

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

STATE PARKS LAUNCH ACCESS FEE PROGRAM

Set for Winter 2001

Visitors at four of Tennessee's State Parks will begin paying access fees. The purpose of the fees is to raise money to support the state park system. Long Hunter State Park, Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park, and Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers State Park are participating in the "pilot" project. "Over the course of the past few years, we have worked to improve maintenance and services at our state parks," said Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Milton H. Hamilton, Jr. "As a result, last year we were voted one of the top four park systems in the nation by the National Recreation and Parks Association. The money from the fees will help us continue on that track, and *100% of the money will stay in the state park system*". Passes can be purchased at participating parks. The daily fee is \$3 per vehicle holding up to eight people. Multi-visit passes can be purchased for your vehicle to get into any state park for \$30, and a second vehicle at the same address can obtain a pass for \$20. (Passes purchased are good through December 31, 2001.) Fees for commercial vehicles holding over 15 passengers will be determined by the individual sites. School busses will be charged \$30 per day or \$.50 per person, whichever is less. (cont. on pg. 2)

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) Update

Bob Hatcher, TWRA Non-game Coordinator
Issued November 6, 2000

After strong national endorsement and momentum, our current prospects for CARA are much diluted. In May 2000, CARA passed by a 3-to-1 margin in the House. In July, it was approved, by an almost 2 to 1 margin by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It would be funded by reallocation of some of the royalties collected from oil companies for oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf of the United States. It would have provided nearly \$3 billion in guaranteed annual appropriations each year for the next 15 years for parks and wildlife. Of that amount, \$350 million per year would have been provided to state wildlife agencies primarily for non-game wildlife. This would have included over \$6.0 in annual federal funds to TWRA.

The above CARA bill was endorsed by over 5,000 national organizations, all 50 governors, and the National Council of Mayors, and the President of the United States. CARA was opposed by private lands rights groups, mostly from western states, where there was fear that more federal lands would be purchased. It was also opposed by Congressmen and Senators who favored annual appropriations over the proposed dedicated annual funding of CARA.

These minority groups somehow were able to derail the full CARA via an amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill. In early October 2000, Congress authorized annual non-guaranteed appropriations of up to \$50 million for funding state wildlife programs, with the focus on non-game species. The President signed it into law. This would potentially provide TWRA with \$850,000 per year for 6 years. However, annual funding would be highly undependable. Staffing and year-to-year planning would be very difficult.

In an effort to partially right the above wrong, Congress is considering a 1-year appropriation of an additional \$50 million. State allocations would be based 1/3 on land area and 2/3 on population of each state. These provisions are amended into a Commerce-Justice-State Bill, which now appears likely to pass Congress after the national elections. TWRA's nongame funding would potentially be an additional \$850,000 per year from one or both sources.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Letters from Libby TTA's President

Dear friends,

January is the time for resolutions and a renewed commitment to things that are important to us. I encourage you now to resolve to increase your commitment to the environment, the great outdoors, and physical fitness. Call your chapter chair and volunteer to lead a hike, plan a program, bring refreshments, drive for a carpool, donate money or time to the Cumberland Trail, distribute newsletters, help build a trail, or just phone a friend to go hiking. The more you give, the greater your enjoyment will be.

Till next time ... Libby Francis

STATE PARKS LAUNCH

(cont. from pg. 1)

There will be free access every Tuesday after 3pm and on TWRA *Free Fishing* days. A new law passed by the General Assembly assures that *the money raised will go to a dedicated fund for state parks, not to the general fund*

Other parks will be added to the access fee program as it becomes feasible. These four parks were chosen for the "pilot" program based on ease of collection, number of entrances, ability to work with existing structures, personnel, park location, etc. Each park will have its own method of collection, but initially visitors can expect to see unmanned, secured pay stations or automated machines. Each participating park will have an information center, and rangers will monitor the areas to ensure compliance.

Entrance fees already exist at 35 of the 50 state park systems across the nation. Tennessee is one of only two southeastern states to not have fees in place. Public hearings across the state early in the process provided valuable input, and changes were made to the original proposal accordingly.

Reprinted from the Department of Environment and Conservation, November 2000 News Releases, Access Fees, www.state.tn.us/environment/news/release/nov00/parkfees.htm

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN ...

TTA's MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

COMING APRIL 2001

A new membership directory will be mailed to all current members in April 2001. Make sure your dues are paid up, as this will ensure your receiving the directory. Please check the information found on your newsletter mailing-label and verify it is correct. Unless we hear from you about corrections or changes needed, your newsletter mailing-label will be the information published in the directory.

