



## Wetlands In Peril

By Larry J. Smith

Speak now or forever hold your peace; Tennessee's wetlands are under attack.

For several years, numerous environmental groups and concerned citizens have fought an effective battle to stop the needless drainage of Tennessee's wetlands. This has been accomplished by using the State's water quality laws. Apparently these groups have been too effective since two promoters of wetlands drainage, the Obion Forked Deer Basin Authority and the Tennessee Farm Bureau, are proposing legislation that would exempt the drainage of wetlands from State water quality law.

The Obion Forked Deer Basin Authority and the Farm Bureau plan to change the legal definition of the word *pollution* in the State's law, and they will accomplish this goal unless we move quickly to stop them.

The problem and debate over wetlands drainage arose over wetlands that were drained and cleared for ill-advised attempts at farming during the 1920s and 1930s. These areas were eventually abandoned and allowed to revert back to what they were, wetlands.

The Obion Forked Deer Basin Authority and the Farm Bureau want to "restore" the land to the condition of the 1920-30s. This is wrong. No one is opposed to a landowner protecting *in use* farm land and or living, *green* timber from

water damage, but everyone should be against destroying healthy, viable and productive wetlands.

The Obion Forked Deer Basin Authority is funded with State tax dollars, so citizens across the state are subsidizing the drainage. This is odd when you consider the fact that Tennessee recently set up a wetlands acquisition fund, funded through real estate transfer tax and administered by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Does the right hand know what the left hand is doing?

It is obvious that the Obion Forked Deer Basin Authority's efforts to change the law in regards to draining wetlands is an attempt to stay alive as a governmental entity. It was set up during a time when wetlands were thought to be worthless but now finds itself acting in ways contrary to the laws established to protect wetlands. So, to stay alive, they must change the laws.

Please write to the Governor and your state legislator on this vital issue as soon as possible. Time is short. Please ask your State representative to kill Senate bill 2187 and House bill 2138. Tennessee has lost 90% of its original wetlands and we must protect what we have left. The Senate and House sponsors for this atrocity are McKnight (Senate) and Holt (House).

### Wetlands Drainage Bill S-2187, sponsor McKnight and H-2138, sponsor Holt

This bill attempts to exempt certain forms of wetlands from State law. It would allow the drainage of wetlands throughout the state with NO state control.

Please contact these KEY Senators. This bill could be stopped in committee if enough people call and write. Additionally, everyone must contact their State Representative and Senator in case this bill gets to the floor. Please help!

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Sen. Tommy Burkes – District 15, counties of Macon, Smith, Dekalb, Trousdale, Clay, Pickett, Putnam, White, Jackson

Sen. Lynn Lawson – District 4, counties of Jefferson, Granger, Hamblen, Cocke

Sen. Randy McNally – District 5, counties of Campbell, Anderson, Claiborne, Union

Sen. Lou Patten – District 9, counties of Monroe, Loudon, Polk, Bradley

Sen. Anna Belle O'Brien – District 12, counties of Overton, Scott, Fentress, Morgan, Cumberland, Roane

Governor McWherter's address is State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219.

# Cumberland Trail News

## Tennessee River Gorge Rambler's Outing Schedule

The Outing Committee of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust has scheduled the following trips for this year.

### April 7th, River Gorge Ramble

This is a day hike with optional 3.4 mile and 6.2 mile walks from the trailhead to car shuttle pickup points. The hike will begin at the C.T. parking area in Prentice Cooper State Park and proceed along the rim at the Tennessee River Gorge on the Mullens Cove Trail which loops off the southern end of the Cumberland Trail.

Last year, despite cold, wind, and rain, fifty hikers enjoyed many blooming wildflower species (some threatened) and, when the rain let up and the fog banks parted, brief stunning views of the Gorge. Call Graham Hawks at 615-266-0314 (wk.) or Bob Brown at 615-352-7474 (hm.) for details.

### May 12

Day hike from C.T. parking lot to Highway 27; the same as the "snow hike" last January but with late spring greenery, great wildflowers, and a spectacular (one-of-a-kind) waterfall for those willing to make a moderately strenuous off-trail scramble.

### June 23

Raccoon Mountain day hike, 4.8 mile, easy with great views of the Gorge and, hopefully cool breezes.

### July 21

Canoe trip in the Gorge from Williams Island and along the left bank under Raccoon Mountain to points of particular value to the Trust.

### August 18

TRGT Annual Meeting — a weekend outing in a cove on the north side of the Gorge.

### September 15

Campout with varied outdoor activities

### October 20

Pot Point to Snoopers Rock day hike

### November through February

One 10-12 mile hike on each third weekend.

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.

