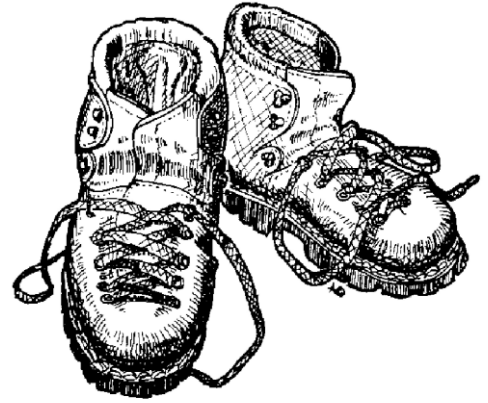


TENNESSEE TRAILS

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



In Memoriam – Vera Churcher

On Oct. 21, 2017, Tennessee Trails' dear friend, Vera Churcher, passed away. She was a true southern Steel Magnolia. She was an avid gardener who loved to entertain in her backyard among her beloved roses. Her famous cooking skills were matched by her hospitality to all. However, she was best known for her hiking skills. Vera was known as Lightning Legs and she could out-hike much younger people, from Cold Mountain to Mt. Katahdin on the AT. She was well into her 70s when she fell on Mt. Katahdin and broke her pelvis. She came down the mountain on her own power and delayed surgery for three days until she could get back to Nashville. Vera was always eager to hike and did so several times a week at Percy Warner Park until her health declined.

Vera blazed many sections of the Cumberland Trail and left her mark in many other ways. Her pan of famous brownies, baked for the TTA auction, has been known to bring \$1000. She never shared her recipe, but many guessed there was some secret ingredient. This tradition continued for many years until Vera was unable to attend the annual meeting. Vera was the original model and owner of the Candy Corn Shorts, a legacy that continues to this day. Those shorts have been around the world many times and generated thousands of dollars for the Cumberland Trail. The Nashville Chapter and all of Tennessee Trails will miss her graciousness and her love of hiking. Donations to the Cumberland Trail in her memory are encouraged.



President's Corner

As 2017 comes to the end, TTA has many new projects for 2018. There is a new year ahead and TTA has opportunities for you to volunteer!!

For one, 2018 is the 50th anniversary of TTA. We plan to celebrate at the annual meeting at Brandon Springs Group Center in Dover October 26 – 28. The Clarksville Chapter will be hosting the meeting. If you have ideas for the 50th anniversary celebration, please share with your chapter chairs, a member of the board of directors or the Clarksville Chapter. I encourage other chapters to consider compiling chapter histories (pictures are always welcome) to commemorate the past.

The new bylaws were approved at the general membership meeting. This restructures the board from 20 members to 24 members. There are 9 Board of Directors, 3 regional representatives, and each of the 12 chapter chairs. We currently have four open positions: Vice President, West Tennessee Regional Director, and two members to serve on the board. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact one of the officers or regional directors to submit your name for further consideration by the entire board of directors.

Committee openings including:

Nominating committee – 3 positions open for members
Finance Committee – 1 position open for a member
Awards committee – Vice President, West Tennessee Regional Representative and several other members.
Communications committee – 1 position open for a member

Website Committee – we need several members to get the website committee extremely active. The goal is to have a new website in 2018.

Evan Means Grant Committee (To be appointed)

Is this your year to serve TTA either as a board member, committee member or planning for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of a state wide hiking organization with a 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? Then, please step forward and offer your services.

Happy Trails,
Carolyn Miller
TTA President



Office Location 409 Thurman Avenue,
Ste 102
..... Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours Tuesday – Friday
..... 10 am – 3 pm CT
Phone: 931-456-6259
Office Staff: Teresa Kemmer
Email: ctcoffice2014@gmail.com
Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

Recognition of the passing of one of the long term CTC volunteers: Vera Churcher.

Vera was an amazing woman and she and her husband, Al, were big supporters of CTC both through their volunteer hours and their financial support. Our thanks and our condolences are extended to Al Churcher and their family. CTC exists due to our committed volunteers and miss all those who pass on.

To read the entire obituary, here is a link to the website. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tennessean/obituary.aspx?n=vera-lancasterchurcher&pid=187017057&fhid=5651>

We also want to thank the Nashville TTA chapter for making a donation to CTC in memory of Vera.

