

TENNESSEE TRAILS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Mission: To promote, construct and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective.

SPONSOR FOR THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



TTA's Annual Meeting November 14-16 Townsend, TN

We're just a few days away from TTA's Annual Meeting in Townsend, TN. Townsend, known as the "peaceful side of the Smokies," is on the northwestern edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which means spectacular scenery and hiking – over a period of three days! If you've not attended before, in addition to the variety of hikes being offered, you can expect a fun-filled weekend of socializing, entertainment, TTA business, F-U-N and more F-U-N! Also, this year (in December) marks TTA's 35th Anniversary, which gives us another opportunity to celebrate together.

Several FUNd-raising* activities will occur over the course of the weekend (bring your coins, cash and checkbook), such as:

- ❖ Bake Sale – Hikers need calories, there will be yummy baked goods throughout the weekend.
- ❖ Silent Auction – You'll have Saturday to place your silent bid on items.
- ❖ Live Auction – Expect a wide variety of top-quality items, from outdoor gear and clothes, handmade quilts and art, to vacation packages. This year a representative of Bear Stephenson's *Stephenson Realty and Auction* will be the auctioneer (i.e., professional, as well as very lively and entertaining).

*The TTA Board of Directors voted in August to dedicate the fund-raising proceeds to the Cumberland Trail BreakAway programs. Twice per year, college students from all over the nation come to TN to spend 1-4 weeks lovingly building Tennessee's Millennium Legacy Trail and first linear state park - the Cumberland Trail State Park. Funds are used to feed and house our TTA and CTC volunteers, who also give of their time and energy to work along with these students, and to purchase trail materials such as bridge supplies.

Evan Means Small Grants Program Request Deadline is Dec 31, 2003

In February 2004, 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, 2003.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grant application for the February 2004 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.

Happy Thanksgiving



**2003 Annual Meeting
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**
Times are Eastern

FRIDAY	1:00 p.m.	Schoolhouse Gap Trail & Whiteoak Sink. 5-mile, easy hike (GSMNP)
	4:00 p.m.	Check-In Begins
	5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	* Dinner (Buffet)
SATURDAY	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Entertainment by <i>Good Old Music</i>
	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (For Best Western Guests only. All others will have to provide their own.)
	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Depart for Hikes
	5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	* Dinner (Buffet)
SUNDAY	6:30 p.m.	Program/Annual Mtg.
	7:30 p.m.	Auction
	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (For Best Western Guests only. All others will have to provide their own.)
	7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Check Out
	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
	8:30 a.m.	Depart for Hikes
	11:00 a.m.	Depart for Hikes
* Dinner will be served from 6-7:00pm		

Yum Yum ... Calling All Bakers ...

We also need baked goods. Hikers need lots of calories to replace what they've burned on the trails. We welcome cookies, cakes, breads, pies, brownies, candies, etc. Individually wrapped portions are handy for tucking into daypacks.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' CANDIDATES
Election to be held on Nov 15
at TTA's Annual Meeting
in Townsend, TN**

The TTA Board of Directors recommends the following slate of candidates to be elected to the Board by the membership during the Annual Meeting November 15.

Proposed Slate:

President	Fount Bertram	Murfreesboro
Vice President	Anne Wesley	Nashville
Treasurer	June Parker	Nashville
East TN At-large Director	Arleen Scheller	Plateau
Membership Director	Toni Reeves	Nashville
Secretary		

All other interested candidates will be presented at the annual meeting.

All positions are for one-year terms, except for the At-large Director position, which is for three years. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If you plan to make such a nomination, please contact a member of the nominating committee prior to the annual meeting:

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

**Annual Meeting Auction
You Can Help!**

Each year, during TTA's Annual Meeting weekend, we have an Auction (Silent and Live), which allows us the opportunity to raise FUNds (in a F-U-N way) to be used for subsidizing 2004 BreakAway trail projects. This year, TTA's Annual Auction will be held on Saturday evening, November 15, during the Annual Meeting at the Best Western Valley View Lodge & Conference Center, Townsend, TN. In order for the auction to be successful, we rely on the help of our members (and chapters) to gather items.

... please, won't you help ...
... gather treasures for ...
... TTA's Annual Auction ...

We are requesting the help of each chapter to obtain 6-8 top-quality items (merchandise, services, and/or handcrafted-crafted goods) for the silent and live auctions. So, please ask local businesses to donate merchandise and/or services (be sure to contact your chapter chairperson for solicitation materials to take with you when soliciting your local businesses); share your talents for woodworking and crafts; or make a cash donation to your local chapter to purchase items for the auction.

Outdoors gear and clothing are always popular, as well as handcrafted items. If you have a favorite photograph from a TTA hike, consider having it enlarged and framed to sell in the auction.

When making your donation, or soliciting a local business for items, please note that TTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations received are tax deductible! In addition, a special "Thank You" column will appear in an upcoming *Tennessee Trails* newsletter recognizing each person/business who has helped in making this event successful.

So, if you have a special top-quality item you'd like to donate, bring it.

Or, have a merchant in mind that we can solicit their support through a donation of goods/services, please work on this through your chapter officer.

Or, would like to volunteer and help with the Auction set-up (a vital function and a few hours of your time is GREATLY appreciated), please contact Rosemary Marshall at 865-687-0670 or Rosemary_Marshall@hotmail.com.

