

TENNESSEE TRAILS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Mission: 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



DON'T FORGET . . .

CUMBERLAND TRAIL AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO

Reservation Deadline April 18

An RSVP form is located on page 8.

And, if you're planning on coming, come early, like around 10am EDT and join Rob Weber as he leads a 1-hour cross-country hike (no trail yet) on terrain rated easy, to a spectacular overlook at Rock Creek Gorge - the future home of the Rock Creek segment of the CT. This is one of the acquisitions CTC is pursuing as part of the *Pathways for People ... People for Nature* campaign for the CTSP. To pre-register and obtain the meeting location, call the CTC office: 931-456-6259.

JUNE 2 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY TWO-DAY PROJECT IN MIDDLE TN OPEN TO ALL

Although National Trails Day is a one-day event, we are setting aside 2 days (June 2 & 3) in order to complete a 5-mile section of new trail being developed in Edgar Evins State Park. This project, organized by Fount Bertram, Murfreesboro's Chapter Officer, is open to all TTA members (as well as non-members). So far 6 chapters and their members have committed to adopting this project as their NTD project too: Clarksville, Columbia, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Plateau and Upper Cumberland.

Five miles of trail construction is a pretty aggressive goal, yet one that can be reached. There is no limit to the number of volunteers we need. The more the merrier! We anticipate at least 100 volunteers in this project.

2ND ANNUAL TENNESSEE PADDLE 2K & FESTIVAL OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

APRIL 6-8

The Tennessee Paddle Club in Knoxville is hosting the Second Annual Tennessee Paddle 2K and Festival, April 6-8, on the Obed Wild & Scenic River, near Wartburg, TN.

The Cumberland Trail Conference has been invited back to lead hikes, on Friday and Sunday, on the Cumberland Trail as well as given booth space for us to use to promote the CT, as part of the festival. The Paddle 2K race is scheduled for Saturday so no hikes will occur on Saturday. More information on the Tennessee Paddle 2K events can be found on their website: www.tennesseepaddle.com

We are looking for volunteers to staff the CTC booth at the festival on Saturday from 10am-5pm EST and volunteers to help lead the hike on Friday. To volunteer, call or email Arleen Scheller at the CTC office.

On Fri, Apr 6 - Obed Wild and Scenic River segment of the CT from Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford, and back. The hike is 4 miles and rated easy. For further information, or to pre-register and obtain meeting time/location, call the CTC office: 931-456-6259.

On Sun, Apr 8 - Hike the Bird Mountain section of the CT in Frozen Head SP & NA. This hike is 8-10 miles and rated moderate. This is an outstanding wildflower hike. In addition, if there is interest, our hike leaders, Warren & Carol Devine will take the group on a section of Bird Mountain where the trail is yet to be built (we're talking adventure here). For further information, or to pre-register and obtain meeting time/location, call the CTC office: 931-456-6259

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

FREE ON-SITE TRAINING AVAILABLE!

ALL TOOLS PROVIDED!

As we near the weekend of June 2, you will have questions and we'll need a head count of volunteers. Until then, contact your local chapter officer to obtain information and to sign up to volunteer. Your local chapter officer will then coordinate details with Fount Bertram. Chapter officers can reach Fount by phone: 615-765-5357, or by email: fwbertram@hotmail.com

Letters from Libby..... TTA's President

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all! Arleen Scheller, representing the Cumberland Trail Conference, and I, representing TTA, have just returned from the American Hiking Society sponsored Trail Advocacy Week in Washington D.C. We attended workshops and lectures concerning the funding issues before Congress affecting trails and trail development. We met with hikers representing their associations from Alaska to Maine, and some fun folks from Florida. We were briefed on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Title VIII Funding, and Willing Seller legislation. Then we met with the staffs of our Congressmen and Senators to lobby for their support of these issues. We personally met with Bob Clement and Bill Frist. The main thing I learned from the trip was the fascinating process of legislation. The weather in D.C. reminded me of Tennessee. The grocery stores were jammed as the city braced itself for the 'Storm of the Century'. Arleen and I had even made alternative plans, had we become stranded, to arrive home at a later date. Well, the few flakes that fell were beautiful, but not threatening. Thanks you TTA, CTC and the American Hiking Society for making this trip possible for us. We hope we made Tennessee's hikers voices heard in Washington.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We're in the process of redesigning and updating our Internet website (THE ADDRESS WILL REMAIN THE SAME). And, you're invited to help in the construction. What we're looking for right now are photographs of the places we have gone and we really need the photos to contain people. (What better way to show others surfing the Internet the fun we have.) Photographs of us on a day hike or backpacking, even car-camping. How about the celebrations we've had on the trail – like New Year's and birthdays come to mind. Won't take much time, just pull together the photos you have, write on the back of the photo or attach them to a paper and identify: who took the photo, where the photo was taken and who are the people in the photo.

Send photos to:
ATTN: WEBMASTER
TN Trails Association

P.O. Box 41446 ♦ Nashville, TN ♦ 37204-1446

HIKING Tennessee Trails

Our very own hiking guide is currently undergoing revisions in preparation for a 6th edition. Ideas and suggestions on the guide's layout and format, improvements to trail descriptions, trails to add/delete (you're invited to write new or update old trail descriptions) must be submitted to Bob Brown. (The final manuscript will be submitted to a *NEW** publisher in the fall.)

If you have a favorite trail that you wish to see included, call Bob.

If you like to hike and write or, draw maps, call Bob.

