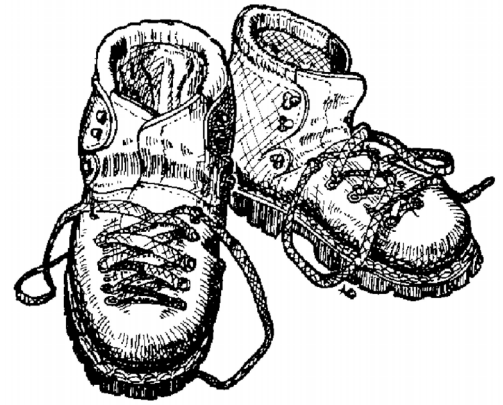


TENNESSEE TRAILS

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



Protect the "Gorge-ous Gorges" \$450,000 Still Needed

"We're making the final push to make the last payment by June 30 on the *Gorge-ous Gorges* for the Cumberland Trail State Park!" reports Arleen Scheller, CTC Resource Manager. In the last TTA newsletter, we made an appeal to our TTA membership to help us raise \$887,000 to protect Rock, Possum, and Soddy Creek Gorges in northern Hamilton County for the Cumberland Trail (30 miles of trail corridor). "We are pleased to report that we've collected approximately \$430,000 towards that debt since the last newsletter, leaving a balance of \$450,000 still due.

(cont. on pg. 10)

National Trails Day *Hike for Health* On the Cumberland Trail Saturday, June 1

Walking is good for you ...walking in the woods is even better! Celebrate American Hiking Society's National Trails Day by getting out and doing something healthy for your body, soul, and spirit ...and help raise funds for the Cumberland Trail at the same time. Tennessee Trails Association is sponsoring "*Hike for Health*" on the Cumberland Trail in four locations: Chattanooga, Crossville, Wartburg, and Caryville (Knoxville area). (See below for hike details.) The Hike for Health is sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee, REI, Covenant Health System, and Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Hike participants will receive free Cumberland Trail T-shirts!

This is a fundraising hike to help the nonprofit Cumberland Trail Conference finish raising the \$3 million dollars needed to complete the 283-mile Cumberland Trail from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap. **IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YET, YOU CAN AT ANY OF THE MEETING LOCATIONS** (see pg. 2) **ON JUNE 1ST**. The registration fee is \$20 for adults, \$8 for children. For driving directions, visit the Cumberland Trail Conference web site (www.cumberlandtrail.org), or call the CTC office at 931-456-6259.

(cont. on pg. 2)

TRAC Railtrail Advocates Plan for Action and Patience

On Saturday, May 4, TRAC railtrail advocates from different communities around Tennessee met in Sewanee to talk about current projects, organization, and advocacy. Three projects are slowly making progress:

- The Ashland City/Cumberland Bicentennial Trail group is holding public events and planning for a trail extension into Ashland City. They have held senior days and clean-up days in preparation for wildflower walks and trail users in the spring.
- The Hiwassee River corridor advocates are following the developments of the Polk County/CSX negotiations. They are planning for an advocates' meeting in Polk County near the Ocoee River on Thursday, May 30.

The New River Valley trail advocates are waiting for abandonment developments on the corridor that may eventually connect the Big South Fork and the Cumberland Trail. This project has broad support among citizens groups, county officials, and economic development advocates in the immediate area. (cont. on pg. 11)



Nov. 8-10, 2002

Annual Meeting

Make your plans now!

This year, we're gathering at beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park in Spencer, TN.

See the insert with this newsletter for additional information and a Registration Form.

National Trail Days (cont. from pg. 1)

Please be sure to bring your sense of wonder and adventure! Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots, and bring plenty of water, snacks, and lunch for longer hikes, and sunscreen. Please, no pets, bicycles, or baby strollers.

Hikes Offered (listed by location within the state, then ♦trail name, length and difficulty rating: E=Easy, M=Moderate, D=Difficult)

Caryville – Cumberland Mtn. Segment

- ♦ Devil's Racetrack Overlook, 2 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Volunteer Loop, 1¼ miles, E
- MEET** at CTSP parking lot Bruce Gap/Butter N Egg Rd. at 9am EASTERN TIME.
Sponsored by Covenant Health System, TTA Cove Lake and East Tennessee Chapters

Chattanooga – Tennessee River Gorge Segment

- ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Middle Creek Bridge, 2 miles, E
 - ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Edwards Point, 5 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Hwy 27 N. Suck Creek, 8 miles, M-D
- MEET** at Signal Point Nat'l Park at 9am EASTERN TIME.
- ♦ Pot Point Loop, Prentice Cooper WMA, 10 miles, M
- MEET** at the CT parking lot in Prentice Cooper WMA at 10am EASTERN TIME.
Sponsored by TTA Columbia, Highland Rim, Murfreesboro, Nashville Chapters

Crossville – Grassy Cove, Stinging Fork, Piney River Segments

- ♦ Black Mountain, 3.5 miles, E
 - ♦ Brady Mountain, 5 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Stinging Fork Falls, 3 miles, E
 - ♦ Piney River, White Pine Cascades, 4 miles, E
- MEET** at Cumberland Mtn. State Park swimming pool parking lot 9am CENTRAL TIME.
Sponsored by TTA Plateau and Upper Cumberland Chapters, and Blue Ridge Mtn. Sports

Wartburg – Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment

- ♦ Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford, 4 miles, E
 - ♦ Nemo Bridge to BreakAway Bluff, 9 miles, M-D
- MEET** at Nemo Bridge Day Use & Picnic Area at 9am EASTERN TIME.
Sponsored by TTA Big South Fork Chapter

THE "10* ESSENTIALS"

Before you head out on the trail, check your pack to be sure it contains the following items:

- whistle
- food
- compass
- hat/sunglasses
- water
- map
- flashlight
- rain gear/extra clothing
- 1st aid kit
- fire starter

Other considerations:

- leave someone a copy of your hiking plans
- hiking poles
- common sense

* This list is not to be considered cast in concrete – and should be customized to each outdoor enthusiast's needs.