## Think Globally, Act Locally By Graham Hawks, from VISTAS, August 1989

Note from editor: This seems particularly appropriate in the the month of Earth Day 1990.

*"After tasting a participatory democracy, I would never want to trade it for a merely representative one." Karl Hess*

What does it really mean to *Think Globally and Act Locally*? How often we've used Rene Dubos' catchy phrase on buttons, mastheads, and in conversations. We can bring Dubos' rhetoric to life by looking more deeply into our community, its projects, issues, and people.

There are, of course, dangers in working solely on "local" issues, or caring only for our own nest. Many non-profit organizations across the country work hard to build a sense of identification and solidarity with people around the world and help

break down walls created by blind, self-oriented action or nationalism.

But we must also recognize the other side of planetary consciousness: understanding, valuing and protecting our own backyard. In my opinion, "saving the planet" comes down to saving thousands — no millions — of backyards. And that calls for ordinary people feeling inspired and empowered enough to talk to their neighbors and act collectively for constructive change. It's that sort of democracy that Karl Hess savors in the preface quote.

Here in our backyard, the Tennessee River Gorge Trust is one of the nation's 743 individual land trusts, one of the fastest growing conservation movement. During the past two years, on the average, one new land trust is being formed every week. Separate trusts report a membership of more than 640,000 — making their collective size greater than most national conservation organizations.

Support for the land trust concept — which is based on grassroots, community action — is growing dramatically. Although the concept dates back to the mid-1800s, almost half of today's land trusts began during the past five years. People realize that land trusts work, that they are a responsive and cost-effective way to produce conservation results. These non-profit organizations work to protect "backyards" all across America. We are proud to be networking with them, to have River Gorge Trust members among their ranks and to provide a forum for their voice.

The global problem of ecological destruction, then, can best be addressed by realizing our primary responsibility of protecting our own backyards first. How, for example, can we expect a nation like Brazil to show concern for destruction of the Amazon Jungle when we ourselves are in the process of destroying the

last remaining virgin timber left in the U.S. (in the Pacific Northwest)? Global trends do have local

manifestations, and whatever we and others do close to home is truly

— albeit slowly — changing the world.

## State News

### National Celebration of the Outdoors

The National Celebration of the Outdoors is a nationwide Earth Year event sponsored by the National Recreation and Parks Association and other conservation organizations across the country. The goal of the celebration is to encourage all parks and recreation professionals to spark local projects and events that will address the loss of open space and the degradation of our outdoor heritage.

A seminar is being held on April 6 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, Tennessee. Sessions include a program by Mack Prichard, Ken Voorhis, a canoe basics presentation by Marti Gilbert, as well as other speakers and topics. To find out registration fees and more information, write TRPA, 2704 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37204.

### Bertha Chrietberg on the Mend

Bertha has once again gone "under the knife" for additional back surgery (mid-March, after this went to press). Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to you, Bertha!

Cards can be sent to Bertha at home: 1715 Elrod Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

### TSRA Paddling Clinic

Tennessee Scenic River Association will be sponsoring an "Introductory Paddling Clinic" May 5-6 at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill. There is a \$25.00 registration fee and registrants must be at least 10 years old and able to swim. Registration deadline is April 13. Registration forms can be obtained by writing to TSRA, P.O. Box 15904, Nashville, TN 37215 or by

calling Roger Beverage, 834-7389 (Nashville).

### New Big South Fork & South Cumberland Hiking Guides

Laurel Place has recently published The Best of the Big South Fork, a hiker's guide to the trails and attractions of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Tennessee and Kentucky. Co-authored by Russ Manning and Sondra Jamieson, long-time hikers of the Big South Fork, the pocket-sized guide describes 30 trails and contains sections on geology, park history, plants and animals, and human history.

The book is available for \$4.95 in most local bookstores or can be ordered directly from the publisher for \$6.48, which includes shipping and sales tax (Laurel Place, P.O. Box 3001E, Norris, TN 37828). This guide is the first in a series of Tag-Along Books published by Laurel Place. The South Cumberland and Fall Creek Falls, will be published in late April. That book describes 32 trails, including the Grassy Cove section of the Cumberland Trail, and mentions TTA involvement. That \$6.95 book can be ordered prior to publication direct from Laurel Place for \$8.64

#### Quotable Quote

**"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations...on those faces that are yet beneath the ground."**

**— The Great Law of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy**

which includes shipping and sales tax.

### Tennessee Sportfest June 17-24

For those of you who plan ahead, an annual, statewide, multi-sport festival with Olympic-style competition (including a torch run and opening ceremony) will be held June 17-24, 1990 in Nashville.

