

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



The BIG DIG III May 22 - June 25

The BIG DIG is back ready to take a dive into Soddy Creek Gorge! We will continue the progress made during the Spring BreakAway into the BIG DIG III. If you are not familiar with the BIG DIG, this is a program designed for volunteers of all ages and is flexible to meet your schedule. We will be working seven days a week for five weeks. Housing and meals are furnished to volunteers at the Dogwood Lodge Church Camp. Each evening volunteers will have an opportunity to listen to local speakers or music for our educational programming.

How can you help?

Trail builders – No experience required to come out and build trail. We will teach you!

Staff Positions - We hire a staff to lead teams of volunteers on the trail. They will teach and lead each day. If this interests you or if you know someone who might be, contact Mark Stanfill for more information.

Kitchen Crew – The people in the kitchen cook and prepare food, do the grocery shopping, and make sure that there is enough food for everyone. Many of the same people that helped last year are back, but I'm sure your help will be needed.

Camp Help – There will be food and materials to pick up, tools to be sharpened, & camp to be cleaned. Plenty to do!

Basic Trail Maintenance – If you like to be on the trail, but feel that trail construction is too much, then we need people to walk the trails in the area to run chainsaw, paint blazes, clip branches, pick up litter, and tell hikers about the Cumberland Trail!

(See Page 3 for Sign-up Form!)

Volunteers needed for Trail Maintenance at South Cumberland Recreation Area

The trail leading up to the Alum Gap campsite is in need of erosion protection (water bars) and some stone staircase work. The water bars can likely be installed in a day but the staircase work will likely take several days to complete. We're proposing working on this project one Saturday a month, spread out over the next few months. If you're interested in helping... just for a day or for the duration of the project, contact Brent Morris, 931-454-1718 or bmorris@edge.net for more information. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Reminder:
TTA's Annual Meeting
Oct. 14-16, 2005
DuBose Conference Center
Monteagle, Tennessee
Watch for Details in Future
Issues

Walking with Fount

I'm preparing to go for my first week of BreakAway this year. As always I'm excited to be able to be a part of this fantastic program yet another year. The kids always give me a boost and restore my faith in the youth of America. I'm fortunate to be able to do two weeks this year. I hope a good number of you were able to set aside some time for this special event. If you haven't experienced what working with these young men and women is like, then you have missed something truly special.

Big Dig III is also right around the corner and we still need lots of volunteers to make that work. This will be the last of the projects designated for the Soddy Daisy area. It's truly a beautiful part of the CT and I'm certainly glad I have had a small part of putting that segment of the Trail together. We definitely need to be aware of the thousands of hours that volunteers have put in to get the trail on the ground for hikers. This is not only for our present use, but for generations to come. Set aside some time in May and June to devote a day...or several...to help bring our work to a conclusion here so we can move on to other areas.

It seems we are scarcely made aware of one opportunity, when another one pops up out of nowhere. I mentioned in a previous column about The Walls of Jericho. I got a call recently out of the blue from representatives of the Hermitage...the historic home of President Andrew Jackson. The Hermitage is expanding it's outreach in a number of ways to attract more visitors. One of the ideas being proposed is building at least 5 miles of hiking trails on the estate. There are 460 acres being maintained by Historic Hermitage and another 600+ acres under the supervision of state land management. To make an exciting story short, they are asking that the Tennessee Trails Association consider a leadership role in putting these trails on the ground. I went to the Hermitage on March 3 and was given an "off road" tour of the remnants of the plantation and its features. There is a world of possibility here! It would be a major high profile project with a ton of publicity coming out of it. More meetings are scheduled to determine exactly what, where and how this will all come about. Anyone willing to volunteer for these discussions, please let me know. I can fill you in on all the details.

It seems so strange that some time ago we had more people than places to build trails and now opportunity after opportunity keeps knocking on our doors. I only hope that we can generate and maintain the type of enthusiasm that will enable us to take advantage of these great chances to get our name out there in a big way! It's evident that the word is getting around that we are the people to contact when projects of this magnitude are being considered.

I'm still in the process of visiting chapters...If I haven't been to yours yet, hang on, I'm on my way...

Happy trails...

Fount

2005 TTA Calendar

The following dates in 2005 refer to statewide activities involving TTA as a whole. Please refer to this calendar often to help with planning a volunteer event in support of these major activities (and/or for preventing scheduling conflicts during one).

Apr 22

Earth Day (activities will probably be on Sat., Apr. 23)

Apr 28-May 1

3rd Southeastern Foot Trails Conference (Pickens, SC)

May 7

Board of Directors' Meeting (Nashville)

May 23-Jun 25

Cumberland Trail Conference's BIG DIG

Jun 4

National Trails Day

(Theme: Take the Path to a Healthier You)

Aug 6

Board of Directors' Meeting (Nashville)

Sep 24

National Public Lands Day

Oct 14-16

TTA's Annual Meeting (Monteagle, TN)

Oct 16

Board of Directors' Meeting (Monteagle, TN)

**Calendar will be revised as needed.*



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.

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.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive Director Paul Freeman *paul.freeman@frontiernet.net*
 Trail Development &
 Maintenance Coordinator Mark Stanfill *mark.stanfill@frontiernet.net*
 Office Manager Nora Beck *nora.beck@frontiernet.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*

Sign Up for BIG DIG III!!

