

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



Tennessee Trails Association Grows Welcome! T.T.A.'s Newest Chapter Soddy Daisy!

At the November 10th Board of Directors' meeting, Carl and Susan Osburn Turner presented a petition on behalf of hikers in the Rhea and Hamilton County area to establish a local T.T.A. chapter. The Board unanimously approved their petition, and the Soddy Daisy Chapter was recognized as T.T.A.'s 14th chapter! The Soddy Daisy area is adjacent to some of Tennessee's most beautiful hiking destinations, including the Rock/Possum/Soddy Gorges recently acquired by the Cumberland Trail Conference. Carl and Susan will be spearheading the organization of the new chapter, and information about meetings, trail building outings and hikes will appear in *Tennessee Trails*. We all look forward to meeting and hiking with our newest chapter. If any T.T.A. member knows a local hiker who would be potentially interested in joining the Soddy Daisy chapter, please contact the T.T.A. Membership Director, Anne Wesley, (ttahiker@msn.com or 615-851-1052) so that we can send him/her a newsletter and chapter information.

The Rewards & Challenges of Growth

submitted by Jim Poteet

The 2002 edition of the TTA Annual Meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park was a resounding and historic success. The hard work of the dedicated volunteers from the Columbia and Nashville chapters that organized and hosted the meeting, the Park's unparalleled natural beauty and outstanding hiking opportunities, the fantastic fall weather and beautiful leaf color all contributed to this success. But the real success of the meeting can be measured in the spirit and enthusiasm of the hikers that came to our annual get-together – hikers from all parts of the state, from Jonesborough to Memphis, from Chattanooga to Clarksville.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Evan Means Small Grants Program Request Deadline Dec 31, 2002

In February 2003, TTA's Board of Directors will award small grants memorializing Evan Means. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible with the chartered objectives of TTA: *promoting and developing a system of hiking trails in Tennessee as well as working for the conservation of natural resources*. Project proposals are due no later than December 31, 2002.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grants application for the February 2003 Evan Means Small Grant Program Award.

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

For additional information and an application, please write to:

TTA Grants Administrator
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

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

Holiday Greetings to all of our Trail Friends

Rewards (cont. from pg. 1)

Some 140 people – a record number – registered for the meeting and participated in the various events of the weekend. We offered 8 scheduled hikes of various lengths and difficulties, and nearly everyone present participated in one or more of these. One hike had more than 45 people signed up! Several impromptu hikes were also arranged to satisfy the desires for even more hikes.

At the fund-raising auction on Saturday night, there were more than 60 successful bidders. Many others, including staff and non-TTA guests of Fall Creek Falls, participated in the white elephant and bake sales. Auction highlights include: the Story of Shorts vol. II and his/her further adventures with Fran; wonderful artwork donated by Nancy Juodenas; the bidding war over the Grand Canyon trip; the fourth or fifth incarnation of Tennessee Trails-Opoly; the huge participation by commercial donors; an antique bathtub demonstration; thin mint Girl Scout cookies selling for \$50, and of course Vera's Brownies! The most impressive number of all is that the auction raised a record \$6,487, which was donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference to support their 2003 BreakAway programs. *(For a complete listing of those who made this such a fun-filled, memorable and successful event, see pages 7 & 8.)*

The hikers that were at the annual meeting, as well as those that couldn't make it, are a part of TTA because they believe in our mission of promoting and developing a statewide system of hiking trails. Over the past few years, we have attracted more and more like-minded folks to our cause. In November 1998, the TTA board challenged the organization to reach "1000 by 2000" – to grow the membership from 600 to 1,000 by the beginning of the new century. Well, we missed that original goal by a couple of years, but at the November 2002 board meeting, it was reported that our membership now stands at 1,013!

In 1998, TTA consisted of 8 chapters across the state. Since then we have planted chapters at Columbia, at Cove Lake, in the Northwest, on the Highland Rim, and at Cumberland Gap. At its November meeting, the TTA board accepted a petition from hikers in the Soddy Daisy area of Hamilton County to create our 14th chapter!

We have every reason to believe that TTA will continue to attract new people and will continue to grow and will continue to have an impact on hiking in Tennessee. The success of the Cumberland Trail State Park, the successful involvement of TRAC in promoting rail-to-trail conversions, the success of our Small Grants Program in encouraging volunteerism in other organizations, and now TTA's participation in the Southeast Regional Foot Trails Coalition are all sure to generate further interest in our activities.

In a forward looking effort to prepare for this growth, the TTA board is considering organizational structure changes to allow quicker and more focused response to trail issues, and to more effectively use our volunteer leadership. Regardless of the direction that is ultimately taken, the TTA organization will continue to need enthusiastic and inspired leadership. Again, the board is proactively looking at ways to develop this leadership from within our ranks.

Stay tuned! The best is yet to come! Be a part of it! Get involved!

...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 December 2002:

Rick & Carol Jones	East TN
Anna & Fount Bertram	Murfreesboro
Doug Flatter	Nashville
Richard Horvath	Nashville
John Noel III	Nashville

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.

TTA Calendar*

The following dates (2003) refer to statewide activities that involve TTA as a whole. You may want to refer to this calendar to prevent scheduling conflicts with major activities planned (National Trail Days, etc.).

- Feb 1 Board of Director's Meeting
- Apr 12 3rd Cumberland Trail Auction (Oak Ridge)
- Apr 19 Earth Day Events (Observed Apr 22)
- Jun 7 National Trails Day
- Sep 27 National Public Lands Day
- Oct 17-20 Southeast Foot Trails Mtg (Monteagle)

**Calendar will be revised as needed.*

Board of Director's Vacancies

The Tennessee Trails Association is administered by volunteers elected by you - our members. As a member, you have the opportunity to serve on TTA's Board of Director's.

Currently, the Board is seeking to fill the state Treasurer's and East TN At-Large Director's positions for 2003.

