

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



Go Where The Action Is...

National Trails Day

June 2nd (& 3rd)

Open to All

RSVP By May 10

Last month, we ran our first announcement about the Middle TN Chapters' (and now East TN) of TTA commitment to National Trails Day (NTD) through a project at Edgar Evins State Park (EESP). Since then the responses received have been excellent. There is still plenty to do, so if you've thought about getting involved, now's the time to do it! WE NEED YOU!

Although NTD is a one-day event (June 2), we have set aside 2 days (June 2 & 3) in order to complete an 8-mile section of new trail being developed in EESP. This project, organized by Fount Bertram, Murfreesboro's Chapter Officer, is open to all TTA members, the general public, employees of our NTD sponsors and anyone else willing to work. So far 7 TTA chapters and their members have committed to adopting this project as their NTD project too, they are: Clarksville, Columbia, East TN, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Plateau and Upper Cumberland.

Yes, eight miles of trail construction is a pretty aggressive goal, yet one that can be reached. There is no limit to the number of volunteers we need. The more the merrier! We anticipate at least 200 volunteers on each day of this project.

No experience required!

On-site training provided!

(cont. on pg.2)

Board of Director's 2nd Qtr Meeting

Sat., May 19

1:30pm EST

Norris Dam SP

The next TTA Board meeting will be held on May 19 at Norris Dam State Park at 1:30pm EDT at the TVA picnic shelter below the dam.

All TTA members are invited to attend. If you want to stay over Sat. evening, deluxe and rustic cabins are available by calling park reservations: 800-543-9335. Camp sites are also available, first-come, first-served. If you want to share a cabin, call Libby Francis: 615-889-5718.

Come early. On May 19, the East TN Chapter will be meeting at 8:30am EDT at the LaFollette trailhead of the CT to do trail work. They will stop working around noon to allow the volunteers enough time to return to NDSP to attend the 1:30pm Board meeting. To volunteer, call Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827.

You also have the option to hike. On Sat morning the Cove Lake Chapter is leading a hike. For details call Faith Dippold: 423-566-8026.

For those staying over, there will be a short hike on Sunday morning on the newly built sections of the Cumberland Trail. For information, call Libby Francis: 615-889-5718.

IN MEMORIUM

Evan Means

TTA's Founding Father Departed April 10

Evan Means was a vocal conservationist of the Oak Ridge community and the outdoor editor of the *Oak Ridger*. An avid fisherman, hunter and wanderer. It was his wanderings that led him to the concept of the Cumberland Mtn. Trail. Teaming with the likes of Bob Brown and Mack Prichard, they met on Nov. 16, 1968 with numerous Tennessee community members to discuss the concept of establishing a state system of hiking trails. That meeting established the Cumberland Trail as the pilot project and led to the formation of Tennessee Trails Association in December 1968. Evan Means later served as the President of TTA, wrote and edited TTA's newsletter through the 70's, and in 1979 published, *Tennessee Trails*, a pocket-sized guidebook of the hiking trails in TN, now known as *Hiking Tennessee Trails*. (Today, TTA still receives royalties from the sale of his book.)

Evan was of a nucleus that formed the backbone of the conservation movement in Tennessee. His efforts are remembered.

An Evan Means Memorial Fund has been established by TTA. Gifts in memory of Evan can be mailed to:

Tennessee Trails Association
Evan Means Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204-1446.

Dear friends,

I have just learned of the death of TTA founder, Evan Means. I am deeply saddened to think of the loss to his family, friends, and people who care about trails everywhere. His vision for the future was like ripples in a pond. The waves will continue in an ever-broadening circle.

Congratulations to the Murfreesboro chapter! Their new meeting place in Barfield-Crescent Park is wonderful! Thanks to all who came to lend their support and congratulations at their recent open house. We are so proud of their hard work, friendly atmosphere and continued dedication to trail building and hiking. I know they will enjoy even greater success in their new building.

Hope to see you on the trail,

Libby

ACTION . . . NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

(cont. from pg.1)

Due to such great response, we fear we may not have enough tools, so if you happen to have a fire rake or two lying around, bring it. How about a pick mattock, we could use some of these also. Pruning and lopping tools, we definitely need those too. Work gloves are a must! Don't forget to bring work gloves! We also need volunteers with basic trail-building experience to lead, supervise and work with 2 teams of 4 volunteers. You know who you are – the "wagon masters," "mule skimmers," and "trail twisters" of the CT – come forward and help!

Even our sponsors are behind this 110%. In addition to providing door prizes, t-shirts, food and beverages, their staff has committed to working along side of us on the trail! Here's an overview of what you can expect: REI is providing all workers a box lunch and t-shirt (on Saturday only). Tyler Mountain Spring Water is providing bottled water. (This is in addition to what you'll need to bring. You'll need lots of water!) Cumberland Transit has donated door prizes which include: The North Face's Cat's Meow sleeping bag (rated to 20 degrees), assorted t-shirts and hats. Wild Oats Markets is donating energy bars, cookies and snacks. Southern Fruit & Vegetable is providing assorted fruit. There's a lot more to come!

WE WILL NEED A HEAD COUNT OF VOLUNTEERS TO ENSURE WE RECEIVE ENOUGH BOX LUNCHES, T-SHIRTS, ETC. THEREFORE, YOU MUST RSVP TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICER ON OR BEFORE MAY 10. Ideally, we wish everyone available could commit to both days, however we understand if you can't. While making your RSVP, please let your local chapter officer know which day(s) you're available, if you plan to drive in each day or plan to camp (on which nights?), and if you have any special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.).

Work will begin at 8:30am CDT each day, and we'll meet at the observation tower next to the Visitor/Ranger station. We will have short breaks often and throughout the day. Our lunch break will occur on the trail. Volunteers will need to wear shoes that provide good ankle support (preferably hiking boots), clothes that you will be comfortable in and don't mind getting dirty (they will get dirty). Also, you'll need to bring any trail-building tools mentioned above, work gloves, water, sunscreen, lunch (Sunday only), snacks and a daypack to carry it all in/out.

