

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



Cumberland Trail Conference's 3rd Annual Auction Benefits the Cumberland Trail April 12

A happy crowd will gather on the evening of Saturday, April 12, at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge for some spirited bidding as the Cumberland Trail Conference holds its third annual auction to help fund the creation of the Cumberland Trail. Proceeds from this year's event will be used for the expenses of **The Big Dig!** event (see pg. 2) scheduled for May-June 2003.

Call the CTC office for tickets (\$25), which includes a very nice buffet dinner (w/three entrees). A block of rooms has been reserved at the Garden Plaza Hotel (800-342-7336) for reservations.

Auction donations are welcome ... tell your friends about it ... come up early in the day and hike a segment of the CT!! Here's an auction sneak peek ... A Cumberland Trail Flyover for 3 People, One Week Condo Vacation at Outer Banks, Cherokee Mtn. Llama Bed & Breakfast Getaway, Kely Expedition Backpack and Lots of Outdoor Gear, Ansel Adams Print "Oak Tree—Snowstorm," Walt Kelly Limited Edition Print "We Have Met the Enemy," Woodcarvings, A 6-ft Rattlesnake (Stuffed, not Live), and more!

TTA's Board of Director's Meeting Saturday, May 3, 1:00pm CT St. Bernard Academy Building Nashville, TN.

TTA's Board of Directors will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. CT on Sat., May 3rd in the Nature Conservancy Conference Room in the St. Bernard Academy Building at 2021 21st Ave South in Nashville, TN.

ALL! TTA members are invited and encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend and have an issue you wish presented, forward your concerns prior to May 3rd to your local Chapter Officer or Regional At-Large Director.

The St. Bernard Academy building is ½ mile north of the I-440 & 21st Ave. intersection, and less than ½ mile south of the Hillsboro Village / Vanderbilt University area (Wedgewood Ave & 21st Ave South). A map is also available on our website at:

www.tennesseetrails.org/nashmap.php

All TTA Members are Invited




Tennessee's State Natural Areas Week



April 6 - 12

April 8th marks the 32nd anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act (NAPA) and establishment of the Natural Areas Program. The State Natural Areas (SNA) Program seeks to include adequate representation of all natural communities that make up Tennessee's natural landscape, and provide long-term protection for Tennessee's rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal life. Since the passage of this act, the General Assembly has designated 66 SNAs. For a complete listing of Tennessee's SNAs visit: www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/nap.htm

In November 2001, Gov. Don Sundquist signed a proclamation designating the second week of April as Tennessee State Natural Areas Week. The week will be highlighted by wildflower walks, nature hikes and educational programs at state natural areas across Tennessee.

In observance of this week, you are invited to join the following TTA chapters on an outing to a Tennessee State Natural Area (see the chapter's schedule for detailed information, and look for the  symbol): Clarksville, Columbia, Highland Rim, Nashville and Plateau.

The Most Dangerous Part of Any Hike

February 02, 2003, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a driver was killed when his vehicle left Little River Road flipping upside down into the Little River.

February 06, 2003, in the Big South Fork N.R.R.A., a truck driver lost control of his vehicle after rounding a sharp curve too fast. We tend to focus on trail-related, safety issues, but please remember: *The most potentially dangerous part of any hiking trip is the drive to and from the trailhead.* There is no hike so wonderful that it is worth risking your health or life to get to the trailhead at the fastest possible speed. Always:

- (1) Obey all speed limits;
- (2) Slow down if road and weather conditions demand it;
- (3) Shift into a lower gear when descending steep hills to avoid overheated brakes;
- (4) If you are a passenger, help your driver stay alert and assist with the driving directions;
- (5) **ALWAYS** WEAR YOUR SEATBELT - WHETHER YOU ARE A DRIVER OR PASSENGER!

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive DirectorRob Weber robweber@usit.net
Resource ManagerArleen Scheller scheller@usit.net
Program CoordinatorMark Stanfill mstanfill@onemail.com
Office ManagerSusan 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

What is The Big Dig!?

*Cumberland Trail Conference's
marathon trailbuilding session,
May 18-June 28, 2003*

Why are they doing it? *To build 30 miles of new trail – fully 1/10 of the total Cumberland Trail mileage ... bringing the total miles completed to 150 ... halfway to the 2008 goal of completing the entire Cumberland Trail from Signal Point to Cumberland Gap!*

Where is The Big Dig!? *Near Soddy Daisy, northwest Hamilton County, just a few miles north of Chattanooga.*

Who's involved? *EVERYBODY can participate. We need all kinds of volunteers: trailbuilders, cooks, shuttlers, photographers, motivators. People who love hiking trails, and want to give back for all the hiking trails they've loved over the years, will enjoy participating in the **The Big Dig!***

How is CTC going to make it work? *By adhering to the tried and tested BreakAway model they've perfected over the years. Teams of volunteers led by trained "WagonMasters," with intermediate supervision by student leaders, will build assigned portions of trail each day.*

Can they make it easy for volunteers to participate? *Sure can! CTC will feed you 3 meals a day and put you up for as many nights as you are willing to stay! They'll train you in trailbuilding techniques. Or, if you just want to help cook, they'll provide you a good place to stay, and a well-designed kitchen in which to help the team prepare meals.*

But can they make it fun?! *Ask any BreakAway alumni - they'll give you a resounding YES! Trailbuilding, the fellowship with other volunteers, and the interactive educational programming that goes with it is fun and rewarding.*

BreakAway Setting the Stage for The Big Dig!

Reported From the Trail by Sandra Spearman

By the time you read this, BreakAway will be over for 2003. But if you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for March 2004. It's a great time!

BreakAway – that Alternative Spring Break program which college students from all over the nation come to Tennessee to help CTC build the Cumberland Trail – is underway in Hamilton County! The gorgeous gorges, during the first week in March, saw 67 students clearing the corridor, pulling tread, building rock steps, and even completing 2 small footbridges and almost finishing a third one – completing 2 miles of beautiful new trail. Volunteers from all over Tennessee joined them and led them in their efforts.

We learned about plants on the forest floor, saw some wildly colorful creepy crawlies, were blessed to see bald eagles and Sandhill cranes, had a stimulating discussion about man and nature (the students got deep into it this year – us old folks will have to really be on our toes as this generation matures!), and on Friday night, Bobby Fulcher – Manager of Cumberland Trail State Park, truly "got down" with music from Down Yonder and treated us all to our Friday night square dance. Everyone who is around this unique BreakAway happening experiences pure joy.

Standing on its own, BreakAway is a wonderful program each year in which we've built quite a few miles of trail since 1996. This year, however, it's merely setting the stage for **The Big Dig!** Momentum is building; excitement is growing; A-N-T-I-C-I-P-A-T-I-O-N! Imagine, up to 100 volunteers per day building trail (May 19-June 28). The Rock, Possum, and Soddy gorges outside Soddy Daisy, TN, are going to be the **Trail Building Capital of the World** during that time!

Volunteers, both trail builders AND cooks, are signing up. Yeeehaaaa! Students are responding with interest to the stipend leadership positions we're offering to college-age people. The schedule for our educational and cultural programming has been completed (you're going to love it!). Food is being donated. Plans for the auction (April 12, Garden Plaza Hotel/Oak Ridge) are in place (the auction will fund much of the cost of **The Big Dig!** It's all coming together nicely.

So ... if you've signed up as a volunteer for **The Big Dig!** THANK YOU! You'll be getting an informational packet in late April. And, if you haven't signed up yet ... ask yourself this one important, burning question: **WHY THE HECK NOT?!**

Don't Delay ! The Big Dig Volunteer Registration Form is on page 3

TTA Board and Members Sponsor 15+ Miles of the Cumberland Trail!!

Wow! TTA Board and members across Tennessee have given \$157,671 for the *Pathways for People... People for Nature* campaign for land acquisition for the Cumberland Trail. This is an outstanding commitment on the part of our membership and the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) thanks YOU! But more importantly, the mountains, forests, rivers, and wildlife of Tennessee thank YOU!

We still have a ways to go though to reach our goal of a completed 283-mile Cumberland Trail from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap. CTC is currently in negotiations for seven more river gorges and other acquisitions that will give us 140 additional miles of trail corridor to add to the 180 miles of Cumberland Trail corridor currently secured.

