

# 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



## MULTI-CHAPTER NEW YEAR'S DAY FIRST HIKE AND FEAST

January 1  
Edgar Evins State Park  
2.5 or 4.5 miles  
Moderate

All members of all TTA Chapters are invited to start the New Year off right with an invigorating hike and traditional New Year's Day lunch along with the Friends of Edgar Evins State Park.

The adage is that what you do on the first day of the year you will continue to do all year long. We'll meet at the covered picnic shelter #1 at the lower part of the Marina parking lot at 10:00 am CT to drop off food. We will then carpool to the trailhead to save space there.

The hike will be on the 2.5 mile Millennium Trail built by Tennessee Trails Association in 2000. The trail is classified as moderate in difficulty.

After the hike we'll return to the picnic shelter for hot chocolate and lunch. The lunch will feature your traditional New Year's Day dishes such as ham, black eyed peas, collard greens, corn bread, dips and chips, salads, desserts, etc. Just bring your favorite New Year's dish to share. There are electrical outlets and water for those who want to bring food in crock pots, etc. Restrooms are also available on site. We'll have a roaring fire going to help keep the chill at bay. Edgar Evins State Park is furnishing the shelter and free firewood. The Friends of Edgar Evins State Park will furnish the disposable dishes.

After lunch those who wish may also hike the 2 mile (moderate but hilly) Highland Rim Nature Trail.

For more information contact Fount or Anna Bertram, [fwbertram@dtccom.net](mailto:fwbertram@dtccom.net) or home phone 615-765-5357.

## Annual Membership Meeting

What a wonderful weekend we had for our Annual Membership Meeting! It was held on November 13, 14 and 15 at Tremont Lodge and Convention Center in beautiful and very scenic Townsend, Tennessee (the quiet side of the Smokies). We had lots of sunshine for the 175 anxious hikers. We had a great speaker on Friday evening. Her name was Christine Hoyer and she is a backcountry management specialist with GSMNP. She is very knowledgeable and her presentation was informative. A nice little duo followed by the name of Billy and Deb. They sang the night away until our hikers retired for the night. On Saturday morning, we had 14 guided hikes that departed in various directions. Everyone truly loves to hike the Smokies.

We want to recognize our hike leaders for their outstanding leadership. **Keith Mertz, Carolyn Reeves, Rosemary Marshall, Bruce Whitehead, Leslie & Galad El-Sayad, Kathleen Sullivan, Robby Paul, Karen Towle, Cheryl Heckler, Karen Brackett, Christine Hamilton, Randy Hedgepath, Mark Paulley, Joan Hartvigen, and Tom Cressler.**

Saturday evening festivities began with our annual membership meeting where we welcomed in our new officers for 2016 and we presented 3 awards for 2015. Our much anticipated Live Auction was a huge success and our thanks go out to Garnett Rush and Libby Francis who worked diligently on preparation and presentation. Most of all, the biggest "Thank you" has to go to our wonderful membership who supports our organization by coming and participating in this wonderful and fun filled weekend. You all hike with us, you buy our merchandise, you eat with us and you support our auctions. You (our members) made our Annual Meeting in the Smokies a great weekend and for your efforts, we are thrilled to present \$7,000.00 to Tennessee Trails Association.

Submitted by Rosemary Marshall, East Tennessee Chapter Chair and Annual Meeting Chair



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As of January 1, 2016, CTC will no longer exist as an associate organization of TTA and the assets of TTA relative to CTC will transfer to a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation to be named Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC). TTA and the new corporation have already entered into a contractual agreement that will govern our future cooperation on our common goals. The first regular CTC Board Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2016 from 9 am until Noon at the First United Methodist Church Annex building on Neecham Street in Crossville. For more information about the board meeting, please contact CTC Chair, Rob Weber ([weber9985@att.net](mailto:weber9985@att.net)) or the CTC office.

Trail work continues in Cumberland County. If you want to volunteer to work with the trail crew, please contact the CTC office.

**Southern Trail Crew:** With the expanded MOU with the Tennessee Department of Conservation, CTC is planning to establish a Southern Trail Crew using a mixture of paid staff and volunteers. Work will be in Rhea, Hamilton, Marion, and Sequatchie counties. Please contact the CTC office if you are interested in serving in a leadership role or working on this crew.

**BreakAway Program in March 2016.** Schools are confirmed, Fort Bluff Camp in Dayton is reserved and educational programs are scheduled, so now all we need is YOU! We are in process of confirming the volunteer base needed during our ASB 2016 Program with the goal of one wagon master (trail leader) for every 7 students. Currently we have 155 confirmed students throughout the month of March with the opportunity for more if we have the trail leaders. There is quite a diversity of students coming from Florida, Delaware, Michigan, Boston, Kansas, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Colorado. In addition, Pittsburgh University has procured two 15 passenger vans that will need drivers for the week of March 6-12. Don't miss out on getting your volunteer t-shirt!

## CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Ken Johnson  
[clarksville@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:clarksville@tennesseetrails.org)  
**CHAPTER VICE-CHAIR:** Lili Ball 931-552-2773  
[clarksville@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:clarksville@tennesseetrails.org)  
**TREASURER:** Mary Schwab 931-645-9068  
[clarksvilletreas@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:clarksvilletreas@tennesseetrails.org)  
**SECRETARY:** Pam Gadsey 931-552-2325  
[clarksvilleasec@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:clarksvilleasec@tennesseetrails.org)  
**OUTINGS COORDINATOR:** Paul Schwab 931-645-9068  
[clarksvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:clarksvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org)  
*(call Paul & volunteer to lead an outing)*  
**MEETS MONTHLY:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 pm CT,  
Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd.  
*Additional information may be seen at our web site:*  
<http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/clarksville>

**Jan 1 - New Years Day Hike, Montgomery Bell State, Park Montgomery Bell Trail. 5.4 miles. Moderate.** Suva Bastin 931-645-2849. We will have a Pot Luck lunch on the trail. Meet 9:00 am CT, BigLots parking area, Riverside Drive, Clarksville, TN. 34 miles to trailhead.

**Jan 9 - McGregor Park to Ft. Defiance and back. 2.7 miles. Moderate.** Eat breakfast at Cookout Restaurant. J.R.Tate 931-378-6559. Meet 8:00 am CT.

**Jan 16 - Dunbar Cave SNA, Discovery Trail. 2 miles. Moderate.** Donna Fondren 931-742-5185. Meet 8:00 am CT at the trailhead near the automatic gate.

**Jan 18 - Martin Luther King's Birthday. LBL, Canal Loop Trail. 10.5 miles. Difficult due to length.** Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 7:00 am CT, Kroger parking area, Dover Crossing Road, Clarksville. 72 miles to trailhead.

**Jan 19 - Monthly Meeting.**

**Jan 23 - Rotary Park, Clarksville. 2 miles. Moderate.** Lili Ball 931-552-2773. Meet 8:30 am CT, first shelter on left after entering park.

**Jan 30 - Clarksville Greenway. 5 miles. Moderate.** Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 8:00 am CT, Pollard Road trailhead.

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## COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Carolyn Watson 901-652-9089  
*columbia@tennesseetrails.org*

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Ellen Clark 615-595-2640  
*columbiaprog@tennesseetrails.org*

**HIKE COORDINATOR:** Jane Coffey 615-516-6551  
*columbiahikes@tennesseetrails.org*

**MEETS MONTHLY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at Super China Buffet, 5228 Main St., #B1, Spring Hill, TN 37174. Socializing and dinner at 6:00 pm CT; meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

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**Jan 5 –Monthly Meeting.** Join us at 6:00 pm for the buffet. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Rick Lausten who will talk about the 186-mile Pembrokeshire Coastal Path hike in Wales that he did in September/October 2015. Wales is a fascinating area of Britain that is steeped in history with Norman castles, quaint villages, rugged terrain, grey seals and scenic vistas.

**Jan 9 - Land Between the Lakes.** Robert Consalvo will lead us in a hike at Land between the Lakes. LBL is a 170,000 acre national recreation area nestled between Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley, created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Native wildlife such as deer, wild turkey, bobcat, bald eagle, osprey and many other species call this peninsula home. Meet at 6:30 am at Tollgate Medical building on Hwy 31 in Thompson Station, which is located slightly north of Hwy. 840. This will be a two and half hour drive. At this point in time we don't know which trail we will be hiking. When we arrive, we will stop at park office for hiking/trail suggestions. LBL is known for winter eagle nesting. Our goal is to hike and view eagles and other wildlife. Please bring a change of clothes, water, snacks, lunch, and good hiking boots. Most importantly, bring a camera!! Another interesting aspect is that this is a man-made lake. Contact Robert Consalvo at 615-519-5584 or *rconsalvo@aol.com*.

**Jan 23 - Devil's Backbone.** Tommy Haskins will lead us on this moderate loop trail. Located at Mile Marker 394 on the Natchez Trace Parkway, the 950-acre Devil's Backbone State Natural Area is situated on a highly dissected portion of the Western Highland Rim. The 3 mile trail within the natural area has an approximate 200 foot elevation change. It is rated as a moderately strenuous hiking environment. Travelers on the Old Natchez Trace so named this segment of Natchez Trace, "The Devil's Backbone", because it followed the rough ridges of the Highland Rim where highwaymen were notorious for holdups and worse. The tree cover in the natural area is an excellent example of a hardwood forest before the arrival of the Europeans. With a departure time of 8 am, interested hikers can carpool behind the McDonald's located at 4908 Main Street (Hwy 31) on the north side of Spring Hill, TN. The natural area lies about 3 miles north of Highway 412 (between Hohenwald and Columbia) and is immediately adjacent to the Natchez Trace Parkway. The trailhead is in the parking lot. The hike will begin at 9 am. Hiking boots are recommended. There are no restrooms at the site. Please bring your snacks, drinks and lunch. Register with Tommy Haskins at *swissman10@hotmail.com*, or by cell phone at 931-628-8600.

