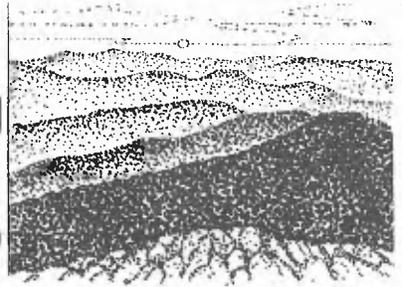


TENNESSEE TRAILS



The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association

Hike Finished With A Prayer

If there is anyone who hasn't yet heard, Bill Irwin safely completed his inspired 2,167 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail.

The blind hiker and guide dog Orient, the team known as the Orient Express, appropriately completed their mission just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends at the end of the trail in Maine.

Reports state the dozens of friends, reporters and other hikers who had joined Irwin for the final 2.4 mile walk, backed away and let him walk the last .10 mile alone. At the end, Irwin fell to his knees in silent prayer after reaching out to touch a sign marking the Katahdin Stream Campground where he completed the 8 month walk in faith. When Irwin finished his prayer, the crowd of about 70 cheered his success.

During the hike, Irwin survived getting lost, dozens of falls, a broken rib, a bear, huge boulders on the trail and foul weather; Orient suffered sores rubbed by his pack and sore paws from crossing the rough terrain.

Irwin went through 6 backpacks, 7 pair of size 14 hiking boots and 4 ski poles that he used for walking sticks.

At the urging of Park officials in October, and the possibility that he could be denied entrance to Mount Katahdin, the last northern leg of the trail, due to weather conditions, Irwin left the trail in Stratton, Maine to climb Mount Katahdin before the winter weather set in. He and Orient then returned to Stratton to complete the hike.

Only 10% to 12% of all hikers ever succeed in travelling the entire trail, according to a report in USA Today. Irwin's trust in God that he could do it shines through in all his experiences. Both low times and miracles have been reported in his newsletter that now has a mailing of over 1,000 people.

Throughout the trip, Irwin walked and talked with other hikers, witnessing to them about his faith, how God had given him the strength and help necessary to meet any challenge that might arise on the trail. Names and addresses of those he met were then sent back to the trip coordinator who added them to the mailing list.

What began as a walk of faith became an inspirational testament to perseverance and tenacity for everyone, according to Warren Doyle, who holds the record of 8 Appalachian Trail Treks.

Reached by telephone at his home in Burlington, N.C., Irwin told Uncle Jimmy Irwin of Billy Hill in Tennessee Ridge, "I'm anxious to see all my friends and relatives in Stewart and Houston counties." A visit to this area is in the planning stages.

(Contributed by Jeanne Nociti, Staff Writer for Houston-Stewart County newspaper in November 1990).

Membership Renewal

Unless you have a Lifetime Membership in the Tennessee Trails Association, your membership expires on January 1, of each year. All TTA memberships are based on the calendar year and not one year from the month you join.

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1992 (Jan.-Dec.) with the type membership checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 6.00	MAIL DUES TO: Tennessee Trails Association P.O. Box 41446 Nashville, Tennessee 37204
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family	\$ 15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$30, \$40, or \$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$150.00	

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 receive a separate newsletter.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

PLEASE LIST ME WITH CHAPTER _____ OR AT LARGE _____

CHAPTER NEWS

CLARKSVILLE

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

JULY 18 - Hiwassee Scenic River Float Trip, Roger Greer, 648-8769.

COOKEVILLE

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at Hyder Park Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

JULY 7 - Chapter Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Tom Kelly's home off Hampton Rd. Go west off Hwy 111 and take 2nd turn on the left to the curve in the loop. Call Tom at 738-8528.

JULY 11 - Caney Fork Logging Road Hike, Bill Jones 526-5317. Bill sent in a wonderful article describing this hike that is printed in full on Page 5 of this

newsletter. Please see his article for more details.

JULY 25 - Spring Creek and Flat Creek Hike, Bill Jones 526-5317. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the west end of Penney's in Cookeville (just west of the Cracker Barrel parking lot). Three mile round trip hike along Spring Creek to Mill Creek Falls. This is a crude trail which requires several stream crossings over slick algae-covered rocks. Wear shoes you are willing to get wet; also be prepared to possibly fall in the water!

We will then drive to a bridge over Flat Creek Canyon where we will park the shuttle cars and hike the canyon 2 miles downstream to a spectacular half-horseshoe cascade, then return by the same route. Whether Flat Creek was named for the Flatt family or for the beautiful flat rock formations over which it flows is uncertain, but without a doubt those rock formations have

formed some of the most beautiful cliffs in our area.

A word of warning should be given, however. This hike tends to magnify all of the water disadvantages of Spring Creek. It has a few deeper places to wade (less than waist deep but probably more than knee deep in spots, and it is at least as slick as Spring Creek and for a longer distance. Be prepared to get wet. While some may wish to do only the first of these waterfall hikes, I recommend the second for the adventurous as well.

MEMPHIS

Meets the third Thursday of each month at Kingsway Church, in the Scout Building at 7:30 p.m.

There is NO monthly program meeting in July. Our next meeting is the picnic on August 23rd.

JULY 12 (Sunday):
Canoe Trip on the
Spring River near
Hardy, Arkansas.
For info, call Ray
Burkett, 357-9183.