All Tennesseans of every age and ability are eligible to compete. Some of the more popular sports will have regionals prior to the actual games. The events will be held at Metro Parks and Recreation facilities as well as Vanderbilt and Tennessee State facilities.

Tennessee Sportsfest is a project of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health, which was established in February 1989 by Gov. Ned McWherter to address the fitness needs of all Tennesseans. Its mission is to promote healthy lifestyles through a coordinated effort of education and statewide competition. Part of a rapidly growing national state games movement, Tennessee becomes one of 36 states to organize competitions.

The sports are: badminton, baseball, basketball, BMX cycling, bowling, canoe/kayak, chess, cycling, golf, gymnastics, handball, racquetball, 10K road race, shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball, WALKING, wrestling. Many of these will have games for the physically challenged.

For more information, please call or write:

Tennessee Sportsfest  
First American Center  
20th Floor  
315 Deaderick St.  
Nashville, TN 37238  
1-800-53-SPORT

# Earth Day Activities

Check "News From Our Parks" section for more activities.

## Earth Day in Millington April 22, Aycock Park

To help celebrate this 20th anniversary of Earth Day, Millington will hold its own celebration at Aycock Park from 1:00-6:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- 1:00 – Welcome to Earth Day!  
Folk singer and storyteller Ron McDonald will share his songs and stories.
- 1:30 – Millington Central's pre-schoolers will perform Nature's best songs and Linda Gibson will tell some of Nature's best stories.
- 2:00 – Mayor George Harvell, Rep. U.A. Moore, and Sen. Leonard Dunavant will speak.
- 3:00 – Threatened and endangered species program.
- 4:00 – Ron McDonald returns to sing more songs and tell more stories
- 5:00 – Let Everyday be Earth Day!
  
- 1:30-4:00 (at the Gazebo) – Urban Nature Walks with Charlie Norvell (approx. 45 minutes).

There will also be many informational displays, including representatives from the Memphis Chapter of TTA.

## Nashville Earth Day Celebration April 22

Join us in the Riverfront Park vicinity where the Nashville Chapter will have a table at the Earth Day festivities. This is our chance to recruit new hikers and "wax poetic" on the joys of the great outdoors. Many events have been scheduled by local Earth Day planners, so come join the fun between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. There will be a concert with Roseanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, and the Bellamy Brothers at Riverfront Stadium in addition to many other fun events. Look for more details on scheduled events in the Nashville newspapers.

## Earth Day Weekend Activities in South Cumberland Area

Call South Cumberland State Park or the University of the South for more details on these events.

- 4/20 Earth Day Parade – Sewanee Elementary School. Come dressed as your favorite animal or plant.
- 4/21 Earth Day Meteor Shower – midnight to 3:00 a.m. (peak is at 2:00 a.m.), University Observatory.
- 4/22 Dry Cave Tour

4/22 Celebration: Earth – 2:00-6:00 p.m., Manigault Park near Cathedral. Speakers, games, music, food, etc.

## Earth Day Lesson Plans

The Earth Day national office is providing K-12 lesson plans for distribution to as many schools and teachers as possible. These lesson plans will include a home environment survey for students to work on with their families. Teachers and youth leaders are encouraged to join in the widespread effort to educate youth about the range of environmental issues by contacting a regional coordinator and requesting information to share with your students. Please call your nearest regional Earth Day Education Coordinator for a lesson plan packet:

- Nashville – Debbie Hill (271-3514)
- Chattanooga – Linda Harris (821-1160)
- Jackson – Kathryn McCoy (901-424-3520, ext. 205)
- Knoxville – Lynn Bossong (974-0997)
- Memphis – Ron Cleminson (678-2545)
- Upper East TN – Doug Ratledge (639-4194)



## Helpful Hint

Here's an invaluable piece of outdoor knowledge of a remedy for keeping ants at bay. The secret is chalk. While dry chalk will work, moist chalk is more effective.

Simply apply wet chalk around your sleeping and eating areas, rather like lining a baseball field. Despite their persistence and ravenous hunger, ants will simply avoid the chalk wherever they find it. The reasoning behind this ant foil is evidently chemical: the chalk forms an unsavory chemical line that ants cannot comprehend and therefore will not risk battling.

## Chapter News



### Cookeville Chapter

Meets 1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., 558 Burton Lane

#### April Hikes

- 4/19-21 Wildflower Pilgrimage,  
Fontana Village — contact  
Bonnie Green at 836-3696.  
4/28 Hang Gliding, Raccoon  
Mountain — Contact Beth  
Gaspard at 526-5242.