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## EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Rosemary Marshall 865-951-8317  
*easttennessee@tennesseetrails.org*

**WEBMASTER:** Sherry Barber 865-209-6189  
*sbarber6189@comcast.net*

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Hike information unavailable at press time.

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### President's Corner

Happy New Year!! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and are looking forward to a new year of hiking. I certainly am.

We extend our welcome to incoming board members, Margaret Dixon, Memphis, our new West Tennessee Regional Representative and Garnett Rush, our new East Tennessee Regional Representative. Margaret replaces Graydon Swisher who has held the position since 2010 and Garnett replaces Bruce Whitehead who was the East Tennessee Regional Representative for 2015 and will serve as the Vice-President for 2016. We thank Graydon for his years of service as West Tennessee Regional Representative and Levonn Hubbard, for his service as the Vice-President for 2014 and 2015. Levonn has stepped down from an officer position in TTA to devote more of his time to other conservation projects, including local land acquisition and trail projects in the Crossville area.

At the November annual meeting, the general membership approved the Agreement to Form a Corporation which was a necessary step in the process to allow CTC to operate as its own 501(c)(3). Therefore, as of January 1, 2016, CTC will no longer exist as an associate organization of TTA and the assets of TTA relative to CTC will transfer to a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation to be named Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC). TTA and the new corporation have already entered into a contractual agreement that will govern our future cooperation on our common goals.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Plans for 2016 include partnering with CTC to promote trail projects to work to complete the 300 mile long Cumberland Trail, awarding Evan Means Grants for trail building projects across the State, supporting our chapters in local projects, such as the bridge over Bobo Creek at Short Springs Natural area, and updating the TTA website, and of course, the annual meeting.

The Memphis chapter will be hosting the annual meeting the weekend of October 28 – 30 at Pickwick Landing State park in Savannah. Put these dates on your calendar and plan to meet hikers from across the state as we explore this part of Tennessee.

Happy Trails,  
Carolyn Miller

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## HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER

### (Coffee and Franklin Counties)

**CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS:** Naullain Kendrick 931-224-6225  
*highlandrim@tennesseetrails.org*

**SECRETARY** Carolyn Fitz 931-598-0597  
*highlandrimsecy@tennesseetrails.org*

**TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP:** Marietta Poteet 931-924-7666  
*highlandrimtreas@tennesseetrails.org*

**OUTINGS & PROGRAM COORDINATOR & NEWSLETTER CONTACT:** Joan Hartvigsen 931-962-0811  
*highlandrimhikes@tennesseetrails.org*  
(contact Joan & volunteer to lead an outing)

**MEETS MONTHLY:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 pm CT at the D. W.  
Wilson Community Ctr., 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma.

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**Jan 1 – Multi Chapter New Year’s Day First Hike and Feast. Millennium Trail and Highland Rim Nature Trail. Edgar Evans State Park. Silver Point, TN. 4.5 miles. Moderate.** See hike announcement on page 1 for details. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Contact Joan Hartvigsen at *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811 for carpool information.

**Jan 9 – Base of Fall Creek Falls Trail, Gorge Overlook Trail, Piney Falls Overlook Trail and Piney Falls Bridge Trail. Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, TN. 4 miles. Moderate.** Steep descent, rough footing. We will also visit the overlooks off the Gorge Scenic Motor Nature Trail, including Millikan’s and Buzzard Roost. On this trip we will visit the plunge pool and then the overlook of 256 ft. high Fall Creek Falls. We will see Cane Creek Falls and Cane Creek Cascades and enjoy spectacular views of Fall Creek Gorge and Cane Creek Gorge. Piney Falls is a 95 ft. two tier waterfall. Bring water, snacks and lunch. You will need sturdy hiking boots and hiking sticks. Contact Joan Hartvigsen at *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.

**Jan 16 – Poteet’s Annual Chilly Chili Hike. Bridal Veil Falls, Sewanee, TN. 3 mile. Moderate.** Stream crossings, rough footing. Jim and Marietta Poteet have invited us to their annual chilly hike, followed by a chili lunch at their Cliff Tops home in Monteagle. Meet Marietta at the Lake Cheston parking lot on the Sewanee Domain at 9:30 am CT. Directions to trailhead. Head southwest on US 64/41A from I-24 toward Sewanee. At four miles, after passing through The University of the South sandstone gates, turn right on University Avenue. Turn right onto Texas Avenue, then right on Brakefield Road. Then left on Crosby Lane, a gravel road across from the athletic fields. Park in the Picnic Pavilion lot. Directions to the Poteet’s house and gate code will be distributed at the time of the hike. If you are not planning on hiking, you may arrive at the Poteet’s home at 12:30 pm. Please contact Marietta for the gate code. Please bring a dish which will complement chili or a dessert. You may bring the food to the house before 9:00 am if you wish. Let Marietta know you are coming and how many in your party. Please call or email Marietta at *nannietta@blomand.net* or 931-924-7666. Let’s hope for snow!

