

TENNESSEE TRAILS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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

SPONSOR FOR THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



Tennessee Trails Association Grows Welcome! TTA's Newest Chapter Jackson

Jerry Lenski, West Tennessee At-large Director of Tennessee Trails Association proudly announces the formation of a new chapter in Jackson. Lee Sparks is the chairperson, and Ellen Volet is the treasurer. The new Jackson chapter meets on the first Tuesday of the month at David-Kidd Booksellers in Jackson. For a hike schedule or further details, please call Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

2003 Annual Meeting Wrap-up Beverly Neurock, Event Chair East TN Chapter Officer

I wanted to let all who helped out with the Annual Meeting know how much I appreciated your assistance in making the meeting a success.

Thank you to Rosemary Marshall who led the efforts in seeking, collecting and organizing the auction. This was the most time consuming project for the meeting. While chapters across the state came in with auction items, Rosemary spent a significant amount of her personal time seeking donors and developing an auction program. Rosemary and her crew received and displayed the items, allowing the auction, with over 86 items, to be completed in a timely fashion. They also assisted our professional auctioneer during the auction. Lesley Price, Benita Howell, Betty Ezell, Esther Ruffner, and Faith Dippold and other TTA members supported Rosemary. Approximately \$4,400 was raised from the auction and additional fund raising activities, which included a bake and white elephant sale. Thanks to all who contributed items to these additional fund raising activities. The baked goods were awesome!

We were especially thankful to Bear Stephenson of Stephenson Realty & Auction in Clinton, TN., for handling the auction. This past April, Bear generously donated his time and talents to the Cumberland Trail Conference during their auction in Oak Ridge – then, again for this Annual Meeting. For this, we are truly grateful for all of Bear's support. Bear has expressed his interest in joining us on future hikes and we are excited about that! Thanks to Arleen Decker for making those arrangements.

THANK YOU!

TTA Hike Coordinators in 2003

Leigh Jones, Past President

Since its inception in 1968, TTA has depended on its membership's willingness to volunteer to keep it a viable organization. During 2003, TTA members were able to join one of our fourteen chapters on over 400 organized hikes in Tennessee and surrounding states. These outings would not have been possible without our many hike coordinators. On behalf of the TTA Board of Directors and our 1,000 plus members, I wish to thank the following people for giving of their time and talents in leading one of the many hikes offered this past year:

◆ Deanna Adams ◆ Kathleen Airhart ◆ Carol Anderson ◆ Ellen Anderson ◆ Helen Anglemier ◆ Andy Arbuckle ◆ Julian Bankston ◆ Jack Bastin ◆ Suva Bastin ◆ Sharon Bell ◆ Joan Bentley ◆ Fount Bertram ◆ Vi Biehl ◆ Patricia Bolton ◆ Joanne Brengel ◆ Dan Brennan ◆ Dick Braun ◆ Bonnie Broadway ◆ Wayne Broadway ◆ Pam Brophy ◆ Terry Brophy ◆ Alan Bryan ◆ Lisa Burgess ◆ Ray Burkett ◆ Doug Burroughs ◆ Darryl Butts ◆ Marvin Caine ◆ Joette Carter ◆ Phil Cavanaugh ◆ Marie Chitwood ◆ Bertha Chrietzberg ◆ Jim Clark ◆ Don Coffman ◆ Marnell Cothran ◆ Robert Davies ◆ Arleen Decker ◆ Pat Dillon ◆ Brian Dion ◆ Freddie DiPlacido ◆ Faith Dippold ◆ Dusty Doddridge ◆ Nancy Dorman ◆ Harold Draper ◆ Ron Dunn ◆ Doris Early ◆ Gordon Early ◆ Bill Eldridge ◆ Rita England ◆ Peter Erickson ◆ Betty Ezell ◆ Freddi Felt ◆ Arlene Felton ◆ Bobby Felton ◆ Pam Frakes ◆ Libby Francis ◆ David Furse ◆ Elizabeth Gerlock ◆ Lavonne Gibbs ◆ Justine Gregory ◆ Peter Gregory ◆ Gil Griffin ◆ Kathleen Griffin ◆ Carol Haley ◆ Bill Hamilton ◆ Sandi Hamilton ◆ Melanie Harmon ◆ Bill Harris ◆ Lee Harris ◆ John Harwood ◆ Mike Harvey ◆ Ed Haslam ◆ Mari Haslam ◆ Bill Haynes ◆ Richard Helm ◆ Jerry Hendrixson ◆ John Hicks ◆ Kathy Hicks ◆ Merri Hinton ◆ Myra Holloway ◆ Bob Hornsby ◆ Benita Howell ◆ Tom Howell ◆ David Hume ◆ Sandy Janus ◆ Jenice Johnson ◆ Charles Jones ◆ Leigh Jones ◆ Rick Jones ◆ Nancy Juodenas ◆ Eph Klots ◆ Herb Kneeland ◆ Sandi Koenig ◆ Betty Kottwitz ◆

(cont. on pg. 2)

Walking With Fount,

A Message from TTA's (New) President

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you have had a wonderful Holiday Season. I appreciate your confidence as you have elected me as your president. I will do my utmost to see that this confidence is well placed. I am looking forward to a progressive and productive term and will be looking to all of you for help in achieving this. On September 11, 2001, a tragic event shook this country and the world to its very roots. The vicious attack on our way of life left all of us in a state of shock that has been felt throughout our very beings. As a result, we have seen a drastic drop in participation in a lot of activities. I have talked to a lot of people in a lot of organizations and they have experienced a drastic reduction in attendance and involvement in meetings and programs since that time. I was very much encouraged by the record attendance at our recent Annual Meeting. I am hoping that we are beginning to regain some of the confidence that was so abruptly shattered. I have some goals and hopes for the next couple of years and I would like to share them with you and ask for your help in carrying them forward. There are 4 main areas I want to address:

- ❖ **Membership.** I believe there are a lot of people out there that would love to be a part of our organization, but simply do not know about us. I found TTA and the Murfreesboro chapter by accident and still had some difficulty in learning where and when the meetings were held. We need to develop and execute better methods of letting the public know who we are and how to become a part of our organization.
- ❖ **Volunteerism.** This has decreased sharply, and it is going to be necessary to revitalize the enthusiasm and energy needed to get us out and doing something to benefit the hiking community. We have put in a lot of work and effort in the past and I believe we must strive to regain the fun and purpose in getting these things done. I hope to be able to introduce some new projects and interests to help recharge the batteries and get us going again.
- ❖ **Inter-chapter participation.** I love to share events with other chapters in addition to our Annual Meetings. We have demonstrated the fun and fellowship that can be shared when multi-chapter events are planned for example, the Annual Allardt Pumpkin Festival. Last year, 5 chapters were represented and we all had a wonderful time. Our New Year's Day Hike and Feast is another example of getting together and sharing enthusiasm and encouragement with other chapters. The Murfreesboro chapter has done a spring hike with the Memphis chapter for the past 4 years and we are planning another one in April. This year will include our newest chapter, Jackson, and any others that want to join us. If you have a special event in your community, let us know about it.
- ❖ **Community Accessibility.** I would like TTA to be a household name. I want us to be very visible and a mover and shaker in the affairs of the communities where we live. I would like to see participation in volunteer efforts and for us to be instigators of projects that are needed. I would like to see us sponsoring events that improve the areas where we live. We need to be ready to make presentations for the organizations in our communities who are looking for programs for their meetings...and we need to let them know we are available.

