

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



... TTA Welcomes ... Cumberland Gap Chapter and our Newest Members

The Tennessee Trails Association Board of Directors held its second quarter board meeting on May 18, 2002 at Chickasaw State Park. At this meeting, the Cumberland Gap Hiking and Biking Club petitioned the Board for affiliation with TTA as the "Cumberland Gap Chapter."

The Cumberland Gap Hiking and Biking Club, located in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, was founded three years ago by Barbara Smith and Rosemary Register. Since that time, the Club has grown to encompass thirty members who live in the Kentucky and Tennessee area surrounding the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. In addition to their many hiking and biking outings over the years, the Club adopted and continues to maintain the northern trailhead of the Cumberland Trail State Park. TTA's Board of Directors enthusiastically approved their petition for affiliation, and we are proud to welcome the Cumberland Gap Chapter as our thirteenth chapter! The Cumberland Gap area is a hiker's paradise, and we look forward to meeting and hiking with our new TTA members.

TRAC Railtrail Advocates Meet in Copperhill, TN

submitted by Jim Deming

On Thursday evening, May 30, TRAC railtrail advocates from different communities around Tennessee met in Copperhill at a local rafting outfitters shop near the Ocoee River. This meeting was in support of helping the community see the economic and recreational advantages of turning the "Old Copper Line" from Etowah to Ducktown into a 47-mile railtrail, or at least developing part of the corridor into a multi-use trail.

Currently, negotiations are still underway with CSX Railroad for local investors to purchase the corridor for a freight line supplemented by a seasonal excursion train. Polk County and representatives from the "Old Line Coalition" will have an answer from CSX around June 17 as to the feasibility of the latest offer for purchase. Leaders and citizens from the three-county area covered by the corridor have expressed a strong desire to keep the corridor intact as an economic benefit whether it continues as an active railroad or is converted into a trail. (cont. on pg. 11)

Congratulations !!! Jim Schroeder

submitted by Sandra Spearman

Once again, volunteer efforts on behalf of the Cumberland Trail (CT) have been tagged for statewide recognition! Jim Schroeder, of TTA's famed Murfreesboro chapter, received the 2002 Governor's Stewardship Award for Greenway/Trail Development, on May 30 at MTSU.

Jim's work as a Site Survey Team leader was a major force in the acquisition of the 5,000-acre Rock, Possum, and Soddy Creek Gorge systems from Bowater Inc., creating the backbone of the CT in NW Hamilton County. Jim, as a Site Survey Team Leader, led field teams that established the viability of a linear corridor within a specific landscape and the boundaries to adequately protect the resource. His teams further reviewed flora and fauna, geological, and cultural aspects of a site to establish both conservation and recreation limits. The 33 volunteers comprising these site survey teams logged 1,450 hours on 52 exploratory outings.

Thanks to all the volunteers who've participated in this challenging task in Hamilton County, as well as our other teams working, even as we speak, all along the trail. It is a challenging task requiring a keen understanding of Tennessee's backcountry, an ability to interpret the terrain, to lead, and most importantly to understand and translate rare landscapes into an "experience" for all Tennesseans.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Nov. 8-10, 2002

Annual Meeting

Make your plans now!

This year, we're gathering at beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park in Pikeville, TN.

See the insert within this newsletter for additional information and a Registration Form.



Hey, did you remember to mail in your Annual Meeting Registration Form?

Congrats, Jim! (cont. from pg 1)

These are the actions, which gained Jim the award, but he does much more! He's an integral part of BreakAway every year and many other work outings on the CT, as well as lending his skills and leadership to other projects nearer his home, such as Barfield-Crescent Park, and the TTA effort at Edgar Evins State Park.

**Congratulations on the award!
You earned it!**

TTA Calendar*

The following dates refer to statewide activities that TTA as a whole is involved in. To prevent scheduling conflicts with major activities (National Trail Days, etc.) planned, each hiking/outing coordinator (leader) should seek the approval from your chapter officer before scheduling activities on the dates (2002) below:

- Aug 17 3rd Qtr Bd of Director's Meeting
- Sep 28 National Public Lands Day
- Nov 8-10 Annual Meeting

**Calendar will be revised periodically.*

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

...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 Member for July 2002:

Kevin Bowden 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.

Gathering of Southeastern Hiking Clubs Establishes Southeastern Trails Coalition

To Forge A 5,000 Mile Vision

In a landmark weekend-long meeting, more than a dozen hiking clubs and over 120 volunteers and land managers met April 26-28 to begin mapping out and linking up a 5,000 mile hiking trail network stretching from Kentucky and North Carolina to Florida. The Southeast Regional Foot Trails Conference culminated with the formation of a Southeastern Trails Coalition, a loose confederation whose mission will be to develop and guide a grand vision for a region-wide hiking trail system.

The conference, sponsored by the American Hiking Society (AHS) and Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RCTA), was called in response to a rapidly growing demand for outdoor recreation in the Southeast, along with the urgent need to protect wildlands against the area's fast growing population. "While we have people doing magnificent work in creating individual trails, what this conference and coalition will do is to create new connections -- not only linking trails together, but connecting the hiking groups working on those trails," said AHS president Mary Margaret Sloan. "Those linkages will strengthen the individual groups, help raise public awareness, raise funding levels, and gain new volunteers."