## Highland Rim Chapter – con’t.

**Jan 23 – Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Decatur AL and Joe Wheeler State Park, Rogersville, AL. Easy.** The Givens Interpretive Center offers a variety of displays depicting area wildlife and habitats. The Wildlife Observation Building offers a large, glass enclosed room with spotting scopes for viewing waterfowl and wading birds in the observation pond. We will see thousands of ducks and Sandhill Cranes and perhaps a few whooping cranes. We will walk the Atkeson Cypress Trail that begins with a 330 ft. section of boardwalk through a cypress swamp. A variety of wildlife inhabits the area surrounding the trail. Then we will drive to Wheeler State Park for a picnic lunch overlooking Wheeler Lake (Tennessee River). We will then hike the 2.5 mile loop trail which follows the shoreline of Wheeler Lake from the Day Use Area to the Resort Lodge. We will then visit Wheeler Dam and look for Ospreys before heading home. Bring binoculars and camera. Bring water, snacks, lunch and money for dinner on the way home. Wear hiking boots. Register with Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.

**Jan 25 - Chapter Meeting.** Dinner at 5:00 pm at Ruby Tuesday, 1936 N. Jackson St., Tullahoma. Meeting is 7:00 pm. We will discuss the hikes, backpacking and camping trips and float trips for 2016. So review your bucket list!

**Jan 30 – Short Springs State Natural Area Workday.** 2250 Short Springs Road, Tullahoma. Hopefully, the State Building Commission will have approved the Bobo Creek Bridge and we can begin preliminary work such as clearing brush and cutting down a tree. Bring work gloves, loppers and pruners and chain saws. Let Joan Hartvigsen know you can help. *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.





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## JACKSON CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Vicky Moeller 731-668-9336  
*jackson@tennesseetrails.org*

**TREASURER:** Anne Goodson 731-664-1556  
*jacksontreas@tennesseetrails.org*

**SECRETARY:** Don Dresser 731-668-4190  
*jacksonsecy@tennesseetrails.org*

**OUTINGS COORDINATOR:** Glen Rognstad 731-217-5966  
*jacksonhikes@tennesseetrails.org*  
*(call Glen & volunteer to lead an outing)*

**MEETS MONTHLY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at Perkins Restaurant, Vann Drive, Jackson. Socializing & dinner starts at 6:00 pm CT; meeting starts 6:45 pm

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Hike information unavailable at press time.

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### Joining TTA as a New Member? Membership Up For Renewal? Your Generosity Benefits All !

When you join or renew your Tennessee Trails membership, you have the opportunity to become a Supporting Member by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues.

In the past, Supporting Member donations in excess of the regular dues were allocated to TTA's general operating fund. During the 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.

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## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Charlie Bright 901-829-4434  
*memphis@tennesseetrails.org*

**VICE-CHAIR:** Francis Ruffin 662-781-5034  
*memphisvice@tennesseetrails.org*

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### Jan 1 - T O Fuller State Park – New Year's Day Hike.

Welcome the New Year with a hike at T.O. Fuller State Park. We will meet at the Campground at 9:30 am and hike the Discovery Trail. The trail is a 6-mile continuous loop trail ranging from moderate to rugged. There are a few hills. We recommend wearing hiking boots or sturdy shoes. Bring water and snack. Rain/sleet/snow will cancel this hike. Contact: Gloria Folk, 901-277-5756. Directions to Campground: Go I-240 West to I-55 North, Exit 7 South to Highway 61(3rd Street) drive south approx 1 mile and turn right onto Mitchell Road, continue 3 miles west to the T.O. Fuller Park sign past the Visitor Center and continue on Mitchell Road. Turn left onto Boxtown Rd, turn right at a fork in the road, turn left and park along road.

### Jan 9 - Herb Parsons Lake State Park, Fisherville.

Here's an easy 6-mile hike around the lake and through the woods. Meet at 9:30 am at the lake and bring snacks and water. Rain will cancel. For questions contact Linda Walston, 901-606-9866

### Jan 16 - Lucius Burch Natural Area Wolf River South of Walnut Grove.

Meet at 8:45 am in Germantown Parking lot. Hike leaves at 9:00 am for a 6-7 mile hike on the White/Blue/Yellow Trails. Bring water and snack. Rain or snow the day before or day of will cancel hike. For additional information call Lynne Witherington, at 901-230-1501.