Are we capable of accomplishing these ambitions? I believe we are! If we all will do our part, I know we can move ahead and make a difference. I plan to visit each of the chapters for a meeting and hopefully a hike or other activity. I will put together a schedule that will coincide with your activities.

Again, thank you and Happy Trails!

Fount Bertram

Thank You Hike Coordinators

cont. from pg. 1

Rick Lausten ♦ Vance Lawson ♦ Wanda Lawson
♦ Gloria Lenski ♦ Jerry Lenski ♦ Steve Lopley ♦
Jim Lifsey ♦ Anne Lindholm ♦ Diane Manas ♦
Russ Manning ♦ Rosemary Marshall ♦ John
Martin ♦ Regena Martin ♦ Roy McCluskey ♦
Wanda McCluskey ♦ Jim McCullough ♦ Martin
McCullough ♦ Norma McMinn ♦ Valrie McNeal
♦ Keith Mertz ♦ Carolyn Miller ♦ Louise
Miniard ♦ Brent Morris ♦ James Neblett ♦
Sandy Newkirk ♦ Beverly Neurock ♦ Ken Novak
♦ Dawn Odette ♦ Amy Overton ♦ Gail Owens ♦
June Parker ♦ Robert Paul ♦ Carolyn Pierce ♦
Betty Porter ♦ Jim Poteet ♦ Marietta Poteet ♦
Mary Jane Powell ♦ Charlie Putnum ♦ Jo
Putnum ♦ Doug Ratliff ♦ Rosemary Register ♦
Jay Ross ♦ Richard Savage ♦ Jim Schroeder ♦
Dallas Shewmaker ♦ Heloise Shilstat ♦ Joyce
Smith ♦ Paul Smith ♦ Russell Smith ♦ John
Sneed ♦ Barbara Stagg ♦ Hix Stubblefield ♦
Lynn Takacs ♦ Tim Takacs ♦ Hugh Tobin ♦
Susan Turner ♦ J.R. Tate ♦ Bryan Trull ♦ Glenn
Turner ♦ Bob Uhren ♦ Ellen Volet ♦ Sue
Waldrop ♦ Julie Walski ♦ Mary Kay Walton ♦
Warner Park Staff ♦ Keith White ♦ Eric Wilson
♦ Wade Winters ♦

Board of Directors' Meeting Saturday, February 7, 2004 Nashville, TN

TTA's Board of Directors will be meeting at 1:00pm CT on Saturday, February 7 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 Feb. 7 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. A map is also available on our website at: www.tennesseetrails.org/nashmap.php

**All !!! TTA Members
Are Invited**

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Interim Executive DirectorBarry Spearman bassfish@hotmail.com
Development DirectorArleen Decker..... deckerstudio@bellsouth.net
Program CoordinatorMark Stanfill..... mstanfill@onemain.com
Office ManagerSusan Weber..... sweber1@usit.net
CTC Advisor.....Rob Weber robweber@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

BreakAway 2004 . . . It's That TIME! Students Are Coming! To build the CT in Rock/Possum/Soddy Area That's 30 miles! February 29 – March 27!

This year, Spring BreakAway will run the first four weeks of March. We already have 17 schools, 1 AmeriCorps and 1 Landmark team, joining us. That's almost 300 students, which will out-do last year's statistics! WOW! BreakAway continues to grow and is still providing the backbone of resources in constructing the Cumberland Trail. This year's students will continue to challenge the Rock/Possum/Soddy segments of the Cumberland Trail in northwest Hamilton County, which provides a total of 30 miles of hiking, of which 10 have already been completed, and requiring the creative skills of volunteers and students alike.

New to CTC? Our Spring BreakAway is a cooperative all-volunteer venture with the national Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program whereby groups of college students from across the nation spend their spring breaks doing service projects. Many of these schools enjoy the challenge of environmental service programs giving the students an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and to contribute something in return. Our BreakAway ASB program focuses on providing the students an outdoor learning experience to include trail construction and maintenance, leadership and team skills, and an immersion in our natural and cultural world.

This year's strong student participation, up to 70 students per week, will challenge our resources requiring plenty of volunteer leadership: "mules" and "wagonmasters" alike. We have again reserved the Dogwood Camp in the Soddy-Daisy/Bakewell community (a mighty fine facility located directly on the Tennessee River's Chickamauga Lake), but also we have reserved the Lutheran Church Camp just across the lake. Can you believe we need TWO CAMPS! Each week, volunteers arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave the following Saturday morning. Trail work is scheduled only on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is our day off, which provides students and volunteers alike a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. This year we've decided to provide meals to all of our volunteers. In the past, we divided the kitchen time among the volunteers and the colleges and found that often these times overlapped and there were just too many people in the kitchen all at once – fun, but chaotic! To remedy this situation, we're doing the cooking and cleaning for everyone – volunteers and students! (Of course, any amount of help you can provide is greatly appreciated and needed.)

These students will be looking for leadership and guidance not only on how to build the Cumberland Trail but also in how to become the next generation of conservation leaders. Talk to those who have helped in the past and find out their experiences. Many will tell you that the energy and vitality of the students rubs off on them, and vice versa.

You are invited to get involved, see the sign-up sheet on page 4.

Volunteer and stay a while.

Thanks!

Mark Stanfill

Program Coordinator

Adopt-a-Food Drive

During TTA's Annual Meeting, Carol Haley (Memphis) presented a unique, fun and easy opportunity for us to help subsidize a major expense associated with the 2004 Spring BreakAway and Big Dig programs: Adopt-a-Food.