We have two more deadlines coming up! We need \$300,000 by May 16, and \$150,000 by June 30, 2003, to close on the last portion of the Bowater Phase I acquisition, and to make a down payment on Bowater Phase II. These acquisitions contain some of our favorite hiking destinations: North Chickamauga, Piney River, and Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness Areas. You can help make these a part of the Cumberland Trail system. If you haven't made a contribution yet, please consider doing so. If you've already made a contribution, consider an additional gift.

Thanks!!

Arleen Scheller, Resource Manager

CTC News cont. on pg. 3

2003 The Big Dig! Volunteer Registration

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (HM) _____ (WK) _____
 E-mail: _____



- I'm available on the following days (please circle all that apply):

Week 1 (May 18-24)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 2 (May 25-31)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 3 (Jun 1-7)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 4 (Jun 8-14)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 5 (Jun 15-21)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 6 (Jun 22-28)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

- I need lodging on the following nights (please circle all that apply):

Week 1 (May 18-24)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 2 (May 25-31)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 3 (Jun 1-7)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 4 (Jun 8-14)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 5 (Jun 15-21)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 6 (Jun 22-28)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

- Have you participated in trail work before? Yes / No

- I am also willing to help on the following teams (circle as many):

Trail builder Cook Shuttle Camp Mom/Dad

- I'd like to help sponsor this event, and have enclosed a check

in the following amount: \$ _____

Please make check out to Cumberland Trail Conference, The Big Dig

Mail or Fax this form to: **The Big Dig!** - Cumberland Trail Conference
 19 East 4th Street
 Crossville, TN 38555
 Fax: 931-456-4934

Apr 03

**BackCounty Outings
 Seeks Volunteers**

A BackCountry Outing combines the enjoyment of backpacking with that of trail building - we backpack and set up a base camp in the area we will be doing trail work. It's a lot of fun, very rewarding and your help is needed on the following outings:

April 11-13 (Fri-Sun) Rock Creek Gorge. Sale Creek, TN. Bill Leiper and Monty Matney are our "WagonMasters" on this outing where we will do some general trail maintenance in addition to any number of small projects that were left undone from the previous month. This outing will be the first overnight trip in this area, so if you're into history, be a part of this and you can say you were here first. On Friday, we will have a short hike into our camp and the same goes when leaving on Sunday.

Apr 25-27 (Fri-Sun) Smoky Mtn. (Greens Branch) Segment. We will pick up where volunteers left off last fall. We will drive in and then backpack a short distance to the campsite, which is right next to Greens Branch Bridge. Our goal is to cut new trail from the bridge, up to the ridge, and then connect to what was completed last fall from the Montgomery Fork. If we have time, we will also complete any work that needs to be done on the bridge.

Need More Information?

**Visit our Website,
 then call / e-mail**

**Mark Stanfill
 931-426-6259**

mstanfill@onemain.com

TTA's Calendar

The following dates in 2003 refer to statewide activities involving TTA as a whole. Please refer to this calendar often to prevent scheduling conflicts or to volunteer to get involved with major activities planned (i.e., National Trail Days, etc.).

Apr 6-12	TN State Natural Areas Week
Apr 12	Cumberland Trail Auction (Oak Ridge)
Apr 19	Earth Day Events (Observed Apr 22)
May 3	Board of Directors' Meeting (Nashville)
May 18-Jun 28	Cumberland Trail The Big Dig! (Soddy Daisy)
Jun 7	National Trails Day
Aug 2	Board of Directors' Meeting (TBA)
Sep 27	National Public Lands Day
Oct 17-20	Southeast Foot Trails Mtg (Monteagle)

**Calendar will be revised as needed.*

**Cherokee NF
 Considers
 Benton MacKaye
 Trail Route**

submitted by Harold Draper

The Cherokee National Forest has accepted a proposal from the Benton MacKaye Trail Association for a long distance hiking trail to traverse the southern area of the Cherokee National Forest from Georgia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a distance of 95 miles. The proposed route of the trail extends from US 64 northward and follows Dry Pond Lead, Big Lost Creek, Hiwassee River, Unicoi Mountain, Brookshire Creek, Bald River, Sycamore Creek Trail, Fodderstack Trail, and Stiffknee Trail. New trail construction would be required for 25 miles (for connecting to existing trails). For more detailed information or to comment, contact Janan Hay at the Tellico Ranger District at 423-253-2520, or jhay@fs.fed.us

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER Julian Bankston 423-628-2845

jrbankston@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE Bob Hemminger

423-628-5145 [hemminr1@math.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:heminr1@math.vanderbilt.edu)

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

Kathy Hicks 865-938-6846

khudson3@utk.edu

Apr 26 Middle Creek Loop, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, Jamestown, TN. John and Kathy Hicks will lead this 3½-mile, roundtrip hike, which is rated moderate because of the grade and terrain. The trail follows the tip of the ridge through a hardwood forest before descending below the bluff line, where large rock overhangs, rock shelters, and high cliffs dominate the trail. Bring water, snacks, and lunch, and wear boots and clothing appropriate for the changeable weather of late April. Hikers wishing to carpool will meet at 9:00am ET at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby; otherwise, you can arrange to meet us at the trailhead. For information and to register, contact John or Kathy Hicks at 865-938-6846, or khudson@utk.edu.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Apr 19-20 (Sat-Sun) Cumberland Wildflower Extravaganza Workshop in Historic Rugby. The Cumberland Plateau, in and around Historic Rugby, abounds with spring wildflowers, including several rare species. Rugby's 1880 colonists loved to study them and so can you. A great trio of wildflower experts will lead this workshop: Jack Carman, whose new book, *Wildflowers of Tennessee*, is THE definitive guide; Bob Brown, hiking guru and one of the "fathers" of the Cumberland Trail; and Mack Pritchard, Tennessee's State Naturalist. Attendees will learn about and see at least 40 species on Saturday and Sunday morning walks and will be treated to slide presentations. Complete plant lists will be provided plus approved sources for wildflower seeds. Plan for 2-4 miles of woodland and streamside walking. For information on all activities covered in the \$25 workshop fee, check the Historic Rugby web site: www.historicrugby.org and to register, call 423-628-5166 or (toll free) 888-214-3400.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Bill Hamilton 931-920-2760

billhamilton@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

Faye Balbac 931-553-6826

Sandi Hamilton 931-920-2760

billhamilton@charter.net

Sandra Koenig 931-645-2048

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CT

Crow Community Center

211 Richview Rd

Apr 5 Pennyrile State Park, Hopkinsville, KY. We will hike around the lake and over the dam. The hike is about 3 miles and rated easy. Hikers can expect to see an abundance of wildflowers native to this area. For information and to register, call Wade Winters at 931-647-9659.

Apr 12-13 (Sat-Sun) Weekend of Hikes in Historic Rugby. We will stay overnight in Pioneer Cottage and hike in the following areas over the two days: Colditz Cove (TN State Natural Area), Cemetery, Gentleman's Swimming Hole and Meeting of the Waters. These hikes are about 3-4 miles long and rated easy to moderate. Space is limited and reservations are required. For information, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Cont. → → →

Please Join us in Congratulating T.T.A.'s Newest Life Members!

Jim & Jenice Johnson are long-time members of T.T.A., and they are the first to take advantage of T.T.A.'s new "Family Life Membership." Jim and Jenice have supported T.T.A. in many capacities. Jim served two terms as T.T.A. Vice President, and they have both led numerous hikes for the Nashville Chapter. For several years, they have provided an invaluable service to our membership by maintaining the database, which generates the monthly newsletter labels. Their computer expertise was put to good use in 2002 as they tackled the daunting task of registering 130+ people for the 2002 Annual Meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Jim and Jenice are also strong supporters of the Cumberland Trail Conference. They have attended numerous Spring BreakAways, and Jenice's beautiful, handmade pottery has brought in untold amounts of money when she donates them for the auctions to benefit the Cumberland Trail.

Miriam McClendon has an impressive record of service to Tennessee's hiking community. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Radnor Lake, which keeps her especially busy this year as Radnor Lake State Natural Area celebrates its 30th anniversary. Miriam is a graduate of one of the Cumberland Trail Conference's Trail-building Workshops, and she has put her "trail mule" skills to work at Beaman Park in Joelton and is planning to attend the C.T.C.'s **The Big Dig!** event this summer. An avid hiker and backpacker, Miriam's trips have taken her to Glacier National Park, Mt. LeConte in the Smokies, and many places in between.

Thank you, Jim, Jenice, and Miriam for your investment in T.T.A.'s future!!