The long distance trail network taking shape in the South is still incomplete, but is sweeping in scope. The network includes 950 miles of the Appalachian Trail (from Maryland southward), Tennessee's 283 mile Cumberland Trail (110 miles complete), Kentucky's 120 mile Pine Mountain Trail (28 miles done), Georgia's 270 mile Benton MacKaye Trail (91 miles done), the 270 mile Georgia Pinhoti Trail (112 miles done), the 120 mile Alabama Pinhoti Trail (finished), North Carolina's 1,000 mile Mountains to the Sea Trail (400 miles done), South Carolina's 425 mile Palmetto Trail (120 miles done), the completed 76 mile Foothills Trail also in South Carolina, the 200 mile Alabama Trail (40 miles on the ground), and 1,300 mile Florida Trail (with 1,000 completed miles).
(cont. on pg. 10)

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 Decal3.00
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.

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

CORRECTION: Apologies from our chapter secretary Benita Howell to Carrie Thornthwaite, and frustrated readers who tried to follow the Internet address published in the June newsletter, regarding Carrie's report on the Wildflower Extravaganza hikes we enjoyed in late April. The correct URL is: <http://rugby.thornthwaite.com/wildflower.html>

JULY HIKES:

Jul 13 Oscar Blevins Loop Trail, Big South Fork NRR. Jamestown, TN. The loop from Bandy Creek Campground is an easy 3.8-mile round trip to the Oscar Blevins farmstead where hikers can learn about the late 19th and 20th century buildings and their former inhabitants. The return segment features several interesting rock shelters along Bandy Creek. Weather and energy permitting, hikers who are up for an additional easy 4.2 miles can shuttle cars to the West Entrance trailhead on TN-297 and finish the day by hiking from Bandy Creek to the West Entrance. That trail revisits the rock shelter section of the loop and continues 3.2 miles along Bandy Creek, where we'll see an abundance of ferns and mosses. Bring lunch, plenty of water, insect repellent, and sun screen. We will meet at 9am EDT at Harrow Road Café in Rugby, or at the Bandy Creek Campground day hike parking area at 10am EDT (9am CST). To register or for more information, call either Benita or Tom Howell at 423-628-5521, or e-mail them: bhowell@nxs.net

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.

Keeping In Touch . . . with TTA

The TTA List Server (e-mail distribution) is operable once again. If you would like to subscribe to receive timely notification of hiking and trail related information, visit the TTA web site (www.tennesseetrails.org) and follow the link to *Member Services*.

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, 211 Richview Rd

Jul 13 Hiawasse River Rafting. Cleveland, TN. We're going to take the heat out of July on this white-water rafting outing on the Hiawasse River. This river is rated class-II (not too rough, IV is rough) and is suitable for beginners. We will need to rent rafts and make reservations prior to our arrival. Therefore, in order to get an accurate head count, YOU MUST REGISTER, and EARLY! There are two rafting options. One is a one or two person "fun-yak" which is a mini raft. The other is the 6-8 person, large raft – what we're most familiar with. For additional information, and to register and obtain carpool details, call Bill Hamilton: 931-920-2760.

Jul 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 7pm, The Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd.

Jul 20 Dunbar Cave State Natural Area. Clarksville, TN. We have two activities planned today. One is to hike the trails in the area, and the other is to take a cave tour after the hike. Those wishing to take the cave tour are required to register on or before July 13th. Also, there is the chance that this park could close; however, we won't know until the State's new fiscal year begins - July 1st. If the park is closed, we will still hike, and the location will be a surprise! For more information and to register for the cave tour, call Suva Bastin: 931-645-2849.

Jul 27 Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts Tour, William Stacy Trail Hike and Swim. Smithville, TN. We have several activities planned today. If you have never been to see the beautiful crafts at Joe L. Evins Center you will truly enjoy this outing. The center is dedicated to expanding the influence of craft on contemporary art while preserving craft traditions, like that in Appalachia. Afterward, we will take a short hike on the William Stacy trail system. Because we will be very close to Center Hill Lake, swimming is also on the agenda. Bring snacks, lunch, water and a swimsuit. For more information, call Jack Bastin: 931-645-2849.

Attention: Hike Coordinators

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 web site: www.tennesseetrails.org From the home page, follow the link to *Member Services*.

Don't Miss an Outing ... Plan Ahead, Register Early!

There are times when a hike leader must limit (due to park regulations, etc.) the number of participants on an outing. Please do not wait until the afternoon or evening before the outing to RSVP. Plan ahead and register early.

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

MEETINGS: Resume in September

CHAPTER NEWS: Due to summer vacations, monthly meetings have not been planned for July & August, but we're still hiking! Watch the newsletter for upcoming outings.

JULY HIKES:

Jul 20 Scenic Duck River Float. Canoe/kayak through lush green shade trees and grasslands and awesome towering limestone formations. Wildflowers, butterflies, dragon and damsel flies, blue heron and turkeys are just some of the wildlife that you will encounter as you float quietly down the Duck. We have two choices. A calm 5-mile stretch of pristine river containing the largest variety of freshwater mussels of any river in the U.S., or a longer 8-mile section which includes a Class II rapid (beginner friendly) that can be run repeatedly. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one from River Rats Canoe Rental, which will also serve as our meeting location at 9am CDT. River Rats Canoe is at the intersection of Hwy. 412 and 431, east of Columbia and east of I-65, south of Nashville. Bring sun protection (we will be out for several hours), lunch, snacks and drinking water in a watertight container. Wear clothes you don't mind getting wet and that dry quickly (synthetics rather than cotton). Wear shoes for walking on the rocks and in the water. For more information and to register, call Pam Frakes: 931-388-2197, or e-mail her: pjfish@hotmail.com

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

Jul 14. Pine Mountain State Park. Pineville, KY. After a 1:30 brunch at the park lodge, we will be taking a series of small loop hikes in the area. We will meet at the Eagle Market parking lot at 12:30 EDT. For more information and to register, call Doris Early: 423-566-8319.