Edgar Evins SP has 60 campsites (Each site can accommodate 2 tents. We've received permission to place more than 2 tents per site if we need to). And, 3 modern bathhouses for our volunteers to use, free of charge, over this weekend. Approximately 10 sites have 20, 30 and 50 amp. service. If you get really dirty, there are also laundry facilities available. Edgar Evins SP is located 20 miles north of Smithville, 20 miles west of Cookeville and 60 miles east of Nashville. It is easily accessible from I-40 at exit 268 (Hwy. 96 /Buffalo Valley Rd /Center Hill Lake).

Please contact your local chapter officer to obtain additional . . .

**YOUR GENEROSITY
BENEFITS ALL**

When you join or renew your TTA membership, you may become a "Supporting Member" by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues. These donations support any number of TTA projects and programs, and we thank Donny Carpenter (Nashville), and J.C. & Becky Yates (Nashville) for renewing their 2001 membership as a Supporting Member.

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

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

**DEVIL'S BACKBONE SNA
DEDICATION CEREMONY
FORTHCOMING ***

The trail is finished... the blazes are painted... the parking lot and signs are up!! You are invited to join local officials, TDEC Division of Natural Heritage, and the National Park Service, as we officially open the Devil's Backbone State Natural Area to hikers and visitors. After the dedication ceremony, we'll hike the 3-mile loop trail built by TTA members and University School of Nashville student volunteers. The trail was completed on April 1st by TTA's Columbia Chapter members: Todd Horton, Russell Smith, Pam Frakes, Jennifer Grisham, Danny King, Marvin Caine and Mike Sukornet. Nashville's Chapter members: Al & Vera Churcher, Libby Francis. And, Plateau Chapter member Arleen Scheller.

* Please note: A date for the dedication had not been identified at the time the newsletter went to the printer. To obtain the date, please call Brian Bowen, TN Division of Natural Heritage: 615-532-0436.

Directions: Devil's Backbone SNA trailhead is at mile marker #394 on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

. . . information and to sign up to volunteer. **REMEMBER:** you must RSVP on or before May 10. Your local chapter officer will then coordinate details with Fount Bertram, Event Coordinator and Murfreesboro Chapter Officer. Chapter officers with questions can reach Fount by phone: 615-765-5357, or by email: fwbertram@hotmail.com

WORLD RECORD SET FOR BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Would you believe a 30-foot pole bridge was built at Short Springs SNA on March 29 in about 3 hours?? Well, it's true. Thanks to the remarkable planning and leadership skills of engineers Jack Horner of Stanley Lindsey & Associates, LTD of Nashville, and Friends of Short Springs member Ross Roepke of Tullahoma. (The "Patron Saints of TTA Bridges.")

Twenty-five volunteers from the Friends of Short Springs, Tullahoma Recreation Department, Nashville Chapter of TTA, and Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage put their minds and muscles to work on an overcast Thursday morning to try to beat the rain - and they did! Not only did they finish the long-awaited bridge on the Connector Trail above Machine Falls, these hearty souls also built a new switchback trail down the ridge to the bridge approach to make the trail safer for hikers and to prevent the erosion that was taking place on the hillside.

A big **THANK YOU** to the following bridge/trail builders:

- Friends of Short Springs: Marjorie Collier, Ross Roepke, Rick Roepke, and Bob Warwick.
- Tullahoma Recreation Dept.: Kurt Glick, Ian Anderson, Walter White, Jamie Bryant, Stacey Scott, John Evans, Margie Hankins, and Jeremy Amacher
- Tennessee Trails Members: Jack Horner, Jim Poteet (spending birthday number ? to build trail), Anne Wesley (a first-time trail builder!), Diane Manas, Herb Kneeland, Vera Churcher, Randy Ritterbush (another first-timer!), Jeff Haselden (a member for just 2 days!), and Arleen Scheller.
- Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage: Brian Bowen, David Lincicome, Lisa Huff, and Claude Bailey (Where were you, Forrest?)

HIKING Tennessee Trails

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

If you have a favorite trail that you wish to see included, call Bob. If you like to hike and write or, draw maps, call Bob.

Get involved! Call Bob!

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

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

ATTENTION TTA HIKE LEADERS:

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

www.tennesseetrails.org/release.html

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

May 14 Angel Falls Overlook, Big South Fork NRR. Jamestown, TN. This 6-mile hike on a section of the John Muir Trail is one of our hike leader's favorites in the BSFNRR. There are actually two spectacular overlooks, and we will check out both of them and have a lunch with a view. The trail also crosses a pretty stream that is a great place to cool off if our current heat wave lasts into May. Meet 9:30am EDT at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. For additional information and to pre-register, call Eric or Vi Wilson: 423-628-2817, or email them: ericavi@highland.net

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

May 4-6 Big South Fork NRR Car-camp Weekend. Jamestown, TN. We can cover so much more ground when we can stay in an area for some time. Join us this weekend as we take in the Angel Falls Overlook, Hazard Cave Trail and the Indian Rock House Trail. For additional information and to pre-register, call Wanda Cumberland: 931-906-3338.

May 12 Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. 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 to reserve your spot by calling Carl Gadsey: 931-552-2325.

May 15 MONTHLY MEETING

May 19 Cumberland Mountain State Park. Crossville, TN. We'll hike the 5-mile Pioneer Loop. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For additional information and to pre-register, call Wanda Cumberland: 931-906-3338

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 2 (& 3) National Trails Day Trail Building Event at Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. Our chapter, along with 6 other TTA chapters has adopted this as our NTD trail-building project for this year. And, we need your help in order for this to be successful. This is guaranteed to be a fun-filled and very rewarding weekend. All of the details concerning this event can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. If you aren't available for both days, come on out for one. To better coordinate logistics regarding tools, food, gifts, door prizes, camping, carpooling or special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.) you must RSVP on or before May 10 to J.R. Tate: 931-920-2692.