#### Trip Report

##### Impromptu Frozen Head Trip

Our originally scheduled Roan Mountain Weekend was canceled due to a lack of cabins. Instead, we made an impromptu trip to Frozen Head State Park on Sunday, February 4. Due to the overcast skies, the turnout was limited, but the group was quite hardy. Randy Hammontree, Beth Gaspard, James Leininger, Ruth Ann Henry, and the hardest of the lot, James' canine companion Sissy.

We started out along the jeep road that later joins the boundary trail around the park. Even with a somewhat cool, cloudy winter day, the views were lovely. Significant rainfall had created quite a number of cascades for our own private show as we made our way around the park.

A few very windy moments spent on the firetower atop Frozen Head mountain provided substantial views of the surrounding countryside and a brief glimpse of the Smokies in the distance.

Being the die-hards that we are, we didn't turn back to go down the mountain from the firetower, but instead went on to Chimney Rock.

By the time we arrived, the top of the mountain was shrouded in fog, creating an ethereal effect, as clouds and fog swirled, with the leafless trees seeming to move towards us through the mist.

We made our way to our vehicles in the dark. But, yes, we were happy hikers. How often does anyone get an almost deserted mountain? And, after all, our little 16-mile jaunt was no small feat. But, no, we won't brag...much.

#### Trip Report

##### Angel Falls Overlook

After a very rainy Friday, we awakened on February 10th to a beautiful Saturday morning — perfect for our planned excursion along the John Muir Trail in Big South Fork to the Angel Falls Overlook. Our group consisted of Randy Hammontree, Beth Gaspard, Ed Wright, Paul Miller, Denise Charvoz, Horace and Pat Hunter, and Mike and Ann Sanders.

The volume of rain over the past several days necessitated our crossing the road bridge, since the footbridge at Leatherwood Ford was under water. Undeterred, the group pressed on and was rewarded with a stimulating hike and panoramic views of the Big South Fork gorge. On our return, we brought out our trash bags to perform some much needed trail maintenance in the form of trash collection, which had been deposited at trailside by the floodwaters.



### Memphis Chapter

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

#### April Meeting

##### April 19

Bob Beger will show slides he took years ago during his military tour of duty. Countries visited include Japan, the Philippines, Tahiti, and the Island of Okinawa.

#### Fort Pillow State Park

##### April 7

This hike is 8 miles, some of which is fairly strenuous. The carpool will meet at Kingsway at 7:30 a.m. and the hike starts at 9:30 at the park office. We expect spring to be in full bloom, with a gorgeous view from the overlook. Call Jerri Bull at 363-4408 for more details.

#### Sipsey Wilderness, Alabama

##### April 21-22

This area is closer to Middle Tennessee than it is to Memphis, so we hope some of you highlanders will join us for our Earth Day celebration in this beautiful remnant of Smoky Mountain vegetation in northwest Alabama. Bring your camera since the Mountain Laurel and other flowers should be in bloom.

Take Alabama 33 south from Moulton about 12 miles, then go west on County Road 60, approximately 4 miles past Sipsey Fork to the parking lot for trail 201. We will begin hiking at 10:30 Saturday morning and do the 8-mile loop on trails 201, 209, and 202, where we will descend nearly 300 feet into the canyon, follow the river

for 2.7 miles, and then climb back up for the last 3.3 miles.

Sunday morning we may hike the lower Sipsey River trail a short distance, then drive to Hubbard Falls. Camping is available at the Sipsey River and at several locations throughout the William B. Bankhead National Forest, which covers about 400 square miles. Maps can be obtained at the northern entrance to the forest or from District Ranger, P.O. Box 278, South Main Street, Double Springs, AL 35553. For more information, call Ray Burkett, 901-386-8613.

### **Mousetail Landing May 5**

Come explore this new and seldom-used park. The hike will be 8 miles on easy to moderate terrain. To carpool, meet at 7:00 a.m. at Kingsway; the hike starts at 10:00 a.m. at the park office. Call Debbie Gilbert at 454-0613 or 521-9000 for more details.

### **Trip Report Hike and Board Meeting**

On February 10th, ten people (including three newcomers) hiked the Red Leaf overnight trail — five miles in and five miles out. It was a fine day, with clear sky and an afternoon high of 55°. We saw a salamander and a little red-bellied snake, and James Leininger's dog, Sissy happily dug up interesting objects in the leaves. Our enjoyment of the trail was interrupted, however, when we came to an area the parks service had clear-cut. What had once been forest was now a moonscape. We were disgusted. On the way back, we started a tradition of collecting trash along the trail. Now we bring a Glad bag for each hike.

