

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



Annual Meeting 2006 A Success

As the weekend of the annual meeting approached, the Clarksville Chapter watched the weather and was optimistic that it would not rain. Their prayers were answered. The weather was absolutely beautiful Friday as people drove to Brandon Springs in the southern part of Land Between the Lakes. A group of canoers took advantage of the weather and paddled around Bard's Lake while a group of adventurous hikers went for a nice loop at Boswell Landing. After dinner, everyone seemed to enjoy the rendition of Rent performed by a group of Northeast High School students from Montgomery County. The bonfire on Friday evening was a great way to end a perfect first day!

Early Saturday morning the dining hall soon filled with people wanting early morning coffee, which was especially nice for those camping in the cool autumn air. The departure times of all nine outings were staggered, but soon everyone was on their way to enjoy the day from learning orienteering, visiting historical places, taking short walks or long hikes. By the time everyone returned, the slide show of outings across the state was set up. It was a treat to see members in scenic places never before visited such as The Grand Canyon, Australia's Heysen Trail, Roan Mountain, and foggy Andrews Bald. Perhaps this will be continued next year with even more chapters participating and new or favorite hikes featured.

A total of 150 people registered and attended including several new members. Visitors and even a couple of potential members were made to feel welcome. The proceeds from the bake sale, white elephant sale, cash bar, silent and live auctions and donations totaled \$4,688.24 to be given to the Cumberland Trail Conference for the Spring Break Away program. The planning committee appreciates everyone attending, donating, and making purchases! This donation to the CTC would not have been possible without YOU! We look forward to next year's Annual Meeting at Crossville's Clyde M. York 4H camp the weekend of October 12 - 14, 2007 with Plateau and Upper Cumberland chapters as the host.

The Clarksville Chapter wants to thank all who donated items or solicited donations for the auctions. In advance, I apologize if anyone has been omitted from the list that helped with the annual meeting or with donations.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

Clarksville: Suva & Jack Bastin, J.R. & Judith Tate, Renae Gills, Joann Brengel, Lily Ball, James Neblett, Ron Ashley, Polly Rucker, Lucy Weikel, Bob Lyon, Gail Owens, Joanne Sadler, Liz Lapping, Merri & Wayne Hinton & Clarksville Chapter (Cookin' & Eatin' on the Trail Backpack)
Columbia: Russell Smith, Rick Lausten **East TN:** Rosemary Marshall, David Milsaps **Franklin / Columbia:** Franklin Columbia Chapter (To Catch a Mockingbird backpack) **Highland Rim:** Sharon Bell, Doug Ratliff, Highland Rim Chapter (Just Add Water backpack)
Memphis: Gloria Lenski, Betty Porter, Kristel Reed, Anne Lindholm, Patricia Elias, Memphis Chapter (Romantic Hike to a Scenic Spot box of goodies) **Murfreesboro:** Anna & Fount Bertram, Murfreesboro Chapter (Beginner Hiker Day pack) **Nashville:** Vera & Al Churcher, Garnett Rush, Leslie & Ghad El-Sayad, Jim & Jenice Johnson, Bob Brown, Nashville Chapter (Backpack) **Northwest:** Jim Clark **Plateau:** Carolyn Miller **Upper Cumberland:** Richard Savage, Louise Miniard, Eugene Cummings

A H-U-G-E Thank You to the following businesses that helped make this year's Auction a Success!!!!

Clarksville: Grandpa's, Kroger, Wal Mart, Walgreen's, Beachaven, Noel DeCalvacante, Cumberland Wholesale, Dr. Chester, J.C. Penney, Cracker Barrel, Medicine Shoppe, TWRA **East TN:** River Sports, Bank East, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports **Highland Rim:** Mrs. Kirby Smith, Tammie Ragsdale, **Memphis:** TN State Parks **Murfreesboro:** Bink's Outfitters on the Square, Rutherford Bank & Trust, Murfreesboro Outdoors, Arnold Engineering Development Center Credit Union, **Nashville:** Adventure Plus, REI, Wild Birds Unlimited, Bass Pro Shops, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports **Upper Cumberland:** El Tapatio, Outdoor Experience **Others:** Frank Carroll, Foot Solutions

The Annual Meeting would not have been possible without these people!

