

# Tennessee rails

## THE MANY FACETED PUBLIC EYE

by Walt Kelly

(What follows is the forward to **Pogo: We Have Met The Enemy And He Is Us**, written in 1972 by the cartoonist Walt Kelly.)

*The eye of the public, like that of the insect, has many facets, and these enable each creature to look fore, aft, overhead and sideways. There the similarity ends, for the insect has at least six legs and sometimes a double set of wings. This equipment enables him to alertly spring toward his prey, away from his enemy or in pursuit of his mate. Humans, on the other hand, are generally two-legged, fumble-fingered slobs whose indolent wits enable them by and large to be sitting ducks.*

*We have seen what we have done before, creating such mounds of rubble that whole civilizations have been forced to move, usually northward to avoid the flies. Slowly and painstakingly we have discovered that garbage causes disease, that was with the rear view facets. Sideways we have seen a place to dump. Straight ahead we have seen the clear and clean promise of tomorrow, forgetting that, so far as the goal goes, we are on the starting tape exactly even with the slop we have just flung over our shoulder.*

*Naturally, if something oppressive looms in the neighborhood, we look for someone to blame it on. The need for a scapegoat has been the foundation of entire religious movements. So with the facets of our eyes blinking like fireflies we look about and zero in on somebody.*

*The Somebody we fasten upon is hardly ever the lady next door whose cellar is awash with broken jam jars and mice. It's never our son whose bedroom might dismay Hercules. It's not us, to be sure, whose trash cans are broken, whose attic deserves a citation from the fire department. No, we pick on somebody identifiable and big. Somebody with smokestacks, with thundering waste pipes dumping glop into the river or lake or ocean. And rightly so. WE don't go that big, now do we?*

*The big polluter did not start out with smokestacks. He didn't start pumping gunk into the waters of our world when he was six years old. He started small. Throwing papers underfoot in the streets, heaving old bottles into vacant lots, leaving the remnants of a picnic in the fields and woodlands. Just like the rest of us.*

*At last the stuff is catching up to us. Man has turned out to be his own worst enemy. If the many faceted eye of the Public had at least one facet inwardly directed which would tell Man something of himself, the view might be so clear that we would finally see tomorrow.*

Walt Kelly

*(My how we have not changed in the last nineteen years! We may not be able to stop the large polluters, but we can teach our children and clean our own backyards. "THINK GLOBALLY; ACT LOCALLY", Tom Shepherd)*



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .

HELLO. Since I last wrote this column I have had a couple of semi-adventures. My wife and I took our annual honeymoon vacation to the Great Smokey Mountains and my friend Dan and I took our Spring mini-adventure. The Smokies were great as usual but, I had supper with an ALLIGATOR! on my semi-adventure. Dan and I spent five days canoeing and four nights fighting blood suckers in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. If you have never been in a large wetland environment the experience is overwhelming with all the sounds, the life and the endless sky. The Okefenokee is like the Smokies in that it is one of the crown jewels of America's preserved wilderness areas. If you have not yet visited the Okefenokee do, but not after March. A local told me "the mosquitoes were going to be bad this year after the main hatch" I do not want to be anywhere near the "main hatch."

Do not forget the Cumberland trail work weekend at Cove Lake State Park on June 1st and 2nd. See the Murfreesboro chapter news for details. While we are on the subject of volunteer trail work, remember the big trails inventory and inspection at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This will be June 8th and 9th. Contact Howard Duncan at (615) 879-3625 for additional information. Both weekends will be constructive and an excellent way to travel in good company and see great country.

Now a little preaching, all that wilderness you know. As Fran and I walked in places that we have been every year for the last ten years, I commented that there will be firepinks on this sunny hillside. She said, "yes, isn't it nice to see old friends again?" Around the hillside there they were. If you have stopped hiking, or cut back because of time (or any reason), go back out this spring, see some old friends. If you are just starting or thinking of starting-then go; make some life long friends. Going into the wilderness renews the spirit and allows you to be peaceful in a very fast paced world.

GOOD HIKING

TOM SHEPHERD

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## EDITOR'S NOTES. . .

First, please accept my apologies for last month's newsletter; the mistakes, typos, and information that was left out. I have no excuses for such unprofessional work. Sometimes life gets too unmanageable.