Get involved! Call Bob!

Bob Brown ♦ 123 Blackburn Avenue ♦ Nashville, TN 37205
615-352-7474

**We've been with Globe-Pequot Press for a long time. Due to reasons beyond our control, Globe-Pequot Press has made the decision not to publishing any future guides. So, we're in the process of shopping for a new publishing house. If you know of a publishing house that may want to publish our next hiking guidebook, contact Bob Brown.*

YOUR GENEROSITY BENEFITS ALL

When you join or renew your TTA membership, you may become a "Supporting Member" by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues. These donations support any number of TTA projects and programs, and we thank Harriett Turpin (Nashville Chapter) for renewing her 2001 membership as a Supporting Member.

HELP PRESERVE THE JIM CREEK TRACT

The Nature Conservancy needs your help to protect one of the last great places left in the state. TNC has contracted to buy 1,541 acres of northern Cumberland Plateau hardwood forest known as the Jim Creek tract, adjacent to Pickett State Park in Pickett County, from a timber company before it is logged and developed. Jim Creek tract contains caves with rare and endangered species, diverse flora and fauna, and towering bluffs that overlook the entire Wolf River Valley. The property is also significant because it divides Pickett State Forest in half. Public lands surround the Jim Creek tract, including Pickett State Park, Pickett State Forest and almost 2,000 acres of private conservation lands held by TNC. The Big South Fork NRR and Daniel Boone NF are also significant public holdings in the area.

If you have any questions or wish to get involved, please call TNC at 615-383-9909.

Thank you for helping TNC save wild Tennessee.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Eric Wilson 423-628-2817 ericavi@infoave.net

Apr 14 Wolf River Valley/Jim Creek Cove. Fentress County, TN. The Nature Conservancy is working to acquire this ecological gem to add to Pickett State Park. Come explore this pristine limestone cove below Blackhouse Mountain during wildflower season led by, professional Karst Hydrologist, Randy Paylor. We'll hike between 3-4 miles (easy to moderate) among the huge hemlocks, bluffs and house-size boulders and, for those who wish, spend several hours in one of the recently discovered caves in this cove. Cave conditions include a possible short, shallow water crawl and a tight (2-foot high) spot at the entrance, then it's fully walkable. Bring lunch and water. Due to the fragile nature of the cave and cove, this outing is limited to 16 and PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!! Headlamps and helmets required - some will be available for loan. We'll meet early at the Harrow Road Cafe in Historic Rugby. The Cafe opens for breakfast at 8am EDT and lodging is available Friday night in the historic buildings. For additional information and to pre-register, call Barbara Stagg: 423-628-2441 and 423-628-2449, or email her: rugbytn@highland.net

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

J.R. Tate 931-920-2692 modelt@charter.net

MEETS: 3rd Tues, 7pm, The Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

Mar 31-Apr 1 Frozen Head SP&NA. Wartburg, TN. Come spend the weekend hiking and camping in FHSP&NA. We'll hike amidst a park with 14 peaks ranging in elevation from 1,340 ft to over 3,300 ft with views from the top of the TN Ridge and Plateau. For information and to pre-register, call Manuel McKnight: 931-358-2115.

Apr 7 Mousetail Landing State Park. Parson's, TN. This is an 8-mile hike and rated moderate. Sections of this trail provide outstanding views over the Tennessee River. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Darryl Butts: 931-645-9177.

Apr 17 **MONTHLY MEETING:** Our program, well, it's a surprise. See you at 7pm.

Apr 21 **EARTH DAY** at the Rotary Park in Clarksville. We're going to do a little trail work on the trail in Rotary Park and get in a hike before the day is out. We adopted this park and over the past few years have made this our Earth Day event. Please come out and help us beautify our adopted park. For further information and to volunteer, call Wanda Cumberland: 931-906-3338.

Apr 28-29 Stone Door Car Camping in Savage Gulf SNA. Bill Hamilton is the hike leader for this weekend of hikes in the Savage Gulf area of South Cumberland SP. We'll camp in the campground just off of the parking lot. For further information and to pre-register, call Bill Hamilton: 931-920-2760.

On Sat, you can try your hand at rappelling or hike down through the Stone Door and watch the repellers for a few minutes before climbing back up through the "Door" to continue our hike along on the Rim Trail.

On Sun we'll hike down to Ranger Falls and back. This is a 6-mile hike on terrain rated moderate.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Siler McCarty

423-566-1291

webmaster@tnrlca.org

Apr 21 Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. Join hike leader Vance Lawson as he leads us on a hike through this beautiful park. Bring snacks, lunch and water. To obtain meeting time/location and to pre-register, call Vance Lawson: 423-562-6856.

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 7 Moonbow viewing at Cumberland Falls SRP. Corbin, KY. The mist of the Cumberland Falls creates the magic of the moonbow, only visible on a clear night during a full moon. This unique phenomenon appears nowhere else in the Western Hemisphere! Pre-register with Kathy Theobald: 423-566-6719.

May 19 Cumberland Gap NHP. Middlesboro, KY. Call, hike leader, Vance Lawson: 423-562-6856.

Jun 16 Great Smoky MNP. Call, hike leader, Laurie Salveson or Patricia Bolton: 423-907-0951.

Jul 21 Mammoth Cave NP. Call, hike leader, Laurie Salveson 423-907-0951.