Planning Committee: Suva Bastin, Judith Tate, and Merri Hinton **Hike Leaders:** J.R. Tate, Suva Bastin, James Neblett, Bob Lyon, Jack Bastin, Wayne Hinton, Matthew Monday, Patrick Holcumb, Sandy Janus, Ron Hunter, Ron Ashley
CTC Representatives: Paul Freeman & Tony Hook **Displays:** Jim & Marietta Poteet, Tony Hook & Paul Freeman
Registrar: June Miller; **Registration Helpers:** Wanda & Roy McCloskey **Auctioneer:** George Wallace
Speakers: Dr. Chester, Jonathan Rhodes & Amy, Paul Freeman **Entertainment:** Montgomery County's Northeast High School, led by Debbie Wilson, Signing to Music: Tonia Alvarez **AT Legend & Author:** J. R. Tate better known as Model T
Outings Slide Show Presentation: Merri Hinton **Decorations & Signs:** Judith Tate **Bonfire:** Jack Bastin
Auctions: Suva Bastin, Michelle Cyr, Judith Tate, Judy Lyon, Merri Hinton **Auction Cashier:** Sandy Janus
Other Helpers: Lucy Weikel, Gail Owens, J.R. Tate, Wayne Hinton, John Sneed, Joann Brengel, Bob Lyon, Wade Winters
A Special Thanks to all who brought or contributed to the Outing Posters displayed around the activity building.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

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

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive DirectorPaul Freeman paul.freeman@frontiernet.net
Trail Development &
Office ManagerJanet D. Smith janet.d.smith@frontiernet.net

Cumberland Trail Conference's Fall Schedule 2006

The Cumberland Trail Conference has the following volunteer trail building opportunity. I ask that all of our volunteers to please consider participating in this event. The weather will be cooler and it will be a good time to do some trail work. For when you do come out and volunteer to help build and maintain the trail, it is more than just working on the trail. We are saving green space for our generation and future generations. You are giving back so others can enjoy hiking and experience nature. Generous volunteers that care for hiking trails bring people closer to nature and to our families thus providing an essential escape from the treadmill of our modern lives. So build some good hiking karma and come help on the Cumberland Trail

November 27-December 17, Completion of all items in Rock/Possum/Soddy

December 1-3, Trail Training Seminar: Located in Soddy-Daisy, Correct trail construction and maintenance will be discussed and taught to potential wagon masters and volunteers

December 9, 1st Aid & CPR Certification Course: Lutheran Camp, Call the CTC office for reservations

For more information and to sign-up for these programs please contact the Cumberland Trail Conference at 931-456-6259 or email at cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.org. This schedule is also posted on our website at www.cumberlandtrail.org.

To all TTA members:

In 1968 a group of hikers and conservationists organized the Tennessee Trails Association and proposed a trans-Tennessee trail that would pass north to south through the state, following the eastern edge of the Cumberland Plateau. In turn, the TTA organized the Cumberland Trail Conference with the mission of building the trail by utilizing volunteers to complete the mission. Thus, the relationship of the TTA and the CTC was established and a tremendous amount of TTA volunteers have helped to support the mission of building the Cumberland Trail. This year the CTC wants to recognize the TTA chapter that exemplifies this volunteer spirit by honoring that chapter. The CTC has established the *TTA Volunteer Chapter of the Year* plaque and each year the chapter with the most volunteer hours will have their name engraved on it for that year. In 2006, the **Memphis Chapter** is the winner with 1778 total volunteer hours from October 2005-October 2006, way-to-go Memphis TTA members.

The CTC thanks all of the TTA members for their support and humbly ask for your future support. Please check-out our website, www.cumberlandtrail.org, for the fall volunteer opportunities and be making plans for our TTA weekend that is planned for the Memorial Day weekend of May 25-27, 2007 (details to be announced). **Tony**

TTA's Calendar*

The following dates in 2007 refer to statewide activities that TTA as a whole participates in. Please refer to this calendar often so that you . . .

- will know when your volunteering interests are especially needed (such as during BreakAway, National Trail Days, etc.)
- will consider organizing/leading volunteers from your chapter/region for an event listed
- can be sure to prevent scheduling conflicts with an activity you wish to plan

Jan 1	New Year's Day Hike 'n Feast Multi-chapter Event (Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area, Derosssett TN)
Feb 3	Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting (Nashville)
Feb 25-Mar 3	CTC's Spring BreakAway, Wk 1 in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Mar 4-10	CTC's Spring BreakAway, Wk 2 in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Mar 11-17	CTC's Spring BreakAway, Wk 3 in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Mar 18-24	CTC's Spring BreakAway, Wk 4 in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Mar 25-31	CTC's Spring BreakAway, Wk 5 in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Apr 2-8	TDEC's Natural Areas Week (Statewide)
Apr 20-May 11	CTC's Spring Trail Building in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Apr 21	Earth Day Events (Observed Apr 22)
Apr 28	Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting (Location TBA)
May 3-6	American Hiking Society's Great Southeastern Hiking Festival (Montreat, NC)
May 18-Jun 10	CTC's Spring Trail Building in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
May 26-28	TTA Weekend: Trail Building in Sundquist WMA (Wartburg/Caryville)
Jun 2	National Trails Day
Aug 4	Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting (Location TBA)
Sep 29	National Public Lands Day (Location TBA)
Oct 27	Make a Difference Day (National Volunteer Week)
Oct 12-14	Annual Meeting (Crossville, TN) hosted by Plateau Chapter

HIKE 'N HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Be sure to recognize the businesses that donated to our annual meeting (listed on page 1) and made our Auction such a success. Purchasing your holiday gifts at their shops is the best thank you we can express. Be sure to thank them personally whenever possible.