Drink Up !

Pure water is vital to health. Our bodies cannot store water, so we must drink constantly. The need for water is driven by temperature, metabolism and work. Our bodies perspire to control the body's core temperature during exercise, such as hiking. Water is also needed by the body for breaking down and metabolizing our food intake. Even while resting, we can lose 4 pints (2 liters) of water per day just through normal perspiration, breathing and urination.

Hiking is a strenuous activity, and adequate hydration is crucial for optimal performance and health.

How much water to drink? Drink frequently, between 1 to 2 cups of water per hour and before you feel thirsty, to avoid dehydration. (A good sign that you've drunk enough water - clear urine! Cloudy or colored urine indicates the need to drink more.) You can be slightly dehydrated and not feel thirsty. The signs and symptoms of dehydration may include fatigue, flushed skin, headache, dizziness, chest pain, irritability, feeling tired, and cramps. Extreme cases of dehydration could lead to death.

If you've run out of water, and as long as you're close to a water source, most water can be made fit to drink. Never assume the water source to be safe - even if the water is fast flowing, crystal clear and cold. How you purify your water is a matter of preference; however, some methods are safer than others.

One of the most reliable methods of purifying your water is to boil it. This requires a heat source and a container to boil the water – items not common to a day hiker's backpack. Another effective treatment is to use purification tablets (iodine). They are lightweight and easy to use. One pill purifies one quart of water in about 10 minutes. A drawback to iodine tablets is the bad taste it leaves in the water. However, neutralizer tablets placed into the water after the purification process will eliminate the iodine aftertaste. Finally, there are filters. Water is hand pumped through a narrow intake hose, where it passes into a filter assembly for purification, then exits ready to drink. Filters don't leave a bad aftertaste, weigh as little as ¼ of a pound, are easy to use and remove a wide range of contaminants; both organic and inorganic.

For a day hike you may not need to consider utilizing any of the above water treatment processes – just be sure you have plenty of water for the hike, and enough to get you back into civilization.

**. . . Your Generosity . . .
. . . Benefits All . . .**

When you join or renew your Tennessee Trails membership, you have the opportunity to become a Supporting Member by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues. TTA recognizes the following Supporting Member for June 2002:

*Inez Poss (Murfreesboro Chapter)
Arleen Scheller (Plateau Chapter)*

In the past, Supporting Member donations in excess of the regular dues were allocated to TTA's general operating fund. At the November 2001 Annual Meeting, TTA's Board of Directors voted to allocate Supporting Member donations to the Evan Means Small Grants Fund. Your Supporting Member donations will now directly benefit trail projects throughout the state of Tennessee. We thank you all for your support of TTA at any membership level, but we hope you will enrich Tennessee's trail system by joining or renewing as a Supporting Member.

**Shop amazon.com
Through TTA's Website**

*You can buy your books . . .
through TTA's website and TTA benefits!*

We have an arrangement with amazon.com where TTA receives a commission on all items (books, magazines, music, electronics) purchased when you enter their site through our link. It's very easy! Go to the TTA web site (www.tennessee-trails.org), navigate to the "TO BUY!" page, then follow the link to the "VIRTUAL BOOKSTORE." Commissions are earned solely on sales made through the TTA website, therefore always enter amazon.com from the TTA website, and do not sign up for their one-click service.

Carpooling Etiquette

Gas prices made a huge jump at the end of March and have remained high. Analysts believe these high prices will stick around through the summer.

Please, be considerate and take your turn as a carpool driver. If you are a rider, always contribute to the cost of buying gasoline.

Also, each passenger needs to tidy up the area in the car where they sat by gathering and removing debris/trash before reaching the carpool meeting location.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: (call Kathy & volunteer to lead an outing)

Kathy Hicks 865-938-6846

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

June 22 Litton/Slaven Farm Loop, Big South Fork NRR. Jamestown, TN. This 6.3-mile round trip is rated moderate. The trail starts at the Bandy Creek Campground trailhead and follows the north fork of Fall Branch past a large rockhouse. The trail crosses a ridgetop and descends into a valley to the farmhouse and outbuildings built by John Litton, the first teacher in Scott County. Hikers will get a glimpse of the way families lived along the Big South Fork during the first half of the twentieth century. NOTE: this trail includes steps and ladders. We will leave at 10am EDT from the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby, or you can meet the group at the trailhead at 11am EDT. For more information, call Peter Erickson: 423-628-1615, or e-mail him: chinese@highland.net

HIKE REPORT:

The weather cooperated beautifully as a dozen hikers participated in wildflower walks to Buffalo Cove on April 20 and to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole on April 21 as part of Historic Rugby's Wildflower Extravaganza workshop. Chapter member Carrie Thornthwaite has constructed a web site with highlights of the hikes, photos, and details on the wildflower species we encountered. Visit www.rugby.thornthwaite.com/wildflower.html for Carrie's full report on a wonderful weekend, and plan to join us next spring for the second annual event.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: (call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

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

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 1 Ft. Donelson Park. Dover, TN. For those wishing to hike closer to home, join us as we hike on this historic trail, rated easy to moderate, and 7 miles long. Meet at 8am CDT in the parking area of the Kroger on Dover Road. For information, call J.R. Tate: 931-920-2692.

Jun 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Virgin Falls Backpacking Trip, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Sparta, TN. Total round trip distance covered over the 2 days is 8 miles on terrain rated difficult. Meet at 7am CDT at the Exit 11 Commuter Parking Lot. For information, call Darryl Butts: 931-645-9177.

Jun 15 **ANNUAL PICNIC** (with a hike), Rotary Park. Clarksville, TN. Tables will be ready for the food, and the trails ready for fun! We will gather at 4:30 CDT for a short hike in the area. Dinner will start at 6pm. Bring a covered dish to share. For information, call Wanda Cumberland McClusky (931-906-3338) or Suva Bastin (931-645-2849).

Jun 18 **MONTHLY MEETING** Learn hiker safety tips, hear about past and upcoming hiking trips and meet/greet members/friends. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store!