Contact the Membership Director with corrections or changes that need to be made:

Membership Director
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204-1446
615-851-1052

Members with access to the Internet can fill out and submit a change form at our web site:

www.tennesseetrails.org

(CARA) Update

(cont. from pg. 1)

With the above undependable annual funding, TWRA would likely focus most of it on land purchases, annual contracts and partnerships for research, management, and enhancement of wildlife viewing areas. CARA leaders in Washington advise they will again pursue the full CARA in 2001 in order to provide the adequate and dependable annual funding needed for our nation's non-game wildlife.

TREKKING POLES YEA OR NAY?

Submitted by Gene Curp

The holiday gift EXCHANGING season is here. Thinking of swapping the print by Le Jardin (☺) for trekking poles? As a newcomer (50 miles) to the double pole method, let me share the best tips I have received and answer some common questions.

Why would you want to use them? Stability, I definitely get a significantly increased sense of stability and balance when using 2 poles rather than just one. They help with downhill knees some. A little help in climbing. That's about it, in my experience.

Aren't they in the way all the time? It is said, the good thing about trekking poles is they are there when you need them. The bad thing, is they are there when you don't need them. Yes, they are in your hands the entire time and interfere with everything except walking and talking.

I thank Denny Elston (TTA, Tullahoma) for advising me to run my hand UP and THROUGH the wrist strap. This allows a user to transfer weight to the pole without gripping with the hand. Much less tiring!

REI staff advised (as did most everyone) that the correct length is so that your forearm is about parallel to the ground. Denny observed you want it short enough to swing readily when on the level. They seem to fly forward nearly effortlessly when using the wrist strap as described above unless they are too long.

Ron Ashley (TTA, Clarksville) gave me a valuable tip - don't watch the poles. Only watch your foot placement. The poles find a secure place to land without much help.

Joe McCaleb (TTA, Hendersonville) advised there is no RIGHT way to use them. Just use them as is comfortable and natural. I wasn't able to appreciate the value of this sage insight at first. I thought there must be a "correct technique" to maximize the benefits. But my experience indicates Joe is right. For me, I choose to do what comes naturally.

Let me share my lesson gained from personal experience (TTA, Doug Burroughs, hike leader, Angel Falls Overlook). If you really need your hands, say to scramble on rocks, put the poles away. Trekking poles are usually in 3 telescoping sections that can be collapsed to around 2 feet long and stuffed in or tied to a pack. That is why they are worth the extra money over ski poles. The carbide steel tip is so good at gripping. Another justification in buying actual trekking poles.

But hey, no need for commitment! Cut a couple sticks and try it out. But give yourself about 3 outings (Ron Ashley) to get used to 2 poles for a fair evaluation. Then go try the Dog Hole trail in the South Cumberland RA or some other rocky ramble and see if you aren't as sold as I am.

As always, the Internet will provide a guru if you want one. A very well written and reasoned site is:

www.personal.dundee.ac.uk/~pjclinch/gear.htm

Happy trekking in the New Year.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

Jan 13 **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.** We will have an election of officers, planning for our 2001 hikes and taking care of any other chapter business. Bring suggestions and ideas of places you'd like to hike. After the business meeting, Barbara Stagg will show slides of her recent hiking trip to Utah. All members with pictures are encouraged to bring some along to show. Our meeting will begin 7:30pm EST at the Rugby Community Center. See you then.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

J.R. Tate 931-920-2692
model_t@bellsouth.net

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Again, a BIG thanks to all of our members for making the 2000 Annual Meeting such a great success!

Thank you Zeke "Ketchup" Vanzant, a special young man from Clarksville, who was our November meeting guest. Zeke is 21 years old and spoke about his thru-hike on the AT this past summer. A quote from Zeke, "You can look at A.T. pictures all day long, it doesn't give you that same feeling inside. There's no way to describe the whole crazy thing until you do it."

HIKE SCHEDULE:

Jan 6 Dunbar Cave State Natural Area, Clarksville, TN. Come out for an easy hike in this spectacular area. After the hike we'll have lunch at the local Wendy's. We'll meet 10am CST. To obtain meeting location and to pre-register, call Wanda Cumberland: 931-906-3338.

Jan 13 Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN. We have an option here. Hike 8 miles or 11.7 miles. The trail is rated moderate. Dress for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Darryl Butts: 931-645-9177.

Jan 16 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Come learn hiker safety tips, hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, meet/greet members/friends and see a fun-filled program presentation from a like-minded outdoor enthusiast. Lots in store!

(cont.)