Any member who wishes to obtain a description of responsibilities, to volunteer or to submit names for consideration may contact:

Jim Poteet	615-824-7666
	jpotet@genesco.com
Jerry Lenski	901-255-6574
	jlenski@yahoo.com
Diane Manas	615-352-7777
	dmanashikes@comcast.net

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Executive Director..... Rob Weber..... robweber@usit.net
Resource Manager..... Arleen Scheller..... scheller@usit.net
Program Coordinator..... Mark Stanfill mstanfill@onemain.com
Office Manager..... Susan Weber..... sweber1@usit.net

Office Location 19 East 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours 8am -5pm
Phone: 931-456-6259
Fax: 931-456-4934
Email: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com
Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

"Gorgeous Gorges" Final Payment Due

TTA members and a host of donors rose to the occasion to help make our June 30, 2002 payment for the 5,000 acres of "Gorgeous Gorges" for the Cumberland Trail - and we thank you! We are asking for your help again with the final payment of \$300,000 due December 31, 2002. If you have not made a donation for the *Pathways for People, People for Nature* campaign yet, now would be a good time to do it.

If you've already made a gift, please consider another one! Make checks payable to CTC and mail to: CTC, "Gorgeous Gorges," 19 East 4th St., Crossville, TN 38555.

Our success in meeting our obligations for the Gorgeous Gorges acquisition and the 300-acre Black Mtn. Western Slope purchase has moved us forward in negotiations for several additional major acquisitions in 2003. The *Pathways for People, People for Nature* campaign statewide total now stands at \$1.6 million towards our goal of \$3 million.

And, we have exciting plans to build the 30 miles of trail in these "Gorgeous Gorges" in 2003 during **THE BIG DIG** event. The next issue of the *The Cumberland Trail* newsletter (mailing in December) will contain more information.

"Stump Jump" Report

You can hike the Cumberland Trail . . . OR, you can run it! Which is exactly what 146 people did in October on the Tennessee River Gorge Segment of the CT. On October 5, runners from all over the nation, including Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia, came to Chattanooga to run an 11-mile and 50K Ultra Marathon on the Cumberland Trail. The top finisher for the 50K race was Tom Sell of Signal Mtn., TN (4:58:31). Other top finishers were Tim Lee of Cullman, AL (4:59:28), and Mat Kirk of High Point, NC (5:22:43). First place for the 11-mile race went to Jay Korff of Nashville (1:32:36); 2nd place James Wood of Chattanooga (1:37:00), and 3rd Brenda Simril of Ooltewah, TN (1:37:08). Everyone returned safely and raved about how beautiful the trail was. For details about race results, check the Rock Creek Outfitters website at www.rockcreekoutfitters.com Rock Creek sponsored the race and donated race proceeds to the Cumberland Trail *Pathways for People, People for Nature* campaign.

"Hike Against Hunger" Report

October 12 was Hike Against Hunger day in Chattanooga on the Cumberland Trail. Two hundred people came out to enjoy a beautiful Fall day on the trail, and raised \$5,000 for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank in the process. We're already talking about next year's event, which we hope to host on the brand-spanking-new Gorgeous Gorges Segment of the Cumberland Trail.

ATTENTION: Trail Training Workshop Graduates

To help you maintain the many trail building skills you've learned, be it this past September or any other workshops prior, you are invited back to help on any of the VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES projects listed BELOW. Feel free to invite members of your chapter to help (*you can show them how fun and easy trail building can be*).

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

Dec 3-17 AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps team is returning to help us on the Rock/Possum/Soddy Segments. AmeriCorps members are very dedicated to this project and want to learn. Therefore, we need the help of "Wagonmasters" and experienced trail builders to train, work along side of and supervise the volunteers, while at the same time developing your own leadership skills.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Mar 2-29 Spring BreakAway. We will have four weeks of Spring Breakaway this year and already have two weeks booked with schools. We will be working in the Rock/Possum/Soddy Segments. So, everyone put it on their calendar and come help as much as you can.

Need More Information?
Call / E-mail and Volunteer Today!!!

◆ Mark Stanfill ◆ 931-456-6259 ◆
◆ mstanfill@onemain.com ◆

Save the Date
April 12, 2003

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Cumberland Trail Auction on Saturday, April 12, 2003. We are returning to the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, and Bear Stephenson has again graciously donated his superb auctioneering talents.

Auction proceeds will benefit The Cumberland Trail's **THE BIG DIG** event scheduled for May-June 2003.

Holiday Gift Ideas

How about a TTA Membership?

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

Well, break loose from the herd because TTA has the solution! Give someone the rock shelters at Big South Fork, and the grassy balds in the Smokies, and the wildflowers at Short Springs, and the overlooks along the Cumberland Trail and the waterfalls of Savage Gulf. All this and much more can be theirs with a Tennessee Trails Association Gift Membership. For the price of our regular dues (\$15 *Student*, \$25 *Individual*, \$35 *Family* or \$50+ *Supporting*), we will send the new member a beautiful holiday card announcing your gift, and we'll include a TTA logo patch (normally selling for \$6). Not only will you be supporting Tennessee hiking, but you'll also be giving your friends and family members a year's worth of adventure and recreation.

To give a gift membership, contact Anne Wesley (615-851-1052 or by email: ttahiker@msn.com).

Happy Holidays &

Happy Hiking from Tennessee Trails!

Hiking books?

Shop amazon.com Through TTA's Website

You can shop for those on your holiday gift list through TTA's website and TTA benefits!

We have an arrangement with amazon.com where TTA receives a commission on all items (books, magazines, music, electronics) purchased when you enter their site through our 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.

Hiking gear?

Be sure to shop the merchants who supported our Annual Meeting auction. See page 8 for a complete listing.

Just because . . . ?

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.

Something really unique?

TTA's Pictorial Postmark

Pictorial cancellations are postmarks offered by the Postal Service to commemorate special events. To mark the 2002 Annual Meeting, a limited number of envelopes featuring Fall Creek Falls, TTA and meeting were designed. A first-class stamp (from either the American Bats or Famous Photographers series) was affixed to each envelope and then hand-cancelled by the local Post Office in Pikeville, TN. The rubber stamp used by the post office (below) makes this collectable.



Hiking Station

November 8, 2002

Pikeville, TN 37367

Give 'em a State Park?

Special Winter Rates at TN State Parks

Tennessee State Parks are offering special rates for those wanting a little seclusion during the winter months (through February 28, 2003).