Jun 22 TN River Gorge Segment of the CT. Chattanooga, TN. We have the option to hike a 5 or 8-mile segment of the CT in this beautiful area. We'll start at Signal Point and hike 5 miles to Edward Point or carry on an additional 3 miles and end the hike at HWY 27N. In either case, the trail is rated easy to moderate. We will meet at 7am CDT at the Exit 11 Commuter Parking Lot. For information, call Suva Bastin: 931-645-2849.

Jun 29 Bowie Nature Park. Fairview, TN. This is an easy trail - approximately 6 miles. We will meet at 8am CDT in the Big Lots parking area. For information, call June Miller: 931-648-4195.

Earth Day 2002 Wrap Up

Earth Day 2002 at Centennial Park, Nashville was a huge success for TTA! A sunny April day drew a crowd of approximately 7,000 people who came to listen to live music while browsing through 60+ booths promoting outdoor recreation and environmental awareness. David and Ewing Farley arrived early and arranged tables, chairs, sawhorses, a donated TTA banner, plywood, tarps (and who knows what else?) to create an eye-catching and functional booth for the Nashville Chapter's display of hiking gear, books, maps and, of course, TTA brochures and newsletters. The Farley brothers set out complimentary GORP and gummi frogs which caught the attention of all who strolled by. Pencils imprinted with the TTA website address (Dan Brennan's fabulous idea) were handed out to interested hikers who stopped to chat with the TTA volunteers. Over 250 potential members (living throughout Tennessee) signed up for a complimentary issue of Tennessee Trails, and Matthew Calloway & Cindy Merkt joined TTA on the spot. The sale of ice-cold, bottled water (also donated by David & Ewing) raised \$90 which was later contributed to the Cumberland Trail Conference's gorge acquisition fund.

Earth Day was a great public relations event for TTA, and we thank WRLT-FM, "Lightning 100," for inviting us to participate. We also thank the following Nashville Chapter members who donated their time and enthusiasm by staffing the TTA booth in shifts throughout the day:

- ◆ Dan Brennan ◆ Marie Chitwood ◆ Becca DuBose ◆
- ◆ Ann Ercelawn ◆ the incredible Farley Brothers ◆
- ◆ Libby Francis ◆ Justine Gregory ◆ Diane Manas ◆
- ◆ Dwight McClure ◆ Jessica Moody ◆ Jim Poteet ◆
- ◆ Randy Ritterbush ◆ Paul Smith ◆ Hugh Tobin ◆
- ◆ Glenn Turner ◆ Anne Wesley ◆ Keith White ◆
- ◆ Tiffany White ◆

Al & Vera Churcher helped staff the CTC booth, conveniently located next to the TTA booth.

We hope to see you all (and many more) at Earth Day 2003!

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Siler McCarty 423-566-1291
webmaster@tnrca.org

MEETS: 3rd Thur, 6pm, First Presbyterian
Church, LaFollette

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 20 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Have any ideas for hikes (or outings) you'd like to go on, or a desire to lead a one? Your input is important this evening because we will be planning our events through the remainder of the year.

Jun 21-23 Hiking and Car-camping out of Big Creek in the GSMNP. (Newport, TN.) We have reserved the group campground for Friday and Saturday nights. With one difficult hike and two easy hikes planned, we will have something for different levels of hikers. After a group breakfast on Saturday morning, a group will be going up the Big Creek Trail for an easy 3-mile hike to a waterfall and back. A second, afternoon hike a short ways up Baxter Creek Trail will also be easy, for those who want more. Meanwhile, a group will be going 5.9 miles up to Mt. Cammerer. This will be a strenuous, all-day hike with quite a bit of elevation gain, and part of the trail on the AT. On Sat. evening we will have a cookout. With the site reserved for Sat. night, those who wish to stay over will have the option of taking on another trail on Sunday. Checkout is noon on Sunday. The group site is limited to 25 persons. If the group site space fills up, there are 12 individual sites available on a first-come, first-served basis. For information and to make your reservation in the group site, contact Richard Helm: 865-426-4472.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jul 14 Pine Mountain State Park. Pineville, KY. After an 1:30 EDT brunch at the Pine Mtn park lodge, we will be taking a series of small loop hikes in the park. We will meet at 12:30 EDT at the Eagle Bluff Market parking lot. For information, call Doris Early: 423-566-8319.

HIKE REPORTS:

On April 14, a group of 19 hiked on the Smoky Mtn segment of the Cumberland Trail, near Caryville. After shuttling up to the top of Cross Mountain, we took the 3.1-mile trail down the East side of the mountain to the trailhead near Red Ash Church. (No one, except maybe Rob W., believes that it's really only 3.1 miles – you can't convince us hikers.) Anyway, the weather was perfect, and the wildflowers were spectacular.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Russell Smith 615-790-1833 carving082334@cs.com

OUTINGS COORDINATORS: (call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Amy Overton 931-388-6363 estheroverton@aol.com

Rick Pinkelton 931-987-2530

MEETINGS: Resume in September

CHAPTER NEWS: Due to summer vacations, monthly meetings have not been planned for June – August, but we're still hiking! Watch the newsletter for upcoming outings.

At our last chapter meeting, Ed Campbell gave an interesting program regarding a Spring Break trip he and his wife, Mary had gone on in April. They traveled to the natural areas of Canaveral National Park and the Wakeva River near Orlando Fla. They camped on the beach and enjoyed hiking and canoeing and wildlife viewing. The program made us all want to join them in the near future.

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 15 **COOKOUT & HIKE.** Russell and Joyce Smith have invited us (guests are also welcome!) to their home for a cookout, and a short hike after we've eaten. In order to plan accordingly, YOU MUST RSVP. We will gather at the Smith's home at 11:30am CDT. They live in the Bethesda community in Williamson Co. To register, and for additional information and directions, contact Russell or Joyce Smith: 615-790-1833.

LOOKING AHEAD:

July Duck River Canoe Trip. For information, contact Pam Frakes:
931-388-2197

August Fall Creek Falls Backpack

TTA Web Site Update

The TTA web site has undergone major renovations over the past year and continues to be updated frequently, sometimes daily.