Big South Fork Issues Draft Plan with Trail Details

submitted by Harold Draper

In February 2002, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area issued the Supplemental Draft *Environmental Impact Statement* and General Management Plan (SDEIS/GMP) for public review. This document differs from the previous draft distributed in 2000, in that it contains extensive maps and details of existing and planned trails in the park. Like the previous draft, the document provides a zoning system for each area of the park, designating allowable uses. There are numerous horse trail upgrades and an ATV area proposed. Among the items of interest to hikers are an extensive new trail system proposed in the western part of the park off of Darrow Ridge Road; and proposed new sections of the John Muir Trail between Peters Bridge, Rugby, Burnt Mill Bridge, and Leatherwood Ford. The comment period will extend until April 30, 2003. A series of public meetings will be held in surrounding communities during this period. To obtain a paper copy of the plan, or public meeting dates, times and locations, call the Park's Superintendent at 423-569-9778. (A copy of the plan is also available on the Internet at www.nps.gov/biso/gmp/gmp.htm)

Apr 15 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips and meet/greet members/friends. Our April 26 "Celebrating Earth Day - Mystery Hike" will be announced during this meeting. See you at 7:00pm CT at the Crow Community Center. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store!

April 26 Celebrating Earth Day - Mystery Hike. Those attending the April 15 chapter meeting know. If you were unable to attend, you can phone someone attending the meeting for details.

PLANNING AHEAD:

May 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Mammoth Cave Hike and Car Camping. Mammoth Cave, KY. The Mammoth Cave area has many above ground hiking trails for us to enjoy. We will spend the night so we can get in two full days of hiking. For information, call Gail Owens at 270-725-8772.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Russell Smith 615-790-1833

carving082334@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

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

Rick Pinkelton 931-987-2530

MEETS MONTHLY - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 CT

Country Farm Family Buffet on Hwy 31


Between Spring Hill & Thompson Station

Next to Kroger at Campbell Station

CHAPTER NEWS: We had another great turnout for our March meeting. Twenty members and prospective members gathered for dinner and to hear Rita Venable, nature writer and photographer. Everyone enjoyed Rita's beautiful slides of wildflowers and butterflies, which she photographed in various Middle Tennessee parks during the months of March, April and May. Thank you Rita! We will be looking more closely and with greater interest as we try to spot some of those beauties this spring.

Apr 1 NO-FOOLIN' MONTHLY MEETING. Learn about Bowie Nature Park from our guest speaker Melissa Bell, Bowie Nature Park's Program Director and Naturalist. Everyone is invited to join us "April Fools Day" for a fun evening. Socializing starts at 6:30pm CT, dinner and the meeting starts shortly thereafter. See you at Country Farm Buffet on Hwy 31, between Spring Hill and Thompson Station, next to the Kroger at Campbell Station.

Apr 5 Brunch and Parade Hike for Mule Day. Columbia, TN. We plan to hike in the annual Mule Day Parade to promote TTA with a TTA banner and dressed like hikers: wearing boots, packs, and carrying hiking sticks. This event brings in several thousands of people each year - great exposure for TTA. We will gather at 10:00am for brunch (bring a covered dish) at Amy Overton's home (we'll walk from Amy's to the parade). The parade starts at 11:00am CT and ends around 1:00pm. Because we are part of the parade, we will need to gather and be in the line-up a good bit earlier than 11:00am. Everyone is invited to attend (not limited to just Columbia chapter members!), help "hike" in the parade and hang out after to rove through the crafts and food booths. *Plan to come early and stay late.* For information and directions, call Amy Overton at 931-388-6363.

 **Apr 12** Lake, Ganiem Ridge and South Cove Trails, Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. By combining the Lake, Ganiem Ridge and South Cove Trails, we'll have a 4½-mile loop hike over terrain that is rated moderate (for the two hills we will ascend/descend). For those wanting a shorter, easier hike, there is the option of a 2.9-mile loop by combining the Lake and South Lake Trails. Please wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, and bring water, snacks and lunch. Radnor Lake SNA charges a \$3 per vehicle access fee. We will meet at 9:00am CT on the "West Parking Lot" side of the park at the Visitor's Center. Directions: Radnor Lake SNA is located on Otter Creek Road. Otter Creek Road intersects Granny White Pike about 2 miles south of Harding Road and 1½ mile north of Old Hickory Blvd. For information and to register, contact Dusty Doddridge at 931-381-8755, or *dustyd@edge.net*

HIKE REPORT:

Four chapter members, led by Russell Smith, sloshed through the rain to hike the Barfield Wilderness Loop Trail at the Barfield Crescent Park in Murfreesboro on Feb. 22. Despite wet conditions, the group had a good time and enjoyed hiking in the beautiful park. On Mar. 8, Pam Frakes led twelve hikers from the Columbia and Nashville chapters to Chickasaw Trace County Park, located just outside Columbia. Hiking six miles over a series of five trails (Creek and Black Hills trails, Trail of Tears, Woodland and River trails). It was the first 70-degree, sunny Sat. of the season. It was a perfect day especially for the three newcomers to get a good taste of an easy to moderate hike - not too short, not too long - and the absolutely fabulous weather didn't hurt either.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm 865-426-4472

RHelm@ahss.org

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam 423-562-3227

pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 2nd Monday at 6pm ET

LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room

201 S. 9th St.

Apr 14 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! See you at 6:00pm ET at the Craft Room in the LaFollette Recreation Center, 201 South 9th Street.

Apr 26 Hike & Potluck/Cookout at Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. Gordon and Doris Early will lead us to Frozen Head State Park for two hikes and a potluck cookout. The first hike will be a short one before we fire up the grill for hotdogs and hamburgers. Then after lunch, we will set out for our second jaunt. (At the time this newsletter was going to the printer, the trails had not been selected.) Frozen Head SP charges a \$3/vehicle access fee. We will meet at 9:00am ET and carpool from Eagle Market. For information and potluck plans, call Gordon or Doris Early at 423-566-8319.

HIKE REPORT:

On March 9, a group of fourteen hikers, led by Keith Kottwitz of the Cumberland Gap chapter, hiked over one of the foothills near the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. We started at Lincoln Memorial University and followed a tower road over to the small village of Tipperell (sp?). Though the weather cooperated nicely, Richard still had to hunt hard for any Harbinger of Spring wildflowers. After the hike, we went to Keith's garden-like home for an open house, where his wife Betty treated us to a spread of lovely veggies, dip, cake, crackers, and beverages. Both creative creatures, Keith showed off some of his fine handiworks and collections of authentic white oak basketworks, including his double-walled basket. Meanwhile, Betty displayed some of her awesome quilt-works, including her millennium quilt with 2000 unique pieces of material! Thank you, Keith and Betty for opening your home to us!

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 17 Fall Creek Falls State Resort Park. Hike, and dinner afterwards at the Inn. Ed & Mari Haslam 423-562-3227.

May 26 5th Annual Memorial Day Mountain Laurel Hike. Sugarland Mtn. Trail, GSMNP. Remember that New Year's Day Hike? Richard Helm 865-426-4472.

. . . 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 Members for April 2003:

Anne Carr - Nashville Chapter

Bill & Bonnie Hancock - Nashville 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 tax-deductible 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.

CUMBERLAND GAP CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Register
423-869-2251

cugatrails@yahoo.com

MEETING: April 10 – see below

Apr 10 MONTHLY MEETING. This month, we will be meeting at Berkau Park (in the town of Cumberland Gap) at 7:00pm ET. Everyone is encouraged to attend this very important meeting because we will be planning upcoming hikes and outings (and goals) for the next three months. Suggestions on places you'd like to hike, be it new/old, are welcome. New hikers/members are always invited.

Apr 12 Old Harlan Road, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Cumberland Gap, TN. This is a great hike for families and beginning hikers. It is a 2-mile, one way, easy trail that goes downhill all the way. The trail is also one of the newest trails in the park and has historical significance. We will meet at 12:00 noon ET at the flagpole at CGNHP. Space is limited; therefore, you must register by Wed., Apr. 9. For information and to register, contact Rosemary Register at 423-869-2251, or cugatrails@yahoo.com

Apr 20 Tri-State Peak Sunrise Hike. Each year, on Easter Sunday, we hike to Tri-State peak for a beautiful view of the sunrise. This outing has been a favorite with our chapter. The trail is 1.3 miles uphill all the way. Even though it is uphill, it is rated moderate because of the gradual incline. Plan to bring your favorite hot drink and share this special time with us. Space is limited; therefore, you must register by Wed. Apr. 16. For meeting time and location, and to register, contact Rosemary Register at 423-869-2251, or cugatrails@yahoo.com

2003 Membership Directory

The 2003 edition of the TTA Membership Directory will be mailed to all current members in June. Please be sure your dues are paid up so that you will be listed in the directory and receive your copy when it's published. Also, please let us know if your telephone number(s), address or name has changed since the 2002 edition of the directory.