Jul 18 **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.

HIKE REPORTS:

On May 18, a group of seven from our club met with a group of as many from a church camping group to hike four miles on the Angel Falls trail in the Big South Fork NRR. There had been rain the previous night, but by the time of our afternoon hike, the clouds were starting to break up, and we had beautiful weather. Most of the early spring flowers were gone, but we saw many late spring, early summer flowers, including Dog Violets in the woods and Purple Lupine on the river shore.

On June 1, our chapter participated in the National Trails Day "Hike for Health" event by hiking up the brand new trail to the Devil's Racetrack, a 2 mile hike round-trip. There were 14 hikers, led by Arleen Scheller. You can't find a prettier trail anywhere. It starts out following a creek with 3 beautiful waterfalls against a high cliff background, crossing over a pretty bridge, then the climb to the top of the cliff. Sandra Spearman and her Spring BreakAway crew did a superb job building the steps and switchbacks, making the climb seem easy. Standing on the rocks overlooking the whole beautiful valley and Interstate 75 was very impressive. After descending, a few of the more ambitious hiked the additional mile over to the new bridge connecting the Cumberland Segment to the Smokey Mt. Segment.

TTA Gift Memberships

Available Throughout the Year!

- ◆ Birthdays ◆ Anniversaries ◆
- ◆ Just Because ◆

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.

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.tennesseetrails.org), navigate to the "TO BUY!" page, then follow the link to the "VIRTUAL BOOKSTORE." Commissions are earned solely on sales made through the TTA website, therefore always enter amazon.com from the TTA website, and do not sign up for their one-click service.

Carpooling Etiquette

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.

Also, each passenger needs to tidy up the area in the car where they sat by gathering and removing debris/trash before reaching the carpool meeting location.

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

- ✓ 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.

CUMBERLAND GAP CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Barbara Smith 423-869-5226
BarbSmith@ZoesMountainSports.com
Rosemary Register 423-869-2251
cugatrails@yahoo.com

Welcome! To our Newest TTA Members !

We hope everyone has been staying cool and enjoying their summer vacations! But we are ready to start scheduling outings for our new chapter. If you would like to lead a trip or have ideas for a chapter outing, please contact Barbara or Rosemary. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Beverly Neurock 865-220-9679
bneurock@bellsouth.net

Jul 20 Hooper Bald to Huckleberry Knob (Cherohala Skyway). Tellico Plains, TN. Beginning at the Hooper Bald parking area, this easy section of trail meanders through a second growth forest that has slowly taken over the edges of Hooper Bald before it exits the woods and comes out onto the bald, after walking only ½ mile. This bald was one of the original spots where lodges were built for hunting Russian wild boar, imported bear, and red deer. We will proceed over the bald and after walking through high grass, with blueberry bushes and thorn-less blackberries, we will come to the Cherohala Skyway, which we will walk along for ¼ mile before beginning our hike out to Huckleberry Knob. The trail to Huckleberry Knob has gradually become overgrown with thorn-less blackberries over the past 2-3 years. . At one time the trail was wide enough to drive a car on. In some areas it is only wide enough for a single row of hikers. After about 2 miles we break out onto Huckleberry Knob, with a magnificent 360-degree vista (provided the weather cooperates). (cont.)

EAST TN (cont.)

Jul 20 (cont.) We will also pay our last respects to Andy Sherman, whose grave, marked by a 6 ft. cross, is situated near the top of the knob. Bring lunch, water, and wear appropriate clothing as this hike starts at 5,204-ft elevation and never gets below 5,000 ft. We will meet at 9am EDT at the Shoney's in Lenoir City (1100 Highway 321 N), TN. For more information and to register, contact either Beverly Neurock (865-220-9679 / bneurock@bellsouth.net) or Rosemary Lynch (865-405-1915 / rosemary_l@hotmail.com).

HIKE REPORT:

On Jun 8, Ten people showed up for the Frozen Head hike up Spicewood Branch to the firetower and down N. Old Mac. Although Spicewood Branch Trail was overgrown in spots the uphill hiking was pleasant due to almost constant shade and cool morning temperatures. Lunch was enjoyed at the fire tower where everyone took in the views from the top. The following is a list of blooming flowers we saw along the way (compiled by Gary Grametbauer): Flame Azalea, Broad-leaf Waterleaf, Black Cohosh, False Nettle, Goat's Beard, Houstonia Purpurea, Indian Cucumber Root, Indian Pink, Carolina Lily(?), Four-leaved Milkweed, Mountain Laurel, Skullcap, Great Solomon's Seal, Spiderwort, Spikenard, Spring Vetch, Maple-leaved Viburnum, Canada Violet, and Wild Hydrangea.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (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

Jul 13 Buggy Top Cave, Carter State Natural Area. Sewanee, TN. The entrance to Buggy Top Cave is one of the most impressive cave mouths in the state. This 4-mile trail is rated moderate due to the rough footing and steep descent. We will meet at 8am CDT in the Shenanigan's (in Sewanee) restaurant parking lot. Bring plenty of water, lunch and flashlights, and wear sturdy shoes. We will stop at the natural bridge on the way back. For more information and to register, call Steve Lepley 931-454-9387.

Jul 16 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Our guest this evening is Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Heritage, a subdivision of the Natural Areas Program of the TN Dept. of Conservation. Forrest will be talking about the Natural Areas in Middle Tennessee – one of which we're quite familiar with: Short Springs SNA.

