

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

Attn: Middle TN Area Trail Enthusiasts Volunteers Needed May 11 & 12 Center Hill Dam

In cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, we are planning a workday at the Lost Springs Trail (at the Floating Mills recreation area) and Post Oak Trail (Ragland Bottoms recreation area) of Center Hill Dam, near Smithville, TN. This is a beautiful, largely unknown, trail close to our Middle Tennessee chapters (Columbia, Highland Rim, Murfreesboro, Nashville and Plateau). We will remove debris on the trail, repair the trail corridor and get the trail back into hiker shape. On Sat, we will work on the Lost Springs Trail. We will meet at 8:30am CST at the Floating Mills campground entrance. On Sun, we will do light maintenance on a nearby trail, and finish around noon.

Wear gloves, hiking boots and clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring snacks, plenty of water and lunch. Some tools will be available, however if you have any of the following, bring them because it'll free up we have so others may use them: clippers, saws, shovels, fire rakes, and pick mattocks.

Camping is available at the Floating Mills campground on Fri. & Sat. nights. There is water and a bathhouse – with hot showers! Everyone is responsible for his/her own camping equipment, food and transportation to the park. For additional information, driving directions and to volunteer, call Libby Francis (615-889-5718) or Fount Bertram (615-765-5357). Carpooling on each day may be available, just let Libby or Fount know your plans.

Board of Director's Meeting

Sat., May 18

1:00pm CDT

Chickasaw Chalet

Henderson, TN

All TTA members are invited to attend.

The next TTA Board Meeting will be held on May 18 at Chickasaw Chalet. If the weather cooperates, we'll conduct our meeting outside, otherwise we'll be inside. After the meeting, we will gather at a local restaurant for dinner. At the time the newsletter was going to press, hiking and activities were still in the planning stages.

If you want to stay over Fri./Sat. or Sat./Sun. evening, cabins are available (note: a two-night stay is required) by calling the Chickasaw Chalet, 731-983-6000. Or, if you prefer to stay only one night, the Americana Inn (731-989-0111) is very close.

Chickasaw Chalet is 18 miles south of Jackson, TN (on Hwy 100) and very close to Chickasaw State Park. Driving directions can be obtained from the "Directions" link on Chickasaw Chalet's web page: www.chickasawchalet.com If you need additional information, call Gloria Lenski: 901-213-0604.

T.R.A.C. Statewide Meeting

Rail-trail advocates from around the state are meeting Saturday, May 4, in Sewanee, Tennessee, at 9:00 am CDT. All interested persons are invited to hear about our three major projects and new opportunities, our new and developing web site, and our plans to increase TRAC membership and to develop local "Friends of the Trail" groups. After the meeting, we will have a bike ride option for those who want to ride the old Tracy City/Cowan railtrail line. So bring your mountain bike, sandwich, water, and hopes for sparkling weather!

Directions: Take exit 134 from I-24 and follow the signs to Sewanee. About 4.5 miles from the interstate you will see St. Andrews-Sewanee School on the left (there's a blinking yellow light over the highway at the school entrance). Turn into the school, and follow the main road to the academic building (about ½ mile from the highway). There's a parking lot beside the academic building, and the meeting rooms are in the central area of the building.

Additional information about railtrails appears on page 11.

TTA MEMBERS!

Inserted in this newsletter ...

- TTA's Annual Meeting information and Registration Form.
- The second edition of Kentucky Trails Association's (KTA) newsletter. KTA is an independent organization focusing on hiking and trail-related issues in that state. Richard Horvath, a TTA member from Franklin, KY, is spearheading the efforts to organize KTA, and other TTA members are urged to participate. The TTA state organization is helping KTA with some startup logistics.

Annual Meeting Logo Art Contest Open to all TTA Members Contest Closes May 31st

The planning committee for TTA's Annual Meeting (Nov 8-10) is looking for some creative people to come up with a logo for our Annual Meeting. The logo will appear in future issues of the newsletter, and on Annual Meeting memorabilia produced (i.e. posters, note pads, coffee mugs, t-shirts, stickers, etc.).

The logo must promote hiking and can include art depicting trail building, nature, people and must incorporate the words "TTA Annual Meeting," "November 2002," "Fall Creek Falls," and "Spencer, TN." We would prefer that the logo/artwork submitted be black & white (B & W art work is the easiest to work with and costs less to reproduce) however, we will consider entries submitted containing colors. Entries containing words or symbols advocating or endorsing religion or politics will be disqualified.

The winner selected will be required to sign an agreement granting TTA permission to use the logo as needed for promoting the Annual Meeting, either on printed materials (newsletters, registration packets, posters) or fundraising items (mugs, t-shirts, etc.). In turn, the winner will receive bragging rights and one of each item produced that contains the logo.

Logo/artwork submitted must be larger than 4"x4" and smaller than 7½"x10". Logo entries need to be mailed, and must be received on or before May 31st, to Diane Manas, 5729 Stoneway Trail, Nashville, TN. 37209. If you have additional questions, contact Diane at 615-352-7777 or dmanashikes@comcast.net

Your Generosity Benefits All

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

Bill & Bonnie Hancock (Nashville Chapter)

Barbara Matheson & Herb Fritch (Nashville Chapter)

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

Shop amazon.com Through TTA's Website

You can buy your books . . .

through TTA's website and TTA benefits!

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

2002 Membership Directory

The 2002 edition of the TTA Membership Directory will be mailed to all current members in June. Please be sure your dues are paid up so that you will receive your copy of the directory. Also, check the mailing label on this newsletter, and let us know of any changes or corrections that need to be made. OTHERWISE, WHAT YOU SEE ON YOUR CURRENT MAILING LABEL WILL BE THE INFORMATION YOU WILL SEE IN THE DIRECTORY.