TTA Gift Memberships Available Throughout the Year!

- ◆ Birthdays ◆ Anniversaries ◆
- ◆ Valentine's Day ◆ Boss' Day ◆
- ◆ Mother's Day ◆ Graduation ◆
- ◆ Father's Day ◆ Halloween ◆
- ◆ Hanukah ◆ Christmas ◆

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

**LEAVE NO TRACE
PRINCIPLES**

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



CUMBERLAND 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

Dear Trail Friends,

It's not too early to plan for 2004's Spring BreakAway Program. Spring BreakAway takes place in March each year, and due to its growing popularity among colleges (and students), was expanded to four full weeks. For several years, students have been using their spring break time to come to Tennessee to help build the Cumberland Trail State Park, a 283-mile greenway across Tennessee. Tennessee Trails Association and the Cumberland Trail Conference hosted over 200 college students from 17 universities across the nation during the 2003 Spring BreakAway program and our plans are to continue this exciting and rewarding program. In just the past five years alone we have documented over 63,000 volunteer hours; however, there are expenses to house and feed our volunteer trail leaders, who train and work with the students during the four weeks of BreakAway. With this, I am seeking your help. No, don't worry I'm not coming to the Annual Meeting armed with a truckload of tools to put you to work (at least not this year); however, I will be distributing a "Food Box" to each chapter to help with obtaining non-perishable food donations. This same scenario was used for The Big Dig (May 2003) and the donations received from YOU helped us tremendously in driving down the food costs. With your help, we can do the same this year. Relax, you don't need to do anything just yet, your chapter officer will have all of the details. I just wanted to make you aware of this and look forward to meeting/seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

**Regards,
Mark Stanfill**

Carpool Etiquette

Gasoline prices have continued to roller coaster up and down. Please be considerate and take your turn as a carpool driver. If you are a rider, always contribute to the cost of gasoline (i.e. bring small bills, it'll save time and prevent the inconvenience of having to stop to locate change).

Your driver is not a chauffeur. Assist him or her by reading the map and/or directions to the trailhead. Help your driver remain alert on the drive home by staying awake and conversing.

All passengers must wear seat belts to minimize the risk of injury in case of an accident !!! The drive to and from a trailhead is generally the most dangerous part of any hiking trip.

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
- 1st 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.



Attention: Hike Coordinators (aka Hike Leaders)

A TTA Release of Claims & Hold Harmless Agreement form (aka "Liability Waiver") must be signed by everyone before you start your hike or before carpooling to your hiking destination. They can be obtained from your local Chapter Officer or downloaded easily from our web site: www.tennessee-trails.org/release.php

Nov 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Green's Branch Backcountry* Outing. Join us for this outback adventure even the Crocodile Hunter would be envious! It is always an adventure when we traverse Montgomery Fork in Royal Blue WMA and arrive at the natural bridge over Green's Branch where we will establish camp. If we have a good group, then we should have no problem completing the trail to the bridge. (Don't worry about the crocs.) This will create a nine-mile stretch from the Bruce Gap trailhead. For information and to volunteer, contact Barry Spearman at 931-839-2320 or the CTC Office, 931-456-6259.

Nov 18-20 (Tue-Thu) "Boundary Work," in the Rock, Possum and Soddy Daisy area. Do you know how to use a hammer? Can you come out for a day during the week? Can you bushwhack through the woods? If so, this is the outing for you! We will be posting markers on the Rock, Possum, & Soddy Daisy boundaries. It's easy, but important work that we must do to protect and preserve the Cumberland Trail corridor. For information and to volunteer, contact the CTC Office at 931-456-6259.

Nov / Dec AmeriCorps Team. At the time this newsletter was going to the printer, exact dates had not been confirmed. What is known, we always receive a team of outstanding, dedicated and loyal young adults from AmeriCorps for almost two weeks, at the end of the year, to help build the Cumberland Trail. Of course, we will need your help when they arrive – by welcoming them and working/training them on the trail. To get on the call/e-mail list about dates, etc., contact Mark Stanfill at 931-456-6259.

**A BackCountry Outing combines the enjoyment of backpacking with that of trail building. Basically, we will backpack in and set up a base camp in the area we will be doing trail work.*

What Did You Do For National Public Lands Day?

At Edgar Evins State Park

Submitted by Fount Bertram

Instead of having a NPLD "day," we made it a "weekend." Edgar Evins State Park provided free camping to all of the volunteers over Friday and Saturday nights, and the Friends of Edgar Evins hosted a cookout on Saturday night. Also, on Saturday evening, musical entertainment was provided by Caney Fork - a very good bluegrass band.

A section of trail that we built two years ago was a challenge right from the beginning - extremely steep - everyone complained about getting up to Merit Ridge from Strawberry Bottoms!

We assessed the trail's needs, often, and determined that construction of switchbacks would be the most logical approach to take. Our Master Trail Builder-In-Residence, Jim Schroeder, was called upon to plan and "stake out" the project. Approximately 50 volunteers working in a variety of roles focused their energies to accomplishing the task. We had outstanding cooperation from everyone and had most of the work done by Saturday afternoon. The remaining segment was completed in about 2 hours on Sunday morning.