Gas prices made a huge jump at the end of March. Analysts believe these high prices will stick around through the summer. Please be considerate and take your turn as a carpool driver. If you are a rider, always contribute to the cost of buying gasoline.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

MEETINGS: WILL RESUME AUGUST 2001.

May 6 Stone Door/Big Creek Gulf/Big Creek Rim, South Cumberland RA. Monteagle, TN. Join us for dramatic bluff top views, waterfalls and the Great Stone Door in this 9-14 mile hike. (14 miles if we do the side trips to Ranger and Greeter Falls.) The hike is rated moderate. Bring snacks, lunch and water. Wear sturdy boots that provide ankle support. For additional information and to pre-register, call Todd Horton: 615-302-3336, or email him: todd1966@aol.com

May 26-28 Memorial Day weekend at Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. There are so many trails here that appeal to just about every level of fitness. This area is also rich in cultural history and has many places to go to learn about it. There's something for everyone. Call early so we can make plans and reservations to stay the entire weekend either car camping or at a local hotel. Don't wait until the last minute, call Todd Horton: 615-302-3336, or email him: todd1966@aol.com

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HIKE REPORT:

On Mar 17, six people explored the history and scenery of the Old Stone Fort in Manchester.

On Apr 1, there was no foolin' around going on when it came to putting the finishing touches on some trails at the Devil's Backbone SNA on the Natchez Trace. We had a great team of volunteers come out from our chapter as well as the Nashville and Plateau chapters. We blazed, raked and leveled the trail. We still have a couple of hours remaining in order to complete leveling a portion of the trail.

On Apr 8, seven hikers enjoyed the sun and warm weather hiking the 4.3-mile loop at Meriwether Lewis, along the Natchez Trace.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

May 19 Pre TTA Board Meeting Hike. Cove Lake and Norris Dam locations were selected as the site for TTA's May 19 Board of Directors meeting. We have schedule to lead a hike. Everyone is invited to come on this hike, as well as attend the 1:30pm EST board meeting. Meeting details can be found on pg 1. For the hike's meeting time, location and destination, call Faith Dippold: 423-566-8026.

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

PLANNING AHEAD:

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

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

HIKE REPORT:

On Mar 17, Cove Lake Chapter hiked in the Catoosa area by Nemo Bridge. We all agreed it was a beautiful, easy trail (5.2 miles roundtrip) with the river on one side and the rock cliffs on the other at the beginning, then beautiful groves of beech trees and hemlocks. We ate our lunch at a picturesque sandy beach on the river, a perfect place to camp overnight, sometime. It was a little cool, but we warmed up with a roaring fire in the campground ring. Back at the trailhead we were entertained with videos some kayakers had just taken of their trip on the Obed River. We think we'll stick to hiking! Note: The .1 mile down to the river at Alley Ford is badly in need of repair, as the rains have completely washed out the trail. Any volunteers? (*Submitted by Faith Dippold*)

EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

May 5 Black Mountain Trail (Grassy Cove segment of the CT). Beginning at the FAA radar dome atop Black Mtn., we will pass between large boulders and bluffs as we descend for approximately 2½ miles to our lunch spot at Windless Cave. We will then begin our moderately strenuous ascent back up to the top of Black Mtn. taking in some of the views of Grassy Cove. Round trip hiking distance is 5 miles. Meet 8:30am EDT in the student parking lot of Roane County High School in Kingston, or 9am at the trailhead. Bring lunch, water and dress appropriately for the weather. For additional information or to pre-register, call Carol Anderson: 865-376-4895, or e-mail her: ander743@bellsouth.net

May 12 Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. Sparta, TN. Come and enjoy a pleasant 7 or 8 mile hike in a newly opened area for hiking. We will begin our hike at the Polly Branch/Chestnut Mtn. trailhead and proceed to Screw Cliff Bluff. We will then descend by way of an old logging road to the Caney Fork River where we will have lunch and then hike out to our cars via the Polly Branch Falls trail. We should be able to see a lot of wildflowers on this hike. Meet 9am EDT at the student parking lot of Roane County High School in Kingston, or 10:30am at the BFCW trailhead. Bring lunch, water and dress appropriately for the weather. For additional information and to pre-register, call Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827, or email him: keithmertz@hotmail.com (cont. on pg. 5)

EAST TENNESSEE (cont. from pg. 4)

May 19 Cumberland Trail maintenance hike (LaFollette section). In honor of the Board of Director's meeting at Cove Lake SP on May 19, the East TN Chapter will walk part of the Cumberland Trail near LaFollette and perform light maintenance. Everyone is invited on the hike and may attend the Board of Director's meeting. Meet at 8:30am EDT at the Tank Springs trailhead near the junction of Tennessee Avenue and US-25W just North of LaFollette. We will plan to work until 11:30am and return to our cars by 12:30. Bring lunch, snacks and water. For additional information, call Harold Draper: 865-689-7757, or email him: h.m.draper@att.net

May 26 Abrams Falls Trail, GSMNP. Beginning at a large parking lot at the western end of Cades Cove, this trail follows Abrams Creek for 2½ miles to Abrams Falls, a 20' waterfall that is one of the more popular swimming holes in the park. We may want to take a dip if the weather is warm enough. This hike is 5 miles round-trip and rated easy to moderate, depending on one's physical abilities. Meet at 8:30am EDT behind Hardee's on US-321 in Maryville, about ¼ mile on the right beyond Blount Memorial Hospital. Bring snacks, lunch and water and maybe something to swim in. For additional information and to pre-register, call Rosemary Lynch: 865-573-8740, or email her: rmlynch@ntown.com