Mail your revisions to:

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

Or, use the change of address form:

On our web site: www.tennessee-trails.org

State Parks Expand Access Fee Programs

If you haven't already, you may want to consider purchasing Tennessee State Park's Annual Multi-Visit Pass (MVP). In January 2001, four state parks began collecting a day-use fee in order to access them. Then six were added over the first quarter of 2002. Phase three will add seven more parks before the summer arrives, and eventually all of Tennessee's State Parks will charge an access fee. The MVP is good for a calendar year and costs \$30 per vehicle (a vehicle equals eight people). Otherwise, the base fee for a day-use pass is \$3 per vehicle per day. To obtain information about purchasing the multi-visit passes, visit www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks.htm

As of April 2002, these parks have an access fee:

Cove Lake SP	Nathan Bedford Forrest SP
Davy Crockett Birthplace SP	Pinson Mounds SAA
Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers SP	Radnor Lake SNA
Long Hunter SP	Rock Island SP
Meeman-Shelby Forest SP	T.O. Fuller SP

These parks will be added by summer:

Big Hill Pond SP	Montgomery Bell SP
Cedars of Lebanon SP	Old Stone Fort SAA
Edgar Evins SP	Booker T. Washington SP
Harrison Bay SP	

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ Hiking Tennessee Trails, 5th Edition \$12.95
 _____ TTA Patch 6.00
Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.
 _____ TTA Window Decal 3.00
A must for each car.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

*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.



National Trails Day "Hike for Health"

Sat. June 1



Cumberland Trail State Park

*Hosted by Tennessee Trails Association and the Cumberland Trail Conference
to raise funds to help complete the 283-mile CTSP from Chattanooga to
Cumberland Gap*

The Cumberland Trail State Park (CTSP) is Tennessee's first linear state park and National Millennium Legacy Trail. The CTSP is being built by volunteers under the oversight of the nonprofit Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC), based in Crossville, through a unique public/private partnership with the State of Tennessee. Volunteers of all ages and walks of life have donated over 53,000 hours in the past five years to build 114 miles of the Cumberland Trail. The remaining 169 miles of the park system lie on private lands, which must be purchased in order to complete the vision of a long-distance trail across Tennessee. CTC is raising \$3 million in private funds in order to qualify for \$13.7 million in public funding secured for the CTSP.

Your participation in the "Hike for Health" will help us reach our goal by June 30! Your donation is tax-deductible.

Hikes are being offered on various segments of the Cumberland Trail State Park with something for everyone, ranging from easy to moderately difficult. The event will be held rain or shine. It may be cancelled only in extreme circumstances. If cancelled, your entry fee will be used as a donation to the Cumberland Trail State Park.

<u>Entry Fees:</u>	<u>By May 15</u>	<u>After May 15</u>
per Adult	\$15.00	\$20.00
per Child	\$8.00	\$8.00

What to Bring:

Your sense of wonder and adventure! Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots. **Bring plenty of water**, snacks, lunch for longer hikes, sunscreen. Please—no pets, bicycles, or baby strollers.

Directions to Trailheads:

Check the Cumberland Trail web site (www.cumberlandtrail.org) or call the CTC office at 931-456-6259.

How to Register:

Mail completed Entry Form (with your check) to:
Hike for Health c/o Cumberland Trail Conference ♦
19 East 4th St. ♦ Crossville, TN 38555

Mail this Registration Form with your check before May 15. A late registration fee applies after May 15.

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

Caryville – Cumberland Mtn. Segment

- ♦ Devil's Racetrack Overlook, 2 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Volunteer Loop, 1 ¼ miles, E
- Meet at CTSP parking lot Bruce Gap/Butter N Egg Rd. at 9:00 am EASTERN TIME.

Sponsored by Covenant Health System, TTA Cove Lake, East Tennessee Chapters

Chattanooga – Tennessee River Gorge Segment

- ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Middle Creek Bridge, 2 miles, E
 - ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Edwards Point, 5 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Signal Point Overlook to Hwy 27 N. Suck Creek, 8 miles, M-D
 - ♦ Pot Point Loop, Prentice Cooper WMA, 10 miles, M
- Meet at Signal Point Nat'l Park at 9:00 am EASTERN TIME.

Sponsored by TTA Columbia, Highland Rim, Murfreesboro, Nashville Chapters

Crossville – Grassy Cove, Stinging Fork, Piney River Segments

- ♦ Black Mountain, 3.5 miles, E
 - ♦ Brady Mountain, 5 miles, E-M
 - ♦ Stinging Fork Falls, 3 miles, E
 - ♦ Piney River, White Pine Cascades, 4 miles, E
- Meet at Cumberland Mtn. State Park swimming pool parking lot 9:00 am CENTRAL TIME.

Sponsored by TTA Plateau and Upper Cumberland Chapters

Dayton – Laurel-Snow Segment

- ♦ Laurel Falls, 4.5 miles, E
- Meet at Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness trailhead at 9:00 am EASTERN TIME.

Wartburg – Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment

- ♦ Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford, 4 miles, E
 - ♦ Nemo Bridge to BreakAway Bluff, 9 miles, M-D
- Meet at Nemo Bridge Picnic Area at 9:00 am EASTERN TIME.
- Sponsored by TTA Big South Fork Chapter



AHS National Trails Day Registration Form

"Hike for Health"

Saturday, June 1, 2002

Cumberland Trail State Park



Mail this form, with your check made payable to: Cumberland Trail Conference ♦ 19 East 4th St. ♦ Crossville, TN ♦ 38555

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____
 Telephone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Please tell us which hike location & trail name you will be joining us on:

hike location: _____ trail name: _____

Adults: _____ # Children: _____ Ages: _____

Adult Fees: By May 15=\$15, After=\$20 Child Fees: By May 15=\$8, After=\$8 **TOTAL ENCLOSED** _____

TTA Gift Memberships

Available Throughout the Year!

Birthdays ♦ Graduation ♦ Mother's Day ♦ Father's Day

For the price of a regular membership, we will send the gift membership recipient a beautiful TTA logo patch enclosed in a card (customized for the occasion) announcing your gift. Gift memberships can be purchased by contacting Anne Wesley: ttahiker@msn.com, or 615-851-1052.

TTA Web Site Update

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

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

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

TTA (CTC & T.R.A.C) = LNT

TTA is now a "Non-profit Partner" of Leave No Trace, Inc. (LNT). LNT promotes and inspires responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. A non profit organization, LNT unites four federal land agencies – the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with manufacturers, outdoor retailers, user groups, educators, and individuals who share a commitment to maintaining and protecting open spaces and wildlands.

The LNT message is more than a campaign for clean campsites. It's a program dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places. LNT is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care.