Give 'em a State Park?

Special Winter Rates at TN State Parks

Each winter, Tennessee State Parks offers sizable discounts on their inn rooms and cabins, and this year they are offering the Winter Promotion Discount. The lodging discounts begin Dec 1, 2006 and end on Feb 28, 2007. There will be no discounts offered from Dec 22 through Jan 4. Reservations are not required; however, advisable since discounts are offered solely on rooms available. Upon check-in, you will need a discount/promotional coupon which are available at TN State Park's website, www.tenstateparks.com (follow the link to Winter Discounts). Or, you can obtain them when phoning to make your reservation toll free at 888-867-2757. Specifics regarding the promotion on inn rooms and cabins are as follows:

Inn rooms: The discount for 1 inn room is \$45.95 seven days a week. No other discounts apply. Groups may take advantage of this discount.

Cabins: The discount for cabins is 50% with a 2-night minimum required. The cabin discount is good Sunday through Thursday. No other discounts apply. The cabins at Reelfoot Lake State Park are not included in this promotion.

Tennessee State Parks has six inns with over 600 rooms and 17 parks with over 300 cabins throughout the state. We invite you to come visit us and "Enjoy Our Good Nature."

How about a TTA Membership?

Are You Tired of Shuffling Along at the Mall? Searching for a Meaningful Holiday Gift?

Well, break loose from the herd because TTA has the solution! Give someone the rock shelters at Big South Fork, and the grassy balds in the Smokies, and the wildflowers at Short Springs, and the overlooks along the Cumberland Trail and the waterfalls of Savage Gulf. All this and much more can be theirs with a Tennessee Trails Association Gift Membership. Dues are \$25 Individual, \$35 Family, \$15 Student or \$50+ Supporting. Not only will you be supporting Tennessee hiking, but you'll also be giving your friend(s) and/or family members a year's worth of adventure and recreation.

To give a gift membership, contact Garnett rushga01@yahoo.com or 615-352-7217).

Beverage to Warm Up By?

The new Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Coffee Blend!

Are you a coffee lover? Are you interested in protecting open space for current and future generations to enjoy? Now you can wake up in the morning and enjoy a fresh cup of fine coffee knowing that your purchase is helping to develop hiking trails in the southeastern United States.

www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai/index.html is proud to announce a partnership with the Alabama based company - Higher Ground - to help support American Hiking Society's work in the southeast. Higher Ground has developed a new blend of www.highergroundroasters.com for your enjoyment. A portion of each purchase of the coffee will benefit American Hiking Society.

The www.highergroundroasters.com is an exceptional medium roast with a rich taste and full flavor. This medium bodied coffee carries a taste of wild berries and a subtle dark chocolate finish.

Please visit www.highergroundroasters.com website today and pick-up some fresh roasted coffee for you or a friend!

CLARKSVILLE GIFTS

T-Shirts commemorating the Annual Meeting
Books *Hiking Trails Tennessee Prehistory* appendix written by Bob Brown \$10 each in the auction. Only four left Money from sale goes to the CTC for Break Away Contact Merri Hinton andrews@logantele.com

Hiking books?

Shop amazon.com

Through TTA's Website

You can shop for those on your holiday gift list 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 webpage link. It's very easy! Go to the TTA website (www.tennesseetrails.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.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Charles Gibbs
423-628-5678 *cgibbs@nxs.net*
SECRETARY / TREASURER: Benita Howell
423-628-5521 or 865-974-7797 *bhowell@nxs.net*
BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Tim & Lynn Takacs
615-824-7048 *lynntakacs@comcast.net*
or ttakacs@comcast.net
OUTINGS COORDINATOR Eric Wilson
423-628-2817 *ericavi@nxs.net*
(Call Eric & volunteer to lead an outing.)

Dec 25 Colditz Cove, Allardt, TN Annual Christmas Day hike at Colditz Cove. Meet at Harrow Road Café at 2:00 p.m. EST
Other Events

Dec. 26 Annual Business Meeting for election of officers and hike planning for 2007. Mary and Bob Hemminger will talk about hikes and show slides from their five-week camping trip across the Southwestern U.S. 7:30 p.m. EST at the Community Building in Rugby.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall
rosemary_1@hotmail.com
TREASURER: Harold Draper
h.m.draper@att.net

Dec. 9 GSMNP - Greenbrier Pinnacle - 10.0 miles roundtrip
Rated: strenuous. We'll begin the hike by walking the first 1.5 miles of The Ramsey Cascades Trail from the trailhead up to the turnaround. At that point we pick up the old Greenbrier Pinnacle Trail for a 3.5-mile climb to the sight of an old fire tower. This trail is no longer maintained by the park service so it is narrow in spots and there are some downed trees to contend with. Although the trail is never extremely steep, be ready for a steady climb of around 2000/ft. Along the way we should be able to get some good views of Greenbrier Valley and Mount LeConte. After lunch we'll retrace our steps back to the trailhead. We'll meet at 9:00 am on Greenbrier Road in the first parking area on the right after turning off Hwy 321. Contact Bob Uhren @ 865-748-9227 or *snowcap34@hotmail.com* for info.