I received notices that some hike descriptions were not printed a second time. Every effort is made to include all notices in at least one edition of the newsletter. If a descriptive write-up does not appear a second time, the hike is included in the schedule printed on the back page of the newsletter. That schedule is for two months of TTA activities. If you are the hike coordinator, please send in a notice about the hike **by the 15th of the month**. If participants have a registration deadline, please give me this information early enough to print **one full month before the activity**.

If you are not receiving your newsletter or are receiving more than one copy per household, please write: TTA, P.O. Box 41446, Nashville, TN 37204. (This address is also on the back page of your newsletter.) I do not handle memberships or mailings. However, those of you who have called me, I passed that information on to the appropriate person.



# STATE NEWS

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## Natchez Trace Trail: From Either End

The Natchez Trace Parkway extends 450 miles from Nashville, Tenn., to Jackson, Miss. The National Park Service owns and maintains an 800-foot corridor buffering the road, and on which the NPS is authorized to build the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. The trail's comprehensive plan, which was released in 1987, identified four high-potential segments for initial pathway construction.

This past summer volunteers have stepped in to start the process along. Trail workers cleared about 10 miles of trail at the Nashville end, and about 20 miles of trail near Jackson. Support funds came in part from the special Congressional appropriation made available to NPS in FY 1990 for long distance trails. The NPS points out that these trail segments are more likely to get heavy use, and attract local support, since they're located near major urban areas.

For more information, write: Natchez Trace Trail Conference, P.O. Box 6579, Jackson, MS 39282

(The preceding article was published by the American Hiking Society in cooperation with the National Park Service.)

## Radnor Lake Road (Otter Creek Road) Closure Effort Begins

Since the early 1970's, Radnor Lake State Natural Area, located in southern Davidson County, has become an increasingly popular park for jogging, bicycling and wildlife observation, as well as hiking.

To make Radnor Lake a safer, more secure and more enjoyable place for area visitors, an initiative is underway to close Otter Creek Road, a Nashville city road that runs through the area, to thru-(motor) traffic. This effort calls for the Nashville Metro Council to close the road and to transfer the property to the state, which would maintain the roadway as a multi-use trail.

Every hiker, every conservationist who supports this effort is urged to get involved. There are three steps that can be taken now:

(1) People who live within the Nashville local calling area are being asked to call Governor McWherter's office (741-2001). Leave the message that you support the permanent closure of Otter Creek Road within the Radnor Lake Area and that you would like to ask the Governor to support this effort.

(2) People throughout the state are being urged to write Governor Ned Ray McWherter, State Capital, Nashville, TN 37243-0001. Express support for the road closure within the Radnor Lake Area.

(3) Nashvillians are being asked to call the five At-Large Metro Council Members and your own District Council Member. (Call the Metro Council Staff at 862-6780 for names and telephones numbers.) Express your support for the Otter Creek Road closure and urge the Council to vote to close the road and to transfer it to the state. (The Metro Council has the authority to close city roads and streets.)

For more information, contact James Galloway at 665-1627, evenings, or write to him at 915 Chancery Lane, Nashville, TN 37205.

**\*\*At the time of press, 2,500 signatures have been collected. Unfortunately, there is not a required number of signatures necessary to guarantee passage of this proposal. It does, however, show the great amount of support by Nashvillians, and others for the closing of Otter Creek Road thru Radnor Lake.\*\***



**Memorial Day Waterfalls Weekend  
May 25-27 (Saturday, Sunday & Monday)**

*Take the plunge and join us for a soaking wet, TTA tradition: the annual Memorial Day waterfalls weekend. This year we will flow in a different direction - west (you folks in Memphis don't have a dripping excuse this time.) Actually, we will be navigating south of Nashville (west geologically) to the foothills and western highland rim where some new and different waterfalls (at least for the leader) plummet. While you are there, check out the beautiful little coves, abundant wildflowers and tempting swimming holes.*

*Saturday and Sunday we will focus our waterfall hunting in the upper Duck River watershed around Normandy Lake. Some of the cascades and falls include Rainbow Falls, Ovoca Falls, Copperas Falls, Cascade Falls, and more we will have to name ourselves.*

