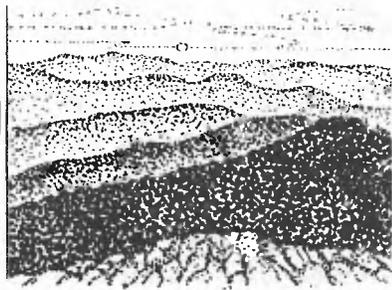
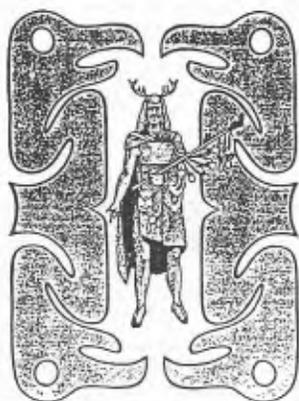


TENNESSEE TRAILS

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association



OLD STONE FORT ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA



Two hundred years ago, when the white men first settled what is now Middle Tennessee, they found a system of man-made walls on the banks of Duck River, near the present city of Manchester in Coffee County. As the years rolled by, this mysterious structure, commonly referred to as "the Old Stone Fort," became the object of romantic legends which purported to explain its origin.

Archeologists have brought a ray of light into the darkness that has obscured the origin and purpose of this ancient structure. Based on evidence unearthed on the premises, archeologists have announced the following conclusions:

- The ancient walls were built by prehistoric Indians.
- The walls were raised in the first four centuries that followed the birth of Christ.
- The actual use of the enclosure is still a mystery.
- It may have been either a fort or a ceremonial site.

University of Tennessee archeologists undertook research on Old Stone Fort at the request of the Department of Conservation. The land on which the enclosure is located is part of a 940 acre tract purchased in 1966 by the State of Tennessee to be preserved for future generations.

The team arrived at the date of construction by the radio-carbon (carbon 14) technique for dating charcoal samples found in the rock-filled walls. The laboratory report placed the age of the sample taken from the entrance ditch at 1,920 years, give or take 85 years. This gives an approximated date of 30 A.D., the time when Jesus was preaching in the Old World. The dates of the other three samples ranged from 220 A.D. to 430 A.D., lending credence to a

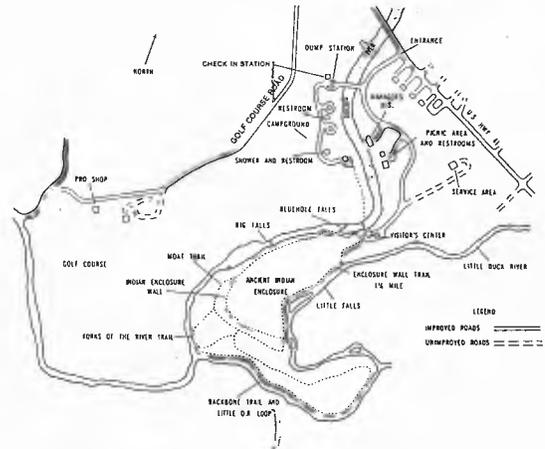
belief that the construction of the walls extended over several hundred years.

Today the Old Stone Fort lies in ruins on the bluffs high above the Duck River, where it cascades down the Highland Rim near Manchester. Its builders located the enclosure between the forks of the river, a few hundred yards from the point at which the two tributaries--Little Duck and Big Duck--come together to form natural barriers on two sides of the enclosure. The man-made walls, on the north and south sides, cross the neck of land between the forks and terminate where the bluffs afford natural barriers. The south wall alone stretches 2,111 feet from one stream to the other, attesting to the size of the project under-taken by the builders. The total area enclosed by the walls and bluffs is about 54 acres.

The walls, where they still exist, range from 3 to 6 feet high. The original walls are thought to have been about the same height as they are today, as there is little evidence of erosion. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is the entrance to the enclosure. The single opening, located on the north wall, consists of two parallel walls that extend into the enclosure to form a narrow passageway some 120 feet long.

Old Stone Fort is located just off US Hwy 41, about 1 1/2 miles west of Manchester just east of Big Duck River Bridge. From I-24, turn south at either the 1st or 4th Manchester exits and follow signs to the park.

