty of coffee along.

Gene Curp, Hendersonville

Big South Fork Hiking Club

The following hike is scheduled and all TTA members are welcome to attend. Call Donald Thompson, 606-561-6457 (Bonston, KY) for more information.

5/6 Sheltoewe Trace — 8 miles, moderate. Laurel County, KY, Hwy. 192 to U.S. 80. Leave Stearns Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. Leave Food Fair in Somerset (across from police station) at 8:15 a.m.



Meets Third Tuesday
Madison Street Methodist Church
7:30 p.m.
552-1148

May Meeting May 16

Join us May 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Christian Life Center behind the Madison Street Methodist Church to hear Mrs. Mary Alley speak on some of Montgomery County's history, particularly the Trail of Tears, which crosses her property. The newly formed Clarksville Chapter of TTA is in the process of organizing and would love to see you and your friends at this meeting. If you are new to the Clarksville area, this is your chance to learn more about the area and to make friends.

Miscellaneous News From Clarksville

Although we haven't scheduled any official TTA hikes yet, groups of us have been scouting out trails in our region of Tennessee and neighboring Kentucky. Recently we've hiked at Fort Donelson, Hematite, Kentucky (Land Between the Lakes), Johnsonville (scene of historic Civil War battle), and on private land in Humphreys and

Dickson counties. If you would like to lead a hike or be called when an impromptu hike is being planned, call June Adams at 552-1148.

June is also looking for more willing volunteers to help her get the Clarksville chapter rolling. She hopes to announce some scheduled hikes in the TTA newsletter soon.

Meanwhile, thanks June for all you have done, and thanks Bob Barnett and Pat Anderson for helping launch another chapter of TTA.



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

May Meeting May 18th

Edith Caywood's slide presentation on her African travels was so fascinating that we asked her to return for an encore in April. Our previously announced April speaker, Gillian Galanter, will speak to us this month instead. Gillian, a personal fitness trainer, will discuss race walking.

Miscellaneous Memphis News

Spring in the Forest, scheduled for April 22, was canceled due to personnel problems at Meeman-Shelby State Park.

We'd like to extend sincere thanks to all those who showed up to help with the WKNO fund-raising drive: Betty Porter, Patricia Porter, Helen Christianson, Jeanne Lensini, Curtis Follis, Ray Burkett, Jerri Bull, Julianne Barham, and Linda Koss. You're all true Tennessee volunteers!

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.

Land Between the Lakes May 13

Join us at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot for the Fort Henry trails (Road 232 at LBL). Since the trails make several loops, the exact route, time involved, and distance covered, can be determined by the group present. This area is in the southwest corner of LBL, just north of Piney Campground.

The campground has good facilities at a nominal cost. For those wanting to stay and hike on Sunday, we may hike part of the Brandon Springs hiking trails. Dress for the weather, use adequate insect/chigger/tick repellent, bring lunch and a friend. For more details, call Ray Burkett at 901-386-8613.

Holly Springs National Forest May 27

We will hike the Chewalla trail in Mississippi's Holly Springs National Forest. Carpool at the church at 8:00 a.m. or meet at 9:30 a.m. at the park entrance. The hike is ten miles on easy terrain, but there may be mud in places, so boots are recommended. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and mosquito repellent as well as dress for warm weather. Call Jerri Bull for more details at 901-363-4408.

Trip Report

Mousetail Landing, March 18

A fast-moving front with cold rain and fierce winds didn't dampen the enthusiasm of fifteen hardy souls and one elderly spaniel who showed up to hike the 8-mile "Eagle Point" overnight trail. Though the rain slackened off as we began to hike, it resumed just as we reached one of the shelters for lunch, and it continued the rest of the afternoon.

But Mousetail Landing is a joy to hike in any weather. It boasts some of the best-maintained trails in Tennessee, and the scarcity of human visitors allows wildlife to flourish. Among the animals we saw were three white-tailed deer, a tiny salamander, and a rock lizard futilely attempting to warm itself in the reluctant sun. Bird watchers delighted in white-breasted nuthatches and a plethora of woodpeckers — red-headed, red-bellied, downy, pileated, and yellow-bellied sapsucker. The prize of the day was a group of bluebirds near Spring Creek — a lovely harbinger of the coming season.

Despite winter's blustery reprise, it was exciting to be out in the woods as the earth renewed itself. You could almost hear the shoots of mayapple and trillium pushing up from the soil. Spicebushes wore rings of yellow clusters, and delicate white blossoms of rue anemone and toothwort hugged the ground.

