

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



A Profound Way to Celebrate

National Trails Day!

Submitted by Sandra Spearman

National Trails Day (NTD) is June 7 - a day for us all to celebrate: TRAILS! The American Hiking Society, sponsor of National Trails Day, has chosen "Healthy Trails, Healthy People" as the theme for this year's celebration. Hiking **is** healthy, stress relieving, enjoyable, educational, and it brings us together with nature and some of the finest people in the world.

Fount Bertram, TTA Vice President, has come up with a wonderful way for TTA members statewide to observe National Trails Day. What could be more profound than helping build the Cumberland Trail - the idea around which our own beloved TTA was formed some 35 years ago!

In cooperation with the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC), Fount has worked out the logistics of ensuring that TTA members can easily register to stay with the CTC group, which will already be in full swing building in the "Gorgeous Gorges," just north of Chattanooga. **The Big Dig!**, CTC's major trail building effort from May 18 - June 28 will be in high gear on that day. To get involved, you can fill out and mail/fax the Volunteer Application (see page 2), or phone/e-mail us so CTC can set aside space/meals for you. Volunteers will receive F-R-E-E accommodations and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner!).

(NTD, cont. on pg. 3)

Southern Appalachians Initiative Conference Coming to Monteagle October 2003 You're Invited ...

American Hiking Society's (AHS) first regionally focused program, the Southern Appalachians Initiative (SAI) is building a conservation constituency among trail volunteers, conservation organizations, and agencies to link up a 5,000-mile hiking trail network in the southeast. The effort is regionally focused in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, southern Virginia, and Tennessee.

One step has been to organize a Southeast Regional Foot Trails Coalition (SRFTC) whose goals are to:

- Promote a regional network of long-distance hiking trails.
- Protect the natural hiking trail corridors by jointly raising the visibility of the value and importance of hiking trails to the public.
- Build hiking trails in the southeast, as well as the relationships between the organizations and individuals who are overseeing our foot trails.

"Connecting People and Places along Southeastern Foot Trails" is the focus of SAI's conference October 17-19, 2003, at the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee. You are invited to join (SAI, cont. on pg. 5)

Board of Directors' Meeting Saturday, May 3, 2003 1:00pm CT

St. Bernard Academy Building
Nashville, TN.

TTA's Board of Directors will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. CT on Sat., May 3rd in the Nature Conservancy Conference Room in the St. Bernard Academy Building at 2021 21st Ave South in Nashville, TN.

ALL! TTA members are invited and encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend and have an issue you wish presented, forward your concerns prior to May 3rd to your local Chapter Officer or Regional At-Large Director.

The St. Bernard Academy building is ½ mile north of the I-440 & 21st Ave. intersection, and less than ½ mile south of the Hillsboro Village & Vanderbilt University area (i.e., Wedgewood Ave & 21st Ave South). A map is also available on our website at: www.tennesseetrails.org/nashmap.php

**All TTA Members
Are Invited**

Attention



**Tennessee Trails
Association
Turns 35
In
December 2003**

To mark this special year, a commemorative patch and t-shirt have been designed. To order yours, see the **Merchandise Order Form** on page 11.

Watch upcoming newsletters for a schedule of events planned.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive DirectorRob Weber robweber@usit.net
 Resource ManagerArleen Scheller scheller@usit.net
 Program CoordinatorMark Stanfill mstanfill@onemain.com
 Office ManagerSusan 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

The Big Dig!

What Is The Big Dig!? *Cumberland Trail Conference's marathon trailbuilding session, May 18-June 28, 2003*

Why are they doing it? *To build 30 miles of new trail – fully 1/10 of the total Cumberland Trail mileage ... bringing the total miles completed to 150 ... halfway to the 2008 goal of completing the entire Cumberland Trail from Signal Point to Cumberland Gap!*

Where is The Big Dig!? *Near Soddy Daisy, northwest Hamilton County, just a few miles north of Chattanooga.*

Who's involved? *EVERYBODY can participate. We need all kinds of volunteers: trailbuilders, cooks, shuttlers, photographers, motivators. People who love hiking trails, and want to give back for all the hiking trails they've loved over the years, will enjoy participating in the **The Big Dig!**.*

How is CTC going to make it work? *By adhering to the tried and tested BreakAway model they've perfected over the years. Teams of volunteers led by trained "WagonMasters," with intermediate supervision by student leaders, will build assigned portions of trail each day.*

Can they make it easy for volunteers to participate? *Sure can! CTC will feed you 3 meals a day and put you up for as many nights as you are willing to stay! They'll train you in trailbuilding techniques. Or, if you just want to help cook, they'll provide you a good place to stay, and a well-designed kitchen in which to help the team prepare meals.*

But can they make it fun?! *Ask any BreakAway alumni - they'll give you a resounding YES! Trailbuilding, the fellowship with other volunteers, and the interactive educational programming that goes with it is fun and rewarding.*

2003 The Big Dig! Volunteer Registration Form

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (HM) _____ (WK) _____
 E-mail: _____



I'm available on the following days (please circle all that apply):

Week 1 (May 18-24)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 2 (May 25-31)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 3 (Jun 1-7)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 4 (Jun 8-14)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 5 (Jun 15-21)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 6 (Jun 22-28)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa

I need lodging on the following nights (please circle all that apply):

Week 1 (May 18-24)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 2 (May 25-31)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 3 (Jun 1-7)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 4 (Jun 8-14)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 5 (Jun 15-21)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Week 6 (Jun 22-28)	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa

Have you participated in trail work before? Yes / No

I am also willing to help on the following teams (circle as many):
 Trail builder Cook Shuttle Camp Mom/Dad

I'd like to help sponsor this event, and have enclosed a check in the following amount: \$ _____ Please make check out to "CTC-The Big Dig!"

Mail or Fax (931-456-4934) this form to:

The Big Dig! c/o Cumberland Trail Conference
 19 East 4th Street
 Crossville, TN 38555

May 03

Meals & lodging provided!

Fun & Rewarding!

It's TIME !

No More Procrastinating

Register Today!

The Big Dig! Needs Us!

CTC News . . . (cont. on pg. 3)

We Got "Jacked Up" During Spring BreakAway 2003!