Date: ____/____/____

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Work phone: _____ Home phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, I can volunteer on the Following Trail Dates

Week 1 (May 22-28th): Sun____ Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____ Fri____ Sat____

Week 2 (May 29-June 4th): Sun____ Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____ Fri____ Sat____

Week 3 (June 6-June 11th): Sun____ Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____ Fri____ Sat____

Week 4 (June 12-18th): Sun____ Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____ Fri____ Sat____

Week 5 (June 20-25th): Sun____ Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____ Fri____ Sat____

***CAMP LODGING: CIRCLE those NIGHTS above where lodging is required (Sunday to Saturday).

Vegetarian meal preferred: Yes No

How can I help? (circle):

Trailbuilder____Cook____Sponsor BIG DIG ____ Donate
 Food/Materials____

Have you participated in trail work before?: Yes No

I want to help donate food or materials (please
 list): _____

Return Form to:

CTC BIG DIG
 19 East 4th Street
 Crossville, TN 38555
 Fax to 931-456-4934

For more information: 931-456-6259 or
cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

Adopt-A-Food

Here is your chance to help out with the BIG DIG III. We were able to cover the expense of food through your contributions. If you can help with any of the needs below just let Mark Stanfill know at *mark.stanfill@frontiernet.net*.

Lunch Items:

4 oz applesauce	Cheese and Crackers
4 or 8 oz canned fruit	4 oz puddings
Peanut Butter and Crackers	
Peanut Butter and Jelly	

Bulk Items:

Rice (plain)	Egg Noodles
Lasagna Noodles	Spaghetti
Macaroni	Pancake Mix
Ziplock sandwich bags	Brown bags
Napkins	Boxes of cereal
Coffee	Potato Chips
Drink Mix	Snack food

Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness (State Natural Area) Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness, Scotts Gulf, Sparta and Surrounding Area

Introduction

April 9, 2005 Trip

Virgin Falls is located within the greater Scott's Gulf region and is adjacent to the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area. Scott's Gulf is a deep gorge or incision in the Cumberland Plateau formed by the Caney Fork River that stretches for 18 miles from the Clifty Bridge to Big Bottom Cove. Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness is a small 317-acre natural area within the midst of Scotts Gulf and is considered the crown jewel of the Gulf. Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness is a popular hiking destination, one of the older hiking areas in the Gulf, and provides a sample of the stunning beauty and wildness of area.

Purpose

The main goal of this trip is to hike the entire Virgin Falls Trail and to see "**Virgin Falls**". Virgin Falls is truly awesome – the falls are formed by an underground river that emerges from an enormous cave, travels a few hundred feet down some cascades, and then plunges a sheer 110-feet as a roaring waterfall, only to disappear into a cave at the bottom - truly one of Tennessee's natural wonders. The trail itself is designated as National Recreation Trail and is extremely nice. Besides Virgin Falls, there are several other very interesting water falls (disappearing streams/caves), some great over looks from the rim of the gulf, and at the very bottom the Caney Fork River. The trail includes Big Branch Falls, Big Laurel Falls, Sheep Cave, and Virgin Falls. This is actually a visit to the very heart of Scotts Gulf. The entire trip is very beautiful, scenic and worthwhile.

The key features of the hike would be the unique waterfalls, disappearing streams and caves. The area is noted for its unique geologic features including several sinkholes. The sinks here include the Virgin Falls Sink and Sheep Cave Sink. Sinkholes are characteristic karst features found on the Cumberland Plateau escarpment.

My main passion is caving, with a second passion for waterfalls, both which often make hiking a necessity - this trip combines the best of both. When I first went to Virgin Falls back some 25+ years ago I took the lower route from Big Bottom and came up the Caney Fork River via old jeep roads. I had a picture in my mind of what it would look like, but it was nothing like I imagined. This is a must see!! I have even read about this hike in "Outside Magazine". So, have you penciled in this trip yet?? For information and to register contact Glen Rognstad at 731-217-5966 or email: at glenrognstad@charter.net

General Directions and Hike Description

Virgin Falls is located between Cookeville and Crossville and is southeast of Sparta, Tennessee - about 100-miles east of Nashville. At around a total of 240 miles from Jackson, I expect the travel time to be around 4 hours. The Cookeville exits at mile markers 286 and 287 have quite a few good places to eat and makes for a nice stop for supper.

To do the whole trail is a 7.7 mile round trip hike down the plateau into Scotts Gulf, past three other waterfalls/caves, to Virgin Falls, and back up again. With an 800 ft. elevation change

the hike should be considered moderate to difficult, although some sections provide relatively "easy" hiking. Allow 6-8 hours for the full hiking experience - expect to spend the entire day if you stop to look around the falls, peek inside the caves, and stop in on Caney Fork River. Despite the challenges, the trail is well maintained and is a pleasure to walk. I believe this hike should have a little something for every one. Don't forget to bring a flashlight to take look into the entrances of the caves – you never know what you might find.

Alternative Hikes

For those who don't think this is enough for a good work out, a few side trails to scenic overlooks and an alternate loop down to the towards the Caney Fork River can be added to increase the total length by a few more miles.

If you don't think you can make the full round trip, a partial hike to Big Laurel Falls with a side trip to Martha's Pretty Point is a good alternative. Big Laurel Falls is about at the "halfway" point or roughly 4 miles round trip with a maybe a 400-500 feet elevation change (the first mile being relatively flat and easy on the top of the plateau). You would then maybe have time for a short visit to Lost Creek Falls or Burgess Falls as a quick side trip in the area during the later part of the day. If you have a little longer, Fall Creek Falls State Park is located within a reasonable driving distance and offers many scenic falls and shorter trails.

Directions

From Jackson, take I-40 East towards Nashville. Continue on I-40 east towards Knoxville to exit 288/TN-111 Livingston/Sparta. Turn right off exit 288 onto TN-111 south towards Sparta. After 14 miles, exit onto US 70 towards Sparta/Smithville. Take US 70 East left towards Sparta and continue for 11 miles to Eastland Road in DeRossett, TN. Go 5.7 miles on Eastland Road to the junction of Eastland Road (some maps call this Mourberry) and the Scott's Gulf Road, with Scott's Gulf Road entering from the right. *The road may have turned to dirt/gravel, don't worry, it is supposed to change from paved to unpaved, but your still heading in the right direction.* Turn right onto Scotts Gulf Road and go 2 miles to the parking area and trailhead are on the right. NOTE: The trailhead for Polly Branch Falls is located on the left, several hundred feet before you reach Virgin Falls Trail head.

