

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



Annual Meeting 2007 –

What a good time we had thanks to your participation.

A total of 201 people registered and attended the meeting with several members attending an annual meeting for their first time. We had several guests, including Brock Hill, the Cumberland County Mayor, and several participants and guests from Tennessee State Parks, including **Mack Prichard, Randy Hedgepath, Kenny Matthews, Mark Stanfill, and Del Truitt**. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of people who showed up for the two Friday hikes to Black Mountain and Lost Creek Cave. In the afternoon, we had a social hour for those arriving later in the day and showed a video about the World War II POW camp that was located at what is now the 4H Center.

After dinner, Tennessee State Naturalist, Mack Prichard, was our featured speaker. As usual, Mack's slide show highlighted the parts of Tennessee that only those willing to leave the blacktop get to experience. He also reminded us of the 39 year history of trail construction and conservation that the Tennessee Trails Association has promoted. The Celtic inspired bluegrass band, Hickory Wind, provided entertainment after Mack's presentation. For those who wanted to enjoy the outdoors and extend the evening, there was a bonfire.

We were up early on Saturday to begin the hikes. Five of the ten hikes were in the Big South Fork/Pickett State Park area of the Plateau and featured interesting arches, rock houses, waterfalls, and bluffs providing scenic overlooks. A hike to Bone Cave was a special treat as this cave may only be visited by appointment with a Rock Island State Park ranger. We also included a hike to one of the favorite locations on the Plateau, Virgin Falls. The hikes were well attended with 10 – 20 hikers on most of the hikes. After the hikes and a dinner buffet, it was time for the annual membership meeting. The membership approved the proposed changes to the bylaws and elected officers for the next year. A live auction to benefit the trail building programs of the Cumberland Trail Conference ended the evening. There were some items that brought brisk bidding, including the print of Black Mountain donated by the photographer, Byron Jorjorian. Vera Churcher's brownies fetched a handsome price as did the "annual lease" of the Candy Corn shorts. We had a really nice quilted piece donated by Plateau Chapter member, Sue McCullough. We also had a hand-made quilt donated by Highland Rim Chapter members, Sharon Bell and Joan Bentley. Sharon was working up to the last minute to get the quilt ready for a new owner. Clarksville Chapter member, J. R. Tate donated a copy of his latest book, Walkin' with the Ghost Whisperers and a denatured alcohol stove. A sampling of some of the other items at the live and silent auctions included back packs, several framed prints, an autographed Pat Summitt basketball, a hand-made stained glass panel, handmade wooden ornaments, handmade coffee mugs, fresh apples, handmade wooden bowls, and several gift certificates for food. The profits from the Silent auction, Live auction, White Elephant sale, and Bake Sale totaled **\$6420**. The money will be donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference Breakaway Trail building program.

The Plateau chapter wants to thank all those who donated or solicited items for the live and silent auction, and those who bid on the items. We also want to thank those who prepared items for the bake sale and found items for the White Elephant sale.

Our thanks are extended to the following volunteers:

Plateau Chapter:

Planning Committee: Carolyn Miller, Rita Senko and Joe Matlock **Registration and Financials:** Mitze Anderson **Registration assistants:** Jane Tollett, Charles Tollett, Carol Quattrociocchi, Mark Richie **Auction:** Doris Rutenik, Jan Barber **Auction helpers:** Gary Rutenik, Charles Tollett, Arlene Albert, Mark Richie **Auctioneer:** Keith Mitchell **Hike Coordinator/Photo collages:** Jim McCullough **Decorations:** Bill and Sue Eldridge **Master of Ceremonies:** Gene Holloway **Signs:** Gary Rutenik **Refreshments:** Terry Brophy, Pam Brophy, Joe Matlock, James Hubert, Jim Grove **Other Helpers:** Ginger Cass, Ester Erb, Jim Hardy, Dawn Hardy, Betty Harris, Bill Quattrociocchi, Levonn Hubbard **Servers:** Michelle Fecteau-Holmes, Tiffany Holmes, Courtney Holmes **T-shirts for volunteers:** Gary Rutenik **Speakers:** Mack Prichard and Tony Hook **Entertainment:** Hickory Wind

Hike Leaders: Randy Hedge path, Hix Stubblefield, Jim and Dawn Hardy, Bill Eldridge, Bill Harris, Richard Savage, Louise Miniard, Mary Jane Ware, Eugene Cummings, Pete Broehl, Brent Morris, Cindy Walinski, Jim McCullough. Several of the hike leaders are members of the Upper Cumberland Chapter and to them we owe our thanks as we would not have had enough hike leaders without them.