Interested in writing grants to fund the building of the Cumberland Trail? We will have a part-time position available in 2018. If interested, please contact the CTC office.

Want to help build the Cumberland Trail? Then join our trail building team on one of the regular trail days. Contact CTC office for current work site locations and to volunteer to join the crew. Training always provided.

Trail Crew News. We have consolidated the Southern Crew into the Central for this fall. The Central Crew and volunteers will now focus on completing the four miles remaining within Daddy's Creek gorge in Catoosa WMA

Not a trail builder, but want to volunteer in other ways? Consider being a cook during a planned program, hosting a group as a Camp Dad or Camp Mom, volunteer at the CTC office, or contact us with how you think that you can volunteer to serve CTC and help to build the Cumberland Trail.

Save the dates!!

Week of Feb 11 – 17, 2018.

Master Trail Building Training Certification. Feb 11 – 15 and Master Trail Building Mechanized Training Feb 16 – 17. Scheduled for the Crossville area. Contact the CTC office for more information and to register.

Mar 4 – Mar 31: Spring Break Program (Alternative Spring Break) – Camp Ozone, Crossville area.

Not sure how you can help build the Cumberland Trail!! Contact us and we will find a place for you.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Ken Johnson 865-803-4371
clarksville@tennesseetrails.org
CHAPTER VICE-CHAIR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484
clarksville@tennesseetrails.org
TREASURER: Mary Schwab 931-645-9068
clarksvilletreas@tennesseetrails.org
SECRETARY: Donna Burdick 931-220-8497
clarksvilleshsecy@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484
clarksvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org

(call Paul & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd 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>*

Please call hike leaders to confirm hike time and meeting place.

Dec 2 - Nashville Urban Hike. 4 miles. Easy to moderate. Start at Bicentennial Capitol Mall and hike along the Downtown Cumberland Greenway, cross Shelby Street Bridge where there is a restroom. We will return to the mall through city streets and eat lunch at the Farmers Market. Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 8:00 am CT, I 24 Exit 11 commuter parking lot. 39 miles to trailhead.

Dec 9 - Christmas Party.

Dec 16 - Clarksville Greenway. 5.2 or 9.2 miles. Easy to moderate. Ken Johnson 865-803-4371. Meet 9:00 am CT at the end of Pollard Road.

Dec 31 - New Years Eve hike downtown Clarksville. 3.5 miles. Moderate. Lionel Senseney, 931-551-6738. Meet 9:00 pm CT, Cumberland River Pavilion, McGregor Park, Riverside Drive. After the hike bring a party snack and come to Jack and Suva Bastin's house for a New Years Eve Party.

**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.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: To be determined
columbia@tennesseetrails.org

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

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st 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.

Please check the TTA website for updates on our hikes.

Dec 2 - Beaman Park. Beaman Park is a highlight of the Nashville Park System. Although the address is Ashland City, it actually is part of the Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation. We are planning a five-mile hike through this great terrain. For those not in the Williamson County area, we can meet at the Beaman Park Nature Center (see below). The Beaman Park Nature Center is an environmental education and recreation facility of the Nashville Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, and Megan Barry, Mayor. The nature center is a place where people and nature come together. It serves as a jump-off point for exploring more than 1700 acres of Nashville's Beaman Park; offers a wide range of environmental education programs, school field trips, educator training workshops, outdoor recreation programs, and other special activities for people of all ages; serves as a natural history and education reference center for individuals and groups and promotes and serves as a resource for native plant landscaping. Beaman Park facilities include the nature center which houses natural history displays, programming space, and a library; a 300 foot accessible boardwalk; grounds landscaped with native plants; and the main trailhead for five miles of hiking trails. We will leave Spring Hill at 8:15 am in order to arrive at Beaman Park by 9:00 am. The terrain is moderate, yet invigorating. We plan on meeting behind McDonald's in Spring Hill (4930 Main Street). Call Jane Coffey 615-516-6551 or email *jecoffey0644@gmail.com* to confirm. Please leave contact information in case of inclement weather.

Don't Miss an Outing Plan Ahead Register Early!

Our hike coordinators are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you if a hike needs to be cancelled by registering!