If you were at Spring BreakAway 2003 during the third week, you would understand why everyone was "jacked up" as the battle cry "Complete the Loop!" echoed through the gorge. It was all part of the memories of Spring BreakAway 2003, which ran the whole month of March. This was the Cumberland Trail Conference's (CTC) largest BreakAway event to date, where we had 190 students from 17 colleges and 8 "strong" members of the AmeriCorps Blue 2 Team.

The colleges (and even a high school) represented were: Northern State ♦ Grand Rapids Community College ♦ Michigan State ♦ Indiana University of Pennsylvania ♦ Emory ♦ Southern Methodist ♦ Universities of North and South Carolina ♦ Cypress Creek High School ♦ University of Vermont ♦ Keene State College ♦ Iona College ♦ St Norbert College ♦ DePauw ♦ Frostburg State ♦ Mass. Institute of Technology ♦ Hamilton College ♦.

Students and volunteers were able to complete the 3.4-mile Rock Creek Loop that is now ready for hiking, along with the 0.2-mile trail to the Rock Creek Overlook. A pedestrian gate on the old roadbed, now cleared of fallen, dead pines, was built to maintain access to hikers only. Students helped carry materials to build 5 front country bridges on the loop as well as the 1½-mile access trail. One week, the students pulled two trees for one of the three natural bridges that are being built along the 0.6-mile section of CT off of the 1½-mile loop trail. The terrain made building very challenging at times because of the steep slopes and hillsides littered with sandstone that had fallen from the top. Many rock steps and retaining walls were built through these areas. The students and volunteers who had not done trail work before learned first hand that trails don't just happen over time; they are built. They also learned that trail building was not as hard as they had thought (not labor intensive) and that it takes time to "create" each mile.

On behalf of the CTC staff, I want to say *thank you* for the large part that Tennessee Trails Association played in Spring BreakAway 2003's success! How did TTA help? By the funds generously raised through TTA's 2002 Annual Auction, we were able to house everyone at the Dogwood Lodge Church Camp in Soddy Daisy. And, through several private cash donations, as well as food donations, made by individual members, we were able to subsidize the meals provided to the volunteers.

We also want to thank our Cumberland Trail State Park Manager, Bob Fulcher, for coordinating the wonderful square dances every Friday night! Last, but not least, thank **YOU!** to those who came out and built trail, cooked, and provided leadership during BreakAway! Your participation made this a very successful event!

THANK YOU! BreakAway Participants: Pat Anderson ♦ Alan Ball ♦ Shawn Basil ♦ Peter Berntsen ♦ Linda Bowman ♦ Al Churcher ♦ Vera Churcher ♦ Jim Clark ♦ Dennis Crowley ♦ Matt Crowley ♦ Nick Crowley ♦ Gene Curp ♦ Judy Curp ♦ Carol Devine ♦ Warren Devine ♦ Margaret Dixon ♦ Clyde Edgemon ♦ Sue Edgemon ♦ Bill Eldridge ♦ Bill Gleason ♦ Brian Grow ♦ Carol Haley ♦ Ray Haley ♦ Jenice Johnson ♦ Jim Johnson ♦ Herb Kneeland ♦ Bill Leiper ♦ Jim Lifsey ♦ Diane Manas ♦ Monty Matney ♦ Martin McCullough ♦ Carolyn Miller ♦ Shirley Ora ♦ June Parker ♦ Matthew Parker ♦ Jim Schroeder ♦ Julie State ♦ Russell Smith ♦ Sandra Spearman ♦ Barry Spearman ♦ Alan Stokes ♦ Eric Thompson ♦ Carl Turner ♦ Carol Tyler ♦ Fran Wallas ♦ Michael Warden ♦ Seth Webster ♦ Caroline Woerner ♦ Andy Wright ♦

Upcoming CTC Events:

May 2 (Fri) Hike-A-Thon for the Cumberland Trail. Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment. The Fairfield Glade Hiking Club is hosting a 5-mile Hike-A-Thon to benefit the Cumberland Trail. Hikers will get pledges for each mile hiked. Hikers will meet at 8:00am CT and carpool from the United Methodist Church on Westchester Road in Fairfield Glade. The hiking route will follow back roads to an overlook of Daddy's Creek Canyon. For information and to register, call Bob or Helen Callis at 931-707-8177.

May 6 (Tue) Turkey Creek Loop of the Obed Wild and Scenic River Segment of the Cumberland Trail. This 7½-mile hike is rated moderate due to the number of rock steps and elevation changes. Hikers will meet at 10:00am CT and carpool from the Hardee's on Peavine Road (Exit #322 off I-40). For information and to register, contact Arleen Scheller at 931-707-8333 or scheller@usit.net.

May 8 (Thu) Baptist Health Seniors Plus Program Hikes on the Cumberland Mountain Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Caryville, TN. Three hikes will be offered with varying levels of difficulty:

- EASY: 1.6-mile hike to the Red Ash Creek Bridge.
- MODERATE: 2-mile hike on Volunteer Loop.
- STRENUOUS: 2-mile hike to the Devil's Racetrack Overlook.

Hikers will meet at 9:30am ET and carpool from the Shoney's parking lot in Caryville (Exit #134 off of I-75 North of Knoxville). For information and to register, contact Arleen Scheller at 931-707-8333 or scheller@usit.net.

May 18-Jun 28 The Big Dig! Event on the Cumberland Trail. Help build the new 30-mile Rock/Possum Segment of the CT. For information, call the CTC office (931-456-6259) or visit www.cumberlandtrail.org.

National Trails Day



June 7, 2003

NTD (cont. from pg. 1)

Okay, so you're thinking: "If I'm working on the trail on National Trails Day, I'm going to miss the hiking, right?" Not possible! CTC guarantees a nice hike! You'll hike into the work site in the morning ... then in the afternoon, you'll hike out on trail that **YOU** have built during that day. Just ask anyone who has built a portion of any hiking trail and they will tell you that one of the most

inspirational (and rewarding) components of trail building is walking on the trail that **YOU** have built, and knowing that it will be there for the generations who follow us to enjoy.

So ... if you'd like to celebrate National Trails Day this year in a very special way, contact CTC and arrange to make a lasting contribution to the hiking community by building your own piece of the Cumberland Trail. Make a day of it, a weekend of it, or even longer! Challenge your friends to come with you ... or better yet, challenge your entire TTA chapter! On National Trails Day, come over together to the Cumberland Trail!

. . . Your Generosity . . .
. . . Benefits All . . .