Thank you to the following businesses for their support by providing goods and services.

Byron Jorjorian Print of Black Mountain, Byron and Susan Jorjorian, Thompson Station. **Big South Fork** (Rugby): Harrow Road Café; Rugby's Commissary Museum Store; Newburg House B & B; Spirit of Red Hill Shop **Columbia/Franklin:** Foot Solutions

East Tennessee: Arleen and Ed Decker, Once Upon a Time Wilderness Adventure Trips and Hostel, **Maryville:** Jennifer and Charlie Hann, Cherokee Mountain B & B, Jonesborough; Harrah's Casino; **Powell** Power Equipment, Inc.; Puleo's Grille – **Knoxville;**

Highland Rim: 30 Minute Massage, Estill Springs **Murfreesboro:** Bone Fish Grill; Chop House Diner; Longhorn Steakhouse; Milano's; Murfreesboro Outdoors **Nashville:** Bread and Company; Cumberland Transit; Great Harvest Bread Company; Harris Teeter - Belle Meade location; Kroger; Panera Bread – Green Hills; REI; Starbucks – Bell Meade **Plateau** (Crossville): Captain D's; The Feed Store; Art and Frame Shop; Cumberland County Playhouse; Cumberland County Bank; Cracker Barrel. **Other Businesses:** Pickett State Park; J Floyds Gold and Guns.

(THANKS cont. pg 3)

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

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

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

General Manager.....Tony Hook tony.hook@frontiernet.net
Trail Development Cord.....Amanda Leamon amanda.leamon@frontiernet.net
Trail Programs Cord.....Alex Schafer alex.schafer@frontiernet.net
Office Manger.....Marleya Pendleton marleyapendleton@frontiernet.net

Cumberland Trail Update

The Cumberland Trail Conference would like to thank all TTA members for their support and especially the Plateau chapter for hosting the annual meeting. The \$6,100.00 that was raised at the annual meeting for the Cumberland Trail will be instrumental in supporting our 2008 Alternative Spring Break program. Without the tremendous support of the TTA and its membership, many of our trail construction programs would not be possible. Thank you! Cumberland Trail Conference staff

December 7-8 2007: Volunteer Appreciation Weekend. Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. December 8, Saturday, we will have a day hike on Black and Brady Mountains, a dinner and awards ceremony to follow. This is a weekend for all CTC volunteers, so come and join us. For volunteers coming from out of town, a cabin will be provided; space is limited, first come first served.

February 24th - March 29th 2008: BreakAway is an Alternative Spring Break program hosted by the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) and Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC). College students from across the country pay their own way to come to Tennessee to work on the Cumberland Trail along with TTA/CTC volunteers. Students and volunteers stay in East Tennessee and participate in trail building/maintenance for a week. BreakAway also provides for educational opportunities about the environment, history, geology, flora and fauna along the Cumberland Trail. Housing will be provided at Galilee Bible in Caryville, TN Camp. Wagon Masters and experienced volunteers are encouraged to attend to provide leadership. **BreakAway participants must be affiliated with a BreakAway sanctioned school and have a site leader present.**

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Bobby Hardeman
615-305-7955 puttr22@aol.com
MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm CT Grand Buffet
(North of Spring Hill)

Dec 4 Monthly Meeting Grand Buffet Spring Hill, TN. Come for dinner at 6 and/or the meeting beginning at 7. We will share reports of our full month of November hikes, discuss details for our December activities and make plans for hikes in 2008. Bring your ideas and suggestions for hikes to be considered.

Dec. 2 Join the Columbia-Franklin chapter as we attend the annual "Lessons and Carols Service" at the All Saints Chapel on the grounds of the University of the South. We will depart from the A&D Market (1883 Lewisburg Pike south of Franklin on Hwy 431) at 8:00 AM or 9:00 AM (depending whether or not we plan to hike and which hike we choose) and drive to Sewanee. We'll have lunch at Shenanigans, then get in line by 3:00PM for the 5:00PM church service. Bring a change of clothing as hiking gear isn't too appropriate for the chapel. After the service we'll have dinner at Papa Ron's Italian restaurant in Monteagle. Call Rick Lausten at 615-373-0029 or e-mail at saturncar1@aol to confirm.