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

Plan ahead and register early.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Rosemary Marshall 865-985-9144
easttennessee@tennesseetrails.org

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

Dec 16 - Knoxville Urban Wilderness.6 miles. Easy. Mostly through the woods, with rolling hills, one or two are steep but not very long. We recommend shoes to wear to and from the hike plus sturdy hiking shoes, other weather appropriate clothing, a snack, a drink and a camera. You can view the map by going to *www.outdoorknoxville.com*, select Urban Wilderness at the top of the page and then under printable maps, Urban Wilderness South Loop. The hike will be on the trails around Ross Marble Quarry and Mead's Quarry. The hike will include Imery's, Turnbuckle, Burnett Ridge, Ross Marble and Tharp Trace trails. We will meet in the Central Baptist Church of Bearden parking lot for car-pooling and leave at 9:00 am ET. If you prefer you can meet us at 9:30 am ET at the parking lot for Meads Quarry (see the map referred to above). After the hike plan on stopping on the way back for a meal and refreshments, perhaps at Calhoun's or somewhere in South Knoxville. For specific information about the hike, please call Tom at 974-4955 or leave a message at 588-5622 or send an email to *cressler@utk.edu* before Dec 11th.

Dec 30 - Frozen Head. After Christmas festivities and lots of food and fun. We will start at Shelter C and hike up the Spicewood trail for 2.5 miles. Then take the Tower Road trail for 1.3 miles to the junction of South Old Mac. It is another 1/2 mile to the Frozen Head Tower. Hopefully we will have some great views. After lunch, we will head down the South Old Mac trail back to Shelter C to our vehicles. For those wanting to go on a shorter hike, they can hike only the Spicewood trail and turn around go back to the parking lot for a total of 6 miles. Total miles: 8+, moderate. Contact Carolyn Reeves to pre-register at 865-717-3528 or *crhiker03@gmail.com*.

TIP

Avoid cotton clothing as "cotton is rotten" and "cotton can kill" when outdoors in cooler temperatures. Cotton dries slowly and won't keep you warm when you get wet, while wool, fleece and other synthetics will. Reconsider wearing jeans if rain is predicted – they weigh too much and take forever to dry.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER

(Coffee and Franklin Counties)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Mary Etta Ward 931-581-9906
highlandrim@tennesseetrails.org

SECRETARY: Tanja Kendrick 931-224-6225
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: 4th Monday at 7:00 pm CT at the D. W. Wilson Community Ctr., 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma.

Dec 2 – Fiery Gizzard Trail, South Cumberland State Park, Tracy City, TN. 12.5 miles. Moderately difficult to difficult. Joint hike with Murfreesboro Chapter. We will hike from Grundy Forest Trailhead to Foster Falls. Marietta Poteet and Jan Safavi are our hike leaders. We will need to begin the hike early in order to complete this beautiful hike before dark. Please remember head lamps and flashlights. There are several waterfalls along the way and we will be able to hike the new reroute. This hike is difficult for the distance and the very steep, long ascents and descents. It will require a vehicle shuttle which we will work out at Foster Falls where we will leave our cars. Bring plenty of food and water. Wear good hiking boots and bring hiking sticks because the trail is uneven, rocky and rooty. Please contact Marietta Poteet at *nannietta@blomand.net* or Jan Safavi at *safavi.jan@gmail.com*.

Dec 9 – Hike to Piney Point on the Sewanee Perimeter Trail, Sewanee, TN. 2 miles. Easy. Piney Point is a striking promontory that boasts a sweeping view out over Shakerag Hollow and Roark's Cove. Meet at 3:00 pm CT at Marcia Medford's home, 112 Midway Road, Sewanee. Marietta Poteet will lead the hike before our Chapter Christmas Party at Marcia Medford's home. Bring water and a snack and wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring a head lamp or other light source. Contact Marietta Poteet at 931-924-7666 or *nannietta@blomand.net*.

Dec 9 – Chapter Christmas Party. Gather at Marcia Medford's home, 112 Midway Road, Sewanee, TN at 5:00 pm CT after Marietta Poteet's hike to Piney Point. Bring a wrapped gift valued about \$10.00 if you wish to participate in the Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Tom Hartvigsen will bring baked ham. Contact Marcia Medford at 931-598-5331 or *marciamedford@yahoo.com* to let her know what food you plan to bring so Marcia can coordinate the menu.