OLD STONE FORT



Note from the Editor: Have you ever been someplace where you could immediately feel a spiritual presence? That is exactly how I felt the first time I visited Old Stone Fort, before I even read the history of the site. There are several miles of easy trails with lovely views of the enclosure inside the wall, the Big and Little Duck Rivers with waterfalls, and a very special place to stop and meditate and rest at the confluence of the two rivers.

--Arleen Barnett

**NOVEMBER IS
NATIVE
AMERICAN
RECOGNITION
MONTH**

Chapter News

Clarksville Chapter

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

NOVEMBER 21 - Ft. Donelson National Military Park, Call Sarah Ussery 647-7213 for details.

TRIP REPORT

The Clarksville Chapter hiked the easternmost loop of the Ft. Henry Trails at Land Between the Lakes on Sept. 19 instead of traveling to Pinson Mounds. The weather at LBL was beautiful--not too hot, not too cool. The trails were in wonderful shape with a mild to moderate elevation and about 12 miles in length. Seven members showed up for the hike. We were on the trail by 10:00 a.m. and off by 4:00 p.m. We didn't encounter much wildlife but, the wildflowers were in bloom and they were magnificent! One section of the trail was abloom with almost every color of wildflower you could imagine. It was a wonderful hike with 7 great people. A perfect end to summer!

--Manuel L. McKnight

Cookeville Chapter

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 3 - We will meet at the Ponderosa Steakhouse in Cookeville at 6:30 p.m. (Hyder Park is a voting place.) Our program will be a talk and slide presentation by Brenda Coleman, co-author of Hiking in the Big South Fork. Brenda is a Park Ranger at the park and a delightful and interesting person. If you have a book, bring it for an autograph.

NOVEMBER 7 - Laurel Snow Pocket Wilderness hike. This hike was originally scheduled for Nov. 14, however, an important event pre-empted this hike, details to be found elsewhere in this newsletter!

Bill Jones will lead the Laurel Snow hike, 10 miles, strenuous. Meet at Penney's in Cookeville at 8:30 a.m. or Hardee's in Monterey at 9:00 a.m. Call Bill at 526-5317 for details.

NOVEMBER 21 - Trail of Tears, 5-6 miles, moderate. Meet at Dominion Bank, Sparta, at 9:00 a.m. or Cumberland Caverns at 10:00 a.m. Call Judy at 473-8136.

Memphis Chapter

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 7 -If you'd like to help get the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail in shape before the Thanksgiving hike, park ranger Steve Smith would love to have your assistance. Meet at the Nature Center (museum) at 8:00 a.m. Wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt. For info, call Steve at 876-5215, or Jerri Bull 363-4408.

NOVEMBER 14 - MORE WORK? Work Day at Chewalla. We need your help to build the new trail! Meet 7:00 a.m. at Betty Porter's, 3056 Clearbrook, or at Chewalla (in the Holly Springs Nat'l Forest) at 8:00 a.m. We will be blazing trees, clearing brush, possibly building bridges. Even if it rains, we will walk the trail and flag it. Wear old clothes, work gloves, and boots. Bring lunch and water. For info, call Betty at 363-0213 or Jerri Bull at 363-4408.

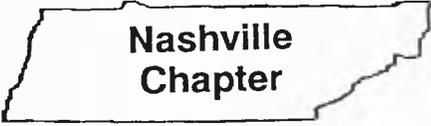
NOVEMBER 19 - Monthly meeting at Kingsway Church. Bob Ford of the Tennessee Conservation League will speak about migratory birds that spend the summer near Memphis but winter in South and Central America.

THE END IS NEAR!!!!

Don't forget to renew your TTA membership for 1993. Dues sent in now will be good for all of 1993.

Chapter News

SUNDAY, NOV. 29- AFTER THANKSGIVING HIKE AT SHELBY FOREST. Get out of the house and away from those football games! Join us for this annual Memphis chapter tradition--one of our only Sunday hikes of the year. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the visitor check-in center near the park entrance. Hike is 8 miles with a few steep hills. Bring lunch and water. For info, call Jerri Bull 363-4408.



Nashville Chapter

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

NOVEMBER 17 - Program Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Methodist Church. Dennis Ranier will be presenting a program on the proposed Stones River Battlefield Trail. All are welcome.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27 - Volunteer Trail at Long Hunter S.P. Walk off those "turkey day" calories. Call Bob Barnett, 832-6484.