Dec. 15 Lady Finger Bluff Trail along the Tennessee River (Kentucky Lake) in Perry County. This trail is a loop and only 2.7 miles long but it offers spectacular views of the river and wildlife. Bring extra food to share as we will find a place on the trail to have a leisurely picnic lunch. We'll leave from the A&D Market (see directions above) at 8:00 AM. Call Rick Lausten (see contact info. above) to confirm.

Dec. 27-28 Roan Mt. Backpacking Hike. One or two nights in cabin at Roan High Shelter. Contact Kerry Summers at 615-419-8598 or karofisher@bellsouth.net for details and register.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Charles Gibbs
423-628-5678 clgibbs@highland.net
SECRETARY / TREASURER: Benita Howell
423-628-5521/865-974-7797 bjhowell@highland.net
BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Tim & Lynn Takacs
615-824-7048 lynntakacs@comcast.net
or ttakacs@comcast.net
OUTINGS COORDINATOR Tom Howell
423-628-5521 tshowell1003@highland.net
TRAIL MAINT Bob Hemminger dagbob@juno.com

Dec 25 Colditz Cove, Allardt, TN Join us for our annual Christmas Day hike at Colditz Cove. Meet at Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Dec 30 Annual Business Meeting for election of officers and planning for 2008. 3:00 p.m. at Harrow Road Cafe, Rugby.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Merri Hinton spunky@cebridge.net
270-726-3141
CO-CHAIR: Suva Bastin 931-645-2849
SECRETARY: Lucy Weikel 931-358-5794
j107sw@aol.com
TREASURER: Sandy Janus 931-551-8523
CONTACT FOR HIKES: J. R. Tate 931-920-2692
modelt@charter.net

or Bob Lyon at 931-648-2354

MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm CT, Crow Community Center
211 Richview Rd Clarksville, TN

Dec 1 Hike Rotary Park, Clarksville, 3 miles, easy; J.R. Tate, 931-920-2692

Dec 8 Beaman Park, Nashville, 5 miles, moderate; Suva Bastin, 931-645-2849

Dec 15 Clarksville TTA Christmas Party, 6 PM; Charlie and Jo Putnam, 931-362-3669

Dec 29 Hike Dunbar Cave, 2 miles, easy; Lilli Ball, 931-552-2773

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall
rosemary_1@hotmail.com

CO-CHAIR: Allie Hubbs
Hike_announcement_etchapter@yahoo.com

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

Dec 1 GSMNP - Spruce Flats Falls Manway/Lumber Ridge Trail 8 miles, moderate. This hike will start behind the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and follow a narrow, rocky, well worn path for about 0.5 miles before ending at Spruce Flats Falls. We will then ford Spruce Flats Branch and follow an old manway/railroad for about 3 miles (there will be several small creek crossings). The manway ends at Buckhorn Gap, where Lumber Ridge, Meigs Creek, and Meigs Mtn. Trails meet. We'll turn left and follow the Lumber Ridge Trail for 4 miles back to Tremont. Bring lunch, water, hiking boots, and dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at 10 a.m. ET at the Townsend 'Y' entrance to the Park to car pool to Tremont. For further information or to pre-register contact Keith Mertz at 865-982-7368 or e-mail *keithmertz@hotmail.com*

If Spruce Flats Branch is impassable another area hike will be planned

DEC. 15 Christmas Dinner. This year's gathering will be held at the Tomato Head Restaurant in Maryville at 6:30 PM. For those wanting to get in a light workout before dinner, plan on meeting at the Maryville Rotary Club Pavilion in Pearson Springs Park at 5:30. From there we'll take a leisurely walk of about two miles on the Maryville Greenway to the restaurant. For information and to register, contact Bob Uhren at 865-748-9227 or snowcap34@hotmail.com. Please R.S.V.P. in advance so I can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

THANKS (cont)

Thank you to the following people who either donated items or solicited donations.