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 2 (& 3) National Trails Day Trail Building Event at Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. Our chapter, along with 6 other TTA chapters has adopted this as our NTD trail-building project for this year. And, we need your help in order for this to be successful. This is guaranteed to be a fun-filled and very rewarding weekend. All of the details concerning this event can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. If you aren't available for both days, come on out for one. To better coordinate logistics regarding tools, food, gifts, door prizes, camping, carpooling or special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.) you must RSVP on or before May 10 to Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827, or email him: keithmertz@hotmail.com

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICERS: 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)

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

May 17 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Betty Porter will present a slide show and talk on the wildflowers she has photographed in Arkansas and Tennessee, including the GSMNP area. Betty is very active in the TTA and is one of the Memphis chapter's founding members. Come and enjoy the talk and see what you have to look forward to on your spring hikes.

May 18-20 Flat Top and Pinnacle Mountain weekend hikes have been cancelled due to recent ice damage.

May 19 Ft. Pillow State Park. Henning, TN. This trail is 7 to 8 miles long and rated moderate. The historic loop trail has some hilly terrain and is located on the Mississippi River at the first Chickasaw Bluff with an elevation ranging from 210 ft. to 420 ft. Carpoolers will meet 7:30am CDT at Davis-Kidd, or you can meet 9:30am at the park's Interpretive Center. For additional information, call Betty Porter: 901-755-4740.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Fount Bertram

615-765-5357

fwbertram@hotmail.com

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

May 8 MONTHLY MEETING.

May 12 Franklin State Forest hike. Sewanee, TN. Join us for this sure to be fun outing! The trail is rated moderate due to the rocky areas and few hills. We'll meet at 8am CDT to carpool from St. Mark's Methodist church in Murfreesboro. For additional information and to pre-register, call Mark Stanfill: 615-867-0847, or email him: mark.stanfill@db.com or

May 19 Paddle the Stones River East Fork. This is "my" river, so we won't have to run a shuttle. We'll take out at my house and hang out a while to recover. Meet in Murfreesboro at 9:30am CDT for a pleasant and easy 6-7 mile paddle. I will try to facilitate "partnering," so let me know if you have an extra spot in your canoe or need to find space in one. I think kayakers can enjoy this too if their boat isn't fragile. *Everyone should be prepared for sharing the paddling, carrying the boat and gear.* If this sounds inviting, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278, or email her: heloisew@bellsouth.net

May 26 Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness area hike. Join us for this scenic outing to Scott's Gulf! We'll meet 8am CDT at Hardee's in Woodbury. For additional information and to pre-register, call Fount Bertram: 615-765-5357, or email him: fwbertram@hotmail.com

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Jun 16 Make a day of it! Leaving middle Tennessee at 7am CDT for North Chickamauga Creek (just outside of Chattanooga). We, at least the leader, will do 7 miles of this 9 mile hike, making time to splashing around in the cool waters of the creek. Afterward, the group is invited to join the hike leader at Chattanooga's Riverbend Music Festival for their last night. Last time we went to the closing night of the festival, the fireworks display (10pm, I think) topped off the day just right. For additional information and to pre-register, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278, or email her: heloisew@bellsouth.net

Big Bend NP Provides Banner Hiking

The last week of March, 2001, found three Murfreesboro Chapter hikers trekking on a variety of trails in Big Bend NP, Texas. Mark Stanfill, Martin McCullough, and Jim Schroeder enjoyed almost perfect weather as they experienced the many wonders of this awesome and beautiful area.

Hiking adventures included a trek "up" the Lost Mine Trail (it's still lost) along the Juniper Canyon and marveling at the beauty of Casa Grande Peak. This was followed by a trip down the Basin Valley via the Window Trail leading to "The Window", which is a narrow rift between the rock walls where the water from the Basin cascades over a high ledge to the valley below.

After a few days of area explorations, an ascent of 2,000 ft was made to the South Rim where the sight below and the glorious sunset to follow awed all. The spectacular display of the truly beautiful floral diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert, the Sliprock Canyon and desert hike, the Santa Elena Rio Grande River Canyon, followed by a basking in the hot springs along the Rio Grande made for a truly memorable 5 day trip.

Despite warnings about bears, skunks, and mountain lions, we didn't see any. We did spy 3 Javelina (wild pig-like creatures) on one of the trails. A "herd" of 9 visited the campsite one morning, all without incident. Our real nemesis was a "big" old black bird (crow, raven?) that landed on our table, opened a food bag, and feasted on someone's oatmeal. (He didn't like the coffee).

If you are planning a trip into this incredible area you are invited to contact anyone of the "trio" for information.

Submitted by Jim Schroeder

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

MEETS: May 22nd meeting has been replaced by our annual picnic. Details are under May 22nd (top of pg. 7).

HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

May 2 (Weds) Short Springs SNA. Tullahoma, TN. There were so many early blooming wildflowers happening here during our trail workday at the end of March it'll be interesting to see what the 1st week in May has showing. We'll hike several of the trails in this 420-acre natural area for a total of about 5 miles. There are some hills but nothing too strenuous therefore, the hike is rated moderate. Bring lunch, snacks and water. We will meet 8:30am CDT to carpool from Nashville. To obtain additional information, meeting place, and to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

May 5-6 Smokies Backpack Weekend. On Saturday, we will start from the northern terminus of the Noland Divide Trail. After hiking 3.7 miles, we will take the Noland Creek Trail 4.8 miles to campsite #64. If we arrive early, there will be an optional "dayhike" along the southern portion of Noland Creek Trail. On Sunday, we will hike 2.8 miles up Springhouse Branch Trail to join the Forney Ridge Trail. From that junction, it is a steep 8-mile climb to Clingman's Dome - passing through beautiful Andrew's Bald. This is an intermediate level backpack due to creek crossings and the steep, uneven, mountain terrain. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear, food and transportation to the park. Due to backcountry regulations, this trip is limited to 6 people. For more information, call Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052, or email her: tahiker@msn.com

May 5 Cooper Mountain Trail, Standing Stone State Park. Livingston, TN. We expect to see some late blooming wildflowers on this 6-7 mile hike rated moderate. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For additional information and to obtain meeting time and location, call Jim Poteet: 615-824-7666. (cont.)