*On Monday, our caravan will trickle on west, making our way slowly down the dripping Duck River valley, taking an occasional side branch into the Buffalo River Valley. On this westward cruise, plan to see a lot of rural middle Tennessee, as well as Marcella Falls, Rattlesnake Falls, Falls Branch Falls, Jackson Falls, Jenkins Falls, and (. . . hope this is not getting old . . .) Old Falls.*

*This wet and wild weekend will officially begin at 10 AM (Central Time) at the Old Stone Fort State Park Visitor Center near Manchester, Tennessee (I-24 exit 110). We will camp Saturday and Sunday nights at the Old Stone Fort State Park (developed) Campground (\$11.00 per night for 2 people plus \$.50 for each additional person). If you like, join the leader Friday night at the campground, and slosh through some of the Little and Big Duck River cascades (Bluehole Falls, Big Falls, Little Falls) in the park early Saturday morning.*

*Plan to fall in at the Old Stone Fort Visitor Center promptly at 10 AM for car pooling. Hikes will be short rambles from your car to the falls (2 miles rt at the most). There will be the inevitable "hardscrabble" up and down bluffs and creek beds, so wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for (i.e. have a good heart for) short stretches of "Class V." We'll spring home late Sunday afternoon, May 27th. **For more information, contact the hike leader, David Stiddem, (615) 228-3063 (H), or (615) 736-5115 (W).***

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1991 (Jan.-Dec.) with the type membership checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$30, \$40, or \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$150.000

**MAIL DUES TO:**  
Tennessee Trails Association  
P.O. Box 41446  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

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 address to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do not receive a separate newsletter.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ME WITH CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ OR AT LARGE \_\_\_\_\_



# CHAPTER NEWS

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## Clarksville Chapter

Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at the Governor's Square Mall.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**\*\*Please send a schedule of the chapter's upcoming hikes to Tom Shepherd, 1519 Ashlawn, Murfreesboro, TN 37129\*\***

## Cookeville Chapter

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at the home of Beth and Randy Hammontree, 558 Burton Lane, at 6:30 PM.

### **Upcoming Events:**

No information was received concerning specific events. Please refer to your hike schedule and contact the person listed if you plan to participate.

## Memphis Chapter

Meets the third Thursday of each month at Kingsway Church, at 7:30 PM.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **May 16-Monthly Meeting**

Program to be announced.

#### **May 11-Village Creek State**

**Park** near Crowley's Ridge in Arkansas. Carpool at the church at 7:45 AM, or meet at the park office at 9:30. Hike

is about 7 miles on easy to moderate terrain. There is also an excellent short nature trail you'll want to see. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for warm weather. **Call Jerri Bull, 363-4408.**

#### **May 19-Wolf River Canoe Trip**

Meet at the take-out point in Moscow, Tn, where Hwy. 57 crosses the river. From there we'll be shuttled to the put-in point. The trip on the river takes about 3 hours, and is very relaxing. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Cost is \$20 per canoe (divided between 2 or 3 people), and you can pay when you get there. **For more info. call Jill Norvell, 873-2149.**

## Murfreesboro Chapter

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at St. Mark's Methodist Church. Meetings begin at 7:00. All are welcome.

#### **May 18-Stinging Fork Day Hike**

This is a five-mile, moderate hike. It is a long drive for folks in Murfreesboro and Nashville. Good wildflower country. **Contact Tom Shepherd for more info. at 895-2098.**

☺ **Best wishes Bob Barnett-**  
**from the Murfreesboro**  
**Chapter!** ☺

## **June 1 & 2-Cumberland Trail Work Weekend**

We will meet at the Cumberland Trail office in Cove Lake State Park both days at 8:00 AM EDT, and arrange a car shuttle to a near-by part of CT Section 2. Trail work will vary from painting blazes to clearing dead-falls and installing stone or timber steps. We should be back at the CT office by 5:00 PM on Saturday and 2:00 PM Sunday. Tools will be provided; bring gloves, bug spray, rain gear, lunch and water.

A residence recently renovated for use as the new CT office will be our quarters Friday and Saturday nights. It has good kitchen and bathroom facilities, TV, and beds or army cots. Bring sleeping bag or bedroll, soap and towel. Tom Shepherd will supervise the preparation of exceptional recipes for Saturday evening and both morning meals.