The morning after the Board of Directors meeting, seven TTA members stayed to do a little more hiking. Park ranger Jeff Odom offered to take us to a "secret place", so we followed him across I-40 past the big pecan tree, stopping at a fire road labeled "Deer". Failing to find a trailhead, we bushwhacked for about an hour until we came upon the treasure:

rocks! Big, Stonehenge-like, fern-covered rocks, so different from the surrounding geology that it seemed as if they had been dropped there from a spaceship. There's also rumored to be a hidden cave somewhere, so we plan to go back next year and hunt for it. — Debbie Gilbert

### **Trip Report Herb Parsons Lake**

On February 24th, the Memphis Chapter went on an eight-mile hike around Herb Parsons Lake outside Fisherville, Tennessee. Fifteen persons attended. The weather was crisp and clear, rising into the low 50s during the day. Recent rains swelled several small creeks to be crossed, and muddied the trail, while warm temperatures the previous few weeks pushed up a few daffodils and some small wildlife such as snakes. While other vegetation peeked out, no other flowers made an appearance. — Linda Koss

### **Trip Report Chewalla, Holly Springs**

Always a challenge, Chewalla presented even more of one on this wet, overcast, dreary March 10th that started out with fine mist and light sprinkles. Our 14 hikers included two new faces, Mary Jane Forsythe and Suzanne Darnell (hope to see you again on future hikes!).

Our first obstacle was to find the missing trail. A large area of the forest recently burned so some of the trail was hard to see and it was also necessary to skirt a large swampy area at the beginning of the trail made impassable by recent heavy rains. Once we found the trail, the sun came out and things definitely became cheerier.

It turned out to be a good day to hike, even though a tad warm and humid. We saw blooming pussy toes, wild plum, wild pansy, wood sorrel, bluets, wood violets, and redbud. Also, a first for some of us was witches' broom, a parasitic growth (similar to mistletoe) on trees which resembles a ball of small twigs all twisted together. We

made our usual stop to admire the record-sized, very old, dogwood growing beside the trail..

We passed hooded mergansers on the lake, saw gold finches, a belted kingfisher, downy woodpecker, bluebird, and several turkey vultures. Bird songs filled the forest and we also heard a barred owl hooting. One bit of wildlife drew us up to a quick halt — a "cold, mean, and hungry" copperhead lying in the middle of the trail. After some nudging from a hiker's stick, he slowly moved off the trail and we carefully picked our way around him.

All in all, it was a great hike. The challenges just added to the pleasures. — Julie Barham

### **GAIA (For Earth Day, 1990)**

O Mother Earth,  
forgive us!  
We are the virus  
invading your fertile body,  
overcoming your defenses.  
We wring our hands,  
watching you sicken,  
knowing no antidote.

O Mother Earth,  
blame it on Prometheus!  
It was he who gave us fire,  
cracking Pandora's box  
to echo through the eons.

O Mother Earth,  
we are contrite,  
guilty of matricide,  
wishing to turn back the clock,  
to make a fresh start,  
a fresh planet,  
to apologize and  
make amends.

O Mother Earth,  
we are so many!  
We breed like maggots,  
infesting your frail membrane.  
We are the enemy,  
raping and plundering,  
taking and never giving.

O Mother Earth,  
We are arrogant  
We are short-sighted  
We are frightened  
We are sorry

And sorry doesn't help.

— By Debbie Gilbert

## Murfreesboro Chapter

Meets 1st Tuesday each month; 7:00 p.m., St.  
Mark's Methodist

Congratulations, Betty!!! You  
deserve the best!

### April Meeting April 3

Our April program will be given by  
John Clark who is Bertha  
Chrietzberg's brother. He will talk  
about his hikes on the Appalachian  
Trail and will have slides to show.  
Come join us!

### Wildflower Hike, Old Stone Fort April 21

Note the location change of this  
hike.

Celebrate Earth Day with a  
wildflower hike. You can appreciate  
the joy of nature with the beautiful  
flowers of spring at Old Stone Fort  
State Park. This will be a joint hike  
with Tennessee Scenic Rivers  
Association. We will see Hepatica,  
Dwarf Crested Iris, Foamflower,  
Spring Beauty, the last of the  
Trilliums, and many others. The  
Fort itself lies between the Duck  
River and the Little Duck River,  
and was built around 500 A.D. by  
the Woodland Indians.

Old Stone Fort is located on  
Highway 41 near Manchester. From  
the west, take I-24 to the first  
Manchester exit, #105. Turn right  
(south) on 41 and drive toward  
Manchester. After crossing the  
Duck River bridge, the park  
entrance is directly on your right.

If coming from the east, take I-24 to  
Manchester exit 114, and turn left  
on Hwy. 41. Go through  
Manchester and Old Stone Fort will  
be on your left just before the Duck  
River bridge.

Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00  
CST. Bring a lunch and a beverage.  
If you have any further questions,  
call Bertha Chrietzberg at 896-1146.