Dec. 16 All members and their guests are invited to attend our annual Christmas Dinner. This year we will enjoy the festivities at Old College Inn, located at 113 North Peters Rd. There is a vast menu to choose your favorite holiday dinner and beverage. This is a fun place to celebrate our Chapter and say good-bye to the 2006 hiking season. For directions or rsvp, call Rosemary Marshall 865-548-6171 or *rosemary_1@hotmail.com*.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Sherrie Yokley
931-381-9274 *yokley2004@bellsouth.net*
MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm CT
Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

December 3, Sunday. Rick Lausten will lead a hike to Bridal Veil Falls on the campus of the University of the South, then we'll attend the Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at the All Saints' Chapel that begins at 5:00 PM. After the service we'll have dinner at a restaurant to be determined. Contact Rick at 615-373-0029 or email: *saturncar1@aol.com*

December 29-30: Karo Sumners will lead an overnight backpacking trip at Roan Mountain State Park in northeast Tennessee. Karo assures us that we'll be able to stay in the shelter so we are able to stay out of the worst weather. Contact Karo for details and confirmation, phone (615) 790-4013 or email *karofisher@bellsouth.net*

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Merri Hinton *andrews@logantele.com*
CO-CHAIR: Suva Bastin 931-645-2849
SECRETARY: Lucy Weikel 931-358-5794
j107sw@aol.com
TREASURER: Sandy Janus 931-551-8523
OUTINGS COORDINATORS: Sandi Hamilton
931-920-2760 *billhamilton@charter.net*
(call Sandi & volunteer to lead an outing)
MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm CT,
Crow Community Center 211 Richview Rd (

Dec 2 – Warner Park ; Jack Bastin 931-645-2849

Dec 9 – Dunbar cave / Rotary Park – Take time out from Christmas activities for an enjoyable hike & then eat Chili for lunch afterwards; Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

Dec 16 – Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner / Party at Jo and Charlie Putnam's; 6:00 PM call 931-362-3669

Dec 30 – No hike planned

Dec 31 – Annual New Year's Eve hike! Meet along the river in Clarksville at 9:45 PM. Hike the old year out and the new year in and you will be hiking all year long! After the hike, we'll go to Suva and Jack Bastin's for potluck goodies. Call Suva and register at 931-645-2849

Jan 1 – Montgomery Bell – Annual hike and traditional New Year's Day feast! This is our third annual hike with traditional southern New Year's Day lunch on the trail. Each year we have more hikers and a different variety of food. You're guaranteed to have black-eyed peas, corn bread, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, and other goodies! Call Suva at 931-645-2849

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm
423-562-1110 *Richard.Helm@ahss.org*
CO-CHAIR: George Gill
423-562-7121

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Monday at 6:00pm ET LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room 201 S. 9th This meeting will be replaced by the Christmas Party

Dec. 4 Christmas Party George and Rita Gill's House
Bring a covered Dish. Call 562-7121 for information.

Dec. 6 Trail maintenance Call Richard Helm 562-1110
This activity will be monthly on the Wednesday following the monthly meeting.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

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

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Tuesday at 7:00p at the Crockett's restaurant in Tullahoma

Dec 5 Monthly Meeting. Davy Crockett's Roadhouse restaurant in Tullahoma. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM but you can arrive at 6:00 PM if you would like to eat. We will elect officers for 2007 so we need everyone's participation. Tentative plans are to also have Cathi Close present a program about her thru hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Dec 9 Fiery Gizzard Trail. Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead a hike from Fiery Gizzard Trail in South Cumberland Recreational Area to Raven Point. It is a moderate to difficult hike of 5 miles up and 5 miles back down. A section of boulder hopping over sometime slippery rocks and a 500-foot ascent to Raven Point gives this a difficult rating. At Raven Point we will experience a lovely view of the canyon. Call or email Jim or Marietta at 931-924-7666 or nannietta@blomand.net to find out details of meeting place.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jan 1 (Mon) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. DeRossett, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike Polly Branch Falls Trail to the Screw Bluff Overlook, which is at the end of the Chestnut Mountain Trail where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. We will return to our cars via the Chestnut Mountain Trail. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate due to the rocky, uneven terrain and two small stream crossings. Sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability are strongly advised! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something (black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate and the water for making them, napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash). Even if you're not a chef, you can help by carrying in/out stuff. This outing is not recommended for young children or dogs. **DON'T DELAY; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** To sign up for a task and obtain carpool meeting time/location, contact Robert Davis at davisrf@tnns.net or 931-962-1614.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Gary Cooper
731-424-5375 *gcooper52@yahoo.com*

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Tuesday. Socializing & meal starts at 6:00p CT; meeting starts at 7:00 at Perkins Restaurant
999 Vann Drive in Jackson

Dec 5- Monthly Meeting: Come to help complete our hike schedule and to discuss hikes. Come at 6:00 to eat or 7:00 for the meeting.