April 21
is
Earth Day

(Earth Day...Every Day) Get involved!
There are many activities scheduled
locally, nationally and globally.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Todd Horton

615-302-3336

todd1966@aol.com

MEETINGS: WILL RESUME AUGUST 2001

Apr 1 No April foolin' around when it comes to the Devil's Backbone today! We need your help completing the Devil's Backbone trail before its dedication ceremony in mid-April. It should take just a few hours for us to do the trail maintenance and blazing required to completing this 4½-mile trail. Tools and materials will be provided. No experience is required, free on-site training is provided. The more volunteers, the merrier. Bring snacks, water and wear clothes you don't mind getting messy. We'll meet in the afternoon (1pm-ish CDT) near the gym at Columbia State Community College. Please call to pre-register (and confirm meeting time) so we'll have an ample supply of tools and materials for the group. Call Todd Horton: 615-302-3336.

Apr 8 Little Swan trail at the historic Meriwether Lewis site along the Natchez Trace Parkway. After a pretty drive along the Natchez Trace Parkway we will exit the NTP at milepost 384 for this 4-mile loop-hike that is rated moderate. Moderate, due to the elevation changes. We will meet 1pm CDT at Columbia State Community College near the gym. Bring snacks and water. For information and to pre-register, phone Mike Serkownek: 931-388-9160, or email him: serkowne@usit.net

HIKE REPORT:

On Feb 24, six people braved the cloudy (but rainless) skies to hike Short Springs SNA, in Tullahoma, where we saw a spectacular flow at Machine Falls. A few wildflowers were out (sorry, no names were volunteered).

HIKE PRE-REGISTRATION ?

Why ? Our hike leaders are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you in the event their hike needs to be cancelled by pre-registering! Please, be considerate and pre-register.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Keith Mertz 865-376-4827 keithmertz@hotmail.com

Apr 14 Frozen Head SP&NA. Wartburg, TN. Wildflowers should be at their peak in mid-April. We will begin this hike at the Panther Branch trailhead and follow it to its intersection with North Old Mac and then turn left and follow North Old Mac to the top. We will go to the fire tower if enough people want to and if visibility is good. Our path down will be via South Old Mac and Judge Branch to the parking lot. Total mileage is around 8 miles and rated moderate. Bring lunch, water, and dress appropriately for the weather. Meet 9am EDT at the Frozen Head visitor's center. For further information and to pre-register, phone Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827, or email him: keithmertz@hotmail.com

Apr 29 White Oak Sinks, GSMNP. Although this trail is not maintained by the park service, there has been enough foot traffic to make this a very good trail into the White Oak Sinks. We will visit a waterfall, bat cave (now gated), a couple of large sinkholes, and see evidence of early pioneer habitation. If our timing is right, we should see an abundance of wildflowers. This hike will be about 5 or 6 miles and is rated moderate due to a climb out of the sinks. Meet 9am EDT in the parking lot at the intersection of Laurel Creek Rd. and Little River Rd. at the Townsend entrance to the GSMNP, commonly referred to as the 'Wye'. Bring lunch and water. For further information and to pre-register, call Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827, or email him: keithmertz@hotmail.com

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICER:

Frederick Belton 901-327-3674
fbelton@hotmail.com

ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Norrid 901-382-4227
gnorrid@yahoo.com

MEETS: 3rd Thur 7pm, Germantown Library (Sept-May)

Mar 31-Apr 1 Upper Buffalo Wilderness Adventure Hike, Ozark-St Francis NF. Northwest AK. Frederick Belton will lead a weekend of adventure hikes in the UBWA. Accommodations available close by are Gordon's Motel as well as a free camping area (without facilities, on private property, with cliffs and a waterfall) 3 miles west of Jasper. Campers need to arrive before dark on Fri Mar 30 where we'll gather at 6pm CST in the front of Gordon's Motel. For additional information and to pre-register, call Frederick Belton: 901-327-3674(h) or 901-678-2377(w). *NOTE: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins over the course of this weekend, our clocks need to be moved forward 1 hour before retiring Sat night.*

On Sat we'll meet 7:30am CST at a local motel to carpool to Boxley via Ponca and then by a steep gravel road to Kapark Cemetery wilderness access parking area. The hike to Bowers Hollow waterfall is mostly flat on an old logging road but with steep (and very short) off-trail sections near the falls. Total distance is approximately 6 miles roundtrip (and is not a loop trail). This is one of the most beautiful spots on the Buffalo watershed and is not visited by many people.

On Sun we'll hike the Round Mountain trail near Jasper for cliff views and scenic vistas or King's Bluff trail near Pelsor to a spectacular waterfall and cliffs. (cont.)

MEMPHIS CHAPTER (cont.)

Apr 19 **MONTHLY MEETING:** Here's a second chance to experience Frederick Belton's Romania adventure. Frederick, a world adventure traveler, will present a slide show on his hiking trips in Eastern Europe, focusing on Romania and a corner of Slovakia. Highlights will include the Transylvanian Alps, Dracula's castle, a bit of spelunking in the Apuseni mountains, and the spectacular Piatra Craiului ridge traverse. The show will conclude with the exciting ladder trails of Slovensky Raj National Park. Bring a friend to hear Frederick's exciting stories.

Apr 21 Big Hill Pond State Park. Pocahtontas, TN. This is an 8-mile loop hike and is rated moderate. Pack lunch and water. Boots providing ankle support are strongly recommended. Car-poolers will meet 7:30am CDT at the Borders Books on Poplar and Kirby Parkway (Care Four Shopping Plaza), or you can meet us at 9:30am CDT at the boat dock in the park. For more information, call Gloria Norrid: 901-382-4227.