General Trip Plans

Plan to spend the night in Sparta on Friday in order to get an early start. I most likely will also stay over on Saturday Night and do more hiking Sunday morning. Plan is to leave hotel at 8:30 am for the short drive to the trailhead. You might want to get in a good hardy breakfast in the morning. An alternative is to meet at the trailhead @ 9:00 am. Even though daylight savings time begins a week earlier, and will provide some added sunlight time on the trail, we need to get an early start if we want to finish before the sun sets in the west - another good reason to bring a flashlight. We also want to get back in time for a really quick stop at Sunset Rock and a great view of the Calf Killer Valley below.

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

Our hike coordinators are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you in the event their hike needs to be cancelled by registering! 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.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Thomas Howell

423-628-5521, tshowell@nxs.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Benita Howell

423-628-5521 or 865-974-7797, bhowell@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Tim and Lynn Takacs

615-824-7048, lynntakacs@comcast.net or

ttakacs@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Eric Wilson 423-628-2817, ericavi@nxs.net

Apr 2 Frozen Head State Park. Joint hike with the East Tennessee chapter via the Spicewood Trail. Meet at Harrow Road Cafe, Rugby, at 8:30 am, or at Frozen Head State Park office at 9:30 am. Parking at this state park facility costs \$3 unless you have an annual state park permit. Hike leader is Keith Mertz keithmertz@hotmail.com; or contact Thomas Howell tshowell@nxs.net for more info or to register. For information in advance of the April newsletter, contact Tom Howell at tshowell@nxs.net.

Apr 16 The following is NOT a TTA event, but one sponsored by Historic Rugby. The Wildflower Workshop, with Jack Carman, will feature hikes on trails in the Rugby area and a slide show in the evening. Call Historic Rugby (423-628-2441) for information or to make a registration (required; there is a fee).

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Judith Tate

931-920-2692, mamx4@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

J.R. Tate 931-920-2692

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

Wanda McCluskey 931-906-3338

Sandi Hamilton 931-920-2760

MEETING: Monthly - 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT, Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

Apr 2 Ashland City Rails to Trail. Meet 9 AM @ Rotary Park, Barbara Wilbur and Jo Putnam 362-3669, 5 miles, easy

Apr 9 Spring Fling at Dunbar Cave Natural Area. Events Galore, and More! Suva Bastin 645-2849

Apr 16 Piney River Trail, near Spring City, TN. Meet 7 AM @ Exit 11 Park & Ride, Suva Bastin and Merri Hinton 645-2849, 10 miles, moderate to difficult (Alternate hike, Suwanee Perimeter Trail, 8-10 miles, moderate.

Apr 23 Earth Day TBA

Apr 30 Hiker's choice. Contact J.R. Tate 931-920-2692

Attention: Hike Coordinators

A TTA *Release of Claims & Hold Harmless Agreement* form (aka "Liability Waiver") must be signed by everyone before you start your hike or before carpooling to your hiking destination. They can be obtained from your local Chapter Officer or downloaded easily from our website:

www.tennesseetrails.org/release.php

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). 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 is generally the most dangerous part of any hiking trip.

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

MEETING: Monthly - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm CT

Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

Apr 5 MONTHLY MEETING 6:30 Grand Chinese Buffet Spring Hill, TN. Jedd King, manager of Blue Ridge Mountain Sport in Cool Springs will be our guest speaker. Jedd will demonstrate proper boot fitting and will bring an assortment of boots for us to see and ask questions. If you are planning to get new boots this year Jedd can give you the tips and information you need to make the best decision.

Apr 9 Toni Reeves will lead us on a 7 mile hike in Franklin State Forest, near Monteagle, TN. This is a beautiful seldom hiked trail rated easy, and as we all know Toni's hikes are always flat. Register with Toni or Keith White at takehike@bellsouth.net or phone at 615-790-3839.

Apr 23 Bobby Hardeman has had to drop out as leader of the hike of Polly Branch at Bridgestone/Firestone Wilderness because of a schedule conflict. This moderate 6 mile hike needs a new leader. Please contact Rick Lausten at saturncar1@aol.com if you can fill in.

PLANNING AHEAD

Russell Smith will coordinate our chapters participation in this years Big Dig II work on the Cumberland Trail., May 22-June 25. For more information or to register contact Russell at carving082334@aol.com or 615-790-1833.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm
423-562-1110, Richard.Helm@ahss.org

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam
423-562-3227, pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Monday at 6:00 pm ET
LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room, 201 S. 9th St.

Apr 17 Savage Gardens. This easy wildflower walk will take us meandering through a lush labyrinth of interesting rock formations. The private garden is an old, informal collection/preservation of a multitude of native wildflowers, ferns and trees, growing in wild perfusion on and around towers of an ancient outcropping of rocks. One of the highlights is the abundance of the Eastern shooting star. We will meet at the parking lot behind Eagle Mart in Jacksboro at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Richard Helm at 423-562-1110.

Apr 24 LaFollette Nature Area. This one-mile trail which follows Big Creek through downtown LaFollette, sports many wildflowers in the spring. We have taken a special interest in this trail in our own front yard, and it's becoming a tradition for us to explore this area every spring to take in its own beauty. We will meet in the parking lot behind City Hall in downtown LaFollette at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Vance Lawson at 423-562-6856.

TRAILWORK AND HIKE DAY REPORTS

On February 18, six of us met to work on the Cumberland Mountain Segment of the Cumberland Trail. We met at the new parking lot on Bruce Gap Road, at 1:00 pm and organized for our expedition. One of our number was to work on the short section of the Smokey Mt. Segment of the Trail from this point out to the bridge near Red Ash. The rest of us car-pooled to Bruce Gap Creek with plans to hike up to the Devil's Racetrack to work on the ridge from there back toward the east. Once on top, we had our work cut out for us. With two chain saws, we made good work of cleaning up a lot of pines which had fallen over the Trail along this wind-blown ridge. We were quite satisfied that we were able to clear up this portion of the trail a good ways beyond the junction of "Suck Air," the old trail which was the former multi-stepped ascent to this part of the ridge.