If you've been on this section of trail before, then you know and have agonized over 'Ol Buttbuster Hill. Well now, you are in for a wonderful surprise! The new section of trail adds about ¼-mile to the loop and Jim did a marvelous job with the re-routing. The trail now runs through some old growth beech, oak and poplar, and changes the entire ambience of that part of the trail. The staff at Edgar Evins State Park is thrilled with the results and I'm sure you will be too. Make your plans to hike the trail soon!

At Big South Fork

National River & Recreation Area

Submitted by Harold Draper

On September 20, 8 intrepid volunteers from Crossville, Knoxville, Maryville, Oak Ridge and somewhere in Kentucky showed up at Oscar Blevins Farm in the Bandy Creek area of Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area to help reconstruct a historic fence. We worked alongside the park maintenance crew. Not only did we learn how to build a fence, we learned how to do it using historic methods. We began by splitting large oak logs by hand and ended by the production of boards to nail together for a paling fence. The project also involved digging postholes by hand. Anyways, after a hard days work and a little too much experience with the finest biting gnats on the Cumberland Plateau, the TTA memorial fence was completed. Next time you hike the Oscar Blevins Loop Trail from Bandy Creek, think of us and our sore muscles. The East Tennessee chapter is planning to hike this area, next year, to admire our creation. And, THANK YOU! To the following volunteers, your help is greatly appreciated: Harold & Jill Draper, Donna Lyons, Keith Mertz, Beverly Neurock, Sam Perry, Mark Stanfill, and Bob Uhren.

At Short Springs State Natural Area

Submitted by Doug Ratliff

Twelve volunteers from the Highland Rim chapter of TTA (Stuart Coulter, Art Frederick, Tom Frederick, Brent Morris & Doug Ratliff), Friends of Short Springs, and TVA gathered to work at the Short Springs State Natural Area. Everyone found a way to contribute - some worked along the road to remove trash and the non-native species mimosa, while others worked in the wildflower area to remove the non-native species privet and multiflora rose. TTA appreciates the cooperation received from the Friends of Short Springs, TVA and TDEC in caring for Short Springs State Natural Area. The next time you visit Short Springs remember the volunteers that have worked to make your hike enjoyable.

TTA Floats Allardt's Pumpkin Festival

Submitted by Anna Bertram

On the first Saturday of October each year, Allardt, TN is home to the Great Pumpkin Festival and Weigh-off, which for many (TTA members) marks the start of the fall and Halloween season. On a serious note, this event is where farmers and gardeners gather from everywhere to show off their prize pumpkins and other vegetables, and to compete for cash prizes, top honors, and world record status. The winning pumpkin this year weighed in at 817 pounds!

Allardt has been home to the festival for the past twelve years, and TTA has had representation during the last five. This year, members from five chapters gathered - Clarksville, East TN, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Upper Cumberland. Several camped at nearby Pickett State Park, while others came in for just the day. Peter Gregory, and Anne Wesley, both from Nashville, entered the run/walk competition and won in their categories. There were crafts and foods from a variety of vendors, and for just \$2 per person, we sampled ALL of the entries in the Pumpkin Recipe Contest! There were soups, chili and casseroles, spreads and dips, and a wide range of desserts, aside from the usual pumpkin pie.

The parade and the TTA float was the highlight for us. Without any pre-planning, and we've done it this way for several years now, which makes it really fun, we managed to put together a float (in under 45 minutes) that looked as good as the others in the parade, and blended hiking, fall and Halloween themes. It takes one person to drive the float and the remaining TTA participants walk along side, in front and in back of the float dressed in hiker garb and throwing candy to the hordes of children and adults standing along the ¾-mile parade route. Our float and about 100 pounds of candy tossed to those along the way were well received.

After the parade, we hiked Colditz Cove State Natural Area before heading to Ruth's Restaurant and the evening campfire at Pickett State Park.

Joining TTA as a New Member? Membership Up For Renewal? 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 November 2003:

Fount & Anna Bertram - Murfreesboro

Jo Ann Gottlieb - Nashville

Cheri & Michael Richards - Upper Cumberland

TVA Natural Heritage Project - East TN

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.

Thinking About Where You Might Want to Take Your Next Hiking Vacation?

In an upcoming newsletter, an article will appear that will be listing hiking vacations our members have taken recently - be it here in Tennessee, the U.S., or abroad. Through this article, members can network with each other to obtain useful information for planning their next hiking trip or destination.

Each listing will contain the member's name, phone number and/or e-mail address, hike/trip name, geographical location, organized by (Self? If applicable, tour operator's name), and a brief description of the trip (30 words or less). For example:

TTA Member Phone # / E-mail	Hike / Trip Name	Geographical Location	Organized By? Self or Tour Operator & Name	Description
Joe Hiker JoeHiker@yahoo.com	Wainwright's Coast To Coast	England	Self-planned	Day hiked this 190-mile footpath across England's northern region while staying at B&B's nightly and using a sherpa service to carry the luggage each day.
Wanda Walker Wwalker@yahoo.com	John Muir Trail	California	Tour Operator Wonder Vacations	Backpacked an 8-day segment of JMT with a group of 8 people (2 were guides).