Every BreakAway and Big Dig volunteer will receive breakfast, lunch and dinner each day that they work. Imagine, 100 volunteers per week receiving 3 meals/day during BreakAway. Then, multiply that by 4, which is the number of weeks there is of BreakAway. That's 1,200 meals! The Big Dig is 6 weeks, 75 volunteers per week at 3 meals per day, that's 1,350 meals! Stocking the pantry for these two events will cost over \$4,300.

Your help is greatly appreciated and needed in order for this to be successful. There are several options available:

- ❖ You or your chapter may buy the items and bring them to the CTC office.
- ❖ You or your chapter can send money for the kitchen committee to purchase items (the committee has a tax exempt Sam's card).

For additional information, contact either your chapter officer or Carol Haley at 901-388-9163 or Hav2Hike@aol.com.

Here is a small sampling (at the time this newsletter went to press) of the many food items (and their costs) available for adoption - at costs to fit every donor's budget:

	Big Dig	Breakaway
Brown Sugar	11.30	11.30
Corn Meal	9.54	12.72
Cheese 'n Crackers	70.00	50.00
Spaghetti Noodles	14.00	30.00
Flour	34.00	27.00

Best Wishes & Happy New Year



CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE (cont. from pg. X)

2003 Spring BreakAway Volunteer Registration Form

Jan 04

Name/Organization: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone HOME: (____) _____ WORK:(____) _____
E-mail _____

YES, I can volunteer on the following trail dates:

Week 1 (Mar 1-5) ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 2 (Mar 8-12) ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 3 (Mar 15-19) ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 4 (Mar 22-26) ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Thu ___ Fri



YES, I will need lodging on the following nights:

Week 1 (Feb 29-Mar 5) ___ Sun ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 2 (Mar 7-12) ___ Sun ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 3 (Mar 14-19) ___ Sun ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri
Week 4 (Mar 21-26) ___ Sun ___ Mon ___ Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri

- Please CIRCLE those dates meals are needed. Wed. is a non-working day; therefore, meals are not provided.
- Vegetarian meal preferred? Yes / No
- I am also willing to help on the following (circle as many):
- Trail Builder Camp Help Cook Donate Food/Materials/Funds
- Have you participated in BreakAway before? Yes / No
- Have you participated in trail work before? Yes / No
- Mail, Fax or E-mail this form to:

Cumberland Trail Conference
ATTN: Spring BreakAway
19 East 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555
Fax: 931-456-4934
cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

You in yet?
Sign up today!



BreakAway's Student Volunteers Sneak Peek

Who's Coming & When ?

Week 1 (Feb 29 – Mar 6): College of St Benedict (MN), Davidson College (NC), Grand Rapids Community College (MI), Grand Valley State University (MI), AmeriCorps.

Week 2 (Mar 7 – Mar 13): Illinois State University (IL), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (PA), Michigan State University (MI), University of Pittsburgh (PA), AmeriCorps.

Week 3 (Mar 14 – Mar 20): Franklin Pierce College (NH), Iona College (NY), Keene State (NH), Manhattan College (NY), Our Lady of the Lake (TX), St. Norbert (WI), St Paul's University (WI), Landmark, AmeriCorps.

Week 4 (Mar 21 – Mar 27): Frostburg State University (MD), Hamilton College (NY), MA Institute of Technology (MA), AmeriCorps.

The Cumberland Trail STOMP April 24, 2004

Mark your calendars...we're gonna hike the Cumberland Trail to raise money for The Big Dig 2004. Various community organizations, hiking clubs, and churches along the Cumberland Trail corridor from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap will host a series of 8-10 hikes. Host organizations will be rounding up hikers and hikers will be rounding up pledges. Last year the Fairfield Glade Hiking Club in Crossville raised almost \$2,000, and the Oak Ridge Pathways team raised \$4,000 on fundraising hikes for the *Pathways for People, People for Nature* campaign.

If your chapter would like to participate as a host organization or as hikers, or you'd like to help on an individual basis, please contact Arleen Decker at 931-456-6259 (CTC Office), 865-856-9679 (HM) or deckerstudio@bellsouth.net.

Immediate Opening Cumberland Trail Conference Executive Director

The Cumberland Trail Conference is a dynamic volunteer-driven Tennessee non-profit organization responsible for the acquisition and development of the 300-mile Cumberland Trail State Scenic Foot Trail and Linear State Park. The Conference is seeking an Executive Director with preferred degree in Environmental Science, Recreational Planning, Resource Development Outdoor Recreation, Urban Planning, or related fields. Desire 5-year experience in non-profit management, community-based acquisition, and linear recreational trail/greenway development. Individual should be driven, have strong organizational vision, and be capable of motivating volunteers and obtaining results.

Additionally, candidate should have excellent presentation and public relations skills, the ability to integrate with federal and state agencies, and a fiscally conservative management approach. MS Office, Arc-View, GPS, Compass, and map interpretation helpful. Candidate should be able to perform intense physical labor and long distance hikes in varying terrain. Transportation, preferably 4WD, required. Position based in Crossville, Tennessee. Minimum starting salary \$35K, negotiable, dependent on experience; salary requirements requested. Additional information and full job description available at www.cumberlandtrail.org. Resumes, related experience, and references (3) accepted through February 1, 2004. Send to:

Cumberland Trail Conference
19 East 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555.

Annual Meeting Wrap-up (cont. from pg X)

(cont.) The second most time consuming project for the meeting was the registration. Faith and Ed Dippold led this effort. They collected the registration forms and tracked the necessary data for making lodging and meal arrangements. Faith and Ed also made sure each attendee received badges and meal tickets. Their tireless efforts were greatly appreciated. On registration day, Eph Klots supported them. Thank you all for your help.

Many thanks those who volunteered to lead our hikes – the whole reason we all get together. Keith Mertz organized our volunteer hike leaders, prepared hike registration forms, trail descriptions, maps and signs for each hike offered over the three days. Thanks to the following hike leaders for the variety of great hikes: Harold Draper, Richard Helm, Eph

Klots, Diane Manas, Keith Mertz, Robert Paul, Jay Ross and Bob Uhren.

Finally, I want to thank you!, our members, for making this happen. Your decision to come to the "quiet side of the Smokies," raised approximately \$4,400 for the Cumberland Trail Conference. These funds will be used to help fund the CTC's Spring BreakAway program for four weeks in March 2004. During this time, Tennessee Trails Association and the Cumberland Trail Conference will host over 200 college students from universities across the nation who come to TN to spend their spring break to help build the Cumberland Trail. Your willingness to supporting this program made the time spent organizing the Annual Meeting well worth it. Thank you, and may each of you have a blessed and prosperous 2004.