New features were added allowing members to submit membership information (address, phone number, e-mail changes), post gear for sale, submit photographs, review past issues of the newsletter, purchase merchandise through amazon.com (TTA benefits by receiving a small commission on each item purchased), obtain Liability Release Forms, and surf within the site to reach our Associate Organizations (CTC and T.R.A.C.) and state parks.

Take a moment to surf around, you'll be glad you stopped in for a visit: www.tennesseetrails.org



Beginner's Backpacking Clinic Wrap-Up

We would like to extend a gigantic "thank you" to all participants and volunteers who made the Nashville Chapter Beginners' Backpacking Clinic a fun-filled success. The money raised from the clinic was put into the Nashville chapter's treasury, and at their April meeting, chapter members voted to donate \$250 to the Cumberland Trail Conference's gorge acquisition fund.

On March 10th, participants gathered at the Radnor Lake Visitor's Center for a classroom orientation session. Veteran backpackers (Gene Curp, Cynthia Ezell, Herb Kneeland, Diane Manas, Marietta Poteet, Russ Sims, and Anne Wesley) gave helpful hints and demonstrations about backpacking basics. We especially thank Radnor Lake's Park Manager, Steve Ward, for allowing us to use the facilities and Marietta for bringing the delicious snacks.

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Cool Springs and on Page Road generously waived their rental fees on tents and backpacks for the beginners who needed to borrow gear. Bryan Dodge was the gracious liaison from Blue Ridge who helped us iron out the logistics of borrowing the necessary gear. Blue Ridge also allowed our participants to pick up the rental gear one day early so that they could attend a Packing Party before the actual backpacking trip. Participants who wanted packing guidance brought their packs and all of their gear to Diane Manas' home. As the beginners packed, Diane, Steve Bryant and Anne Wesley provided advice on organization and weight distribution.

On April 27th and 28th, clinic participants (Sinan Gider, Tanya Juday, Theresa McKay, Harriett Turpin, Eddy Walker and Gloria Dale Williams) were able to "field test" all of this instruction on an overnight trip along the Hidden Passage trail in Pickett State Park. Along with several Nashville chapter volunteers (Steve Bryant, Doug Burroughs, Cynthia Ezell, Diane Manas, Paul Smith, Russ Sims and Anne Wesley), participants backpacked 5 miles to a lovely creekside campsite along the side trail to Double Falls. Light rain showers obligingly held off until the evening when everyone was ready to hit their sleeping bags anyway. However, those who made late night visits to the "facilities" reported a beautiful full moon as the sky cleared. On Sunday, all were able to pack up and hike 5 miles back to our cars under mostly sunny skies. Just as everyone was ready to drive in search of the closest Mexican restaurant, a thunder and hailstorm broke over the area - excellent timing!

Hike Registration? Why ????

Our hike coordinators are volunteers.

Make it easier for them to contact you
in the event their hike needs to be cancelled
by registering!

PLEASE, BE CONSIDERATE AND REGISTER.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER

Beverly Neurock 865-220-9679 bneurock@bellsouth.net

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 8 Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. Most of the spring flowers will be gone, but maybe we can catch some late bloomers and some of the early summer flowers. The exact route to be hiked will not be decided until our arrival at the Park and will depend on the wishes and abilities of the group. Expect a hike of at least 8 miles and a climb of close to 2000' ft. Meet at 8:30am EDT under the AmSouth Bank sign in the Tri-County Mall on highway 62 between Oliver Springs and Oak Ridge, or at the Frozen Head Visitor's Center at 9am EDT. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the 'crazy' Frozen Head weather. For information and to register, call Keith Mertz at 865-376-4827, or e-mail him: keithmertz@hotmail.com

Jun 15 Injun Creek Trail (un-maintained trail), Great Smoky Mountains NP. We'll be hiking the Injun Creek Trail (an un-maintained trail) and the eastern portion of the Grapeyard Ridge Trail from Campsite #32. This hike is 6.4 miles, one-way and requires a car shuttle. Beginning at Greenbrier Ranger Station, this un-maintained trail follows Injun Creek for 3 miles to its intersection with Grapeyard Ridge Trail where we'll see the remnants of steam engine #4246, which overturned into the creek in the 1920s. From here it's a mostly downhill, 3.4-mile hike to Greenbrier Rd. and our shuttle pick-up. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and wear sturdy hiking boots. We will meet at 9am EDT at the Gatlinburg Welcome Center on US-441. For information and to register, call Rosemary Lynch: 865-405-1915, or e-mail her: ROSEMARY_L@hotmail.com

HIKE REPORT:

Despite pouring rains, two rugged persons showed up on May 4 to tackle the newest segment of the Cumberland Trail over Cross Mtn. It was much too wet, of course, for even those two, and so they went by car along one of the old mining roads sprinkled on the top. The rain indeed relented, and lunch was consumed atop Hatmaker's Knob, amidst surely the greatest display of flowers that man has ever seen. The final resting place of Dan Hatmaker, veteran of the Spanish American War, was visited, and the excellent condition of the road, extending all the way to Smokey Junction, was noted. Thus, May 4 is NOT too late for flowers above 3000 feet.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Doug Ratliff 931-455-0249 dougratliff@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

 (call Alan & volunteer to lead an outing)

Alan Bryan 931-728-0765 BryanAlan@BFUSA.com
& pbryan5@bellsouth.net

MEETS: 3rd Tue, 7pm, D.W. Wilson Center
501 N. Collins St. Tullahoma

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 18 MONTHLY MEETING. Arleen Scheller, Recourse Manager for the Cumberland Trail Conference, will speak about the Cumberland Trail – 283 miles of adventurous fun - Tennessee's first linear state park that is being built by volunteers.