To be included, send the information listed above to editor@tennesseetrails.org before November 30, 2003.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Julian Bankston 423-628-2845

jrbanston@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Bob Hemminger

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

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)

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

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Bill Hamilton 931-920-2760

billhamilton@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)

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

Nov Date TBA Middle Creek Loop, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. This 3½-mile trail follows the ridge through a hardwood forest before descending below the bluff line, where large rock overhangs, rock shelters, and high cliffs dominate. This hike is rated moderate because of the grade and terrain. Bring water, snacks, and lunch, and wear boots and clothing appropriate for the changeable weather of fall. Hikers should meet at 9:00am ET at the Harrow Road Café in Rugby to carpool, or if coming from Fentress County, arrange to meet the group at the Middle Creek trailhead off the Division Road. For hike date, information and to register, contact Julian Bankston at 423-628-2845 or *jrbanston@nxs.net*.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. We are one of three chapters (Cove Lake & East TN) hosting this meeting. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 29 Slave Falls Loop Trail, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. This 4.2-mile hike is rated easy because much of it follows old logging railroad and road beds. Points of geologic interest, in addition to Slave Falls are the huge Indian Rock House and delicate Needle Arch. Depending on the temperatures ahead of our arrival, be aware that foot bridges under the drip line may be icy, and there's a possibility there may be ice falling from above. Please dress appropriately. Following the hike, Tim and Lynn Takacs will host the group at their cabin at Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat off Hwy. 297 for coffee and cookies. We will meet at 2:00pm ET at the Sawmill Trailhead on Fork Ridge Road (2.2 miles past its intersection with Division Road). Hikers wishing to car pool from Rugby should meet at Harrow Road Café at 12:30pm ET. For information and to register, e-mail *ttakacs@comcast.com*.

Nov 1 Signal Mountain. Chattanooga, TN. We will hike an 8-mile segment of the Cumberland Trail from Signal Mountain to Edwards Point. This trail is rated moderate for the rocky terrain, and hills. For information and to register, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Nov 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking trip, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. We'll hike approximately 8-10 miles, enjoying the unique terrain of the Cumberland Plateau. For information and to register, call J.R. Tate at 931-920-2692.

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Nov 18 **MONTHLY MEETING**. Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, and meet/greet members and friends. New hikers are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Crow Community Center in Clarksville.

Nov 22 Pennyryle Forest State Park. Hopkinsville, KY. Pennyryle Forest State Park is surrounded by perhaps the most beautiful woods in Western Kentucky. Named for the tiny Pennyroyal plant found in the area, the park is a perfect back-to-nature hideaway in the midst of a secluded, lush forest. Seven trails loop around the lake and through the forest areas and are rated from easy to difficult in hiking ability. We'll hike about 6 miles over terrain rated moderate due to some hills. For information and to register, call Sandy Janus at 931-645-9177.

(Clarksville cont. on pg. 6)

CLARKSVILLE (cont. from pg. 5)

Nov 29 Annual After Thanksgiving Hike, Rotary Park. Clarksville, TN. Walk off some of your holiday meal through Rotary Park in Clarksville. This outing is also a perfect opportunity for those new to hiking, or want to explore hiking with a group because we'll be walking only about 3-4 miles over terrain that is rated easy to moderate (just a hill or two). Rotary Park is very close to our homes; therefore, you'll have plenty of time left in your day to plan other activities. For information and to register, call Wanda McCluskey at 931-906-3338.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Dec 6 Ft. Donelson National Battlefield Park. Dover, TN. Hike this historic Civil War Battlefield along the Cumberland River. Find out where Ulysses S. Grant got the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant." We'll see canon batteries overlooking the river, and learn about an important Civil War Battle. This hike is about 7 miles and rated moderate. For information and to register, call Joanne Brenzel at 931-289-4452.

COLUMBIA / FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rick Lausten 615-373-0029 saturncar1@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR (*Call & volunteer to lead an outing.*)

Tanya Juday 931-490-0856

MEETS MONTHLY - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 CT
6:30pm CT, Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

CHAPTER NEWS: New officers elected! During last month's meeting, the following new officers were elected to serve for the next term: Chapter Chair, Rick Lausten; Membership Chairman, Brian Zimmerman; Newsletter Reporter, Russell Smith; Treasurer, Marvin Caine. We are all excited and motivated to do some new things to continue building the Columbia/Franklin chapter for the future. THANKS! to Pam Frakes who had served as reporter for the past two years.

Nov 4 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Our program will be a presentation and slide show by TTA member, and A.T. thru-hiker Spencer Knoch, aka "tree hugger." Spencer will cover some of his experiences and offer new ideas on hiking light. This is a meeting not to be missed, especially if you want to learn more about getting your backpacking weight down. New hikers are always welcome! Also, be sure to bring any donated items (hand-made or merchandise) that you have received for the Annual Meeting Auction. We'll see you at the Grand Buffet (Chinese restaurant at 5228 N. Main St., Spring Hill, TN. ph: 931-486-3400) at 6:30pm CT for dinner; the meeting begins shortly thereafter.

Nov 8 Montgomery Bell State Park. This hike is for newcomers to TTA and hiking, and those who have not been out with us recently. We plan on hiking one of the 3-5-mile trails over terrain that is rated easy to moderate (there are a few short hills). Plan to bring lunch and water. For carpool meeting time and location, and to register, call Russell Smith at 615-790-1833.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Dec 2 **HOLIDAY DINNER & PARTY.** Details will appear in next month's newsletter. In the interim, plan on bringing a small door prize.