These are a few ways you can notify us of your changes:

- **Internet:** Visit our website (www.tennesseetrails.org), navigate to "Member Services," select and fill out the "Electronic Address Change Form."
- **Mail:** Using the New/Renewal Membership Form (on pg. 14), fill in your new information, write on the form "address change" and mail to the address shown on the Membership Form.
- **Phone:** TTA's Membership Director, Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052.

...ADVERTISING AVAILABLE... 2003 Membership Directory

Does your business have a product/service you want our members to know about? For a small fee, you can reach our members – *for an entire year* - through an advertisement placed in our upcoming Annual Membership Directory. The ad sizes available and their costs are provided below. For additional information and/or to reserve space, contact Diane Manas (615-352-7777, editor@tennesseetrails.org) or Libby Francis (615-889-5718, libbylibby@comcast.net).

	Width x Length	
FULL pg	4¾" x 7¾"	350.00 (Inside Front/Back)
	4¾" x 7¾"	300.00 (Run of Book)
½ pg (horizontal)	4½" x 3¾"	250.00
1/3 pg (horizontal)	4½" x 2¼"	200.00
Business Card	2" x 3½"	100.00

Deadline for space reservation, camera-ready ad materials and payment is April 30. TTA reserves the right to reject any ad for any reason.

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

Apr 12 Trillium Gap Trail, GSMNP. It's wildflower season and we should see an abundance of the early spring bloomers. In addition, we'll pass through an old growth forest with lots of downed chestnuts and standing 200 year-old hemlocks. Please Note: we'll be hiking 2.8 miles (each way) from the Grotto Falls parking area to the Gap (junction with Brushy Mtn.); therefore this hike is rated easy to Grotto Falls and moderate from Grotto Falls to the Gap. We will have a resting spot at the top for lunch. For those who like a panoramic view, we will hike 0.2 miles up an un-maintained trail. You won't want to miss this view! In late spring, early summer, you can find Mtn. Laurel in bloom and edible blueberries along this trek. Bring water, lunch and/or a snack, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will meet at 9:30am ET to carpool from the Gatlinburg Welcome Center (between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg). If you prefer to meet us at the trailhead, be sure to meet us in the Grotto Falls parking lot. For information and to register, contact Lesley at 865-523-5312, or lesley@esper.com

Apr 19 Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. We will go up Panther Branch and North Old Mac trails to the fire tower and descend via South Old Mac and Judge Branch Trails. These are excellent wildflower trails. The hike is 7½ miles and rated moderate due to the 1800-ft climb and occasionally narrow, and slippery trail. Sturdy hiking boots are strongly advised. Bring water, snacks and lunch. We will meet at 8:00am ET to carpool from the front parking area of the abandoned AmSouth bank building in the Tri-County Mall on State Hwy 62 between Oak Ridge and Oliver Springs, or you can meet us at 8:45am at the Frozen Head SP Visitor's Center. For information and to register, contact Keith Mertz at 865-982-7368, or keithmertz@hotmail.com

Apr 26 Alum Cave Trail to Mt. LeConte (Lodge), GSMNP. We will begin our hike on the Alum Cave Trail, which crosses and re-crosses Alum Cave Creek. You will see signs of the landslide of 1951, and the huge gully washer of 1993. Next is Arch Rock, one of the few natural arches inside the park. Shortly thereafter, Alum Cave Bluffs, which is not a cave but an overlook. From here, it's upward and onward to Mt. LeConte - a beautiful area at any time of the year. This hike is 10½ miles (roundtrip) and rated moderate to strenuous for the ~3,000-ft climb over 5 miles, uneven and rocky terrain. Expect to be out all day. Dress in layers because it will still be chilly (maybe even freezing) at the top. Bring water, snacks and lunch. We will enjoy lunch from the peaceful porch of the Mt. LeConte Lodge. After the hike, if everyone is willing and able, we will stop at Smokin' Joe's in Townsend for dinner. We will meet at 8:30am ET to carpool from the Sugarlands Visitor's Center, just inside the park from Gatlinburg. For information and to register, contact Betty Ezell 865-688-8663 (hm), 865-525-7949 (wk), or bsezell@comcast.net

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER

(Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Doug Ratliff 931-455-0249
dougratliff@hotmail.com


OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Alan Bryan 931-728-0765

BryanAlan@BFUSA.com & pbryan5@bellsouth.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CT

D.W. Wilson Center, 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma

CHAPTER NEWS: We have been invited by Friends of Short Springs to attend their annual membership meeting, on Apr. 8 at 7:30pm CT at St. Barnabas Parish House in Tullahoma. Area Forester, Clint Strohmeier will be the guest speaker. Because our chapter has adopted trails in the Short Springs State Natural Area, members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Let's continue to work together on maintaining this treasure, which is basically in our own backyard.

 **Apr 13** Short Springs State Natural Area, Tullahoma, TN. In observance of State Natural Areas Week, we will join Friends of Short Springs on their annual Spring Wildflower Walk. Dennis Horn, a botanist who spoke at our February chapter meeting, will be leading this hike. The hike is about 3 miles and rated easy for the slow speed that we will travel to view all of the flowers. We will meet at 2:00pm CT at the water tower on Short Springs Road. For information, call Doug Ratliff at 931-455-0249.

Apr 15 **MONTHLY MEETING** Michael Bonner, an EMT who previously presented a wonderful CPR demonstration to us, will present a program on wilderness first aid. Bring a friend or guest, and new members are always welcome. See you at 7:00pm CT at the D.W. Wilson Community Center, 501 North Collins St, in Tullahoma.

Apr 26 Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park. Chattanooga, TN. This is a joint outing with members of the Murfreesboro chapter, and an excellent opportunity to meet other new/old TTA members. Two routes have been planned to give you a choice of hiking distance (4 or 9 miles) and level of difficulty (easy or moderate). We will start off together and after the hike reconvene for dinner. For those wishing the easy, 4-mile hike, you will hike from the Cravens House, and follow the Bluff and Gum Springs Trails. Those wanting a moderate, 9-mile hike will also begin at the Cravens House and follow the Bluff, Skyuka and Upper Truck Trails. Bring water, snacks and lunch (and \$\$ for dinner). Sturdy hiking boots are advisable due to the rocky, uneven terrain. We will meet at 7:00am CT to carpool from the Cracker Barrel at the I-24/Hwy 231 junction. For information and to register, call Martin McCullough at 615-896-1043.

HIKE REPORT:

On Mar. 1, four hikers walked from the Greeter Falls parking area to the Stone Door Ranger Station by way of the Greeter, Big Creek Rim, and Stone Door Trails. A great volume of water was flowing over Greeter Falls, and the view from below the lower falls was spectacular. Boardtree Falls was also magnificent as we ascended the trail along side it. As we approached the first overlook on the Big Creek Rim Trail, the sun broke through the clouds for the first time in two weeks. We met a member of the Murfreesboro chapter backpacking to the Alum Gap campground, and as we were leaving from the Stone Door Ranger's Station, we met members of the Nashville chapter who were completing the Big Creek Gulf / Big Creek Rim loop. Everyone had a terrific day hiking, and running into fellow TTA hikers was an added bonus.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICER: Betty Porter 901-755-4740

CO-CHAIR: Norma McMinn 901-785-1479

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604

glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETS MONTHLY - (Sept-May) 3rd Thursday at 7pm CT
Germantown Library

Apr 5 Ft. Pillow State Park. Henning, TN. Join us for a 5-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain (elevation 210 to 420 ft.) and through hardwood forests followed by a catfish lunch at Miss Sips. Carpoolers will meet at 8:00am CT at Raleigh Springs Mall by Penny's parking area, or you can meet us at the Park's Interpretative Center at 10:00am CT. For information, call Carol Haley at 901-388-9163.