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

NOVEMBER 14 - Brady Mountain Day Hike, Cumberland Mtn. S.P. This 7.5 mile hike along C.T. Section 5 will follow the spine of Brady Mtn. reaching an altitude of just under 3,000 ft. Brady Mtn. overlooks Grassy Cove, possibly the largest limestone sinkhole in North America. The grassy Cove Karst Area has been designated a National Natural Landmark by the Nat'l Park Service.

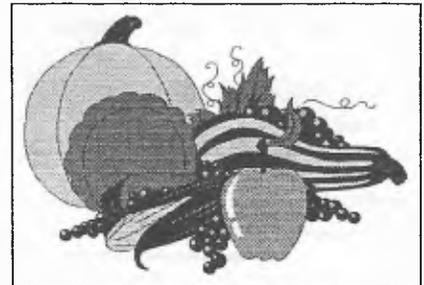
This hike is rated moderate to strenuous and entails an 800 ft. altitude gain in the first mile. The trail varies from old logging road to steep, narrow and rocky ascents and descents of 50 ft. or so. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Wind chill can be quickly debilitating on this long, narrow mountaintop in November, so hooded rainproof outer wear, layered wool clothing, and gloves or mittens are recommended. The trail is dry, so bring a full water bottle and lunch. Call Bob Brown at (615) 352-7474 (Nashville), or Steve Hill (615) 484-6138 (Cumberland Mtn. S.P.) for details. Meet at 8:00 a.m. CST at CMSP office, and allow 6-8 hours for the hike and necessary car shuttles.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15 - Big Creek Gulf/Rim Hike. Originally scheduled for Nov. 14, this hike has been moved to Sunday, Nov. 15 because of work conflict. The hike will be approx. 10 miles. We will go through the Great Stone Door and hike 4-5 miles in the

gorge. This portion of the trail is strenuous with a rocky descent into the gorge and a steep climb back up to the plateau. We will return by the Big Creek Rim Trail which is easy with beautiful overlooks. Wear sturdy boots, appropriate clothing, and bring lunch. Because of shorter daylight hours, we will need to begin no later than 9:30 a.m.

Meet at So. Cumberland Visitor Center between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. or be at the Stone Door Ranger Station by 9:30 a.m. Go I-24 to Monteagle to exit 134 to Hwy 56 and follow signs to the Visitor Center or Stone Door Ranger Station. For further info, contact Martha Lisle, 361-8382(h) or 741-0437(w).

NOVEMBER 19 - Monthly Program Meeting at Cumberland Science Museum 7:30 p.m. We moved the meeting up one week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Dr. Ralph Fullerton, Professor of Geology and Geography at Middle Tennessee State University, will present slides and talk about recent field trips to the tropical rain forests of South America.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FUND NEWS

The Tennessee Trails Association is a member of the Environmental Action Fund. Through that membership we have a lobbying voice with the State legislature in Nashville. Due in large measure to EAF's influence, two funding bills have passed that have resulted in more funding for land acquisition in parks and increased funding for maintenance and facilities improvements in parks. Funding was secured during this year's legislative session to allow for wildflower research and for publications of materials sharing the research knowledge.

There has been other crucial legislation which EAF has been involved in during the time that TTA has been an organizational board member of EAF. (A detailed report on the legislative session for 1992 can be found following this article.)

It is the prime time of the year to start determining

what issues should be on the legislative agenda for EAF when the General Assembly reconvenes in Nashville.

The protection and preservation of forests in Tennessee and how forestry practices impact rivers and streams is an issue that is sure to come up in the upcoming legislative session. Many people in the environmental community believe that the Tennessee lumber industry has been exempt from water protection standards for much too long. It is felt that now is the time to seek reform legislation.

Why is now the right time to seek forestry practice reform? There is heightened awareness about exploitative practices due to the controversy over chipping mills proposed for southeastern Tennessee and elsewhere in the southeastern United States.

The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) feels so strongly about the issue of negative impact

forestry practices that they are willing to commit major funding to a lobbying effort relative to legislation intended to protect waterways. TSRA's intended financial contribution would go far beyond their annual dues to EAF. They are also willing to contribute people power in terms of volunteers to help in the lobbying efforts.