HIKE REPORTS:

On Sep. 27, three of us drove to McMinnville and hiked the Cardwell Mountain trail (5½ miles). We enjoyed the hike, but we had to go over and around several blow downs. The leaves were still thick and the trail was not well marked, but we managed to reach close to the top just as a heavy rain hit. Luckily, we were near a rock shelter and were able to stay dry while enjoying our lunch. After the hike, we stopped for dinner at the Foglight Food House restaurant in Walling, TN.

Prior to the Oct 3-5 weekend, Brian Zimmerman and Martin McCullough (Murfreesboro chapter officer) quickly put together a backpacking trip to the Smokies. Unfortunately, Martin got bronchitis and was unable to go, but a total of 5 members carpooled to the Alum Cave trailhead and we were on the trail by 12:30pm on Friday. After a tough 5½-mile ascent we reached the Mt. LeConte shelter. On Saturday, we hiked the 5½-mile Boulevard Trail to the Appalachian Trail and stayed at Icewater Spring Shelter. We also hiked to Charlie's Bunion and back. On Sunday, we completed our trip by hiking the A.T. to the parking area at Newfound Gap.

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.

Nov 10 **MONTHLY MEETING.** We

will be planning hikes for the first 6 months of 2004. Bring ideas, maps and suggestions of where you'd like to hike – be it a new area or to revisit your favorite places. See you at 6:00pm ET at LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room 201 S. 9th St.

Nov 14-16 ANNUAL MEETING in

Townsend, TN. We are one of three chapters (Big South Fork & East TN) hosting this meeting. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 23 Smoky Mtn. Segment of the

Cumberland Trail. Richard Helm will be taking us down the lower back portion of this trail to the Montgomery Fork bridge. We will drive out on the renewed coal road to where the trail crosses this road on the backside of Cross Mtn. Then, we will make our way down through dense woods to open woods where we will pass rock formations and a small mossy cave. At the bottom is Montgomery Fork; a beautiful creek nestled in a remote part of the Tennessee back country. Then, we'll make our way back up the 1½ miles to our cars. This hike is rated moderate because of the elevation climb we will be pulling during the last half of our hike. For information and to register, contact Richard Helm at 865-426-4472 or rhelm@ahss.org.

ACTIVITIES REPORT:

On September 8, at our monthly meeting, Richard Helm presented a slide show of 15 different goldenrods, which can be observed in Campbell Co. The presentation was well received, many being surprised to find that there are so many different species of this common wildflower.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Dec 6 Pine Mtn. State Park with Gordon & Doris Early, 423-566-8319.

Dec 8 Holiday Season Potluck Dinner (monthly meeting).

Dec 14 Cumberland Falls with Vance Lawson, 423-562-6856.

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 any meetings/outings for the month of November. Watch upcoming newsletters for future 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

Nov 14-16 ANNUAL MEETING in Townsend, TN. We are one of three chapters (Big South Fork & Cove Lake) hosting this meeting. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 29 Twenty Mile Ranger Station to Shuckstack Fire Tower, Great Smoky Mtn. National Park. Fontana, NC. This will be a strenuous, 10.6-mile round-trip hike with a total elevation gain of 2600ft from the Ranger Station to the fire tower with no downhill or flat sections until we begin our descent back to Twenty Mile Ranger Station. The good news is that the trail is wide and if a cold front has recently passed there will be fantastic 360-degree views from the tower. Bring lunch and water, wear sturdy hiking boots, and dress appropriately for the weather as the Shuckstack fire tower is 4000' above sea level and it may be cold and windy at the top. We will meet at 8:00am ET to carpool from the outer edge of the Bi-Lo grocery store parking lot in Maryville (on the right just past the US-129/US-411 intersection). For information and to register, contact Keith Mertz at 865-982-7368 or keithmertz@hotmail.com.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

On Sep 20 we participated in a National Public Lands Day event. See page 4 of this newsletter for a complete report.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

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

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

Nov 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking in Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli Laager, TN. We'll hike the North Rim Trail from the Savage Gulf Ranger Station to Hobbs Cabin. And retrace our steps back on Sunday. You will need a tent because shelter in Hobbs cabin is cannot be reserved, is limited and on a first come, first-served basis. The trail is 8 ½ miles each way over rugged and uneven terrain; therefore, this outing is rated moderate. Sturdy hiking/backpacking footwear is required! For information and to register, contact Robert Davis at 931-962-1614 or davisrf@tnns.net.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 18 MONTHLY MEETING. Join us as Don Davidson will be speaking about butterflies. We will also discuss past hikes, upcoming hikes, and the outcome of the Annual Meeting. New hikers and guests are always welcome. See you at 7:00pm CT at the D.W. Wilson Community Center at 501 North Collins Street in Tullahoma.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

On Sep 20 we participated in a National Public Lands Day event. See page 4 of this newsletter for a complete report.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

OFFICER

Carolyn Pierce 901-755-5635 cedpierce2000@yahoo.com

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604 glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETS MONTHLY - (Sept-May) 3rd Thursday
at 7pm CT at the Germantown Library

Nov 8 Meeman-Shelby Forest Trail Maintenance. Memphis, TN. Meet at the Park's Visitor's Center at 9:00am CT ready to do trail work. You will need to bring water and lunch along with equipment you may have such as gloves, shovels, clippers, or a saw. Dress for the weather. For information, call Ken Novak at 901-377-9127.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 20 MONTHLY MEETING. We will be planning all of our outings for 2004 tonight. Bring ideas, maps and suggestions of where you'd like to hike – be it a new area or to revisit your favorite places. New Hikers are always welcome! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Germantown Library.