When you join or renew your Tennessee Trails membership, you have the opportunity to become a Supporting Member by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues. TTA recognizes the following Supporting Members for May 2003:

Anne Wesley - 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 tax-deductible 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.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Julian Bankston 423-628-2845

jrbankston@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Bob Hemminger

423-628-5145 *hemminr1@math.vanderbilt.edu*

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Kathy Hicks

865-938-6846 *khudson3@utk.edu*

CHAPTER NEWS: Big South Fork Chapter of TTA and the Cumberland Trail Conference will staff an information booth at the 29th Annual Festival of British and Appalachian Culture in Rugby on Sat. & Sun., May 17 & 18. Volunteers are encouraged to help (for a few hours each day) by greeting the public, answering questions, and recruiting prospective members for TTA/CTC. This is a great opportunity to promote TTA/CTC, and your help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer, contact Julian Bankston at 423-628-2845 or *jrbankston@nxs.net*.

May 10 Honey Creek Loop, Big South Fork National Recreation Area, Jamestown, TN. Waterfalls abound, and there are many bluffs and scenic overlooks to enjoy. This 5½-mile hike is rated strenuous because of rugged, but beautiful, terrain with steep climbs, some boulder scrambling, and ladders (not recommended for small children). Wear sturdy boots and appropriate clothing. Bring water, snacks and lunch for this all-day outing, and expect to spend about six hours on the trail. We will meet at 10:00am ET at Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. For information and to register, call Peter Erickson at 423-628-1615.

HIKE REPORT:

On March 15, nine hikers from Rugby, Knoxville, Cookeville, and Nashville assembled at Frozen Head State Park to climb Bird Mountain. We were there too early for wildflowers, but we had a perfect, mild, and overcast day to tackle the many switchbacks on the 1,900-foot ascent to Castle Rock, where we ate lunch. The bare trees along the relatively flat ridge top beyond that point gave us an unobstructed view of surrounding peaks. We looped back to Big Cove Campground via the service road, admiring the waterfalls and masonry culverts that the CCC constructed to channel Linlog Branch under the bridge. For visual documentation, and to see a canine hiker with real gusto for the trail, check out Carrie Thornthwaite's photo gallery at www.thornthwaite.com/frozenhead/index.htm.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Bill Hamilton 931-920-2760

billhamilton@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

Faye Balbac 931-553-6826 &

Sandi Hamilton 931-920-2760 *billhamilton@charter.net* &

Sandra Koenig 931-645-2048

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CT

Crow Community Center

211 Richview Rd

May 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Green River Area Hikes and Camping, Mammoth Cave National Park. Mammoth Cave, KY. We will be hiking above ground in this area known for its massive cave systems. On Sat., we'll hike the north side of the Green River, which is about 8 miles long and rated moderate for the uneven and hilly terrain. On Sun, we'll hike other trails in the area. This is a joint outing with members of the Sierra Club and an excellent opportunity to meet other like-minded outdoor enthusiasts. For information and to register, contact Gail Owens at 270-725-8772.

May 17 Bearwaller Gap Hiking Trail, Carthage, TN. This is Corps of Engineers property where the trail follows the shoreline of the Cumberland River and provides many overlooks from the bluffs of Cordell Hull Lake and Dam that we pass along the way. The views are dramatic, and often wild turkeys and waterfowl can be seen (forget about seeing any bears!). This is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle between the Tater Knob Overlook and Defeated Creek Recreation Area. The trail is 5.7 miles and rated moderate for the several rolling hills we will climb. Hiking boots are a must. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For information and to register, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

May 20 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 7:00pm CT at the Crow Community Center.

May 31 Beaman Park, Joelton, TN. This is an easy hike of about 2½ miles and a good one if you are a beginner, new to TTA or just want something short and close to home. The trail winds through a wooded hillside near a brook. This area is also known for spring wildflowers, and we hope to see them along the way. For information and to register, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

May 10 Rappelling at Stone Door & Hike at Greeter Falls, South Cumberland Recreation Area, Beersheba Springs, TN. We will go rappelling in the morning and hike around Greeter Falls in the afternoon. Everyone is responsible for bringing his/her own rappelling equipment. You must register by calling Bill Hamilton at 931-920-2760.

Mountain of Dreams Update:

Last year, Ben Clark, a Clarksville native gave a wonderful presentation about preparations for his trip to the Himalayas to climb Dhaulagiri, and we were able to follow Ben on his climbs up Dhaulagiri and Kilimanjaro through his website (www.MountainOfDreams.net).

This year he is attempting to be the youngest American to climb Mount Everest! Check out his website for daily dispatches about his adventure, and you can send him questions via his guestbook.

Best Wishes Ben!!!

TTA's Calendar

The following dates in 2003 refer to statewide activities involving TTA as a whole. Please refer to this calendar often to prevent scheduling conflicts or to volunteer to get involved with major activities planned (i.e., **The Big Dig!**, etc.).

May 3.....Board of Directors' Meeting (Nashville)
May 18-Jun 28.....Cumberland Trail's **The Big Dig!**
(Soddy Daisy)
Jun 7.....National Trails Day
Aug 2.....Board of Directors' Meeting (TBA)
Sep 27.....National Public Lands Day
Oct 17-20.....Southeast Foot Trails Mtg (Monteagle)
*Calendar will be revised as needed.

Meet . . .

Tennessee Conservation Voters

Submitted by Jim Deming

Who is Tennessee Conservation Voters?

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is a statewide non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Tennessee's environment and preservation of the state's natural resources through effective legislation and administrative advocacy. TCV focuses its resources on making environmental protection a top priority for Tennessee's elected officials, political candidates, and voters.

Why is TTA a member of Tennessee Conservation Voters? *Members of TTA experience the natural beauty of Tennessee first-hand and want it to be there for generations to come. Conservation and preservation are deep values that members share. As a non-profit, TTA can spend up to 20% of its resources on advocacy for the environment by telling our elected officials, political candidates, and voters how important it is to keep our air clean, our water pure, and our lands forested.*

Who Else Belongs to Tennessee Conservation Voters?

*Cumberland-Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society
♦ Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club ♦ Harpeth River Watershed Association ♦ Maury Heritage Land Trust ♦ Scenic Tennessee ♦ Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ♦ Tennessee Citizen Action ♦ Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning ♦ Tennessee Clean Water Network ♦ Tennessee Environmental Council ♦ Tennessee Environmental Educators Association ♦ Tennessee Native Plant Society ♦ Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation ♦ Tennessee Preservation Trust ♦ Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association ♦ Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association ♦ Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association ♦*

How Can I Help and Stay Informed?