On February 27, a half-dozen of us got together to take a rain check on the hike up to the Devil's Racetrack which had been scheduled for the previous week. We met at the trailhead on Shelton Hollow Rd. A few of us who had arrived early took advantage of the wait by making a short loop hike along the Cumberland Trail from there back to where it approaches the end of the Road. We were reminded of some spring trail work we will need to schedule along the open field portion of this part of the Trail. When we got back to the trailhead, our other party had already showed up and had started up the trail, but we caught up shortly. The water flow along Bruce Gap Creek was full, making for a beautiful display of cascades and waterfalls along the initial ascent. Once on top, the view was as lovely as usual. This visit to the top was the first for a couple in our number. We stayed on the summit for a while to look and visit before heading back down the mountain. It is always so fun to get out into nature with friends, and this pleasant time was no exception.

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 14 9:00 am Moon Bow Trail from Cumberland Falls State Park to Dog-Slaughter Falls, KY. Richard Helm 423-562-1110

Jun 4 National Trails Day Event at Cove Lake State Park. Two hikes followed by a cookout. Richard Helm 423-562-1110 or Doris Early 423-566-8319.

(cont') COVE LAKE CHAPTER

Jun 13 6:00 pm Picnic and monthly meeting at Cove Lake State Park. Wanda Lawson 423-562-6856

Jun 19 1:30 pm Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Vance Lawson 423-562-6856

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall
rosemary_1@hotmail.com

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

Bob Uhren
snowcap34@charter.net

TREASURER: Harold Draper, h.m.draper@att.net

Apr 2 Frozen Head State Park, Spicewood Branch/North Old Mac Trails @ 9 mi. (Joint hike with the Big South Fork chapter). This loop hike will begin with an easy .5 mi. stroll on a wide jeep road before beginning the 2.5 mi. 1400' ascent on the Spicewood Branch Trail to its intersection with the Chimney Tops Trail. Another mile or so will bring us to the Tub Springs Campsite where we will make a decision about a lunch spot and/or hiking to Frozen Head Tower. Our descent will be via the North Old Mac Trail back to the parking lot. This hike is rated moderate to strenuous depending on one's hiking experience and fitness for the 1400' ascent and narrowness of Spicewood Branch Trail. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring food and water, and dress appropriately for the unpredictable Frozen Head weather. Frozen Head S.P. is a fee access area --- \$3/vehicle. E.T. people can meet at Food City, 115 S. Illinois Ave., Oak Ridge, for a 9:00 am ET departure, or at the Frozen Head Visitors Center at 9:30. For further info on this hike contact Keith Mertz at 865-982-7368 or keithmertz@hotmail.com.

Apr 9 Joyce Kilmer - Slickrock Wilderness Area. We'll begin by walking the easy-rated 2 mile loops included in the Joyce Kilmer National Recreational Trails known for their centuries old trees. From there we'll shuttle up to the Haoe Lead Trailhead. The ascension portion of this 3.9 section is rated moderate to strenuous due to the poor trail conditions. After reaching the junction of the Jenkins Meadow Trail, we'll do a moderate descent of 2.4 miles to the Connector Trail junction. This 0.9 mile descent links up the Jenkins Meadow Trail with the Naked Ground Trail which leads us easily back 0.6 mile to the parking lot. Total hike is 9.8 miles and is rated easy to strenuous depending on the section! We'll meet at 7:30 am (EST) at the Bi-Lo in Maryville on 411 South. This is an all-day hike with a possible dinner at the Tapoco Lodge. It is strongly recommended that all hikers wear sturdy hiking shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and also use hiking sticks! For more information, contact Robert & Patty Paul at 865-983-1985 or paulr@monroe.k12.tn.us

Apr 23 Great Smoky Mountains, Porters Creek. We will hike the Porters Creek Trail of the GSM. Our beginning will be at the Greenbrier Cove trailhead. This 7 mile total hiking trail is recognized for its historical settlement, mountainous beauty and wildflowers. We'll meet at 9:30 am. ET at the Gatlinburg Welcome Center or 10:00 at the trailhead. Contact Rosemary Marshall for pre-registering 865-548-6171 or rosemary_1@hotmail.com.

(cont') EAST TN CHAPTER

Apr 30 Great Smoky Mountains - White Oak Sinks Via Schoolhouse Gap Trail. This is a 5-6 mile hike. Beginning at the parking lot on Laurel Creek Rd, we will hike 1.1 miles up Schoolhouse Gap Trail before veering off to the left onto an un-maintained trail that will take us down to the White Oak Sinks area where we should see abundant wildflower displays. Our route out will take us on another un-maintained trail to the intersection of Scott Mtn. and Schoolhouse Gap Trails at the edge of the Park where it will then be 2 miles back to the cars. Meet at the Townsend 'we' at 8:30 a.m. ET for car shuttle to the trailhead. Bring food, water, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. For more info. on this hike call Beverly at 865-220-9679 or email bneurock@bellsouth.net.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

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

MEETING: Saturday, Dec 11, Time and location to be determined. Please contact Doug Ratliff for details.

Date to be determined South Cumberland Recreation Area, Trail Maintenance near Alum Gap at Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Reference the article on the cover of this newsletter. Contact Brent Morris, 931-454-1718 or bmorris@edge.net for more information.