Practice LNT and help protect your outdoor playground:

- ✓ Leave what you find.
- ✓ Minimize campfire impacts.
- ✓ Respect wildlife.
- ✓ Be considerate of other visitors.
- ✓ Plan ahead and prepare.
- ✓ Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- ✓ Dispose of waster properly.

THE "10* ESSENTIALS"

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

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

Other considerations:

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

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

Governor Announces Reopening of State Parks

On April 10, Gov. Don Sundquist announced the reopening of 13 state parks (closed last fall) to the public. Effective mid-April, the following 12 of 13 state parks reopened to the public for day use - seven-days a week: (House Mountain State Natural Area has been leased to Knox County and will reopen as a county park.)

Big Cypress	Henry Horton
Big Ridge	Indian Mountain
Bledsoe Creek	Johnsonville
Bruton Branch	Norris Dam
Burgess Falls	Panther Creek
Dunbar Cave	Port Royal
Frozen Head	

In addition, all other parks that had been closed only on Mondays and Tuesdays will resume a seven-day a week schedule. For the complete announcement, visit TDEC's web site: www.state.tn.us/environment/news/release/apr02/parkopen.htm

Hike Registration? Why ????

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

PLEASE, BE CONSIDERATE AND REGISTER.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

Kathy Hicks 865-938-6846

CHAPTER NEWS:

We are pleased to report that the Big South Fork chapter and its individual members have contributed \$1960 to the Cumberland Trail Conference *Pathways* Campaign since Eric Wilson's pledge challenge was issued during our January business meeting. (Here's what happened: the BSF chapter came up with \$1000 in matching funds, including \$350 from the chapter treasury, which was used as an incentive for chapter members to contribute. This brought in more than \$960, producing a total of more than \$1960. Of course this \$1960 will be matched 4:1 by other funding agencies, so the total raised is in the neighborhood of \$11,000!)

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Eric Wilson at 423-628-2817.

May 11 Slave Falls, Big South Fork NRR. Jamestown, TN. This 4.2-mile hike is rated easy. The trail passes through hemlock and (what is left of) pine forest to the 500-foot hanging waterfall. Highlights along the way include a 10-foot high, 30-foot wide rock formation called Needle Arch because it resembles the eye of a needle on its side, and Indian Rock House. We will leave at 10am EDT from the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby, or you can meet us at the Sawmill trailhead at 11am. The trailhead is off Hwy 154 north of the Wildwood Inn. For additional information, call John or Kathy Hicks: 865-938-6846.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

 (call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

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

CHAPTER NEWS: Congratulations to our own Joanne Brengel. Joanne has been selected teacher-of-the-year in Montgomery County. Joanne has taught for 15 years and won in the local 5-8th grade category. Currently, Joanne teaches 5th grade at Burt School. Thanks for making a difference in the life of a child.

May 4 Pennyriple Nature Trail. This trail goes from Pennyriple Forest State Park to Dawson Springs, KY. Our hike will be around 8 miles and rated easy to moderate. We will meet at 8am CDT in front of the Sears at Governor's Square Mall. For information, call Sandi Koenig: 931-645-2048.

May 11 Rugby Hike & Overnight in Pioneer Cabin. Rugby, TN. We will tour Rugby and hike Colditz Cove, Gentlemen's Swimming Hole and the Meeting of the Waters. We'll have dinner at the Harrow Road Café, then take a late evening hike to Laurel Dale Cemetery. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Camping is 40 minutes away at Pickett State Park. We will meet at 8am CDT and carpool from the Exit 11 Commuter Parking Lot. For information and to register, call either Eileen Hurt (615-742-3902) or Suva Bastin (931-645-2849).

May 18 Rotary Park. Clarksville, TN. This is a great hike if you are new to hiking, or just want a shorter, gentler hike. We will hike approximately 3 miles. To obtain meeting time and place, call Wanda Cumberland-McClusky: 931-906-3338.

May 18-19 (Sat-Sun) Be a Volunteer! FrontCounty Outing on the Cumberland Trail. Wartburg, TN. We will be camping and working along the Emory River area of the Frozen Head segment of the CT. For information, call either Suva Bastin (931-645-2849) or Andy Wright (931-456-6259).

May 21 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Learn hiker safety tips, hear about past and upcoming hiking trips and meet/greet members/friends. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store!

May 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Day-hiking and Car-camping in the Stone Door area of the South Cumberland Recreation Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. We will meet at 7am CDT and carpool from the Exit 11 Commuter Parking Lot. For additional information, call Sandi or Bill Hamilton: 931-920-2760.

HIKE REPORTS:

The skies didn't cooperate with us for our Mar 2nd full-moon hike in Rotary Park. Not only did the moon hide, but the clouds sent down heavy rain.

On Mar 9, ten people gathered to hike Indian Town Bluff. We had a great day in the wind and rain. We took a break just long enough to eat our lunch, along the bluff, and before the rain drops returned.

On Mar 16, seven hikers (plus Abe, our four-footed, furry mascot) enjoyed the day hiking the Cumberland River Bicentennial trail. Rail-trails are always a pleasure. The wildflowers were beginning to appear. Ah, then came the Murfreesboro Greenway outing, Mar 23. This was the first time for most of us to enjoy this greenway. The weather was perfect. Thanks to Eileen Hurt, Terence Howard and John Sneed for waiting the extra hour for the rest of us to get there.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Russell Smith 615-790-1833

carving082334@cs.com

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

 (call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Amy Overton 931-388-6363

estheroverton@aol.com

Rick Pinkelton 931-987-2530

MEETS: 1st Tue, 7-8pm, First Presbyterian Church
West 7th St. in Columbia

CHAPTER NEWS:

Welcome to our new members! Ed and Mary Ruth Campbell of Culleoka. For our April 2nd meeting, Russell Smith conducted a backpacking seminar. Russell shared his tried and true tips on what to take on an overnight hike and how best to pack it. Russell's program was fun and informative!

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Russell Smith at 615-790-1833.

May 7 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Ed and Mary Ruth Campbell will share their most recent adventures on what they call a different kind of Spring Break in Florida. Please join us to hear about backpacking, hiking, canoeing and wildlife viewing in the natural areas of Canaveral National Park and the Wakieva River near Orlando.

May 11-12 CANCELLED !!! The overnight backpacking trip to Fall Creek Falls.