Big South Fork Charles and Lavonne Gibbs, Benita and Tom Howell, Barbara Stagg, Donna Heffner, Annie Patterson. **Clarksville:** J. R. Tate, Bob Forsythe, Merri Hinton, Jack and Suva Bastin. **Columbia/Franklin:** Russell Smith. **East Tennessee:** Rosemary Marshall. **Highland Rim:** Tom and Joan Bentley, Sharon Bell, LouAnn Partington. **Jackson:** Glen Rognstad. **Martin:** Jim and Anna Clark. **Memphis:** Debbi Hicks, Woody and Carolyn Pierce, Woody Pierce, Francis Ruffin. **Murfreesboro:** Anna and Fount Bertram, Ron Dunn, Ann Jacobs. **Nashville:** Sue Lefferts, Diane Manas, Shirley Ora, Libby Francis, Vera Churcher, Leslie and Gil el-Sayed, Anne Wesley, Doug Burroughs, Bil and Patricia Vorndick, Nora Beck Plateau: James Hubert, Bill and Sue Eldridge, Rita Senko, Gary and Doris Rutenik, Sue and Jim McCullough, Gene and Myra Holloway, Arlene Albert, Carolyn Miller, Jim Grove, Sara Senft, Bill and Mitze Anderson, Nancy Hazel, Jill Parham, Jane Buchanan, Bill Harris, Betty Harris. **Upper Cumberland:** Julie Walski. **Others:** Judy Varner, Steve Goobic, William Miller

If your name is not listed above, please forgive us. We tried to make an accurate list to make sure that no one went unrecognized for their donations. However, we know that we do not have a complete list of those who donated White Elephant or Bake Sale items. Also, if you need a letter for tax purposes, we are in the process of sending out these letters. If you do not receive one, please contact Carolyn Miller.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Candy Higgs
731-695-1960 *chiggs_3@yahoo.com*

Meets Monthly 2nd Monday Perkins Restaurant 999 Vann Drive Jackson TN 38305

Dec 1-Pinson Mounds-We will meet at the museum at 10:00. We will take a tour of some of the burial mounds and other archaeological features plus a nature trail ending at the top of the tallest mound. The total length will be 5 miles. This is an easy walk. Afterwards, those interested can go to Cypress Grove Park for a 2 mile walk on a board walk through wetlands and swamp. Contact Glen Rognstad 731-217-5966 *grogstad5966@charter.net* to register and for more information.

Dec 8-Land Between the Lakes-Fort Henry-We will walk a loop that will total about 8 miles. The hike is rated moderate for the slightly hilly terrain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket, food and water. Carpool: Gather at the parking lot behind the Old Suede's Restaurant around 8:00 and leave by 8:15. We will depart from the trailhead at 10:00amCT if you do not plan to carpool. To reach the trailhead, proceed east on US 79 for 19 miles past Paris and about 2 miles past the Tennessee River. Take the first left into the LBL, which is not always clearly marked. Travel north on Fort Henry Road past the entrance to Piney Campground for an additional 2 miles. Turn left down a side road and bear left again to reach the parking area. (Boswell Landing is down the same side road, if you were to bear right) For information and to register, contact Donald Dresser at 731-668-4662 or *donald_dresser@usit.net*

Dec 10-Monthly Meeting-Come to eat at 6:00 or for the meeting at 7:00- Come to hear about past hikes and the new ones coming up and have a great time of fellowship with fellow hikers

Dec-15-Natchez Trace State Park-Cub Lake-This will be a nice walk through the woods. For additional information and to register contact Candy Higgs 731-695-1960 or *chiggs_3@yahoo.com*

Dec 16-Harbor Town Christmas Hike-We will be joining the Memphis group for this annual hike. We will walk down to Harbor town along the river then walk back to the Peabody. Approximately 5-6 miles. For more information and to register contact John Martin 901-386-3722

Please register for hikes and weather conditions could cause cancellation and cause the need to contact individuals.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

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

CO-CHAIR: George Gill 423-562-7121

No hikes are scheduled for December. However, we want all members to take the opportunity to join in with the other chapters in their activities

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Anna Bertram
abertram@dtccom.net 615-765-5357
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Millette Jones
millette.jones@comcast.net 615-397-9588
MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT
Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station
697 Barfield-Crescent Rd., Murfreesboro

As an expression of our gratitude during Anna Bertram's final month of service as Chapter Officer many members wanted to offer their thanks and warm wishes to her