- Receive 33% discount off each night's stay at a TN State Park Resort Inn.
- Stay two nights at a TN State Park Cabin, and get the next nights' stay free.

A coupon is required to receive the discount and valid only for reservations made after October 31, 2002 and based on availability. Coupons are available at TN State Park's website (www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/discprom02.htm), and Central Office (Nashville). To make a reservation, call 866-836-6757.

A few envelopes remain and make great holiday gifts – especially, if you're shopping for the person who has everything - chances are they DON'T have one of these!

Envelopes sold (\$4 ea. incl. S&H) benefit the Nashville chapter and area trail projects. To order, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777, or e-mail her: dmanashikes@comcast.net

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 khudson3@utk.edu

Dec 7 White Oak Creek Hike. Rugby, TN. If you can, plan to spend the entire day in Rugby by hiking with us in the morning, then afterwards heading to Rugby for their "Christmas at Rugby" event. The hike is 2-3 miles in length, on a newly developed trail along White Oak Creek and rated moderate. We will meet at 9:00am EST at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. To register for the hike, e-mail Julian Bankston at jrbankston@nxs.net. For information about "Christmas at Rugby," call 423-628-2441.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jan 3 ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING. Vi Biehl and Eric Wilson will present a program on their fall hiking trip to Wales and Yorkshire. We will also elect officers and plan our outings for 2003. Be thinking about outings you'd like to lead during the year, and feel free to invite guests or prospective members. We will meet at 7:00pm EST at the Rugby Community Building in Rugby, TN.

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

MEETING: See Dec. 21.

Dec 7 Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Lebanon, TN. We will hike 7 miles on terrain rated as easy. Cedars of Lebanon SP 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. For information, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Dec 14 Long Hunter State Park. Hermitage, TN. We will hike 12 miles on terrain rated as easy. Long Hunter SP 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. For information, call J.R. Tate at 931-920-2692.

Dec 21 MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY. We will gather for our monthly meeting, socializing and holiday cheer at Charlie and Jo Putnam's home. Please bring a potluck salad, entree, casserole, appetizer or dessert. For information, call Charlie or Jo Putnam at 931-362-3669.

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Hike in Downtown Clarksville. For information, call Jack or Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Russell Smith 615-790-1833 carving082334@aol.com

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

Amy Overton 931-388-6363 estheroverton@aol.com

Rick Pinkelton 931-987-2530

MEETING: See Dec 3.

CHAPTER NEWS:

Due to the November Elections, our monthly meeting was cancelled, and therefore we have no news to report. In December, we will be combining our monthly meeting and holiday party. See the December 3rd information below.

OUTINGS:

Dec 3 (Tue) MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY. Our monthly meeting and Holiday Party will take place at the Country Farm Buffet, on Hwy. 31. All chapter members are encouraged to attend, and guests are welcome! Socializing begins at 6:30pm CST, and dinner is shortly thereafter. Russell Smith, our chapter officer will recap chapter events over the past year and together we will plan our outings for 2003. In order to get an accurate head count for reservation purposes, please call Russell Smith at 615-790-1833, or e-mail him: carving082334@aol.com

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jan 1 (Wed) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike the Chestnut Mountain Trail to its end at the Screw Cliff Overlook where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate. Due to the rocky, uneven terrain, and two small stream crossings that we will pass over, everyone is required to wear sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something to share, and **MUST REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** Even if you're not a chef, you can help by providing and/or carrying in the following: black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate (and the water for making them), napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash. To obtain your assignment, carpool meeting location and time, and to register, call Russell Smith at 615-790-1833, or e-mail him: carving082334@aol.com Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

HIKE REPORT:

On Oct. 12, five members enjoyed a beautiful day scouting out the trails at Fall Creek Falls State Park in preparation for the November Annual Meeting held there. It was a pleasant, rainless day, and a welcome change from the week of rain that had just ended.

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.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

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

Dec 8 River Bluff Trail at Norris Dam, Lake City, TN. Siler McCarty will be leading this easy, 3.1-mile hike on the loop trail above Clinch River where it flows just below Norris Dam. As it travels along the riverbank, this trail passes beneath stately rock bluffs before it winds around and switches back up on top of the bluff, where it affords a view of the Dam below. Bring snacks and water, and dress mindful of the weather. We will meet at Eagle Market parking lot in Jacksboro at 2pm EST. For information and to register, call Siler at 423-566-1291.

Dec 19 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 EST at the First Presbyterian Church in LaFollette.

HIKE REPORT:

On Nov 9, Richard Helm led a group of eight hikers to Van Hook Falls on one of the most beautiful sections of the Sheltolee Trace near London, KY. Mild weather and recent rains provided for a treat of a 6-mile hike, which brought us past several delightful waterfalls. This trail crosses several streams on fine, elevated rock steps, travels through a lovely hemlock forest, and passes along the rim of a cliff over Pounder Creek gorge. Then it makes its way beside rockhouses, along a mountain laurel ridge, and comes out on an open rock bald, before it drops down to scenic Cane Creek. Just beyond this Creek was our destination, Van Hook Falls, which drops about 20 feet off a flat rock shelf into a lush rhododendron basin. After exploring the falls, we made our way back to Cane Creek, where we took our lunch break on its rock ledge, the fickle sun teasing our backs with warmth. Coming back the same way, we made good time and arrived at the cars around 2:30. It was generally agreed that this was one of the nicest hikes our chapter has had in a long time.

Carpooling Etiquette

Gas prices made a huge jump in the spring and have remained high. Analysts believe these high prices will stick around through the coming months.

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.

CUMBERLAND GAP CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER & OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

Rosemary Register 423-869-2251 cugatrails@yahoo.com

MEETS: 2nd Thur, 7pm, Lincoln Memorial University Library

Dec 12 MONTHLY MEETING This will be an important meeting, as we will discuss goals for the chapter and projects we will target over the next few months. Also, bring pictures and tales of your summer hiking trips to share with us. This is always a fun time, as so many of us venture to new places, check out new trails, and make new friends.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

Dec 7 Devils Racetrack Hike, Eagle Bluff Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Caryville, TN. We will hike to the geologically unique formation seen by thousands of travelers on I-75. Round trip, the hike is expected to be 6 miles and rated moderate due to the elevation gain of up to 1000 feet. Although the roar of interstate traffic is always present, and the hike takes place in a window between big game hunts, it is advised to wear blaze orange during this outing. Bring snacks, water and lunch. We will meet at 9:00am EST at the Cove Lake State Park office. We will carpool a short distance from here to the trailhead. For information and to register, call Harold Draper at 865-689-7757.