Annual Award Recipients :



Tennessee Trails Award

The Tennessee Trails Award is presented "for outstanding contributions to the Association or for the furtherance of trails and natural resource programs and opportunities within Tennessee." This year's award was presented to Jim Poteet.

Jim has been a dedicated member of TTA for 15+ years and through his leadership skills, creative ideas, computer wizardry and fistful of resources he has had a huge impact on TTA. For example, in the last eight years alone Jim has been a Board member in the roles of vice president, president and past president. During this time (and still to this very day), Jim has continued to lead a hike each month for the Nashville chapter, many times combining the outing to include the members of the Big South Fork chapter; designed (and maintains) the extensive database that keeps track of our members. During the Internet's infancy, Jim secured a URL and a host server for TTA and worked with a local school and its students to create a web page. Then, a few years ago Jim single-handedly redesigned the entire website to make it more user friendly. In addition to trail building and maintenance on various trails in Tennessee, Jim has been and continues to be a huge supporter of the Cumberland Trail. For all of this and more, we owe Jim a debt of gratitude in appreciation for his many years of dedicated service, continuous commitment, outstanding accomplishments and guidance in TTA's future.



Bill Stutz Award

The Bill Stutz Award is presented in honor of the late Bill Stutz, past TTA member and beloved hiker. The award is presented to an active hiker "for his or her individual contribution to the Association or one of its chapters." This year, the award was presented to Leigh Jones.

Since joining TTA, Leigh has given much of her time to helping build the Cumberland Trail. Over the past two years, Leigh has been involved in TTA on two leadership levels, one as the president of the organization, overseeing all of the day-to-day business and activities. The other indirectly, has been providing support (and some guidance) to her husband, Charles, who has been Plateau chapter's chairman over the past year. For all that Leigh continues to do, we are extremely fortunate and grateful for her generous commitment of time, support, leadership and love in serving Tennessee Trails Association.

Golden Squirrel Award



Nominations are taken throughout the entire year and judged on a hike leaders' ability to totally lose their group before reaching the trail, or for getting them lost on the trail. This year, the Golden Squirrel ventured beyond the Tennessee Trails Association and found three candidates from the Cumberland Trail Conference, Mark Stanfill, Libby Francis and Vera Churcher.

It was a tough decision; however, Mark received this year's Golden Squirrel for going the wrong way on the Cumberland Trail with a group of student volunteers into an area that he had been to numerous times. Go ahead, call Mark to get the full story.

Since Mark was also largely responsible for Libby and Vera's nomination, his error above paled against Vera's and Libby's. Working as a team, Libby and Vera were instructed to blaze a segment of the Cumberland Trail and told that when they reached the end, they would recognize the area and where they were (which had been identified earlier in the day) and would find a car waiting for them. Well, due to incorrect information, they exited the trail in an area they had never seen before.

Our congratulations to Mark Stanfill!

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

FOUND: Newsletter Editor

Thank you to everyone who responded to the "Wanted: Editor" announcement that appeared in the December issue of *Tennessee Trails*.

I am writing to let each of you know that in addition to finding a substitute for my absence in February, I also hit upon a wonderful replacement for me – Tina Dean.

Tina has been a member of the East TN chapter of TTA for about a year, and is an avid hiker and backpacker (currently working on her Smokies map and 900-miler patch). She has a BA in English/Writing, with an emphasis in technical communication. She works full time for Environmental Systems Corporation as a technical writer, and writes software and hardware manuals. Tina is currently the volunteer newsletter editor for the Society of Technical Communication, a member organization that provides activities related to technical writing, editing, publishing, graphic art, web page design, software development and communications consulting.

Tina brings us a huge amount of experience and expertise and is currently receiving tons of information from me regarding TTA, to ensure that a smooth transition takes place before my departure in February. Many of you who know me know that I am a fairly organized person so that the transition period and my departure should go pretty much unnoticed. Over time, you can expect to see changes to the newsletter; however, nothing drastic or immediately.

I will miss working with you as it relates to the newsletter but I am also looking forward to the opportunity of doing something new for TTA.

As a reminder, articles/announcements of interest to the Tennessee hiking community are welcome; however, subject to editing and will be included as space permits. Deadlines for future newsletters are posted to the inside back page of each newsletter – see page 13. Also, please be sure to send your articles/announcements via e-mail to editor@tennesseetrails.org.

Sincerely, Diane Manas

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Julian Bankston 423-628-2845

jrbankston@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Bob Hemminger 423-628-5145

hemminrl@math.vanderbilt.edu

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

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

MEETING: January 10, see below.

CHAPTER NEWS: Beyond the Jan. 17 hike below, we did not schedule any other hikes for January and February, but Julian Bankston will organize a work session when the weather is favorable to maintain the historic trails around Rugby. Watch for the chapter's e-mail communiqué for details.

Jan 10 ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING. Our business meeting will include an update on Cumberland Trail projects for 2004 as well as an election of officers. We'll then have refreshments, plan hikes for 2004 and enjoy a program on the walks Eric Wilson and Vi Biehl enjoyed in the Snowdonia Hills and elsewhere in Wales and England this past September. The meeting starts at 7:00pm ET and will be held at the Community Building in Rugby.

Jan 17 Rugby Hike. Rugby, TN. This is a multi-chapter outing with members of the Murfreesboro and Nashville chapters and a great opportunity to meet fellow TTA members. Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead us on a 5-mile hike from Beacon Hill in Rugby to Laurel Dale Cemetery. From there, we'll walk over to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole along the Clear Fork River to the Meeting of the Waters, and then return to Beacon Hill. After the hike, we'll stop at *Shadowlands*, Jim and Marietta's home in Rugby, for socializing and refreshments. For information, and to register and obtain meeting time/location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 423-628-5890 (Rugby) or 615-824-7666 (Nashville).

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER

Bill Hamilton 931-920-2760

billhamilton@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS

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

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

Sandra Koenig 931-645-2048

MEETS MONTHLY - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CT

Crow Community Center

211 Richview Rd

Jan 10 Indian Town Bluff. Ashland City, TN. This is a moderate hike at the confluence of the Harpeth and Cumberland Rivers where the bluffs served as an Indian village and burial site. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the Rotary Park entrance at the first shelter on the left. For information and to register, call Sandi Hamilton at 931-920-2760.