Tony & Millette Jones- Anna greeted us, remembering our names and making us feel welcome. This welcoming feeling was a deciding factor in our choice to join the group. **Judy Homan-** Anna's prompt and friendly response to my joining the M'boro chapter made me feel like I belonged and encouraged me that, in time, I could keep up with the rest of you! **Cathy Bingham-** Thank you, Anna, for a wonderful awakening to a whole new world! **MaryBelle Ginanni-** I am so appreciative for all of the time she has devoted to us during her tenure. **Sara Pollard-** She has a real passion for hiking and has done a remarkable job of leading the best TTA Chapter in the state. **Dave Simpson-** You have brought selflessly and generously to the leadership of this club. This club cannot repay you for that, but as a member I can give you both a humble and a heart felt Thank You. **Ann Jacobs-** I am new to the TTA and Anna has always made me feel welcome at the meetings. She always has a friendly smile and positive comments for everyone. **Darlene Bowman-** I have known Anna for several years and she always has a smile and kind word for everyone. She is a great asset to Tennessee Trails and I appreciate everything she has done. **Bob Goodwin** and **Sandra Parker-** Anna encouraged us to participate in a wide variety of hikes and to attend the annual TTA meetings. I would never have gotten this involved without her initiative and encouragement. She makes things happen! **Winston and Billie Jo Bowling-** Anna has been a wonderful leader we are proud to be part of the M'boro group. Thanks Anna for a job well done. **Bonnie Shapbell-** Anna welcomed me and talked with me. She made me immediately feel like a welcomed part of the group. Thank you, Anna. **Cindy Andrews-** You have been such an ambassador for hiking by your great personality and friendliness. You make people want to be a part of this organization. Thank you for your devotion! **Kathi Reagh-** I have always appreciated all your work to keep us informed and up-to-date on our chapter events. Thank you Anna! **Jim Schroeder-** Certainly the club is better because of your leadership. Your caring attitude for all who you come in contact with exemplifies your dedication. **Nabil Wakid-** Anna Bertram has been, and continues to be a rallying figure for the Murfreesboro Chapter of the TTA. **Radford Smith-** Anna's attention to detail and great people skills during her tenure certainly will make her time in office a hard act to follow.

Dec. 1- Keel Mtn. Lost Sink Trail & Hays Nature Preserve, Huntsville, AL, 3 miles, moderate. Hike, eat, hike with the Huntsville City Naturalist. Bob Goodwin at camel40@earthlink.net or 256-564-8417.

Dec. 8-9 Mammoth Cave Long Loop Backpack, 15.7 mi., moderate, 8 person max. Charlotte Broyles at broylescha@hotmail.com or 615-890-6308.

Dec. 8- Fall Creek Falls, 7-8.5 miles, moderate-difficult. Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead this hike,

MURFREESBORO (cont)

Murfreesboro chapter sign up with Anna Bertram, abertram@dtccom.net or 615-765-5357.

Dec. 8- Oakland's Candlelight Walking Tour of Homes, 3 mi., easy (expect stairs). Tour the historic district's most beautiful homes and churches and see a Civil War living history demonstration. Cost appx. \$10 adult/\$5 child. Dinner at a local eatery to follow. Contact Fount or Anna Bertram at abertram@dtccom.net or 615-765-5357.

Dec. 11- Annual Candlelight Holiday Dinner, 6pm, Wilderness Station, Barfield-Crescent Park. Bring a guest to this casual, festive event and a holiday dish to share. Sign up by Thurs. the 6th, we need a head count for TTA furnished drinks and supplies! We need volunteers to come early and help decorate! Anna Bertram, abertram@dtccom.net or 615-765-5357.

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan. 1- Annual Multi-chapter New Year's Day Hike and Feast, 6 mi., moderate. Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness near DeRossett. Contact Anna and Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or abertram@dtccom.net

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Tom Bentley
931-455-5859 *htbentley@charter.net*
VICE PRESIDENT: Joette Carter 931-968-0073
TREASURER: Doug Ratliff
TRIP COORDINATOR/NEWSLETTER CONTACT
Marietta Poteet 931-924-7666
nannietta@blomand.net
MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Tuesday at 7:00p at the
Crockett's restaurant in Tullahoma

Dec 4 Chapter meeting at Crockett's in
Tullahoma Saturday,

Dec 8 – Jim and Marietta Poteet will lead a hike to
Fall Creek Falls. It is rated moderate, a length of 7
to 8.5 miles, to difficult, an 800' drop and ascent to
a beautiful suspension bridge across the Caney
Creek. For further information and to register,
please call Marietta Poteet at 931-924-7666 or
email at nannietta@blomand.net.