### Jan 23 - Nesbit Park – Stanky Creek – After the Hike Chili Party.

This small park has almost ten miles of hiking trails (bikes too). The trails and terrain remind me of Shelby Forest. Meet at 9:00 am for a 4-mile walk. For questions e-mail *charlie.bright2010@gmail.com*. After the hike we will meet at Margaret's house for chili. Chili will be provided...bring salad, cornbread, rolls, or dessert and your favorite beverage. Hike Location: Stanky Creek is on Yale Road in Bartlett between Bartlett Blvd. and Old Brownsville Road on the north side of Yale.

### Jan 30 - Ft Pillow State Park, Henning, TN.

We will hike the Red Trail, an eight mile loop. The trail begins at the Interpretive Center and is rated strenuous by West Tennessee standards. Early in the hike we visit the site of the historic fort, scene of a well-known Civil War battle. We will have lunch overlooking Fort Pillow Lake. After lunch there will be an option to take the shorter Yellow Trail back to the Interpretive Center, shortening the hike by a couple miles. While there are some steep hills on the trails before lunch, the worst of the climbs can be avoided by taking the shorter trail. Good boots suggested. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Contact: Wayne Simpson, 901-385-1988 or *w.simpson1@comcast.net*.

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## MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Sara Pollard 615-714-3610  
*murfreesoroboro@tennesseetrails.org*

**TREASURER:** Ann Jacobs 615-896-3935  
*murfreesorobrotreas@tennesseetrails.org*

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Valerie Galan 615-516-6441  
*murfreesoroboroprog@tennesseetrails.org*

**HIKE COORDINATOR:** Jennifer Zahn 615-943-8853  
*murfreesorobohikes@tennesseetrails.org*

**MEETS MONTHLY:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT, Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station, 697 Veterans Parkway, Murfreesboro

**BLOG:** [www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/murfreesboro](http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/murfreesboro)

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**Jan 1 – Multi-Chapter New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> Hike and Feast, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point. 2.5 or 4.5 miles. Moderate.** See page 1 for hike details and registration information.

**Jan 12 – Chapter Meeting.** Guest speaker will be State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. He will be giving us tips on winter hiking and safety. He will also be covering what to look for on the trails in a wonderful winter landscape.

**Jan 16 - Poteet's Annual Chilly Chili Hike. Bridal Veil Falls, Sewanee, TN. 3 miles. Moderate.** Stream crossings, rough footing. Jim and Marietta Poteet have invited us to their annual chilly hike, followed by a chili lunch at their Cliff Tops home in Monteagle. Meet Marietta at the Lake Cheston parking lot on the Sewanee Domain at 9:30 am CT. Directions to trailhead. Head southwest on US 64/41A from I-24 toward Sewanee. At four miles, after passing through The University of the South sandstone gates, turn right on University Avenue. Turn right onto Texas Avenue, then right on Brakefield Road. Then left on Crosby Lane, a gravel road across from the athletic fields. Park in the Picnic Pavilion lot. Directions to the Poteet's house and gate code will be distributed at the time of the hike. If you are not planning on hiking, you may arrive at the Poteet's home at 12:30 pm. Please contact Marietta for the gate code. Please bring a dish which will complement chili or a dessert. You may bring the food to the house before 9:00 am if you wish. Let Marietta know you are coming and how many in your party. Please call or email Marietta at [nannietta@blomand.net](mailto:nannietta@blomand.net) or 931-924-7666. Let's hope for snow!

**Jan 30 – Merritt Ridge Trail at Edgar Evins State Park. 8 miles. Moderate to difficult.** This is a beautiful trail along the hilly shoreline of Center Hill Lake. We will encounter rocky ridges, lakeside bluffs and wooded hollows. Pack lunch, snacks and water. For more information and to register, contact Sara Pollard 615-714-3610 or [sarabpollard@gmail.com](mailto:sarabpollard@gmail.com).

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## NASHVILLE CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Doug Burroughs 615-283-0507  
*nashville@tennesseetrails.org*

**OUTINGS COORDINATOR:** Nancy Juodenas 615-319-8811  
*nashvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org*  
*(email Nancy & volunteer to lead an outing)*

**MEETS MONTHLY:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT in the REI Community Room, 261 Franklin Road, Brentwood. For directions, visit: [www.tennesseetrails.org/nashville.php](http://www.tennesseetrails.org/nashville.php)

**BLOG:** [www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/nashville](http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/nashville)

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**Jan 2 - Percy Warner Park, Nashville, TN. 11.2 miles. Strenuous for distance.** Come work off some of those holiday goodies with a long walk in one of Nashville's prettiest parks! We will meet at the new Percy Warner Golf Club House off of Page Rd. at 9:00 am. and start from there and do an 11.2 mile loop. For those who want a shorter walk there is a cut off for an almost 6 mile walk. Bring water, snacks and a lunch and we will picnic along the way. Contact Amy Sutton at [amy109@gmail.com](mailto:amy109@gmail.com) for more info and to register.

