



Blue Heron Mine

from The Rugbeian and Don Schaub, Vista USA

On May 20, 1989, the Blue Heron Mining Community officially opened in the Big South Fork. Located on the northern end of the park near Stearns, Kentucky, Blue Heron tells the story of the region's coal mining history as experienced by the people who lived and worked there in its 1940's heyday.

A drive or a ride on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway from Stearns into the gorge takes you to Blue Heron, a multimillion dollar reconstruction of the coal mining community that existed here between 1938 and 1962. The recreated camp was opened to the public this spring as the most elaborate presentation in the country of what life was like in the company-owned camps that dotted America's coalfields in the days when coal was king.

Blue Heron includes the original three-story tippie where the coal was loaded and unloaded. There's also an interpretive center with a model of the complete camp, plus a dozen "ghost structures"—open, steel-framed duplicates built on the sites of the old-time

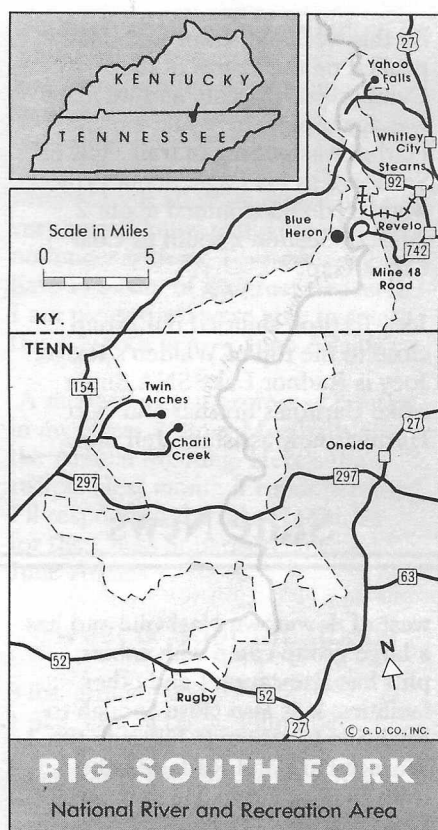
camp buildings. Exhibits tell the story of life in the camp.

Visitors can look in the entrance of the original Mine 18 opening, where coal digging is depicted, or walk the 100-foot-high bridge that carried coal cars over the river to mine openings on the other side of the gorge.

A life-sized photo-figure of a former resident stands in a reconstruction of his home. His tape-recorded voice tells visitors about life in the dusty camp where he worked as a supervisor. His daughter, Jan Slaven Curls, still lives in the area and remembers how hard it was to keep clothes or anything else clean because of the ever-present coal dust in the community.

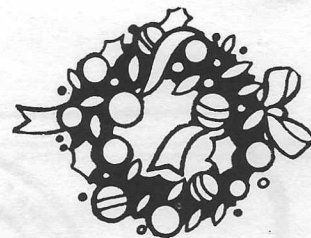
Because this mine was operated as recently as the early 1960s, it is possible to run into a coal miner who once lived here or in one of the other mining communities. That first-hand touch with history, says local radio station manager, Marc Beaubien, is very unique.

Take your choice of transportation methods to Blue Heron: walk in on a steep and outstanding scenic trail, ride in on horseback, drive in by car, or board the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad in Stearns for a 6-mile train ride directly to the main interpretive center on the banks of the Big South Fork River.



For more information about the Big South Fork, call the National Park Service office at

615-879-3625 or write P.O. Drawer 630, Oneida, TN 37841.



Cumberland Trail News

Trip Reports By Bob Brown

Tennessee River Gorge October 14

Clear skies and balmy weather brought out 15 adults, 6 kids and a dog for our day hike but no takers for the backpack. The views from Signal and Edwards Points were magnificent and the foliage just touched with early fall colors.

Tall *Polymnia laevigata* plants were abundant but mostly just past blooming. Slender *Gerardia* was in full bloom, and Graham Hawks discovered a nice patch of blooming Field Milkwort (*Polygala sanguinea*?). One fruiting Red Haw (*Crataegus mollis*) was spotted along with one or two Mountain Winterberries (*Ilex montana*).

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks and a Sharpshinned were seen from Edwards Point, and as I lagged behind the group at the next overlook, a lone male kestrel flying along the rimrock alighted a dead pine about 40 feet away and gave me a good long look.

After crossing North and South Suck Creeks on the always impressive suspension bridges, we departed with plans to return in January for a snow hike and in February for a work trip.