Apr 19 MONTHLY MEETING Join us as we hold a joint meeting with the Friends of Short Springs. New hikers and guests are always welcome to attend. See you at 7:00 pm CT at the D. W. Wilson Community Center, 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Gary Cooper
731-424-5375 gcooper52@yahoo.com

MEETING: Meeting: Monthly: 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT Lambuth University, 705 Lambuth Blvd, Hyde Hall in basement on Maple Street. Look for TTA signs.

Apr 5 MONTHLY MEETING Come and hear about past hikes and upcoming hikes. Guests and new hikers are always welcome!

Apr 9 Virgin Falls Trail, Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, near Sparta, TN-Overnight Trip-This trail descends the Caney Fork River Gorge to reach Virgin Falls. Along the way, the trail passes several waterfalls and caves providing an overlook of Scott's Gulf. At Virgin Falls, the trail make a small loop, after which you hike out on the same trail. The trail is a 7.7 mile round trip hike with an 800 ft elevation change-the hike should be considered moderate to difficult. Allow 6-8 hours for the hike, but expect to spend the entire day. The key features of the hike would be the unique waterfalls, disappearing streams and caves. THIS IS A MUST SEE! Wear sturdy shoes, bring along plenty of drinking water and a separate lunch. Don't forget a good flashlight and a sense of adventure. Additional hikes on Sunday are possible. For more information, trip plan, hotel reservations, meeting place and time, directions, pictures, alternative hike and to register call or email, Glen Rognstad at 731-217-5966, glenrognstad@charter.net

Apr 15-17 Car Camp at Elkmont in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

(cont') JACKSON CHAPTER

(cont') Apr 15-17 This is a joint outing with the Nashville chapter (and an opportunity to get to know fellow TTA'ers that we don't get to see often). We'll depart early on Fri so that we will arrive in the Smokies with enough time to get in a short hike. On Sat., we'll have several hiking options. See Nashville Chapter for more details or call Gary Cooper 731-424-5375, gcooper52@yahoo.com

Apr 23 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park-Camden, TN Join us for a 6-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain. Meet at the Park Interpretative Center at 9:30 am CT and bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. To register and for carpool information, call Candy Higgs, 731-660-2332, chiggs@armstrongallen.com or Sara Hakim, 731-424-6692, hakim@lambuth.edu

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Pierce
901-755-5635, cedpierce2000@yahoo.com

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Gloria Lenski
901-213-0604, glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETING: Monthly (Sept - May) 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Rd. 901-754-8443 Located off Germantown Parkway east on Trinity Rd. 1 1/8 mile. On the right - shares an entrance with Bert Ferguson Community Ct.

Apr 2 Meeman-Shelby Forest Chickasaw Bluff Trail Great spring hike! Bring water and lunch and meet at the park visitor center at 9 a.m. Hike begins with a car shuttle to the north end of the trail for a 7-mile easy to moderate hike through the forest and connect up to the Woodland Trail then hike back to the visitor center. New Hikers Welcome! For information, call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604. Directions: From Interstate 40, take exit 2-A, turn right, go 6 traffic lights to Watkins Road (this is Highway 388), turn left and go until the road dead-ends. Turn left, go one mile to a four-way stop, Shelby Forest General Store and turn right, go one mile, turn left into the park.

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/MeemanShelby/>

Apr 9 Old Growth Forrest & V&E Greenline John Martin will lead an easy 2 - 3 mile walk through the Old Growth Forrest and the V&E Greenline. Meeting time and location: 10:00 am at the bridge at the end of Old Forest Lane adjacent to Rainbow Lake playground parking lot in Overton Park. Spring flowers will be in bloom. New Hikers Welcome! For additional information, contact John at 901-386-3722.

Apr 16-17 Sat-Sun Ouachita Flat Side Pinnacle Mountain Meet at Lake Sylvia campground parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Flatside Wilderness is located in the Ouachita National Forest west of Little Rock. Hike registration required. For hike and lodging information, call Betty Porter 901-755-4740.

Apr 21 Monthly Meeting Fount Bertram, TTA President and member of Murfreesboro Chapter, will be our guest speaker. Fount will do a powerpoint presentation about TTA and statewide hiking. Meeting time: 7:00 pm at Cordova Public Library. New hikers welcome!

May 1 River Bluff Walk - Memphis Great Sunday afternoon walk! Meet at 2:00 pm at the I-40 Welcome Center on Riverside Drive for a 2-mile easy walk along the beautiful mighty Mississippi River. New Hikers Welcome! For information call John Martin at 901-386-3722.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Anna Bertram (also Board Rep.)

615-765-5357, abertram@heartoftn.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Ron Dunn

615-867-3301, trekkingtn@yahoo.com

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT

Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station

697 Barfield Rd., Murfreesboro

Apr 1 Historic Walmart, Murfreesboro, TN. Join us as we explore the sprawling landscape, redolent smells and diversity of culture that is the Murfreesboro Walmart. We will depart the Shopping Cart Corral trailhead promptly at 8:00 CT and begin our hike through automotive, big and tall men, and kitchenware before breaking for lunch at the lawn and garden overlook. If there's sufficient interest we'll make a stop in sporting goods for some camo-breasted bumpkin spotting, so bring your field glasses. The hike is rated easy but proper footwear is recommended for sticky floors. To sign up or for more information, contact Ron Dunn. April Fools!

Apr 9 Stone Door, Big Creek Gulf, Big Creek Rim. Beersheba Springs, TN. Beginning on the Stone Door trail we will be treated to some of the best views going of the gulf area before beginning the rocky descent through the Great Stone Door into Big Creek Gulf. As we hike along the gulf will have the option of an additional .5-mile one-way side trip to Ranger Falls if the creek level permits. The hike then begins the steep rocky ascent back out of the gulf where will lunch at the Alum Gap campground and begin our return via the Big Creek Rim trail. The hike is 8.2 to 9.2 miles and rated moderate for distance, uneven terrain and elevation change. No pets on this hike please. Contact Ron Dunn at (615) 867-3301 or trekkingtn@yahoo.com.