Jul 20 Short Springs State Natural Area. Tullahoma, TN. This is a joint hike with the Murfreesboro chapter. This area is abundant with wild flowers and a beautiful waterfall. To register and obtain meeting time and location, call Joan Bentley: 931-455-5849, or e-mail her: bentley@edge.net

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

MEETINGS: Will resume September 19.

NEWS: Due to summer vacations, the monthly meetings for July and August have been cancelled. We will resume the monthly meetings in September (9/17). And, because of the blistering summer heat, there aren't any hikes planned in July. You are welcome to hike with any of our other TTA chapters.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Aug 18 **CHAPTER PICNIC** John and Regena Martin are our hosts this year. More details will appear in the August newsletter.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

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

MEETING & PICNIC: June 9 at 6pm

Wilderness Station @ Barfield-Crescent Park, 697 Barfield Rd.

Jul 9 MONTHLY MEETING and ANNUAL COOKOUT!

Join us for some great food and fun times! Hamburgers and hotdogs will be furnished. Please bring a potluck dish, drinks, or dessert to share. After the feast, we'll plan our hikes for the remainder of the year. See you at 6pm CDT (an hour earlier than usual) at the Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park.

Jul 20 Short Springs State Natural Area. Tullahoma, TN. This is a joint hike with the Highland Rim chapter. This area is abundant with wild flowers and a beautiful waterfall. To register and obtain meeting time and location, call Brent Morris: 931-454-1718, or e-mail him: bmmorris@edge.net

Jul 21 Canoe/Kayak Float on the Caney Fork River. Smithville/Silver Point, TN. This is a clear river with lots of gravel bars ... and may be really shallow. Anyway, it's still good for swimming and standing in. If you're a beginner, this is a good one for you because if you turn over (while wearing your life jacket) the water is shallow enough that you can stand up in as well as float. We will put-in around 9:30am CDT and will be off the river by 3pm. If you don't have a canoe/kayak you can rent one locally from Big Rock Market in Silver Point (they offer shuttle and pick up to/from our put-in location). Our put-in location is near Smithville, off of I-40 and Buffalo Valley Road. You will need a LIFE JACKET!, snacks, lunch and plenty of drinking water. For more information, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her: stillwild@bellsouth.net

HIKE REPORT:

What Goes Down Must Come Up

submitted by Jim Schroeder

Three hikers from the Murfreesboro chapter, Brent Morris, Martin McCullough, and Jim Schroeder experienced this little known law of science during a weeklong hiking trek in the Grand Canyon, May 11-18. The adventure included a three day back pack from the South Rim down Bright Angel Trail to Phantom Ranch and the Bright Angel Campground, as well as the return trek up the 4600 foot ascent with an intermediate stop at the Indian Gardens Camp site. Other day hiking adventures included the traversing of the West Rim Trail, a portion of the South Kaibab Trail, parts of the Tonto Trail as well as a section of the Grandview Trail. For the most part the weather was perfect apart from the near 100 degree temps at the canyon floor. Except for a minor encounter with a thirsty raven who destroyed a plastic water jug left on a picnic table, and a feisty squirrel who got a drink out of a member's hydration system, damaging the plastic tubing in the process, the trek went without a hitch.

One gets a new appreciation for the beauty, majesty, and magnitude of the canyon when experiencing it from the bottom up. Sometimes it was hard to appreciate the depth until it became necessary to hike back up to the rim, fulfilling that little known scientific law. It was truly a hiking experience of immense grandeur and shall long be cherished in memory for years to come.

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:

It's only July, but it's time to start planning for 2003! Where do you want to hike next year? What speakers should we have at our chapter meetings? Do you have ideas for programs, trail work outings, fund raising, or social events? Everyone's input is important, and all Nashville chapter members are encouraged to fill out a chapter questionnaire to help guide our chapter's programming for 2003. Questionnaires will be available at the July chapter meeting (if you missed the June meeting), or you can receive one via e-mail (MS-Word format) by contacting ttahiker@msn.com. If you don't have e-mail access, you may call 615-851-1052 to receive one by mail.

JULY HIKES:

You are invited to join Gary Parker for "After Work" Hikes at the Warner Parks on the following dates in July: 2, 9, 11, 16, 18, 25, and 30. He is usually at the Warner Park Nature Center (Hwy 100) at 5:30pm and starts hiking between 5:45 - 6:00pm. Normally, the hikes range between 2½ - 6½ miles, have an easy to aerobic pace and are conducted regardless of the weather. For more information and to register, contact Gary Parker: 615-287-1371(hm), 615-277-2006(wk), garyparker@mindspring.com & garyp@werthan.com

Jul 4 (Thurs) Beat the heat sunrise hike. Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge trails in Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Better reach for your coffee as soon as the wake-up clock goes off, or you're going to miss this one entirely. These 2 trails total 7 miles and will be rated moderate due to the speed (~2½-3 miles/hr) at which we hike them - gotta beat the heat! Wear boots that provide ankle support and bring water and snacks. Afterward, we'll regroup for bagels and more coffee at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery - bring \$ to BYOB (buy your own bagel). We'll meet 5:30am CDT (Yep, not a typo!) and be finished by 9:30am. To register and obtain meeting location, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

Jul 6 "First Saturday Hike," Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Escape the summer heat with a creek *hike* in Beaman Park. We will explore Henry Hollow or Big Hollow with an aquatic biologist (or an aspiring one) - really, amateur biologist and exotic plant removal coordinator, Niki Conolly - and walk along the smooth limestone creek beds in water that is one inch to one foot deep. The hike is approximately 2 miles and rated easy to moderate. Wear shoes you won't mind getting wet and bring water and snacks. We will meet at 9am CDT. To register and obtain meeting location, call Nancy Dorman: 615-299-9586.