Dec 9- Fort Pillow State Park, Henning TN- This is an 8-mile hike through hardwood forest. This hike is rated moderate due to the hilly terrain. We will meet at Park Interpretative Center. Anyone interested in carpooling, to register or for more information contact Don Dresser at donald_dresser@usit.net

Dec 17- Harbor Town Hike, Memphis TN -We will meet in the Peabody Hotel Lobby near the Christmas Tree at 5:00 pm and walk down to Harbor Town along the river then walk or take a Trolley ride back to the Peabody. Approx 5-6 mile walk. For more information and to register contact Roy Corley 731-668-5070.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: James Hubert
931-459-4839 *jhubert1@frontiernet.net*
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Mitze Anderson
931-788-6731 *Wanderso121@yahoo.com*

There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information or to get on an e-mail list for the hikes, contact Bill Harris at 931/484-9152 or Jim McCullough at sue1290@frontiernet.net. Rain cancels.

Dec 2. Slave Falls and Middle Creek, Big South Fork. The hike is 7 miles, moderate in difficulty with generally good footing. We'll shuttle cars and depart from the Middle Creek trailhead, returning to the Slave Falls trailhead. Highlights include Slave Falls, Indian Rockhouse, Needle Arch, and numerous other rock formations. Hikers should bring lunch and plenty of water. As with all hikes this time of year, wear bright clothing in case there are hunters in the area. Meet at Cracker Barrel's rear lot at 8:00 AM CST. For more information and to register, contact Jim McCullough at 931/484-8222 or sue1290@frontiernet.net.

Dec 14. Annual Chapter Christmas Potluck at 6:00 PM CST. Sue Eldridge will coordinate food and drinks. There will be a gift exchange for those interested in participating. Call Sue at 931/456-4459 billsue@frontiernet.net to sign up and for more details.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Anna Bertram
615-765-5357 abertram@dtccom.net
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Ron Dunn
615-867-3301 trekkingtonn@yahoo.com

(Call Millette Jones as of Jan 1 & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT
Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station
697 Barfield-Crescent Rd., Murfreesboro

Dec 9 - Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes. Join us at 4 PM in front of the Oaklands Mansion office on Maney Avenue for an early evening walking tour of the historic district of Murfreesboro during the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes. The tour, sponsored by the Oaklands Association, will feature beautiful and historic private homes and the graceful Oaklands Historic House Museum. We will go inside festively adorned historical homes and churches, dressed in holly and evergreens. (These stops are not the same ones as last year.) Additionally, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans will present living history demonstrations on the lawn of the mansion. There will be carols, hot cider, costumed ladies and Civil War reenactors. Approximately 3 miles, rated easy. There will be an admission fee of \$10.00 per adult payable to the Oaklands Association. You may also wish to join us for a late dinner after the tour in a local restaurant. Please pre-register with Fount or Anna Bertram at 615-765-5357 or abertram@heartoftn.net

Dec 9 - Fiery Gizzard Trail near Tracy City (Multi-Chapter). Jim and Marietta Poteet have invited us to join them on this challenging, approximately 9 mile day hike, from Fiery Gizzard Trail in the South Cumberland Recreation Area, to Raven Point. It is a moderate to difficult route, 4 1/2 miles up and 4 1/2 miles back down. A section of boulder hopping over sometimes-slippery rocks and a 500-foot ascent to Raven Point gives this a difficult rating. There is a lovely view of the gulf from Raven Point. If several people are interested, it may be possible to form a car pool to leave from Murfreesboro about 6:30 AM. For information and to sign-up contact Marietta Poteet at nannietta@blomand.net or 931-924-7666

Dec 12 - Christmas Dinner Party at 6 PM. We will start one hour earlier than usual at the Wilderness Station. Plan to bring your favorite holiday dish to share at this gala event. Even more important, bring your family, your sweetie, your neighbors and friends as we socialize and dine by the glow of candlelight to a background of holiday music. Beverages, plates, cups and other utensils will be furnished. This event replaces the monthly meeting.