Black Mountain Day Hike October 22

With almost perfect hiking weather, James Leininger and Sissy, James Smith, Melissa Will, Nancy Bass, Earl and Olivia Hutchison, Dorothy Sills, Charlie Hann, Sally Oxford, and I enjoyed the views of Grassy Cove and Brady Mountain from the trailhead overlook before starting our leisurely 4-mile stroll. A variety of trees and shrubs engaged our interest including a Southern Blackhaw, several Butternuts, and both Umbrella and Cucumber Magnolias. A side trip to Windlass Cave was also made. It was a pleasant outing with nice fall colors and jovial companions.

Work Trip & Halloween Hike October 28

By this weekend, color had finally peaked on the slopes of the Cumberland Plateau, and weather was again perfect. While Robbie Harbin was putting in trail signs on Section 1 as his Eagle Scout project, we blazed and trimmed about 2 miles of Section 2 south of Coal Creek Gap.

Joey Earleton shuttled our group close to the top of Walden's Ridge. Joey is Radnor Lake SNA Super Mike Carlton's brother and Bob Harbin's new assistant. Jeff and

Monica Summers and I went south to blaze about half of the 1-mile re-route. Meanwhile, Pat Anderson, June Adams, June's grandson J.R., Tom and Fran Shepherd, Dorothy Sills, Judy Luna, and Bob Barnett were working the trail descending a mile or so to Coal Creek. Pat, Dorothy, and Tom continued north out of the gap and found much needed switchbacking and step-laying for us to do on a late March work trip.

From all reports the night hike was greatly enjoyed by 35 folks — including all of the above (except me) — who ventured up the Old Kentucky Road. This was despite the obvious and menacing presence of the restless spirits of the Indians and Longhunters who first came to Eagle Bluff, early Campbell Countians who built and maintained the old road, and the farmers, outlaws, Rebel and Yankee troopers, and coal miners who used it over the past two centuries.

A bright fire, Bobby Fulcher's stories and banjo picking, and Merita Pratt's singing and guitar strumming, and hot apple cider accompanied by toasted marshmallows, kept the ghosts at bay. All agreed that Bobby Harbin and his helpers, Libby and Ellen Harbin, Joey Carlton, Lonnie England and Mark Rogers, carried off the considerable logistics of this operation, as always, in fine style.

State News

1990 Annual Meeting Scheduled

The 1990 TTA Annual Meeting, hosted by the Nashville Chapter, will be held November 2-4 at Montgomery Bell State Park. Montgomery Bell is about 25 miles

west of downtown Nashville and has a large group camp with cabins, plus has a restaurant and other facilities. It is also close enough to Nashville to schedule hikes on the Warner Park and Radnor Lake trails in addition to Montgomery Bell trails.

The Nashville Chapter is already gathering ideas from their members for this momentous occasion and we are seeking volunteers for various committees. Contact Dot Fowler at 834-2654 if you'd like to help.

The rest of you? Plan to come and plan to enjoy yourselves! We are hoping that the central location of this meeting will mean the largest crowd we've ever had.

Tennessee Network for Animals

12/9 TNA General Meeting, 1:30 p.m. at UU Church
12/10 TNA Potluck Holiday Dinner, 6:00 p.m. at UU Church; caroling afterwards.

TNA, P.O. Box 158452, Nashville, TN 37215, 615-383-8516

Big South Fork Hiking Club

12/16 Nathan McClure Trail — Pulaski County, KY; Leave Whiteley City Motel at 7:30 a.m. Leave Food Fair parking lot in Somerset (across from police station) at 8:15 a.m. Contact Donald Thompson, 606-561-6457 for more details.




Hikers Beware

The Savage Gulf State Natural Area will have three weekend deer hunts for the 1989 Unit B hunting season:

- December 1-3
- December 8-10

Hunting will be confined to the North Plateau with no hunting permitted in the Gulf. Park trails in the hunting area will be closed to non-hunting visitors on these dates. Stone Door trails will remain open. For more information, call the Visitor Center, 924-2980.

Chapter News



Clarksville Chapter

Clarksville Trip Report

September 23rd at 9:00 a.m., seven members and six guests met in the Visitor Center at Dunbar Cave SNA. Although the wind was gusty with a bit of a nip to it, inside the center was very comfortable and we settled in for an interesting program. Ranger Bob Wells had the misfortune to be stung by a hornet and was unable to attend as planned. His co-workers ably filled in.

The children in the group were much impressed by the great variance of bats we saw. I must admit, some were rather impressive looking creatures.