May 5 Mousetail Landing State Park. Parsons, TN. This is an 8-mile loop hike and is rated moderate with some steep and rugged hills. Car-poolers will meet 7am CDT at the Borders Books on Poplar and Kirby Parkway (Care Four Shopping Plaza). The hike will start 9:30am from the park's visitor's center. For more information, call Margaret Dixon: 901-795-8634.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Fount Bertram 615-765-5357
fwbertram@hotmail.com

MEETS: 2nd Tues, 7pm, Wilderness Station @ Barfield-Crescent Park, 697 Barfield Rd.

Apr 8 Hidden Springs trail, Cedars of Lebanon SP. Lebanon, TN. This is an easy 5-mile loop hike that passes through glade flowers and by a BIG sinkhole. With luck, we may see *Nashville Breadroot*, a cousin of the Texas Bluebonnet. This park is located just south of I-40 (exit 238 Murf/Leb) on Highway 231 between Murfreesboro and Lebanon. Bring drinking water and wear boots. We'll meet 1pm CDT at the park entrance. Car-poolers can pre-arrange to meet at either the I-40/Hwy 231 Cone station or at my house in Rutherford County. For information, carpool meeting time/location and to pre-register, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278(h), 615-254-5461(w), or email her: heloisew@bellsouth.net

Apr 10 **MONTHLY MEETING & OPEN HOUSE.** Everyone is invited to come see our new meeting facility! In addition to a brief business meeting, we'll have a tour of the area and show you what we're doing in the park. Our meeting is in the Wilderness Station in the Barfield-Crescent Park, located right off Barfield-Crescent Road. Take Hwy 231 South toward Shelbyville and turn right. The park is about ½ mile on the left. Go around behind the ball fields and make a right on the first road. Turn left at the stop sign and it will take you right to the Wilderness Station. To get an accurate count of guests attending and to better plan the refreshments we're providing, please call in your rsvp to Fount Bertam: 615-765-5357. (cont. on pg. 5)

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

(cont. from pg. 4)

- Apr 15 Flat Rock Cedar Glade Preserve. Murfreesboro, TN. We have received special permission from The Nature Conservancy to visit this beautiful and protected area. Flat Rock is TNC of Tennessee's largest cedar glade preserve, protecting over 600 acres of habitat acquired in conjunction with the Tennessee State Natural Areas Program. The complex of rock outcrop glades, grassland barrens, and woodland plant communities found at Flat Rock represents some of the Southeastern United States' rarest natural habitats. This hike is short and rated easy. After exploring Flat Rock, if we have time, and there is interest in seeing the Snail Shell cave area, we'll go there also. For additional information, meeting time and location, and to pre-register, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278(h), 615-254-5461(w), or email her: heloisew@bellsouth.net
- Apr 21 Burns Branch of the Garrison Creek trail, Natchez Trace wildflower hike. Leipers Fork, TN. Join us for a short but very scenic spring wildflower extravaganza on the upper section of the Natchez Trace. We'll meet at Garrison Creek at 9:30am CDT. Directions: Take Hwy 96 West from Franklin and go South on the Natchez Trace to the first stop, Garrison Creek. At Garrison Creek we'll proceed to the trailhead at the TN Valley Ridge and hike 1-mile back (North) to Burns Branch. The trail is downhill. We'll cross a shallow creek with stepping stones 4 or 5 times. From Burns Branch, we'll arrange a shuttle back to TN Valley Ridge. Bring lunch and water. For additional information and/or to pre-register, call Bertha Chrietzberg: 615-896-1146, or email her: bertha@hotcom.net

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Dan Brennan 615-599-4713
osrwodan@aol.com

MEETS: 4th Tues, 7pm, Radnor Lake Visitor's Center, Granny White Pike

HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

EARTH DAY EVENT: Sat Apr 21 The Nashville Chapter has been invited to participate in Team Green's *Earth Day Festival 2001!!* The festival will be held from noon to 5pm CDT at the Green Hills YMCA. Team Green (the outdoors club sponsored by WRLT-FM100 radio station) will provide live music, performances and food. We will have tables to answer questions and distribute material about TTA. They are estimating the attendance to be 3,000 to 5,000 people. Not only is this a great way to publicize our organization, we will also receive a share of the profits from food and T-shirt sales. We need happy-faced volunteers to help set-up, staff and break-down our tables!! There will be two-hour shifts: 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p, and 5p-until we break-down our tables. This is a great service opportunity for all chapter members. Please donate your time and enthusiasm to this project so we can have a good showing. Volunteer today! Call Dan Brennan: 615-599-4713, or email him: osrwodan@aol.com See you there!

(cont.)

NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont.)