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Todd Horton 615-302-3336 todd1966@aol.com

MEETS: 3rd Tues, 6:30pm, Bethel Room, Hunter Matthews Complex (NE corner Columbia Square)

Jan 16 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Got a camera that takes horrible photos? Don't know why WYSINWYG (what you see is not what you get)? Local member, Mike Serkownek, will introduce us to basic outdoor photography, geared toward the novice photographer. Come learn techniques that you can put into practice immediately. Will be very informative and fun! Don't be late, 6:30pm, Bethel Room, Hunter Matthews Complex on the square in Columbia.

Jan 20 Montgomery Bell trail, Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN. This trail is rated easy for the terrain, moderate for the distance. In either case, it's still 11.5 miles. This is the best time for hiking this trail - no bugs, no poison ivy and plenty of views through the leaf-less trees. We can expect to see wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. Bring snacks, lunch and water. Dress for the weather. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Todd Horton: 615-302-3336.

Jan 28 Ganier Ridge and South Cove trails, Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN. This hike is 4½ miles and rated easy to moderate. NOTE: Radnor Lake SNA is 1 of 4 parks in the state now charging an access fee. It is a very small fee that will be divided evenly among the car-poolers we have. The fee is \$3 per vehicle. (See the fee announcement on page 1.) Bring change to pay your portion of the entrance fee. Also, bring snacks, lunch and water. Dress for the weather. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Todd Horton: 615-302-3336.

(Clarksville Cont.)

Jan 27 Natchez Trace National Scenic trail. We'll travel a portion of the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway in order to reach the trailhead. We'll hike an easy 8-mile scenic trail from Hwy 50 to Hwy 7. Bring water, lunch and snacks. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Jack Bastin: 931-645-2849.

HIKE REPORT:

On Nov 24th, six over-stuffed hikers hit the trail at the Rotary Park in Clarksville. We may have been small as a group; we were large in spirit. The rain stopped in time for us to enjoy our walk surrounded by the aromas of cedar and the damp woods.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Siler McCarty
423-566-1291 webmaster@tnrlca.org

Jan 20 Come hike the Clear Creek, Reservoir Hill and Gristmill Loop trails near Norris, TN. We will meet 10am EST at the parking lot behind Eagle Mart at Jacksboro to carpool to the Old Gristmill parking lot just off U.S. Hwy 441, about one mile south of Norris Dam and just north of Norris, TN. The hike is approximately 4 miles and rated moderate to difficult. We will get some nice views from the tops of Reservoir Hill and Observation Point. The Old Gristmill is also interesting. Dress according to the weather, and bring water and lunch. For additional information, please call Gordon Early: 423-566-8319 or e-mail him: ganddearly@aol.com

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Keith Mertz
865-376-4827 KeithMertz@msn.com

Jan 13 Fort Loudoun State Historical Area. Not only is this a beautiful area with lots of history, we'll have a special guest leading our hike. Jeff Wells will be our hike leader and is the Park Manager at Fort Loudoun SHA. Between the 3½ miles of easy terrain, over ridgetops, fields and forest, Jeff will provide commentary on the area. Dress for the weather, bring snacks and water. We'll meet 1pm EST at the Ft. Loudoun visitor's center. **DIRECTIONS:** Fort Loudoun SHA is located about 15 miles south of Maryville off U.S. Hwy. 411. Turn left on Citico Road (State Hwy 360), then proceed to Fort Loudoun Road and turn left. For additional information, call Jeff Wells: 423-884-6217.

Jan 27 University of Tennessee's Arboretum. This is a relatively easy 3.8-mile hike on well-maintained trails. Meet 12:15pm EST on the outer edge of the K-Mart parking lot in Oak Ridge or at 12:30pm EST in the Arboretum parking lot on Hwy. 62. Bring water and snacks and dress appropriately for the weather. For further information, call Patrick Barbieri: 863-671-8083.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

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

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

Jan 6 Herb Parsons Lake, Fisherville, TN. Bring lunch, water, and join the fun for this easy 6-mile walk around the lake. Car-poolers meet at 8:30am CST at the soccer field on Walnut Grove Road (located on the south side of Walnut Grove, west of the traffic light at Farm Road). If you want to drive directly to the lake, the hike begins 9am CST at the lake. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Kathleen Griffin 901-767-0529.

Jan 18 **MONTHLY MEETING** John Martin, retired Chemist from Kellogg's, will present a slide show and talk about his 23-day, 900-mile bike tour through the Canadian Maritime provinces. The 27 member, van-supported tour began in Labrador, through Newfoundland, and terminated in Nova Scotia.