Apr 12 MONTHLY MEETING Our own native plant expert, Bertha Chrietzberg, will entertain and educate us with her photography and knowledge of the wildflowers of Middle Tennessee. Now is an excellent time to refresh our identification skills as we hike among the splendors of spring in our beautiful countryside. Don't forget to come a few minutes early if you have hiking and camping items to bring for the Swap and Shop table.

Apr 23 Piney River Trail segment of the Cumberland Trail. Spring City, TN. Slower-paced, spring wildflower hike along scenic streams, cascades and the namesake Piney River. This joint hike with the Nashville chapter is rated easy for the terrain but moderate for the 10-mile distance. Bring sturdy footwear, snacks, lunch and plenty of water. No pets on this hike please. Contact Ron Dunn at (615) 867-3301 or trekkingtn@yahoo.com.

Apr 30 Beaman Park, Nashville, TN. Join us at Beaman Park in Northwest Davidson County, as spring blossoms in the forested beauty of the Highland Rim. We'll seek out flowers, ferns, and mosses on a short 2-3 mile hike along Henry Creek and the surrounding hillside. Bring sturdy shoes, water, snacks, and \$\$ to join us for lunch with local care at one of the nearby eateries. For more information call Jeanne' Hoehst-Ronner 615-890-9084 or email hoaxie@comcast.net.

Apr 30 - May 1 Smoky Mountain Backpacking Trip, Abrams Creek area. A 13-mile loop hike rated moderate for distance. This trail begins in the northwestern boundary of the GSMNP at the Abrams Creek campground. We begin on Cooper Road, one of the earliest roads into Cades Cove. This is an easy 4.7-mile section with an 800 ft. elevation gain. We will then take part of the Beard Cane trail to campsite #11 (1.0 mile).

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

(cont') Apr 30 - May 1 This is a gentle section with some stream crossings and a valley of spring flowers if we time it right. The next morning we will do a short back track down Beard Cane trail to hook up with the Hatcher Mt. Trail and then the Little Bottoms Trail. The Little Bottom Trail is recommended for sure-footed hikers. Although it is a fairly level trail, it is characteristic of mountain footpaths of the old days. The trail ends back at the campground. For more details and to register for this hike, please contact Tammy Day at tlday@comcast.net, or 615-904-0009.

LOOKING AHEAD

May 10 MONTHLY MEETING Hike Planning and Finger-Food Supper. Doesn't seem like six months since we did this in November! Please give the hikes and outings for the second half of 2005 some thoughtful planning at home before the meeting. That way the meeting will run smoothly and we'll have more time for eating and socializing.

May 21 This date has been selected for our Second Annual Yard Sale. The proceeds will help with our expenses hosting the Annual Meeting and enable us to order T.T.A. sweatshirts to sell at that meeting. This is a reminder to mark that date down on your calendar. We need volunteers to work the day of the yard sale. Also we need your items to sell. The items should be tagged with a price and delivered to Dr. Potter's parking lot at 1132 West Clark Blvd., Murfreesboro the morning of the sale or alternative arrangements made. For more information, contact Phil Stilwell PHILLSTILWE@cs.com 615-893-6568 or Anna Bertram abertram@heartoftn.net 615-765-5357.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Johnson

615.356.6246, jimjohnsonjr@gmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Nancy Juodenas, njuodenas@hotmail.com

Sue Waldrop

MEETING: Monthly - 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT

TN Wildlife Resources Association meeting room at Ellington Agricultural Center, 5105 Edmondson Pike

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045

Apr 2 Beaman Park 1st Saturday Hike Joelton, TN. Join Friends of Beaman Park as we explore one of Nashville's newer parks being developed by volunteers. Our hike is from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon CT on terrain rated easy to moderate. We will meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. For information and to register, contact the Warner Parks Nature Center at 615-352-6299.

Apr 3 Long Hunter State Park, Bryan Dion Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park, This hike is rated moderate due to the 11-12 mile length round trip. It is relatively flat and follows the lake. Wear sturdy shoes, as it is somewhat rocky. There is a \$3 parking fee, unless you have a parking pass. Call Bryan Dion for details and to register 615-532-5756.

Apr 9 North Rim Trail, Franklin State Forest, 7 miles, rated easy. Experience this seldom hiked but beautiful area of the South Cumberland Plateau, near Sewanee. A land of hardwood forests, sandstone bluffs, two waterfalls, mountain laurel, and scenic overlooks. Afterwards, we will eat at a local Italian restaurant. Contact Keith White or Toni Reeves at 790-3839 or takehike@bellsouth.net

Apr 9 Walls of Jericho wildflower hike. This is a 7 miles hike. It is rated moderate to strenuous due to 1000' climb at end of hike, plus possible tricky stream crossings and rock hopping. Call Jim or Marietta at 615-824-7666 to pre-register.

(cont') NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Apr 10 To close out the Sewanee Weekend Extravaganza: Sewanee Perimeter Trail (sections) along with other trails, as well as sidewalks on the University of the South campus. Dogs are welcome. We will start at the Greens View trailhead and do a loop hike of about 9 miles. We will have bluff views in several directions and waterfalls, and the wildflowers will be in bloom. Rated Moderate due to the distance. Be sure to bring snacks, and appropriate boots and clothing. Some of us may choose to stay in town for a late lunch at Shenanigan's. Also, you may want to bring a change of clothes and stay on campus for the 4:00 pm performance of the Mozart Requiem - performed by the University Choir, Sewanee Chorale, and University Orchestra & Soloists (All Saints' Chapel) Call Doug Burroughs at (615) 587-0085 to register.