Dec 16 – Prentice Cooper State Forest, near Whitwell, TN. Easy hike to Snoopers Rock on the Mullens Cove Trail, 6.8 miles roundtrip. This hike offers views of the Tennessee River Gorge, rock bluffs, and cascading streams. The bare rock promontory of Snoopers Rock offers a wide view of the Tennessee River Gorge and a great lunch spot! Bring water, snacks, lunch, hiking poles and a light. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Contact our hike leader, Joan Hartvigsen, for carpool information, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.

Highland Rim Chapter – con't.

Dec 30 – Short Springs State Natural Area Fifth Saturday Work Day. Meet at 9:00 am at the Short Springs parking lot, 2250 Short Springs Road, Tullahoma. Bring water, snack and work gloves. Contact Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811 to let her know you can help.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Melinda Pearson 731-225-4293
jackson@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER: Anne Goodson 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: 1st Tuesday at Perkins Restaurant, Vann Drive, Jackson. Socializing & dinner starts at 6:00 pm CT; meeting starts 6:45 pm

Dec 2 - Pinson Mounds SAP. Hike Leader is Glen Rognstad. *glenrognstad@gmail.com* or 731-217-5966.

Dec 16 - Memphis Harbortown. Urban hike in downtown Memphis area. Hike leader is Glen Rognstad, *glenrognstad@gmail.com* or 731-217-5966.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

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

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

Dec 2 – Woodland Trail, Meeman-Shelby Forest. 4 miles. Meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot at 9:00 am. There are 5 steep hills and two possible stream crossings on this trail. Time Frame 2.5 to 3 hours. Sturdy shoes/boots, hiking stick, plenty of water and a snack suggested. Contact: Gloria Folk at 901-277-5756.

Dec 14 - Memphis Chapter Christmas Party and Potluck. Margaret Smith will be hosting our annual party at Oaks at Woodchase Clubhouse, 1680 W Southfield Circle, Cordova. Bring BYOB and your favorite festive dish to share with the group. The club will supply ham. Socializing begins around 5:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. We will supply plates, glasses, and eating utensils. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift. RSVP by December 12, *spikie542003@yahoo.com* or text 901-210-6097.

2017 TTA ANNUAL MEETING A GREAT WEEKEND ON MONTEAGLE MOUNTAIN!

TTA members from across Tennessee gathered for the 2017 Annual Meeting at the Dubose Conference in Monteagle October 13-15. The Columbia/Franklin, Highland Rim and Murfreesboro chapters were hosts for the event this year. We had a silent auction, white elephant sale, bake sale, and even a "live" auction for Vera Churcher's candy corn shorts. Unfortunately, there was a scheduling conflict and the Flat River Band was unable to be the entertainment for Friday evening. We moved the bonfire scheduled for Saturday to Friday and it was nice to have the extra time to mingle and talk with other chapter members. We had 134 registrations and two guest speakers – Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee State Naturalist who also led hikes, and Bobby Fulcher, Manager of the Cumberland Trail State Park. Joan Hartvigsen was responsible for contacting the speakers, arranging for their meals, lodging, and securing their AV equipment. We offered 19 hikes rated from easy to strenuous.

Jim Poteet kept the website updated and our newsletter editor LouAnn Partington worked hard to keep the annual meeting information in the newsletter leading up to the event.

A big **THANK YOU** to the following members who made this annual meeting successful:

Hikes - Joan Hartvigsen

Programs – Joan Hartvigsen

Registration – Ron Dunn, Mary Belle Ginanni, Bruce Harvey, James Herring, Mona Herring, Geoffrey Hull, Patty Hull, Ann Jacobs, Tony Jones, Jennifer Zahn.

Lodging – Mary Etta Ward who handed out room keys and assisted with lodging questions Friday and Saturday.

White Elephant – Marcia Medford

Brochure Design and Name Tags - Jan Safavi

Silent Auction - David & Cindy Bowling

TTA Merchandise Sales – Marietta Poteet

Cash Bar – Marvin Caine and Jane Coffey

Bartender – Marietta Poteet was responsible for hiring Erich who did a great job

Goody Bags – Marcia Medford and Mary Etta Ward

Friday Evening Bonfire – Naullain Kendrick

Hike Leaders who led our awesome hikes were Michael Glennon, Joan Hartvigsen, Randy Hedgepath, Tony Jones, Naullain Kendrick, Gary Kimbrell, Sara Pollard, Jim Poteet, Marietta Poteet, Jan Safavi, Nabil Wakid, and Cindy Watson.