Following our cave tour and a walk of the trails, some of our group left for other commitments. The rest of us were joined by Carl Gadsey for a ride over to Port Royal. Here we collected Mrs. Mary Alley and proceeded to "Old Turnersville". Mrs. Alley directed us down the infamous *Trail of Tears*. "Miss Mary's grandfather lived on this trail at the time of the Indian's

passage and she has lived there since she was 2.

We stopped at an old stage coach inn which is now overgrown with weeds. The original log structure can be seen in several places from the inside. There were also huge fireplaces in the kitchen and *commons* room. Each was at least 6' wide.

Out back, there is a nice-sized graveyard. It was grown over, too, but was worth the bothersome *stick-me-tites* to read the old tombstones.

Miss Mary is 80 years of age but still very spry. I know that when she is no longer with us, Tennessee will have lost one of its great treasures. I am pleased we were able to spend this day with her. — June Adams

A number of you expressed interest in my Sweet & Sour Meatballs at the Annual Meeting. Here's the recipe. Next month if room permits, I'll respond to the other inquiries for the Chess Squares recipe. — June Adams

Sweet & Sour Meatballs

3 lbs. ground beef
1 pkg. Lipton onion soup mix
1 8oz. can stewed tomatoes
1 lge. bottle Bullseye BBQ sauce
1 med. jar of apricot preserves

Combine first three ingredients and form into small balls. Place in long baking pans and bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes.

While the balls are baking, mix preserves and BBQ sauce. Heat sauce in a crockpot on high or in a large Dutch oven on medium. Stir occasionally. When mixture begins to bubble, add meatballs and heat thoroughly. This can be served at once or made ahead and re-heated.



Cookeville Chapter

Meets 1st Thursday, 6:00, TTU Biology Bldg., Pennebaker Hall

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest Backpack December 14-16

This will be a 22-mile backpack for 2 nights and 3 days through the very beautiful Joyce Kilmer Forest and the adjoining Slickrock Creek Wilderness Area. Joyce Kilmer is one of the few remaining virgin forests in the Eastern United States. We will begin on December 14 with 6.5 miles followed by 2 days of 7.5 miles each. This will be a moderate

to strenuous backpack. Weather in the Southern Appalachians is, as always, unpredictable, so BE PREPARED! For details, call Randy Hammontree at 528-8238 or 528-7432.

Christmas Potluck December 17th

Again we meet! Denise Charvoz has been so gracious to ask us back to her house for another potluck! This is contagious! We will meet on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. for a short hike, games and food. We will also be discussing the upcoming events. Gift giving is optional and just for fun with at limit of \$3.00-5.00. The men are to bring a man's gift and the women a woman's gift, or you can bring something appropriate for either. For directions, call Denise at 738-3595 or Bonnie at 836-3696.

Roan Mountain Cross Country Dec. 31-Jan. 2

We hope to start the new year off cross-country skiing in the mountains! Actually, we have a tentative reservation for one cabin at Roan Mountain State Park. The cabin sleeps six normally, but we can make room for approximately six more (there's at least that much floor space). Due to these limitations, reservations will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis. You might check in Roan Mountain area for other accommodations. Let's all hope for snow! Sign up by calling Debbie Thibault at 243-3721.

Trip Reports By Nora Miller

Savage Gulf Hike October 21

On the morning of October 21st, six eager hikers met at the Stone Door Ranger Station of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Our group hiked the Big Creek Rim Trail with its breathtaking views of the gorge and river. We lunched at the

enchanting Greeter Falls and returned by way of the Laurel Trail.

What our group lacked in number we made up for with enthusiasm. We had a fantastic time! These hikers were Randy Hammontree, our able leader, Brenda Steakley, Denise Charvoz, Bonnie Greene, and Paul and Nora Miller.

Honey Creek Hike November 11

What a *HONEY* of a day to hike the Honey Creek Trail! The trail borders the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area with several panoramic views of the river and gorge. Seventeen hikers — beginners, seasoned, and "in-betweens" — gathered at the trailhead near Elgin, Tennessee to hike what proved to be quite a challenging trail. It took us six hours to go five miles!

There was something different at every turn, including the usual Indian rock houses that were tucked away under some overhanging bluffs. One had such an awesome view that we all had to sit for a little while and soak it up.

As with most outdoor activities, there were several new names and faces and many new friendships were made. A balmy November day, a great group, streams to ford, rocks and ladders to climb, and a multitude of wonders to enjoy, all made it a memorable hike.