MURFREESBORO

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

**JULY 18 - Blue Hole
Swim, Rock Island
State Park, Evelyn
Tretter 859-0566 or
Bettie Herring 895-
8171 for details.**

**AUG 1 - Since this
hike is so early in
August, I'm
including it in
this newsletter so
you'll have time to
plan for it.
Bertha Chrietzberg
will lead a South
Cumberland
Wildflower Hike.
Call 896-1146 for
details.**

NASHVILLE

Meets the fourth
Thursday of each
month at the
Cumberland Science
Museum at 7:30 p.m.

**JULY 11-12 - Rock
Island State Park
Caving, Swimming,
Relaxing Weekend:**
Lona Brown and
Larry Matthews will
lead an exploration
of Big Bone Cave on
Saturday, leaving
from Shoney's at I-
24 & Bell Road at
8:00 a.m. For
details, contact
Lona at 883-9020
(w o r k) .
Preregistration is
required.

For non-cavers,
there will be
swimming and
relaxing in the
gorge at Rock
Island S.P. Meet
at the park office
at 10:00 a.m.

Camping will be in
the overflow
campground (more
rustic and
private), with
modern showerhouses
available. For
more info, call Pat
Anderson at 383-
2355.

**JULY 23 - Instead
of the program
meeting at
Cumberland Museum,
a picnic is planned
at Long Hunter
State Park at the
Bryant Grove Picnic
and Swim Beach
area. A shelter
has been reserved
from 3:00 p.m. on.
Bring a dish to
share. We will eat
around 6:30.**

**Fall Creek Falls
4th of July
Celebration**

Dress up your car,
your bike, or
yourself for the
"traditional"
parade which ends
in Campground A.
After watermelon
and cake, we will
move onto the field
for events such as
sack races, the egg
toss, the water
balloon toss, and
other family
events.

It's Time to Tend the Garden



CANEY FORK LOGGING ROAD HIKE

This hike will follow the historic county road through Scott's Gulf from Bee Creek to Big Bottom. It was the easiest route to Virgin Falls prior to the building of the Bowater Trail and is still the most beautiful. We will start at the parking lot below Scott Cemetery, leaving all but one car in the Virgin Falls Trail parking lot and one in Big Bottom, follow the road down to the river, cross on stepping stones, and hike the old road beside the river to its junction with the Bowater Virgin Falls Trail, hike up to Virgin Falls (optional), return to the river by the same trail, and continue along the old road to its junction in Big Bottom with the Lost Creek road about a mile below Lost Creek Cave. Hikers may be driven to the mouth of the cave to explore its sinkhole and waterfall while waiting for the remaining cars to be brought from their parking place. (It is a drive of nearly 30 miles from the terminus of the hike to the place where it started, so there will be some delay in moving the transportation.)

This is one of the most spectacular hikes in Middle Tennessee, following a little used wooded lane beside clear blue pools. It is known to few of the hikers who throng the comparatively dreary miles of the Bowater Trail, unaware of the glorious scenery so near because neither the county roads nor the logging roads of the area are included in published descriptions of the trail, and because its use is limited to periods of warm weather and low water. It should be known to every TTA chapter, and we encourage each to send representatives to hike with us. You may want to bring swimwear since the route will pass numerous superb swimming holes.

The total distance will be about 10 miles, consisting of a long easy descent to the river, fairly level hiking along the river, a moderate climb by trail to Virgin Falls and return, and 2 to 6 river crossings. Ordinarily in midsummer one would expect to cross on stepping stones at the Bee Creek Ford, wade Cedar Shoals Ford, Amber's Den Ford, and the first Virgin Falls ford, and perhaps make the last 2 crossings over a dry stream bed, the river usually going underground near Virgin Falls in summer. The Amber's Den Ford is shallow, sandy and easy, but the 2nd and 4th fords may require wading through water up to one foot deep with fairly strong current over rounded boulders, which make tricky footing. They will be checked within a week or two of the hike; and if the crossings are judged too uncomfortable, an alternative route will be chosen to avoid them.

Meet promptly at 8:00 a.m. at Dominion Bank in Sparta, or join the hike at the Virgin Falls Trail parking lot at 9:00 a.m. or at the Scott Cemetery parking lot 2 1/2 miles further down the road.

Leader: Bill Jones, 526-5317.

Mail dues, address changes/corrections and membership applications to:

TTA
P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

All newsletter submissions due by the 15th of each month. All submissions, questions and/or comments should be addressed to:

ARLEEN BARNETT
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

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.

1992 TTA LEADERS

PRESIDENT:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Tom Shepherd (615) 895-2098
CORR. SEC/TREAS:	Judy Van Cleve (615) 473-8136
SECRETARY:	Evelyn Tretter (615) 859-0566
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES:	Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
BOARD REP:	James T. Jones (901) 422-1444
BOARD REP:	Bertha Chrietzberg (615) 896-1146
BOARD REP:	Sally Garrard (615) 646-4079
MEMBERSHIP:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
CUMBERLAND TRAIL	
CHAIRMAN:	Bob Brown (615) 352-7474
Adopt-A-Trail:	Bob Barnett, Coordinator (615) 832-6484
Cookeville Chapter:	Nora Miller, Co-Chair, (615) 473-8136
Murfreesboro Chapter:	Bettie Herring, Chair, (615) 895-8171
Memphis Chapter:	Debbie Gilbert, Chair, (901) 454-0613
Nashville Chapter:	Evelyn Baker, Chair, (615) 391-3479/833-5763
Clarksville Chapter:	Roger Greer, Chair, (615) 648-8769

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