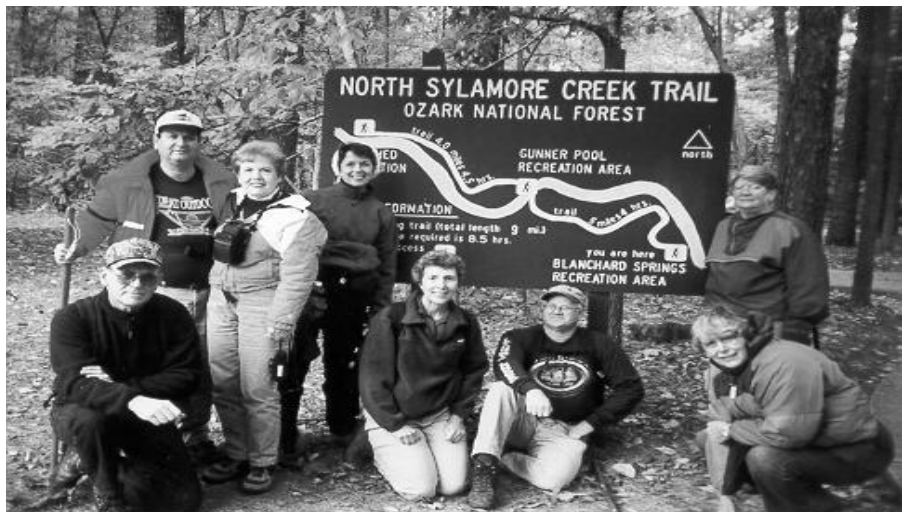
Jan 20 Downtown Historic Hike, Memphis, TN. Join us for an interesting and educational 6-mile hike through the oldest and most historic part of our great city of Memphis. During the years since Memphis was founded, in 1819, our city has grown from a small Indian trading post overlooking the Mississippi River to one of the nation's outstanding metropolitan centers boasting a population of over one million people in the city and its suburban area. Relive some of the exciting moments in Memphis history on this 6-mile narrative tour lead by Jerry Lenski. We'll meet at 9am CST at the I-40 TN Welcome Center parking lot at the northwest corner of Riverside Drive & Jefferson. For additional information, call Jerry Lenski: 901-255-6574.

Feb 10 Meeman-Shelby Forest, Chickasaw Bluff Trail, Millington, TN. Meet 9am CST at the Meeman Shelby Forest visitor's center. Bring water and lunch. Hike begins with a car shuttle to the north end of the trail for an 8-mile easy to moderate hike through the forest and ending at Poplar Lake with another car shuttle back to the visitor's center. For information, call Ken Novak: 901-377-9127.

HIKE REPORT:

Oct 6-8 Sylamore Creek Trail in Blanchard Springs Recreation Area, AK. Our weekend began with a visit to the town square of Mountain View to enjoy the music of local musicians. The following morning after seeing deer and wild turkey and shuttling cars, we hiked on the Sylamore Creek trail in the Blanchard Springs RA. The scenery along this trail varied from a cedar glade laden with goats beard lichen to the clear creek, just right for skipping rocks, to walking along the edge of the bluffs with scenic overlooks. We saw an abandoned topping barn and a lot of wild flowers, many asters and other flowers we couldn't identify. We hiked two segments of the trail for a total of 9.2 miles. What better way to end the day than eating catfish overlooking the White River?

Submitted by Norman McMinn



MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Fount Bertram 615-765-5357 fwbertram@hotmail.com.net