(cont. on pg. 7)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg 6)

Jul 7 Colditz Cove State Natural Area (Allardt, TN.) and Gentlemen's Swimming Hole (Rugby, TN.). Our hikes will be taking place between the two neighboring cities of Allardt and Rugby, TN. Both cities provide short and E-A-S-Y hiking, and combined the hiking totals about 4½ miles. First stop will be Colditz Cove SNA, just east of Allardt, where we will hike a 1½-mile loop and pass a 67-foot waterfall. After Colditz Cove, we will drive to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole & Meeting of the Waters Trail in Rugby. This trail is about 3 miles in length. Along the way we'll stop for lunch and for those interested, a swim in the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole (swimming is rated easy). Although both hikes are rated easy, it is advised that you wear sturdy footwear because the terrain does have some roots, rocks and ruts along the way. Bring water, snacks and lunch, and swimwear – optional. On our return to Nashville, there will be optional stops available: dinner at the Harrow Road Café in Rugby and/or wine tasting/purchasing at the Highland Manor Winery in Jamestown. To register and obtain carpool meeting time and location, call Doug Burroughs: 615-587-0085. "The bandana color for this hike is RED."

**Editor's Note:* If you were with TTA over the Memorial Day weekend in the Smokies, you'd understand Doug's comment, "the bandana color for this hike is RED." If not, you'll have to ask him about it on this trip.

Jul 7 Laurel Fork Creek Trail, Big South Fork NRRRA. Jamestown, TN. Laurel Fork Creek Trail is the best kept secret and probably one of the most beautiful trails in the BSFNRRRA. Over the 11.1-miles of trail we hike we can expect several creek fords, stairs, steep climbs and rocky terrain. Therefore, this hike is rated moderate, to strenuous. You will be rewarded with views of moss-covered boulders, hemlock trees 11 feet in circumference, cold clear creeks, waterfalls and an assortment of wildlife (wild boar have been spotted on this trail). In addition, you will experience the cooler temperatures that are produced from the combination of the shaded forest and creek areas we will be in. We will have lunch (and for those interested, a swim in cold, clear water – brrrrr!) at Twin Falls. We will meet at 7am CDT in the Kinko's parking area of the K-Mart on Donelson Pike (exit 216C off of I-40). For more information and to register, call Keith White at 615-305-9078, or e-mail him: takehike@bellsouth.net

Jul 10 Rollerblading in Crockett Park. Brentwood, TN. All skill levels welcomed - some of us are beginners! We will rollerblade for about 1 to 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

Jul 13 *Hike* Underground! Blue Spring Cave, Sparta TN. **DISCLAIMER:** This outing is a C-A-V-I-N-G outing and not true hiking as we know it. During this activity – which takes place in total darkness, and lighted by the headlamp you will be wearing - you will be walking some, scrambling and crawling, in an environment that will be muddy! If you think you are, or have, claustrophobia, this is not the outing for you! Outside of this, Blue Spring Cave is this most beautiful cave in the state of TN. It is a "living cave" in natural pristine condition. Expect to see waterfalls, flow stones, columns, draperies, and 50ft ceilings. Lead by Bill Overton and Dr Howell Love of the Nashville Grotto Club, we will hike only 4 miles of the 33 miles of this cave. Again the disclaimer, be prepared for crawling and expect to get very muddy. The temperature will be a constant 56 degrees, so dress appropriately, and bring a change of clothes, lunch and water. Helmets and lights will be provided. REGISTER EARLY! Or you'll miss out because space is limited to 12 participants. To register, and obtain meeting time and location, call Keith White: 615-305-9078, or e-mail him: takehike@bellsouth.net

Jul 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking Weekend in Fall Creek Falls State Park. Pikeville, TN. This is a combined outing with members of the Sierra Club and an opportunity to meet other backpacking enthusiasts. On Sat., we will hike approximately 6.5 miles of the Lower Cane Creek Overnight Loop to our campsite (site #2). Then on Sun., we'll finish out the loop. The total mileage over the 2 days will be 12.4 miles. The trail is rocky and uneven in places, and hilly. Therefore, this trip is rated moderate. There is a well (with a hand pump) at the campsite that will be our water source. This trip is for folks who truly love summer backpacking! For information and to register, call Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481, or e-mail her: adelicia1@aol.com

Jul 14 Jack L. Clayborn Trail, Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. The Jack L. Clayborn Trail was a trail project for our Middle Tennessee chapters over National Trails Day weekend, 2001. The trail is made up of two loops, is eight miles long and rated moderate for its hilly and uneven terrain. Throughout the day we'll have plenty of views of Center Hill Lake and see patches of yuccas and perhaps some St. John's Wort & Western Wildflowers (if it's not too late in the season). Bring snacks, plenty of water for the heat and wear appropriate hiking footwear. We'll stop on the way home for some English Pub grub or good Mexican food at one of the restaurants in Lebanon. To register, and obtain meeting time and location, call Alicia Gray: 615-453-5138 (Lebanon), or e-mail her: aliciagray@earthlink.net

Jul 14 Hidden Passage Trail, Pickett State Park. Jamestown, TN. We will be looking for blueberries to snack on during our hike on this lovely trail. It follows the 1,500-foot contour above Thompson Creek and then above Rock Creek. The 8-mile loop passes Indian rock houses and other interesting rock formations and a waterfall. The trail is rated easy because it is almost flat, moderate for the length. Please wear sturdy boots and bring water, snacks, and lunch. To register, and obtain meeting time and location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet: 615-824-7666.