Jun 29 Fiery Gizzard Trail, South Cumberland Recreation Area. This is a joint hike with the members of the Murfreesboro chapter. Join us as we hike this beautiful 14-mile trail end to end. Because this is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle, you must register! This hike, once featured in Backpacker magazine, is well known for its spectacular scenery, including waterfalls and bluffs. This hike is rated difficult because of some rough terrain and moderate ascents. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring lunch and plenty of water. We'll meet at 8am CDT to carpool from the Manchester Cracker Barrel restaurant located at I-24 exit 110. For information and to register, contact Doug Ratliff at 931-455-0249, or e-mail him: dougratliff@hotmail.com

HIKE REPORT:

Overcast and mild weather were with us on May 4 as Brent Morris led 5 hikers from Greeter Falls to Stone Door, in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. With the recent rains and swollen river, the waterfall was spectacular. Great views were had from the many overlooks. We found that the snakes were out, a copperhead got the right of way (thanks Alan Bryan).

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICER:

Betty Porter 901-755-4740

CO-CHAIR:

Norma McMinn 901-785-1479

ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604 glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETINGS: Will resume in September

NEWS: Due to summer vacations, monthly meetings have not been planned for June – August, but we're still hiking! Watch the newsletter for upcoming outings.

Jun 8-15 (Sat-Sat) Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will be spending an entire week hiking in the GSMNP. You are welcome to join us for one or all of the days we will be there. Registration is required. For additional information, call Norma McMinn at 901-785-1479. Below are hikes tentatively planned:

- Rough Fork, Caldwell Fork, and Big Fork Ridge trails. Good Views. 9 miles.
- Finley Cane, Bote Mountain, and Lead Cove trails. Rhododendron. 7 miles.
- Low Gap (I & II) and Big Creek trails. Rhododendron & Waterfalls. 11 miles.
- Rich Mountain Loop, Crooked Arm Ridge, and Indian Grave Gap trails. Outstanding view of Cades Cove. 8 miles.
- Charlies Bunion, Dry Sluice Gap, Grassy Branch and Kephart Prong trails. Panoramic vistas. 10 miles.
- Gregory Bald and Gregory Ridge trails. Flame Azalea. 10 miles.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Mark Stanfill 615-867-0847 athike718@netzero.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call Brent & volunteer to lead an outing)

Brent Morris 931-454-1718 bmorris@edge.net

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

NEWS: Thank you, Fount Bertram! Fount has agreed to act as the Murfreesboro Chapter's "Welcome Wagon." As new chapter members join, Fount will contact them to invite them to "jump right in" by attending a TTA outing and the next Murfreesboro chapter meeting. We want to let our new members know we are glad they have joined TTA, and we appreciate Fount volunteering for this important public relations job.

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1.

Jun 11 MONTHLY MEETING. Our featured speaker is Frank Fly. Frank will present a talk entitled, "Legal Ecology of Interest to Hikers." Join us for a very enjoyable evening! See you at 7pm, Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park.

Jun 15 North Chickamauga Creek trail and Chattanooga Riverbend Music Festival. The hike, near the town of Soddy Daisy, is 7 to 9 miles in length and is rated moderate. After the hike we'll have a swim in the creek to cool off and then head to Chattanooga for the festival! It'll be a long day, but we're sure to have a good time! We plan to meet at the McDonald's restaurant in Murfreesboro at 8am CDT. For information, and to register, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her: stillwild@bellsouth.net

Jun 22 North Rim Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruettli-Laager, TN. This easy trail follows the North Rim of Savage Gulf and offers more overlooks than any other trail in the park. We'll hike 6 to 10 miles, and distance will depend on the weather and the desire of the group. Bring plenty of water, lunch (to be enjoyed at a beautiful overlook!) and wear your sturdy hiking boots. We'll meet at 8am CDT to carpool from the Hardee's restaurant in Woodbury. For more information and to register, contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357, or email him: fwbertram@hotmail.com

Jun 29 Fiery Gizzard Trail, South Cumberland Recreation Area. This is a joint hike with the members of the Highland Rim chapter. Join us as we hike this beautiful 14-mile trail end to end. Because this is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle, you must register! This hike, once featured in Backpacker magazine, is well known for its spectacular scenery, including waterfalls and bluffs. This hike is rated difficult because of some rough terrain and moderate ascents. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring lunch and plenty of water. We'll meet at 7am CDT to carpool from the Murfreesboro Cracker Barrel restaurant on HWY 231 at I-24. For information and to register, contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718, or email him: bmorris@edge.net

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jul 21 Canoe/Kayak Float on the Caney Fork River. For information, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her: stillwild@bellsouth.net

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Dan Brennan 615-837-4324 osrwodan@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: (call Elizabeth & volunteer to lead an outing)
Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260 eygerlock@aol.com

MEETS: 4th Tues, 7pm. **St. Bernard Academy** 2021 21st Ave South
HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

NEWS: Thank you, Glenn Turner! Glenn has agreed to act as the Nashville Chapter's "Welcome Wagon." As new chapter members join, Glenn will contact them to invite them to "jump right in" by attending a TTA outing and the next Nashville chapter meeting. We want to let our new members know we are glad they have joined TTA, and we appreciate Glenn volunteering for this important public relations job.

AFTER WORK HIKES: You are invited to join Gary Parker for more of his After Work Hikes at the Warner Parks - on the following dates in June: 4, 11, 13, 18, 20 and 27. He is usually at the Warner Park Nature Center (Hwy 100) at 5:30pm and starts hiking between 5:45 - 6:00pm. Normally, the hikes range between 2½ - 6½ miles, have an easy to aerobic pace and are conducted regardless of the weather. For additional information and to register, contact Gary Parker: 615-287-1371(hm), 615-277-2006(wk), garparker@mindspring.com & garyp@werthan.com

May 31-Jun 1 National Trails Day Car Camping at Raccoon Mountain Campground. If you are attending the Chattanooga area hikes on National Trails Day, you can beat the early morning drive (and time zone change) by spending Friday night at Raccoon Mountain Campground (off I-24 exit #174 outside of Chattanooga), and/or you can avoid the post-hike drive back to Nashville by spending Saturday night. Raccoon Mountain is a commercial campground with all sorts of amenities (bathrooms, hot showers, hiking trails, even a show cave if you want to take a tour). Primitive campsites (2 tents and 4 people per site without water or electrical hookups) cost \$12.50 plus tax. For many more details and directions, call Anne Wesley (615-851-1052) or e-mail (ttahiker@msn.com). To reserve a tent site for either or both nights, call Raccoon Mountain Campgrounds directly at 1-800-823-2267 and tell them you are with TTA.