May 11 Day Loop and Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park. Hermitage, TN. The Day Loop trail is 4 miles and follows the Percy Priest Lake shoreline while winding through hardwood forests. By adding portions, or all of the Volunteer Trail to the backcountry campsite and back, hikers may extend their hike up to 12 miles. We'll have many opportunities to look out over the lake from the limestone bluffs we pass along the way. The trail has some uneven terrain, no real elevation changes; therefore the rating is easy to moderate. For information and to register, call Amy Overton 931-388-6363, or email her: estheroverton@aol.com

HIKE REPORT:

On a beautiful sunny April 6, about one dozen happy hikers and their trusty K-9 friends joined over 400 mounted and motorized entries for the annual Mule Day Parade in Columbia. These enthusiastic troopers met early for breakfast, hiked to the parade lineup, hiked the parade route and then hiked to the Maury County Park for the craft fair and mule competitions.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Siler McCarty

423-566-1291

webmaster@tnrlca.org

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

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May 16 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Learn hiker safety tips, hear about past and upcoming hiking trips and meet/greet members/friends. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 6pm, First Presbyterian Church in LaFollette.

May 18 Big South Fork NRRRA. Trail TBA. Nancy Grieve & Laurie Salvesson: 423-907-0951.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 21-22 Camping & Hiking in the Big Creek Area of the Smokies (NC side). Trails TBA. Richard Helm: 865-426-4472. (cont on pg. 6)

COVE LAKE CHAPTER (cont. from pg. 5)

HIKE REPORTS:

On Mar 21, at our monthly meeting, we took a short down-town hike to the Campbell County Historic Society's Museum, where the curator Jerry Sharp treated us to a personalized tour of the museum. Though much more crowded than these outdoor enthusiasts are used to, we really enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot.

On Mar 23, a group of 27 hikers led by Richard Helm met for a hike on the River Bluff Trail at Norris Dam. The 3.5 (not 35! ... who scraped the decimal point off the sign?!) mile loop trail begins by descending to the shoreline of the Clinch River where it flows just below the dam. Here we saw many types of wildflowers just beginning to make their spring debut, including trout lilies, hepatica, and Dutchman's breeches.
(cont.)

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

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

(Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Beverly Neurock 865-220-9679
bneurock@bellsouth.net

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May 4 Cumberland Trail segment of Cross Mountain. Caryville, TN. We will drive to and explore the top and then, depending on vegetation (it was winter at the time this newsletter was going to press), loop further south or drop back down by trail (3.1 miles) to town. Dress for all elevations, and rendezvous at Shoney's (exit 134 on I-75) near the dumpsters at 10:30am EDT. For more info, call Eph Klots: 865-483-6470 or by e-mail: klotsce@post.harvard.edu

May 18 Max Patch to Lemon Gap via the A.T. This is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle. We will hike the A.T. north from Max Patch to Lemon Gap. The only real climb is the first half-mile to Max Patch from the parking lot, then we'll descend from Max Patch (4,600ft) to Lemon Gap (3,500ft). The hike is 6½ - 7 miles long and rated easy to moderate. There are several stream crossings, but no wading. If it's not too late in the season, we should see lots of trillium, in addition to many other wildflowers in bloom. And if the weather cooperates, there are spectacular views from the Patch. We will meet at 9am EDT at the Wal-Mart in Newport (second Newport exit going east from Knoxville on I-40). Turn right at the exit & the Wal-Mart is within ½ mile on the right. For additional information, call Rick Jones: 865-675-5205(h), 865-690-6817(w), or e-mail him: rjonesco@aol.com

REPORTS: (cont.) After a while, the trail followed below a huge bluff, which towered above us on the right. At the far extent of the loop was a resting-place with a couple benches, which we took advantage of for a little break. From there the trail ascended through a colony of twinleaf in bloom and on up the hill to the top of the bluffs, where we had a nice view of the Norris Dam and lake. While making our way down again and back to the loop junction, we were met by our 28th hiker: "the man of Faith." With perfect weather, newfound hiking friends, and promise of a flowering spring, the hike was a pleasure indeed.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Manchester/Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

Alan Bryan 931-728-0765 BryanAlan@BFUSA.com

& pbryan5@bellsouth.net

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

CHAPTER NEWS:

The local chapter of Tennessee Trails Association conducted its first meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at the D.W. Wilson Community Center in Tullahoma. Brent Morris, Middle Tennessee Regional Director, welcomed everyone and gave a description of the chapter officer positions. Doug Ratliff was elected as Chairperson, Butch Young as Vice Chairperson, Ellen Anderson as Treasurer, and Alan Bryan as Outings Coordinator. The chapter selected Highland Rim as the chapter name. Meetings will be held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the D.W. Wilson Community Center, 501 North Collins St., Tullahoma. Alan Bryan discussed upcoming hikes and events. Anne Wesley, State Membership Director, presented a welcoming card and TTA window decal to new members. Diane Manas, Newsletter Editor, lent support to the first Highland Rim chapter meeting.

Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Alan Bryan: 931-728-0765.

May 4 Greeter Falls to Stone Door Ranger Station, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. This 7-mile hike features scenic waterfalls and beautiful overlooks. This hike will require a shuttle and is rated moderate because of the distance. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a lunch. We will meet 8am CDT at the Manchester Cracker Barrel (I-24 at exit 110). To register, call Brent Morris: 931-454-1718, or e-mail him: bmorris@edge.net

May 18 Savage Gulf Day Loop, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruettli-Lager, TN. This is an easy 4.2-mile hike along the Plateau with great views at Savage Falls and Rattlesnake Point. Bring light lunch and water. We will meet at 8am CDT at the Manchester Cracker Barrel (I-24 at exit 110). To register, contact Alan Bryan at 931-728-0765 or BryanAlan@bfusa.com & pbryan5@bellsouth.net

May 21 MONTHLY MEETING. Mark Moore, of the Murfreesboro chapter, will present a "Show and Tell" of the backpacking gear used during a typical backpacking trip. Please join us for this informative program. Meeting begins at 7pm, D.W. Wilson Community Center, 501 North Collins Street, Tullahoma.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICER: Betty Porter 901-755-4740