Nov 29 Ft. Pillow State Park. Henning, TN. After Thanksgiving Day hike with members from the Jackson area. Join us for an 8-mile hike through hardwood forest. This hike is rated moderate due to the hilly terrain. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Park's Interpretative Center. For information and to register, call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604.

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ATTENTION JACKSON HIKERS:

Meeting on 1st Tue, 7:00pm at Davis-Kidd Bookstore

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Nov 1 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. Eva, TN Join us for a 5-mile or 10-mile trail rated moderate over hilly terrain. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. **Directions:** Take I-40 to Exit 126. Go North on Hwy. 641 for 15 miles to Camden. Turn right on Highway 70 East (do not take the 70 by-pass) at the traffic signal. Follow the signs to the park. For information, call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604.

Nov 4 MONTHLY MEETING. J.R. Tate, a retired Marine from Clarksville, and a three-time thru-hiker on the Appalachian Trail, will present a video show and talk about the true-life adventures on the Appalachian Trail. J.R., aka "Model T" has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles, national TV, and appeared on the *American Dream* on the CBS Evening News. Learn what really goes on during a 6-month, 2161.3-mile hike through 14 states. There will be bear stories and humorous tales about the people J.R. met on the AT. See you at 7:00pm CT at Davis-Kidd Bookstore.

Nov 29 Ft. Pillow State Park. Henning, TN. After Thanksgiving Day hike with members from the Memphis chapter. Join us for an 8-mile hike through hardwood forest. This hike is rated moderate due to the hilly terrain. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Park's Interpretative Center. For information and to register, call Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER

Martin McCulloch 615-896-1043
mam1932@earthlink.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)
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

Nov 8 South Old Mac and Panther Branch Trails, Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. This hike climbs up to Tubbs Springs and is approximately 7 miles long. Parts of this hike will be strenuous (1500 ft climb) but overall it will be moderate. It is generally chillier at Tubbs Springs, due to the elevation change, so dress accordingly. The plan is to use the South Old Mac and Panther Branch Trails, so we'll need to run a short, one-mile shuttle to avoid walking the last mile on a jeep road. Hiking sticks are advisable, and everyone is required to wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring snacks, lunch and water. For information and to register, contact Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or stillwild@bellsouth.net.

Nov 11 MONTHLY MEETING. Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, and meet/greet members and friends. New hikers and guests are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 7pm CT at Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station, 697 Barfield Rd. in Murfreesboro.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 28 (Fri) Day After Thanksgiving Hike, Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park, Manchester, TN. This is an easy 3½-mile hike that follows the Duck River. For information and to register, call Martin McCulloch at 615-896-1043.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

On Sep 20 we participated in a National Public Lands Day event. See page 4 of this newsletter for a complete report.

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.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

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

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)

Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260 EYGERLOCK@bellsouth.net

MEETS MONTHLY - 4th Tuesday at 7pm CT

St. Bernard Academy Building
2021 21st Ave South

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045

Nov 1 First Saturday Hike in Beaman Park, Joelton, TN. Join us as we explore one of Nashville's newer parks being developed by volunteers. Our hike will be from 9am until 12-noon CT on terrain rated easy to moderate. We will meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. For information and to register, contact the Warner Parks Nature Center at 615-352-6299.

Nov 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness, DeRossett, TN. Pack up your backpack for a very special fall treat. Day hiking at Virgin Falls always leaves us feeling we haven't had enough time in this beautiful area with its caves and dramatic waterfalls. The round trip hike is 8 miles, leaving backpackers time to explore, relax, and soak in the fall beauty of the surroundings. For information and to register, contact Nancy Juodenas at 615-643-0936, 615-319-8811 or njuodenas@hotmail.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.*

Nov 2 Newcomer's Hike on Mill Creek Greenway, Nashville, TN. Enjoy an afternoon outing and approximately 3 mile leisurely walk on part of Nashville's newer greenways. After the walk we will carpool to Lee Harris's home for additional strolling in her Sportsplex and along the infamous Mill Creek (another 2 miles?). Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Most of the path will be paved. Afterwards, "linger a little at Lee's" for homemade donuts, cider and socializing. Meet at 1:00pm CT at the Antioch Community Center on Blue Hole Road. (DIRECTIONS: Take I-24 to Exit 59. Go west for 1 mile to Blue Hole Rd. Turn right and go ¼ mile to the Antioch Community Center.). For information and to register, contact Lee Harris at 615-315-0440 or ephaut@juno.com.

Nov 8 Triple Bagel Hike, Warner Park, Nashville, TN. In October we worked up to this hike with a 4½ & a 7-mile hike at Percy Warner Park. For this hike we will be hiking 13 miles in both Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, by combining the Warner Woods, Mossy Ridge, Connector and Harpeth Woods Trails. The hike is rated difficult due to elevation changes and the distance. Bring water and snacks, and wear sturdy boots. After the hike we will go to Breuggers Bagel Bakery at the Hwy. 70/100 split. We will meet at 8:00am CT at the "Deep Well" parking area (stone entrance into park on Hwy 100 about 1½ miles from the Hwy. 70/100 split). For information and to register, contact David Furse at 615-353-6435 or dfurse@comcast.net.