NASHVILLE (cont.)

May 6 Beaman Park Aerobic Hike. Joelton, TN. Get your heart rate up a bit as we pick up our hiking speed and hike the 2-mile loop at least 2 times. 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 to reserve your spot by calling Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586. We'll meet at 1pm CDT at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road.

May 6 Cardwell Mountain. McMinnville, TN. Here's one close to Nashville. This hike is 6 miles and rated moderate. Pack lunch and water. We will meet 8am CDT in the Kinko's parking area of the K-Mart shopping center on Donelson Pike. For additional information and to pre-register, call: Charlie and Jennifer Hann: 615-941-1503.

May 9 (Weds) Old Highway Tree Trail Evening Hike. Edwin Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Leave your hiking boots at home tonight because we're going soft-soled (tennis shoes recommended) as we pound the pavement of this 2½-mile hike on the paved roads in Edwin Warner Park. Bring water and a flashlight because the sun will be setting soon after we start walking. Meet 6:45pm at the Edwin Warner Main Entrance parking area off Hwy 100 (¼ mile west of the Nature Center). The hike will begin at 7pm and we'll finish by 8:30pm. No RSVP required. If you have questions, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

May 11 (Fri) "A Hike for Night Owls" in Warner Park. Nashville, TN. This is a Friday evening hike led by Park Naturalist, Heather Perry. We'll listen for owls, frogs, flying squirrels and other nocturnal creatures' sounds. The program starts at 7pm CDT and ends around 8:30pm. All ages are welcome. Space is limited, therefore pre-registration is required! Call Heather Perry, during business hours, to secure your spot: 615-352-6299.

May 12 Brady Mountain portion of the Cumberland Trail. Crab Orchard, TN. This portion of the Grassy Cove segment of the CT covers 7 miles and extends along the spine of Brady Mountain. This is a one-way hike. A car shuttle will be organized by the hike leader. We'll hike through upland hardwood forest of chestnut and black oak, sourwood, red maple, with Virginia pine and mountain laurel near the rocky bluffs. There are at least one or two fairly steep ascents on the trail and an overlook on a vertical rock stratum with spectacular views of the south end of Grassy Cove. The hike is rated moderate, however the hike leader's pace is "comfortable," so be prepared for a full day outing. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water (at least 2 liters) and wear sturdy hiking boots. For those of us who want to, we may gather somewhere for dinner afterwards. To obtain additional information, meeting place and to pre-register, call Alicia Gray: 615-453-5138, or email her: AliciaGray@earthlink.net

May 12 Beaman Park Trail Building Day. Continuing with our monthly promise to build and maintain trails in Beaman Park... wear clothes you won't mind getting dirty and boots that provide ankle support. Bring lunch, water, work gloves and any trail building tools you have. We'll meet 9am CDT at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. Pre-register by calling Dave Walton: 615-646-5355. (cont. on pg. 7)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg 6)

May 16 (Weds) Hidden Springs Trail, Cedars of Lebanon SP. Lebanon, TN. If there isn't too much underbrush growth, we may get lucky and see the sinks, caves and rock formations that we'll pass on this 4½-mile loop trail. We'll hike on a trail rated easy through several different plant zones, ranging from rocks where no plants grow to cedar glades with its specific types of grasses, into hardwood forests dominated by oak and hickory - just to name a few. Bring lunch and water. Hiking boots are preferred, however soft-soled shoes will be adequate. We'll meet 8:30am CDT to carpool from Nashville. To obtain additional information, meeting place, and to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

May 19-20 Joyce Kilmer Wilderness Day-hike and Car-camp Weekend. Robbinsville, NC. We did this the same time last year. We had great weather, fantastic overlooks from the tops of the mountains and a spectacular array of wildflowers in bloom. Richard Horvath is providing a 2nd opportunity to do it again. Hike one or both days. The #4 Group Campsite in the Rattler Ford Campground has been reserved for Friday & Saturday nights (flush toilets and hot showers!). We'll split the \$15 per night campsite fee among the people present. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Richard Horvath: 270-586-0178.

On Sat it's Stratton Bald. This is about a 16 mile hike to the top of Stratton Bald (5,200 ft. elev.), which provides a mountain meadow view of the Unicoi Mountains. This hike is considered strenuous because of the 3,000-ft elevation gain and the somewhat rough trail conditions. Sturdy, well broken-in hiking boots are a must! We will meet at the Rattler Ford Campground at 8am CDT (9am EDT) for a short car shuttle to the trailhead.

On Sun it's Slickrock Creek. We will hike a loop up the Slickrock Creek Trail and Nichols Cove Trail and returning via the Yellowhammer Gap and Ike Branch Trails. This will be an 11-mile hike with moderate elevation gains. However, Slickrock Creek will be forded 4 times (that's *sans* bridges, folks), so be prepared for knee-deep water.

If these hikes are more than you care to undertake, there are other, shorter hikes in the area:

- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest loop, 2 miles, which runs through one of the few stands of uncut poplars and hemlocks in the eastern US.
- Hooper Bald off the Cherohala Skyway. An easy 1-mile trail takes you to the bald.
- Falls Branch Falls, also off the Cherohala Skyway, is 2.6 miles round-trip.
- Bald River Trail starts at Bald River Falls and offers a pleasant, streamside walk for up to 5 miles.

So, come out and join us!