Jul 16 (Tue) Ever wondered what are the best plants for worry free landscaping, or what's so great about "Native Plants?" Find out during this special program offered by the Friends of Beaman Park. Mike Berkley of Growild Wholesale Native Plant Nursery is the guest speaker. He has had a lot of experience with "Native" gardening, and will be passing on many ideas and tips to help make it easy for you to get your garden started. The program is at Radnor Lake State Natural Area visitor's center from 6:30-8:00pm CDT. If you need additional information, call Nancy Dorman: 615-299-9586.

(cont. on pg. 8)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg 7)

Jul 19 (Fri) Paul Smith's shortest hike and dinner. You just hike from your car into the restaurant. At the time this newsletter was going to press, a restaurant had not been identified. Plan to meet at 7pm CDT. For the restaurant information, call Paul Smith: 615-832-9388, or e-mail him: paolov@bellsouth.net

Jul 20 Natchez Trace Parkway Exploratory Hikes. Hohenwald, TN. We will take 3 short hikes, totaling 5 miles, at Jackson Falls, Fall Hollow, and Meriwether Lewis Park. These trails are rated easy to moderate. We will also visit the gravesite of Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and then venture into Hohenwald for lunch at the Mexican Restaurant. If we have time, and the group wishes to go, our final stop could be the Lewis County Museum. We will meet at 8am CDT in the large parking lot behind The Cooker in Cool Springs (Moore's Lane East exit off I-65). For more information and to register, call Gale Sheehan: 615-337-0990, or e-mail her: travelerqts@aol.com

Jul 23 PRE-MONTHLY MTG DINNER at BOSCO'S. Hillsboro Village, 1805 21st Ave South. We're gathering for a pre-meeting dinner (and opportunity to socialize while enjoying a good restaurant!) at Bosco's in Hillsboro Village. Bosco's is about 4 blocks from our monthly meeting location, and with parking very limited in the "Village," you are advised to park at St. Bernard's and walk to Bosco's. We'll meet around 5:15pm CST and DEPART FOR THE MEETING AT 6:35PM. BRING \$\$\$ to pay for your meal. You do not need to register; however, if you have questions, call Paul Smith: 615-832-9388.

Jul 23 MONTHLY MEETING. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Stearns, Professor Emeritus of Geology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Stearns also worked in the State of Tennessee's Division of Geology, where he supervised mapping. His extensive research of and enthusiasm for the state's geological charms will make for a delightful presentation on "The Battle of Island 10." Experience one of Tennessee's Civil War battles through the eyes of a geologist!

Jul 27-28 (Sat-Sun) Beginning Backpacking Clinic, South Cumberland State Recreation Area. Tracy City, TN. This is a combined outing with members of the Sierra Club and an opportunity to meet others new to backpacking. This backpack trip provides those interested in putting their new skills and gear to use (or reintroducing yourself, if you haven't been out in a while) on an outing where the terrain is pretty level (rated easy) and not many miles long (approx. 2½ miles each way from our cars). Skills gained will better prepare you for outings planned in the upcoming fall backpacking season. Experienced backpackers are welcome to come along and share knowledge and make new hiking friends. We will hike to Foster Falls Small Wild Campsite located in South Cumberland State Park near Tracy City, TN. For information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481, or e-mail her: adelicia1@aol.com

Are you new to Nashville? Hiking? Interested in checking out a hiking club? Or, just want a gentler hike? Then, the following TWO hikes are just for you. Meet new, as well as seasoned hikers who also share your desire to be outdoors. You are encouraged to use this time to learn about hiking and TTA while enjoying the great outdoors with friendly people.

Jul 27 *Newcomers' Hike* on Ganier Ridge and South Cove Lake Trails in Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Radnor Lake SNA is located 20 minutes south of Nashville and a haven for birds and wildlife. You can expect to see lots of waterfowl and a deer or two, in addition to the many ground critters – chipmunks, squirrels and turtles, to name a few. There will be two hills to climb over the 4½ miles we will cover. Therefore this hike is rated as moderate. After the hike we will gather at a nearby restaurant for lunch. Radnor Lake SNA charges a \$3 per vehicle per day access fee. If you haven't already purchased the annual Multi-Visit Pass, you can purchase one when you arrive, or feed the machine \$3 to park. It's worth every penny! In addition, wear sturdy boots, and bring water and snacks, and money to park and buy your lunch. We will meet at 9am at the Radnor Lake SNA Nature Center, on Otter Creek Road – the Granny White Pike side of the park! For more information, call Paul Smith: 615-832-9388, or e-mail him: paolov@bellsouth.net

Jul 28 *Newcomer's Hike* on the Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park. Nashville, TN. We will hike the 4-mile Volunteer Trail and have good views of Percy Priest Lake along the way. After the Volunteer Trail hike, those interested can hike the 2-mile Couchville Lake Trail. We will meet at 8am CDT at the trailhead for the Volunteer Trail on Baker's Grove Road. Long Hunter State Park charges a \$3 per vehicle per day access fee. If you haven't already purchased the annual Multi-Visit Pass, you can purchase one when you arrive, or feed the machine \$3 to park. It's worth every penny! Also, you will need to bring water and snacks. For more information and to register, call Elizabeth Gerlock at 615-356-6260, or e-mail her: eygerlock@aol.com

PLANNING AHEAD:

Aug 3 "First Saturday Hike" at Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Escape the summer heat with a creek *hike* led by a special guest. The terrain is rated easy to moderate however, you will need to wear shoes you won't mind getting wet – this is a creek hike. Bring water and snacks. We will meet at 9am. To register and obtain the meeting location, call Nancy Dorman: 615-299-9586.