Dec 15 -Chapter Christmas party at the home of
Tom and Joan Bentley. It is a covered dish to be
held at 6:00. Please call Tom or Joan for further
detail..

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan. 1- New Year's Hike See Murfreesboro
Chapter

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin/Weakley County)

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

Dec. 1, Bear Creek Loop Trail, LBL

Jan. 21 The annual North-South Trail segment at LBL on Martin Luther King Day,. This year we will be hiking from where the NS Trail crosses the Trace near Cedar Pond to Wild Rose Branch.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

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

Dec 1, Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park, Jackson, TN Glen Rogenstad and Don Dresser will be leading the hike. Meet at the Museum at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park at 10:00 am. We will take a loop consisting of a tour of some of the burial mounds and other archaeological features plus a nature trail, ending at the top of the tallest mound. The total length will be 5 miles. The walk is rated easy. Afterwards, those who are interested can join Don in visiting Cypress Grove Park, located just west of Jackson, for a 2-mile walk on a boardwalk through wetlands and swamp. Questions emailgrognstad5966@charter.net

Dec 8, Crowley's Ridge replaced by Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo, MS --Registration Required-- 2.5 hour drive from Memphis (127 miles)A Great Hike! Meet at the park tollgate at 10:00 a.m .for a 7-mile hike winding along rocky bridges with great views, through shallow, fern-filled canyons, and across the Bear Creek Swinging bridge constructed in the 1930's. Hike rated easy to moderate. Bring lunch and water. To register Deena Spuryer at 901-685-7706

Dec 13, Memphis Chapter Annual Holiday Party Margaret Smith will be hosting our annual holiday party at 7421 Wendy Street in Bartlett. Bring your favorite festive dishes and soft drinks; an oven is available for heating, and we'll supply kitchen facilities, coffee, plates, cups, and eating utensils. Socializing begins around 6:30, with dinner at 7 p.m. The 2008 hiking schedule will be distributed at the meeting afterward. For directions call Margaret at 901-210-6097

Dec 16, Sun Harbor Town Christmas Hike We will meet in the Peabody Hotel Lobby near the Christmas Tree at 5:00 pm and walk along the river down to Harbor Town to see Christmas lights. We will walk or take a Trolley ride back to the Peabody. Approx 5-6 mile walk. New Hikers Welcome. Fo rinformation call John Martin at 901-386-3722.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rita Senko
865-354-6101 rsenko@usit.ne

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Mitze Anderson
931-788-6731 mitze1@yahoo.com

Chapter Chair: Rita Senko (865) 354-6101 or
rsenko@usit.net

Sec/Treasurer: Mitze Anderson (931) 788-6731
mitze1@yahoo.com

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 Harris at (931) 484-9152 or Jim McCullough at sue1290@frontiernet.net. Rain cancels.

Dec. 7 Christmas Party. 6:00 PM CST – 9:00 PM. Cumberland Mountain State Park Recreation Hall. Meat will be provided, but please bring appetizers or a side dish to share. For those wanting to participate, we will have a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. Gifts should be around \$10 in value. We will also be electing chapter officers for the next year.

Dec 15. Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, DeRossett. Virgin Falls is formed by an underground stream that comes out of a cave, drops over 100 feet, and flows back into another cave. Along the way, we will pass a 30-foot waterfall, Big Laurel Falls. The hike is 8 miles in length and rated difficult due to the numerous elevation changes. Meet at 8AM CST in front of the Tractor Supply store. Due to the difficult footing, boots are required. For more information and to register, contact Rita Senko at (865) 354-6101 or rsenko@usit.net

Evan Means Small Grants Program

The TTA board of directors voted in February 1999 to honor Evan Means, one of the founders of TTA, by establishing a Grants Program in his name. This program annually funds trail-related projects across the state and is open to TTA chapters, as well as to other non-profit, volunteer-based organizations.