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 1. All Nashville area hikers who are hiking at Prentice Cooper State Forest or at Signal Point Park can meet in the Target parking lot on Bell Road (Bell Road exit off I-24) at 6:30 - 6:45am. At the Bell Road Target, Nashville Chapter volunteers will hand out driving directions to both destinations, and we will try to facilitate carpooling. Please be on time because several of our volunteers are also NTD hike leaders.

Jun 2 Honey Creek Trail, Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. This 5.5-mile hike has an abundance of interesting rock formations, streams, overlooks, vegetation, and small waterfalls. The trail goes under, over, and around rocks, up inclines, through streams, and twists and turns to take in all the interesting scenery. The trail is rated difficult. Be sure to wear sturdy boots that provide ankle support and bring lunch, snacks, and water. To register and obtain meeting time and location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet: 615-824-7666.

Jun 5 (Wed) Rollerblading in Crockett Park. Brentwood, TN. All skill levels welcomed - some of us are beginners! We will rollerblade for about 1-1½ hours. There aren't any hills to climb or go down unless you want to! We will meet at 6pm CDT at Crockett Park, on Concord Rd across from the Brentwood library (I-65 south - you'll see the big antenna on the left). For information, contact Paul Smith at 615 832-9388, or e-mail him: paolov@bellsouth.net

Jun 7-9 (Fri-Sun) John Muir Trail, Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. This 3-day backpacking trip will begin at Leatherwood Ford and will continue for 24 miles along the Big South Fork River and Laurel Fork Creek. The trip offers several opportunities to swim, view beautiful overlooks, and hike through remote elfin forests, while eating wild blueberries. The new moon will be great for star-gazing. This trail is rated moderate to difficult, due to several steep climbs and creek fordings. We will gather (and set up camp) in BSFNRRRA on Thursday night in order to start our trip early Friday morning. On Fri., we will hike 8.8 miles; Sat., 12.3 miles; and Sun. only 2.6 miles. Afterward, we will shower at the Bandy Creek Campground and head to a nearby town for some grub. For more information and/or to register, contact Keith White at 615-833-9770, or e-mail him: takehike@bellsouth.net

Jun 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking in Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. We will be joined by members of the Sierra Club. We will start at the Stone Door Ranger Station, hike Big Creek Gulf, and spend the night at Alum Campsite. Along the way we can take a side trail to Ranger Creek Falls. After setting up camp we may want to hike to Greeter Falls. On Sun, we will hike the Big Creek Rim trail. This trip will be moderate to strenuous and total mileage is about 12 miles, including the side trails. To register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481, or e-mail her: adelicia1@aol.com

Jun 9 Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park. Jackson, TN. This park protects prehistoric remains consisting of at least 15 earthen mounds, a geometric enclosure, and habitation areas in an area that incorporates almost 1200 acres. The park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, artifacts, and fossils that are protected by state law. There are 6 miles of trails including a nature trail and boardwalk with a stop overlooking the Forked Deer River. We'll explore the ruins and trails. The trails are rated easy, but wear appropriate footwear, and bring water and some snacks. The Park is a 1½ - 2 hour drive west of Nashville. On return and for those who wish, there is the option to stop and visit the Celtic Music Festival at Travelers Rest in Nashville. To register and obtain meeting time and location, contact Alicia Gray at 615-453-5138, or e-mail her: aliciagray@earthlink.net

(cont. on pg. 8)

Don't Miss an Outing ... Plan Ahead, Register Early!

There are times when a hike leader must limit (due to park regulations, etc.) the number of participants on an outing. Please do not wait until the afternoon or evening before the outing to RSVP. Plan ahead and register early.

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 7)

Jun 14 Paul Smith's shortest hike and dinner. You just hike from your car into the restaurant. At the time this newsletter was going to press, a restaurant had not been identified. We can plan to meet at 7pm CDT. For the restaurant information, call Paul Smith: 615-832-9388.

Jun 15 Collins Gulf Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli Laager, TN. This hike is 11 miles and rated moderate to strenuous for the stone fields we must walk over in the gorge. When this trail was scouted in March, we ranked it among our personal favorites. We will pass beautiful Suter and Horsepound Falls and have lunch at Collins Gulf Overlook. We will meet at 7:30am CDT at the Target on Bell Rd (exit 59 off of I-24). For information and to register, call Theresa McKay (615-595-9659) or Hugh Tobin (615-790-9567).

Jun 21-22 (Fri-Sun) Backpacking in the GSMNP. Celebrate the Summer Solstice in the Smokies! And, backpack with members of the Sierra Club (a great opportunity to meet new folks). Because Back Country shelter reservations cannot be made until 30 days prior to this trip, an itinerary is not available. The plan is to stay at Mt. LeConte and Icewater Springs shelter. If these are filled, we'll plan for Cosby Knob shelter and campsite #35. The exact itinerary will be available on May 21. To reserve your space for this outing and obtain more information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481, or e-mail her: adelicia1@aol.com

Jun 22 Eagle Pass Trail, Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail. Ashland City, TN. We will hike the Eagle Pass segment of the CRBT. This hike is 4 miles roundtrip (hike in 2 miles, hike out 2 miles) and rated easy for the flat terrain. We will be hiking on a trail built where trains use to run from Nashville to Clarksville. The trail is between the Cumberland River, with its adjacent wetland areas, and inland cliffs and meadows. Because the hike leader (Jessica Moody) lives in Ashland City, she will be meeting us at the trailhead. To register and obtain meeting time, call Jessica Moody: 615-850-5097. Driving Directions: Take I-40 west to Exit 204 (White Bridge Rd/HWY 155). At the top of the exit ramp, turn right (north) onto HWY 155. Get off HWY 155 at Exit 24 (HWY 12/Ashland City). At the top of the ramp, turn left onto HWY 12. Drive through Ashland City. Just after Ashland City start looking for the little green mile marker signs. At mile marker #13 there is a sign "Sycamore Creek Recreation Area", turn left here onto Chapmansboro Road. Go about 1-1½ miles until you reach the parking area on the right for the Eagle Bluff and Cumberland River Bicentennial trail parking area.