Also thanks to - members who donated baked goods and items for the white elephant sale, Stephanie Kelley with the Dubose Conference Center and Tom Hartvigsen for his help setting up and taking down tables.

We also appreciate the following cash donations: Jim Lesch, Bob Lyon, Hilda Vaughan, Highland Rim Chapter, Murfreesboro Chapter, and Nashville Chapter.

Silent Auction Donors: Jack Bastin, Wally Bigbee, Cindy Bowling, Judy Fries, Eleanor Gilchrist, Cheryl Heckler, Hermitage Hotel, Jan Lyons, Robert McArthur (Jan Safavi's neighbor), Marcia Medford, Shirley Ora, Sara Pollard, Judith Ruscioelli, Marcy Tucker, Nabil Wakid, and Mary Etta Ward.

Funds raised for the Evan Means Grant:

Live Auction – \$1,300.00

Silent Auction – \$807.00

White Elephant – \$388.50

Cash Bar – \$528.00

Bake Sale – \$73.00

TTA Merchandise - \$250.00

Registrations – \$3,395.00

Donations are still coming in and once expenses are covered a distribution will be forwarded to TTA.

SEFTC Winter Hike Week

The Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition will hold their annual Leadership Conference meeting and winter hiking event this coming January 25-28, 2018, at the Music Road Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The hiking component of this event is meant to continue the winter hiking tradition popularized for 25 years by Wilderness Wildlife Week, an annual winter event, now being held in May due to winter scheduling conflicts. The appeal of winter hiking in the Smokies, although not for everyone, has a sizeable following and SEFTC is glad to resurrect this winter hiking opportunity.

What is the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition?

The Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) seeks to promote and protect the long-distance foot trails in the Southeast and to connect trails and their natural trail corridors by building a regional trail system and an active network of hiking organizations.

To learn more about the Winter Hike Week and the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition go to: <http://southeastfoottrails.org/>.

Annual Membership Meeting Summary Report

The new bylaws were approved at the October 2017 general membership meeting.

At this meeting, we also nominated members to serve on the Board of Directors.

Based on the new bylaws, we now have a board comprised of 24 positions: 9 at large directors, 3 regional directors, and 1 member for each of the 12 active chapters.

Officers for 2018 were elected from the board of directors.

President: Carolyn Miller

Vice President: seeking candidates

Treasurer: Kathy Woods

Secretary: Jackie York

Three of the five additional director positions are served by:

Membership: Cheryl Heckler

Jim Poteet

Linda Latter

As we have three open board positions for 2018, the newly created nominating committee for which we are seeking three members, will have a busy 2018.

Other volunteer opportunities include the following:

Committee openings including:

Nominating committee – 3 positions open for members

Finance Committee – 1 position open for a member

Awards committee – Vice President, West Tennessee Regional Representative and several other members.

Communications committee – 1 position open for a member

Special committees:

Website Committee – we need several members to get the website committee extremely active. The goal is to have a new website in 2018.

Evan Means Grant Committee (To be appointed)

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

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

TREASURER Ann Jacobs 615-896-3935
murfreesborotreas@tennesseetrails.org

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

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

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

BLOG: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/murfreesboro

Dec 2 – Fiery Gizzard Trail, South Cumberland State Park, Tracy City. 12.5 miles. Moderately difficult to difficult. Joint hike with Highland Rim Chapter. We will hike from Grundy Forest Trailhead to Foster Falls. Marietta Poteet and Jan Safavi are our hike leaders. We will need to begin the hike early in order to complete this beautiful hike before dark. Please remember head lamps and flashlights. There are several waterfalls along the way and we will be able to hike the new reroute. This hike is difficult for the distance and the very steep, long ascents and descents. It will require a vehicle shuttle which we will work out at Foster Falls where we will leave our cars. Bring plenty of food and water. Wear good hiking boots and bring hiking sticks because the trail is uneven, rocky and rooty. Please contact Jan Safavi at safavi.jan@gmail.com to sign up.

Dec 12 – Chapter Holiday Potluck. 6:00 pm. NOTE TIME CHANGE. Barfield Crescent Wilderness Station. Invite your family and friends to our annual holiday event. If you want to participate in the Dirty Santa Gift Exchange, bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$10. Also bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Chapter will provide utensils, plates, napkins and beverages. Please RSVP to Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or sarapollard@gmail.com.