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

Dec 7-8 (Sat-Sun) Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area Hike (w/option to camp). Jamestown, TN. Hike one or both days. On Sat., we'll hike the John Litton (aka General Slaven) Farm Loop. This historic hike provides a view of the lifestyle of Big South Fork families during the first half of the twentieth century. This 6.3-mile hike is rated moderate. After the hike, some folks may want to call it a day and return home. Others may want to stay and knock around the park (visit the Twin Arches if time permits) and camp Saturday night at the Bandy Creek campground. If so, on Sun., we'll do a 5 to 7 mile moderate (or perhaps difficult) rated hike of the group's choosing. Note: This is a joint outing hosted by the Murfreesboro and Highland Rim chapters. For information and to register, call Brent Morris at 931-454-1718, or email him: bmorris@edge.net

Highland Rim outings cont. on pg. 9

Awards Presented:



Tennessee Trails Award

The Tennessee Trails Award is presented "for outstanding contributions to the Association or for the furtherance of trails and natural resource programs and opportunities within Tennessee." This year the award was presented to Ross and Brenda Cardwell. Ross and Brenda Cardwell put in tens of thousands of hours of hoping, dreaming, talking, organizing and working to make the idea that was the Scott's Gulf Wilderness Recreation Area into the reality of the Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area. For all of this and more, we owe Ross and Brenda Cardwell a debt of gratitude.



Bill Stutz Award

The Bill Stutz Award is presented in honor of the late Bill Stutz, past TTA member and beloved hiker. The award is presented to an active hiker for his or

her individual contribution to the Association or one of its chapters. This year the award was presented to Anne Wesley, "for her innovative ideas and infinite support in serving Tennessee Trails Association in so many leadership and volunteer ways."

Anne's innovative ideas continually motivate us to "get involved." Many outings have had a theme, requiring group participation and therefore are fun, entertaining and quite memorable.

Since joining TTA, Anne has led many day hikes, backpacking trips and organized several fundraising events. Anne served as the Nashville chapter officer, again introducing several new ideas that still remain a part of each monthly meeting.

In her current role as Membership Director, Anne continues to introduce new ideas – for reaching prospective members; developing new chapters; while ensuring new/renewing memberships are processed in a timely manner.



Golden Squirrel Award

Nominations are taken throughout the entire year and judged on a hike leaders' ability to totally lose their group before reaching the trail, or for getting them lost on the trail. Keith White has had a year of

luck (good?/bad?) and managed to succeed in doing both, and is this year's recipient of the Golden Squirrel Award.

Keith wasted no time, starting on January 1st, swearing he knew the route, Keith led hikers off-trail at Cardwell Mountain. On another outing, Keith led hikers up a muddy, horse manure covered side trail at Bearwaller Gap. On a Virgin Falls hike, Keith told everyone he knew the way to the ladders leading to the overlook. Again, taking them off-trail and walking them right into a poison ivy field. As a carpool driver, he swore he knew the shortcut from the Savage Gulf ranger station to the Stone Door ranger station only to realize he needed to turn around, just before reaching Pikeville (printed directions were somewhere in the car/glove compartment). Granted there was snow on the ground, however Keith was unable to locate the trailhead at Big South Fork even though they were in the correct parking lot. Our congratulations (condolences?) to Keith White.

One final note - the Golden Squirrel is, of course, awarded in a spirit of fun. Despite every hike leader's best efforts and preparation, hikers can become temporarily "lost." We thank every TTA hike leader for volunteering his/her time to coordinate our trips. Don't let *rodentiaphobia* (an irrational fear of having a tacky squirrel statue on your mantle for a year) discourage you from leading a hike.

Each year, at the Annual Meeting, the TTA Board presents a slate of five officers for a one-year term, plus one regional At-Large Director for a three-year term, to the membership for approval. An election was held and resulted in the following:

President	Leigh Jones	Plateau
Vice-President	Fount Bertram...	Murfreesboro
Secretary	Anna Clark	Northwest
Treasurer	Carol Haley	Memphis
Membership Director	Anne Wesley	Nashville
West TN At-Large Director	Jerry Lenski	Memphis

You are invited to contact any one of our Board (and Chapter) Officers at any time to offer suggestions, introduce new ideas or just to volunteer any expertise you want to share. Information for contacting Board Officers is located in the OFFICERS column on page 13 of this newsletter. Chapter Officers' information is located within each chapter's header.

**Editor's Note: Several chapters will be meeting in December and January to elect their chapter representatives. As soon as changes are reported, they will be published in the newsletter.*

Did you attend the 2002 Annual Meeting? If so, you can recycle your name badge as an identification card for your backpack:

- Remove your printed name tag from its clear, plastic cover.
- Cut out a blank piece of paper that will fit into the cover.
- Then write pertinent information on it such as: your name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail address, emergency contact information, health insurance number, and any important medical information.
- Slip the paper back into the plastic cover, and scotch tape the open edges to waterproof it.

Throw it into your backpack, and (knock wood!) you're prepared for a trail emergency or for having your pack returned to you if you lose it.

Youngest TTA Member Award



This award recognizes the youngest hiker (and TTA member) attending the Annual Meeting - tomorrow's leaders in trail conservation. And, the first year to be presented, however hiking with TTA and attending Annual Meetings is not new to Alex Photenhauer. Many TTA members can recall meeting

Alex (2 years old then) on the Laurel-Snow Trail in March 1997. Back then, Alex was not into long conversations, however a very happy hiker. Today, Alex is still happily hiking and was seen over the Annual Meeting weekend hiking with other members on the trail leading from the Nature Center to the falls (and back) – three miles roundtrip! Congratulations Alex.