CO-CHAIR: Norma McMinn 901-785-1479

ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604 glorialenski@yahoo.com

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

May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Cumberland Trail, TN River Gorge. Chattanooga, TN. Join us Saturday to hike one of the most beautiful segments on the Cumberland Trail located in Prentice Cooper State Forest. On Sunday, we will hike a scenic trail in Edgar Evins State Park. Call Carol Haley at 901-388-9163 for information. Hike registration required. **cont.** → → → →

May 16 MONTHLY MEETING. Freddie Felts, one of our members and a world traveler, will share her Amazon Adventure in the Rio Napo region. Discover the Ecuadorian Amazon one of the planet's richest and most precious treasures. Experience the rainforest with its lush endless sea of tropical greenery, flow the waterways in a motorized canoe, and see life in remote villages that has not changed in 200 years. Meeting begins 7pm at the Germantown Library.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jun 7-15 (A week.) Smoky Mountains, Laurel Falls Area, Andrews Bald &/or Gregory Bald. Flame Azaleas will be in bloom. Join the group for the week or a weekend hike. Registration required. For information, call Norma McMinn: 901-785-1479.

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER NEWS: Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Mark Stanfill at 615-867-0847.

May 3-5 Big Frog Wilderness Area Backpacking Trip. Ocoee, TN. Big Frog is located between the Ocoee River in TN and the GA State line. We'll leave from Murfreesboro Friday evening and camp that night. One option is to set up a base camp and day hike various trails on Saturday and Sunday. Another option is to do an overnight backpack on Saturday. The Big Frog area is gorgeous -- we'll have a great time! This outing is rated moderate because of the terrain and possible distance hiked. Contact Mark Stanfill for information and to register. Feel free to let Mark know which option you prefer for this outing. Contact him at 615-867-0847 or athike718@netzero.net

May 11 Smith Fork Creek Float. Heloise Shilstat has led this for us before and it was wonderful! We will paddle 7 miles on this class 1 stream (that means mostly flat, but with a few small rapids) from Liberty to Doweltown, and make a stop to investigate a little cave. If you don't have a canoe and/or partner, maybe one can be found if you register EARLY! This float is for members only, because this has to be a group that is willing to stay together. Bring a life jacket (NOT A FLOAT PILLOW), water, lunch, flashlight, and shoes you are willing to get wet. (Heloise will supply the poison ivy repellent.) We will meet at 8:30am CDT at Heloise's in Murfreesboro, or the DeKalb County West School on Hwy. 70 just west of Liberty at 9:45. We will put in nearby if the grass is too high at the school. To register, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or stillwild@bellsouth.net

May 14 MONTHLY MEETING. Our featured speaker is Brian Wolford. Brian will speak on the subject of light backpacking. Join us for a very informative and fun evening! See you at 7pm at the Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park.

May 24-25 Hiking and Car-camping (optional) at Pickett State Park. Jamestown, TN. We'll camp both Friday and Saturday nights in the park campground. On Sat., we'll meet at 9am CDT at the park office for a 10-mile hike. The hike is rated moderate because of the distance. Bring lunch, water, and suitable hiking attire. Sturdy footwear is required. On Sat. evening we'll dine at Baccara's, a gourmet restaurant located in the old Sharp's place schoolhouse -- the food is excellent! Join us for a fun-filled exciting weekend! For more information and to register, contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@hotmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jun 15 North Chicamauga Creek Hike & Chattanooga Riverbend Music Festival. Chattanooga, TN. Contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or stillwild@bellsouth.net

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Dan Brennan 615-837-4324

osrwodan@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: (call & volunteer to lead an outing) Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260

eygerlock@aol.com

MEETS: 4th Tues, 7pm. St. Bernard Academy
2021 21st Ave South

HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

CHAPTER NEWS: Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Dan Brennan at 615-837-4324.

AFTER WORK HIKES: You are invited to join Gary Parker for more of his After Work Hikes at the Warner Parks - on the following dates in May: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, and 30. He is usually at the Warner Park Nature Center (Hwy 100) at 5:30pm and starts hiking between 5:45 - 6pm. Normally, the hikes range between 2½ - 6½ miles, have an easy to aerobic pace and are conducted regardless of the weather. For additional information and to register, contact Gary Parker: 615-287-1371(hm), 615-277-2006(wk), garyparker@mindspring.com & garyp@werthan.com

May 4-5 (Sat-Sun) Bearwaller Gap Trail Backpacking Weekend. Carthage, TN. This is a joint outing with the members of the Sierra Club. Bearwaller Gap trail is on Army Corps of Engineers land surrounding the Cordell Hull Dam and Reservoir. We will hike from the Defeated Creek Recreation Area to a primitive campsite near Two Prong. After setting up camp we will hike to Tater Knob. This trail features many types of wildflowers. Trail length is 6 miles one way, and rated moderate due to a few 300-400 ft. elevation changes. Registration is limited to 12. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877, or e-mail her: Adelicia1@aol.com

See page 8 for additional hikes planned over the May 4-5th weekend.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont. from pg. 7)

May 4 Collins Gulf Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli-Lager, TN. This hike is 11 miles and rated moderate to strenuous for the stone fields we must walk over in the gorge. When this trail was scouted in March, the gulf was a carpet of wildflowers, and there may be a few left. We will pass beautiful Suter and Horsepound Falls and have lunch at Collins Gulf Overlook. We will meet at the Bell Rd Target (exit 59 of I-24) at 7am CDT. For information and to register, call Keith White: 615-833-9770, or e-mail him: takehike@bellsouth.net

May 4 Mountain Biking or Hiking at Bowie Park. Fairview TN. Bowie Park is one of the most popular places to mtn. bike ride in Middle TN. We will ride the 7-mile perimeter trail in both directions for a total of 14 miles, or you have the option of just riding the loop once. There will be one stream crossing. If the trail is wet, Bowie Park closes the trail to mtn. bikes, and it then becomes a hiking trail, turning this outing into a hiking trip. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED to call the park (615-799-2484 x 820) on May 4 to verify the status of the trail – mtn. biking or hiking - so you know whether to bring your bike or hiking boots. Proper safety gear is required, and bring water, snacks and lunch. To register and obtain meeting time and location, call Hugh Tobin: 615-790-9567(h), 615-371-4748(w).