Grant amounts are normally given in the range of \$300-\$600, but larger requests will be considered. Applications for the 2008 Grants Program should be received by **December 31, 2007** for grants awarded in February 2008. Grant criteria and applications may be downloaded by going to <http://www.tennesseetrails.org/> and clicking on "Grants". Please remember: **Supporting Members Support the Grants Programs**. When TTA members join TTA or renew their memberships, they have the option to become "Supporting Members" by contributing extra money beyond the normal dues. These tax deductible donations are allocated directly into the Evan Means Small Grants Program fund.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Nora Beck
615-517-6486 *nora_beck@comcast.*

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Libby Francis *Libbyslibbys@Comcast.*
(*email Libby & volunteer to lead an outing*)

MEETS MONTHLY:

HIKING HOTLINE: DISABLED TEMPORARILY

December 2007 will mark the sixth time that we've been invited to wrap customers' gifts at REI (Brentwood) in exchange for donations, and each time it has been a FUN and very **\$Succ\$\$ful fundraising** event for the chapter. This year we will be wrapping gifts on **Sat, Dec 15, from 10:30 a.m. until 6:00**

p.m. As in years' past, we are asking chapter members to help by generously volunteering their time (at least 2 hours; more if you can) to wrap gifts while at the same time talking to prospective members about TTA (the TTA Display Unit will be up; plus, we'll have brochures and newsletters to give away). In exchange for the gifts we wrap, customers have been extremely generous to us by making **\$DONATIONSS\$** (*'tis the season to be generous*). Donations received will be allocated to the Cumberland Trail Conference's 2008 Spring BreakAway program which will help to offset some of the expenses incurred to house and feed the volunteers that come to TN to build the Cumberland Trail during the month of March (note: each week there are about 75 college students and 30 CTC/TTA volunteers working on the trail). So, don't hesitate, call and volunteer today for this truly unusual and fun way to fundraise while talking to prospective members. No experience required, on-site training and materials provided. For additional information and/or to sign up and volunteer, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Dec 8 - Garnett Rush will host the annual Nashville Chapter Christmas Party at her home at 6309 Bresslyn Road, Nashville, 37205 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a finger food to share. Directions are: I-40 West to Charlotte Pike exit (# 201), turn left at end of ramp onto Charlotte Pike. Turn right onto Brookhollow Road at the stop light by Nashville West Shopping Center. Go past the first Bresslyn Road, past Davidson Drive and past a 4-way stop. The second road to the right is Bresslyn. Turn right onto Bresslyn in between a grey house and a taupe house. I am the first house on the left facing Bresslyn (the second drive way). The house is red brick with blue/gray shutters. Join in the fun and visit other hikers or potential hikers. For help, guidance, or just plain info, call Garnett at 615-352-7217

Dec. 1 Trail building at Beaman Park, Nashville, TN. We are still working on the connection between the bridge that we built last summer and the new Nature Center which is currently under construction. Bring work gloves and a friend. We will provide tools, training, snacks and water. 9-12 AM, CT. For more info call Nancy at 615-202-5891.

Dec. 8 Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness. DeRossett, TN. This hike follows a tumbling stream that bounds over rocks creating small waterfalls until it disappears underground. On the way to Virgin Falls the trail passes a beautiful overlook, Big Branch Falls, Big Laurel Falls, and Sheep Cave Falls. Virgin Falls is

formed by an underground stream that emerges from a

NASHVILLE (cont)

cave, drops over a 110 foot cliff and goes back into a cave at the bottom. The 8 mile hike is beautiful in all seasons. Sturdy boots are a must due to rocks and elevation loss and gain. Bring lunch, water, and dress in layers for the season. Contact Nancy for information and to register: 615-319-8811, or njuodenas@hotmail.com.

Dec. 15 Laurel-Snow, Bowater Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, TN. Beautiful 80 ft. high Laurel Falls and the breathtaking view of the Tennessee Valley from the 1,700 ft. elevation of Bryan Overlook. The trail is 8 miles and is rated moderate. For information, to register and obtain meeting time/location, contact Keith White at: 615-771-7778 or keithwhiteassoc@bellsouth.net

Dec. 16 Savage Day Loop Tracy City, TN. A moderate hike of about 9.5 miles on the Savage Day Loop and parts of the North Rim and North Plateau Trails. The terrain is fairly flat with several nice overlooks. Wear sturdy boots; bring water, lunch and money for carpooling. For more information and to register contact Garnett Rush at 615-352-7217 or e-mail *rushga01@yahoo.com*