NOTE: Since Bertha may have to  
ask Fran Shepherd to lead this hike  
in her place (due to back surgery),  
Fran suggests you bring a wildflower  
guide since she is not as  
knowledgeable as Bertha in naming  
wildflowers.

### Trip Report Hidden Springs

On February 17, Fran and Tom  
Shepherd led a hike to Hidden  
Springs in Cedars of Lebanon. The  
weather was great and we had 25  
people plus 3 dogs. Thanks to those  
from Nashville who joined us: Pat,  
Dorothy, James, Marilyn and John.

### March Meeting Report

Tom Shepherd presented our  
March program, Introduction to  
Backpacking. He did an outstanding  
job, covering every aspect of  
backpacking important to a  
beginner. Tom generated a lot of  
interest and enthusiasm among  
those in attendance.

### Murfreesboro News

Note that our meeting day has  
changed to the first Tuesday of each  
month at St. Mark's Methodist  
church at 7:00 p.m.

An excellent interview with Tom  
Shepherd was featured in the  
"Neighborhood Cookbook" section  
of the Daily News Journal, our local  
newspaper. Tom explained how his  
interest in cooking began, and how  
it grew into his love for cooking  
today. The article included pictures  
of Tom at work in the Shepherd  
kitchen and some of his favorite  
recipes.

Tom also talked about his  
introduction to backpacking by wife  
Fran, and his Tennessee Trails  
activities. He welcomed everyone  
interested in learning backpacking  
to join him on TTA's March  
backpacking weekend for beginners.  
Thanks for the publicity, Tom!

## Nashville Chapter

Meets 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Cumberland  
Museum

### April Meeting April 26

Program-finder Paul Koehler has a  
hum-dinger of a program lined up  
for us in April. Meet us at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Cumberland Museum for a  
slide presentation by the renowned  
Mack Pritchard, State Naturalist.  
Those of you who attended the 1988  
Annual Meeting in Memphis  
remember the great program Mack  
gave us there. Well, "Mack is back!"  
and we will be combining our  
meeting with the Camera Club  
meeting for another of Mack's  
outstanding programs (he has  
many). This meeting follows Earth  
Day and seems very appropriate.

Those of you who have not heard  
Mack speak are in for a treat. Bring  
your friends. We may not meet in  
our usual room so check at the front  
desk at the museum.

### Piney River Hike April 1st

Pack a lunch, some fluids and join  
us as we hike the Piney River trail.  
Piney River is about three hours  
from Nashville on the eastern ridge  
of the Cumberland Plateau. This is  
not a difficult trail and hopefully  
there will be some wildflowers to  
see. Meet me at the K-Mart on  
Donelson Pike (I-40 towards  
Lebanon) on, now get this, April  
Fool's Day (just my luck) at 7:30  
a.m. If you have any questions, call  
Charlie Hann at 776- 1503 (home).

### Joint TTA/Sierra Club Hike April 1, Bell's Bend

Join Sarah Oram and Steve  
Grabenstein for a 5-mile hike  
through private property in Bell's  
Bend, Nashville, at 9:00 a.m. on  
Sunday, April 1st.

This hike is VERY steep in places and offers varied natural scenery. The culmination of the hike is a beautiful view eastward from a high ridgetop looking across the Cumberland River towards Nashville. Because of its steep sections, this hike is probably too difficult for children or anyone not in good shape. In case of rain, the hike will be postponed until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 7. This hike begins two miles north of the recently selected landfill site.

The hike will begin from our house at 5349 Tidwell Hollow at a little after 9:00 a.m. To reach Bell's Bend, take I-40. Exit at White Bridge Road and go north (away from Charlotte Avenue) toward Cockrill Bend. Continue past Cockrill Bend on this road (Briley Parkway) across the Cumberland River until the road dead-ends into Highway 12. At Hwy. 12, turn left and travel around 4 miles until you hit a flashing yellow light at Old Hickory Blvd. Turn left onto Old Hickory, continue three miles and take a left at the sign for Cleece's Ferry onto Tidwell Hollow Road. Our house is the second house on the left. Please call for more information at 352-1562.

### **Virgin Falls Hike** April 7

NOTE date change of this hike.

Come join us on a wonderful hike through a unique pocket wilderness area. It has waterfalls, a cave, and a beautiful overlook. The wildflowers should be in bloom. This is a 6-8 hour hike, rated difficult. Bring water, lunch and lots of energy.

We will meet at Hardee's in Lebanon at 6:30 a.m. To pre-register or get more information, call Jeannie Bumbalough at 824-6671.