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan 1 - New Year's Day Hike & Feast - Multi-Chapters - At the Bridgestone - Firestone Centennial Wilderness, Derosssett, TN. The tradition lives on! The superstition is that whatever you do on New Year's Day you'll continue

Murfreesboro (cont)

to do all year, so come out and hike and feast with us. This is an annual event with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike Polly Branch Falls Trail to the Screw Bluff Overlook, where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize, and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. We will return to our cars via the Chestnut Mountain Trail. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate due to the rocky, uneven terrain, tree stubs, and two small stream crossings. Sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability are strongly advised! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something to share (black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate and the water for making them, napkins, and garbage bags to remove our trash.) Even if you're not a chef you can help by carrying stuff. Contact Fount Bertram to sign up. Phone 615-765-5357 or email fwbertram@dtccom.net

NOTE - TTA LOGO SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE: We have a few long sleeved t-shirts left in size x-large at \$12 each, a few sweatshirts in various sizes at \$19 each, and short sleeved t-shirts in various sizes at \$10 each. They make nice Christmas gifts. If you are interested in any of these contact Anna Bertram at abertram@dtccom.net or 615-765-5357

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Pierce
901-755-5635 cedpierce2000@yahoo.com

MEETS MONTHLY: (Sep - May) 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm at Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Rd. Turn east off Germantown Parkway onto Trinity Rd. approx. 1 mile on the right. Library shares entrance with Bert Ferguson Community Center

Dec 7, Memphis Chapter Christmas Party. Our annual holiday party/meeting will be held at Betty Porter's house, 6696 Stout Road. Bring your favorite festive dishes and soft drinks; an oven is available for heating, and we'll supply kitchen facilities, coffee, plates, cups, and eating utensils. Socializing begins around 6:30 with dinner at 7:00p.m. The 2007 hiking schedule will be distributed at the meeting afterward. Call Betty Porter at 901-755-4740 for directions.

Dec 9, Ft. Pillow State Park, Henning, TN We will meet at Park Interpretative Center at 9:30a.m. for a 5-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain and through hardwood forests. For carpooling information call Linda Walston at 901-272-2102.

Dec 17, Harbor Town Christmas Hike We will meet in the Peabody Hotel Lobby near the Christmas Tree at 5:00 pm and walk down to Harbor Town along the river then walk or take a Trolley ride back to the Peabody. For information call John Martin at 901-386-3722.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

This chapter is being reorganized. For further information, contact Charles Jones, East Tennessee Representative At-Large at cejones9@earthlink.net. In the interim, you are welcome to attend other chapters (13 to choose from) outings,

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

615-356-6246

Jim Johnson

jimjohnsonjr@gmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

Libby Francis

Libbyslibbys@Comcast.net

(email Libby & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: The monthly meeting will be the chapter party at Jim & Jenice Johnson's house, from 5:00 to 10:00 PM on Friday, December 15th. Will email specific directions, or call 356.6246.

HIKING HOTLINE: 615-367-7045

Chapter News

December 2006 will mark the fifth time that we've been invited to wrap customers' gifts at REI in exchange for donations, and each time it has been a FUN and very \$Succ\$ful fundraising event for the chapter. This year we will be wrapping gifts on **Sat, Dec 16 and on Fri, Dec 22**. As in years' past, we are asking chapter members to help by generously volunteering their time (at least 2 hours; more if you can) to wrap gifts while at the same time talking to prospective members about TTA (the TTA Display Unit will be up; plus, we'll have brochures and newsletters to give away). In exchange for the gifts we wrap, customers have been extremely generous to us by making **\$DONATION\$** (*'tis the season to be generous*). Donations received during Dec 16th's gift wrapping will be allocated to the Cumberland Trail's 2007 Spring BreakAway program which will help to offset some of the expenses incurred to house and feed the volunteers that come to TN to build the Cumberland Trail during the month of March (note: each week there are about 75 college students and 30 CTC/TTA volunteers working on the trail). Dec 22nd's gift wrapping donations will be allocated to the Evan Means Grant Fund which is used by organizations within TN that support TTA's mission to build/maintain hiking trails throughout TN. So, don't hesitate, call and volunteer today for this truly unusual and fun way to fundraise while talking to prospective members. No experience required, on-site training and materials provided. To volunteer Sat. Dec 16 (between 10:30a & 6:00p) and/or Fri., Dec. 22 (between 10:30a & 7:00p), call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Dec 1-3 (Fri-Sun) "Wagon Masters," "Trail Mules" and "Mule Skinners," oh my! New terminology to you? These are the names given to the volunteers who come to help build and/or lead others in building the Cumberland Trail. This weekend the Cumberland Trail Conference is offering Y-O-U a F-R-E-E Trail Training Seminar and the opportunity to learn the skills needed for leading a group of volunteers when building hiking trails. You will learn the techniques of correct trail construction and maintenance – both in the field and classroom. Arrive Friday evening for the meet-n-greet; training on Sat is from 8am-4pm and on Sun 8am-1pm. Your lodging and food will be provided at the Lutheran Camp in Soddy Daisy. The Lutheran Camp has separate male and female sleeping/bathing areas. Sleeping areas are dormitory style (airy rooms, bunk beds). Normal trail work attire and daypack to carry your gloves, lunch, snacks and water is required. Diane Manas is planning to attend and can provide a ride to two others but please, call the CTC (931-456-6259) to register and get details of what you need to bring, etc., then Diane to arrange carpooling – before Wed, Nov 29 – at 615-352-7777.