Our "Happy Hikers" included Kate Croy, Dorothy Sills, Sue Thibault, and James Leininger with his canine hiker, Sissy, all from Nashville; Bonnie Greene, Doris Jackson, and Denise Charvoz from Sparta; Debbie Thibault and Clint Hestland from Celina; Paul and Pam Miller of Knoxville; Randy Hammontree, our skilled leader, Beth Gaspard, Jeanne Potter, Jack Murphy, and Paul and Nora Miller, all from Cookville.

See you at Denise's in December!

Cumberland Mtn. Chapter

TRIP REPORT Charit Creek Hike

November 5th was a beautiful fall day on the plateau. The Loop trail from Twin Arches through Charit Creek Hostel and Jake's Place was in good shape, carpeted with leaves. There were lots of wildflowers and unsurpassed scenery. The appreciative hikers were James, Linda, Vic, Norma, James, Dorothy, Jim, and Pat. — James Smith

Memphis Chapter

Meets 3rd Thursday, Kingsway Christian Church, 7:30 p.m.

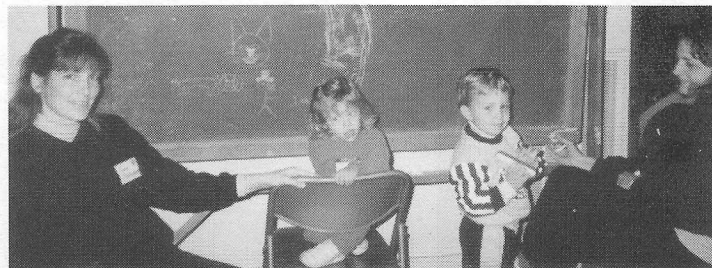
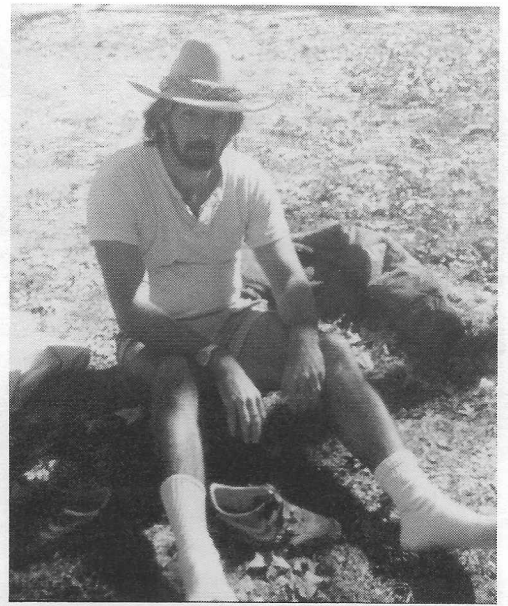
Work Day on Chickasaw Bluffs Trail December 2

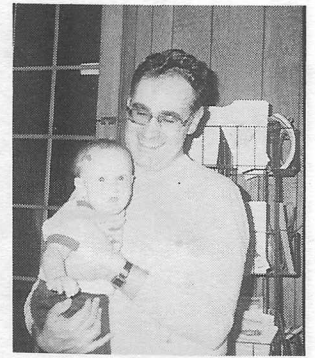
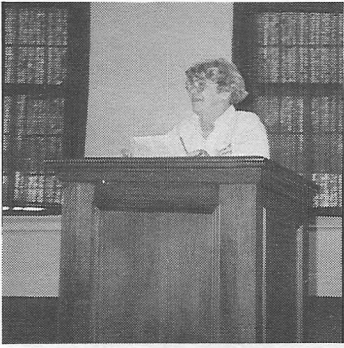
This is the Memphis Chapter's official adopted trail. If we expect to enjoy its use, we have a responsibility to maintain it. We'll meet at the park office at 9:00 a.m. and will spend several hours clearing away brush and painting blazes on trees. The park will provide some equipment, but if you have gardening implements such as hedge clippers, please bring them. Work gloves are a must. Wear old clothes and bring water and snacks. Call Jerri Bull, 363-4408, for more information.

Herb Parsons Lake December 16

The carpool will leave the church at 8:00 a.m.; hike begins at the lake parking lot at 9:00 a.m. This will be a 7-mile hike over easy terrain. Bring water and lunch. Call Anne Lindholm, 388-4123 for more details.