TCV distributes a weekly e-mail update on important environmental issues and legislation, a calendar of key legislative committee meetings, and a list of who to contact if you want to be informed. To keep up with issues on Capitol Hill, e-mail this address to be on the Environmental List Serve: stewartclifton@comcast.net

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Russell Smith 615-790-1833

carving082334@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

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

Rick Pinkelton 931-987-2530

MEETS MONTHLY – 1st Tuesday at 6:30 CT

temporary location Honors Restaurant in the Honors Inn and Convention Center, 1208 Nashville Highway in Columbia

CHAPTER NEWS: No, it was not an April Fools joke! Our favorite restaurant, and meeting location, was closed April 1st for remodeling and they forgot to notify us! We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused to those showing up. Our speaker, Melissa Bell has graciously agreed to come back at another time to tell us about the exciting things going on at Bowie Nature Park in Fairview.

May 6 MONTHLY MEETING. Our very own, Gloria Dale Williams and Tanya Juday will share their recent backpacking adventures in Tennessee and out west. Everyone is invited to join us for a fun evening. Socializing starts at 6:30pm CT, dinner and the meeting start shortly thereafter. **NOTE:** Due to renovations taking place at Country Farm Family Buffet, we will meet at Honors Restaurant in the Honors Inn on Highway 31 North, in Columbia.

May 17 Sewanee Perimeter Trail, University of the South. Sewanee, TN. The first part of the hike passes through Shakerag Hollow, known for its wide array of spring wildflowers and interesting rock formations. Throughout the hike we'll also have wonderful bluff views and see several waterfalls. We will be hiking only 9 miles of this 20-mile trail that weaves its way around the University of the South campus. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and will require us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. The trail is rated moderate for some climbs and rock scrambling. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch, and snacks. Afterwards, we will eat at Shenanigans, a local restaurant in Sewanee (bring \$\$\$). For information, and to register, call Marvin Cain at 931-486-1632.

HIKE REPORT:

On March 22, Rick Lausten led 14 chapter members and newcomers on the fabulous Hidden Springs Trail at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park outside Lebanon. Hikers enjoyed the mild weather, scenic views and some of the first wildflowers of the season.

On April 5, several TTA members and our chapter's officers walked the annual Mule Day Parade to promote hiking in Tennessee and to proudly display our new TTA banner. Other TTA members joining us came from as far away as Cookeville to hike in the parade and enjoy the Mule Day festivities (thanks for your help!).

SAI Conference (cont. from pg. 1)

to join the American Hiking Society, the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) and fellow trail enthusiasts in learning valuable and new information about trails in the Southeast, while continuing to create a regional vision for foot trails in the Southeast — and have fun too! (Additional information/registration will appear in upcoming newsletters and on AHS's website: www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai.html)

Fount Bertram, Vice President of TTA has volunteered to help AHS and the DuBose Conference Center with the SAI conference site set-up and logistics, which is close to being finalized. Fount needs help and is seeking volunteers to lead hikes in the area (South Cumberland Recreation Area is very close by) and with beverage concessions (just like we had at the Annual Meeting last Nov. at Fall Creek Falls; selling beer, wine, soft drinks and bottled water – 100% of the sales goes to TTA). Volunteers can contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm 865-426-4472

RHelm@ahss.org

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam 423-562-3227

pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 2nd Monday at 6pm ET
LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room
201 S. 9th St.

May 12 **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 6:00pm ET at the Craft Room in the LaFollette Recreation Center, 201 South 9th Street.

May 17 Fall Creek Falls State Park. Pikeville, TN. There are many spring wildflowers, as well as an abundance of wildlife and birds, that we may see while visiting this park. Starting at the Park's Nature Center, we will hike the Woodland Trail (1½ miles roundtrip), which takes us across a swinging bridge to Fall Creek Falls Overlook. Fall Creek Falls is the highest waterfall in Eastern North America. We will backtrack to the Overlook Trail (1.1 miles), so we can take in 3 different overlooks of the falls (bringing us back to the Nature Center, and our cars). Afterwards, we will either have lunch in the park at the Inn, or we'll stop at a place that looks good on our way home (bring \$\$\$). We will meet at 8:00am ET at the Eagle Market. For information and to register, call Ed or Mari Haslam at 423-562-3227.

May 26 (Mon) Memorial Day Mountain Laurel Hike on Sugarland Mtn. Trail, GSMNP. Hike leader Richard Helm invites you to share a spring rite, which has been a personal Memorial Day tradition for the last five years. Every year, park visitors pack the parking lot at Laurel Falls trailhead, head toward Laurel Falls, and thus abandon, on the other side of the road, a special, quiet retreat: Sugarland Mtn. Trail. After ascending the ridge a ways, this trail "less traveled on" levels out onto a beautiful boulevard flanked by mature mountain laurel in full bloom. Prepare for any weather on this 5 to 7-mile hike, which is moderate in difficulty because of the climb. For information and to register, call Richard Helm at 865-426-4472.

HIKE REPORT:

On Sat., March 22, thirteen hikers met at Eagle Market parking lot to carpool to the top of Eagle Bluff in two four-wheel drive trucks. After a brief photo session at Eagle Bluff we set out to Tank Springs. We had beautiful weather, and the view from both sides of the mountain was spectacular. A few wild flowers were blooming, and we saw many beautiful rock formations. We had our lunch at the trail shelter and then continued on to Tank Springs where several of us sampled the water out of the spring. The hike took us approximately 6 hours, and we decided that this hike should be rated difficult.

On March 25, several members of our chapter, joined by Arleen Scheller of the CTC, lugged chainsaws up the trail and cleaned the Volunteer Loop at Cove Lake SP. Dead pines had fallen in many places along this loop trail, a section of which is a part of the Cumberland Trail. Many thanks to those who came out to help!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jun 14 Chimney Tops Trail, GSMNP nad Post-Hike Dinner at Apple Barn in Pigeon Forge. Contact Patricia Bolton 423-562-4625.

Jun 28 Rhododendron Hike on the Sheltoewe Trace. Laurel Co., KY. Contact Richard Helm 865-426-4472.

