

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The big news for August is the rappelling instruction to be held at Sunset Rock on Saturday, August 15, at ~~9:30 a.m.~~ 1:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time. Col. Wayman Cross, of Nashville, will be the instructor.

Col. Cross is curriculum director for the Tennessee State Vocational Schools. A veteran of World War II, the Korean conflict, and Viet Nam, he had both ranger and paratroop service. He was formerly associated with the ROTC program at Vanderbilt University, where he instituted guerrilla training.

Wear boots or heavy shoes...no sneakers, long pants and a sturdy shirt. You can change into cooler garments after the instruction session. There will be rock climbing and rappelling, which is the art of descending steep cliffs with the aid of ropes.

Sunset Rock is located on Highway U. S. 70 between Sparta and Crossville. This is the scenic overlook at the top of the mountain grade east of Sparta. From Nashville, leave I-40 at the Watertown exit in Lebanon. From the East, follow U. S. 70 from Crab Orchard through Crossville toward Sparta.

On the following Saturday, August 22, there will be another work session on the Cumberland Trail. The rendezvous point will be the grill and drug store across from the campus of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. At 9 a.m. EDT, John McIntyre will guide the party to Tiprell, at the base of mountain nearest where we finished on July 25.

The last work session took us almost to the peak overlooking Tiprell. Roughly four miles of trail have been cleared from Tri-State Peak, where Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky come together. Bob Brown was already on the trail when Robbie and David Hassler, Red Salvin, president of the Oak Ridge Conservation Club, and your editor arrived at Cumberland Gap. The Hasslers had camped at Wilderness Road Campground in the Park.

President Donald Todd and son, Steve, accompanied by an assortment of Boy Scouts from Wartburg, took a shortcut and beat us to the Peak. We enjoyed magnificent views of Fern Lake on the Kentucky side and of the town of Cumberland Gap on the Tennessee side of the mountain. The trail leads through patches of blueberries, which were ripe, and everyone paused to eat a few now and then.

John McIntyre and members of his Explorer Post arrived late and went on to explore beyond where the rest of us gave out. Bob Brown planned to go back August 1. He and John hope to get the trail open from Cumberland Gap to McLean Rock by early winter.

We are happy to report that Susan McIntyre has the volunteer help she needs for the next two issues of Tennessee Trails. Mr. and Mrs. Jere Farley are typing labels for those mailings.

That's the news for August. In September there will be a work session on the Island Creek section on the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area on the 13th. Also, we should have word on the follow-up trails seminar.

We'll see you on the trail.