Apr 12 Spring Wildflower Hike, Overton Park. Memphis, TN. This hike may be extra special because it's possible we will see more wildflowers than usual due to the extra cold weather we experienced earlier this year. And since April 12 is the 3rd Anniversary date for the Old Forest Trail, there will be 4 people to lead the hikes. Some leaders will concentrate on wildflowers and some will concentrate on both birds and flowers. Join us at 10:00am CT at the bridge at the end of Old Forest Lane adjacent to Rainbow Lake playground parking lot in Overton Park for an easy 1 to 1 1/4 mile hike. For information, call John Martin at 901-386-3722.

Apr 17 **MONTHLY MEETING** "Trailside Birding" We are fortunate to have Dick Preston, an active member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and President of West Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges, to present a slide presentation on birding in the Mid-South. Dick Preston, originally from New Jersey and retired after 27 years in the Marine Corps, moved to the Munford, TN area 15 years ago. Dick is a worldwide traveler and has over 40 years birding experience with a record of having spotted over 35% of the world's total bird species. Dick also leads bird watching hikes twice a month to nearby areas. You won't want to miss this! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Germantown Library.

Apr 26-27 (Sat-Sun) Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Sparta, TN. On Sat., we will join members of the Murfreesboro chapter to Virgin Falls. This is an annual spring outing with them (this year, Upper Cumberland chapter will be joining us), so make plans to join the fun and fellowship. The plan is to meet them at 9:00am CT at the McDonald's, next to Wal-mart, in Sparta.) Approximately 6-8 hours should be allowed for hiking and sightseeing along the Virgin Falls Trail itself, which is nearly 8 miles roundtrip, and rated moderate to difficult due to the rocky and uneven terrain, and elevation losses and gains. The area contains spectacular natural beauty of hardwood forests, wildlife, deep gorges, scenic overlooks, waterfalls, wildflowers, and caves. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Sturdy hiking footwear is a must! On Sun., we plan to do an easy hike in a nearby area. Registration is required! For information, call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604.

Exciting!

Volunteer Opportunity!

At the end of 2003, the Board of Directors will be looking for someone to serve as the statewide, Membership Director for 2004 (and hopefully beyond!). This is a wonderful volunteer position (looks great on a resume) and an excellent opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. We are soliciting names of interested people now so that a candidate can have several months of leisurely training before assuming office.

No "professional" experience is required; however, you must have: (1) internet access, (2) basic computer skills, (3) an organized filing system for maintaining membership data; (4) the ability to attend quarterly board meetings, and (5) a willingness to devote approximately four hours per week to membership-related correspondence.

Don't be shy or modest! All inquiries will be considered as "no obligation." For more details about the position, contact Anne Wesley (615-851-1052 or *tahiker@msn.com*).

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Martin McCulloch 615-896-1043 mam1932@earthlink.net
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Ray & Linda Eckerson 615-847-0322 reckerson@comcast.net
MEETS MONTHLY - 2nd Tuesday at 7pm CT
Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station, 697 Barfield Rd., Murfreesboro

Apr 5 Angel Falls Overlook (6½, moderate with some climbing) and Angel Falls Riverside Trails (2 miles and flat), Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, Jamestown, TN. This is a joint outing with members of the Upper Cumberland chapter and Sierra Club, and an excellent opportunity to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. These are areas to see wildflowers so we won't be speeding along. If anyone doesn't feel up to the Overlook portion of the hike, they are welcome to do just the Riverside Trail. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring plenty of water to drink, in addition to snacks and lunch. If you have an aversion to snakes, you may want to bring a hiking stick, since they will be surfacing as the weather gets warmer. We will meet at 7:30am CT to carpool from the Cone gas station at the Hwy 231/I-40 junction (Murfreesboro side). For information, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-8278, 615-631-6884, or stillwild@bellsouth.net

Apr 8 MONTHLY MEETING. Bertha Chrietzberg, known for her fondness of the outdoors and wonderful wildflower photographs will be speaking about those found in area cedar glades. Not to be missed! Bring a guest/friend, new members welcome! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Wilderness Station in Barfield Crescent Park.

Apr 12 Spring Wildflower Hike, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point, TN. We're slowing the pace on this one because we want to take in all of the wildflowers that we will see along the way. The hike will be short, 2½ miles or so and rated easy. Bring lunch and water. We will meet at the Observation Tower in the park. For meeting time and to register, contact Bertha Chrietzberg at 615-896-1146, or bertha@hearthofn.net

April 13 Hidden Springs Trail, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN. This is a joint outing with the Sierra Club and an excellent opportunity to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The hike is 5 miles over terrain rated easy to moderate. Since we will be watching for wildflowers, our pace will be slower, therefore making this an easy walk. Bring your wildflower books, and expect to see "glade" flowers blooming, such as Nashville Bloodroot. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring snacks, lunch and water. For information and to register, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-8278, 615-631-6884, or stillwild@bellsouth.net

Apr 26 Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, Chattanooga, TN. This is a joint outing with members of the Highland Rim chapter, and an excellent opportunity to meet other new/old TTA members. Two routes have been planned to give you a choice of hiking distance (4 or 9 miles) and level of difficulty (easy or moderate). We will start off together and after the hike reconvene for dinner. For those wishing the easy, 4-mile hike, you will hike from the Cravens House, and follow the Bluff and Gum Springs Trails. Those wanting a moderate, 9-mile hike will also begin at the Cravens House and follow the Bluff, Skyuka and Upper Truck Trails. Bring water, snacks and lunch (and \$\$ for dinner). Sturdy hiking boots are advisable due to the rocky, uneven terrain. We will meet at 7:45am CT to carpool from the Cracker Barrel at the I-24/Hwy 55 junction. For information and to register, contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718, or bmorris@edge.net

Apr 26 Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness, Sparta, TN. This is our annual spring outing with members of the Memphis chapter (this year, Upper Cumberland chapter will be joining us), so make plans to join the fun and fellowship. Approximately 6 to 8 hours should be allowed for hiking and sightseeing along the Virgin Falls Trail itself, which is nearly 8 miles roundtrip, and rated difficult due to the rocky and uneven terrain, elevation losses and gains. Expect to see lots of wildflowers and scenic overlooks. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Sturdy hiking footwear is a must! We will meet at 8:00am CT at the Hardee's in Woodbury (and meet Memphis at 9:00am CT at the McDonald's, next to Wal-mart, in Sparta.) For information and to register, contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357, or fwbertram@heartoftn.net

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

May 10 Creek Float and Cave Look See, Smith Fork Creek, DeKalb County, TN. This is a joint outing with the Sierra Club and an excellent opportunity to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. This is a seven-mile float that is easy, and not appropriate for a beginner. Some boats are available but you will have to provide your own life jacket. The cave is not deep and does not require a hat, but a flashlight is essential. Rain date is May 11. For information, call Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, 615-631-5884, or stillwild@bellsouth.net

Radnor Lake State Natural Area Celebrates 30 Years

In 1973, as a result of several years of hard work, creative thinking, fundraising, political action and last-minute heroics by many dedicated conservationists and enlightened leaders, Radnor Lake was saved. 2003 will mark the 30th anniversary of that momentous occasion.

With gratitude towards all those involved, the Friends of Radnor Lake is planning a special year of activities and events to remember Radnor Lake State Natural Area's history, celebrate the present, and plan for its future. And everyone is invited to participate.

Radnor Lake State Natural Area will kick off its 30th anniversary celebration, which coincides with Tennessee's State Natural Areas Week (April 7-13), with special programs and activities for everyone of all ages and interests. At the time this newsletter was going to the printer, activities for the week had not be finalized; however on Saturday April 12, there will be refreshments at 1:00pm CT, a slide presentation, "Reflections of Radnor's History," at 2:00pm. A highlight of the weekend is the presentation of the 3rd Annual Environmental Award at 3:00pm to Mack Prichard - well-known photographer, conservationist and State Naturalist. Most activities are in the Visitor's Center, and additional information can be obtained by calling Radnor Lake at 615-373-3467.

Radnor Lake State Natural Area is located in Davidson County, south of Metropolitan Nashville. Hiking, nature study and observation, photography, and research are the major activities presently enjoyed by Radnor Lake's many annual visitors. It is a place that provides scenic, biological, geological, and passive recreational opportunities. Plus, wildlife is amazingly abundant.

◆ Earth Day ◆ Every Day ◆

◆ April 22 ◆



Get involved! For a listing of events planned in your area of the world, visit:

www.earthday.net/events

**Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail
Sycamore Creek Trestle
Celebrates 100th Year
April 12**

On April 12, join Friends of Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail (FCRBT) during a birthday celebration for the Sycamore Rail-trail Trestle, which was built in 1903, on the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail just outside Ashland City. The event will also kick-off the community's Earth Day activities, "Walk on the Wildflower Side."