CUMBERLAND GAP CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Register 423-869-2251

cugatrails@yahoo.com

CHAPTER NEWS: Due to busy schedules and prior commitments, we did not plan for any meetings/outings for the month of May. Watch the June newsletter for announcements and outings. Until then, you are always welcome to participate in any of our other chapter's (13 to choose from) outings, events and meetings.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

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

May 3 Twin Arches & Charit Creek Loop Trails, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This hike will be led by Russ Manning, author of many hiking trail guides, one which stands out - *100 Trails of the Big South Fork*. Entering from the Middle Creek area on the west side of the park, we'll hike the short trail to Twin Arches, the largest natural sandstone arches on the Cumberland Plateau with vertical clearances of 70 and 51 feet. We'll then add on the Twin Arches/Charit Creek Loop that travels along rock walls passing through the old home site of Jake's Place, and visit Charit Creek Lodge before returning to Twin Arches. Total distance covered is 6 miles and rated moderate for the uneven, rocky terrain. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring lunch, or a snack and plenty of water. Carpoolers can meet us at 8:00am ET at the Norris Commons in Norris, or if you're on your own, meet us at Leatherwood Ford in the park at 9:30am. For information and to register, contact Russ Manning at 865-494-8121 or *rssmanning@aol.com*.

May 10 Black Mountain. Crab Orchard, TN. Expect to see many wildflowers in bloom. This 5½-mile hike will begin at the Sundquist Overlook, proceed down the mountain, and follow the creek for about ¼ mile. We will stop at Windless Cave for lunch. The return from Windless Cave is an up-hill hike and is rated difficult to strenuous. Back up on top, we will follow the new rim trail back to the parking lot. Bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Carpoolers will meet at 8:30am ET at the Roane County High School in Kingston, or if you're on your own, meet us at the trailhead at 9:15am. For information and to register, contact Carol Anderson at 865-376-4895 or *ander743@bellsouth.net*. (*DIRECTIONS to Roane County High School. Exit 352 off of I-40. Proceed south on Hwy 56 to 4th light. Turn right and the high school ¼ mile on the left.*)

May 17 Max Patch to Lemon Gap. Hot Springs, NC. We will hike north from Max Patch (4,600ft) to Lemon Gap (3,500ft). There are lots of trillium & many other wildflowers on this trail; hopefully, we can catch them blooming. There are several stream crossings, but no wading (you may want to bring an extra pair of socks). If the weather cooperates, there are spectacular views from Max Patch. This hike is between 6½ - 7 miles and rated easy to moderate (the only real climb is the first ½ mile to Max Patch from the parking lot). Sturdy hiking boots are recommended, and bring lunch, or a snack, and plenty of water. Because this is a one-way hike (not a loop), it will be necessary to park cars at the Max Patch trailhead & at Lemon Gap crossing. We will meet to carpool from the Wal-mart in Newport (second Newport exit going east from Knoxville on I-40, turn right at the end of the exit, Wal-mart is ½ mile on the right) at 9:00am ET. For information and to register, contact Rick Jones at 865-675-5205(h), 865-690-6817(wk) or *rpjonesco@aol.com*.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER

(Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Doug Ratliff 931-455-0249
dougratliff@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:
Alan Bryan 931-728-0765

BryanAlan@BFUSA.com & pbryan5@bellsouth.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CT
D.W. Wilson Center, 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma

May 3 North Plateau & Mountain Oak Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli Laager, TN. This is a scenic trail with beautiful overlooks and virgin timber. At 9 miles, the terrain is fairly level; however, due to the length of the hike, consider it moderate. Bring plenty of water and lunch. To register, call Alan Bryan at 931-728-0765.

May 10 Stone Door to Greeter Falls. Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. First, we will hike through the Store Door before making our descent into the gorge. Along the way, we will take a side trip to see Ranger Creek Falls. After Ranger Creek Falls, we begin our long climb out of the gorge in order to reach the Greeter Falls Trail, which will take us back to our cars. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and will require us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. This 8-mile hike is rated difficult due to rocky and uneven terrain, and the elevation changes getting into and out of the gorge. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring lunch, water and snacks. For information and to register, contact either Dawn Odette (931-649-5427, *dawnodette@hotmail.com*) or Sandy Newkirk (*sanel151@hotmail.com*).

May 17 Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park. Chattanooga, TN. This is a joint outing with members of the Murfreesboro chapter, and an excellent opportunity to meet other new/old TTA members. Two routes have been planned to give you a choice of hiking distance (4 or 9 miles) and level of difficulty (easy or moderate). We will start off together and after the hike reconvene for dinner. For those wishing the easy, 4-mile hike, you will hike from the Cravens House, and follow the Bluff and Gum Springs Trails. Those wanting a moderate, 9-mile hike will also begin at the Cravens House and follow the Bluff, Skyuka and Upper Truck Trails. Bring water, snacks and lunch (and \$\$ for dinner). Sturdy hiking boots are advisable due to the rocky, uneven terrain. We will meet at 7:00am CT to carpool from the Cracker Barrel at the I-24/Hwy 231 junction. For information and to register, call contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718 or *bmorris@edge.net*

May 20 **MONTHLY MEETING.** We will have not one, but multiple speakers this month. Each one in attendance will have the opportunity to share their best, worst, most memorable, etc. hiking experience. Bring along a finger food to share. Friends and newcomers are always welcome. See you at 7:00pm CT at the D.W. Wilson Community Center, 501 North Collins St., Tullahoma.

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

MEETS MONTHLY - (Sept-May)

3rd Thursday at 7pm CT, Germantown Library

May 15 **MONTHLY MEETING.** "Hiking in Spain." One of Europe's oldest, yet most dynamic countries, Spain offers rich architecture dating back to the Phoenicians, Romans, and Moors. Join Nancy Warren from UT Martin, Department of Nursing, when she presents her latest trip to Spain. View a small portion of the most memorable pictures and history of this Iberian Peninsula first inhabited around 8,000 BC. Feel the lived experience of being in Espana! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Germantown Library.