### **Big South Fork Backpack** April 7-8

"World's Easiest Backpack: The Sequel" — this will be a *basecamp* type of trip. We will pack and easy mile-and-a-half into the forest from

the Middle Creek trailhead. After making a campsite, enjoy a leisurely afternoon of "pack-free" hiking and exploring. Or, relax at the campsite if you prefer.

This is a good trip for beginners as well as the experienced. We will meet at the K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike at I-40 (in Nashville) Saturday morning, April 7th at 8:00 a.m. Please call to pre-register or for more information. Paul Koehler, 331-4139

### **Edwin Warner Park Hike** April 11

An "after work, mid-week, wind down" hike... Daylight Savings Time begins April 1, so there will be plenty of light to hike the 2 1/2 mile Harpeth Woods trail. Meet Wednesday evening, the 11th, at 5:45 p.m. at the Edwin Warner main entrance parking lot on Hwy. 100. This is NOT the Nature Center parking lot. It is the stone entrance-way, .4 miles past Old Hickory Boulevard, just past the Nature Center, headed out of town. Of course, we'll get a bite to eat afterwards. Questions? Call Paul Koehler at 331-4139.

### **Long Hunter Outing** April 13th

Note date change of this outing (formerly scheduled for April 27th and 28th).

Don't be superstitious! Come on out to Long Hunter State Park's rustic group camp for a camping experience near the shores of Percy Priest Lake on Good Friday, April 13th.

We will take a twilight stroll at 6:00 p.m. around Couchville Lake and then at 7:30 p.m., Long Hunter's Naturalist will do a program for us around the campfire. Guitars and other musical instruments are encouraged for campfire singing later.

The next morning at 8:30 meet us in the parking lot of the Volunteer

Trail with your lunch, liquids, and work gloves in hand. We'll spend the morning cleaning up trash found on the trail as well as clipping back encroaching spring growth.

Come out prepared to work and play. Please pre-register by calling trip leader, Bob Barnett at 831-1136.

### **Big South Fork Wildflower Weekend** April 14-15

Join the Nashville Chapter for two days of wildflower watching on the Cumberland Plateau. Saturday hikes will start from the parking lot at Leatherwood Ford where the bridge on Highway 297 crosses the Big South Fork River. Morning hikes will leave at 9:00 a.m. and afternoon hikes at 2:00 p.m. (CDT) and will include distances of 4-4.6 miles with difficulty ratings of II-III. Bring snacks, lunch, water, raingear and sturdy footwear.

We will gather at the Pickett State Park office at 9:00 a.m. CDT for Sunday's hike on the Hidden Passage Trail which is an 11-12 mile, Class II hike. Bring snacks, lunch, water, raingear, sturdy boots, and a towel. We will attempt to cross Thompson Creek to see Double Falls on a side trip.

Friday and/or Saturday night accommodations include: a large cabin reserved at Pickett which sleeps 8 and costs \$58.00 (cost to be divided among those sleeping there), a campground with modern bath-house for \$6.50 per night at Pickett and a campground with modern bath-house for \$8.00 per night at Bandy Creek Campground. Pickett State Park is on Highway 154 approximately 18 miles from Leatherwood Ford. Bandy Creek Campground is on Highway 297 approximately 2 miles from Leatherwood Ford.

Please reserve cabin space, but camp sites do not have to be reserved in advance. Call Pat Anderson at 383-2355 for any additional information.

## Fiery Gizzard Wildflower and Photo Hike

April 22

Meet at the Cracker Barrel off I-24 at the Bell Road exit at 7:00 a.m. or meet us at the Visitor Center at South Cumberland State Park at 9:00 a.m.

We will hike 5.6 (+/-) miles from Grundy Forest to Raven Point. This area of the Fiery Gizzard traverses some of the most beautiful and rugged terrain in Tennessee.

As a photo/wildflower hike, we will take time to look and photograph our finds along the trail. Bring lunch, water, boots, and, of course, your camera. We go, rain or shine, so gear up as needed. If you have any questions, call Charlie Hann, 776-1503.



## Trip Report Bearwaller Gap

February 24th, a sunny but very windy day, nine hikers walked the south side of the Bearwaller Gap trail from Defeated Creek. At the half way point, we stopped for lunch in the trail's backpack shelter. We then retraced our steps to enjoy the view from the bluffs one more time.