Dec. 22 Stone Door, Monteagle, TN. Beautiful, leaf-free views of Savage Gulf will be yours on the Stone Door/Big Creek Rim/Greeter Falls Trails. We'll celebrate the winter solstice by hiking approximately 7 miles from the Stone Door Ranger Station to the Greeter Falls parking area - with stops along the trail to explore the great Stone Door passage and to admire the numerous overlooks as well as Boardtree and Greeter Falls. Please note: from Nashville, there is a 2-hour drive (one way) to our trailhead. This is a shuttle hike requiring extra time to drop and to pick up cars at each end of the trail. Although this is not a difficult trail, **this will be an all-day trip** due to the time required for driving and shuttling. Please bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water and sturdy footwear to withstand rocks and uneven terrain. We will meet at 7:30 am (central) in the parking lot of the Bell Road Target store (off I-24). To register, please e-mail Anne Wesley at *tthiker@msn.com* or call (615) 851-1052. Nasty weather and/or poor road conditions will cancel.

Dec 24 Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville, TN. We will hike the Lake, Ganier Ridge and South Cove Trails for a total of 4 miles. The hike will have two substantial ascents and descents, uneven terrain whereby sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. We will meet at 9:00a (CT) at the park's Visitors Center (on Otter Creek Road - Granny White Pike side of the park). Bring snacks and water. For additional information and/or to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Dec 25 Warner Parks. Nashville, TN. So you got some really cool hiking gear for the holidays. Time to start breaking it this afternoon! We will hike the Mossy Ridge and Warner Woods trails in the Percy Warner side of Warner Park. This afternoon hike is 7.5 miles and rated moderate for the numerous rolling hills we will ascend and descend. Bring snacks and water. Sturdy hiking shoes/boots are recommended for the terrain - it is uneven with rocky spots. We'll meet at the flagpole just inside the entrance to the park at the end of Belle Meade Boulevard. For additional information, meeting time and/or to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

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ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

Newsletter Editor
Leslie El-Sayad 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>
Dec 10	Jan 1
Jan 10	Feb 1
Feb 10	Mar 1

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

Please send all submissions to:
editor@tennesseetrails.org

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Pam Miller 931-526-9259
pdmiller@citlink.netettlink.net

Dec 1 Bandy Creek to Leatherwood Ford, Big South Fork NRA, Jamestown, TN. We will hike a section of the John Litton Loop, the Fall Branch Trail, and a portion of the Grand Gap Loop to Angel Falls Overlook - perhaps the finest overlook in the park. We will then descend to Leatherwood Ford via the John Muir Trail. Other highlights include the gorge of Fall Branch and a large rockhouse. The hike is about 9 miles and is rated moderate for uneven terrain, narrow ledges crossings, boulder passages, and ladders. Wear sturdy footwear and bring snacks, lunch, and water. You can meet us at 8:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register contact Eugene Cummings at 931-528-6139 or eugeneslions@yahoo.com.

Dec 8 Buggytop Trail, Carter State Natural Area, Sewanee, TN. We will hike to Lost Cove Cave's impressive Buggytop entrance which has an 80 foot mouth carved out of a 150 foot cliff. The hike is about 4.5 miles and is rated moderate. We will also do the short walk to the Natural Bridge and hike to Sewanee's Bridal Veil Falls. This hike is 2-3 miles and is also rated moderate. You can meet us at 8:00am 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 Cindy Johnson at 931-570-0122 or cjhike@comcast.net.

Dec 29 Collins Gulf Loop/Horsepound Falls, Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Palmer, TN. Highlights of this hike include Horsepound and Suter Falls, numerous overlooks, and the historic Stagecoach Road built in the 1830s. We will descend into the gulf along the Collins Gulf Trail to Suter and Horsepound Falls. (Those wanting a shorter hike can return to the beginning from Horsepound Falls for a total hiking distance of 5 miles which is rated moderate). We will continue by ascending from the gulf on the Stagecoach Road and then follow the Collins Gulf loop to the beginning. The hike is 13 miles and is rated strenuous. Bring hiking boots, snacks, water, and lunch. You can meet us at 7:00am 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.

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ TTA Patch	5.00
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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

Dec 07

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:
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P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204-1446

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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:

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

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P. O. Box 41446
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Leslie El-Sayad
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November 16, 2007

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Newsletter Printing

Cover Date:

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One - 8 ½ x 11

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Leonard, please contact TTA Newsletter Party Coordinator Contact Diane Manas, Newsletter party on **NOVEMBER 23** at 6pm

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