Nov 9 Perimeter Trail, University of the South, Sewanee, TN. We will hike 9 miles of this 20-mile trail that circles the University of the South. Fall is an excellent time to view the wonderful bluff views, interesting rock formations, and waterfalls with the addition of the red, gold, orange, and brown of the leaves. The hike is rated moderate for some climbing and rock scrambling, and requires a shuttle. You will need hiking boots, water, and snacks. We will meet at 8:00am at the Target on Bell Road (I-24, exit 59). For information, contact Brian Dion at 615-331-7331 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us.

(Nashville cont. on pg. 9)

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 8)

RSVP by Nov 7

Nov 12-14 (Wed-Fri) Pre-Annual Meeting Backpacking in the Smokies on the Alum Cave, Boulevard and Appalachian Trails. No need to carry a tent because we'll be utilizing backcountry shelters - Mt. LeConte and Ice Water Springs. Over the three days/two nights we will hike about 15 miles (5.5 miles on Wed., 6.5 miles on Thu. and 2.9 miles on Fri.). This outing is rated moderate for the 2300-ft ascent on our first day, and for the uneven and rocky terrain over the entire three days. The group's size is limited to six and open to those with backpacking experience. **RSVP before November 7** by calling Diane Manas at 615-352-7777. NOTE: We will exit the trail on Fri. morning with enough time to drive to TTA's Annual Meeting in Townsend and participate in the day hike being offered later in the day.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 22 Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. Enjoy great views of the lake as the leaves fall and the lake becomes more visible from the trail. Newcomers as well as seasoned hikers are welcome. We will hike the Lake, Ganier Ridge, and the South Cove Trails for a total of 4½ miles. Bring water, and wear comfortable hiking or trail shoes. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the park's Visitor's 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 Hugh Tobin at 615-790-9567 or HTobin@Hotmail.com.

Nov 23 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 12 miles over terrain 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 12 miles. We will meet at 8:00am CT at the 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.

Nov 25 MONTHLY MEETING. Where's Johnny? It's not an unreasonable question to ask of this month's guest speaker, Johnny Molloy. Here's a guy who numbers the nights he camps out in any given year, posts the number on his website, and invites you to top it if you can! Sort of a peripatetic's variation on "size matters." Anyway, Johnny writes extensively of his travels (see the website: www.johnnymolloy.com) and one of the recent titles of interest to us is Sixty Hikes Within Sixty Miles of Nashville. Bring a friend and see if you've missed any. See you at 7:00pm CT in the Nature Conservancy Conference Room of the St. Bernard Academy Building at 2021 21st Ave. South.

Nov 30 Mossy Ridge Trail, Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Too much turkey and pumpkin pie? Shopping got you down? Join Peter Gregory for the perfect cure: 4 ½ miles in beautiful Percy Warner Park. We will meet at 10:00am CT at the "Deep Well" parking area (stone entrance into park on Hwy 100 about 1½ miles from the Hwy. 70/100 split), late enough for you to sleep in and early enough for you to get back home for football games. For information and to register, contact Peter Gregory at 615-799-9925 or pgregory@starband.net.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin & Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER

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

MEETS MONTHLY – See Nov 11, Below

Meetings start at 7:00pm CT

UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center
Room 231

WEBSITE - www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/

Nov 11 (Tue) **MONTHLY MEETING.** Tim Johnston, Marketing Professor at UT Martin will tell of his section-hiking the Appalachian Trail over his several years as a graduate student at UTK. In addition, learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, and meet/greet members and friends. New hikers and guests are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 7:00pm CT on the UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center in Room 231.

Nov 8 Big Hill Pond State Park. Selmer, TN. We will take the loop around McNatt Lake, taking lunch at the base of the fire tower, which provides panoramic views of three states. (One might just be confusion?) Descending down rocky outcroppings in a stretch of trail reminiscent of Middle Tennessee. We will walk a 0.8-mile boardwalk segment across dismal swamp, before the final return to the parking area. This trail is rated moderate, and on this late fall day, the poison ivy and snakes should be completely gone, and if we're lucky, there may be some fall color remaining. For information and to register, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225 or jclark@utm.edu.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Jan 19 (Mon) Annual Martin Luther King Day Hike in Land Between the Lakes. TN/KY. We will continue on the North-South trail from where we left off last year. Open areas provide beautiful view of Kentucky Lake from the high bluffs. This hike is rated moderate due to the uneven terrain and rolling hills. We will walk approximately 8 miles after setting up a shuttle. For information and to register, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225 or jclark@utm.edu.

In Memoriam

Richard "Dick" Lutz, a longtime member of Tennessee Trails Association, died this past summer after a brief battle with Pancreatic and Liver Cancer. An avid hiker and outdoorsman, Dick was a member of the Nashville chapter, but he frequently hiked with many other TTA chapters. He was particularly fond of hiking in the winter months with his dog, Katie Joe. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his friends and family, especially his daughter and TTA member, Gina Pate.