Jan 17 Mossy Ridge Trail, Warner Park. Nashville, TN. We will hike the Mossy Ridge Trail, which is 4½ miles over terrain that is rated moderate for the hills we will ascend/descend along the way. Depending on where we park our cars to start this hike, we will have the option of picking up an additional 2-2½-miles of trail - via the Connector or Warner Woods trails - which is nearby. We will meet at 8:30am CT to carpool from the exit #11 Commuter Parking Lot. For information and to register, call Jack Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Jan 20 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.

Jan 24 Ft. Donelson National Battlefield Park. Dover, TN. The trails offer lovely vistas and deep forests; then, add your imagination and the Civil War's story comes alive. The total mileage may vary from 5-7 miles; however, all of the trails are rated moderate. In addition, we will be joined by members of the Nashville chapter, which provides us the opportunity to meet and hike with fellow members of TTA. You can meet us at either the Kroger at 8:30am CT or the park's Visitor's Center at 9:30am. For information and to register, call Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Jan 31 Mystery Hike at Land Between the Lakes. Mystery hike, as in the trail(s) had not been selected at the time this newsletter was going to press. Then again, it could be a mystery concerning who our hike leader for the day will be – J.R. Tate or "Model-T." In either case, this outing will be fun and we'll be hiking on trails that are rated easy to moderate. We will meet at 8:00am CT at Dover Crossing, in front of the Kroger. To unravel the mystery and/or join in, contact J.R. Tate at 931-920-2692.

COLUMBIA / FRANKLIN CHAPTER

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

OUTINGS COORDINATORS (Call & volunteer to lead an outing.)

Tanya Juday 931-490-0856

MEETS MONTHLY - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 CT

Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

CHAPTER NEWS: On Dec 2, 2003, we gathered to enjoy our Annual Holiday Meeting. There were 12 in attendance. After a great meal and several hiking reports, we drew lucky numbers for a gift swap. We had lots of fun showing off our newest outdoor gifts. Plans were also made for future hikes.

Jan 1 (Thu) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Refer to your December issue of *Tennessee Trails* newsletter for information. The registration deadline was December 29; however, if you have a question, contact Russell Smith at 615-790-1833 or carving082334@aol.com.

Jan 6 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Jed King, the manager of Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Cool Springs will be our quest speaker. Jed will be bringing items of interest to the day hiker as well as the backpacker. Emphasis will be placed on cool weather gear and clothing. Join us at 6:30pm CT at the Grand Buffet in Spring Hill for dinner and this meeting, and get to know Jed on a first-name basis. Friends and new members are ALWAYS welcome.

Jan 17-18 (Sat-Sun) Beginning Backpacking and/or Day Hike at Stone Door, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. Brian Zimmerman will lead this beginning backpack trip to the Stone Door area. You can expect to see great views of Savage Gulf. At the time this newsletter was going to the printer final plans had not been made, but we will probably hike about 5 miles the first day on the Big Creek Rim Trail to the campsite. On Sun., we're looking at hiking back to our cars via the Laurel Trail, which is about 5 miles. The terrain is basically flat, and this outing is rated easy to moderate. Several members expressed their interest in making a day hiking option available; therefore, it has been added. This way, we can offer something for all, so come and out. In either case, please be sure to have proper winter gear/apparel. For information and to register, call Brian Zimmerman at 615-591-5515.

Jan 31 Devil's Backbone State Natural Area. Hohenwald, TN. TTA volunteers built this trail several years ago and many came from our chapter. Join us as we revisit this special trail together. Plan to see large trees, ridges and valleys along this hike. The trail is 3 miles and rated easy. The trailhead is located on the Natchez Trace Parkway at mile marker 394. Bring water and snacks and a warm jacket. For information and to register, call Marvin Caine at 931-486-1632.

HIKE REPORTS:

On Nov. 8, Russell Smith led 10 hikers, including several from the Nashville Chapter on an easy, 3-mile hike at Montgomery Bell State Park. We hiked part of the Wildcat Trail and part of the Ore Pit Trail. After the hike we enjoyed a picnic lunch together. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the great woodland setting.

Four members were present over the Nov 14-16 Annual Meeting weekend in Townsend. They were: Marvin Caine, Amy Overton, Beth Patton and Russell Smith. We had a great time hiking, and meeting new as well as friends of TTA. The meeting was informative, the auction was fun and the food was good. We are looking forward to next year.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Feb TBA Buggy Top Trail. Sewanee, TN.

Feb TBA Mossy Ridge Trail. Nashville, TN.

Mar TBA Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park. Manchester, TN.

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.

Jan 12 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, and meet/greet members and friends. Guests and new hikers are always welcome! Lots in store! See you at 6:00pm ET at LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room 201 S. 9th St.

Jan 14 (Wed) Trail Work Day. We have set aside the Wednesday following our monthly meeting as our standing trail-work day. We will be working on either maintaining the Cumberland Trail in our area, or on our local project, the LaFollette Nature Trail. Bring warm clothes, sturdy boots, work gloves, snacks and water. We will meet at 1:00pm ET at a location TBA. For information, call Faith Dippold at 423-566-8026.

Jan 17 Yahoo Falls, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Oneida, KY. The tallest waterfall in Kentucky produces a huge ice cone at the base during an extended period of freezing weather. Only half a mile from the parking lot to the falls, the trail takes a long set of stairs down the face of the gorge to the base of falls. We may also extend the hike a couple more miles to see Yahoo Arch. Sturdy boots and warm clothing are a must for this winter wandering. We will meet at 10:00am ET at the Eagle Market parking lot. For information and to register, call Patricia Bolton at 423-562-3408.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Feb 15 Lawson Farm. Vance & Wanda Lawson 423-562-6856.

Mar 13 Cumberland Trail, Eagle Bluff to Tank Springs. Gordon Early 423-566-8319.

Apr 18 LaFollette Nature Trail. Vance & Wanda Lawson 423-562-6856.

Apr 25 Savage Gardens, Lake City, KY. Richard Helm 865-426-4472.

May 22-23 Camping at Kentucky Mushroom Farm. Jerry & Sharon Phillips 423-563-0867.

Jun 20 Pickett State Park. Vance & Wanda Lawson 423-562-6856.

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 waste properly.



EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER

Beverly Neurock 865-220-9679

bneurock@bellsouth.net

Jan 10 **PLEASE NOTE:**

There are two events planned today:

HIKE - Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. We will be combining the Lookout Tower and Cumberland Trail (Bird Mountain segment) to form a loop hike of about 7½ miles. The first part of the hike follows an old service road, which provides scenic vistas as we make our ascent. The Bird Mountain segment passes several geologic formations while descending back to the trailhead. This hike is rated moderate due to an elevation gain of over 1700 feet and the overall distance. Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch, and dress appropriately for the weather (be prepared for winter hiking and/or the likelihood of snow at the higher elevations). We will meet at 8:30am ET to carpool from the Food City parking lot in Oak Ridge. Frozen Head 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 Bob Uhren at 865-748-9227 or snowcap34@charter.net.