MEETS: 2nd Tues, 7pm, St. Marks United Methodist, 1403 E. Main St

- Jan 1 Frozen Head State Park near Wartburg, TN. Celebrate the New Year with champagne, black-eyed peas, etc. in the good old traditional way -- but at Frozen Head Tubbs Springs! We'll hike about 6½ miles -- challenging uphill but a piece of cake going back down! In the past, this has been a super hike with super food, no matter what the weather -- and the weather has been different every year! Plan to bring good food to share, or if food preparation isn't your thing, you can carry water, stove, champagne, etc. If the weather makes Frozen Head unreachable, we'll go to Bearwaller Gap, near Carthage. We'll meet 7am CST at the Cone service station on Hwy 231 (exit 238) at I-40. In order to coordinate food and travel plans YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER! Call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278(h), 615-254-5461(w), or e-mail her: hshilstat@hardaway.net
- Jan 9 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Come learn hiker safety tips, hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, meet/greet members/friends and see a fun-filled program presentation from a like-minded outdoor enthusiast. Lots in store!
- Jan 13-14 Congaree Swamp National Monument, near Columbia, SC. Hike and maybe canoe (depending on the water level) through the largest old-growth floodplain forest in North America; designated an International Biosphere Reserve. It won't be much warmer than Middle Tennessee, but it will be different! Lakeside villas are available in Dreher Island State Park about an hour away. NOTE: We plan to do this trip again in the spring. To register and obtain information about accommodations, travel routes, trails, etc., call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278(h), 615-254-5461(w), or e-mail her: hshilstat@hardaway.net
- Jan 20 Rugby Tennessee Outing. We'll hike the Gentleman's Swimming Hole and Colditz Cove's Northrup Falls Loops. Wear sturdy hiking boots; bring a mid-morning snack and water. Meet 7:30am CST at the Westfield branch of the Union Planter's Bank in Woodbury or 10am CST at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. For information, to arrange carpooling or to register, call Fount Bertram: 615-765-5357, or email him: fwbertram@hotmail.com.net
- Jan 28 Franklin-Marion State Forest, near Monteagle, TN. If January weather is typical, we should see some great icicles! This will be a 6-8 mile hike. We'll meet 7:30am CST at McDonald's at the I-24 Murfreesboro exit. We can arrange stops for anyone wishing to join us between the McDonalds and the trailhead. For information, to arrange carpooling or to register, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278(h), 615-254-5461(w), or e-mail her: hshilstat@hardaway.net

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Dan Brennan 615-599-4713 dbrennan@cambar.com

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

- HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045**
- Jan 6 Come hike "above ground" at Mammoth Cave National Park! If the weather is favorable, we'll do an off-trail hike on historic Flint Ridge. This hike will start and finish on old gravel roads that pre-date the National Park's existence. In the middle portion of the hike, we will be making our own trail as we follow the Green River for several miles. As with all off-trail hikes, you need sturdy boots, a sense of adventure and a little patience, but we will be rewarded by observing beautiful, natural vistas as well as the manmade remains of the pre-Park residents. If the weather is doubtful or there is snow on the ground, we will hike 6-8 miles on established trails near the Good Springs Baptist Church. Both areas have been great for spotting wildlife on past hikes. Call Anne Wesley for more information and to pre-register: 615-851-1052.
- Jan 7 Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, Sparta, TN. This is an all day, 9+ miles, strenuous, take no prisoners kind of hike, but the trail's namesake makes it worth the effort. Call Charlie or Jennifer Hann 615-941-1503 with questions and to pre-register. Plan on meeting at 8am CST at the Kinko's/K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike.
- Jan 13 Beaman Park Trail Work Day, Joelton, TN. We will be working on a new loop in the park, starting at 9am CST and ending around noon. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! Trail work is not hard, just dirty and very rewarding. Wear grubby clothes because they will get dirty. Bring snacks and water. Got questions, need directions or to pre-register, call Dave Walton: 615-646-5355.
- Jan 13 Rock Creek Trail and Rock Creek Loop, Big South Fork NRR and Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN. We will start at the Rock Creek trailhead in BSFNRR and hike the short section down to Rock Creek. Then we will connect over to the Rock Creek trail in Pickett SP, which will provide the option of going through an abandoned railroad tunnel. After reconnecting back to the Rock Creek Loop trail, we will finish the rest of that trail. This hike is 12 miles, rated difficult and has 3 stream crossings, plus sections of poorly maintained trail in Pickett SP. Meet 7am CST at the Kinko's/K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike, exit 216C off I-40. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Doug Burroughs: 615-587-0085.
- Jan 14 Beaman Park Hike, Joelton, TN. Continuing with the theme of rigorous hikes in January, an aerobic hike lead by Chuck Bloomingburg, is scheduled 1-4pm CST. Although an entrance gate has been erected, Beaman Park is not officially open to the public, so hiking is by permit only and space is limited. Pre-register by calling Nancy Dorman: 615-299-9586. We'll meet 1pm CST at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. (cont. on pg 6)

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont. from pg 5)