Jun 23 Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. Let's celebrate the re-opening of one of the finest parks in Tennessee with a loop hike on the North and South Old Mac and Judge Branch trails. Hike length is around 6.5 miles and rated moderately strenuous. This park boasts having the highest peaks in this area of the Cumberland Plateau and is recognized as a premier site for wildflowers. If the weather cooperates, we can expect great views from the fire tower, just above Tub Springs. On a clear day the Smokies and the Tennessee Valley and Ridge are visible. After the hike, we'll eat dinner in nearby Wartburg. Wear sturdy boots and bring lunch, water, and \$\$\$\$ for your dinner. We will meet at 7:30am CDT in the Kinko's parking area of the K-Mart on Donelson Pike (exit 216C off of I-40). For information and to register, call Marie Chitwood at 615-834-8674, or e-mail her: mchitwood1@msn.com

Jun 25 Before the Monthly Meeting Dinner at Bosco's in Hillsboro Village. We start gathering at 5:30pm for dinner, and we strongly advise you to arrive before 6pm in order to get served and to arrive at the meeting on time. No need to register. If you need more information, call Paul Smith at 615-832-9388, or e-mail him: paolov@bellsouth.net

Jun 25 MONTHLY MEETING. Our guest will be J.R. Tate of TTA's Clarksville chapter. Better known to many as "Model-T," J.R. has logged extensive miles on the Appalachian Trail and now has documented those times in the book, Walkin' On The Happy Side of Misery: A Slice of Life on the Appalachian Trail. Misery loves company, so come hear the tales!

**Are you new to Nashville? Hiking? Interested in checking out a hiking club? Or, just want a gentler hike? This is the hike for you. Meet new, as well as seasoned hikers who also share your desire to be outdoors. You are encouraged to use this time to learn about hiking and TTA while enjoying the great outdoors with friendly people.*

Jun 29 Newcomers' Hike on the newly refurbished Lost Springs Trail, Floating Mills Recreation Area. Center Hill Dam, near Silver Point, TN. The trail is about 4 miles long with beautiful overlooks of the lake. After the hike we will stop for lunch at the Rose Garden restaurant, famous for their pies and down home cooking. For those interested, there is a wonderful craft and gift shop nearby we can visit. You will need hiking boots, water, snacks, and \$\$\$ for lunch. We will meet at 8:30am CDT in the Kinko's parking area by the K-Mart on Donelson Pike (exit 216C off of I-40). For information and to register, call Libby Francis: 615-889-5718.

Jun 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Virgin Falls Backpack, Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Over the two days we will hike a total of 8 miles. The terrain is rated easy going in (4 miles), and moderate to challenging coming out (4 miles) due to the gradual climb. The members of the Sierra Club will be joining us – and this is a great opportunity to meet new backpackers. We will camp next to the Caney Fork River. For information and to register, call Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481, or e-mail her: adelicia1@aol.com

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jul 4 (Thurs) Beat the heat sunrise hike. Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge trails in Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Better reach for your coffee as soon as the wake-up clock goes off, or you're going to miss this one entirely. These 2 trails total 7 miles and will be rated moderate due to the speed (~2½-3 miles/hr) at which we hike them - gotta beat the heat! Wear boots that provide ankle support and bring water and snacks. Afterward, we'll regroup for bagels and more coffee at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery - bring \$ to BYOB (buy your own bagel). We'll meet 5:30am CDT (Yep, not a typo!) and be finished by 9:30am. To register and obtain meeting location, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.



Plants grow
by the inch
and die
by the foot.



Please, keep to the trails.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Executive Director..... Rob Weber.....robweber@usit.net
 Resource Manager..... Arleen Scheller.....scheller@usit.net
 Program Coordinator..... Andy Wright.....awright@onemain.com
 Office Manager Susan Webersweber1@usit.net

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

“Gorge-ous Gorges” (cont. from pg. 1)

Share the vision with thousands of others who are giving their money and time to create the “*Trail of Dreams*” NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL, and no donation is too large! To those of you who have already given—**THANK YOU!** To those of you who are still thinking about it . . . **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** → → →

... Volunteer Opportunities ... No Experience Required!

Jun 7-9 (Fri-Sun) A-Backpacking We Will Go!
 This is the last of three BackCountry outings planned this Spring. Arleen Scheller will be leading all who are willing to follow into the Piney River segment to do some trail revitalization between the Big Cove Campground and the 100' foot suspension bridge. There is a lot of work to be done, so let's get a big crew out there, and get things done. Participants are responsible for supplying their own backpacking equipment (tent, sleeping bag, tarp, etc.) and food for the weekend. CTC will provide the tools and training.

Jun 16-29 (Mon-Sat) Landmark Volunteers will be working with us over this two-week period. Come work along side of them (you choose the days! - work one day, several, or all of the two weeks.) and together help us build a new trail on Black Mountain. We also have plans to revitalize a segment of trail in the Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness. The Landmark Volunteers are high school aged folks from all over the country, and they have decided to come out and work with us. Let's get a bunch of good trail volunteers out with them, to welcome them to Tennessee.

Need More Information? Sign Up Today . . . Call or E-mail Today!!!

◆ Andy Wright ◆ 931-456-6259 ◆
 ◆ awright@onemain.com ◆

Red Ash Bridge Completed!!!