**Jan 9 - Stones River Greenway, Nashville, TN. 6 miles out and back, paved. Moderate.** Meet at the Bell Road trailhead near Percy Priest Dam. Directions: from downtown Nashville, follow I-40 East to Exit 219 Stewart's Ferry Pike. Turn right off the exit ramp, follow Stewart's Ferry Pike past Thornton's gas station and turn left onto Bell Road going toward the dam. Take the first left off Bell Road and follow the road downhill to reach the trailhead. The trail follows the Stones River and forks to the right where there is a long foot bridge about halfway in, with possible views of fish, turtles and birds. We will follow the trail to the Kohl's parking area on Lebanon Road and then hike back to the dam. For meeting time and to sign up, contact Betty Magee at [monetfan455@yahoo.com](mailto:monetfan455@yahoo.com) or 615-319-5394.

**Jan 18 - Beaman Park, Joelton TN. 6 miles. Moderate.** Get outside on your MLK holiday and come hike the lovely hills and dales of Beaman Park. Nestled in the northwest corner of Davidson County, the area was once know as Paradise Ridge, named for the Paradise brothers. It has morphed from a homesteading and moonshining area, to a hunting preserve to what it is today; a wild and rugged Metro Park, where opportunities to enjoy nature abound. Come experience the solitude and serenity while hiking the forested slopes of Beaman Park. Bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. For more information and to register call or e-mail Linda Latter at 615-419-4845, [lindaalatter@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaalatter@yahoo.com).

**Jan 26 - Chapter meeting.** The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is a jewel in the crown on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Three Nashville TTA members hiked there this past September and they have pictures to prove it, as well as an account of their personal experiences on the backpacking trip that took them 40+ miles over five days. Join us for our first meeting of the New Year as Doug Burroughs, Dianna Richter, and Amy Sutton describe their adventure. Bring a friend!

**Jan 30 - Polly Branch Falls Trail, Bridgestone/Firestone Wilderness, Sparta TN. 6-8 miles. Strenuous.** We will hike the Polly Branch Falls Trail to the upper and lower falls, with options for hiking side trails to Bee Branch Falls and Jenny Branch Falls, as well as making a loop connection with the Chestnut Mountain Ranch Trail. This area is near Virgin Falls but gets much less foot traffic. Bring sturdy boots, clothing appropriate to the weather, water, and lunch. Contact Doug Burroughs at [dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com](mailto:dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com) for more information and to register. Carpool will leave the FedEx/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Road at 7:00 am CT. We should get to the trailhead around 9:00 am or so.

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## PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

**CHAPTER CHAIR:** Cheryl Heckler 931-200-7436  
*plateau@tennesseetrails.org*  
**TREASURER:** Bill Quattrociochi 931-484-4230  
*plateautreas@tennesseetrails.org*  
**MEETS MONTHLY:** 2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm CT  
**BLOG:** [www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/plateau](http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/plateau)

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There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information, contact Bruce Whitehead at [trailwalker80@gmail.com](mailto:trailwalker80@gmail.com) or 941-716-3620, or Bill Harris at 931-484-9152, or visit the Plateau Chapter Blog at <http://ttaplateauchapter.blogspot.com>. Check blog for cancellations or changes before hiking.

**Jan 9 – West Entrance and Oscar Blevins Loop, Big South Fork.** We begin at the West Entrance trailhead with 2.2 miles of hiking through a peaceful wooded setting before we join the 3.6 mile Oscar Blevins loop that features the old log cabin where Oscar was born in 1915. Other features along the trail include Muleshoe Rock Shelter, bluffs, old fields and a wet-weather waterfall. After completing the loop, we return on the West Entrance trail for a total of 8 moderate miles. Bring lunch and water. Depart from Cracker Barrel at 8 am CT. Contact Cheryl Heckler at [thehecklers@charter.net](mailto:thehecklers@charter.net) or 931-200-7436 to register and for more information.

**Jan 14 – Plateau Chapter 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. 6 to 8 PM.** First United Methodist Church Annex, 69 Neecham Street, Crossville. Past and present members from our formation in 1996 and onwards are invited to enjoy a meal and social time with the Plateau Chapter of TTA. **In order to have enough food, please RSVP by Wednesday, January 6 to Chapter Chair, Cheryl Heckler at [thehecklers@charter.net](mailto:thehecklers@charter.net) or 931-200-7436.**

**Jan 23 – Devils Breakfast Table to Turkey Creek, Cumberland Trail, Morgan County.** This approximately 7 mile hike will start at the Daddy's Creek trail head at the Devils' Breakfast Table and end at the Turkey Creek bridge. From the Turkey Creek Bridge, we walk out a forest road for a short car shuttle. Along the way we will go to both Blueberry and Morgan overlooks, and pass many rock houses as the trail follows Daddy's Creek to the junction with the Obed River. The hike is rated as moderate. Bring lunch and water. Depart from the parking lot behind Vanity Fair at 8:00 am CT. Contact Curt Thomas 931-260-2140 or [curtethomas@frontiernet.net](mailto:curtethomas@frontiernet.net) to sign up or with questions.