May 17 Walking Tour of the Town and Historic District, La Grange, TN. La Grange is the oldest town in Fayette County, originally a Chickasaw Indian village and for a number of years it was quite a trading post for the Indians. Join us for a leisurely stroll back in time, and view stately antebellum mansions from the town's sidewalks throughout most of the Historic District. Carpoolers will meet at 9:00am CT at Borders or you can meet us at Cobgill's Store on Hwy 57 and Main Street at 9:45am. After the walk, we will enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch in Moscow. To learn more about LaGrange, visit their website at www.LaGrangeTN.com. To register, call Norma McMinn at 901-785-1479.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Martin McCullough 615-896-1043

mam1932@earthlink.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Ray & Linda Eckerson

615-847-0322 *reckerson@comcast.net*

MEETS MONTHLY - 2nd Tuesday at 7pm CT

Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station
697 Barfield Rd., Murfreesboro

May 13 **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 7:00pm CT at the Wilderness Station in Barfield Crescent Park.

May 17 Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park. Chattanooga, TN. This is a joint outing with members of the Highland Rim chapter, and an excellent opportunity to meet other new/old TTA members. Two routes have been planned to give you a choice of hiking distance (4 or 9 miles) and level of difficulty (easy or moderate). We will start off together and after the hike reconvene for dinner. For those wishing the easy, 4-mile hike, you will hike from the Cravens House, and follow the Bluff and Gum Springs Trails. Those wanting a moderate, 9-mile hike will also begin at the Cravens House and follow the Bluff, Skyuka and Upper Truck Trails. Bring water, snacks and lunch (and \$\$ for dinner). Sturdy hiking boots are advisable due to the rocky, uneven terrain. We will meet at 7:45am CT to carpool from the Cracker Barrel at the I-24/Hwy 55 junction. For information and to register, contact Martin McCullough at 615-896-1043 or *mam1932@earthlink.net*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

May 10 Creek Float and Cave Look See, Smith Fork Creek. DeKalb County, TN. This is a seven-mile float that is easy, and not appropriate for a beginner. Rain date is May 11. For information, call Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278, 615-631-5884, or *stillwild@bellsouth.net*.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: David Furse 615-353-6435 dfurse@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260 eygerlock@aol.com

ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC IN LIEU OF MONTHLY MEETING: See May 27 announcement on pg. 9.

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045

May 3 Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. 1st Saturday Hike in Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Join us as we explore Nashville's newer park being developed by volunteers. Our hike will be from 9:00am until 12:00 noon CT on terrain rated easy to moderate. We will meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. For information and to register, contact Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586, or nancydorman@yahoo.com.

May 3 Vanderbilt University Tree Hike. Nashville, TN. The Vanderbilt University campus qualifies as an arboretum due to the many beautiful plants, landscaping, and seven Tennessee State Champion trees. Views from the street do not reveal the beauty we will see as we stroll through the campus finding these champion trees, learning about Vanderbilt's history, while admiring the landscaping and sculptures. We will meet at 1:00 pm CT in front of the San Antonio Taco Co. at 416 21st Avenue South. Early birds are invited to meet (12:00 noon) ahead of the hike for lunch (bring \$\$\$). For information and to register, call Jenice Johnson at 615-356-6246.

May 4 Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park. Hermitage, TN. We will enjoy views of Percy Priest Lake, mixed forests, and cedar glades on this one-way trail that follows the eastern shore of Percy Priest Lake to a primitive campsite. We will return on the same trail for a total of 11-12 miles with little elevation change. Bring lunch, snacks, and water, and wear sturdy boots or comfortable shoes. The hike is rated easy for the terrain but should be undertaken only by those who are comfortable hiking a total of 11-12 miles. We will meet at 8:00am CT at the Park's Visitor's Center. Long Hunter SP charges a \$3/carload State Park Access Fee. If you don't already have your Annual State Park Pass, bring \$3 to pay the fee. For information and to register, contact Brian Dion at 615-331-7331 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us.

May 9-11 (Fri-Sun) Backpacking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Gatlinburg, TN. Bring out your gear, pack your backpack, and join us for a 13-mile backpacking trip that is rated difficult. On Fri., we will start at Newfound Gap and hike to Icewater Spring Shelter. On Sat., we will hike to Mt. LeConte Shelter. On Sun., we will hike down the Alum Cave Trail to our cars. The group size is limited to 8 and you must register with Jerry Hendrixson at 615-423-7019 or cheifwagee@aol.com.

May 10 Piney River Trail Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Spring City, TN. This lovely trail winds along streams and the Piney River most of its 10-mile length. Often there are many wildflowers along the way, including lady's slippers. The trail is rated easy for terrain and moderate for the distance hiked. Wear boots, and bring water, lunch, and snacks. For information, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 615-824-7666.

May 13 (Tue) Unscientific Wildflower Inventory & Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Let's see how many wildflowers we can spot – from the trail. Because the hike leader is enthusiastic about wildflowers and not an expert, anyone new to the spring wildflower thing should not feel intimidated. Bring your field guides and we'll track all that we see – could be as few as 10, or as many as 25, based on the weather we've had in the previous weeks. We will hike 4½ miles by connecting the Lake, Ganier Ridge, and South Cove Trails. There will be two noticeable ascents/descents along the way, but at a wildflower viewing pace, the hills won't seem all that tough. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring water and snacks. We will meet at 10:00am CT at the Park's Nature Center. Radnor Lake SNA charges a \$3/carload State Park Access Fee. If you don't already have your Annual State Park Pass, bring \$3 to pay the fee. For information, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

May 17-18 (Sat-Sun) Beginners' Backpacking Trip, Mousetail Landing State Park. Linden, TN. This is just the trip if you are new to backpacking or just want to spend the weekend viewing the flowers and watching the Tennessee River flow by - the highlight of Shelter #2. We will backpack the Eagle Point Trail, which is 8.2-miles, over the two days. This trip is rated moderate because we will be wearing overnight backpacks and there are still hills in West Tennessee! We will hike 5.6 miles to Shelter #2 on Sat., which leaves just under 3 miles to hike out on Sun. On Sat., we will meet at 10:00am CT at Home Depot on Hwy 70 in Bellevue, just off of I-40 and make a lunch stop before hitting the trail. For information and to register, contact either Marie Chitwood (615-519-2599 / mchitwood1@msn.com) or Dan Brennan (615-837-4324 / osrwodan@aol.com)

**Are you new to Nashville? Hiking? Interested in checking out a hiking club? Or, just want a gentler hike? This is the hike 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.*

May 17 Newcomer's Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Whether it's your first time at Radnor Lake or a return to a favorite spot, Radnor's trails never fail to provide a delightful respite. Wear boots or comfortable walking shoes and bring water. After the hike we will go for lunch at a nearby restaurant (bring \$\$ for lunch). We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Park's Nature Center. Radnor Lake SNA charges a \$3/carload State Park Access Fee. If you don't already have your Annual State Park Pass, bring \$3 to pay the fee. For information and to register, contact Mary Kay Walton at 615-292-1384 or marykayci@aol.com.