May 5 Vanderbilt University Spring Tree Hike. Nashville, TN. The Vanderbilt campus contains many beautiful trees, landscaping, and sculptures, which cannot be seen from the street. We will take about an hour's stroll through the campus and learn about the history of Vanderbilt, view the many trees in bloom, and admire the landscaping and sculptures. Afterward, we will treat ourselves at the new Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Parlor. Meet at 1pm CDT in front of the San Antonio Taco Co. at 416 21st Ave South, across from Vanderbilt. For information and/or to register, call Jenice Johnson: 615-356-6246.

May 8 Rollerblading in Crockett Park. Brentwood, TN. All skill levels welcomed - some of us are beginners! We will rollerblade for about 1–1½ hours. There aren't any hills to climb or go down unless you want to! We will meet at 6pm CDT at Crockett Park, on Concord Rd across from the Brentwood library (I-65 south – you'll see the big antenna on the left). For information, call Paul Smith: 615 832-9388, or e-mail him: paolov@bellsouth.net

May 11 Beaman Park Work Day. Joelton, TN. Every second Saturday, volunteers gather from 9 till noon to build and maintain the trails in Beaman Park in preparation for the park's opening. A two-mile loop is complete, but in need of some fine-tuning, and work has begun on a second loop of similar length. Trail building experience helps but is not required, and the work is no more difficult than moderate gardening. Come enjoy the park's wild beauty and the pleasure of a job well done. Please register with Dave Walton: 615-646-5355.

May 12 Mossy Ridge and Warner Woods Trails, Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Mossy Ridge and Warner Woods Trails are rated moderate, and the combined distance is 7 miles however, there is a jump off for those wishing a shorter hike of 4½ miles. Wear hiking boots and bring water and a snack. After the hike, we will re-group for bagels and coffee at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery. To register, and obtain meeting time and location, call Theresa McKay: 615-595-9659.

May 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Joyce Kilmer Wilderness. Robbinsville, NC. Spend a weekend in the wilderness. Join us on Saturday and/or Sunday for fairly strenuous hikes to Stratton Bald and the Hangover. Or hike some of the many shorter trails in the area. Or just hang out! A group campsite (with hot showers) at the Rattler Ford Campground has been reserved. Accommodations are also available in nearby Robbinsville. To register, and for additional information, call Richard Horvath: 270-586-0178.

On Sat, we will hike to the Hangover. This will be a strenuous, 12-mile loop hike up the Naked Ground Trail and along the Haeo Lead to the Hangover. The Hangover offers a 360° view of the Unicoi Mountains and the Little Tennessee River Valley. We will return via the Jenkins Meadow Trail.

On Sun, we will hike to the top of Bob Stratton Bald and back down, about 12 miles. But this year we'll cheat a little and car shuttle part of the way up. There will still be a couple of miles to climb to the top of the bald. Then it's downhill all the way back to the campsite.

Other hikes in the area:

- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forrest Loop – 2 miles. Spectacular trees in an area that was never logged.
- Hooper Bald – 2 miles. An easy walk to one of the grassy "balds" unique to these mountains. The trailhead is off of the Cherokee Skyway, a very scenic road between Robbinsville, NC and Tellico Plains, TN.
- Fall Branch Falls – 2.5 miles. A moderate hike to an 80-foot high waterfall.
- Bald River Falls – You can see the falls from your car. There is a pleasant trail along the Bald River above the falls.

May 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Dayhiking & Carcamping at Long C Trails. Westmoreland, TN. Randy Ritterbush will be leading a weekend of hikes in this peaceful and beautiful preserve. The members of the Nashville Ski Club and Brentwood Singles will join us. Can't join us for the entire weekend? Long C Trails is only a 1½ hr drive from Nashville so you are welcome to day-hike on either day. Long C Trails offers 2,000 acres with 50 miles of hiking (and horse) trails winding along Long Creek and passing many scenic overlooks, waterfalls, wildlife, and majestic bluffs. Our hikes will range in the 4-8 mile length, and the destination will be decided on by the group. This is a primitive campground with hot showers and flush toilets, but no electricity. Long C Trails maintains an alcohol-free environment – please observe this rule. The cost to camp (primitive/no electricity) is \$15/night for 2 persons, which also covers your day-hike fee. If you are coming just for the day, the cost to day-hike is \$5/person/day. For additional information about this outing, contact Randy Ritterbush: 615-310-8595. For info about Long C Trails, visit their web site: www.longctrails.com

May 18-19 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking in Mammoth Cave National Park. The members of the Sierra Club will be joining us. Mammoth Cave National Park has more to offer than just caves! We will backpack the Sal Hollow trail, spend the night at Sal Hollow campsite and hike out on the Buffalo trail. This will be approximately a 14-mile loop and rated moderate. Space is limited to 12, therefore you must register. For information and to register, call Katherine Pendleton: 615-360-3481.

May 19 Fiery Gizzard Trail, Grundy Forest State Natural Area. Tracy City, TN. This hike offers mountain streams and waterfalls, unusual rock formations, wildflowers, and fantastic overlooks. We will hike from the Grundy Forest to Raven Point Overlook by way of the Dog Hole Trail with the option of returning the same way or hiking down into the gorge, and returning over the millions of rocks along the stream. Due to unstable rocks, you must wear sturdy boots providing strong ankle support. To register, and obtain meeting time and location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet: 615-824-7666.

(cont. on pg. 9)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 9)

May 24-27 (Fri-Mon) "Top to Bottom," Hikes (and car-camping) in the Great Smoky Mountains NP. Diane Manas will be leading 4 days of hikes over this holiday weekend. All hikes will start at the "top" and gradually head to the "bottom" of each trail. Basically, we're hiking downhill on terrain rated as moderate to strenuous. Hike distances are as follows: Fri.=5.4 miles, Sat.=11.6 miles, Sun.=14.2 miles, Mon.=optional 7.4 or 10.3 miles. On Sat. & Sun. a shuttle service has been hired to pick us up from the "bottom" end of the trail and return us to the "top" to our cars, and will save on our drive time! A group campsite in Smokemont Campground has been reserved for us from noon on Fri. until noon on Mon. PLEASE BE ADVISED: The campground does not have hot running water, nor showers. There is plenty of fresh cold water from a faucet close to our campsite you can use for drinking, cooking and cleaning. A clean modern bathroom – not an outhouse – is 20 yards away. Everyone is responsible for his/her camping equipment, food and transportation to the park. Space is limited to 20 at the group campsite. Your cost for the group campsite (3 nights/4 days) and shuttle service (2 days) will be a flat \$35 per person. After we have recouped the group campsite and shuttle service costs, the excess money will be donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference for a specific trail project. REGISTRATION BEGINS IMMEDIATELY and A NON-REFUNDABLE \$15 deposit (rain will not cancel the trip nor refund your \$15 deposit) will be required to hold your space and due by May 15. (A confirmation, with driving directions, will be sent upon receipt of your deposit.) Your deposit will be applied toward your share of the \$35/person fee when you arrive (and applied towards everyone else's if you don't). There's just not enough space here to include all of the particulars of this weekend. To get a complete itinerary of the weekend's hikes, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777, or e-mail her: dmanashikes@yahoo.com