Apr 15-17 Car Camp at Elkmont in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is a join outing with the Jackson chapter (and an opportunity to get to know fellow TTA'ers that we don't get to see often). There's just not enough space to include all of the details about this weekend; however, imagine wildflowers - everywhere. In addition, to a park rich in history and offering exquisite hiking trails of varying lengths and difficulty. We'll depart Nashville early on Fri. so that we will arrive to the Smokies with enough time to get in a short hike. On Sat., we'll have several hiking options - some may want to hike 7-8 miles, while there will be an option to hike 10-11 miles. On Sun., we'll do a short hike so that everyone can arrive home at a reasonable hour. A group campsite in Elkmont Campground has been reserved for us from noon on Fri. until noon on Sun. Please be advised that the campground does not have hot running water, nor showers; however, there is plenty of fresh cold water from a faucet close to our campsite you can use for drinking, cooking and cleaning as well as clean modern bathroom - not an outhouse - about 20 yards away. Everyone is responsible for his/her camping equipment, food and transportation to the park. Space is limited to 20 at the group campsite. Your cost for the group campsite (2 nights/3 days) will be a flat \$10 per person and due by April 5 to hold your space (rain will not cancel the trip nor refund your \$10). After we have recouped the group campsite costs, any excess money will be donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference for a specific trail project. For more information and to register, contact Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Apr 17 Radnor Lake Newcomer's Hike. This is a moderate hike that encompasses part of the Lake Trail, the Ganier Ridge Loop and the South Lake Loop for a total of approximately 6 miles. There are wooded hills and valleys and wildflowers should be in bloom. Meet in the parking lot next to the Visitor Center on Otter Creek Road off Granny White Pike at 8:00 am. Bring water, snacks and \$3.00 parking fee (if you don't have a pass). For more information and to register, contact Garnett Rush at 352-7217 or rushga01@yahoo.com.

Apr 23 Piney River wildflower hike. Piney River Trail segment of the Cumberland Trail. Spring City, TN. This 10-mile trail is a point-to-point hike that will require some car-pooling. We will actually start at the terminus near Newby Branch forest camp, and end at the trailhead some 5-6 hours later. The trail is rated as moderate due to the distance. Most of the trail is in the gorge near the river and offers many opportunities for pictures. We will cross over a total of 6 bridges, one being a 100-foot suspension bridge. This is an 11-mile hike. Rated moderate because of distance. Call Jim or Marietta at 615-824-7666 to pre-register.

Apr 24 Montgomery State Park, Hwy 70S. This trail follows the perimeter of the park and passes by several lakes, near several historic areas and crosses streams.

(cont') NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont') Apr 24 The hike is 11 1/2 miles and rated easy for the terrain, but moderate because of the distance. Bring snacks, lunch and water. Wear boots for stream crossings. Meet at Kroger on Charlotte Pike at 9:00 am. Contact Brian Dion at 615-532-5754.

Apr 26 MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 pm Our guest speaker this month is Gabby Call of the Nature Conservancy's Tennessee Office. Gabby will show and tell all about one of the group's recent success stories, the Walls of Jericho. This 21,000-acre wilderness area, which straddles the Tennessee-Alabama border, was privately owned for the last thirty years or so, until the recent sale by the Stevenson Land Company. Gabby's presentation will include images captured by Byron Jorjorian. For more background, use this link to the Conservancy's website:

<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/tennessee/preserves/art11863.html>. Directions to the meeting: We gather at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Region 2 headquarters building, located on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center. Enter Ellington on the east side via Edmondson Pike, between Nolensville Road and Old Hickory Blvd. Enter the campus; at the stop sign go straight, then immediately turn right into the TWRA parking lot. Enter Ellington on the west side via Franklin Road. At the intersection of Franklin Road and Hogan Road, go east on Hogan to the 2nd all-way stop at Marchant. Turn right on Marchant, entering Ellington at the top of the hill. Stay on Marchant through the campus until you reach the stop sign at the bottom of the hill. Dogleg left and immediately right at TWRA.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Clark

731-587-2225, jclark@utm.edu

MEETING: usually the 2nd Thursday

Call for confirmation or visit our chapter website.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm CT

UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center, Room 231

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

Apr 9 Ferne Clyffe State Park, Goreville, Illinois. It's been two year since we did the Happy Hollow backcountry trail at Ferne Clyffe State park. Spring wild flowers should be just coming out on this loop trail with a spur to the massive rock bluffs of Hawks Cave, across a natural bridge, and along a creek reminding one of the Cumberland Plateau. This hike is approximately 8 miles and is rated moderate.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

This chapter is being reorganized. For further information contact the T.T.A. President, Fount Bertram, at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net In the interim, you are welcome to attend other chapters (13 to choose from) **outings, events and meetings.**

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Terry Brophy
931-707-7234, tpbrophy@multipro.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Myra Holloway

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm CT, Art Circle Public Library's Community Room, 154 East 1st Street in Crossville

NO meeting scheduled for April. Meet us in May for our next regularly scheduled meeting.

There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information or to get on an e-mail list for the hikes, contact Bill Haynes at 931/707-7606 or e-mail sue1290@frontiernet.net for details. Rain cancels.

Apr 2 Standing Stone State Park, Livingston, TN. The hike is about 6 miles long around the lake and rated moderately difficult due to the length. This should be a good hike in which to enjoy the spring weather and see some wildflowers. Meet at the Cracker Barrel at 8:00 am CT. For information and to register, contact Gene or Myra Holloway at 931/788-1724 or by e-mail at genetn1@hotmail.com for details.