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER

Charlie Jones 931-484-5298 cejones9@earthlink.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)

Carolyn Miller 931-260-6674 cardan@usit.net

NO MEETING PLANNED THIS MONTH

CHAPTER NEWS: Normally we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month; however, with so many of us either packing for or already in transit to TTA's Annual Meeting in Townsend, TN., which starts the following day, we elected to canceled our meeting for this month. We look forward to seeing you in Townsend, Nov. 14-16.

Nov 8 Bear Waller Gap Trail. Carthage, TN. This moderate 6-mile hike follows the shoreline of Cordell Hull Lake and features rolling hills and some nice overlooks from the bluffs. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. Because this is a one-way hike (not a loop), it will be necessary to park cars at each end of the trail before we begin our hike. Meet at the parking lot behind Cracker Barrel on Hwy. 127 (I-40, exit 317) in Crossville at 7:30am CT. For information and to register, call Terry Brophy at 931-707-7234.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 22 Middle Creek and Slave Falls Loop Trails, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. This moderate, 7-mile hike passes by some of the largest rock house formations in Big South Fork NRR - there's the 70-foot Slave Falls, Needle Arch to name a few. We will shuttle cars so we can depart from the Middle Creek trailhead and finish the hike at Slave Falls trailhead. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. We will meet to carpool from the back parking lot of Cracker Barrel (I-40, exit 317) at 8:00am CT. For information and to register, contact Jim McCullough at 931-484-8222 or sue1290@multipro.com.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Dec 11 **HOLIDAY SOCIAL** for the December meeting.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

Leigh Jones 931-484-5298 cejones9@earthlink.net

Fount Bertram 615-765-5357 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 hasn't had time to do the Chapter Officer duties; therefore, we are seeking someone to fill this vital position. We (the Board of Directors) will give our assistance and support to the person(s) who steps 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: Richard Savage 931-526-2035

savage_richard@hotmail.com

Nov 1 North Rim Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Palmer, TN. This trail features many overlooks of Savage Gulf and should be spectacular with the leaves changing color. We will hike 5 to 8 miles. The trail is rated easy to moderate. You can meet us to carpool from either Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:30am CT or the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 9:00am CT. For information and to register, contact John Harwood at 931-528-6395 or jharwood@tntech.edu.

Nov 1 Across the Gulf! Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. We will start at the Stone Door Ranger Station and cross the gulf to Hobb's Cabin. We will then hike the length of the North Rim Trail and end our hike at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. The North Rim Trail features more overlooks than any other trail in the South Cumberland area and should be spectacular with the fall color. The trails vary between level, steep and rocky. Sturdy hiking boots are required! The hike is 17 miles and rated strenuous. You can meet us to carpool from either Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 6:00am CT (Note, there was a time change!), or the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta about 6:20am CT. For information and to register, contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or savage_richard@hotmail.com.

Nov 8 Fiery Gizzard, South Cumberland Recreation Area. Tracy City, TN. This hike begins on the top of the Plateau, within Tracy City. Then, immediately descends into a beautiful old growth hemlock forest at the head of the gorge of Fiery Gizzard Creek. There are lots of impressive rock formations in the area. Later, the trail enters younger forest and ascends further down the creek to an overlook at Raven Point. Those wanting a shorter hike can now return to the beginning via the Dog Hole Trail for a total hike distance of about 9 miles. The Fiery Gizzard Trail continues mostly on top of the Plateau through gently rolling oak forest, reaching Foster Falls at the southern end (at about 12½ miles). The trail is rated strenuous for the rocky, uneven terrain and the distance covered. Hiking boots are essential. You can meet us to carpool from either Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 7:00am CT or the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at about 7:30am CT. For information and to register, contact David Hume at 931-526-5474 or dhume@tntech.edu.

Nov 14-16 (Fri-Sun) **ANNUAL MEETING** in Townsend, TN. Come and join in the fun and be a part of TTA's 35th Anniversary celebration. Townsend is right next to the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park and you can expect a variety of hiking options, plus the opportunity to meet and socialize with members from all across the state.

Nov 22 Paw Paw, Woodland, and Gorge Overlook Trails, Fall Creek Falls State Park. Pikeville, TN. We will hike the Paw Paw Loop, including the spur trails to the overlooks for a hike that is about 4½ miles. Those interested may also hike the Woodland and Gorge Overlook Trails for a total of about 6½ miles. The trails feature overlooks of waterfalls and of the gorges. All are rated easy. You can meet us to carpool from either Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:30am CT or the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at about 9:00am CT. For information and to register, contact Hix Stubblefield at 931-526-2312 or hixstub1@citlink.net.

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cejones9@earthlink.net

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sandbar@multipro.com

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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
editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines:

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

Due For Newsletter Dated

NOTE: November 5 December 1

NOTE: December 5 January 1

NOTE: January 2 February 1

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

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

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

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

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

- A NEW MEMBER**
 RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Nov 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35.00	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (FULL-TIME)	\$15.00	City _____ State _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)		Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (Individual)	\$500.00	Work Phone (____) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big South Fork | <input type="checkbox"/> East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville) | <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarksville | <input type="checkbox"/> Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plateau (Crossville) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Memphis | <input type="checkbox"/> Soddy Daisy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cove Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> Murfreesboro | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland Gap | <input type="checkbox"/> Nashville | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.