



FRIENDS OF SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK

## ***DISCOVERY SERIES HIKES***

The "Discovery Series" offers easy-to-moderate, family-friendly, self-guided hikes throughout the park. Directions and interactive maps to the trailheads listed below can be found at [FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org/trailhead-info](http://FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org/trailhead-info).

Periodically, Discovery Series hikes will also be offered as *guided* hikes by South Cumberland State Park Rangers, or by experienced hike leaders from the Friends of South Cumberland or Tennessee Trails Association.

To see when *guided* versions of Discovery Series hikes are scheduled, visit the Friends of South Cumberland website ([FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org](http://FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org)) and check the "Upcoming Hikes" list on the left side of the home page.

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*Keep track of your hiking achievements with this Hiker's Scorecard!*

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### **THE 2017 HIKES | SAVAGE GULF AREA**

- Where Horses Went to Hide** *TRAILHEAD: Collins West*  
Experience Suter Falls, Horsepound Falls and learn about their roles, and the role of this entire area, in the Civil War.
- Springs & Caves & Sinks, Oh My!** *TRAILHEAD: Collins West*  
Discover Schwoon Spring, Peter Rock Cave & Fall Creek Sink in Collins Gulf.
- Disappearing & Reappearing Water** *TRAILHEAD: Stone Door*  
Visit Ranger Creek Falls, where the water disappears at the base of the falls, and Big Creek Springs, one of the places where that water re-emerges.
- Meanwhile, back at the Greeter Place...** *TRAILHEAD: Greeter*  
Explore the 1800s homestead of the family for which Greeter Falls is named.
- All Aboard the Savage Gulf Railroad** *TRAILHEAD: Savage*  
Trace the route of the 'Dinky Line' and learn about the role of logging in the history of Savage Gulf and this region.
- Beware of Runaway Stagecoaches** *TRAILHEAD: Savage*  
See the remarkable engineering of the McMinnville-Chattanooga Stage Road!
- Herman's Hideaway** *TRAILHEAD: Stone Door*  
Explore the area below Stone Door, one of Herman Baggenstoss' favorite places.

### **THE 2017 HIKES | FIERY GIZZARD AREA**

- Saluting the Men of the CCC** *TRAILHEAD: Grundy Forest*  
Prowl the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) campsite at Grundy Forest and learn about the young men who built the first trails in South Cumberland State Park, *before* it was a park!
- Head for the Hole** *TRAILHEAD: Grundy Forest*  
An exploration of the classic summertime swimming holes along the Fiery Gizzard Trail — Blue Hole, Sycamore Falls and Foster Falls.

### **THE 2017 HIKES | SHERWOOD AREA**

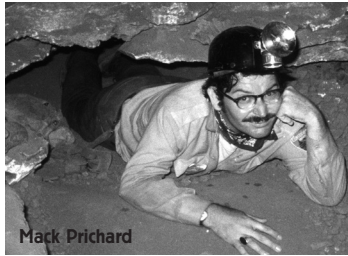
- Who Built *That* Bridge?** *TRAILHEAD: Sewanee Natural Bridge*  
Experience the remarkable geologic formation known as the Sewanee Natural Bridge, and discover the unexpected reasons behind its formation.

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## WHY ARE WE “HIKING IN MACK’S TRACKS”?

After Governor Winfield Dunn signed the Tennessee Natural Areas Act in May of 1971, the job of identifying exceptional areas with good state park potential began in earnest. One of the most dynamic and dedicated individuals in that effort was Mack Prichard, who devoted his entire career to the State of Tennessee, serving, among other things, as State Archaeologist, State Natural Areas Administrator, and State Naturalist.

In 1971, Mack persuaded then newly-elected governor Dunn to come look at Savage Gulf, a wild and beautiful area with deep canyons, multitudes of waterfalls, and one of the most rich, diverse and fragile ecosystems in



Mack Prichard

eastern North America. Working with Tracy City businessman Herman Baggenstoss and other conservation-minded leaders, Mack arranged for Dunn to traverse Savage Gulf, with the first part on horseback; the second part, on foot; and the third part, by Jeep.

Dunn was enormously impressed with what he saw, and returned to Nashville as a champion for acquiring land in this area, specifically Savage Gulf, to create what is now South Cumberland State Park.

But Mack’s job didn’t end there. He had to convince land-owners to get on board and sell their property to the State and press for funding to complete the land purchases. Mack, along with Herman and other environmental leaders, brought countless groups of civic, governmental and environmentally-focused people to the area. He took them on expeditions deep into the forests and canyons to show them the wonders of nature – without the benefit of trails, bridges, or other park infrastructure we now take for granted. In the largely wild and untamed forests of both Savage Gulf and the Fiery Gizzard, Mack preached the gospel of conservation and environmental stewardship to all who would listen.

Some expeditions had more than their share of excitement; not all who followed Mack’s call to action were up to the challenge of “bushwhacking” in the canyons of the Cumberland Plateau. While he never lost any hikers, he always gained allies who, after surviving one of Mack’s expeditions, became believers in Mack, Herman and what they were trying to accomplish.

And that is why the Friends of South Cumberland are dedicating the 2017 Hiking Challenge to Mack, for all he has done to advocate for nature in this region and at dozens of other special places all across Tennessee.

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**JOIN THE FRIENDS!**  
LEARN MORE ONLINE AT  
[FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org](http://FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org)