Apr 16 Fiery Gizzard, South Cumberland Recreation Area, Tracy City, TN. The trail begins on top of the plateau in Tracy City. It immediately descends into a beautiful old hemlock forest at the head of the gorge of Fiery Gizzard. There are lots of impressive rock formations in the area. Later, the trail enters younger forest and ascends to an overlook at Ravens Point. Then, we will return via the Dog Hole Trail for a total hike of 9 miles. The hike is rated difficult due to the length and elevation changes. Meet at the Tractor Supply Center at 8:00 am CT. For more information and to register, please contact Jim or Dawn at 931/277-5154 or jchardy@peoplepc.com.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Savage
931-526-2035, savage_richard@hotmail.com

Apr 2 Laurel/Snow Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, TN. We will hike to Laurel Falls and Snow Falls. The hike features the panoramic overlook of the Great Valley of East Tennessee from Buzzard Point and overlooks of the Richland Creek Gorge. The hike is about 10 miles and is rated moderate to strenuous because of the distance and an elevation change of about 900 feet. For a shorter (and much easier) hike, one can hike to Laurel Falls and return, a distance of 5 miles. You can meet us at 8:00 am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. For information and to register contact Lillian Ey at 615-746-8890 or eyintn@hotmail.com.

Apr 9 North Chickamauga Pocket Wilderness, Soddy-Daisy, TN. This hike features fine views of Chickamauga Gulch, waterfalls, and old coal mining structures. The hike is about 7 miles and is rated moderate. We will eat lunch at the cable crossing. There is the option of hiking an additional 1-2 miles by making the descent to Stevenson Branch which is strenuous. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. You can meet us at 8:00 am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:30. For information and to register contact Pete Broehl at 931-738-3551 or pabroehl@taccess.com.

(cont') UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

Apr 16 Savage Gulf Waterfalls, Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Altamont, TN. Highlights of this hike include six of the major waterfalls of Savage Gulf and spectacular spring wildflower displays. The hike will begin at the Greeter Falls parking lot. We will see Upper and Lower Greeter Falls and Boardtree Falls before descending into the gulf and taking the side trip to Ranger Creek Falls. We will then continue along the Big Creek Gulf and Connector Trails before ascending from the gulf on the Collins Gulf Trail past Horsepound and Suter Falls. The hike is about 14 ½ miles and rated strenuous. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. Hiking boots are required. You can meet us at 7:00 am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 7:30. For information and to register, contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or savage_richard@hotmail.com.

Apr 16 Stone Door Ranger Station to Collins West, Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Beersheba Springs, TN. Highlights of this hike include impressive overlooks of Big Creek Gulf, the Stone Door, waterfalls, the sink of Fall Creek, and usually fantastic April trillium displays in Collins Gulf. We will descend into Savage Gulf through the Stone Door before joining the Connector Trail. We will follow the Connector Trail across the gulf before ascending from the gulf on the Collins Gulf Trail past Horsepound and Suter Falls. The hike is about 9 ½ miles and rated moderate to strenuous because of the distance, elevation changes, and rocky footing in some parts. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. Hiking boots are required. 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 9:00. For information and to register, contact Lillian Ey at 615-746-8890 or eyintn@hotmail.com.

Apr 23 Piney River Trail Segment of Cumberland Trail, Spring City, TN. This trail winds along streams for much of its length. There are impressive cascades and spring wildflowers. The hike is about 10 miles and is rated easy for the terrain and moderate for the distance. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. You can meet us at 8:00 am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register, contact Cindy Walinski at 931-394-3413 or cwalinski@blomand.net or Marnell Cothran at 931-738-5874 or leron@blomand.net.

Apr 25 CHAPTER MEETING Join us for dessert and coffee at the home of Guy and Paula Zimmerman, 965 Woodwinds Drive, Cookeville, TN at 7:00 pm CT. Louise Miniard and Richard Savage will talk about their hike last summer on South Australia's Heysen Trail. To register, contact Guy or Paula Zimmerman at 931-526-1574 or guyz@charter.net.

Apr 30 Honey Creek Trail, Big South Fork NRR, Jamestown, TN. This trail features waterfalls, rock houses, and gorge overlooks. The trail, which is 5 ½ miles long, is rated difficult because of rock scrambles, stream crossings, and steep slopes. Bring snacks, water, lunch, and wear sturdy hiking boots. You can meet us at 8:00 am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register, contact Cindy Walinski at 931-394-3413 or cwalinski@blomand.net.

Moved? Have a New Address?

Internet: (www.tennesseetrails.org) Visit our website and navigate to "Member Services." Select "Address Change," and fill out the "Address Change Form," then select "submit."

Mail: Using the New/Renewal Membership Form (on last page of this newsletter), fill in your new information, write on the form "address change" and mail to the address shown on the membership form.

Phone: TTA's Membership Director, Garnett Rush at 615-352-7217.

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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
 Tina Dean *editor@tennesseetrails.org*

Newsletter Deadlines

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

Due For Newsletter Dated

April 5 May 1
 May 5 June 1
 June 5 July 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, contact Harold Draper at 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 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 Patch6.00
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_____ TTA Window Decal3.00
A must for each car.

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

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Round embroidered patch commemorating TTA's 35th Anniversary, sew it on anything.

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

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City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone hm: (____) _____ wk:(____) _____

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*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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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

Apr 05

RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.
Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,
Garnett Rush 615-352-7217 rushga01@yahoo.com

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

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___ Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)

___ Life Member (Individual) \$500.00

___ Life Member (Family) \$750.00

Name _____

Address _____

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Please do not list my e-mail address in the TTA Annual Membership Directory

Please list me with the following chapter:

___ Big South Fork ___ Cumberland Gap

___ Clarksville ___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)

___ Columbia/Franklin ___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)

___ Cove Lake ___ Jackson

___ Memphis

___ Murfreesboro

___ Nashville

___ Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley)

___ Plateau (Crossville)

___ Soddy Daisy

___ Upper Cumberland

(Sparta/Cookeville)

___ 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.

Purchase Order

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

Tina Dean
865-774-1070

March 14, 2005

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Leonard Chavaz
615-781-1071
cell ph: 615-207-0947

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Cover Date: **April 2005**

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

Leonard,

Doug and Diane Manas will be handling the printed copies – the newsletter will need to be ready before you leave town March 22nd. Thank you! Tina Dean