1989 Annual Meeting





each passing year I treasure my friends even more. I look forward to

many more years together. Meanwhile, here's hoping for Peas

on Earth, Good food to Man... or something like that. —Dot Fowler

News From Our Parks

South Cumberland State Park 924-2980

- 12/2 Ranger Falls Adventure — Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. Hike may be changed if water is too high. 7 miles, strenuous.
- 12/3 Greeter Falls Loop — Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. 2 miles, easy.
- 12/16-17 Dinky Line Overnighter — Meet at Savage Gulf Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. Bring your warmest clothes and a sleeping bag for this winter camping experience. 8-10 miles total, easy.

- 12/24 Deer Lick Falls — Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. 2 miles, strenuous.
- 12/30 DogHole Trail — Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. 5 miles, moderate
- 12/31 Mountain Bike Tour — Meet at Savage Gulf Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. 20+ miles, strenuous.

Warner Park Nature Center Nashville, 352-6299

- 12/2 Trim a Tree For Wildlife — 9:00-2:00 p.m.; learn how to attract birds to your backyard by trimming trees with natural, good-to-eat trimmings.
- 12/13 Study of Mistletoe — 7:30-9:00 p.m.; Darlene Panzini

discusses myths, lores and medicinal uses of mistletoe

Fall Creek Falls Pikeville, 881-3708

- 12/15 Christmas on the Mountain — a night of Yuletide fun and food, carols, and gifts for the little ones.

Lichterman Nature Center Memphis

- 12/9, 16 Christmas at the Nature Center — 9:30- 5:00; all day family programs, crafts, music, walks, holiday wreath making and baking.

Membership Renewal

Unless you have a Lifetime Membership in the Tennessee Trails Assn., your membership expires on January 1, 1990. All TTA memberships are based on the calendar year and not one year from the month you joined. If you would like to beat the New Year's stampede of people renewing their memberships, feel free to do it now.

(Repeated from Last Month)

If you know someone who would like to join TTA but is waiting until the first of the year, tell your friend to wait no longer! Join TTA in November or December, and it will be counted towards 1990. In other words, you will get one or two months of the newsletter free. What a deal!

A renewal form has been included below. Don't wait until several months have passed and it suddenly dawns on you that you aren't receiving your great and wonderful Tennessee Trails newsletter.

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1990 (Jan.- Dec.) with the type membership checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (fulltime undergraduate & high school)	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family dependent (resides with an individual member)	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$ 150.00

MAIL DUES TO:
Tennessee Trails Assn.
P.O. Box 4913
Chattanooga, TN 37405

Students do not have voting privileges. Supporting members may be organizations or individuals. Each organization should designate a representative to cast its vote and up to three addresses to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do not receive a separate newsletter.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

Upcoming Hikes

CLARKSVILLE

Call June Adams, 552-1148 for activities.

COOKEVILLE

12/14-16 Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest
12/17 Potluck Christmas Dinner
12/31-1/2 Roan Mountain

MEMPHIS

12/2 Work day on Chickasaw Bluffs Trail
12/16 Herb Parsons Lake
12/21 Christmas Party
1/6 Wapanocca Wildlife Refuge



MURFREESBORO

12/2 Potluck Christmas Dinner

NASHVILLE

12/7 TTA/Audubon Potluck Dinner
12/16 Christmas Party

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

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

1989 TTA LEADERS

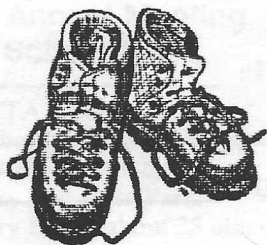
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CORR. SECT./TREASURER: Dot Lingerfelt, Chattanooga, 842-8043
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Betty Porter, Interim Board Rep. 1988-1990
Bertha Chrietberg Board Rep. 1987-1989

Bob Brown, TTA Chairman of Cumberland Trail
James Leininger Adopt-a-Trail State Coordinator, 790-7855
June Adams, Clarksville Chapter Chair.
Debbie Thibault, Cookeville Chapter Chair.
George Williams, Interim Murfreesboro Chair.
Ken Pittman, Cumberland Mtn. Chapter Chair.
Chattanooga Chapter — Inactive
Debbie Gilbert, Memphis Chapter Chair.
Ruth Ann Henry, Murfreesboro Board Representative
Evelyn Tretter, Nashville Chapter Chair.

EDITOR: Dot Fowler, 4501 Packard Dr. N-4, Nashville, TN 37211, 615-834-2654 (Hm), 615-350-7866 (R & M Biometrics).
All submissions for the newsletter due no later than the 15th of each month.

Come Hike With Us!
Tennessee Trails Association
P.O. Box 4913
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405



Evan Means
200 Butler Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