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: 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT in the REI
Community Room, 261 Franklin Road, Brentwood. For
directions, visit: www.tennesseetrails.org/nashville.php
BLOG: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/nashville

Dec 9 - We will again be wrapping gifts at REI in exchange for donations to support the building of the Cumberland Trail. We will be wrapping from 10 am until 5:30 pm, with 2-hour shifts: 10-12; 12-2; 2-4; and 4-5:30. This is truly a great way to fundraise! No experience necessary, just come and join in on the fun. Hope to see you there! For more information contact Amy at amy109@gmail.com or 615-739-5858.

Dec 9 - Nashville Urban Hike. 6 miles. Easy. This hike offers a unique close-up look at the rapidly changing Nashville skyline. A striking contrast of the old and the new is evident. Several formerly important buildings now in process of demolition will be seen, while numerous magnificent new structures are sure to impress and prompt wonderment about the evolving Nashville as well as the overall collective greatness of the city. We meet by 9 am at Marathon Village. Please go to their website for location. Parking lot A offers parking for \$10 or various free spots might be found along the street where allowed. Rally point is outside at center of the main Marathon building, near American Pickers. Our hike leads through the massive new Capitol View West development, where new tenants include HCA and Lifeway. Then we cross Charlotte and turn south along the Gulch Greenway, which is close to the railroad tracks and parallels Eleventh Avenue North. From the Gulch we take Pine Street and Gleaves east towards Division Street, and from 8th Avenue walk up & over the brand new Division Street Connector Bridge. Turning left towards downtown, we take 5th Avenue, passing yet more new buildings going up and then walk north across Broadway where the former convention center is being reincarnated. At Church Street we'll detour slightly, walking up 4th Avenue where 3 new hotels are appearing, then through the Arcade and over to the War Memorial Building and the State Capitol. A downhill stretch leads us west so that our route will resemble a large square, and back to starting point. Various places for food & drink, shops and vintage attractions are optional at end of the hike there. Distance approximately 6 miles and 3+ hours. Hike leader: Tom Vickstrom tomzinger55@gmail.com or 615-405-6713.

Nashville Chapter – con't.

Dec 9 - Chapter Christmas Party. We'll start festivities at 6 pm CT at the River Plantation Section V Clubhouse, 800 General George Patton Rd in the Bellevue area of Nashville. For directions, contact Alice Cannon, acannon12@bellsouth.net. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. Bring a friend too! Our party takes the place of the monthly chapter meeting for December. We'll be back at REI in January.

Dec 30 - Bryant Grove Trail, Long Hunter State Park, Hermitage TN. 8 miles. Moderate. This flat, winding trail connects the Couchville Lake area to Bryant Grove Recreation Area as it follows the shore of Percy Priest Lake. The path visits several unique habitats, including rare limestone glades. It crosses a wooden bridge above Bryant Grove Creek, where green heron are occasionally seen wading and feeding. The one-mile marker (coming from Couchville Lake) is a good "habitat edge" birding spot for warblers, vireos and other species. Keep an eye out for owls, hawks and raccoons along the trail. No pets allowed. We'll meet at 8:30 am CT at the Park Visitor Center, 2910 Hobson Pike, Hermitage, Tennessee 37076. To register, contact Doug Burroughs at dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com or 615-587-0085 (leave message).

REMINDER

Many chapters hold their elections at this time of the year. If your chapter leadership is changing, please include that information with your January newsletter submission (due December 5) so that we can update your chapter masthead. Thanks!!

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Bruce Whitehead 941-716-3620
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

For a list of monthly hikes, visit the Plateau Chapter Blog. **Check the blog one hour prior to hike time for cancellations or changes before hiking, or for any other updates/changes to our schedule.** For additional information on any of the listed hikes, contact the hike coordinator, Deb Westervelt, via email plateauhikes@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243.

Dec 2 – CT North Chickamauga, Soddy Daisy. We'll hike the North end of the North Chickamauga trail off Barker Camp Rd 4.5 miles to the Stevenson campsite and back for a total of 9 miles. There is a strenuous 500 ft elevation change .8 mi down to Cooper Creek. t 4.2 miles is Cooper Creek to ford that we may decide not to cross. For maps, check out the CTC website at <http://www.cumberlandtrail.org/maps-and-guides/trail-segments/north-chickamauga/>. Carpool cost is \$5. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Depart 8 am from Trinity Tabernacle Church on Hwy 127 South.