May 25 Newcomers Hike on the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail. Ashland City, TN. This trail was once a railroad bed, now turned into a multi-use trail along the Cumberland River. We will hike a new section of the trail along Eagle Bluff Pass to Cheatham Dam. After the hike we will reconvene for lunch at Stratton's Diner in Ashland City. We will meet at the Kroger parking lot on Charlotte Pike at 8am CDT. For more information and to register, call Elizabeth Gerlock: 615-356-6260.

May 28 ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC in Edwin Warner Park. Nashville, TN. In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at SHELTER #10 from 5-9pm CDT for dinner, games, a used gear rummage sale and hike. COME RAIN OR SHINE, the shelter area is very large and covered! Shelter #10 is at the very end of the road where all of the picnic shelters are located 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 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 on a trail nearby. As always, your family members and friends are welcome. For additional information, call Dan Brennan: 615-837-4324.

May 31-Jun 2 (Fri-Sun) Backpacking in the Great Smoky Mountains NP. The members of the Sierra Club will be joining us. This is a one-way hike and will require a car shuttle. Space is limited therefore registration is required. Total mileage over the 3 days is approximately 17 miles on terrain rated as strenuous. On Fri., we will hike up Alum Cave trail to the LeConte shelter. Later, we'll catch the sunset view from Cliff Tops. On Sat., we'll catch the sunrise views from Myrtle Point. (Cliff Tops and Myrtle Point views alone are worth the trip!) Then, we'll hike the Boulevard trail to Icewater Spring shelter, where we'll stay the night. Side trips on Sat. will include the Jump-off trail and Charlie's Bunion. On Sun., we will hike the A.T. to Newfound Gap. For information and to register, call Katherine Pendleton: 615-360-3481.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

(UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Jim Clark 731-587-7369 / 2225 jclark@utm.edu

Joe Seago 731-588-5836 joeseago@backpacker.com

MEETS: Monthly meetings will resume in September 2002
website: www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/

May 4 Cache River Canoe Trail. A scant 80 miles from Martin is one of the premiere canoe trails in the U.S. Through a tupelo and cypress swamp, the trail is reminiscent of the Ghost River section of the Wolf River. In the spring, the chorus of tree frogs is deafening. The course is approximately 6 miles of still water. For more information, call Jim Clark: 731-587-2225.

May 25-27 (Sat-Mon) Mt. LeConte Extravaganza! Great Smoky Mtn NP. Three days of day-hiking to/from Mt. LeConte. On Sat, up Rainbow Falls trail, down Bull Head trail. On Sun, up Porters Creek and Brushy Mtn trails, down Trillium Gap trail. On Mon, up Alum Cave trail, down Boulevard trail. For additional information, call Chris Fox: 731-586-4744, or e-mail him: towndawg@hotmail.com

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Bill Haynes 931-707-7606 billhaynes@citlink.net

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

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

CHAPTER NEWS: Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Bill Haynes at 931-707-7606.

May 11 Bearwaller Gap Trail; Carthage, TN. This hike was formerly scheduled in March, but the rain made us cancel. We will once again try to explore Middle Tennessee for a change of pace. The hike is 6 miles and rated moderate. Bring lunch and water. We will meet at 7:30am CDT at the back parking lot of the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Crossville. To register, call Terry Brophy: 931-707-7234.

Each month prior to our meeting, we will meet at 6:45pm CDT for a Social get-together. EVERYONE IS INVITED! Come early to meet/greet old friends and welcome new attendees.

May 16 MONTHLY MEETING. Join us for a spectacular slide show on wildflowers. The presenter will be a surprise . . . come see who it is, and test your knowledge on naming a few of these beautiful flowers!

May 18 Hidden Passage Trail; Pickett State Park. Jamestown, TN. The hike is 10 miles and rated moderate. You can expect to see a lot of rock formations, views, and at least one waterfall. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Since parking spaces at the trailhead is limited, pre-registration is required. We will meet at 8am CDT at the back parking lot of the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Crossville. To register, call Jim McCullough: 931-484-8222.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICERS: Helen Anglemier 931-858-5947 helena@cookeville.com
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Sue Bass 931-528-1386 take-a-hike@onemain.com

CHAPTER NEWS: Jun 1 is National Trails Day, and TTA's statewide project this year "Hike for Health" invites us to join in on the numerous hikes being offered along the Cumberland Trail. See announcement on page 3. Each chapter is recruiting volunteers to help lead hikes and staff the registration tables. To volunteer, call Helen Anglemier: 931-858-5947, or e-mail her: helena@cookeville.com

May 11 Cumberland Mountain State Park. Crossville, TN. It is rumored that the lady slippers are abundant here. The hike will be 3 to 5 miles long and rated easy to moderate. Two options for carpooling: meet at Firststar Bank in Sparta on Highway 111 (across the side road from McDonalds) at 9am CDT, or the Jefferson side of J.C.Penney's in Cookeville at 9am CDT, or the Ranger Station in the park at 10am. Bring water, snacks, and lunch if you would like. There's a possibility that we may have lunch at the restaurant after the hike. Pre-register with Wayne and Bonnie Broadway: 931-837-3696 or jwb@multipro.com

HIKE REPORTS:

On March 9, despite the forecast of rain, thirteen of us hiked to Savage Falls. We shortened the hike and had a good time despite the fact that we were pretty well soaked.

On March 13, seven of us hike at Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness area from Polly's Fall Branch trailhead to Yellow Bluff Overlook and back. It was foggy and raining lightly when we started, but the day ended up beautiful.