In addition to us, we saw two large groups of scouts and their leaders on the trail. It was good to see so many folks out enjoying a great trail! — Bob Barnett

## News From Our Parks

### Long Hunter State Park Nashville

- 4/14 Spring Wildflower Program
- 4/17 Living History Day
- 4/22 Earth Day Activities

### Warner Park Nature Center Nashville, 615-352-6299 Pre-registration requested for most events.

- 4/5 & 13 Spring Wildflower Hikes, 9:00-noon
- 4/7 Nature Photography with John Netherton — 1-day workshop from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., \$50.00 fee (proceeds benefit the Warner parks). (Limit 30 persons)
- 4/10 Spring Break Activities — multiple hikes and activities geared towards Earth Day.
- 4/12 Earth Teen — More Earth Day activities for teens.
- 4/21 Discover the Nature Center Day — open between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 4/21 Park Clean-Up Day — Annual clean-up of litter from the parks, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 4/22 Earth Day 1990 — sunrise till dark. Sunrise service in Percy Warner Park plus activities throughout the day.
- 4/28 National Astronomy Day Celebration — at model airplane field; scopes will be provided. Canceled if weather is unfavorable. 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### Montgomery Bell 615-797-9052

- 4/1-6 6-day Camp for those who want to lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle; cost is \$275 per person. Call Donnie Pack, 797-3101 for more information
- 4/21-22 Earth Day Celebration — Activities include wildflower walks, slide shows, guided tours, etc.

### Fort Pillow State Park

- 4/7 Nature Hike — Contact Edith Caywood, 901-682-8551

### South Cumberland State Park 924-2980

- 4/7 Bluebell Island — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Tyson Foods Plant on Hwy. 50, just south of Elk River Bridge; 1 mile, roundtrip, moderate.
- 4/8 Shake Rag Hollow — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Green's View in Sewanee. Join Randy for a walk through an old-growth forest; 2 miles roundtrip, moderate.
- 4/14 Easter Egg Hunt — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center; 5 age categories.
- 4/15 Easter Hike, Big Sycamore Sink — Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the

Stone Door Ranger Station; 3 miles roundtrip, easy.

- 4/21 Lost Cove Cave Tour — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Carter Natural Area parking lot; 5 miles roundtrip, strenuous.
- 4/21 Raven Point Excursion — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center; 2 miles roundtrip, easy.
- 4/21 Small Wilds Evening — Meet at 4:00 p.m. at Foster Falls Picnic Shelter with a flashlight; 5 miles, roundtrip, easy.
- 4/22 Cool Walk on the Fiery Gizzard — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Grundy Forest Picnic Shelter; 3 miles roundtrip, moderate.
- 4/22 Earth Day Sunrise — Meet at Sewanee Natural Bridge at 5:00 a.m. and join Randy for the beginning of Earth Day.
- 4/28&29 Nature Photography Workshop — Meet at 10:00 at the Visitor Center. Photography professionals from Huntsville will instruct this mini-course on outdoors photography. Randy will guide the group to several photogenic locations.

### Warriors Path State Park 615-239-8531

- 4/7 11th Annual Environmental Education Workshop. Call Marty Silver, 615-239-8531 for details.
- 4/27-29 Spring Festival, Reading the Season — Walks and lectures by regional naturalists and educators.

## Upcoming Hikes

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### COOKEVILLE

4/19-21 Wildflower Pilgrimage,  
Fontana Village — contact  
Bonnie Green at 836-3696.  
4/28 Hang Gliding, Raccoon  
Mountain — Contact Beth  
Gaspard at 526-5242.

5/12 Mt. LeConte Alum Gap  
5/26-27 Savage Gulf Backpack,  
Stage Road

### CLARKSVILLE

4/7 Frozen Head — Contact Paul  
or Sue Carlton, 647-9753.  
4/21-22 Virgin Falls Backpack —  
Contact Jim Herriman at  
645-3733.

5/12 Montgomery Bell State Park

5/26 Ft. Henry to Ft. Donelson

### MEMPHIS

4/7 Ft. Pillow State Park  
4/21-22 Sipse Wilderness Area

5/5 Mousetail Landing State Park  
5/20 Wolf River Float Trip

### MURFREESBORO

4/8 Short Springs Wildflower Hike  
— Dennis Horne, 455-4742  
4/21 Frozen Head Wildflower Hike  
— changed to Old Stone Fort;  
see details inside.  
4/29 Float Mill Ridge Trail — Betty  
Herring, 895-8171

5/12 Mossy Ridge, Percy Warner  
Park — note date change

5/19 Bike Hike, Historic  
Murfreesboro

### NASHVILLE

4/1 Piney River Hike  
4/1 Bell's Bend Hike  
4/7-8 Big South Fork Backpack  
4/7 Virgin Falls Hike  
4/11 Edwin Warner Hike  
4/14-15 Easter Big South Fork  
Weekend  
4/22 Fiery Gizzard Photo Hike  
4/13 Long Hunter State Park  
Campout

5/5 Fall Creek Falls Hike  
5/12 Desoto State Park  
5/20 Canoe Day  
5/26 Memorial Day Waterfall Tour

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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**

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

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