Relatively new and seldom used, Mousetail Landing is still in pristine condition. TTA members should take advantage of its trails as often as possible before the uncaring, garbage-tossing public learns about the place. —Debbie Gilbert

Quotable Quote

"Mourn not the dead...
But rather mourn the apathetic
throng—
The cowed and meek
Who see the world's great anguish
and its wrong
And dare not speak."

— Ralph Chaplin

Walk-a-Thon

—By Debbie Gilbert—

Keep going, don't pause—
It's for a good cause.
We are cars in a train
Or links in a chain.
Like a river of feet,
We advance down the street,
Counting miles one by one
Till our mission is done.
Though our muscles may ache,
It's for charity's sake,
So we walk with good cheer,
And we'll come back next year.



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

May Meeting

May 18

Bertha Chrietberg will conduct our May meeting. Bertha has been active in TTA for a long time and is recognized as one of the top experts on wildflowers in Middle Tennessee. She will present a slide program and discuss wildflowers in our area. We are looking forward to this program and want to welcome Bertha back after having surgery.

Virgin Falls Backpack

May 20

Virgin Falls is a part of the Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area near Derosset, TN. Derosset is approximately 11 miles east of Sparta on Hwy. 70. Virgin Falls is formed by an underground stream that emerges from a cave, drops over a 110-ft. cliff and goes back into a cave at the bottom.

This is a class III, 8-mile round-trip, overnight hike. Wear good boots, and bring water, food, shelter, and

gear. Water is available for purification.

Meet at Fred's parking lot on South Tennessee Blvd. in Murfreesboro at 7:00 a.m. Call hike leader Tom Shepherd at 895- 2098 for more information.

March Meeting Report

Twenty members and four guests attended the March meeting. After a brief update on the Long Hunter zoo issue, program chairman George Williams introduced Malcolm Phopenhauer who presented an outstanding slide program on the Inca Trail in Peru. Malcolm accompanied each slide with first-hand commentary and is extremely knowledgeable on the areas covered in this excellent presentation. He covered many aspects of life in Bolivia and Peru and had slides on artifacts in museums as well as along the countryside. Malcolm has other slides of interesting places and hikes and we plan to invite him back to share some of these with our chapter.

Trip Report

Cumberland Mtn. State Park

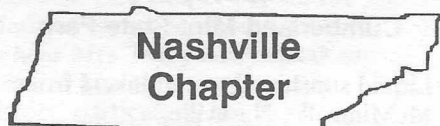
Liquid sunshine greeted hikers from McMinnville, Nashville, Murfreesboro, and TTA's newest chapter in Clarksville at Cumberland Mountain State Park on March 19. Hike leader Ruth Ann Henry led the enthusiastic group past Crab Orchard Stone structures to the Pioneer trailhead, a 5-mile loop past the lake and Byrd Creek.

The trail took us through hemlock groves, open hardwoods and past interesting rock formations. A pair of pileated woodpeckers kept harmony on nearby trees as we made our way along the trail. After a picnic lunch under blue skies, we walked down the short Nature Trail and observed the park's dam and bridge, the largest masonry structures ever built by the CCC.

Trip Report Short Springs Wildflower Hike

Twenty-two hikers, age 4 to senior citizens, joined the Murfreesboro chapter on a brisk but beautiful Sunday afternoon, April 9, for a once in a lifetime experience. Recent rains had filled the usually placid streams to create shining pools and gushing waterfalls. We crossed the stream several times (sometimes engineering makeshift bridges on the spot) in the course of our three-hour odyssey in a hidden cove only a few minutes drive from downtown Tullahoma.

The unusually cold weather kept many of the wildflowers from showing their best colors, but no one complained. The ones that were out in almost full bloom gave ample indication of the beauty of this unique area. Many thanks to Dorothy and Jack Carmon and Martha and Roy Barton for their help in locating an understanding locksmith (Mr. Baltimore) who graciously came out on Sunday afternoon to aid one of our group whose keys were locked in the car.



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

May Meeting May 25

We have an unusual meeting scheduled for May. Between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., Charles Fracé, noted wildlife artist, will be available to those interested to give a personal tour of his art exhibit at the museum. Each participant will receive a free print of one of his works and if you make a \$15.00 donation to Grassmere, he will sign and personalize the print.