Dec 16 Gift Wrapping at REI

Nashville (cont)

Dec 16 (Sat.) Stone Door Loop – Through the Great Stone Door and down the Big Creek Rim Trail to Alum Gap - this easy hike (6 miles) follows the edge of the plateau above The Big Creek Gulf. Back via Laurel Falls Trail for a final short loop to Laurel Falls. Bring water, snacks, lunch and money for carpooling. Wear sturdy hiking boots. For more information and to register call Garnett Rush at 352-7217 or e-mail rushga01@yahoo.com.

Dec 17 (Sun.) Hidden Springs Trail, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN. Cedars of Lebanon SP is located in an area comprised of the largest stand of Eastern Red Cedar remaining in the U.S. We will be walking through a "Cedar Glade," rocky barrens with thin soil that are extremely dry and a home to many plants not found in Middle TN. Although thin and rocky, the terrain on this hike is pretty much flat for the entire 4.5 miles of trail. Along the way, we will pass several sinkholes and small cave-like openings. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring water and lunch. We'll meet at 11:15a (CST) to carpool from Kinko's on Donelson Pike (exit 216-C off of I-40E) or you can meet us at the park's visitors center at noon. For information and/or to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Dec 22 (Friday) Gift Wrapping at REI

Dec 23 (Sat) Hidden Lakes Hike - Just west of Nashville, a stones throw from Bellevue, is a treasure known only to a few. These 100 beautiful acres of undeveloped State Park property are just waiting to be explored. The two lakes, set in bowls of limestone, have been quarried in bluffs adjacent to the Harpeth River. The area is unique and offers several scenic vistas. This 2-3 mile hike is relatively easy with a little rock scrambling thrown in. Take I-40 west to McCrory Lane, this is the exit past Bellevue Mall, and turn right or north toward Pegram. We will meet at 9am on McCrory Lane go just past the Harpeth river bridge and you will see an open gate to a field on your left, pull in and park, this is across from Asplundh Tree Office. You may want to bring a lunch. The hike should take about 2-3 hours. Contact Jim Johnson, 615-356-6246 or jimjohnsonjr@gmail.com.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jan 1 (Mon) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area, Derossett, TN. This is joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike Polly Branch Falls Trail to Screw Bluff Overlook, which is at the end of the Chestnut Mountain Trail where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. We return to our cars via the Chestnut Mountain Trail. Total hiking distance 6 miles - rated moderate due to the rocky, uneven terrain and two small stream crossings. Sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability advised! Everyone encouraged to bring something (black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate and the water for making them, napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash DON'T DELAY, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE DECEMBER 29! To sign up and obtain carpool meeting time/location, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin/Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Clark 731-587-2225

jclark@utm.edu

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Savage 931-526-2035

savage_richard@hotmail.com

Dec 2 Pot Point Loop, Prentice Cooper State Forest, Signal Mountain, TN. This loop offers views of the Tennessee River Gorge. We will go over a natural bridge and have a wonderful view of the river and Raccoon Mountain from the Ransom Hollow Overlook. The trail is 11.9 miles and rated moderate for the distance. There is minimal elevation change (400 feet). You can meet us in Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 7:30am CT or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:00. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. For information and to register contact Cindy Walinski at 931-394-3413 or *cjwalinski@blomand.net*.

Dec 9 Pioneer, Byrd Lake and Creek Trails, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. We will hike the Pioneer Trail, which circles Byrd Lake and is about 5 miles long. Then, we'll hike 3 to 4 miles on the Byrd Lake and Creek Trails below the dam. Both trails are rated easy. After the hike we will go to the Minister's Tree House in Crossville (if open). The tree house is 5 stories tall and contains 8000 square feet. You can meet us at 9:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register contact Eugene Cummings at 931-528-6139.

Dec 16 Rock Creek section of the Cumberland Trail, Dayton, TN. We will hike the Rock Creek connector trail from Leggett Road trailhead to the lower Rock Creek Loop and then take the Cumberland Trail to Rock Creek at the bottom of the gorge where we will eat lunch. We will return via the upper Rock Creek Loop. The loop trail offers two fine overlooks of the gorge. The trails were recently completed, and are in great shape. A lot of very hard work went into building this trail for us to enjoy, so if you haven't had a chance to hike it yet, you are missing a treat. The hike is 10 miles. You can meet us in Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 7:30am CT or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:00. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. For information and to register contact Cindy Walinski at 931-394-3413 or *cjwalinski@blomand.net*.

Dec 30 Savage Day Loop, North Rim and North Plateau Trails, Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Palmer, TN. We will hike the Savage Day Loop and parts of the North Rim and North Plateau trails. The hike is about 9 ½ miles and is rated easy for the terrain and moderate for the distance. The hike features several nice overlooks. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. You can meet us in Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00am CT or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:30. For information and to register contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or *savage_richard@hotmail.com*.