Dec 6 – Big South Fork Oscar Blevins Farm, Oneida. 7.4 miles. Moderate. We begin via the West Entrance trailhead and Collier Ridge Bike Loop to 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. Carpool cost is \$6. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Depart 8 am from Cracker Barrel Hwy 127 North at I-40.

Dec 9 –Chapter Christmas Party, Fairfield Glade. Come and enjoy the fun and food from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Fairfield Glade Community Library (formerly known as the Multi-Purpose Building) 453 Lakeview Drive, Crossville. Bring a dish to share. We will have an optional \$15 maximum gift exchange. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift. There will also be a 50/50 drawing. For more information contact Bruce Whitehead at 941-716-3620, plateau@tennesseetrails.org or trailwalker80@gmail.com.

Plateau Chapter – con't.

Dec 13 – South Cumberland State Park Fiery Gizzard Reroute, Monteagle. 11.75 miles. Difficult due to the length and some strenuous climbs however there several options to do shorter hikes such as the 2 mile Grundy Day Loop or the 5.9 mile in and out Dog Hole Trail to Ravens Point. The hikes feature numerous waterfalls and scenic overlooks above deep gorges. We begin at the Fiery Gizzard parking lot and take a rugged climb, for the first 5 miles, to ascend to Raven Point, a spectacular overlook. The next segment is a fairly flat hike along the top of the Cumberland Plateau, and then a steep descent into a 200 foot deep Gorge on the rerouted portion past upper and lower Anderson Falls. After that, we make a steep ascent out of the gorge, followed by a 2.5 mile easy hike to Foster Falls. The hike requires a shuttle. Gas reimbursement is \$8. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Depart 8 am CT from Trinity Tabernacle Church on Hwy 127 South.

Dec 20 – Burnt Mill Bridge, Oneida. Our hike will be the Burnt Mill Bridge loop near Rugby. It will be about 5 miles with moderate terrain. Depart from Cracker Barrel Hwy 127 North at I-40 rear parking lot at 8 am CT. Gas cost \$5. We will stop for lunch at R.M. Brooks General Store in Rugby (if they are open). **Dec 27 – Cumberland Cove, Monterey.** We will hike various trails from Eagle Flight Park to 3 caves and The Sinks for approximately 4 moderate miles of which 0.5 miles is rated difficult. Depart 8 am CT from Tractor Supply Hwy 70 West. Carpool cost is \$3. Bring water and snacks.

Dec 30 – CT Black Mountain, Crab Orchard. This will be an easy 2 mile loop below the boulders from the Spring House. We will also explore the new section of trail being built toward Ozone Falls and back, distance unknown. Carpool cost is \$2. Bring water and snacks. Depart 8 am CT from the McDonalds at Peavine Rd & I-40 (exit 322).

Attention: Hike Coordinators (aka Hike Leaders)

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

Evan Means Small Grants Program Deadline is Dec 31, 2017

In February 2018, TTA's Board of Directors will award small grants memorializing Evan Means. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible with the chartered objectives of TTA: *promoting and developing a system of hiking trails in Tennessee as well as working for the conservation of natural resources*. Project proposals are due no later than December 31, 2017.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grant application for the February 2018 Evan Means Small Grant Program Award.

Grant requests in the range of \$300-\$600 are encouraged. However, if a project requires additional grant money, considerations will be made.

For additional information and an application, please write to:

TTA Grants Administrator
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

The small grants program was established in February 1999 to honor Evan Means - journalist, author, conservationist, hiker, trail builder, originator of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder of the Tennessee Trails Association. Mr. Means won countless awards for his work over the years to protect Tennessee's natural resources and beauty, as well as for his dedication to projects that allow hikers to enjoy this natural beauty.

TIPS

In the fall, winter and spring, always bring a stocking cap or warm hat. Weather is often unpredictable, and covering your head will keep you more comfortable in a variety of conditions.

Dressing in layers will allow you to adjust to different levels of exertion. Weather can change unexpectedly in the spring, fall and winter, and proper layering will help keep you comfortable, warm and dry.

SODDY-DAISY CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Jean Smith 423- 597-7681
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>

Dec 2 - Flipper Bend. Approximately 8 miles. Strenuous. Meet at Walmart parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: Boodie Fox 423-842-1178.