At this time, as TTA's EAF representative, I am not asking for a financial or time commitment to this issue, but I am asking for input from the membership about whether this issue warrants major effort by the EAF during the upcoming General Assembly. Also, I am seeking input from TTA's Board and general membership about the need for a monthly feature in the newsletter about how to positively affect legislation involving trails and outdoor recreation. I welcome your comments.

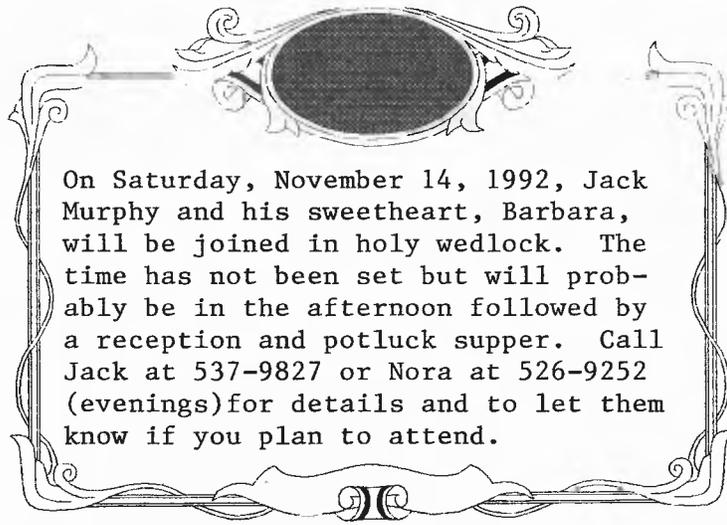
---Bob Barnett
President

The 1992 EAF Fund-raiser will be held on Friday, November 20, 1992 at The American Center at 3100 West End Ave. from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Magnificent nature photography will be on display that will allow you to travel around Tennessee, the United States and the world via the camera lens view of these masterful photographers. These photographs are available for purchase for your own home, or they would make lovely Christmas gifts.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes food, beverages of your choice, good company of fellow environmentalists and a wonderful visual show via photography which approaches being transcendental.

All contributions are welcome and no contribution is too small. Call Bob Barnett at 832-6484 to find out more about how you can help EAF with your time, effort or money. Checks can be made payable to EAF and mailed to Bob Barnett at the TTA Post Office Box.



On Saturday, November 14, 1992, Jack Murphy and his sweetheart, Barbara, will be joined in holy wedlock. The time has not been set but will probably be in the afternoon followed by a reception and potluck supper. Call Jack at 537-9827 or Nora at 526-9252 (evenings) for details and to let them know if you plan to attend.

THE SESSION IN REVIEW

This year's session was relatively quiet on environmental issues, compared to the previous year in which major controversy erupted over the proposed transfer of the division of Parks to Tourism and Forestry to Agriculture and over permitting drainage of wetlands, a major parks land acquisition bill was passed and a state-wide solid waste management act was forged. This year, controversies over education, Medicaid and changes in tax policy to fund them preoccupied the General Assembly.

Nonetheless environmentalists achieved important victories this year:

Parks. A pair of bills to fund capital projects in state parks, which passed in the House the previous year passed the Senate during this session. One bill added a \$1.50 increase to the vehicle title registration fee, which is expected to yield \$2.3 million annually. The money is intended to be used for preventive maintenance and repairs, and establishing services at new parks such as House Mountain. The second bill authorized bonds to be sold for up to \$5 million per issuance to acquire buffer lands around state parks by title or easement and for capital projects in state parks. The revenue generated by the registration fee increase must be spent directly on capital projects or used to pay the

principal and interest on the bonds issued under the provisions of the companion bill. Rep. Bill McAfee was House sponsor of these two bills and Senator Ward Crutchfield carried them in the Senate.

Flora. Careful negotiation, expectations reduced from three publications to one and resourceful identification of an existing but underutilized source of funding combined to promote passage of the Flora bicentennial bill. Twelve thousand dollars annually for the next four years will be made available from the interest and earnings of the Natural Resources Trust Fund to support completion of research and publication of an atlas of county-level distribution of vascular flora in Tennessee. The Tennessee Native Plant Society is actively seeking other funding sources for the remaining two publications of the project, a photographically illustrated guide to Tennessee wildflowers and a more technical manual for identifying Tennessee's plants. House sponsors were Lane Curlee and Shelby Rhinehart. Senate sponsor was Steve Cohen.