*20 Continuous Miles
 on the CT is Now Hikable!!!*

submitted by Sandra Spearman

Our first “ready-made” bridge was put across Cove Creek near Caryville, TN, on April 30! A truck delivered it from Steadfast Bridges in Fort Payne, AL, on April 29 in the early morning of the 30th. Because one end of the bridge sat so close to a road (old HWY 63), we couldn't create a suspension or swinging bridge (no room for cables). Then, because it couldn't be a suspension bridge, it would have to be a truss bridge, but the span was too long (88 ft) to be economical or practical for a wooden truss bridge, thus it was designed to be of steel. Although we had a good group of ambitious volunteers, building an 88-ft steel bridge was left to the professionals. cont. → →

Yes, I want to be a part of creating . . .the *Trail of Dreams*Cumberland Trail State Park . . . Donation Form

Suggested gift amounts (call the CTC office for Giving Reward Levels and Memorials)

_____ \$25,000+	Thru-Hiker	_____ \$1,000+	Segment Hiker
_____ \$10,000+	One Mile Club	_____ \$500+	Day Hiker
_____ \$5,000+	Half Mile Club	_____ \$100+	Sunday Stroller
_____ \$2,500+	Quarter Mile Club	_____	Other

Name _____
 Corporate Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____ (w) _____ (h)

Method of payment:

Check / Money Order (made payable to: "Cumberland Trail Conference")

Credit Card _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Send to: Cumberland Trail Conference
 Pathways Campaign
 19 East 4th Street
 Crossville, TN 38555

*Cumberland Trail Conference, an associate organization
 of the Tennessee Trails Association
 is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and
 all donations are tax-deductible*

Red Ash cont. → → → Stooksbury Construction of Knoxville started the process of putting it into place, and by noon, the bridge was completed, linking 8 miles of trail in the Smoky Mountain segment to the 11.7 miles of trail in the Cumberland Mountain segment.

A hiker can now start at LaFollette's Tank Springs trailhead (newly paved and landscaped last year) and hike up the rocky and challenging Cumberland Mountain, down through the famous cleft of the rock, passing our very first shelter (also completed last year) to Eagle Bluff Overlook, and on toward the stunning Devil's Racetrack. It is 3.2 miles along the I-75 greenway to the brand-new paved Bruce Gap Road trailhead at Cove Lake State Park. There the hiker can pick up the Smoky Mountain segment and continue toward Cross Mountain, walking over the beautiful Red Ash Bridge (whose installation was described above). Along the way, hikers will pass over wonderfully designed rock steps (thanks Monty!) and through tunnels of laurel, wildflowers and woods to Montgomery Fork. After Montgomery Fork, one crosses over not one, not two, but THREE natural-oak bridges. The trail ends, for the moment, at the third of these across Greens Branch.

Thanks to Recreational Trails Program for the lion's share of the funding needed for the Red Ash Bridge project and our volunteers for the 20% match!

So, come see it, walk across it, better yet, hike this segment of continuous trail - 20 miles!

OFFICERS:

President
Leigh Jones 931-277-3228
cejones@crossville.com

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

Treasurer
Carol Haley 901-388-9163
hav2hike@aol.com

Secretary
Anna Clark 731-587-2225
aclark@utm.edu

Past President
Libby Francis 615-889-5718
libbyslibbys@comcast.net

Past President
Jim Poteet 615-824-7666
jpoteet@genesco.com

West TN Regional Director
Jerry Lenski 901-255-6574
jlenski@yahoo.com

Middle TN Regional Director
Brent Morris 931-454-1718
bmorris@edge.net

East TN Regional Director
Arleen Scheller 931-707-8333
scheller@usit.net

Membership
Anne Wesley 615-851-1052
ttahiker@msn.com

Cumberland Trail Conference Representatives
Barry & Sandra Spearman 931-839-2320
sandbar@multipro.com

TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council
Jim Deming 615-354-9767
jdeming@tals.org

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD
ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

Newsletter Editor
Diane Manas 615-352-7777
dmanashikes@comcast.net
dmanashikes@yahoo.com

Newsletter Deadlines:

Announcements and articles
received on/before June 9th
will appear in our
July 1st newsletter

Articles submitted are subject to editing and
will be included as space permits.

Please send all submissions to:

Diane Manas
5729 Stoneway Trail
Nashville, TN 37209
615-352-7777

When sending by email, use both:

dmanashikes@comcast.net
dmanashikes@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Deming 615-354-9767 jdeming@tals.org
web site: <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.*

Plan for Action, Patience (cont. from pg. 1)

Some local citizens have contacted TRAC members about railtrail possibilities in corridors near Paris, Elizabethton, Crossville, Monterey, Cumberland Gap, and Sewanee. Advocates at the May meeting discussed the potential for TRAC to expand its work in local communities beyond the three initial projects as volunteer time allows.

TRAC is also developing a new web site that will help describe railtrail projects in Tennessee and promote the efforts of Tennessee Trails Association to develop more trails in more communities. At the May meeting, TRAC elected a new vice-president (Roger Macklin) and treasurer (Isaac Lewis) and discussed funding and fundraising strategies. The group decided that the statewide efforts of TRAC would be mostly informational and promotional, saving the time and energy of advocates to form local "Friends of the Trail" groups. TRAC members also agreed that a strong connection with TTA is essential to promote local efforts, and accordingly TRAC will coordinate its fall meeting with the TTA Annual Meeting in November.

After the meeting, a group of TRAC members braved the rainy weather to ride on the corridor from Sewanee to Tracy City. For more information about TRAC, contact Jim Deming at jdeming49@aol.com. For more information about railtrails, go to www.railtrails.org or www.trailsandgreenways.org.

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 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**

Jun 02

(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 (FULL-TIME) \$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)
- ___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)
- ___ Memphis
- ___ Murfreesboro
- ___ Nashville
- ___ Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley)
- ___ Plateau (Crossville)
- ___ Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville)
- ___ At Large

**Gift Memberships
Are Available !!!**

Contact our Membership Director
Anne Wesley (615) 851-1052
tahiker@msn.com

When you become a TTA member, you will receive: (1.) TTA's Hiking Handbook, a reference book containing information about TTA, trail etiquette, hiker responsibilities, etc. (2.) TTA's 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. (3.) Annual Membership Directory, listing members by chapter and how to reach them. You are invited to attend any number of monthly meetings scheduled, where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. In addition, in the 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.