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## SODDY-DAISY CHAPTER

**CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS:** Ed & Donna Pyers 423- 344-9271  
*soddydaisy@tennesseetrails.org*  
**HIKE COORDINATOR:** George Bonneau 423-842-3619  
*soddydaisyhikes@tennesseetrails.org*  
**TREASURER:** Bob McGavock 423-843-4646  
*soddydaisytreas@tennesseetrails.org*  
**MEETS QUARTERLY:** 1st Tuesday in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct at 6:00 pm ET at Burk's United Methodist Church, 6433 Hixson Pike, Hixson  
*Additional information may be seen at our web site:  
<http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/soddydaisy>*

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**Jan 2 - Fall Creek Falls. Approximately 7 miles. Moderate.** Will stage vehicles--will start at Gilbert Gaul trailhead. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 5 - Little Cedar Mountain. Approximately 5 miles. Moderate.** Meet at Food City parking lot in Red Bank at 9 .m. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 9 - Savage Gulf South Rim. Approximately 11 miles. Strenuous** Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 12 - Enterprise South. Approximately 6 miles. Moderate.** Meet at Target parking lot on Hwy 153 at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 16 - Prentice Cooper Mullins Cove Loop. Approximately 12 miles. Strenuous.** Meet at Food City parking lot in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 19 - Cloudland Canyon Sitton Gulch. \$5 parking fee. Approximately 5 miles. Easy to moderate.** Meet at Food City parking lot in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 23 - Flipper Bend. Approximately 8 miles. Strenuous.** Meet at WalMart in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 26 - Camp Jordan. Approximately 4 miles. Easy.** Meet at Target parking lot on Hwy 153 at 9 am. Hike leader: George Bonneau.

**Jan 30 - Booker T. Washington. Approximately 7 miles. Moderate.** Meet at Target parking lot on Hwy 153 at 9 am. Hike leader: TBA.

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## SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Sally Ticaric 615-218-1086  
Bob Crouch

[sumner@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:sumner@tennesseetrails.org)

MEETS MONTHLY: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:00 pm CT.

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**Jan 1 - Multi Chapter New Year's Day First Hike and Feast sponsored by TTA and Friends of Edgar Evans State Park.** Details can be found on the front page of the newsletter or the TTA website. At this time we don't have any formal carpooling planned.

**Jan 4 - Monthly Meeting.** 7 pm CT at First United Methodist Church, 217 East Main St., Hendersonville. Bob and I invite all of our members to come for a planning session to start 2016. We need everyone's input. What do **you** want to see our group do and become in 2016. We will have materials available listing past adventures and trails. If you have a specific trail idea, bring it along. A new idea for our group, let's hear it. Don't worry about specific dates for hikes (although if you have one, great). We can always work with the schedule. If you are new to leading a hike, we can pair you with an "old hand"! We need you to help us make our 2016 outdoor adventures happen.

**Jan 16 - A Greenway hike to be determined.** Lea Whitton and Judy Jenkins will plan a short Greenway hike to get us started in 2016. Details will be provided later in a group email. Watch your mail box.

**Jan 23 - Ashland City Bicentennial Greenway. 4 miles. Easy.** This paved trail follows the railroad grade of the Old Tennessee Central Railroad so there is practically no elevation change. Off to the left we will have wooded swamp and flood plain for the Cumberland River and to the immediate right will be a steep bluff most of the way. The Greenway crosses several streams on nice bridges and toward the end crosses Sycamore Creek on a classic much larger steel framed trestle with good views up and down Sycamore creek (which flows into the Cumberland River a mile or so downstream). Last time we walked this Greenway we had a fairly close view of an eagle in a tree. Meet at the Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville at 9 am CT for carpooling or at the Mark's Creek trailhead on Chapmansboro Road at 10 am CT. This hike will require a shuttle. After the hike we will have lunch at Riverview Restaurant across the Cumberland River from Ashland City. For further info contact Swampy Al at [ballallenger@aol.com](mailto:ballallenger@aol.com).

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## UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Louise Miniard 931-239-5425  
Jennifer Carroll 661-369-6619

[uppercumberland@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:uppercumberland@tennesseetrails.org)

HIKE COORDINATOR: Kathleen Sullivan 931-284-7822  
[uppercumberlandhikes@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:uppercumberlandhikes@tennesseetrails.org)

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**Jan 9 - Rock Creek Loop, Big South Fork NRA, Jamestown, TN. 8 miles. Moderate.** The trail follows Rock Creek for part of its length. Other interesting features include the old railroad beds, which are used for part of the trail, waterfall, rock houses and bluffs. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00 am. CT. For information and to register contact Kathleen Sullivan at 931-284-7822 or [katsully4@gmail.com](mailto:katsully4@gmail.com).