May 18 Montgomery Bell Trail, Montgomery Bell State Park. Burns, TN. This trail follows the perimeter of the park, crossing streams and passing by several lakes and historic areas. The hike is 11½ miles and rated easy for the terrain, and MODERATE for the hiking distance. Wear boots for stream crossings, and bring water, lunch, and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am CT in the Kroger parking lot on Charlotte Pike, near White Bridge Rd. For information and to register, contact Brian Dion at 615-532-5756 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us.

May 24 Bagel Hike at Percy Warner Park, Nashville, TN. First we will hike the Mossy Ridge Trail (4½ miles and rated moderate due to elevation changes), and afterwards, we'll stop for a bagel at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery at the Hwy 70/100 split. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Deep Well parking area (stone entrance into the park on Hwy 100 about 1.5 miles from the Hwy 70/100 split in Belle Meade). For information and to register, contact David Furse at 615-353-6435 or dfurse@comcast.net. (cont. on pg. 9)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 8)

May 25 Sewanee Perimeter Trail, University of the South, Sewanee, TN. The Perimeter Trail provides wonderful bluff overlooks, waterfalls, and views of interesting homes perched on a bluff. We will hike only 9½ miles of this 20-mile trail that weaves its way around the University of the South campus. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and will require us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. The trail is rated moderate for some climbs and rock scrambling. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch, and snacks. Afterwards, we will eat at Shenanigans, a local restaurant in Sewanee (bring \$\$\$). We will meet at 8:00am CT at the Target on Bell Road (Exit 59 off of I-24). For information and to register, contact Justine Gregory at justine565@earthlink.net or 615-383-3167

May 27 CHAPTER PICNIC. Edwin Warner Park, Nashville, TN. In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at Shelter #10 from 4:00-8:30pm for two hikes (afternoon & twilight), gear swap and sale, potluck dinner, meeting, and field games. COME RAIN OR SHINE, the shelter area is very large and covered! Shelter #10 is at the very end of the road where all of the picnic shelters are located in Edwin Warner Park, off of Vaughn Rd. (Vaughn Rd. is the road that intersects with Old Hickory Blvd, where the Steeplechase takes place.) Please bring a potluck salad, casserole or dessert, and we will provide the cups, napkins, plates and utensils. Bring any used hiking or camping gear that you would like to sell or swap in the Gear Swap and Sale. Bring a flashlight for the Twilight Hike. As always, your family members and friends are welcome. If you'd like to volunteer to help or have questions about the picnic, contact either Keith White (615-833-9770, takehike@bellsouth.net) or David Furse (615-353-6435, dfurse@comcast.net).

Here's a tentative schedule of activities:

- 4:00pm Harpeth Woods Trail Hike (leaves from shelter #10 at 4:10pm sharp! 2½ miles, rated moderate for the hilly, uneven terrain)
- 6:00pm Dinner & Meeting
- 7:00pm Field Games, Gear Swap and Sale
- 7:45pm Twilight Hike on the Owl Hollow Trail (leaves from shelter #10 at 7:50pm sharp! 1/3 mile, rated easy, BRING FLASHLIGHT!)

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jun 1 Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN. Come and enjoy a Sunday morning hike on Ganier Ridge Trail and the South Cove Trail for a total of 4½ miles. We will meet at the Park's Nature Center at 9:00am CT. Wear boots, and bring water and snacks. For information, contact Deanna Adams at 615-646-1578 or deanna.adams@lycos.com.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

May 2 (Fri) Dinner & Socializing at Blue Moon Waterfront Café (525 Basswood Ave, West Nashville). Registration is not required, just show up at 7:00pm CT. Questions? Contact Paul Smith at 615-832-9388 or paolov@bellsouth.net.

May 17 Exotic Plant Inventory at Beaman Park, Joelton, TN. Missed the opportunity to help last month? (This is your last chance this season.) Friends of Beaman Park received a small grant to help them in their first steps of identifying, then eradicating the non-native invasive plants that threaten the native plants in the area. You are invited to assist volunteers in identifying these non-native invasive plants. No experience is required and the "work" is E-A-S-Y. Your help is needed from 9:00am CT until noon. Bring water, snacks and lunch. We will meet on Little Marrow Bone Road. For information and to volunteer, contact Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586 or nancydorman@yahoo.com.

ATTN: Middle Tennesseans

Hiking the Appalachian Trail & Light Weight Backpacking Program

On May 6, from 7-9:00pm CT, Spencer Knoch (TTA member) will present a program about his thru-hike on the A.T. and lightweight backpacking – complete with a slide presentation and lightweight backpacking gear that takes him down to 15 degree temperatures (w/o food & water his gear weighs in at 13 pounds!).

This program is for hikers of all ages and experience levels, and takes place at the Williamson County Parks & Recreation Center, 1120 Hillsboro Road, Franklin, TN. Registration is required by calling 615-790-5719 (ext. 10).

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin & Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Clark 731-587-2225
jclark@utm.edu

Monthly Meetings Will Resume in August
WEBSITE - www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/

CHAPTER NEWS: Our student and faculty members are on summer break; therefore, we have not scheduled any meetings or activities for May-July. Upon our return in August, we will post hikes and meeting announcements to our website, as well as in this newsletter. Until then, have a great summer and remember – you are always welcome to participate in any of our other chapter's (13 to choose from) outings, events and meetings.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Charlie Jones 931-277-3228
cejones@crossville.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Carolyn Miller 931-260-6674
cardan@usit.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Thursday at 7pm CT
The Family Place, 141 Pinewood Dr.
(across from the old Avery Dennison Bldg./Hwy 70)

CHAPTER NEWS: We intend to have workdays throughout the year to assist with the maintenance of some local hiking trails (Crossville area). To be added to the volunteer list, contact Charlie Jones at 931-277-3228, or cejones@crossville.com.

There is a leaderless hike every Wednesday morning at 8:30am CT. 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.

May 3 Trail Maintenance in Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. We'll be assisting with the clean up from the aftermath of a recent tornado - the trails are currently impassable. Please join us for this maintenance outing so that we can once again hike these wonderful trails! To volunteer, contact Charlie Jones at 931-277-3228 or cejones@crossville.com.