- Apr 1 Bearwaller Gap Trail. Carthage, TN. This is a one-way hike and will require a car shuttle. The trail is 6 miles and is rated easy to moderate. Moderate, only for the short climb out at the end of the hike. This is Corps of Engineers property where the trail follows the shoreline of the Cumberland River and provides many overlooks of Cordell Hull Lake. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We'll meet 9:30am CDT (**REMEMBER:** daylight savings time began at 2am this morning. Don't forget to forward your clock one-hour before retiring on Sat evening.) at Kinko's/K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike, exit 216-C off I-40. For additional information and/or to pre-register, call Diane Manas 615-352-7777.
- Apr 4 Montgomery Bell SP. Burns, TN. Not working or need an excuse to take the day off? Time to check out the wildflowers of MBSP. We'll have a choice here, 7½ or 11½ miles, and the terrain on both is rated easy. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.
- Apr 7 Mammoth Cave Off Trail Wildflower Hike. Mammoth Cave, KY. Hike off trail in a seldom-visited part of Mammoth Cave NP. We will hike 5-7 miles off trail and explore a variety of terrain and habitats near the Houchins Ferry. Sturdy hiking boots providing ankle support are required as well as a tolerance of off-trail conditions. As a reward, expect to find a variety of wild flowers blooming (depending on the previous weather). We will meet 6:30am CDT and carpool from the Goodlettsville K-Mart parking lot (Exit 97 of I-65). For additional information and/or to pre-register, call Richard Horvath: 270-586-0178.
- Apr 11 Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Come and enjoy the spring wildflowers of Percy Warner on a weekday. We have the option to hike 4½ or 7 miles. We will meet 9am CDT at the Deep Well trailhead parking area off of Hwy 100. For additional information and/or to pre-register, call Elizabeth Gerlock: 615-356-6260.
- Apr 11 Edwin Warner Park Evening Hike. Nashville, TN. Leave your hiking boots at home tonight because we're going soft-soled (tennis shoes recommended) as we pound the pavement of this 2½-mile hike on the paved roads in Edwin Warner Park. You will need a flashlight because the sun will be setting soon after we start walking. Meet 6:45pm CDT at the Edwin Warner Main Entrance parking area off Hwy 100 (¼ mile west of the Nature Center). The hike will begin at 7pm and we'll finish by 8:30pm. No RSVP required. If you have questions, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.
- Apr 14 Beaman Park Trail Workday. Joelton, TN. The Friends of Beaman Park, in keeping with their once per month commitment to build and maintain hiking trails for our enjoyment, have invited us out to help from 9am-1pm CDT. Hey it's only ½ day! This month the focus is on making improvements to the 2-mile loop. For information and to volunteer, call Dave Walton: 615-646-5355.
- Apr 14 Frozen Head SP&NA. Wartburg, TN. Wildflowers should be at their peak by now. We will begin this hike at the Panther Branch trailhead and follow it to its intersection with North Old Mac and then follow North Old Mac to the top, on to the fire tower. Our path down will be via South Old Mac and Judge Branch to the parking lot. This is a one-way hike and requires a short car-shuttle. This hike is around 8 miles on terrain rated moderate to difficult due to the continual climb in elevation until we reach the top. Bring snacks, lunch, water and dress appropriately for the weather. For additional information or, to pre-register and obtain meeting time/location, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

(cont. on pg. 6)

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont. from pg. 5)

- Apr 15 Short Springs SNA and Bluebell Island. Tullahoma & Pelman, TN. Yes, we will be hiking on Easter. Short Springs is an easy 5-mile hike that will be followed by a short drive and a walk of 1 mile around Blue Bell Island. Getting to the island requires climbing over a BIG felled tree, and the mosquitoes on the island are known for their voraciousness, so long sleeves are recommended. We'll meet in the parking lot of Target on Bell Rd/I-24. For meeting time and to pre-register, call Charlie or Jennifer Hann: 615-941-1503.
- Apr 18 Jack L. Parker Millennium trail, Edgar Evins SP. Silver Point, TN. Not working or need an excuse to take the day off? The plan is to first hike the JLPM trail. This trail is about 3½ miles and rated moderate. If time allows, we'll hike an additional 2 miles on a different trail in the park, also rated moderate, that is quite scenic as it winds its way around the edge of the lake. Hiking boots with ankle support are highly recommended. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.
- Apr 21 **EARTH DAY** - see *Earth Day Event announcement on pg. 5*.
- Apr 22 Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge trails, Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. We have a choice. This hike will be either 4½ or 7 miles and will be decided by a vote of those who show up. We will meet 9am CDT at the trailhead in the Deep Well parking area off of Hwy 100. For additional information, call Jim or Marietta Poteet: 615-824-7666.
- Apr 24 **PRE-MEETING DINNER** at Ruby Tuesday in Brentwood, next to the REI. Meet Paul Smith anytime after 5pm CDT and we'll hang out until 6:45-ish. Reservations are not required. Bring \$\$\$. If you need additional information, call Paul: 615-832-9388.
- MONTHLY MEETING:** Look at our club's newsletter for any month and you'll see that TTA members are frequent visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. And of course, we're not the only ones. What are the effects of high user traffic on the park? Are we "loving our park to death?" We'll hear about that issue and others this month as Bob Miller visits from the GSMNP's Public Affairs office, updating us on the state of the Park.
- Apr 25 Edwin Warner Park Evening Hike. Nashville, TN. Leave your hiking boots at home tonight because we're going soft-soled (tennis shoes recommended) as we pound the pavement of this 2½-mile hike on the paved roads in Edwin Warner Park. You will need a flashlight because the sun will be setting soon after we start walking. Meet 6:45pm at the Edwin Warner Main Entrance parking area off Hwy 100 (¼ mile west of the Nature Center). The hike will begin at 7pm and we'll finish by 8:30pm. No RSVP required. If you have questions, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.
- Apr 28 Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail Newcomers Hike. Ashland City, TN. Haven't hiked with TTA yet, or on an old railroad bed? The terrain is F-L-A-T, easy and doesn't require hiking boots. Soft-soled shoes are welcome. Afterward we'll gather at a local restaurant for a snack, lunch, whatever and socialize. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Dan Brennan: 615-599-4713.