- Jan 20 Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, Sparta, TN. A reprise of the earlier Virgin Falls hike will be led by Jim and Marietta Poteet. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Wear sturdy hiking boots, ankle support is highly recommended. Bring snacks, lunch and water. The plan is to meet 7am CST at the Kinko's/K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike. Questions and to pre-register, call Jim or Marietta Poteet: 615-824-7666.
- Jan 21 Old Stone Fort Archaeological Area, Manchester, TN. For a change of pace, join Charlie and Jennifer Hann for this 5-mile easy hike. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We will meet 9am CST in the Target parking lot on Bell Road (at I-24). Questions and/or to pre-register, call Charlie or Jennifer Hann: 615-941-1503.
- Jan 23 **MONTHLY MEETING.** What's been happening on the Cumberland Trail, who's coming to do trail work during the March 4-24 BreakAway, how can I volunteer to help during BreakAway, is there more land that needs to be purchased to complete the CT, what is the CT? Don't know much about the CT? Our guest, to answer all of your questions, is Arleen Scheller, Resource Manager of the Cumberland Trail Conference. The meeting starts promptly at 7pm.
- Jan 27 Hike to the highest point in Polk County: Big Frog Mountain. We will hike the 16-mile Big Frog - Licklog Ridge - Rough Creek Loop in the Big Frog Wilderness near Cleveland, TN. This is considered a strenuous hike due to the distance and substantial elevation gains and losses. Meet 5:45am CST at the Target parking lot, Bell Road and I-24 (we'll leave for the trailhead, promptly at 6am). This is an all day hike. Bring plenty of snacks, lunch and water. Got questions, need more information or to pre-register, call Richard Horvath: 270-586-0178.
- Jan 27 Radnor Lake State Natural Area Newcomers Hike, Nashville, TN. This is a beautiful area to hike. The most we'll do is 4½ miles. Bring your friends or meet new ones on this newcomers hike. NOTE: Radnor Lake SNA is 1 of 4 parks in the state now charging an access fee. It is a very small fee of \$3 per vehicle. So bring several friends to split the \$3 among and hike together in this beautiful area close to our homes. (See the fee announcement on page 1.) We'll meet in the west parking lot next to the Visitor's Center. Got questions, need additional information or to obtain meeting time, call Vera Churcher: 615-373-8314.
- Jan 28 Twin Arches to Middle Creek, Big South Fork NRR, Jamestown, TN. We'll use a network of several trails that will take us from start to finish. This hike is approximately 11½ miles, rated moderate and will require a car shuttle. Features we'll see along the way include the largest natural bridge complex, many rock shelters, overhangs and high bluffs, saltpeter mines, Jake Blevin's homeplace, Slave Falls (is absolutely beautiful when frozen, may be with a little luck), and Needle Arch. Dress for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Keith White: 615-305-9078.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Feb 16-19 (Fri-Mon)

President's Day Holiday Weekend Hiking the Cumberland Trail. If you have Monday, Feb 19, off in observance of the President's Day holiday, or you just want an extra day off to hike, join Doug Burroughs as he leads us on a 3-day weekend filled with Cumberland Trail hikes. The plan is to meet and leave Fri, 5pm CST, from the Kinko's/K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike, and drive to Norris Dam State Park (just north of Knoxville). We'll stay 3 nights in "deluxe" cabins. Hike Sat, Sun, and Mon on the Smoky Mountain and Eagle Bluff sections of the CT, as well as other trails in the area. At present, two cabins are reserved for a maximum of 6 persons per cabin ("strictly enforced"), so the maximum* for the trip is 12 people. Final costs will be shared equally by all participants, but should be around \$40 per person for the 3 nights. PRE-REGISTRATION with a DEPOSIT is REQUIRED. (*If Doug receives more than 12 RSVPs he'll reserve an additional cabin to accommodate the extra folks.) Please, do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations. RSVP early to Doug to be sure he has the space available and before sending him your deposit. Got questions, or need additional information? Call Doug Burroughs: 615-587-0085.

Mar 15-18 (Thu-Sun)

Leprechun Leap! Herb Kneeland is our leader on this 60-mile backpack and thru-trek of the North-South trail in Land Between the Lakes NRA. We'll start at the south end and finish at the north end. This trail bisects the 170,000 acres of LBLNRA and is very diverse in wildlife, flora and fauna. Those unable to make the entire 3½ days backpacking will have the option of joining (or departing) the group at the halfway point at our campsite on Fri eve or early Sat morning. Because the terrain is relatively flat, the hike is rated as moderate however, due to the daily mileage with a backpack the hike is being rated as strenuous. Day #1 mileage is 10 miles to our campsite, Day #2 is 17 miles to camp, Day #3 is 18 miles to camp and on our final Day #4 it is 16 miles to reach the cars. There is a \$25 backcountry group permit fee LBL charges that will cover us over the 3½-day period and will be evenly divided among those in the group. Herb will provide directions to LBLNRA and attempt to facilitate carpools, but ultimately each person is responsible for his/her own transportation, food and gear. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!** Deadline to pre-register is Fri Mar 9. For additional information, call Herb Kneeland: 615-460-1144(h), 615-298-4462(w) or you can e-mail him: hdk3@home.com

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Jim Clark 901-587-7369
jclark@utm.edu
Joe Seago 901-587-8405
joeseago@backpacker.com