Charles Fracé has had a long career and commitment to the animal world and hopes to focus attention on the new Grassmere Wildlife Park with his April 29-June 4 exhibit at the Cumberland Museum. In 1987, Fracé established the Fracé Fund for Wildlife Preservation which has awarded a major grant to the Cumberland Museum as well as other noteworthy organizations.

At 8:30, we will meet in our usual room for a short business meeting to go over selection of a site for the 1990 Annual Meeting when Nashville will be the host chapter.

Hidden Passage Trail May 21

Meet at Druther's Restaurant near the center of Jamestown, TN on the main street (Hwy. 127) at 7:00 a.m. We will drive a few miles out to the park and can meet anyone who has camped at the campground, taking as few cars as possible to the trailhead.

This trail is about twelve miles, moderately strenuous, and beautiful. The early start is best for a fairly long hike and a long trip back to Nashville. For more information, call Sam McQueen at 385-9637.

Close Otter Creek Road

For those who would like to see Otter Creek Road through Radnor Lake closed permanently to motor traffic, volunteers are needed to talk to park visitors and get road closure petitions signed, on Sundays between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m., on April 30, May 7, and May 14. Call James Galloway at 292-4677.

Photographers, Notice

Forever being left behind on group hikes as you photograph each blade of grass? Nashville chapter member Penny Brooks would like to arrange a few hikes primarily for the slow but steady photographers in our midst. If interested, call her at 297-7104.

Trip Report Montgomery Bell

Sixteen hardy all-weather hikers ignored the prediction of rain on Saturday morning and came along for this hike. The first little bit of the trail was under water and after going around a large marshy area, the rest of the trail was fine. It was not marked too well, though, along the lake open area.

Although we did have to cross creeks and water many times, we had only one wet one to the knees. The sun tried to appear for a while, then gave up. While we had lunch at one of the lean-tos, the rains came and it poured for the last hour of the hike, letting up when we got back!

It was a fun trip despite the leader not knowing the trail (the original plan was to have Bill Troop lead us). Some of us drove on to Natchez Trace for the state TTA Board of Directors meeting. The rest when home to dry out. There were about seven new hikers with us. Come back again and I promise there won't be any rain. — Mickey Sutton

Trip Report Mossy Ridge Trail, Percy Warner Park

March 19th was COLD and SUNNY, and perfect for hiking in Percy Warner Park. Six of the nine participants had not hiked Mossy Ridge previously, and were duly impressed with the scenic and rigorous trail.

Our long, soggy winter had Dripping Springs in a waterfall mode, and bluets, spring beauties and trillium were beginning their spring fling.

The trail is in good shape, well blazed and signed, and always a pleasure to hike in any season — thanks to Bob, Sandy, Deb, Pandey, and the rest of the park staff. It was a pleasure to have Richard, Dennis, James, Vic, Sally, Peter, Scott, and John along. See you all

again on another outing. - Pat Anderson

Trip Report Stagecoach Road

On the weekend of April 8 and 9, TTA Nashville chapter sponsored a backpack to Stagecoach Road, in the South Cumberland Recreation Area. The weather was less than ideal. A cold front swept the state, bringing heavy rain and pushing temperatures to unseasonable lows. To our surprise, ten die-hard campers and two dogs showed up at the ranger station, eager to get wet.

Mike England was scheduled to lead the hike. Unfortunately, Mike was quickly upstaged by a great dane named Kali, outfitted in expedition-sized dogpacks and eager to exercise canine leadership.

We hiked along the south rim of Savage Gulf. Savage Falls was thunderous from the rain-swollen creek. Several side trails led to bluff edges, affording awesome views of the fog-enshrouded gorge. Rain fell steadily, giving ample opportunity to field-test our Gore-Tex and practice our creek-fording techniques. The rain had tapered to a drizzle by the time we reached Stagecoach Road campsite, about three o'clock. Tents got pitched and Whisperlites whispered. A ranger stopped by to check on us. One camper received several "attaboys" when he successfully started a campfire of rain-soaked wood. Unfortunately, the same camper lost all his attaboys later, by his renditions of favorite campfire songs.

Sunday morning one of the two dogs made certain everyone was roused at an early hour. The dog's name was Buddy, although most of

us called him other names that morning.

Our trek continued with a hike to the historic Stagecoach Road. Built in the early years of the last century, it linked McMinnville and Chattanooga. Building roads in the Cumberland Mountains is a formidable task — then as now. Stacking huge boulders atop each other, the early roadbuilders constructed ramps and switchbacks to scale Peak Mountain. Their roadbed endures, still impressive and still used by backpackers. We wondered if the Interstates at Monteagle and Rockwood would survive a century and a half.

