

# FOOTSTEPS

**NEWSLETTER OF SEQUOYAH HIKING CLUB**  
**TAKE ONLY PICTURES \*\*\*\*\* LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS**  
 February 2000  
 Issue #2

## FOOTHILLS LAND CONSERVANCY AND THE SMITH BEND PROJECT RANDY BROWN EXPLAINS PROGRAMS

At the January meeting of the hiking club Randy Brown, the executive director of the Foothills Land Conservancy, was our guest speaker. Randy told us of the several years of the Land Conservancy's efforts to preserve land particularly adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in order to provide extra mast for the black bear. It had been predicted by Dr. Mike Pelton, a professor of the University of Tennessee and one of the world foremost authorities on the black bear, that if additional land adjacent to the park is not provided, the bear population of the park cannot be sustained.

The Foothills Land Conservancy also accepts private lands that the owners want to save as farm land or undeveloped land for the future. The Conservancy has received the Jim and Gail Harris farm in Blount with the stipulation that the farm will remain a working farm. Kyker Bottoms, a 524 acre refuge, including 150 acres of shallow water areas and some upland buffer as well as acquired through the cooperation of the Conservancy and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.. In poor mast years the area is utilized by black bears from the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Kyker Bottoms is managed by TWRA. The Dr. James W. Davis farm in the

### Sequoyah Hiking Club

#### Officers

- President*  
Paul Gamble
- Vice-President*  
Bobbie Arp
- Secretary*  
Liz Yates
- Treasurer*  
Johanna Cooley
- Editor*  
Helen Maxwell

#### Purpose

- 1-To plan and enjoy hikes in local areas.
- 2-Little organization
- 3-Few rules
- 4-No by laws

#### Meetings

4th Monday of each month

#### Dues

\$12 per year

#### Footsteps

Monthly newsletter

Lakeside community of Monroe County will be left to the Conservancy to remain undeveloped and wild.

In addition to these projects already completed, the Conservancy together with the TWRA is attempting to secure funds to purchase 2500 acres of land at Smith Bend on the Tennessee River. Cont on page 3, Col 1

### Foothills Conservancy

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### SEQUOYAH HIKING CLUB

Helen Maxwell, Editor  
 3322 Old Hwy 68  
 Madisonville, TN 37354

President  
 Paul Gamble

Secretary  
 Liz Yates

Regular Meetings  
 4th Monday Every Month  
 7:00  
 Bert's Hometown Grill

Treasurer  
 Johanna Cooley

January 19 Fort Loudoun Hike



Mrs. Liz Yates  
 4600 Little Valley Rd  
 Loudon, TN 37774





**JANUARY MEETING**

The January 24 meeting of Sequoyah Hiking Club was held at Bert's Hometown Grill and was attended by 24 people -- perhaps the largest attendance we have ever had. Those present were Luci Alexander, Bobbie Arp, our speaker Randy Brown, Tom Burris, Ross Burrus, Curtis Gardin, Johanna Cooley, Faye Daniel, Joyce Denton, Paul Gamble, Brian Harrill, Lee Roy Holt, Carolyn Hopper, J. D. Jones, Joel Kilpatrick, Houston & Freda Lowry, Helen Maxwell, Joyce McWilliams & her granddaughter, Richard & Bettye Spurling and Liz Yates.

After the excellent program by Randy Brown, several hikes were discussed and planned.

The treasury has about \$360 in it with no large outstanding bills.

**HIKES**

**Two Fort Loudon Hikes**

Luci Alexander, Tom Burris, Faye Daniel, Joyce Denton, J. D. Jones, Freda Lowry, Joyce McWilliams, Bettye Spurling and Liz Yates hiked at Fort Loudon State Park on Wednesday, January 12. The second hike at Ft. Loudon was on Wednesday morning, January 19 when Tom Burris, Johanna Cooley, Faye Daniel, Joyce Denton, J. D. Jones, Freda Lowry and Liz Yates. The group was followed all the way along the trail by two young, baby deer. They seemed to be particularly attracted to Tom Burris and Faye Daniel. The causes of that attraction has

not been revealed. Around 16 deer were seen on this walk. The group walked to where the Bert Anderson home was located before the Tellico Dam was completed. Many jonquils were seen at the home site, and a few were in bloom.



Tom Burris on January 19 Hike

**HIWASSEE WILDFOWL REFUGE**

On Wednesday morning, February 2, Tom Burris, Faye Daniel, Johanna Cooley, Houston Lowry and Liz Yates drove to the Hiwassee Wildfowl Refuge to see the sandhill cranes. The morning was sunny but very cold. Thousands of cranes were seen and heard. A new observation stand has been completed. February is the month the sandhill cranes migrate to Florida, stopping in Tennessee to feed a day or two before flying on.

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This area is the largest available piece of land in East Tennessee that is suitable for a wet lands refuge. Mr. Brown showed slides to illustrate the wildlife and terrain of the Smith Bend area. Development of the Smith Bend Refuge will go a long way toward saving the migrating sandhill cranes which stop over in Tennessee to feed on their route to and from Florida.

**Hiwassee Wildfowl Refuge**

On the trip back as we crossed the Highway 58 bridge over the Hiwassee River, we saw two deer swimming the Hiwassee River. When we wondered how safe it is for deer to be swimming the river in freezing weather, it was pointed out that swimming the river is a lot safer for the deer than crossing the bridge.

**WHY IS IT CALLED....?\***

A tiny grist mill for grinding corn was a most essential cog in frontier economy. One stood in nearly every community. All were water-driven, and if the stream that supplied the power did not have a name, it was soon spoken of as the **Mill Creek**. Maybe the name of the owner was affixed, and thus there was **Mingus Mill Creek**. Mill creeks were scattered all over the Smokies until, to avoid confusion, all but one were eliminated when the later maps were made.

The local manufacture of iron was another essential industry. The primitive method was not a furnace, making pig iron, but rather a small bloomery, where the ore, heated to an incandescent mass in a charcoal fire, had the impurities hammered out under the repeated blows of a ponderous tilt hammer. Such a plant was built in Cades Cove about 1827, and the stream that furnished the power was called **Forge Creek**. For this type of operation great quantities of charcoal were needed, made in "coaling grounds" in the nearby forest. Hence the name **Coaling Ground Ridge** close to **Forge Creek**. The town of **Pigeon Forge** drew its name from another bloomery close to Little Pigeon River. \*From *That's why they call it...* by Paul M. Fink

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

February 13. Sunday - Gatlinburg Nature Trail and Christmas/New Year lights; 4 miles, easy; after the hike the group will eat at the Burning Bush Restaurant and then drive through Gatlinburg to see the lights; meet in Old Wal Mart parking lot at 1:30 PM; leader - Bobbie Arp, 442-1923.  
 February 20. Sunday - Ball Play Falls, about 4 miles, easy to moderate; Meet at Old Wal Mart parking lot at 2 PM; leader - Paul Gamble - 442-9382  
**February meeting, 28 at 7 PM at Bert's Hometown Grill.**

**—Dues Notice —  
 2000 Dues are now payable  
 \$ 12 per year**

***If you are going on a hike or attending an event, it will be helpful for you to let the leader know that you are going!***