MEETING, ELECTION & PLANNING - After the Frozen Head hike (around 3:30pm), we will meet at Panera Bread in Oak Ridge, located on Illinois Ave., to elect new chapter officers and to plan our hikes for 2004. Please bring your favorite hiking books/maps and suggestions of the places you'd like to hike in the coming year. If you are unable to attend but are willing to lead a hike or are interested in an officer's position, please e-mail Beverly Neurock (bneurock@bellsouth.net) to let her know where/when you can help.

Jan 17 Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, East Knox County. This new refuge, located in the Kelly Bend Peninsula, along the French Broad River, should offer an easy 5-mile hike through river bottomland fields and grassy hillsides. We will have excellent views of the bluffs on the opposite side of the river. Expect muddy areas while walking in the fields. Bring lunch and water, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will meet at 10:00am ET along the outer perimeter of the Wal-Mart store parking lot near Knoxville Center Mall in East Knoxville. For information and to register, contact Keith Mertz at 865-982-7368 or keithmertz@hotmail.com.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

Please check, the mailing label on your monthly newsletter displays your annual expiration date above your address. In the past, members who did not renew by their expiration date received one "grace" newsletter reminding them that they needed to renew. At the February 1, 2003, Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to discontinue the grace newsletter as a cost-cutting measure. Therefore, in order to avoid a lapse in receiving your newsletter, please renew before your annual expiration date.

TTA's Calendar - 2004

The following dates in 2004 refer to statewide activities involving TTA as a whole. Please refer to this calendar often to prevent scheduling conflicts and/or for planning a volunteer event in support of these major activities (i.e., BreakAway, TTA's Annual Meeting, etc.).

- Feb 7Board of Directors' Meeting
(Nashville)
- Feb 29-Mar 27 ..Cumberland Trail Spring BreakAway
- Mar 29-Apr 4TN State Natural Areas Week
- Apr 22Earth Day
- Apr 24-25Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition's
Leadership Council (AL)
- May 1Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)
- May 16-Jun 26 ...Cumberland Trail Big Dig
- Jun 5National Trails Day
- Aug 7Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)
- Sep 28National Public Lands Day
- Oct 17-20Southeast Foot Trails Mtg (Monteagle)
- Nov 6-7TTA Annual Meeting (Location TBA)
- Nov 7Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)

**Calendar will be revised as needed.*

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tulahoma 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., Tulahoma

Jan 1 (Thu) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area, Sparta, TN. Refer to your December issue of *Tennessee Trails* newsletter for information. The registration deadline was December 29; however, if you have a question, contact Doug Ratliff at 931-455-0249 or dougratliff@hotmail.com. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

Jan 17 Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Beersheba Springs, TN. We will start our hike at Stone Door Ranger Station, follow the Stone Door Trail to the Big Creek Trail, and follow it down into the Gulf. We will climb out of the gorge, join the Big Creek Rim Trail, and follow it back to the Stone Door and the Ranger Station. This 8-mile hike is rated moderate. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water, lunch and snacks. For information and to register, contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718 or bmorris@edge.net.

Jan 20 **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 D.W. Wilson Community Center.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER

Lee Sparks 731-298-1658

leesq@bellsouth.net

MEETS MONTHLY: (Sep-May) 1st Tuesday at 7pm CT
Davis Kidd Booksellers, 869 North Parkway

Jan 6 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Join us to help plan our 2004 hiking schedule. All of our outings for 2004 will be set at this meeting. If you have suggestions for new places to hike, bring maps, brochures, guidebooks, etc. Guests and new hikers are always welcome! Meet new, as well as seasoned hikers who also share your desire to be outdoors. See you at 7:00pm CT at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, 869 North Parkway. For additional information, call Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

Jan 10 Warner Woods & Mossy Ridge Trails, Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. We will get 7 miles of hiking by combining these two trails – Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge. The trail passes through mature woods with huge oaks, tulip poplars, sassafras, sugar maples, hickories and many other trees over terrain that is rated moderate for the several hills we will ascend/descend. Bring snacks and water. Afterwards, the group will get together for a dinner. We will meet at 10:00am CT at the Warner Woods & Mossy Ridge trailhead in Percy Warner Park's "Deep Well" picnic area on TN-100, which is 1½ mile from US-70S. For information and to register, call Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

Jan 24 Shiloh Compass Hike in Shiloh National Military Park. Near Counce, TN. Join the fun and at the same time learn more about your compass. A compass and registration is required for each participant. Bring water and lunch, and dress for some bush whacking that we will do along the way. After the hike, the group will meet for a delicious catfish dinner at the Catfish Hotel just north of the park. We will meet at Ed Shaw's Cafe (located on TN Hwy. 22) at 9:00am CT. For additional information and to register or obtain carpool details, contact Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

Are You Joining TTA as a New Member? Is Your 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 January 2004:

Les Flowers - At Large

Gary Frost - Murfreesboro

Carol & Ray Haley - Memphis

Richard Horvath & Gwen Alston - At Large

Joe Weber - Nashville

In the past, Supporting Member donations in excess of the regular dues were allocated to TTA's general operating fund. At the November 2001 Annual Meeting, TTA's Board of Directors voted to allocate Supporting Member donations to the Evan Means Small Grants Fund. Your 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.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER

Carolyn Pierce 901-755-5635

cedpierce2000@yahoo.com

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Lenski 901-213-0604

glorialenski@yahoo.com

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

Jan 15 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Betty Porter and Carol Haley, active Memphis chapter members, Cumberland Trail activists, and avid hikers who frequently travel together will share their hiking adventures and pictures/slides of their trip to the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon. Guests and new hikers/members are always welcome! See you at 7:00pm CT at the Germantown Library.

Jan 10 Herb Parsons Lake. Fisherville, TN. This is a 6-mile trail with bridges passing through the forests and meadows surrounding the lake. Deer are sometimes seen as well as waterfowl and Great Blue Herons. Bring lunch and water, and join the fun. Carpoolers will be meeting at 9:00am CT at the soccer field on Walnut Grove Road (located on the south side of Walnut Grove, west of the traffic light at Farm Road), and the hike begins at 9:45am at the lake. Guests and new hikers/members are welcome! For information, call Freddi Felt at 901-685-9915.