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NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont.)

- Apr 28 Maude's Crack and John Muir Trail, Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. Come see Maude's Crack! We'll hike down through Maude's Crack and up No Business Creek to the John Muir Overlook in BSFNRRRA. Then we'll hike along the John Muir trail to Massey Branch and Rock Creek and end up at the Blevins Cemetery. This is a one-way, moderately strenuous, 15-mile hike that requires a car shuttle. Therefore, pre-register is required. For additional information, meeting time and location, and to pre-register, call Richard Horvath: 270-586-0178.
- Apr 29 Fiery Gizzard / Raven Point hike, Grundy Forest State Natural Area. Tracy City, TN. The plan is to go in on the Grundy Forest Day Loop over to the Fiery Gizzard trail, then climb out of the creek gorge to Raven Point. This segment will be the most difficult part of our hike. Fiery Gizzard is known for the many rock-hops and therefore this hike is rated moderate to strenuous. We'll return on the Dog Hole trail. The entire hike is almost 9 miles, has excellent sights and views along the way, plus wildflowers! Hiking boots with ankle support are required! Bring snacks, lunch and water. We'll meet at the Target parking lot on Bell Rd at I-24. For meeting time and to pre-register, call Ewing Farley: 615-978-9889. **PLEASE NOTE:** You are calling Ewing's pager. It is not a voice-activated service. After the 3 beep tones, key in your phone number, w/area code, and hang up.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Jim Clark 731-587-7369 jclark@utm.edu
Joe Seago 731-587-8405 joeseago@backpacker.com

MEETS: 2nd Thur, 7pm, UT Martin Campus, Boling
University Center, Room 230

website: <http://mug.utm.edu/trails>

MAR MTG ANNOUNCEMENTS: The March meeting was rescheduled for Mar 6th to accommodate our guest speaker, Larry Smith of the Wolf River Conservancy. Chapter members have expressed an interest in trail maintenance at Garrett Lake, managed by TWRA, located between Martin and Paris. This trail was begun a couple years ago as a hiking/biking trail and fallen into disuse.

APR MTG: Details about April's meeting were not available at press time. As soon as a meeting date is decided, we will post it with the time and location to our website.

HIKE SCHEDULE:

Apr 28 Ghost River Canoe Trip. Our guide on this trip will be Larry Smith of the Wolf River Conservancy. For additional information and to pre-register, call Joe Seago: 731-587-8405.

HIKE REPORT:

After 4 days of rain, Sat., Feb. 17, dawned clear and cold - a great day for a hike at Nathan Bedford Forrest SHA. Chris Fox led us on the 5-mile route. This was a great day to be out! All the streams were flowing, and the views of the Tennessee River are tremendous. It is easy to extend this route to about 8½ miles (the published distance is 10, but because of some trail closings the route is shortened), but this morning's group elected to stick to the 5-mile route. This is the 2nd time the Northwest Chapter has hiked this route, last time was with the Memphis and Clarksville chapters last winter. The route traverses high ridges and creek bottoms that flow into the Tennessee River.

**ATTN: NASHVILLE, MURFREESBORO,
AND COLUMBIA**

Want to watch some serious eco-adventure films?

For 25 years, the Banff Mountain Film Festival has been celebrating the spirit of adventure and the mountain environment via a 3-day event held in the city of Banff, Canada, located in the Canadian Rockies. Today, the best films from each year's festival go on tour immediately following the event.

The BMFF tour makes its only stop in TN at the Belcourt Theater in Hillsboro Village in Nashville on Friday April 8 at 8pm CDT. Tickets are \$10 and available now at the Cool Springs location of Blue Ridge Mountain Sports or may be purchased the day of the show at the Belcourt Theater. All proceeds from the ticket sales will be used to help fund the preservation of this historic Hillsboro Village movie theater.

REMEMBER TRAIL TALK?

The free informative weekly program offered to the public by Blue Ridge Mountain Sports? Where everyone is invited to hear invited guests and store personnel share their knowledge and experience about the outdoors? Well, it's back. Call the Cool Springs store location to get their April schedule of topics.

HEY Y'ALL, IT'S NOT TOO LATE ...

Mark your calendars now for **TTA'S** next **ANNUAL MEETING**, the weekend of Nov 9-11, 2001. The Great Smoky Mountains NP will provide the backdrop to our fun-filled weekend of activities at CarsonSprings of Camp Carson in Newport, TN. The Plateau Chapter is our hosts for this year's Annual Meeting. Watch for further announcements in upcoming newsletters.

**PLATEAU CHAPTER
(Crossville)**

CHAPTER OFFICER: Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466

MEETS: 3rd Thurs, 7pm, Crossville Housing Authority

There is an informal, leaderless hike every Wednesday morning at 9:30am CDT. Meet at the boat launch area of the Cumberland Mountain State Park. The hikes are moderately paced and may average 5-6 miles. For additional information, call Bill Haynes: 931-707-7606. Rain cancels.

Apr 14 Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness. Sparta, TN. This hike is 8 miles roundtrip and rated difficult only for the steep climb out however, the hiker is rewarded with a beautiful falls before the ascent! Bring lunch and water. We'll meet 8am CDT in the Kroger parking lot in Crossville. For additional information, call Bill Eldridge: 931-456-4459.