Everyone is invited to hike either the "Trestle Bridge" segment (4 miles) or the "Eagle Pass" segment (2 miles). FCRBT has tentative (not confirmed at the time this newsletter was going to the printer) plans of providing a shuttle to hikers starting at either end of the "Trestle Bridge" segment between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm (CT). At noon, all will gather on the Sycamore Creek Trestle to sing "Happy Birthday," and eat birthday cake.

Open from sunrise to sunset, The Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail in Ashland City, TN is accessible to hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, bird watchers, wildflower enthusiasts and just plain Nature Lovers!

To obtain additional information, call Ashland City Parks and Recreation at 615-792-2655.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: David Furse 615-353-6435

dfurse@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Elizabeth Gerlock

615-356-6260 *eygerlock@aol.com*

MEETS MONTHLY - 4th Tuesday at 7pm CT

St. Bernard Academy Building

2021 21st Ave South

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045


CHAPTER NEWS: In March, the Nashville Chapter began supplementing TTA's monthly newsletter with a twice per month e-bulletin, *Trail Connections*. *Trail Connections* will report on events and news of interest to Nashville members. The response so far, to two trial issues, has been very positive. If you did not receive the *Trail Connections* e-bulletin and wish to be added to the distribution list, please use the *Address Change Form* on our website to provide us with your current e-mail address. Go to www.tennesseetrails.org and follow the Member Services link. Also, remember that your membership must be current in order to stay on the distribution list.


EARTH DAY EVENT: Sat Apr 19 TTA has been invited to participate in the Nashville Earth Day 2003 celebration at Centennial Park (West End Ave at 27th Ave N). We will have tables to answer questions and distribute materials about TTA – and what a great way to publicize our organization! We need happy-faced volunteers during the hours of 11:00am until 7:00pm CT to help set-up, staff and break down our displays. The event is FREE and open to the public from noon until 7:00pm and will include educational programs, speakers, live music, food vendors, children's activities, and participants from the local community and environmental organizations. PLEASE, donate your time and enthusiasm to this very worthwhile project. Stay as little or as long as you'd like by signing up for any of the following two-hour shifts: 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p, and 5p-until we breakdown our displays. Volunteer TODAY! by contacting David Furse at 615-353-6435, *dfurse@comcast.net* See you there!
(cont.)

NASHVILLE (cont.)

Apr 5 Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. Wildflowers, wildflowers, wildflowers. Need we say more? This area is abundant with them and depending on the weather and what's blooming where in the park, we will decide on which trails to take. For starters, we'll plan taking Panther Branch Trail and the North Old Mac Trail to the top of Frozen Head and then return by way of South Old Mac. We'll hike about 9 miles over terrain rated difficult, unless you decide to stop and see the flowers, and not go to the top. For information, and to obtain meeting time and location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 615-824-7666.

Apr 5 1st Saturday Hike in Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Join us as we explore Nashville's newer park being developed by volunteers. Our hike will be from 9:00am until 12:00 noon CT on terrain rated easy to moderate. We will meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. For information and to register, contact Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586, or *nancydorman@yahoo.com*

 **Apr 10** (Thu) Lake, Ganier and South Cove Trails Wildflower Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN. It's spring wildflower season and Radnor Lake SNA is the perfect location for a mid-week outing – lots to see, and very close to home. We will hike the Lake, Ganier and South Cove Trails for a total of 4½ miles. The terrain is rated moderate for the two hills we will ascend/descend; however at wildflower viewing pace it'll seem a lot easier. Please wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks. We will meet at the Visitor's Center at 1:00pm CT. Radnor Lake SNA charges a \$3/carload State Park Access Fee. If you don't already have your Annual State Park Pass, bring \$3 to pay the fee. For information and to register, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 615-824-7666.

 **Apr 12** Collins Gulf Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. Each year in the spring the gulf is a carpet of wildflowers. Along the way, we will also pass by beautiful Suter and Horsepound Falls, and have lunch at the Collins Gulf Overlook. This is an 11-mile loop, and rated difficult for the uneven and rocky terrain, in addition to several boulder fields. We will meet at 7:00am CT to carpool from Target just off of Bell Rd at the I-24 junction. For information and to register, contact Keith White at 615-833-9770, or *takehike@bellsouth.net*

Apr 12 Bowie Nature Park. Fairview, TN. Bowie Nature Park was donated to the City of Fairview by Dr. Evangeline Bowie. She worked to restore eroded land back to its native beauty. Bowie Nature Park has several miles of trails for our enjoyment, and most trails are rated easy because there is very little elevation change; however, due to the number of miles we will travel (6-8), we'll rate them moderate. Along the way, we should see many early spring wildflowers. We will meet at 9:00 am CT and carpool from the Kroger on Charlotte Pike, near White Bridge Rd. For information and to register, contact Peter Gregory at 615-300-8174, or *pgregory@starband.net*

Apr 12 Trail Work (half-day) at Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Every second Saturday, volunteers gather from 9:00am until 12-noon CT to build and maintain the trails in Beaman Park in preparation for the park's opening. A two-mile loop is complete, but in need of some fine-tuning, and work has begun on a second loop of similar length. Trail building experience helps but is not required, and the work is no more difficult than moderate gardening. Please bring work gloves, water and whatever tools that you have. We will meet at 9:00am at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. Questions? Contact Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586, or *nancydorman@yahoo.com*

(cont. on pg.10)

Apr 13 Bledsoe Creek State Park. Gallatin, TN. We will follow an easy 3-mile trail on Old Hickory Lake's Bledsoe Creek near Gallatin. The trail follows the lakeshore and climbs a bluff for some scenic views. When the hike leader scouted the trail in March, she saw an abundance of wildlife and waterfowl. Wear sturdy hiking shoes/boots, and bring an extra pair of socks (there could be mud, standing water, etc.), water and snacks. After the hike, we will eat lunch in a restaurant nearby (bring \$\$\$). For information and to register, contact Nancy Juodenas at 615-643-0936, or nancyjuodenas@earthlink.net

Apr 15 (Tue) Unscientific Wildflower Inventory & Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Let's see how many wildflowers we can spot – from the trail. Because the hike leader is enthusiastic about wildflowers and not an expert, anyone new to the spring wildflower thing should not feel intimidated. Bring your field guides and we'll track all that we see – could be as few as 10, or as many as 25, and predicated by the weather we've had in the previous weeks. We will hike 4½ miles by connecting the Lake, Ganier Ridge, and South Cove Trails. There will be two noticeable ascents/descents along the way, but at a wildflower viewing pace, the hills won't seem all that tough. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring water and snacks. We will meet at 10:00am CT at the Visitor's Center. For information, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Apr 18-20 (Fri-Sun) Roan Mountain State Park. Roan Mountain, TN. Doug Burroughs has reserved two cabins for this weekend of hikes. Space is limited and REGISTRATION is REQUIRED! On Fri., we will leave Nashville early and arrive with enough time to get in a short hike in the afternoon. On Sat., we'll have the entire day to get in any variety (easy or moderate - morning, afternoon or all-day) of hikes in the surrounding area (Carver's Gap on the A.T., Pond Mountain Wilderness, etc.). On Sun., we'll do a short hike before heading back to Nashville. Because the elevation in this area is higher than in Nashville, you can expect a repeat of some of the wildflowers you may have seen 2-3 weeks earlier. Cabin and food expenses will be shared equally. For information and to register, call Doug Burroughs at 615-292-9307 or 615-587-0085.

Apr 19 Short Springs State Natural Area. Tullahoma, TN. Designated a State Natural Area in 1994, this area abounds in spring wild flowers, streams, and waterfalls. We will take the short wildflower loop and continue on other trails if the group is interested. Wear boots and bring water, lunch, and snacks. For information (meeting time/place) and to register, contact Libby Francis at 615-889-5718 or libbyslibbys@comcast.net

Apr 22 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Gearheads, gear up! It's time for another visit from our friend from Cumberland Transit, Bill Bailey. Bill will search the store's inventory for the latest and coolest equipment, the essentials and the luxuries, that you'll want for your next trek. Tents, packs, footwear, gadgets and more will be on display, so mark this one down. Bring a friend/guest and newcomers are welcome! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Nature Conservancy Conference Room, in the St. Bernard Academy Building, 2021 21st Ave. South.