Check in at the old CT office if you arrive before 5:00 PM Friday, later arrivals go past the second entrance to Cove Lake S.P., turn left at the next road to the left off 25W, and you will find the new CT building immediately on the right after you turn onto this road.

**Call Bob Brown, (615) 352-7474, or Tom Shepherd, (615) 895-2098 for more details.**



## Nashville Chapter

Meets the fourth Thursday of each month, at the Cumberland Science Museum. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **May 23-Monthly Meeting**

Bertha Chrietzberg, of the Murfreesboro group, will present her photographs of wild flowers.

#### **May 4-Bicycle Tour**

**\*\*Due to a conflict in the schedule, this event is CANCELED.**

#### **May 3-Mtn. House Campout**

on the top of the plateau near Sewanee. Hiking will be bushwhacking down into a beautiful cove with lots of rock hopping available. **For more info. and directions, call Gale Link, 665-1640 (W), or 834-7847 (H).**

#### **May 3-5-Wild(flower) Weekend**

Join us for a weekend of camping, hiking and wild flowering in the Big South Fork area. A cabin has been reserved for Friday and Saturday night at Pickett State Park, and there are campgrounds available at Pickett and Bandy Creek. There are so many beautiful trails in the state park and the adjacent national recreation area, we will have difficulty deciding where to walk on Saturday or Sunday. **Pre-registration necessary for cabin accommodations. No dogs allowed in cabins. For more information call Pat Anderson, 383-2355.**

#### **May 24/27-Canoeing-Hiking**

Let's move the plateau southeast and enjoy Memorial Day weekend in north Georgia. We will hike Saturday and Monday. On Sunday we will canoe the Tennessee portion of this cold, clear and clean scenic river. This section is rated Class II with one Class III falls. If the water level is insufficient, we will canoe the Hiwassee. **Pre-registration is required as is previous paddling experience or schooling. Deadline for registration is May 20. Call Jim Thoman, 292-4161.**



## **NEWS FROM OUR PARKS**

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### **Radnor Lake State Natural Area Program Schedule- May 1991**

*A variety of activities are available to the public from the Tennessee Department of Conservation. Reservations for all activities can be made only by calling 377-1281 between 9 and 10:30 AM on the dates listed. Walk-in reservations are not accepted.*

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Reservation Date</u>
PREDATORS OF THE NIGHT HIKE	Friday, 3rd 6:30 PM	April 30
BIRDS OF PREY & REPTILE PROGRAM	Saturday, 4th 1:00 PM	No reservations necessary
RADNOR LAKE CANOE EXCURSION	Saturday, 4th 3:00 PM	May 4
BIRDS OF PREY & REPTILE PROGRAM	Sunday, 5, 2:00 PM	No reservations necessary
OVERNIGHT HARPETH RIVER CANOE FLOAT	Thurs., 9, 6:30 PM	May 4



**(Radnor Lake May activities continued from page 6)**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Reservation Date</u>
SAVAGE GULF RAPPELLING WORKSHOP	Friday, 17, 6:30 PM	May 11
CAVE ECOLOGY	Saturday, 18, 2:00 PM	May 11
MOUND BOTTOMS ARCHEOLOGICAL	Sunday, 19, 1:00 PM	May 11
RADNOR EARLY MORNING CANOE EX.	Saturday, 25, 6:30 AM	May 18
RADNOR CANOE EXCURSION	Saturday, 25, 3:00 PM	May 25
HALL FARM CHILDREN'S HIKE	Sunday, 26, 2:00 PM	May 25
CHILDREN'S OWL PROWL	Friday, 31, 6:30 PM	May 25

## South Cumberland Recreation Area

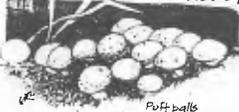
The Visitor Center is located on highway 41 and 56. It is three miles from I-24 between Monteagle and Tracy City. The Visitor Center is open daily 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Central Time. For more information about any of the activities listed below, please call (615) 924-2980 or 924-2956.

(The following listing is only a brief outline of May's activities, please call the Visitor Center for more details.)