Jan 24 Meeman-Shelby Forest. Memphis, TN. Join us for a 7 to 8-mile, easy to moderate, hike on the Chickasaw Bluff Trail through the forest. Bring water and lunch. We will meet at 9:00am CT at the park's Visitor's Center. New members welcome! For information, call Betty Porter at 901-755-4740.

Jan 31 Shelby Farms. Memphis, TN. Shelby Farms, along Walnut Grove Road, is comprised of 4,500 acres and one of the largest urban parks in the United States! The trails range from flat to hilly and from paved to footpaths. The scenery is great as the trail meanders through the pine trees and along the lake. We will hike 5 miles over easy terrain. Bring water, snacks and something for the ducks. After the hike, we will meet at a local restaurant for a group lunch. We will meet at the park's Visitor's Center at 10:00am CT. New members welcome! For information, call Carolyn Pierce at 901-755-5635.

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

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

Plan ahead and register early.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER

Martin McCullough 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

Jan 1 (Thu) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Refer to your December issue of *Tennessee Trails* newsletter for information. The registration deadline was December 29; however, if you have a question, contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

Jan 13 MONTHLY MEETING and OFFICERS ELECTIONS. Please mark Tuesday, January 13, 7:00pm CT on your calendar! And, be sure to attend this very important meeting because we will be electing our chapter's officers. Martin McCullough has provided us 1½ years of great leadership; however, has expressed his desire to step down and to pass the Chapter Chair baton forward. We're also in need of a Vice-Chair, Program Chairman and several other small, yet important positions. It is important to this chapter and TTA that each of us gives some serious thought about what it is that "I" can do, or how can "I" serve the organization in the coming year to help make TTA a more viable and enjoyable organization for all!

Jan 17 Rugby Hike. Rugby, TN. This is a multi-chapter outing with members of the Big South Fork and Nashville chapters and a great opportunity to meet fellow TTA members. Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead us on a 5-mile hike from Beacon Hill in Rugby to Laurel Dale Cemetery. From there, we'll walk over to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole along the Clear Fork River to the Meeting of the Waters, and then return to Beacon Hill. After the hike, we'll stop at *Shadowlands*, Jim and Marietta's home in Rugby, for socializing and refreshments. The Poteets are wonderful hosts and are inviting us back for a second year. It was fun last year and is bound to be again! We will meet to carpool from the Woodbury Hardee's (main drag, on the left) at 8:00am CST. For information and to register, contact either Fount or Anna Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net.

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.tennesseehike.org/release.php

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

CHAPTER NEWS:

We need hike leaders, both experienced and new, to plan and lead outings in 2004. Without these volunteers, we won't get out and the trails go unused and become overgrown! If you have thought about getting involved and have not led an outing because you weren't sure how to go about getting started, call Elizabeth Gerlock. Elizabeth has been a member of TTA for years, has led numerous outings and can provide you with all you need to know about where to go and how to lead a successful outing. Elizabeth can be reached at 615-356-6260 or eygerlock@aol.com.

Jan 1 (Thu) New Year's Day Hike & Feast, Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. Refer to your December issue of *Tennessee Trails* newsletter for information. The registration deadline was December 29; however, if you have a question, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

**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.*

Jan 3 First Saturday Hike in Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Join Friends of Beaman Park as we explore one of Nashville's newer parks being developed by volunteers. Our hike will be from 9:00am 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.

Jan 10 Savage Gulf Day Loop, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Beersheba Springs, TN. We'll hike the Day Loop to the South Rim Trail where we'll take a ½-mile excursion to the overlook and pool access for Savage Falls. After returning to the Day Loop, we'll take the short spur to the overlook on Savage Falls from the other side of the creek. We'll then hike to the junction of the North Rim Trail. If the group would like, we can hike to some overlooks on the North Rim Trail before completing the Day Loop. The total hike length will be 5½ miles, plus any additional hiking on the North Rim Trail. This hike is rated easy to moderate and will be walked at a comfortable pace for those who might like to take a little more time for taking photos or just enjoying the scenery, or are beginning hikers who have done a beginners hike or two and would like to try a little more adventurous hike. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. For information and to register contact Lillian Ey at 615-746-8890 or eyintn@hotmail.com.

cont. on pg. 11

NASHVILLE (cont. from pg. 10)

Jan 11 Fiery Gizzard and Dog Hole Trails, South Cumberland State Park. Tracy City, TN. This loop is rated as one of the best in TN. Beginning at Grundy Forest, the trail passes spectacular rock formations and a stream tumbling over large boulders, creating mini waterfalls. Climbing up the Dog Hole Trail (named for the coalmine tunneled out of the rock), the trail takes us along the rim with several opportunities for taking spur trails to lovely overlooks. At Raven Point, another overlook, we will have lunch and begin our return hike going down into the gorge and following the trail over many, many large rocks and at times along the stream. The hike is approximately 9 miles and rated moderate to difficult for steep ascents/descents and the rough, uneven terrain due to the rocks. Sturdy hiking boots are a must! Bring water, lunch, and snacks. We will meet at the Target on Bell Road (I-24 & exit 59) at 9:00am CT to car pool. For more information and to register, contact Brian Dion at 615-331-7331 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us

Jan 17 Rugby Hike. Rugby, TN. This is a multi-chapter outing with members of the Big South Fork and Murfreesboro chapters and a great opportunity to meet fellow TTA members. Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead us on a 5-mile hike from Beacon Hill in Rugby to Laurel Dale Cemetery. From there, we'll walk over to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole along the Clear Fork River to the Meeting of the Waters, and then return to Beacon Hill. After the hike, we'll stop at *Shadowlands*, Jim and Marietta's home in Rugby, for socializing and refreshments. For information, and to register and obtain meeting time/location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 615-824-7666 (Nashville) or 423-628-5890 (Rugby).

Jan 18 Collins Gulf Trail, Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Gruetli-Laager, TN. The trail begins along the rim of Collins Gulf and then descends into the gulf where it crosses the Collins River on a suspension bridge. Continuing in the Gulf, we will pass by beautiful Suter and Horsepound Falls. This is an 11-mile loop, and rated difficult for the uneven and rocky terrain in addition to, several boulder fields. Bring lunch, snacks, and water, and wear sturdy boots. For information and to register, contact Doug Burroughs at 615- 587-0085.

**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.*

Jan 24 Ft. Donelson National Battlefield Park. Dover, TN. The trails offer lovely vistas and deep forests; then, add your imagination and the Civil War's story comes alive. The total mileage may vary from 5-7 miles; however, all of the trails are rated moderate. In addition, we will be joined by members of the Clarksville chapter, which provides us the opportunity to meet and hike with fellow members of TTA. We will carpool from Nashville and meet the Clarksville group at the park. For information and to register, contact Dave Walton at 615-292-1384 or dertooner@yahoo.com.

