

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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Break out your insulated boots and wax your skis. The January activity will be a hike over Black Mountain from Renegade Resort, near Crab Orchard, to State Route 68 at the entrance to Grassy Cove. There is plenty of parking space at Renegade and shuttle service will be provided back to the ski lodge.

The hike will be about 8 miles long over a graded jeep trail. There will be one moderately steep climb of 250 to 300 feet (nothing like McLean Rock). There is a spring on the back side of Black Mountain at about the half-way point, with a good view of Brady Mountain, Walden's Ridge, Grassy Cove, and the Smokies if the weather is clear. We start 9 a.m. EST, Jan. 24.

There will be a short Board meeting at the lodge at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dutch treat dinner. After that we hope to meet with Renegade officials about the route of the trail thru their land. Roy Hall helped program chairman Bob Brown with the arrangements. The skiing will be on your own. All slopes were in good shape as this was being written.

This month we introduce President Donald Todd to those members of the Tennessee Trails Association who have not met him. He was born in Scott County, Tenn., and spent most of his life in the Cumberland, except for a tour of duty with the Air Force during World War II. He spent about ten years in the mining business, some of it stripping, but got out when it became necessary to go into the mountains for a supply of coal. He writes: "That was just more than I could take!"

President Todd has been teaching in the Central Elementary School in Wartburg for a long time and has been scoutmaster of the local Boy Scout Troop for an equally long period. He spent several summers working with the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He is currently president of the Wartburg Lions Club.

Next month we'll present a profile of Vice-president Bob Brown.

At this time we have 32 paid individual members and 3 supporting members of TTA. The Clinch and Powell River Valley Association, the original sponsor of the Cumberland Trail in Claiborne, Campbell and Anderson Counties, was the first. The others are the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and Chad's Apache Camping Center, of Nashville.

TTA was well-represented at the program on "Preserving Tennessee's Natural and Scenic Resources" at the UT Student Center in Knoxville in Jan. 8. The program attracted persons from Upper East Tennessee, Chattanooga and Nashville, despite near zero weather. Space limitations prevent us from listing them individually.

Bad weather and deep snow prevented work on the Cumberland Trail during the Holidays. Susan and John McIntyre and friends tried to hike on Walden's Ridge Jan. 3, but cut it short when Susan's feet got cold. She says the fellows wore insulated boots and weren't very sympathetic.