Editor's Note: An Oldest Hiker Award was introduced, however no one was willing to admit his/her age, much less claim the award.

2002 Annual Meeting - Thank You!

Thank You! to the following individuals for planning and making the entire weekend possible:

Chair..... Jim Poteet
Treasurer..... Marietta Poteet
Registration/Check-in..... Jenice & Jim Johnson
Food/Programs Anne Wesley
Hikes Elizabeth Gerlock
..... & Russell Smith
Auction..... Libby Francis
Publicity..... Diane Manas

~~~~~  
Thank You! to the following volunteers whose help made the weekend enjoyable:

**Registration/Check-in:** Vera Churcher, Jenice & Jim Johnson, Jim & Marietta Poteet, Glen Turner, Diane Manas

**Welcome Bags:** Vera Churcher, Jenice & Jim Johnson, Diane Manas

**Hike Leaders:** Doug Burroughs, Stuart Carroll, Marie Chitwood, Gene Curp, Elizabeth Gerlock, Jim Johnson, Amy Overton, Russell Smith, Keith White

**Meeting Decorations/Set-up:** Anne Wesley, Diane Manas

**Programs:** Leave No Trace, J.R. Tate

**Refreshments:** Marie Chitwood, Nancy Juodenas, Diane Manas, Paul Smith and Anne Wesley,

**Signs:** Dan Brennan

**Musical Entertainment:** Libby Francis (aka Libbyrachi)

~~~~~  
Thank You! to the following individuals whose help made the auction a huge success:

Auctioneers: Libby Francis, Dave and Mary Kaye Walton

Auction Elves: Al and Vera Churcher, David Farley, Carol Haley, Jim and Jenice Johnson, June Parker, Joyce Pierce, Marietta Poteet, Glen Turner, Sue Waldrop, Fran Wallas, Susan and Rob Weber. And, lots of folks from the Nashville chapter!

Merchandise Donors: Patricia Bolton, Dan Brennan, Doug Burroughs, Al Churcher, Jim Clark, Columbia Chapter, Gene & Judi Curp, Faith Dippold, Deborah Douglas, Freddi Felt, Pat Floyd, Pam Frakes, Charlie Hann, Jean Harris, Jerry Hendrixson, Richard Horvath, Tom & Benita Howell, Marty Adler Jasney, Jim Johnson, Nancy Juodenas, Diane & Z Manas, Siler McCarty, Wade & Mac McCurdy, Carolyn Miller, June Miller, Regina Murdock, Nashville chapter, Shirley Ora, J.R. Tate, Rob & Susan Weber, Anne Wesley

And, a special THANKS! to Catherine Gilreath of Townsend, for donating door prizes, raffle items, antiques, and MUCH, MUCH more!!