Jan 25 Perimeter Trail, University of the South. Sewanee, TN. We will hike a portion of this 20-mile trail that follows the bluff circling the University of the South. This is a trail for all seasons with winter offering distant views, the possibility of snow, icicles, and frozen waterfalls. Along the way, we will also see interesting rock formations. The segment that we will be hiking is approximately 9 miles, rated moderate for some climbing and rock scrambling, and a requires our setting up a car shuttle before we can begin. You will need to wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water and snacks. We will meet at the Target on Bell Road (I-24 & exit 59) at 9:00am CT to carpool. For more information and to register, contact Brian Dion at 615-331-7331 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us.

Jan 27 **MONTHLY MEETING**. This month we are happy to welcome an old friend and the new president of Tennessee Trails Association, Fount Bertram. A tireless volunteer for building and maintaining trails, Fount will now turn his energy to the administrative side of TTA as well. Come hear Fount's ideas for TTA, and you are welcome to share a few of your own. See you at 7:00pm CT at the St. Bernard Academy Building at 2021 21st Ave. South.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin & Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER

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

MEETING January 15, see below.

Meeting starts at 7:00pm CT

UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center
Room 231

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

Jan 15 (Thu) **MONTHLY MEETING**. Note this meeting is on the third Thursday and not the second one, which is when we usually meet. Charles Bradshaw, who has guided on the Green and Colorado Rivers in Arizona and Utah, will tell of his adventures guiding clients. Be prepared for recipes for "River Guide Beans" and stories like "you cannot believe what this client did..." 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.

Jan 19 (Mon) Annual Martin Luther King Day Hike in Land Between the Lakes. TN/KY. We will continue on our goal of hiking the entire North-South Trail, picking up from where we left off last year. Open areas provide beautiful views of Kentucky Lake from the high bluffs. This hike is rated moderate due to the uneven terrain and rolling hills. We will hike about 8 miles, setting up a shuttle, with hot chocolate and apple cider waiting for us at the end. Last year we had a one-day interlude between melting snow and awful weather. Will we luck out the third year in a row? For information and to register, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225 or jclark@utm.edu.

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

MEETS MONTHLY - 2nd Thursday at 7pm CT

Art Circle Public Library's Community Room,

154 East 1st Street in Crossville

Jan 8 **MONTHLY MEETING.** Learn hiker safety tips; hear about past and upcoming hiking trips, and meet/greet members and friends. Guests and new hikers are always welcome! Lots in store! We'll see you at 7:00pm CT at the Art Circle Public Library Community Room in Crossville.

Jan 17 Lost Creek Cave. Sparta, TN. It's cold outside, but we should be comfortable (58 degrees) as we hike into Lost Creek Cave to see a 50-foot waterfall. The ceiling in the cave is high enough that you will be able to walk to the waterfall, so no need to crawl. The hike is only 1¼ mile each way, but is rated moderate to difficult due to the need to climb over some rocks and boulders. A flashlight and extra batteries are required! Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!!** We will meet at 8:30am CT in the Kroger parking lot on Highway 70 in Crossville. For information and to register, call Bill Harris at 931-484-9152.

Jan 18 Overnight at Charit Creek Lodge, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. Jamestown, TN. One cabin, with limited space, has been reserved; therefore, **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** by Jan. 10. Hiking abounds in this wonderful park so we will have lots of options outside of our door for a long or short hike. For information and to register, contact Gene or Myra Holloway at 931-788-1724 or *Holloway_MB@roanestate.edu*.

Jan 31 Black Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail. Crab Orchard, TN. Depending on the weather, we can either do a short, 2-mile hike around the top of the mountain or we can do a 4½-mile hike down the side of the mountain. Both hikes will include some spectacular views from the overlooks. Wear 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 Charlie Jones at 931-484-5298 or *cejones9@earthlink.net*.

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.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

Arleen Decker 865-856-7262 *deckerstudio@bellsouth.net*

This chapter is in the process of being reorganized. For further information, contact Arleen Decker at 865-856-7262 or

deckerstudio@bellsouth.net

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

Jan 1 Milksick Mountain. Sparta, TN. Bobby Felton will lead a hike on Milksick Mountain behind his home in Sparta, TN. It will be a 5-6 mile hike, rated moderate, with a 100-ft ascent toward the end of the hike. There will be finger food furnished at the end of the hike. After hiking, we will plan outings for the coming months. You can meet us at 8:30am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at about 9:00am. For information and to register, contact Bobby Felton at 931-657-8660 or *ChickenCity@blomand.net*.

Jan 10 Big Spring, Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area. Sparta, TN. This hike features a huge spring under a big bluff, which goes into a stream. There also exists the possibility of taking a side trip to Rose's Cave. The hike is about 4 miles and rated easy to moderate. You can meet us at 8:30am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at about 9:00am. For information and to register, call Marnell Cothran at 931-738-5874.

Jan 17 Brady Mountain Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Crossville, TN. Highlights of this trail include tremendous views of Grassy Cove from Brady Bluff. We may also take side trips to some very interesting rock formations and to the site of an airplane crash. The hike is 6 to 7 miles and rated moderate to strenuous because of the elevation gain. Sturdy hiking boots are needed. We will meet at 8:30am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register contact, Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or *savage_richard@hotmail.com*.

Jan 31 Black Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail. Crab Orchard, TN. Black Mountain is noted for its interesting rock formations and wonderful overlooks. We will hike the Black Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail and the Black Mountain Loop Trail. The hike is about 8 miles and rated moderate. We will meet at 9:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register, contact Louise Miniard at 931-528-9115 or *lminiard@flowserve.com*.

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TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council
VACANT

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:

<u>Due</u>	<u>For Newsletter Dated</u>
January 2	February 1
February 5	March 1
March 5	April 1
April 5	May 1

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

Please send all submissions to:
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)

WEBSITE www.TNRailsTrails.org

TRAC is in the process of being reorganized. Stay tuned for further information.

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.*

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.

**TTA turned 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.*

_____ *Shipping & Handling on T-shirt Orders ONLY!!! 1.50

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

E-mail Address: _____

*Mail your check payable to: Tennessee Trails Association
c/o Marietta Poteet
324 Raintree Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075*

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

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

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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**

Jan 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,
Toni Reeves 615-790-3839 tonir@bellsouth.net

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 _____

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"/> Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma) | <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarksville | <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson | <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"/> East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville) | <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.