Apr 26-27 (Sat-Sun) Hobbs Cabin Backpack, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. Spend two days outdoors at a beautiful time of year in this gorgeous area. Over 2 days, we will backpack the North Rim and North Plateau Trails for a total of 13.4 miles over terrain that is virtually flat; however, this outing is rated moderate due to the distance covered with the weight of carrying a backpack. North Rim Trail offers many overlooks into the "gulf." Our destination on Sat. night is Hobbs cabin. For information and to register, contact Jerry Hendrixson at 615- 423-7019 or cheifwagee@aol.com

**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.*

Apr 26 Newcomer's Hike at Narrows of the Harpeth Historic Area. Kingston Springs, TN. Come join Patt Dillon for an interesting historical hike exploring the area around the tunnel Montgomery Bell's slaves cut through the Narrows of the Harpeth River and his home place. A very eccentric man, he is credited with developing the iron industry in the area. Along the way, you can expect to see some wildflowers. The hike is between 2-3 miles and afterwards, we'll go to a restaurant nearby for lunch (bring \$\$). For information, call Patt Dillon at 615-646-5351.

Apr 27 Warner Park Hike and/or Bike. Nashville, TN. If you are a hiker who also enjoys an occasional bike ride, dust your bike off and join us in the Warner Parks on a combination hike & bike. This outing will be rated moderate to difficult depending on your skill level, and if we choose to bike the park's roads or Belle Meade Boulevard. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Belle Meade Blvd. entrance to Warner Park where we can access the hiking trails. Afterwards, depending on the group, we will bicycle the park's roads and/or Belle Meade Blvd. Feel free to come for just the hiking or the bicycling. You will need to provide your own bike and YOU MUST WEAR A HELMET!! If you bring some lunch money, we can check out Le Peep, a favorite spot to fuel up after a day in the park! For more information and to register, contact Marie Chitwood at 615-519-2599, or mchitwood1@msn.com

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Apr 11 Dinner & Socializing at Tabouli's. Very affordable Greek cuisine. Registration is not required, just show up at 7:00pm CT at 2015 Belmont Blvd. Questions? Contact Paul Smith at 615-832-9388, or paolov@bellsouth.net

Apr 19 Exotic Plant Inventory at Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Friends of Beaman Park received a small grant to help them in their first steps of identifying, then eradicating the non-native invasive plants that threaten the native plants in the area. You are invited to assist volunteers in identifying these non-native invasive plants. No experience is required and the "work" is E-A-S-Y. Your help is needed from 9:00am until noon CT. Bring water, snacks and lunch. We will meet on Little Marrow Bone Road. For information and to volunteer, contact Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586, or nancydorman@yahoo.com

Apr 22 Pre-Monthly Meeting Dinner at Brown's Diner, 2102 Blair Blvd. Brown's, a favorite hangout with legendary hamburgers. The diner shares a parking lot with the Friedman's Army Navy Store around the corner on 21st Ave. Meet for dinner at 5:15pm CT, we leave for the meeting at 6:35. Bring \$\$ to pay for your meal. Questions? Contact Paul Smith at 615-832-9388, or paolov@bellsouth.net

(Nashville Chapter continues on page 11)

Attention:
Hike Coordinators
(aka Hike Leaders)

A TTA **Release of Claims & Hold Harmless Agreement** form (aka "Liability Waiver") must be signed by everyone **before you start your hike** or before carpooling to your hiking destination. They can be obtained from your local Chapter Officer or downloaded easily from our web site:

www.tennesseetrails.org/release.php

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 17-18 (Sat-Sun) Beginners' Backpacking Trip, Mousetail Landing State Park. Linden, TN. This is just the trip if you are new to backpacking or just want to spend the weekend viewing the flowers and watching the Tennessee River flow by - the highlight of Shelter #2. We will backpack the Eagle Point Trail, which is 8.2-miles, over the two days. This trip is rated moderate because we will be wearing overnight backpacks and there are still hills in West Tennessee! We will hike 5.6 miles to Shelter #2 on Sat., which leaves just under 3 miles to hike out on Sun. On Sat., we will meet at 10:00am CT at Home Depot on Hwy 70 in Bellevue, just off of I-40 and make a lunch stop before hitting the trail. Never been backpacking before, don't know what to take, wear, eat? There is a planning meeting on Apr. 14 at June Parker's home (thanks June!) to answer these questions and to help you prepare. Or, you can just come by and meet your fellow backpackers. For more information and to register contact either Marie Chitwood (615-519-2599 / mchitwood1@msn.com) or Dan Brennan (615-837-4324 / osrwodan@aol.com)

HIKE REPORT:

In the face of flash flood warnings and a snow advisory, the scheduled hike for Feb. 23, went ahead with a revised route and a reduced but enthusiastic group (Alan Ball, Allison Keisch, June Parker, Julie Walski, and hike leader Doug Burroughs). They drove to the Hidden Passage Trail in Pickett State Park through a snow-covered landscape. The snow on the trees and rocks was truly scenic, but it wasn't deep enough to make the hiking difficult at all. We started from the Group Camp and did it clockwise (i.e., backwards!). We went down the Tunnel Trail, but since some water had pooled a little higher than expected in the low spots in the tunnel, we posed for some photos at the entrance and came back the same way. We finished the hike in good time and stopped at the Highland Manor Winery on the way back. We also made the obligatory dinner stop at El Tapatio in Cookeville.

Submitted by Doug Burroughs

NORTHWEST CHAPTER**(UT at Martin & Weakley County)****CHAPTER OFFICER:** Jim Clark 731-587-2225jclark@utm.edu**MEETS MONTHLY (ONLY when college is in session)**2nd Thursday at 7pm CTUT Martin Campus' Boling University Center
Room 231**WEBSITE - www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/**

Apr 10 MONTHLY MEETING. Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips (i.e. April 25-26 will be finalized) and meet/greet members/friends. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 7:00pm CT in room 231, Boling University Center on the UT Martin Campus.

Apr 12 Jackson Hollow, Shawnee National Forest. Eddyville, IL. The first time we did this hike, it was autumn. Spring wildflowers should be abundant on this trail that first follows bluff edges, crossing above two waterfalls, before descending through a cleft in the rocks to the canyon below. Following the base of the rock bluffs, this loop trail is one of our favorites. The hike will be from 4 to 8 miles depending on the makeup of the group, and regardless of the distance, it is worth every step taken! For information, call Jim Clark at 731-587-2225.

Apr 25-26 (TENTATIVE PLANS - will be finalized during Apr 10 Monthly Meeting) Dayhike at Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Sparta TN. On Fri., we will drive to Cumberland Mountain State Park (Crossville) and set up camp. On Sat., we'll hike the 8 miles (roundtrip) into Virgin Falls and afterwards drive back to UT Martin. For information, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225, or jclark@utm.edu

PLATEAU CHAPTER
(Crossville)**CHAPTER OFFICER:** Charlie Jones 931-277-3228cejones@crossville.com**OUTINGS COORDINATOR:** Carolyn Miller 931-260-6674cardan@usit.net**MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Thursday at 7pm CT**


The Family Place, 141 Pinewood Dr.

(across from the old Avery Dennison Bldg./Hwy 70)

CHAPTER NEWS: We intend to have workdays throughout the year to assist with the maintenance of some local hiking trails (Crossville area). To get added to the volunteer list, contact Charlie Jones at 931-277-3228, or cejones@crossville.com

There is a leaderless hike every Wednesday morning at 8:30am CT. We usually meet at the boat launch area of Cumberland Mountain State Park. The hikes are moderately paced and may average five or six miles. For information, call Bill Haynes at 931-707-7606. Rain cancels.

Apr 5 Trail Maintenance in Cumberland Mountain State Park. Crossville, TN. We'll be assisting with the clean up from the aftermath of a recent tornado; the trails are currently impassable. Please join us for this maintenance outing so that we can once again hike these wonderful trails! To volunteer, contact Charlie Jones at 931-277-3228, or cejones@crossville.com

 **Apr 12** Panther Branch Trail, Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. It's time ... spring wildflower hiking! If the weather cooperates, expect to see lots of trillium and other wildflowers. We'll hike Panther Branch Trail to the junction of North Old Mac Trail, seeing DeBord Falls on the way. We will then follow North Old Mac back down to the road where we can shuttle back to the parking area, or walk a final mile on the road. This 4-mile hike is rated moderate due to the elevation changes. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am CT at the Dairy Queen on Genesis Road. For information and to register, contact Leigh Jones at 931-277-3228, or cejones@crossville.com

Apr 17 MONTHLY MEETING. Cumberland Mountain State Park Ranger, Andy Lyon, will present a program about "Getting Lost." You won't want to miss this one! See you at 7:00pm CT in our **NEW LOCATION**, Family Place, 141 Pinewood Drive, across from the old Avery Dennison Bldg. on Hwy. 70.