(cont. on pg. 10)

PLATEAU (cont. from pg. 9)

May 10 Piney River Trail Segment of the Cumberland Trail, Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area. Spring City, TN. This is a favorite hike for viewing wildflowers. Expect to walk along both the Piney River and several creeks for part of the hike and to see remnants of an old narrow gauge railroad bed and an old mining site. This 10-mile hike is rated moderate due to the distance and areas of rocky, uneven, terrain. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and requires us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Cumberland Mountain State Park's Visitor's Center. For information and to register, contact Arleen Scheller at 931-707-8333 or scheller@usit.net.

May 15 MONTHLY MEETING. Find out what's happening on the newest segment of the CT in Soddy Daisy and what you can do to assist in building the "Trail of Dreams." Our program will focus on "The Big Dig!" event taking place on the Cumberland Trail in May and June! See you at 7:00pm CT in our NEW LOCATION, Family Place, 141 Pinewood Drive, across from the old Avery Dennison Bldg. on Hwy. 70.

May 17 John Litton Loop Trail, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Oneida, TN. This 6-mile loop trail is rated moderate (for uneven, and rocky terrain) and takes us into a very scenic and historic section of BSNRRA. Expect to climb two short ladders and see rock bluffs, creeks, a waterfall, and the John Litton homestead, which was one of the earliest homes in the area. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am CT at Cracker Barrel on Highway 127 in Crossville (Exit #317 off of I-40). For information and to register, contact Charles Jones at 931-277-3228 or cejones@crossville.com.

May 24 Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Virgin Falls is a waterfall that starts as an underground stream; coming out of one cave and then makes its fall 110-ft to disappear into another cave. The beauty of the waterfall is worth the 4-mile (each way) hike. Since this is a round-trip hike of 8 miles, it is rated moderate to strenuous for both the distance and the rocky terrain that includes several elevation changes. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am CT in the Kroger parking lot on Hwy 70 in Crossville. For information and to register, contact Bill Haynes at 931-707-7606 or billhaynes@citlink.net.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

Charlie Jones 931-277-3228 cejones@crossville.com

Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net

CHAPTER NEWS: Susan Turner recently accepted a wonderful opportunity to return to school to learn how to operate a semi-tractor trailer so she can team with her husband, Carl, who is also a driver. (Congrats!) Unfortunately, Susan won't have time to do the Chapter Officer duties; therefore, we are seeking someone to fill this vital position through the remainder of the year (and beyond). We (the Board of Directors) will give our assistance and support to the person(s) who step forward. In the interim, you are welcome to attend any of our other chapter's (13 to choose from) outings, events and meetings.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: 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 obtain hike details and 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.

May 3 Piney River Trail Segment of the Cumberland Trail, Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area. Spring City, TN. Piney River is well known for its wide array of spring wildflowers. Along the way, we will pass several impressive cascades in the river and creeks. Piney River Trail is 10 miles long and rated moderate for the distance, alone (some would rate it easy because the terrain is predominantly flat). This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and requires us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. To register, call Marnell Cothran at 931-739-5874.

May 10 Middle Creek Nature Trail, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. This 3½-mile hike takes you past an impressive array of cliff walls and rock overhangs and is rated moderate for the uneven and rocky terrain. "This is where I take visiting friends to show them the special beauty of the Cumberland Plateau," reports our hike leader, John Harwood. This is a joint outing with the Sierra Club and an excellent opportunity to hike with like-minded outdoor enthusiasts. To register, contact John Harwood at 931-528-6395 or jharwood@tntech.edu.

May 17 Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli Laager, TN. We will decide on which trail(s) we will hike on May 17. For now, you can expect to hike 5 – 8 miles on terrain rated easy/moderate. To register, call Valrie McNeal at 931-520-3424.

HIKE REPORTS:

On March 22, a joint hike with the Sierra Club attracted 24 hikers - 6 hiked the lake trail, and John Harwood led 18 on the Cooper Mtn. Trail in Standing Stone State Park. Along the way, David Hume from Tennessee Tech gave interesting commentary on the trees, flowers and terrain.

A spontaneous mid-week hike took 6 members to Standing Stone State Park where they reported seeing over 30 varieties of spring wildflowers.

On March 29, although the weather started out threatening, a joint hike with members of the Unity Church in Cookeville attracted nine hikers to Black Mountain near Crab Orchard. We enjoyed seeing wildflowers, rock formations, and clear running streams.

On April 5, a joint outing with the Murfreesboro chapter, led by Heloise Shilstat, united 17 hikers to Angel Falls Overlook. We followed the Angel Falls Overlook Trail, which runs along the banks of the river before reaching the overlook. We saw many wildflowers, fantastic views, and enjoyed getting acquainted with hikers from our other chapters on this beautiful day.

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ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

Newsletter Editor
Diane Manas 615-352-7777
editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines:

Deadlines for Chapter announcements and articles of special interest are due as follows:

<u>Due</u>	<u>For Newsletter Dated</u>
May 10 th	June 1 st
June 10 th	July 1 st
July 10 th	August 1 st

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
editor@tennesseetrails.org

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER: Harold Draper 865-689-7757

h.m.draper@att.net

Have you considered ...

Maintaining a particular trail or section of trail?

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

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

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

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(TRAC)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Jim Deming 615-354-9767

jdeming@tals.org

WEBSITE: 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.*

New! Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ TTA Patch 6.00
Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.

_____ TTA Window Decal 3.00
A must for each car.

35th Anniversary TTA turns 35 in December 2003! Celebrate TTA's Birthday, and show your affiliation with pride!

_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt... 16.00
Choose Size: Small / Medium / Large / X-Large
Choose Color: Sand / Yellow / Stone-Gray

_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative Patch 6.00
*Round embroidered patch commemorating TTA's
35th Anniversary, sew it on anything.*

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*

May03

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.
To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.
PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

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

- A NEW MEMBER**
 RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

May 03

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

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

PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual	\$25.00	Name _____
___ Family	\$35.00	Address _____
___ Student (FULL-TIME)	\$15.00	City _____ State _____
___ Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)		Home Phone (___) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
___ Life Member (Individual)	\$500.00	Work Phone (___) _____
___ Life Member (Family)	\$750.00	e-mail _____
		<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.