Artisans: Joan Bentley, Bertha Chrietzberg, Carol Haley, Jenice Johnson, Jennifer Hann, Richard Hovarth, Byron Jorjorian, Keith Kotlitz, Inez Poss, Jean Bertram Smith, Russell Smith, Ruth Wilkinson

~~~~~  
If you know any of the people listed above, the next time you see them, tell them "Thank You," and let them know how much you have appreciated their help and support of TTA.

## A H-U-G-E Thank You!

To the following businesses whose contributions helped make this year's auction a success!

**At Large** - Cherokee Mountain Bed & Breakfast ♦

**Big South Fork** - Grey Gables Bed & Breakfast ♦ Historic Rugby ♦ Newberry House ♦

**Clarksville** - Grandpa's ♦

**Columbia** - Flowers by Ella ♦ Plus Mark ♦ Crown Jewelers ♦

**Cove Lake** - Smith Ace Hardware ♦ Paradise Music ♦ Natural Energy Nutrition Center ♦

**East Tennessee** - Hilton Knoxville ♦

**Highland Rim** - Kroger ♦ Wal-mart ♦

**Nashville** - Academy Sports ♦ Amerigos ♦ Bass Pro ♦ Bike Peddler ♦ Blue Ridge Mountain Sports ♦ Chez Jose ♦ Club at Westside ♦ Crawford's Cycles ♦ Cumberland Transit ♦ Dury's ♦ The Frame Place ♦ Friedman's Outdoors ♦ Friends of Radnor Lake ♦ Global Motorsports ♦ Green Hills Grille ♦ Harris Teeter ♦ Hurricane Hollow Apple Orchards, Buffalo Valley ♦ Johnson Outdoors (Eureka! Tents) ♦ Nashville Bicycle Co. ♦ Nashville Chamber of Commerce ♦ Nashville Greenways ♦ REI ♦ River Sports ♦ The Shack ♦ Sports Authority ♦ Tower Records ♦ Tennessee State Parks ♦ TGI Fridays ♦

**Upper Cumberland** - Cumberland Mountain Outdoor Sport ♦ Outdoor Experience ♦ Quilt Country Inn ♦ Sparta Chamber of Commerce ♦ Wolf River Valley Growers ♦

Please remember, when patronizing these merchants, tell them you're a member of TTA and let them know how much you have appreciated their support.



## HIGHLAND RIM

(cont. from pg 6)

### **Dec 17 (Tue) MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY.**

Our monthly meeting and Holiday Party will take place at the D.W. Wilson Community Center (501 N. Collins St. in Tullahoma). All chapter members are encouraged to attend, and guests are welcome! Besides socializing, we will also be electing officers and planning hikes for 2003. Bring your favorite finger food to share. Socializing begins at 7:00pm CST.

#### **PLANNING AHEAD:**

**Jan 1** (Wed) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike the Chestnut Mountain Trail to its end at the Screw Cliff Overlook where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate. Due to the rocky, uneven terrain, and two small stream crossings that we will pass over, everyone is required to wear sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something to share, and **MUST REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** Even if you're not a chef, you can help by providing and/or carrying in the following: black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate (and the water for making them), napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash. To obtain your assignment, carpool meeting location and time, and to register, call Doug Ratliff at 931-455-0249, or email him: [dougratliff@hotmail.com](mailto:dougratliff@hotmail.com) Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

#### **OFFICER:**

Betty Porter 901-755-4740

#### **CO-CHAIR:**

Norma McMinn 901-785-1479

#### **BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604 [glorialenski@yahoo.com](mailto:glorialenski@yahoo.com)

**MEETING:** See Dec. 12.

**Dec 12 (Thu) CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY.** In lieu of our regular meeting, this month we'll have our annual Holiday Party at Betty Porter's house at 6696 Stout Road. Bring your favorite festive dish and soft drinks; oven is available for heating, and we'll supply kitchen facilities, coffee, plates, cups and eating utensils. Socializing begins around 6:30pm CST, and dinner at 7:00pm. The 2003 hike schedule will be distributed at the meeting. For directions, call Betty Porter at 901-755-4740.

#### **PLANNING AHEAD:**

**Jan 4** Herb Parsons Lake. Fisherville, TN. Bring lunch and water, and join the fun for this easy 6-mile walk around the lake. The hike begins at 9:45am CST at the lake. Carpool meets at 9:00am at the soccer field on Walnut Grove Road (located on the south side of Walnut Grove, west of the traffic light at Farm Road). For information, call Freddi Felt at 901-685-9915.

## MURFREESBORO

## CHAPTER

#### **INTERIM CHAPTER OFFICER:**

Martin McCulloch 615-896-1043  
[mam1932@earthlink.net](mailto:mam1932@earthlink.net)

**OUTINGS COORDINATOR:** (call & volunteer to lead an outing) Brent Morris 931-454-1718  
[bmorris@edge.net](mailto:bmorris@edge.net)

**MEETING:** See Dec 10.

**Dec 7-8** (Sat-Sun) Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area Hike (w/option to camp). Jamestown, TN. Hike one or both days. On Sat., we'll hike the John Litton (aka General Slaven) Farm Loop. This historic hike provides a view of the lifestyle of Big South Fork families during the first half of the twentieth century. This 6.3-mile hike is rated moderate. After the hike, some folks may want to call it a day and return home. Others may want to stay and knock around the park (visit the Twin Arches if time permits) and camp Saturday night at the Bandy Creek campground. If so, on Sun., we'll do a 5 to 7 mile moderate (or perhaps difficult) rated hike of the group's choosing. Note: This is a joint outing hosted by the Murfreesboro and Highland Rim chapters. For information and to register, call Brent Morris at 931-454-1718, or e-mail him: [bmorris@edge.net](mailto:bmorris@edge.net)

**Dec 10 MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY.** In addition to the socializing, we'll be planning our hikes for the first part of 2003. Bring your favorite food to share, and ideas about when and where you'd like to hike. We'll meet at James Herring's house (1810 Diana Street, Murfreesboro). Socializing begins at 7pm CST. For information or directions, call James Herring at 615-896-4356.

**Dec 14** Annual Holiday Season Hike to the Great Stone Door Overlook and Greeter Falls, South Cumberland State Recreation Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. This outing is recommended for new hikers or those wishing a gentler hike because the trails we travel will be short and easy. Afterwards, we'll have lunch at Davey Crockett's Roadhouse in Manchester. For information and to register, call Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357, or e-mail him: [fwbertram@heartoftn.net](mailto:fwbertram@heartoftn.net)

Murfreesboro outings cont. on pg. 10

### 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.

## MURFREESBORO

(cont. from pg. 9)

### PLANNING AHEAD:

**Jan 1** (Wed) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike the Chestnut Mountain Trail to its end at the Screw Cliff Overlook where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate. Due to the rocky, uneven terrain, and two small stream crossings that we will pass over, everyone is required to wear sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something to share, and **MUST REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** Even if you're not a chef, you can help by providing and/or carrying in the following: black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate (and the water for making them), napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash. To obtain your assignment, carpool meeting location and time, and to register, call Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her: [stillwild@bellsouth.net](mailto:stillwild@bellsouth.net) Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

## NASHVILLE CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Dan Brennan 615-837-4324 [osrwodan@aol.com](mailto:osrwodan@aol.com)

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

Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260 [eygerlock@aol.com](mailto:eygerlock@aol.com)

**MEETING:** See Dec 14.

**HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045**

**CHAPTER NEWS:** Three volunteers are needed for a gift wrapping booth (fundraiser) at Cumberland Transit (2807 West End Avenue) on Sunday, December 15 between the hours of 1:00-5:30pm CST. Ideally, each volunteer will work one and a half hours along side of Diane Manas wrapping customer's gifts and at the same time introducing them to TTA (we'll have brochures and newsletters). In exchange, we may get \$TIPS\$ ('tis the season to be generous), and whatever is donated, 100% goes to the Nashville chapter. We may even get a new member or two. Don't hesitate, call and volunteer for this truly unusual and fun way to fundraise, while talking to prospective members. All materials will be provided. Call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

### OUTINGS:

**Dec 7** Harpeth Woods Trail Hike & Tree Decorating for the Birds, Edwin Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Meet Vera Churcher, and Judi and Gene Curp at 9:00am CST at the Warner Parks Nature Center on Highway 100. We will hike the 2½-mile Harpeth Woods trail to limber up. Afterwards, you are invited to help decorate a tree for the birds. Vera, Gene and Judi will provide the decorations that meet the park's requirements. For information, call Judi or Gene Curp at 615-352-5385.

(cont.)