MEETS: 2nd Thur, 7pm, UT Martin Campus, Boling
University Center, Room 230
website: <http://mug.utm.edu/trails>

Jan 11 **MONTHLY MEETING.** We have a full agenda this month. Our program will include "Snowshoeing at Breckenridge" and a report on the UT Martin Campus Recreation's backpacking trip to the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. The meeting will also include a general planning session for hikes and other activities for the spring semester. All members are invited to attend and make suggestions or campaign for favorite hiking destinations as well as other outdoor activities.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466

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

ANNOUNCEMENT:

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

HIKE SCHEDULE:

- Jan 13 Cumberland Cove Sinks hike, Crossville, TN. It's time, once again, for our annual "after the holidays" hike in Cumberland Cove. This year we will explore the sinks. The hike is 4½ miles and rated moderate to difficult. Meet 9am CST at the lot across from the main entrance to Cumberland Cove. For additional information, call Jim Lifsey 931-839-3939.
- Jan 18 **MONTHLY MEETING.** We will be planning our spring hiking schedule and programs. Join us, bring your ideas of new and interesting places to explore! See you 7pm Crossville Housing Authority.
- Jan 27 Obed River Park, Crossville, TN. A new hike for the Plateau Chapter! This park was recently completed, and we're looking forward to seeing what its trails have to offer. The trail is 2 miles and rated easy. Afterward, we will go to the Eldridges' home for homemade soup! Meet 9am CST at the Community Complex parking lot at the Crossville fairgrounds. For additional information, call Bill or Sue Eldridge: 931-456-4459.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

Jan 1 We will start the new year right with a New Year's Day hike at the new trail at Edgar Evins State Park. It is moderate 4½-mile hike. After the hike, Barbara Phifer has graciously invited us to her home for chili. Meet 10am CST at Penney's in Cookeville or 10:45am CST at the Edgar Evins ranger station. Pre-registration is required (so that Barbara will have an accurate head count when preparing the chili lunch). Pre-register ASAP to Helen Anglemier: 931-858-5947, or e-mail her: helena@cookeville.com

HIKE REPORTS:

On Nov 11, seven of us (now known as "Wayne & His Harem") hiked about 6 miles at Savage Gulf. After the heavy rains, the falls were very full and noisy. We had lunch at one of the overlooks, and with the leaves off the trees, the view was quite spectacular.

On Nov 18, six of us hiked into Laurel Falls instead of going all the way to Virgin Falls. It was *sooo c-c-cold*, but after some brisk walking, we finally warmed up.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper 865-689-7757
hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net

If you are interested in maintaining a particular trail or section of trail, please contact Harold Draper, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator 865-689-7757.

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Pascoe 615-382-4443
screendoor@bigfoot.com

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

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

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

Executive Director	Rob Weber.....	robweber@usit.net
Resource Manager	Arleen Scheller	scheller@usit.net
Program Coordinator	Tanya Meachen	tmeachen@onemain.com
Office Manager	Susan Weber	sweber1@usit.net
Office Location	19 East 4 th Street	Phone 931-456-6259
	Crossville, TN 38555	Fax 931-456-4934
Office Hours	8am – 5pm	E-Mail: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

SPRING 2001 BREAKAWAY

Mark your calendars!!!

The 2001 Spring BreakAway is March 4-24 and we need lots of volunteers!!! So far we have students coming from the University of Pittsburgh and Vermont, Iona, West Virginia and Wesleyan Colleges, Florida and Michigan State, Villanova, and Emory Universities. We will be staying at Norris Dam State Park and working to build a new section of trail along the I-75 corridor in Caryville, north of Knoxville. Anyone interested in participating is invited to call Tanya Meachen:

931-456-6259 or e-mail her: tmeachen@onemain.com.

Never worked on a trail before? Not to worry, experience is not required! Free trailside training is available.

OUR APOLOGIES . . .

Outdoor, Inc. of Memphis was omitted from the list of auction donors in the December 2000 newsletter. We GREATLY appreciate their donations provided to our event and sincerely apologize for the oversight.

Remember TTA members, when patronizing their business, let them know you are a member of TTA and thank them for their support.