Apr 19 **MONTHLY MEETING:** Leslie Morgan, with the BSFNRRRA, is our guest and will present a program on how the bears are acclimating to that area and discuss the Elk Release program. This very informative program is not one you will want to miss! See you at 7pm CDT.

Apr 28 Smoky Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail. Lake City, TN. This is a one-way hike requiring a car shuttle. We'll start at the top of Cross Mtn. and hike the 5 miles down, on terrain rated moderate, to our cars. This is the newest segment of the CT, which has been extended in length during the recent CTC spring BreakAway program, involving nearly 100 students and 70 volunteers. We'll revel in the beautiful wildflowers we'll see on the top of Cross Mtn. Come cheer on the work efforts of your hiking peers. Bring lunch, water, and your wildflower book! We'll meet 7am CDT at Hardee's on Peavine Rd in Crossville. For additional information, call Rob Weber: 423-533-2620.

**UPPER CUMBERLAND
CHAPTER
(Sparta / Cookeville)**

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Helen Angelmier 931-858-5947
helena@cookeville.com
Sue Bass 931-528-1386
take-a-hike@onemain.com

Apr 21 Bridgestone/Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Ross Cardwell, a very knowledgeable and popular hike leader in this area, will take us on the Polly's Branch trail. We should see lots of wildflowers. Depending on how much rain we have had, we may do part of a new trail Carl Cude (of TWRA) has been working on called "The River Trail". The hike will be about 6 miles and rated moderate. Meet 11:30am CDT at the First Union Bank in Sparta, or 12 noon at the Polly's Branch trailhead. (NOTE: Hunters will have this area until 12 noon. You may want to wear some international orange for visibility.) For additional information and/or to pre-register, call Ross Cardwell: 931-836-3552, or email him: riverwood@blomand.net

Apr 28 Twin Arches, Big South Fork NRA. Jamestown, TN. This is the largest natural bridge complex in the state of Tennessee. The hike is 5½ miles and rated moderate to difficult. Meet 8am CDT at Penney's in Cookeville, or 9:30am CDT at the Twin Arches trailhead. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED. Please call Sue Bass: 931-528-1386 or email her: take-a-hike@onemain.com

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 5 Piney River Pocket Wilderness. Spring City, TN.
May 19 Cumberland Mountain SP. Crossville, TN.
June 9 Savage Gulf SNA. Monteagle, TN.

HIKE REPORTS:

On Feb. 8, ten of our group took a hike to Savage Gulf SNA. It was a beautiful day with the temperature reaching about 70 degrees promising that spring isn't too far off.

On Feb. 17, after a week of heavy rain, today's weather forecast was promising. Eight brave souls were met at the Savage Gulf Greeter Falls/Rim Trail trailhead by Dick Lutz (Nashville Chapter) and Jim Howell, a first time visitor. Although a member, this was Julie Officer's first hike - hopefully it won't be her last. What a day! After doing a shuttle, we started at the Greeter Falls parking lot and returned via the Rim Trail to the Stone Door Ranger's Station, approximately 6 miles in all. The amount of water coming over the falls was awesome and the sound deafening. Just spectacular! We lunched at a beautiful overlook near Alum campground. The challenge of the day was how to cross a stream (not usually there) without getting wet feet. Some pulled off boots and waded, others attempted to rock-hop while the majority opted to take advantage of a fallen tree by sitting down and scooting across. Dry boots equal wet seats! Those of you who missed this one, missed a fun day. See you on the trail!

Reported by Wayne & Bonnie Broadway

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

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 Resource Manager..... Arleen Scheller..... scheller@usit.net
 Program Coordinator..... Tanya Meachen tmeachen@onemain.com
 Office Manager..... Susan Weber sweber1@usit.net

Office Location	19 East 4 th Street Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours	8am-5pm
Phone:	931-456-6259
Fax:	931-456-4934
Email:	cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com
Website:	www.cumberlandtrail.org

HIKES PLANNED

On Apr 28: See the spectacular wildflowers (and we do mean spectacular) on Cross Mountain on the Smoky Mountain segment of the CT, near Cove Lake SP. Cross Mountain is the highest elevation on the CT. The hike is 5 miles and rated moderate. Meet 7am CDT at the Hardee's on Peavine Rd. (Exit 322 on I-40 near Crossville) For additional information and/or to pre-register, call the CTC office.

ARE YOUR PACK'S READY?

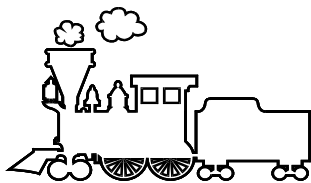
CTC will be offering many BackCountry outings in the coming months. Our leaders are volunteers who have been trained in basic and advanced trail-building skills, as well as First-Aid/CPR. Support these leaders and the CT by signing up today to help build the following sections of the Cumberland Trail!

April 6-8 Join CTC volunteer, Dennis Crowley, as he leads volunteers on the Smoky Mountain segment to construct new trail between the Spring and Greens Branches. Participants will backpack ½ mile into Montgomery Fork campsite to set up a base camp and then work to connect sections of the trail completed during other programs.

April 26-29 Jim Schroeder will follow in the footsteps of Dennis and his crew to lead another outing on the Smoky Mountain segment. Participants will pick up where Dennis' crew left off and continue to work toward Greens Branch.