Following our visit to the Stagecoach Road, we returned to the ranger station by way of the same south rim trail, which by now was considerably drier and consequently easier. — Gene Hawkins

News From Our Parks

Long Hunter State Park Nashville, TN

Long Hunter State Park has announced its first overnight State Parks Bicycle Tour of the season. The tour will originate at Long Hunter on Saturday, April 29 and travel through historic Franklin, Tennessee to Montgomery Bell State Park. Participants will stay overnight at Montgomery Bell and return to Long Hunter on Sunday, April 30. The tour will cover approximately 65 miles of beautiful, pastoral Middle Tennessee backroads each day.

There will be a \$10.00 registration fee per participant which covers camping fees, baggage transfer, support vehicle, and route maps. Last year's ride had over 40 participants of all ages. To join us, please call 885-2422 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You must wear a helmet to participate.

South Cumberland State Park 615-924-2980

- 5/13 Laurel Loop Trail — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles, easy
- 5/14 Ranger Falls Adventure — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station. 7 miles, strenuous
- 5/20 South Cumberland Field Day — 10:00-2:00 at the Visitor Center.
- 5/21 Biking at Franklin Forest — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Bike 20 miles. Bring lunch, water, and all equipment.
- 5/27 Lost Cove Cave Tour — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Carter Natural Area parking lot. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, and good light. 4.5 miles, strenuous
- 5/28 Raven Point Excursion — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. 2 miles, easy
- 5/29 Cool Walk on the Fiery Gizzard — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Grundy Forest Natural Area parking lot. 3 miles, moderate

Fall Creek Falls Pikeville, TN

- 5/6-7 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage — Guided walks, hikes, and birding.
- 5/20-21 Basic Rockclimbing/Rappelling Workshop — Pre-register, 881-3708

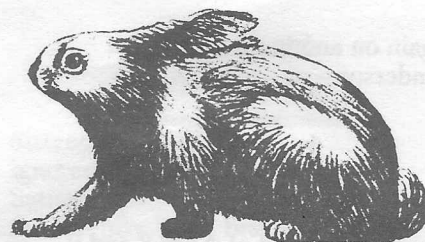
Warner Parks Nature Center Nashville, TN

- 5/1 Bird Hike — 8:00-11:00 a.m. Registration opens April 17
- 5/5 Bird Banding Day — See *Ring-ing* or banding at work. No registration required. 9:30-2:30
- 5/9 or 10 Astronomy Night — 8:00-9:30 p.m. Registration begins April 25. Canceled if overcast.
- 5/17 Nature After Dark — 7:00-9:30 p.m. Registration begins 5/3. No flashlights please.
- 5/18 Mushroom Slide Show — 7:30-9:00 p.m. Reg. begins 5/4.
- 5/20 Mushroom Hike — 9:00-noon. Registration begins 5/8.

**Lichterman Nature Center
Memphis, TN**

5/27 Scout Day — 9:30-2:30. Activity-packed day for Webelos

Scouts. Space limited so pre-register, 767-7322.
5/28 Canoe the Wolf — 8:00-3:00, \$15.00 members, \$18.00 non-members. Price includes transportation and canoes.



Upcoming Hikes

PLEASE NOTE: Sam McQueen's phone number is incorrect in the hike schedule (May 21). It should be 385-9637.

MEMPHIS

5/6 Big Hill Pond — details this issue

5/13-14 Land Between the Lakes — details this issue

5/27 Chewalla (Holly Springs, MS) — details this issue

6/10 Cookout at the Branch's — details next month

MURFREESBORO

5/13-14 Virgin Falls Backpack — details this issue

5/20 Bike Hike, Historic Murfreesboro — details not received

6/17 Swimming Hole Hike — details next month

NASHVILLE

5/21 Hidden Passage — details this issue

6/10 Russell Cave — details next month

STATE

5/6-7 Brady Mtn. Backpack — details this issue

5/20-21 C.T. Cove Lake Birding Weekend — details this issue

5/27-29 Waterfall Hike in North Carolina — details from this issue

6/3-4 C.T. Work/Play Weekend

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

Objectives: To promote, construct, and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail. Regular dues are \$8.00 per year; \$3.00 for students and family dependents.

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

**Come Hike With Us!
Tennessee Trails Association
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