TRAIL TRAINING WORKSHOP

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 9TH

The Cumberland Trail Conference invites you to the 2nd annual Trail Training Workshop. This year's workshop will be held February 23-25 at the Tennessee Signal Mountain Church of God Camp (TSMCGC) with fieldwork on the Tennessee River Gorge segment of the CT. A registration fee is required to cover the cost of two nights lodging, lunch and dinner on Saturday (participants are responsible for their own breakfasts and snacks), and instructional materials. Volunteer instructors along with CTC staff will use their years of experience to offer classroom and field training in basic and advanced trail building techniques, as well as trail leadership skills. Volunteer trail builders and natural resource managers or other interested parties are welcome to participate in our program. Registrants will receive an information packet after the February 9th registration deadline and before the February 23rd workshop. (*Feb 23rd check-in at the TSMCGC will be 4-6:00 pm EST.*)

WORKSHOP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- TTA/CTC volunteer rate \$45/person
(Volunteers must complete 2 days of trail work within 1 year of workshop.)
 - TN State employee rate \$65/person
(TN State Parks, TDEC, TWRA)
 - Standard rate \$85/person
- Questions, or need additional information? Call Tanya Meachen: 931-456-6259 or e-mail her: tmeachen@onemain.com.

Don't hesitate, fill out the registration form below, attach your payment and mail both to the CTC offices, ASAP.

YES! SIGN ME UP FOR THE FEB 23-25 TRAIL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ --- _____
 Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____
 E-mail _____

_____ I am a TTA/CTC volunteer. I've enclosed \$45.
(I agree to work 2 days during CTC programs within 1 year.)

_____ I am a TN State employee. I've enclosed \$65.
I work in (Name of Dept): _____
and my Title is: _____

_____ I am not a TTA/CTC volunteer or TN State employee. I have enclosed \$85.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEB 9

**ENCLOSE YOUR PAYMENT WITH
THIS REGISTRATION FORM**

**MAIL IT TO:
Cumberland Trail Conference
19 E. 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555**

Registrants will receive an information packet after the Feb 9th registration deadline.

OFFICERS:

President
 Libby Francis 615-889-5718
 lfran99625@aol.com

Vice-President
 Leigh Jones 931-277-3228
 cejones@webtv.net

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 bmath@mindspring.com

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Past President
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TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council
 Jim Pascoe 615-382-4443
 screendoor@bigfoot.com

Other Chapter Officers:
 Listed within each Chapters' header

You Are Invited to Join . . . TN Conservation Voters Education Fund

The First Conservation Voter Action Network in TN

Are you concerned about sprawl, pollution, protecting our natural and scenic areas and the quality of life for your family? Then take this opportunity to participate in a new e-mail based network that will enable concerned citizens throughout Tennessee to become informed and target key decision-makers about significant environmental decisions at the local, regional and state level.

The Action Network is NOT a listserv. You and other participants will only be contacted via email 6-10 times a year when your voice is needed. The Network will send you a summary of the targeted issue and a sample letter for you to personalize. The Network's system will then send these letters to the targeted decision-maker and report on the outcome. Though it is the first in the state, the Network is modeled after other successful national and state systems and uses new technology that is more effective than just using e-mail alone.

The Action Network is a new initiative of the TN Conservation Voters Education Fund, a recently formed, non-profit conservation organization, working in coalition with several groups in the state to establish and manage this Network. Your e-mail address is safe and will never be sold or given out. At any time, you may contact the program to be removed permanently from the Network.

To sign up, send an e-mail to Erin Kelley, Director, at:
tenneaf@mindspring.com

Please encourage friends and colleagues to join as well.

. . . twenty well-timed letters can . . .
 make all the difference in the world!

TN Conservation Voters Education Fund • 1 Vantage Way • Suite D-115
 Nashville, TN • 37228 • 615 • 846 • 3993

Newsletter Deadlines:

Copy is due the 10th of the month for an announcement to appear on the 1st of the following month
 (ie: Jan 10th submissions will appear Feb 1st)

Please send submissions for Feb 2001 to:

Jim Poteet
 324 Raintree Drive
 Hendersonville, TN 37075
 615-824-7666
 e-mail: jpoteet@genesco.com

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

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

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

Mail your check payable to:
 Tennessee Trails Association
 c/o Marietta Poteet
 324 Raintree Drive
 Hendersonville, TN 37075
*Please allow 4 weeks for delivery and prices shown
 include postage.*

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

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. If you fail to re-apply we will send you one newsletter and a reminder notice. If you have not re-applied by this time, your membership will terminate.

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

**NEW MEMBER AND
RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

YES, I want to join Tennessee Trails Association...

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone _____ Zip _____ -- _____

Work Phone _____

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
- ___ East TN(Oak Ridge/Knoxville)
- ___ Memphis
- ___ Murfreesboro
- ___ Nashville
- ___ Northwest(UT at Martin/Weakley)
- ___ Plateau(Crossville)
- ___ Upper Cumberland(Sparta/Cookeville)
- ___ At Large

...volunteer ?...
endless opportunities
available
contact your local
Chapter Chairperson

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

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