## NASHVILLE (cont.)

**Dec 7** Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Beaman Park may not be open to the public yet, but there is a lot going on! Lace up those hiking boots, and come out for a sneak peek at this undeveloped natural area. This is an easy to moderate 2-mile hike on trail built by Tennessee Trails Association volunteers. We will meet at 9:00am CST. To obtain meeting place and to register, call Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586.

**Dec 8** Obed Wild and Scenic River Segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park. Wartburg, TN. This is one of the most spectacular segments of the Cumberland Trail. Due to the length of the hike (14.2 miles) and rugged terrain (rocky and hilly), this outing is recommended for only experienced hikers. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and we will need to set up a car shuttle. The trail is beautiful, with dramatic overlooks of the Obed River Gorge, and travels close enough, at times, to reach out and touch the river. Wear sturdy boots, and bring water, snacks, and lunch. To allow enough time to get the car shuttle in place and on the trail early (and off before sunset), we will leave Nashville at 6:00am CST (ouch!). To register and obtain meeting place, call Keith White at 615-305-9078, or e-mail him: [takehike@bellsouth.net](mailto:takehike@bellsouth.net)

**Dec 8** Bryant Grove Trail, Long Hunter State Park, Nashville, TN. This trail, mostly level, passes through cedar glades and along Percy Priest Lake. We will hike the 4-mile one-way trail, and then return for a total of 8 miles. Afterwards, we have the option to add the 2-mile trail around Couchville Lake, and will depend on what the group decides. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. For information and to register, call Brian Dion at 615 331-7331, or e-mail him: [Brian.Dion@state.tn.us](mailto:Brian.Dion@state.tn.us)

**Dec 14** Beaman Park Work Day. Joelton, TN. Every second Saturday, volunteers gather from 9am CST until 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 at 615-292-1384.

Dec. 14 outings continued on pg. 11

## NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 10)

**Dec 14** Harpeth Woods, Connector and Mossy Ridge Trails, Warner Parks. Nashville, TN. We'll hike 3 trails in the Warner Parks for a total of 9 miles. (There is an early jump-off for those wishing a shorter hike of 2½ miles.) The terrain on each trail is hilly and rocky in places, therefore making this a moderate hike. With the leaves off of the trees, there is a good possibility that we could see deer and wild turkeys, in addition to the many squirrels and chipmunks who make this park their home. Wear hiking shoes, and bring water, snacks and lunch. We'll meet at the Nature Center on Highway 100. For meeting time and to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

**Dec 14 HOLIDAY PARTY.** In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at 6:30pm CST at Jim and Marietta Poteet's house (324 Raintree Drive in Hendersonville). Please bring a snack, finger food, or your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share. Sodas, paper goods and cutlery are provided, and it's BYOB if you desire anything else to drink. Maps were distributed to those attending the Nov 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you weren't there and need directions, call Dan Brennan 615-837-4324, or Jim and Marietta: 615-824-7666. See you there!

**Dec 15** Shellsford-Cardwell Mountain Trail near McMinnville, TN. This is an 8-mile trail, and rated moderate for the rocky, uneven terrain. The first part is along some of the old Trail of Tears by the Collins River. The second part climbs 1000 ft. over Cardwell Mountain. We will pass by sandstone cliffs, and through hardwood forests. Along the way we should have views since the leaves will be gone. For information and to register, call Nancy Juodenas at 615-643-0936, or e-mail her: [nancyjuodenas@earthlink.net](mailto:nancyjuodenas@earthlink.net)

**Dec 15** Bagel Hike at Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. First, we will hike the Mossy Ridge Trail, which is 4½ miles and rated moderate due to some elevation changes. After the hike, we will stop for coffee/tea and a bagel at Brueggers Bagel Bakery (Hwy 70 & 100 split). We will meet at 9:00am CST at the Deep Well parking area. For information and to register, call David Furse at 615-353-6435, or e-mail him: [dfurse@comcast.net](mailto:dfurse@comcast.net)

**Dec 21** Newcomer's Hike at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Take a break from the holiday hustle with a hike at nearby Radnor Lake. With the leaves off the trees, the views of the lake and the Nashville skyline are quite visible. We will hike the Ganier Ridge and South Cove Trails for a total of 4½ miles. After the hike, we will go to a nearby restaurant for lunch. We will meet at 9:30am CST at the Visitor's Center. Wear sturdy trail shoes, and bring water and \$\$\$ to pay for your lunch. Plus, 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. For information and to register, call Paul Smith at 615 832-9388, or e-mail him: [paolov@bellsouth.net](mailto:paolov@bellsouth.net)

**Dec 22** Winter Solstice Hike on the Eagle Point/Overnight Trail, Mousetail Landing State Park. Linden, TN. Less sun, less fun – no way! In the northern hemisphere, the Winter solstice is the day of the year when the sun is the farthest south. It also marks the first day of the season of winter. With sunrise at 6:55am, and setting at 4:38pm, we will have plenty of time to hike this 8-mile trail. The terrain is rated moderate, due to some steep and rugged hills. Along the way, we'll pass through scenic hardwood forests, a cedar glade and stop for lunch on a large limestone bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. Sturdy hiking boots, snacks, lunch and water are needed for this full day of hiking. We will meet at 7:15am CST to arrange carpools, and leave shortly thereafter. To register and obtain meeting location, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

**Dec 28** Newcomer's Hike on the Eagle Bluff Section of the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail. Ashland City, TN. We will hike this newer section of the Ashland City "rails-to-trails" corridor ending at Cheatham Lake and Dam. Our round trip mileage will be 4, miles and is rated E-A-S-Y because the trail is F-L-A-T. Afterwards, we will go for lunch at a local restaurant. We will meet at 9:00am CST at Kroger on Charlotte Pike (West Nashville). For information and to register, call Elizabeth Gerlock at 615-356-6260, or e-mail her: [eygerlock@aol.com](mailto:eygerlock@aol.com)

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

**Dec 22** Brunch at Bosco's (Hillsboro Village). We will meet at noon to socialize, and listen to the live music while enjoying brunch. Bosco's is located at 1805 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. South. Registration is not necessary, however if you need more information, call Paul Smith at 615-832-9388, or e-mail him: [paolov@bellsouth.net](mailto:paolov@bellsouth.net)

### **PLANNING AHEAD:**

**Jan 1** (Wed) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike the Chestnut Mountain Trail to its end at the Screw Cliff Overlook where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate. Due to the rocky, uneven terrain, and two small stream crossings that we will pass over, everyone is required to wear sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something to share, and **MUST REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** Even if you're not a chef, you can help by providing and/or carrying in the following: black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate (and the water for making them), napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash. To obtain your assignment, carpool meeting location and time, and to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

## NORTHWEST CHAPTER

(UT at Martin / Weakley County)

### CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Jim Clark 731-587-7369 / 2225 jclark@utm.edu  
Joe Seago 731-588-5836 joeseago@backpacker.com