Apr 19 Burnt Mill Bridge Loop Trail, Big South Fork National River & Recreational Area. Jamestown, TN. This 4-mile loop hike along a creek should be another opportunity to see spring wildflowers. The trail is rated moderate due to a steep climb and the rocky terrain. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am CT behind Cracker Barrel on Hwy. 127, in Crossville. For information and to register, contact Myra Holloway at 931-788-1724, or genetn1@hotmail.com

Apr 26 Rock Creek Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Sale Creek, TN. Come join us as we hike the newest segment of the Cumberland Trail that was built by college students and volunteers during the 2003 Spring BreakAway program - last month! The hike will range from 4-6 miles depending on the amount of trail that was built last month. The trail is rated moderate due to some elevation changes. We will meet at 8:00am CT at the Visitor's Center at Cumberland Mountain State Park (Crossville). Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. For information and to register, contact Carolyn Miller at 931-260-6674, or cardan@usit.net

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER CHAPTER OFFICER

Susan Turner 423-209-4224 or 423-867-5677
sturner@bdbc.com

Apr 12 Rock Creek Section of Cumberland Trail. Sale Creek, TN. We will hike the newly completed section of the Cumberland Trail in Rock Creek Gorge. It is a moderate 2-mile hike. Sturdy hiking boots are required, and bring plenty of snacks and water, warm clothes and rain gear. We will meet at the Waffle House on Hwy. 153 off of Hwy. 27 North. For information, meeting time and to register, contact Susan Turner at 867-5677, or sturner@bdbc.com

TTA Gift Memberships Available Throughout the Year!

- ◆ Birthdays ◆ Anniversaries ◆ Valentine's Day ◆ Boss' Day ◆
- ◆ Mother's Day ◆ Graduation ◆ Father's Day ◆ Halloween ◆
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For the price of a regular membership, we will send the gift membership recipient a beautiful TTA logo patch enclosed in a card (customized for the occasion) announcing your gift. Gift memberships can be purchased by contacting Anne Wesley: ttahiker@msn.com, or 615-851-1052.

Don't Leave Home Without It

What good will a green plastic credit card do you 20 miles from the nearest paved road? What do you really need when out away from civilization?

Experienced outdoor enthusiasts know what items are most important to bring, even for short walks or hikes out of base camp - the "**Ten Essentials**." These are items that cannot be improvised from materials lying on the forest floor. To be found without these few items, even if you are within a few miles of your car, camp or cabin, can spell disaster. The "**Ten Essentials**" are the end product of years of hard-won experience. They are intended to help outdoor enthusiasts avoid getting into trouble in the first place, and, if that doesn't work, to minimize the damage.

Before you head out on the trail, check your pack to be sure it contains the following items*. Note that the first three items are for finding your way, the second three are for your protection, and the last four are for emergencies.

For Finding Your Way:

Map Compass Flashlight

For Your Protection

Hat/Gloves WATER & Extra Food
Raingear & Extra Clothing

For Emergencies

Whistle Pocket Knife First Aid Kit
Fire Starter / Matches

Other considerations:

Leave someone a copy of your hiking plans
Use your common sense
Hiking poles

By avoiding unnecessary problems and dangers you will save on your own personal wear and tear, and probably get back home in one piece. However, if something does come up, at least you know you've got those 10 important items stowed away in your pack.

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

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER

Helen Anglemier 931-858-5947
helena@cookeville.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

Sue Bass 931-528-1386 take-a-hike@charter.net

Please register for hikes so you can obtain hike details and be notified when/if there are any last minute changes. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. Bring plenty of water, snacks and/or lunch, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather.

April 5 Angel Falls Overlook Trail, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. This is one of the most scenic trails in Big South Fork with a spectacular view of the river and gorge. Heloise Shilstat, from the Murfreesboro chapter, will lead this hike first to the overlook which is 2.9 miles one way and rated difficult because of steps, steep climbs, and rocky terrain. Then we will take the River Trail, which is 4 miles (roundtrip) and rated easy. Feel free to do one or both hikes. For information, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-8278, 615-631-6884, or stillwild@bellsouth.net

April 12 River Trail, Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. Sparta, TN. This trail follows the shoreline of the Caney Fork River. It is 7 to 8 miles and rated moderate to strenuous for the uneven, rocky terrain. It's early spring so expect to see wildflowers in bloom along the way. For information, call Rita England at 931-657-2935.

April 26 Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Sparta, TN. We will be joined by members of the Murfreesboro and Memphis chapters - what a great opportunity to visit with new/old TTA friends. Virgin Falls comes out of a cave and drops 110 feet disappearing into another cave. The hike is 8 miles over terrain that is rated moderate to strenuous for the hills and uneven terrain. Anyone desiring a shorter hike can turn back at the 30-ft. Big Laurel Falls, which will make this a 4-mile hike (roundtrip). Please register early so we can provide a headcount to the Murfreesboro group. After the hike, we will re-group and join those going to dinner at a restaurant in Cookeville. For information and to register, contact Helen Anglemier at 931-858-5947, or helena@cookeville.com

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 3 Piney River, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Spring City, TN. This is a 10-mile, one-way hike that will require us to drop cars at each end, before we begin our hike. The terrain is rated moderate for the hills and the hike's length. For information, call Marnell Cothran at 931-738-5874.

HIKE REPORT:

On Presidents Day (Feb. 7), most of the group, deterred by the weather, wimped out, but three of us braved the rain, snow, and ice on Hidden Passage Trail in Pickett State Park. (You missed a good one!)

On March 1, Ross and Brenda Cardwell invited us to hike to High Rock near Sparta, TN, followed by a potluck lunch at their cabin. As last year, it was one of our best events with 15 attending. The sun actually came out while we were at the top, and of course the food afterwards was super! Thanks again, Ross and Brenda, for such a perfect day.

On March 8, Ranger Ray Eason led us (12) on a hike in the vicinity of the Visitor's Center at Edgar Evins State Park near Silver Point, TN. He told us all about bees and the wildflowers in the area. We saw some Spring Beauties and another unidentified little purple flower in bloom. Many of the trails in the park were underwater due to the recent heavy rains, but we managed to find other shorter trails in the area to hike after the main hike. The weather was fantastic. (Thank you Ranger Eason!)

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ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

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Diane Manas 615-352-7777
editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines:

Chapter announcements and articles of special interest must be received before April 10th in order to be included in the May 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
editor@tennesseetrails.org

Bill Irwin – Blind A.T. Thru-Hiker

Speaking at GSMNP Wildflower Pilgrimage on April 26

In 1990 Bill Irwin threw a pack on his back, harnessed his Seeing Eye guide dog, Orient, and set out on foot on a 2,168 mile journey from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. This journey proved not only to be one of physical endurance, but one, which proved that the seemingly impossible can indeed, become a reality.

This may not have been such a remarkable feat – thousands have accomplished it since the first recorded thru-hike in 1948 – except for one "minor" little detail ... the man was blind!

Irwin will be the guest speaker following the closing buffet banquet at the 53rd Wildflower Pilgrimage (Great Smoky Mtn. Nat'l Park), 8:00pm ET, Saturday, April 26, at Mills Auditorium, Gatlinburg, TN.

Tickets for "An Evening with Bill Irwin" are \$10. For tickets or Wildflower Pilgrimage information, call 865-436-7318 (ext. 22) or visit the website at www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.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 RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE Jim Deming 615-354-9767
jdeming@tals.org

WEBSITE www.TNRailsTrails.org

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

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Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.
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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.

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

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

A NEW MEMBER

Apr 03

RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.
Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,
Anne Wesley, at 615-851-1052 or ttahiker@msn.com

Please Mail This Form To:
Membership Director
P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204-1446

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone (___) _____ Zip _____ -- _____

Work Phone (___) _____

e-mail _____

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

___ Cumberland Gap

___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)

___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)

___ Memphis

___ Murfreesboro

___ Nashville

___ Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley)

___ Plateau (Crossville)

___ Soddy Daisy

___ Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville)

___ At Large

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.