Solid waste. Last year's omnibus master solid waste planning legislation withstood serious attempts by BFI to modify some essential provisions. Despite the spirited support of Sen. Kyle and Rep. Kent, both of Memphis, where BFI has its home office, legislators in both chambers stood fast by their decision of the previous year to give this act a chance to work before allowing modifications.

The bills sought 1) to restrict surcharges imposed by municipalities, 2) to prohibit municipalities from having exclusive control over the flow of waste in their jurisdiction and 3) to redefine the term "existing landfill" to include landfills that were permitted but not accepting garbage as of July 1, 1991.

Sponsors of the original bill, Sen. Ronnie Greer and Rep. Bill Purcell, urged their colleagues to allow the act time to operate without these restrictions.

Pesticides. In appearance a defeat, but in reality a relative victory. This bill which would have completely preempted the right of local governments to enact or adopt any laws, rules or ordinances that regulate pesticides, was on a fast track in both chambers until environmentalists and other interested groups stopped it long enough for county and local governments to add their voices in concern. As a result of the widespread opposition, advocates of the bill, primarily the pesticide industry and the Farm Bureau, were required to compromise on the terms of the bill. The compromised law allows communities to regulate pesticides under guidance of the state as long as local rules are not in conflict with state and federal law, are reasonable and, if more stringent than state law, are the result of good cause. It will, however, be necessary to follow the experience of local communities to ascertain how well this compromise will work for local communities. A number of legislators worked hard to find an acceptable compromise. They are Reps. Arriola, Bragg, Chiles, Clark, Cross, Dixon, Fowlkes, Halteman, Hargrove, Hill, Meyer, Moore, Odom, Pruitt, Purcell, Stamps and Tindell. The Senators were Cooper, Harper, Henry and Cohen.

NOVEMBER HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Chapter		
11/7	MC	Chickasaw Bluffs, Jerri Bull 363-4408 or Steve Smith 876-5215
11/7	CC	Laurel Snow, Bill Jones 526-5317
11/14	MC	Chewalla Nat'l Forest, Betty Porter 363-0213
11/14	NC	Brady Mtn. Day Hike, Bob Brown 352-7474
11/15	NC	Big Creek Gulf/Rim Loop, Martha Lisle 361-8382
11/21	CC	Trail of Tears, Judy Van Cleve 473-8136
11/21	ClC	Ft. Donelson Military Park, Sarah Ussery 647-7213
11/27	MuC	Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter S.P., Bob Barnett 832-6484
11/29	MC	Shelby Forest Hike, Jerri Bull 363-4408

SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

(615) 924-2980

- 11/1 Small Wilds Excursion - Meet Randy at the Foster Falls Picnic Shelter for a 4.6 mile rountrip (easy) hike.
- 11/8 Sweden Cove - West Rim - Meet at the entrance to Franklin State Forest. This easy walk has great views of a very remote unspoiled area. 5-6 miles rountrip easy.
- 11/14 & Collins Gulf Overnighter - Meet at Stone Door Ranger Sta.
- 11/15 Bring all your own gear and food. Call the Visitor Center for reservations. 20 miles rountrip strenuous.
- 11/21 Greeter Falls Excursion - Meet at Stone Door Ranger Sta. 1 mile rountrip (moderate).
- 11/22 Grundy Forest Day Loop - Meet at Grundy Forest picnic shelter. 2 miles rountrip (moderate).

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 1993 (Jan-Dec) with the type membership checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$ 6.00	MAIL DUES TO:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual/Family	15.00	Tennessee Trails Assn.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	\$30, \$40 or \$50	P. O. Box 41446
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life	150.00	Nashville, TN 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 addresses to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do receive a separate newsletter.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

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:	Jerri Bull, Coordinator (901) 363-4408
	Bob Barnett, Coordinator (615) 832-6484
Cookeville Chapter:	Jack Murphy, (615) 537-9827
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
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