**MEETS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur, 7pm, UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center, Room 231 **ONLY** when college is in session

**website:** [www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/](http://www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/)

**Dec 7** Chris Fox, a Northwest chapter member, is hosting a backcountry cook-off competition. For information, call Chris Fox at 731-586-4744, or e mail him: [towndawg@charter.net](mailto:towndawg@charter.net)

### PLANNING AHEAD:

**Jan 20** (Mon) Martin Luther King Day. Fort Henry Trail at Land Between the Lakes. For information, call Jim Clark at 731-587-2225.

### 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.



## PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

**MEETING:** See Dec 20.

*There is a leaderless hike every Wednesday morning at 8:30am CST. 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 at 931-707-7606. Rain cancels.*

**Dec 14** Polly Branch Falls Trail, Bridgestone/Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. We will hike the Polly Branch Falls Trail on our visit into the Scott's Gulf area. Along the way we will see beautiful overlooks and waterfalls! Bring lunch and water. The hike is 6 miles and rated moderate for the uneven terrain. We will meet in the Kroger parking lot in Crossville at 8:00am CST. For information, call Jim McCullough at 931-484-8222.

**Dec 20 HOLIDAY PARTY.** In lieu of our regular meeting, this month we'll have our annual Holiday Party at the Crossville Depot. Please bring a potluck salad, entree, casserole, appetizer or dessert, and don't forget the gift exchange! Socializing begins at 6:00pm CST. For information and/directions, call Rita Senko at 865-354-6101.

## 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

*Please register for hikes so you can be notified when/if there are any last minute changes. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. Bring plenty of water, snacks and/or lunch, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather.*

**Dec 7** Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Sparta, TN. This is a strenuous 8mile hike, with the option to do a shorter, 4-mile hike to Big Laurel Falls. Virgin Falls is formed by an underground stream that emerges from a cave as a waterfall, and drops 110 feet back into a sink at the base of the falls. Sturdy hiking boots are a must. For information and to register, call Marnell Cothran at 931-738-5874.

**Dec 28** Stone Door / Greeter Falls Hike in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. This is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle. Last year we had such a great time on this hike. The hike is 6 to 7 miles and rated moderate. For information and to register, call Bonnie or Wayne Broadway at 931-432-8346, or e-mail them: [jwb2@charter.net](mailto:jwb2@charter.net).

### PLANNING AHEAD:

**Jan 1** New Year's Day Hike in the Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. We will decide on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> which trail to hike, and will depend on the weather. Expect to hike between 5 to 8 miles over terrain rated as moderate to difficult. To register, contact either Marnell Cothran (931-738-5874) or Wayne and Bonnie Broadway (931-432-8346 / [jwb2@charter.net](mailto:jwb2@charter.net))

### HIKE REPORTS:

On October 12, John Harwood, from the Sierra Club, led 17 people into the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. The group included members of our chapter, members of the Nashville chapter, and students from Tennessee Technology University. We hiked 9 miles and visited the beautiful Ranger Falls. It was hot and rainy which made the steep inclines treacherous and slippery, but it was a super hike.

On October 14, Barbara Phifer led four hikers around the Lake Trail at Standing Stone State Park on a perfect fall day.

On October 19, Willa Parrish led 4 members (and a dog) about 10 miles in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. It was a wonderful fall hike, and luckily the rain held off until we were back in our cars. On November 2, Lisa Burgess led 14 hikers (some from the Nashville chapter) around the Honey Creek Loop at Big South Fork. We hiked part of the way with members of the Sierra Club and students from Tennessee Technology University. Then, we met up later in the day with members of the Plateau chapter. It was a fun, but definitely challenging, hike.

### 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](http://www.tennesseetrails.org) From the home page, follow the link to Member Services.

## OFFICERS :

President  
Leigh Jones 931-277-3228  
cejones@crossville.com

Vice-President  
Fount Bertram 615-765-5357  
fwbertram@heartoftn.net

Treasurer  
Carol Haley 901-388-9163  
hav2hike@aol.com

Secretary  
Anna Clark 731-587-2225  
aclark@utm.edu

Past President  
Libby Francis 615-889-5718  
libbyslibbys@comcast.net

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

West TN At-Large Director  
Jerry Lenski 901-255-6574  
jlenski@yahoo.com

Middle TN At-Large Director  
Brent Morris 931-454-1718  
bmorris@edge.net

East TN At-Large Director  
VACANT

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

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

TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council  
Jim Deming 615-354-9767  
jdeming@tals.org

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

Newsletter Editor  
Diane Manas 615-352-7777  
dmanashikes@comcast.net  
dmanashikes@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Deadlines:

Announcements and articles  
received on/before December 10<sup>th</sup>  
will appear in our  
January 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter

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

Please send all submissions to:  
Diane Manas  
5729 Stoneway Trail  
Nashville, TN 37209  
615-352-7777

When sending by email, use both:  
dmanashikes@comcast.net  
dmanashikes@yahoo.com

## TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

### BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

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

**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.

## 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

## 1-866-TN-HIKES

TTA now has a toll free number, which will be used primarily for membership recruiting. By calling 1-866-TN-HIKES (1-866-864-4537), prospective members can request copies of the application brochure as well as sample copies of the *Tennessee Trails* newsletter. Please pass this number along to potential members you meet on the trail, or elsewhere.

## THE "10\* ESSENTIALS"

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

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

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.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.**

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below. If you fail to re-apply we will send you one newsletter and a reminder notice. If you have not re-applied by this time, your membership will terminate.

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

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

**A NEW MEMBER**

Dec 02

**RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP**

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.  
Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,  
Anne Wesley, at 615-851-1052 or [ttahiker@msn.com](mailto:ttahiker@msn.com)

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

*PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.*

|                         |                                           |                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ Individual          | \$25.00                                   | Name _____                                                                                           |
| ___ Family              | \$35.00                                   | Address _____                                                                                        |
| ___ Student (FULL-TIME) | \$15.00                                   | City _____ State _____                                                                               |
| ___ Life Member         | \$500.00                                  | Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____                                                           |
| ___ Supporting          | (\$200.00, \$100.00,<br>\$50.00 or other) | Work Phone (____) _____                                                                              |
|                         |                                           | email _____                                                                                          |
|                         |                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my e-mail address in the TTA Annual Membership Directory |

Please list me with the following chapter:

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

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

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