Joining TTA as a New Member? Membership Up For Renewal? 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.

In the past, Supporting Member donations in excess of the regular dues were allocated to TTA's general operating fund. During the 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.

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 publicize your next trail volunteer day,
contact Harold Draper at 865-689-7757**

OFFICERS:

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

Vice-President
Rosemary Marshall 865-687-0670
Rosemary_L@hotmail.com

Treasurer
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louannpartington@bellsouth.net

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cardan@frontiernet.net

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fwbertram@dtccom.net

Previous Past President
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Cejones9@bellsouth.net

West TN At-Large Director
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Donald.Dresser@usit.net

Middle TN At-Large Director
Brent Morris 931-728-8726
brentmorris@ispwest.com

East TN At-Large Director
VACANT

Membership
Garnett Rush 615-352-7217
rushga01@yahoo.com

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

TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council
VACANT

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

Newsletter Editor
Leslie El-Sayad editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines:

Deadlines for Chapter announcements
and articles of special interest
are due as follows:

Due	For Newsletter Dated
Dec 10	Jan 1
Jan 10	Feb 1
Feb 10	Mar 1

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

Please send all submissions to:
editor@tennesseetrails.org

LAST CHANCE

Evan Means Small Grants Program Deadline is December 31, 2006

In February 2007, TTA's Board of Directors will award small grants memorializing Evan Means. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible with the chartered objectives of TTA: *promoting and developing a system of hiking trails in Tennessee as well as working for the conservation of natural resources.* Project proposals are due no later than December 31, 2006.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grant application for the February 2007 Evan Means Small Grant Program Award.

Grant request in the range of \$300-\$600 are encouraged. However, if a project requires additional grant money, considerations will be made.

For additional information and an application, please write to:

Leigh Jones TTA Grants Administrator
80 SW 254th ST Newberry, FL 32669
352-472-3602 cejones9@bellsouth.net

The small grants program was established in February 1999 to honor Evan Means - journalist, author, conservationist, hiker, trail builder, originator of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder of the Tennessee Trails Association. Mr. Means won countless awards for his work over the years to protect Tennessee's natural resources and beauty, as well as for his dedication to projects that allow hikers to enjoy this natural beauty.

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ TTA Patch 6.00
Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.

_____ TTA Window Decal 3.00
A must for each car. Removable, no adhesives.

_____ TTA License Plate 14.00
Perfect for the front bumper of your car.

_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt... 16.00*
Choose Size: Small / Medium / Large / X-Large
Choose Color: Sand / Yellow / Stone-Gray

_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative Patch 6.00
Round embroidered patch commemorating TTA's 35th Anniversary, sew it on anything.

_____ TTA Flashlight Carabineer Key Ring, blue 6.00

_____ *Shipping & Handling on T-shirt Orders ONLY!!!!.. 1.50

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE hm: (____) _____ wk:(____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mail your check payable to: Tennessee Trails Association
c/o Marietta Poteet, 525 Huckleberry Place
Monteagle, TN 37356

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
PERMIT NUMBER 4053



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** Dec 06
 RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.
Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,
Garnett Rush 615-352-7217 rushga01@yahoo.com

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

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual \$25.00	Name _____
___ Family \$35.00	Address _____
___ Student (FULL-TIME) \$15.00	City _____ State _____
___ Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)	Home Phone (___) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
___ Life Member (Individual) \$500.00	Work Phone (___) _____
___ Life Member (Family) \$750.00	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 | ___ Cumberland Gap | ___ Memphis | ___ Plateau (Crossville) |
| ___ Clarksville | ___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville) | ___ Murfreesboro | ___ Soddy Daisy |
| ___ Columbia/Franklin | ___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma) | ___ Nashville | ___ Upper Cumberland |
| ___ Cove Lake | ___ Jackson | ___ Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley) | (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.

Purchase Order

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

Leslie El-Sayad
Home: 865-717-6246
Les1202@aol.com

Color Plus Printing
4825 Trousdale Dr, #102
Nashville, TN 37220

November 15, 2006

Leonard Chavaz
615-781-1071
cell ph: 615-207-0947
colplprt@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Printing

Cover Date:

Dec 2006

Number of pages submitted
with this purchase order:

10 pages

Printed Paper size:

two - 11 x 17 sheets
one - 8½ x 11 sheets
printed on 2 sides
11 x 17 pages to be folded in ½ by Color Plus

Paper Weight:

20 pound paper weight

Paper Color:

white

Ink Color:

black

Print Quantity:

800 pieces

Approximate Cost:

Send **TAX EXEMPT** Invoice to:

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

Leonard, please contact TTA Newsletter Party Coordinator Contact Diane
Manas, Newsletter party on Nov. 20th at 7pm

- Their picking newsletters up from you at Color Plus Printing or,
- Your delivering newsletters to Their home or,
- Your delivering the newsletters to the location of the Newsletter Party