May 20 Wildflower Hike at Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. As an alternative to the more rigorous hikes offered this month, this is an interpretive hike in the only undeveloped TN Metro Park. Bring your botany guidebooks and see how many plants you can identify. 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. To obtain meeting time/location and to pre-register, call Nancy Dorman: 615-299-9586. (cont.)

NASHVILLE (cont.)

May 22 **ANNUAL PICNIC** in Edwin Warner Park. Nashville, TN. In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at Shelter #10 around 5:30pm CDT for dinner, games and a used gear rummage sale. Shelter #10 is at the very end of the road where all of the picnic shelters are in Edwin Warner Park, off of Vaughn Rd. (Vaughn Rd is the road that intersects with Old Hickory Blvd where the steeplechase takes place.) Please bring a potluck salad, casserole or dessert, and we will provide the drinks, cups, napkins, plates and utensils. Do you have some used hiking or camping gear that you would like to sell? Bring it along, and perhaps you can find a good home for it. Also, bring a flashlight if you would like an after dinner hike along the 1/3 mile Owl Hollow Trail. As always, your family members and friends are welcome. For additional information, call Dan Brennan: 615-599-4713.

May 23 (Weds) Old Highway Tree Trail Evening Hike. Edwin Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Leave your hiking boots at home tonight because we're going soft-soled (tennis shoes recommended) as we pound the pavement of this 2½-mile hike on the paved roads in Edwin Warner Park. Bring water and a flashlight because the sun will be setting soon after we start walking. Meet 6:45pm at the Edwin Warner Main Entrance parking area off Hwy 100 (¼ mile west of the Nature Center). The hike will begin at 7pm and we'll finish by 8:30pm. No RSVP required. If you have questions, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

May 25-28 Car Camp at Cataloochee in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Come spend Memorial Day weekend at historic, tranquil Cataloochee. We don't have enough room to describe all of Cataloochee's highlights, so here are some provocative phrases: historic buildings (like Cades Cove - without the crowds), virgin timber forests, newly-released elk, beautiful trout streams, Mt. Sterling fire tower, the Wildman of Cataloochee, exquisite hiking trails of varying lengths and difficulty. We have a group site reserved that will accommodate 20 people. *PLEASE NOTE: this is a primitive campsite with no running water (only port-a-potties).* Water and bathrooms (no showers) are available less than a mile from our site. Everyone is responsible for his/her own camping equipment, food and transportation to the park. Your cost for the campsite will be a flat \$15 for 1, 2 or 3 nights. Once we cover the campsite rental, the excess money will be donated to the Friends of the GSMNP on behalf of TTA. **A NON-REFUNDABLE** \$5 deposit will be required to hold your place. It will be applied toward your share of the campsite when you arrive (and applied towards everyone else's share if you don't). For much more information, please call Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052, or email her: ttahiker@msn.com

May 26 Beaman Park Newcomer's Hike. Joelton, TN. We're still looking for wildflowers and we hope to see some still in bloom over this 2 mile hike, rated moderate. Bring snacks and water. Meet 8:30am CDT at the Kroger on Charlotte Pike, one block west of White Bridge Rd. or, meet 9am in the Beaman parking area on Little Marrow Bone Rd., across from the spring. Beaman Park is not officially open to the public, so hiking in the area is by permit only and space is limited. Please reserve your spot by pre-registering with Dave Walton: 615-646-5355.

May 30 (Weds) Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail. Ashland City, TN. Never hiked on an old railroad bed? This is an 8-mile trail and is rated easy for the terrain, moderate for the length. Soft sole shoes welcome. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We'll meet 8:30am CDT to carpool from Nashville. To obtain additional information, meeting place, and to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777. (cont. on pg. 8)

NASHVILLE (cont from pg. 7)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 2 National Trails Day Events at the Warner Parks, Nashville, TN. (Sponsored by the Warner Parks, Blue Ridge Mtn. Sports, Wild Oats Market & Sunshine Grocery.)

From 8am to 4:30pm come celebrate a full day of activities scheduled at the Warner Parks. Selections include hiking their 12 miles of trails, enjoying a drive on their 25 miles of scenic drive, or riding your horse on the 10 miles of equestrian trails. TTA members and the Warner Park Nature Center staff will lead hikes throughout the day. Blue Ridge Mountain Sports staff will be on-hand at the Nature Center and on the trail sporting some great new gear! Wild Oats Market and Sunshine Grocery will also be stationed at the Nature Center discussing great trail goodies!

- 8am (until 11am) Mossy Ridge Hike led by TTA's Paul Smith. This hike is recommended for adults, as the trail is 4½ miles long, somewhat rugged and hilly, and rated moderate. Call Paul Smith to pre-register: 615-832-9388.
- 1pm (until 3pm) Harpeth Woods Hike led by WP's Naturalist, Heather Perry, and TTA's Glenn Turner. This hike makes for an excellent family hike. The trail is 2½ miles and rambles over and around hills, just not as many as those on the 4½ miles of Mossy Ridge.
- 1pm (until 3pm) Old Roadway Tree Trail stroll led by Naturalist, Jackie Leys. This trail is completely paved, therefore recommended for families with young children or strollers. The stroll is about 1½-2 miles and rated moderate for the few hills we will climb.

Jun 2 (& 3) National Trails Day Trail Building Event at Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. Our chapter, along with 6 other TTA chapters has adopted this as our NTD trail-building project for this year. And, we need your help in order for this to be successful. This is guaranteed to be a fun-filled and very rewarding weekend. All of the details concerning this event can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. If you aren't available for both days, come on out for one. To better coordinate logistics regarding tools, food, gifts, door prizes, camping, carpooling or special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.) you must RSVP on or before May 10 to Dan Brennan: 615-599-4713.