For additional information and to volunteer, phone Tanya Meachen: 931-456-6259, or email her: tmeachen@onemain.com

2nd Annual Cumberland Trail Auction Saturday, April 21 Chattanooga Choo-Choo



Auction Itinerary

Cocktails & Silent Auction starts at 5:30pm (EDT)
 Dinner & Live Auction starts at 6:30pm (EDT)

*A block of rooms has been reserved for CTC guests.
 Call the Choo-Choo to make your reservations. 800-872-2529*

Here's a Sneak Preview of Items Donated!!

"Rainbow Falls" Painting by Jim Wright	CT Fly-over for 3 by Southwings Aviation	A Cave (really!)
Handmade "Bear Claw" Quilt	Rock Climbing Outing for 3	Kayak
Overnight Stay for 10 at Pot Point House	Sunset Dinner for 4 on Black Mtn	Birdhouses
Rappelling Trip for 4 at Hiwassee/Ocoee	Woodcarvings by Smoky Mtns. Woodcarvers Club and Crossville Carvers Club	Goodyear Tires
Great Smoky Mtns. Railway Excursion	Real Redwood Picnic Table & Benches	Copper Garden Sculptures
Fall Creek Falls Vacation	Pottery & Stained Glass	
Tents for Small & Large Pickups	All sorts of outdoor gear and clothing	

Plus, loads of door prizes! And, a heck of a lot more! You'll have to come to the auction to find out what!

DETACH THIS REPLY CARD, ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK & MAIL TO THE CTC OFFICE

2nd Annual Cumberland Trail Auction Reply Card

I would like to purchase:

Please print clearly

<input type="checkbox"/> Day Hikers \$35.00 per person	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thru-Hiker Table \$500.00 (Includes tickets for 8)	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot attend, but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____	City _____ State ____ Zip _____
	Daytime Phone (____) _____

Please return this RSVP by April 18, 2001

Make checks payable to: Cumberland Trail Conference • 19 East 4th St • Crossville, TN • 38555

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 ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

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Newsletter Deadlines:

Announcements and articles
 received on/before April 10th
 will appear in our
 May 1st newsletter.

Please send all submissions to:

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 615-352-7777

e-mail: dianemanas@home.com

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper

865-689-7757

h.m.draper@att.net

Have you considered ...

Maintaining a particular trail or section of trail?

Through the cooperation of land managers, who periodically inform us of volunteer opportunities, TTA can put you in touch with several Adopt-A-Trail programs, or offer suggestions on how to approach local land managers in your area.

The Adopt-A-Trail program is quite simple and flexible. Volunteers or chapters select the trail they wish to adopt and at the same time determine the level of trail maintenance they wish to undertake. Their only commitment is to hike, inspect, and report on the trail's conditions and maintenance needs twice per year. Light trail maintenance (clipping, pruning, trash and minor blow-down removal) is encouraged during each inspection. Serious trail problems identified will be reported to the local land management agency for resolution.

To obtain an Adopt-A-Trail or Trail Inspection form,
 call Harold Draper: 865-689-7757

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Pascoe

615-382-4443

screendoor@bigfoot.com

website: <http://members.aol.com/trac2trail/depot.htm>

MISSION: *To act as a resource and mentor for the planning, development and management of rail-trails throughout the State of Tennessee for the purposes of appropriate recreation, preservation of rail corridors and alternate transportation, in order to benefit the general public, communities, commerce and tourism.*

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ Hiking Tennessee Trails, 5th Edition \$12.95
 _____ TTA Patch..... 3.00
 Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.
 _____ TTA Window Decal 1.00
 A must for each car.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Home Ph (____) _____ Work Ph (____) _____

Mail your check payable to:

*Tennessee Trails Association
 c/o Marietta Poteet
 324 Raintree Drive
 Hendersonville, TN 37075*

*Please allow 4 weeks for delivery and prices shown
 include postage.*

Tennessee Trails Association
P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204-1446

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NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below. If you fail to re-apply we will send you one newsletter and a reminder notice. If you have not re-applied by this time, your membership will terminate.

PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

YES, I WANT TO JOIN TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, I AM ...

A NEW MEMBER

RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

(Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.)

Please Mail This Form To:

Membership Director

P.O. Box 41446

Nashville, TN 37204-1446

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

- ___ Individual \$25.00
- ___ Family \$35.00
- ___ Student \$15.00
- ___ Life Member \$500.00
- ___ Supporting (\$200.00, \$100.00, \$50.00 or other)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____

Work Phone (____) _____

email _____

Please do not list my e-mail address in the TTA Annual Membership Directory

Please list me with the following chapter:

- ___ Big South Fork
- ___ Clarksville
- ___ Columbia
- ___ Cove Lake
- ___ East TN(Oak Ridge/Knoxville)
- ___ Memphis
- ___ Murfreesboro
- ___ Nashville
- ___ Northwest(UT at Martin/Weakley)
- ___ Plateau(Crossville)
- ___ Upper Cumberland(Sparta/Cookeville)
- ___ At Large

...volunteer ?...

endless opportunities
available
contact your local
Chapter Chairperson

When you become a TTA member, you will receive a monthly newsletter containing information on hiker safety, upcoming hikes / overnight trips, volunteer opportunities, chapter meeting announcements as well as events occurring within TTA's Associate Organizations: C.T.C. and T.R.A.C. You are invited to attend any number of monthly meetings scheduled, where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. Each April you will receive the Membership Directory listing members by chapter and how to reach them. Every spring and fall we meet at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie and where the board members can meet to exchange ideas and hear reports on TTA's progress.

As a member of TTA, you are welcome to attend all TTA / CTC / TRAC functions.