May 4 & 5	SAVAGE GULF WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL
May 4 10:00 AM	STONE DOOR WILDFLOWER WALK
2:00 PM	SOUTH RIM LAUREL WALK
May 5 10:00 AM	GREETER FALLS WILDFLOWER WALK
2:00 PM	GRUNDY FOREST WILDFLOWER WALK
May 11/12	FIERY GIZZARD OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
May 18 5:00 AM-	GRUNDY LAKES FISHING RODEO
11:00 AM	
May 25 10:00 AM	LOST COVE CAVE TOUR
May 26 1:00 PM	BOULDER CROSSING TOUR

## Warner Park Nature Center - May Schedule

Reservations are required for most programs and can be made by calling the Nature Center at 352-6299.

 <p><b>Mushroom slide show</b></p>	<p>Wednesday, May 15 7:30-9 p.m.</p>	<p>Registration opens May 1 Age level: Adults</p>	<p>Mushrooms are vitally important as decomposers in ecosystems and some are delicious! During this slide show, look at some 175 species of fungi that have been found in the Warner Parks. It's an excellent preparation for Saturday's mushroom hike. <i>Instructor: Deb Beazley</i></p>
<p><b>Creepy crawly critters</b></p>	<p>Friday, May 17 1:30-2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Registration opens May 3 Age level: 3- to 5-year-olds</p>	<p>This hands-on reptile and amphibian program includes live specimens and a puppet show. <i>Instructors: Pandi Upchurch and Steve Westfield</i></p>
<p><b>Mushroom hike</b></p>	<p>Saturday, May 18 9 a.m.-noon</p>	<p>Registration opens May 6 Age level: Adults</p>	<p>A tramp through the moist woods of the Warner Parks should reveal a variety of spring mushrooms. <i>Instructor: Deb Beazley</i></p>
<p><b>"Save Our Streams" workshop</b></p>	<p>Wednesday, Saturday, May 18 1-5 p.m.</p>	<p>Registration opens May 6 Age level: Adults</p>	<p>Ray Norris, Tennessee coordinator of the Izaak Walton League's "Save Our Streams" program, will instruct this hands-on class on how to evaluate the water quality of streams by censusing the aquatic organisms. <i>Instructors: Ray Norris and David Vogt</i></p>
<p><b>Organic gardening forum</b></p>	<p>Wednesday, May 22 7-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Registration opens May 8 Age level: Adults</p>	<p>Join other local gardeners to exchange ideas and experiences and to learn more about growing plants naturally. <i>Coordinator: Deb Beazley</i></p>



# UPCOMING HIKES

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## CLARKSVILLE

## COOKEVILLE

5/4 Local Waterfalls  
5/12 Urban Hike  
5/18 Whitewater Rafting  
6/1 Spence Field  
6/8 Fiery Gizzard

## MEMPHIS

5/11 Village Creek  
5/19 Wolf River  
5/24 Waterfall Hikes  
6/8 Wolf River

## MURFREESBORO

5/18 Stinging Fork  
6/1-2 C.T. Work Wknd.  
6/15 Sycamore Falls

## NASHVILLE

5/3 Mtn. House Campout  
5/4 Pickett S.P.  
5/4 Bicycle Tour-**CANCELED**  
5/24 North GA Chalet  
5/25 Plateau Canoe trip  
6/8 Birthday Celebration

## INACTIVE CHAPTERS

Chattanooga  
Cumberland Mountain

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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.

**Mail dues and address changes/corrections to: TTA, P.O. Box 41446, Nashville, TN 37204**

## 1991 TTA LEADERS

**PRESIDENT:** Tom Shepherd 615-895-2098  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Bob Barnett 615-831-1136  
**CORR. SEC/TREAS:** Dot Lingerfelt 615-842-8043  
**SECRETARY:** Evelyn Tretter 615-859-0566  
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**BOARD REP.** James T. Jones 901-422-1444  
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**BOARD REP.** Sally Garrard 615-356-3867

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Bob Barnett, Adopt-A-Trail State Coordinator 615-831-1136  
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Bettie Herring, Murfreesboro Chapter Chair 615-895-8171  
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Evelyn Baker, Nashville Chapter Chair 615-391-3479  
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**EDITOR: Kellie Jones, 111 Old Hickory Blvd., SW #294, Nashville, TN 37221 662-1303 (H)**  
**All newsletter submissions are due no later than the 15th of the month.**

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**Come Hike With Us!**  
**Tennessee Trails Association**  
**P.O. Box 41446**  
**Nashville, TN 37204**