Jun 14-17 John Muir Trail Backpack in Big South Fork NRR. Jamestown, TN. This 4-day backpack will begin at the O&W Bridge in the Big South Fork NRR and continue 50 miles along rivers, creeks, overlooks and remote forests. This trail is rated moderate to difficult with steep stairs, ladders, climbs and many creek fords. We will gather at BSFNRR on Weds eve, set up camp and prepare for an early departure the next morning. We'll finish the 50 miles upon reaching Pickett State Park on Sunday afternoon. For questions and to pre-register, call Keith White: 615-305-9078.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

(UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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

MEETS: Meeting will resume in August.

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

Our student and faculty members are winding down their academic year at UT Martin. Therefore, we have not scheduled any meetings or activities. We will be back in August. Until then, have a great summer.

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466

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

There is an informal, leaderless hike every Wednesday morning at 8:30am CDT. Meet at the boat launch area of the Cumberland Mountain State Park. The hikes are moderately paced and may average 5-6 miles. For additional information, call Bill Haynes: 931-707-7606. Rain cancels.

May 12 Piney River Pocket Wilderness. Spring City, TN. Last year, on our annual wildflower hike, we saw over 70 species of wildflowers. Let's see if the same holds true this year! The hike is 10 miles and rated moderate. Bring lunch and water. We'll meet 8am CDT at the Cumberland Mtn. SP Visitor's Center in Crossville. For additional information and to pre-register, call Arleen Scheller: 931-707-8333.

May 17 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Dick Tune, Assistant Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, will present a program on the historical significance and the preservation of the Elkmont Community in the Smokies. See you at 7pm CDT, Crossville Housing Authority.

May 26 Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. Sparta, TN. Our hike leader, Joe Matlock, is still exploring this area to determine the best trail for us to hike. Therefore, the length of the hike will be determined by the time you pre-register. Meet 8am CDT in the Kroger parking lot in Crossville. For additional information and to pre-register, call Joe Matlock: 423-354-6101. (cont. on pg. 9)

SHOP AMAZON.COM THROUGH TTA'S WEBSITE

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

We have an arrangement with amazon.com where TTA receives a commission on all items (books, music, electronics) purchased when you enter their site through our link. It's very easy! Go to the TTA web site (www.tennesseetrails.com), navigate to the Merchandise page, then follow the link to the TTA Bookstore. Please note: Commissions are only given 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.*

HIKE PRE-REGISTRATION?

WHY ????????

Our hike leaders are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you in the event their hike needs to be cancelled by pre-registering!

BE CONSIDERATE
AND PRE-REGISTER

PLATEAU CHAPTER (cont. from pg. 8)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 2 National Trails Day on the Black Mountain/Grassy Cove segment of the Cumberland Trail. Crossville, TN. We will join the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation to celebrate the Black Mountain acquisition by leading a hike on this beautiful trail with spectacular overlooks of Grassy Cove. The hike is 3½ miles and rated easy/moderate. Bring lunch and water. The hike will start at 9am CDT. For additional information, to obtain meeting location and pre-register, call Vicki Perdue: 931-456-6466.

Jun 2 (& 3) National Trails Day Trail Building Event at Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. Our chapter, along with 6 other TTA chapters has adopted this as our NTD trail-building project for this year. And, we need your help in order for this to be successful. This is guaranteed to be a fun-filled and very rewarding weekend. All of the details concerning this event can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. If you aren't available for both days, come on out for one. To better coordinate logistics regarding tools, food, gifts, door prizes, camping, carpooling or special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.) you must RSVP on or before May 10 to Charles or Leigh Jones at 931-277-3228. (*For Jun 2, we've tentatively planned to meet 8am CDT at the I-40 Cracker Barrel in Crossville.*)

WEBSITE UPDATE

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

ATTN: WEBMASTER
TN Trails Association

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

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

May 5 Piney River Trail. Spring City, TN. This is a one-way trail, 10 miles long but rated easy/moderate, and will require a car shuttle. Meet 8am CDT at First Star Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta. For additional information and to pre-register, call: Sue Bass 931-528-1386, or email her: take-a-hike@onemain.com

May 19 Cumberland Mountain State Park. Crossville, TN. This will be a great hike for newcomers. No more than 4 miles and rated easy/moderate. We will decide which trail to hike on that day. Meet 8am CDT at Penney's in Cookeville (Jefferson side), or 9am at CMSP's Ranger Station. For additional information and to pre-register, call: Helen Anglemier 931-858-5947, or email her: helena@cookeville.com (cont.)

UPPER CUMBERLAND (cont.)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 2 (& 3) National Trails Day Trail Building Event at Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. Our chapter, along with 6 other TTA chapters has adopted this as our NTD trail-building project for this year. And, we need your help in order for this to be successful. This is guaranteed to be a fun-filled and very rewarding weekend. All of the details concerning this event can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. If you aren't available for both days, come on out for one. To better coordinate logistics regarding tools, food, gifts, door prizes, camping, carpooling or special medical considerations (allergies to poison ivy, stinging insects, etc.) you must RSVP on or before May 10 to Helen Anglemier: 931-858-5947, or email her: helena@cookeville.com

HIKE REPORTS:

On Mar 10, Marnell Cothran led 15 people over the rocks and hills on a hike to Virgin Falls. Although some turned back at Laurel Falls, a newcomer and her young son were troopers and went the entire 8 miles