HIKE REPORT:

Memorial Day Weekend 2002
It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This!
submitted by Diane Manas

I was heard saying, "it doesn't get any better than this," several times over the weekend of May 24-27. Gosh, I had no idea back in February when I was making plans for four days of hiking and carcamping in the Smokies over the Memorial Day weekend for TTA that the outing would turn out to be so successful.

In the beginning I had so many decisions to sort out, such as:
hike which trails, loop or one-way, daily hike length, group camp where in the park, expect how many people, minimize/eliminate time spent car shuttling, shuttle service availability over a busy holiday weekend, out of pocket expenses, recouping expenses, fair amount to charge based on 11 people coming, if I recouped my expense who should we make a donation to? (cont. on pg. 9)

See next column for additional hikes planned over the July 27-28 weekend.

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg 8)

(cont.) I felt pretty confident that at least 10-12 people would participate and based everyone's portion on this. I never dreamed I'd have 24 responses, plus an additional 2 who wanted to join us for the day hikes. In the few days proceeding the Memorial Day weekend, after juggling some cancellations with those on the waiting list, we had 18 at the group campsite and 1 who joined us for a day hike.

We experienced beautiful weather the entire weekend. Clear skies and not a drop of rain! To name only a few, these are the memories I have of each trail we hiked:

Road Prong Trail – many creek crossings, mossy rocks.

Chimney Tops Trail – a tough climb, rewarded by 360 degree views of the valleys all around.

Noland Divide Trail – ridgeline walking, views all around, noontime blast/explosion, Pale Corydalis, and the Cherokee Boys Club bus arriving promptly at 4:30.

Juney Whank Falls Trail – busy trail, cool clear water.

Deep Creek Trail – huge patch of Yellow Lady's Slippers, creek-side walking, brushing against miles of blossoming Dog Hobble and our shuttle - the big yellow school bus.

Roundtop Trail – tunnels of Mtn Laurel in bloom, remnants of Yellow Ladies Slippers, and the fording of Little (not) River.

Each evening we gathered by the campfire (thanks to those bringing the firewood – we didn't run out!) and shared meals (brownies to die for), stories (jokes) and connecting with new as well as old hiking friends.

Thank you to following people for making this a memorable weekend and for being a part of the \$315 donation made to the Cumberland Trail Conference, on behalf of the Nashville chapter:

♦ Dan Brennan ♦ Steve Bryant ♦ Doug Burroughs ♦ Marie Chitwood ♦ David Furse ♦ Carol and Ray Haley ♦ Jerry Hendrixson ♦ Leigh and Charles Jones ♦ Diane & Zvi Manas ♦ Theresa McKay ♦ Keith Mertz ♦ June Parker ♦ Kara and Daniel Sanders ♦ Paul Smith ♦ Sue Waldrop ♦ Anne Wesley ♦ Keith White ♦ Gloria Dale Williams ♦

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

MEETINGS: Will resume September 12.

website: www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/

Our student and faculty members are on summer break, therefore we have not scheduled any meetings or activities for July & August. Upon our return in late August, we will post hikes and meeting announcements to our web site, as well as in this newsletter. Until then, have a great summer. And remember, you are welcome to hike with any of our other TTA chapters.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

MEETINGS: Will resume in September.

CHAPTER NEWS:

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.

Due to summer vacations, monthly meetings have not been planned for July or August, but we're still hiking! Watch the newsletter for upcoming outings.

JULY HIKES:

Jul 13 Twin Rocks Trail. Spring City, TN. Bill Haynes will lead us on a summer hike with a swimming hole and a picnic at the end! We'll have a short 3-mile hike, rated moderate, to an overlook and then down to a wonderful swimming hole for a long lunch and optional swim. Then, after being refreshed, an easy one-mile hike back to the cars. This trail starts at the Piney River picnic area. We'll meet at the Cumberland Mtn. State Park visitor's center at 9am CDT. For additional information, call Bill Haynes: 931-707-7606.

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@charter.net

It's summer and that spells H – E – A – T, not a favored hiking condition. Therefore, we have not planned any hikes for July. If we hit a cool spell, we will have a spontaneous hike, and we may decide to do a float trip in late July. Feel free to call either chapter officer, listed above, to get on the call list for the next spontaneous outing we have. Remember that hiking boots are recommended for each hike along with a supply of water, lunch, snacks, and rain gear in case of sudden storms.

HIKE REPORTS:

On May 11, seven people gathered and hiked at Cumberland Mountain State Park. We came upon the remains of some Lady's Slippers whose blooms had disappeared – we'll know better next year.

On June 1, National Trails Day, nine people gathered to hike Stinging Fork Falls near Spring City. The waterfall with blue holes for swimming was beautiful. We had a great time, despite part of the group getting a little lost.