On March 23, nine hiked Standing Stone State Park and had an enjoyable time. Sorry, not too many flowers were in bloom. Guess the cold spell slowed them down.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

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

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

Pathways for People ... People for Nature Campaign

TTA Chapters Making Final Push

The clock is ticking . . . and TTA members are rising to the challenge. The June 30 deadline to finish paying for the Rock, Possum, and Soddy River Gorges for the Cumberland Trail State Park is fast approaching, and we are seeing an increase in donations and pledges from TTA members statewide. TTA members have now contributed \$32,820! That sponsors three miles of the Cumberland Trail. TTA Chapter Officers agreed at the February Board of Director's meeting to step up fundraising efforts within their chapters to help us reach our goal of \$887,000 in cash by June 30. Several chapters have agreed to match members' donations with chapter funds: Big South Fork, Clarksville, Columbia, and Plateau. People are getting creative. The Memphis Chapter is requesting a \$1 donation for participating in chapter hikes, in addition to a match agreement from the Memphis Chapter treasury.

. . . If you've already made a multi-year pledge, please consider accelerating your pledge payments.

. . . If you've already made a donation, please consider sending an additional donation by June 30.

. . . If you haven't made a donation or pledge yet, the time is right!

Grants received since last month's newsletter include \$20,000 from Chrysalis Foundation (Chattanooga), \$5,000 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Chattanooga), \$25,000 from the Ruth Holmberg Fund (Chattanooga), \$10,000 from Dana Corp. Foundation (Crossville), \$60,000 from an anonymous Nashville donor, \$500 from State Farm Insurance, and \$500 from Highland Federal Savings (Crossville).

Send donations to: "Gorges" ♦ Cumberland Trail Conference ♦ 19 East 4th St. ♦ Crossville, TN 38555.

Your donation is tax-deductible.

CT Summer Ridgerunner Program

CTC is recruiting high school and college students for summer employment as Cumberland Trail Ridgerunners. Students will work on Saturdays on assigned segments of the 283-mile Cumberland Trail State Park in their communities. Employment begins June 8 and runs until August 10. Interested applicants can download an application from the CT web site (www.cumberlandtrail.org), or they can call the Cumberland Trail Conference's Program Coordinator, Andy Wright for additional details at 931-456-6259.

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

May 3-5 A-Backpacking We Will Go! This will be the second of three BackCountry Outings coming up this spring. The team will set up base camp and then continue building new trail from Spring Branch to Greens Branch, where BreakAway participants left off, and finish the bridge at Greens Branch which was started on the last BackCountry Outing. Participants are responsible for supplying their own backpacking equipment (tent, sleeping bag, tarp, etc.) and food for the weekend. CTC will provide the tools and training.

May 18-19 FrontCountry Outing. Join us for a weekend of trail work in the front country. Volunteers will be working in the Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness in Dayton, and staying at a nearby campground. Participants are responsible for their own car camping equipment and food. CTC will provide tools and training.

PLANNING AHEAD:

June 7-9 BackCountry Outing. This is the last of the three BackCountry Outings for the Spring. We will go to the Piney River Trail in Spring City, to do some interior revitalization to this segment of the trail.

Need Information? Call Today!!!

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

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Newsletter Deadlines:

Announcements and articles
received on/before May 7th
will appear in our
June 1st newsletter

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

Please send all submissions to:

Diane Manas
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Nashville, TN 37209
615-352-7777

When sending by email, use both:

dmanashikes@comcast.net
dmanashikes@yahoo.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)

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.*

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Deming 615-354-9767 jdeming@tals.org
website: <http://members.aol.com/trac2trail/depot.htm>

Why Railtrails?

Why not just ride on the road and hike on the paths?

Some outdoor enthusiasts are concerned that converting abandoned rail corridors into trails is a large investment of tax dollars that could be used for bike lanes or off-road trails. So why do we need railtrails in our communities?

With over 12,000 miles of railtrails now built across the country, we now have some evidence to demonstrate why railtrails are a valuable community asset. For many families with small children, railtrails offer a safe alternative to busy streets. Children can easily ride the flat corridors and parents can relax with the absence of car and truck traffic. Many senior adults especially like the long straight paths that offer safe places to walk with friends and neighbors. In the urban areas, many of the trails are paved, and persons who use baby buggies, wheelchairs, and rollerblades are included into the list of happy users who now have access to an outdoor experience. In many towns and cities, commuters are finding the railtrails a safe and car-free alternative to getting to work.

But perhaps one of the greatest intangible benefits of railtrails, both in rural and urban settings, is that people who use them begin to view their neighbors and their neighborhood in a different way. Because we Americans spend so much time behind the wheel or in front of the television, in many places we have lost the front porch and the community gathering spots. Railtrails offer a new possibility for gathering where neighbors see each other eye-to-eye and where communities and neighborhoods are joined in a friendly, low-tech way. Railtrails mix young and old, newcomer and longtimer, folks of different backgrounds and races, and require no income test for usage. They are a great reinforcement of our democratic values of community, equality, and sharing of resources for the common good. So when you contribute to, ride on, or build a railtrail, you are a part of a legacy that goes beyond a ten-foot-wide path. Thanks to all those who make railtrails possible!

You are invited to learn more about T.R.A.C. by joining us at our statewide meeting on May 4th. After the meeting, we will have several options for outings in the area - see T.R.A.C. announcement on page 1.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail



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**

May 02

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

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

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone (___) _____ Zip _____ -- _____

Work Phone (___) _____

email _____

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

Please list me with the following chapter:

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

**Gift Memberships
Are Available !!!**

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

When you become a TTA member, you will receive: (1.) TTA's Hiking Handbook, a reference book containing information about TTA, trail etiquette, hiker responsibilities, etc. (2.) TTA's monthly newsletter, containing information on hiker safety, upcoming hikes / overnight trips, volunteer opportunities, chapter meeting announcements, as well as events occurring within TTA's Associate Organizations: C.T.C. and T.R.A.C. (3.) Annual Membership Directory, listing members by chapter and how to reach them. You are invited to attend any number of monthly meetings scheduled, where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. In addition, in the spring and fall we meet at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie and where the board members can meet to exchange ideas and hear reports on TTA's progress.

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