On Mar 17, Wallace Austin, President of the Sparta-White County Chamber of Commerce, expressed his gratitude to the Friends of Scott's Gulf volunteers who have been building the new Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness trail system. After a day of working on the Caney Fork River Trail on March 17, the Chamber hosted a dinner for the group at the home of Brenda and Ross Cardwell. Carl Cude, TWRA, presented a map he has been working on of the BFCW to the volunteers stating, "After we finish the Caney Fork River Trail this spring, connecting it to the 12 miles we finished last year and including the adjacent 4-mile Virgin Falls Trail, we will have a total of 30 miles for our trail system in Scott's Gulf." The map also shows the Scott's Gulf Road, which is open to the Caney Fork River, and the nine campgrounds that have been historically enjoyed in years past. We hope to have maps available for the public in the 'near future'. The maps are now on our web site: www.centennialwilderness.com. The group decided to dedicate the BFCW trail workday to John Netherton, who had just passed away. Brenda Cardwell stated, "John Netherton was a great friend of Scott's Gulf and because of his love of nature, if you can't physically hike our trails, you can still see the beauty of Scott's Gulf by traveling through his photographs in the book *Scott's Gulf - Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness*." Thanks to all of our volunteers: Helen Anglemier, Bonnie & John Broadway, Ross & Brenda Cardwell, Marnell & Jack Cothran, Carl Cude, Rita England, Chuck & Lola Estes, O.J. "Pa" Hill, Steve, Cory & Sean Jones, Robert Oaks, Willa Parrish, Barbara Phifer, Wes Winton, Bruce Vaughn, David Vaughn, Cless Vinson. *Submitted by Brenda Cardwell*

On Mar 24, twenty-six people went to Edgar Evins SP on a nature hike led by Ranger Ray Easton. We were joined by TTA members from the Plateau, Murfreesboro and Nashville chapters. We were rewarded with an abundance of wildflowers. After we hiked the trail at the visitor's center, a large group of us hiked the new millennium trail. Pictures of the hike have been posted to the Plateau's web site. (Charles Jones got them on at 4:30 the same afternoon.)

There have been several spur of the moment hikes, two of them to BFCW and another to Edgar Evins SP where the wildflowers were so abundant and simply breathtaking.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

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

BACKCOUNTRY OUTINGS CONTINUE

Results From Previous Outings are Phenominal

THERE'S MORE TO DO IN MAY

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

- On May 4-6, Alan Ball, of the Middle Tennessee Sierra Group, will lead this BackCountry Outing on the Frozen Head segment of the Cumberland Trail. Participants will camp at Frozen Head State Park and continue to build the CT out toward the NE corner of Frozen Head SP. We'll have an added bonus - the wildflowers will be peaking!
- On May 18-20, Jim Lifsey, of the Plateau Chapter of TTA, leads us on a BackCountry Outing to BreakAway Bluff on the Obed WSR segment. Participants will backpack into BreakAway Bluff off of Hatfield Mtn. and complete the intensive rockwork within Hell's Gulch that forms the descent from the Bluff to the Obed River. The scenery here is awesome!
- On May 25-27, David Lincicome, of Tennessee's Natural Heritage Division, will lead a BackCountry Outing into the North Chickamauga Gorge. Building on the last BackCountry Outing, volunteers will revitalize this trail out toward the Stephenson Branch campsite.

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

Pathways for People People for Nature Reception & Show Opening

Thursday, May 24

5:30-7:00pm CDT

Crossville, TN

You are invited to a "Friends of the Cumberland Trail State Park" reception at the Cumberland County Playhouse on Thursday, May 24, 5:30-7:00pm CDT, followed by the grand opening of "Cumberland Mtn. USA" at 7:30pm. This is a very special evening as it marks the official kickoff of the *Pathways for People. . . People for Nature* campaign for Tennessee's first linear state park and Millennium Legacy Trail. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a short slide presentation at 6:00 & 6:45pm. Admission is free. Please RSVP to the Cumberland Trail Conference: 931-456-6259, or by email: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

Tickets for "Cumberland Mountain USA" may be purchased separately through the Playhouse by calling: 931-484-5000.

What does a play have to do with hiking, you might ask? *Cumberland Mtn. USA* uses the Cumberland Trail to tell the tale of the people, land, and music of the Cumberland Plateau by thru-hiking the Cumberland Trail State Park from Cumberland Gap to Chattanooga.

Get Outside!

Many events are planned throughout the state for National Trails Day. You're invited to observe this day by helping to build or maintain a trail. If you can't, just get outside and enjoy the beauty found on our trails.

National Trails Day



June 2, 2001

STAY TUNED . . .

A music concert is in the planning stages for the Mountain Opry in Chattanooga on Saturday, June 2, in the evening. CTC received grants from the National Association of State Arts Agencies (part of the National Endowment for the Arts), and the Tennessee Arts Commission to produce a series of music concerts along the Cumberland Trail corridor to showcase the traditional music and artisans of the Cumberland Plateau. (Here's a thought ...you can help build the trail at Edgar Evins SP during the day, and then come to Chattanooga and relax to fine music, and cool mountain air under a starry canopy.)

OFFICERS:

President
 Libby Francis 615-889-5718
 libbyslibbys@home.com

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

Treasurer
 Barbara Matheson 615-373-7291
 bmath@mindspring.com

Secretary
 Patti Shaw 615-889-6472
 snappy1@mindspring.com

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

Past President
 Harold Draper 865-689-7757
 h.m.draper@att.net

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

Middle TN Regional Director
 Barbara Draude 615-895-5546
 bdraude@mtsu.edu

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Editor
 Diane Manas 615-352-7777
 dianemanas@home.com

Newsletter Deadlines:

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

Please send all submissions to:

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

e-mail: dianemanas@home.com

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper 865-689-7757 h.m.draper@att.net

Have you considered ...
 Maintaining a particular trail or section of trail?

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

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

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

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Pascoe 615-382-4443
 screendoor@bigfoot.com
 website: <http://members.aol.com/trac2trail/depot.htm>

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

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

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

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

Mail your check payable to:

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

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

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

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NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.
To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below. If you fail to re-apply we will send you one newsletter and a reminder notice. If you have not re-applied by this time, your membership will terminate.
PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

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

- A NEW MEMBER
- RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

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

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

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
Work Phone (____) _____
email _____

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

Please list me with the following chapter:

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

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

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

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