**Jan 23 - 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 rock house. The hike is about 9 miles and is rated moderate for uneven terrain, narrow ledges, boulder passages, and ladders. Wear sturdy footwear and bring snacks, lunch, and water. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00 am CT. For information and to register contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or [savage\\_richard@hotmail.com](mailto:savage_richard@hotmail.com).

**Jan 30 - Bearwaller Gap Hiking Trail.** Cordell Hull Lake is fortunate to offer the Bearwaller Gap Trail, widely recognized as one of the best hiking trails in Middle Tennessee. The trail offers panoramic overlook views of the lake, many diverse species of wildflowers (in season) and native wildlife, and breathtaking scenery. The secluded trail runs 5.5 miles between the Overlook Recreation Area ('Tater Knob) and Defeated Creek Campground on Cordell Hull Lake, and is considered moderate to difficult because of side-sloping trails. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Sturdy hiking shoes are highly recommended. It has been suggested to wear orange due to hunting season. We will meet to begin our hike at Defeated Creek Campground and plan to hike from one side to the other and back. However, a shuttle could be an option for those wishing to hike one way. You can meet us at 8:00 am in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville, or at 8:30 am at the McDonald's in Gordonsville off of I-40 exit 258. For information and to register contact Jeff Graves at [jagraves21@students.tntech.edu](mailto:jagraves21@students.tntech.edu).



## OFFICERS:

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*president@tennesseetrails.org*

**Vice-President**

Bruce Whitehead 941-716-3620  
*vicepresident@tennesseetrails.org*

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*treasurer@tennesseetrails.org*

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*secretary@tennesseetrails.org*

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*membership@tennesseetrails.org*

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*CTC@tennesseetrails.org*

**TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council Representative**

Bob Richards 615-532-0753  
*TRAC@tennesseetrails.org*

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD  
 ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

**Newsletter Editor**

LouAnn Partington 931-393-4835  
*editor@tennesseetrails.org*

## INACTIVE CHAPTERS

We have three chapters in the process of being reorganized. If you are interested in assisting with this process, please see below for the contact information.

**Cove Lake** Garnett Rush 865-268-5181  
*eastregional@tennesseetrails.org*

**Dyer County** Margaret Dixon  
*westregional@tennesseetrails.org*

**Northwest** Margaret Dixon  
*westregional@tennesseetrails.org*

### Board Meetings 2016

1st Quarter Board meeting: February 6 – REI, Nashville  
 1:00 PM

2nd Quarter Board meeting: April 30 – REI, Nashville  
 1:00 PM

3rd Quarter Board meeting: July 30 – REI, Nashville  
 1:00 PM

Membership meeting: October 29

4th Quarter Board meeting: October 30

## Newsletter Deadlines:

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

<u>Due</u>	<u>For Newsletter Dated</u>
Jan 10 .....	Feb 1
Feb 10 .....	Mar 1
Mar 10 .....	Apr 1

All submissions are subject to editing. Articles of general interest and non-hiking events will be included as space permits.

Please send all submissions to:  
*editor@tennesseetrails.org*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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

- A NEW MEMBER**  
 **RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP**

Jan 16

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

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.  
Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,  
Tim Townley 731-607-0512 [membership@tennesseetrails.org](mailto:membership@tennesseetrails.org)

**PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY.**

- \_\_\_ Individual \$25.00  
\_\_\_ Family \$35.00  
\_\_\_ Student (FULL TIME) \$15.00  
\_\_\_ Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)  
\_\_\_ Life Member (Individual) \$500.00  
\_\_\_ Life Member (Family) \$750.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Please do not list my e-mail address in the TTA Annual Membership Directory  
 I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

\*\* CTC Membership \*\* \*\*\$5.00\*\*

\*\* Special \$5.00 rate for membership in Cumberland Trail Conference if you also are joining TTA or renewing your TTA membership. CTC is building the Cumberland Trail, which will go from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap. Over 185 miles are now complete and open for hiking. More information can be found at [www.cumberlandtrail.org](http://www.cumberlandtrail.org). Please consider enhancing your commitment to Tennessee's great trails by joining the CTC.

Please list me with the following chapter:

- |                                         |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| ___ Clarksville                         | ___ Murfreesboro                         |
| ___ Columbia/Franklin                   | ___ Nashville                            |
| ___ Cove Lake (Inactive)                | ___ Northwest (Inactive)                 |
| ___ Dyer County (Inactive)              | ___ Plateau (Crossville)                 |
| ___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)       | ___ Soddy Daisy                          |
| ___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma) | ___ Sumner Trails (Sumner County)        |
| ___ Jackson                             | ___ Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville) |
| ___ Memphis                             | ___ 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, our annual meeting is held in the fall at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie and programs, in addition to learning about the progress and plans of the organization.

**As a member of TTA, you are welcome to attend any/all TTA/CTC/TRAC functions.**