On June 3, thirteen people (three were visitors, one was only six years old) gathered to hike at the Meeting of the Waters/Gentlemen's Swimming Hole in Rugby. Afterward, we had a nice lunch at Bacaras, near Jamestown, and followed it up with another short hike in Colditz Cove near Allardt. We enjoyed seeing the rock formations, lovely flowers, swift running rivers, and waterfalls. We did our good deed for the day by driving a canoeist that had injured his knee to his car.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

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 Program Coordinator..... Andy Wright..... awright@onemain.com
 Office Manager..... Susan Weber sweber1@usit.net

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 Phone: 931-456-6259
 Fax: 931-456-4934
 Email: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com
 Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org



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

Due to the heat and humidity, which strikes East Tennessee every year about this time, programs have been placed on "freeze" during the months of July and August. But that shouldn't stop you from making plans for volunteering on the Cumberland Trail in the Fall. The Spring/Summer 2002 issue of The Cumberland Trail, CTC's newsletter, was mailed mid-June and contains the entire schedule of volunteer opportunities for fall, as well as information on an upcoming Trail Training Workshop. If you did not receive a copy, call the CTC office and request one. In the interim, you can start planning:

Sep 6-8 (Fri-Sun) BackCountry Outing in North Chickamauga Gorge. Carl Turner will be leading a crew into the North Chickamauga Gorge to tackle the much needed trail revitalization project there. Dig your backpacking equipment out of storage, and get in on the first trail building project of the season. You will need your own backpacking equipment, and CTC will provide the tools and training.

Sep 13-15 (Fri-Sun) Trail Training Workshop. Come learn all the ins and outs of trail building. CTC "Wagonmasters" will be on hand to pass on their vast trail knowledge to everyone attending. Fees for the Trail Training Workshop are as follows: \$45* for CTC volunteers, \$65 for state employees, and \$85 for all others. Fees include lodging at the Lutheran Church Camp near Bakewell; and two meals on Saturday.

*To get this special \$45 rate, you must commit to working two days with the CTC within the next calendar year.

Need More Information? Call Today!

◆ 931-456-6259 ◆



Immediate F/T Job Opening PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Help develop the Cumberland Trail State Park. Provide organization and leadership for CTC's non-profit Volunteer Trail Building & Educational Programs. Must have transportation. Position is based in Crossville, TN. For more information and/or to request a copy of the job description, call 931-456-6259, or visit our web site www.cumberlandtrail.org

Trails Coalition (cont. from pg. 2)

While the challenges in creating a 5,000-mile trail network seem daunting, the system is becoming reality at lightning speed. "It has been a whirlwind. We feel like ants in an avalanche," says Pine Mount Trail Conference president Shad Baker speaking about Kentucky's recent decision to declare his trail its first linear state park. "It's kind of like Christmas when you just don't know which package to unwrap first!" he said. Other trails are developing as fast. Tennessee's Cumberland Trail volunteers were the first to see their labors rewarded with linear state park status. Meanwhile, the fledgling Alabama Hiking Trails Society, a group that organized just last summer, has put 40 miles of blazed trail on the ground in its first 12 months of existence.

Conference participants brainstormed to further define their vision. Some called for a Great Western Alternative to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. This so-called Continental Trail might link up nearly a dozen long distance trails to create a new hiking route between Florida and Canada. "This conference and coalition is something to spark the imagination," said Shad Baker, "If I can tell the folks back home on Pine Mountain that someone will eventually be able to start walking in Key West, Florida, and hike up through Kentucky on their way to Canada and the Gaspe Peninsula, that will fire up everybody. It's a gigantic vision that will help us locally."

Rob Weber, president of the Cumberland Trail Conference, challenged trail volunteers to think outside the box and beyond their trails. "Where in the past, we built our recreational systems on the backs of our public lands, in the future our public lands will be built on the backs of what we create," he said. "The work that needs to be done in the Southeast is about building recreation and conservation on private lands. How local communities value what we do in the future will be the most critical thing determining whether we survive or get funded or people hike our trails."

At meeting's end, conference participants voted to create a Southeastern Trails Coalition to generate a cohesive and pragmatic regional trails vision. A Memorandum of Understanding between AHS and RCTA will provide a jointly funded staff person to offer technical support to the coalition starting this autumn. Conference participants also agreed to hold a Southeastern Trails Coalition caucus in August, with one representative from each club in attendance. A second general conference was agreed to for next year.

To see a map of the Southeastern Long Distance Trail System and to learn more about the Southeastern Trail Coalition visit the American Hiking Society web site at www.americanhiking.org

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Newsletter Deadlines:

Announcements and articles
received on/before July 10
will appear in our
August 1st newsletter

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

Please send all submissions to:

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When sending by email, use both:

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TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Deming 615-354-9767 jdeming@tals.org
web site: 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.*

T.R.A.C. (cont. from pg. 1)

If CSX does not accept the latest offer, then the possibility of a trail becomes very likely as CSX has stated its intention to deed the corridor to the counties involved in exchange for the salvage rights to the track and ties. If this circumstance occurs, then the Old Line Coalition would work with CSX and the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to "railbank" the corridor. Railbanking is a federal law established in 1983 to keep corridors intact for future rail use. If a corridor is railbanked, then it is a candidate for "interim trail use" by the public as long as there is a local authority willing to accept responsibility. Many corridors across the U.S. have been saved by railbanking because it keeps the bridges and the 60 to 100ft. corridor intact instead of selling them for scrap or to other landowners.

TRAC members continue to wait with the citizens of southeast Tennessee for developments along the Hiwassee corridor. Two of the local outfitters who were at the meeting expressed great enthusiasm at the possibility of having another recreational choice that would entice visitors to the Ocoee and Hiwassee region to stay overnight and pump some tourism dollars into a struggling economy. Stay tuned for the next installment of TRAC news for information on just how much of an economic impact railtrails create in a local community!

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 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**

Jul 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
- ___ Cumberland Gap
- ___ 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.