Dec 5 - Savage Gulf. Approximately 5 miles. Moderate. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: Jean Smith 423-596-7681.

Dec 9 - Black Mountain. (parking lot on Hwy 68 to cave and back). Approximately 5 miles. Slightly strenuous. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: Boodie Fox 423-842-1178.

Dec 12 - Bluff Trail (Covenant College to Point Park). Approximately 5 miles. Will stage vehicles. Meet at Food City parking lot in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: Trish Appleton 423-240-3443.

Dec 16 - Upper Leggett trailhead to Rock Creek bridge and back. Moderate. Approximately 6 miles. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: John Politte 423-304-8327)

Dec 19 - Blue Blazes. Approximately 2 miles. Easy. Meet at Food City parking lot in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: Will Smith 423-580-2918.

Dec 30 - Enterprise South. Approximately 6 miles. Moderate. Meet at Target parking lot on Hwy 153 at 9 am. Hike leader: Donna Pyers 423-344-9271.

SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Lynn Takacs 615-479-7702
sumner@tennesseetrails.org

Hike information unavailable at press time.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Jennifer Carroll 661-369-6619
uppercumberland@tennesseetrails.org

HIKE COORDINATORS: Cathy Moran 931-544-2764
uppercumberlandhikes@tennesseetrails.org

Dec 2 - Sewanee Perimeter Trail. 20 miles. Strenuous and will last about eight hours. Shorter hikes can be done by starting and hiking with us for a while then hiking back out on the same trail you hiked in to the starting point, the first couple miles are pretty cool you get to go through a Rocky Gorge, 2 overlooks, a waterfall and go past the huge cross with an overlook. In a couple miles the shorter hike could turn around and explore some nice short trails on campus. Meet at 7:00 am CT in parking lot on Highway 41A across from the intersection of University Avenue and Highway 41A in Sewanee (Google has the drive time from Cookeville at 1h 46m). We will start on the Mountain Goat Trail across from the Blue Chair Restaurant. We will hike toward the Memorial Cross taking the Perimeter Trail around Sewanee. We will have lunch at the Forestry Cabin. We will continue to Shakerag Hollow back to the Mountain Goat Trail to our starting point. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Dinner in Sewanee after hike. For more information and to register contact Mike Shane at mikeshane@charter.net or 931-446-4306.

Upper Cumberland Chapter – con't.

Dec 9 - Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park and Holiday gathering. The Volunteer Trail follows the Shore of Percy Priest Lake for most of its length ending at a primitive backcountry campsite at 5 miles. We will be returning via the same trail to return to the trailhead by 2:30 pm. This hike is relatively flat, but it is rated moderate due to total distance our distance will be determined by timing. Bring hiking boots, snacks and water. You can meet us in the J.C. Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00 am CT, or meet Jennifer at the trailhead at approximately 9:15 am CT. After the hike, we will then proceed to Jennifer's house (address provided upon registration) about 15 minutes away for a pot luck afternoon holiday gathering. The party will begin around 3:00 pm and for those not wishing to hike but would like to join feel free to meet us there. Directions to the trailhead: If you are traveling north on Hobson Pike, you will pass the main park entrance on the right, and the next left should be Bakers Grove Ln. If you are traveling south on Hobson Pike, you should see a sign on your right just before Bakers Grove Ln. for the Volunteer Trail. Turn onto Bakers Grove Ln. and at the first stop sign, turn left onto Bakers Grove Rd. The trailhead will be at the end of Bakers Grove Rd. The link below is location of the Volunteer Trail on Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/sfKihKMnbS52>. To register for the Holiday Gathering and or the hike please contact Jennifer at jennifer.carrolldb@yahoo.com.

Dec 16 - Virgin Falls, DeRossett. This is a 9-mile strenuous hike to the 110 foot tall Virgin Falls. Along the way, we will pass a 30-foot waterfall, Big Laurel Falls. There is a stream crossing and some difficult footing on this hike, including the need to cross a rock field at Big Laurel Falls, so the hike may be canceled or changed due to high water. Therefore, register with hike leader to be informed of possible cancelation or changes. Bring snacks, water, lunch, and hiking boots. You can meet us at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:00. To register contact Louise Miniard 931-239-5425.

OFFICERS:

President

Carolyn Miller 931-839-3213
president@tennesseetrails.org

Vice-President

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

Treasurer

Kathy Woods 615-473-6824
treasurer@tennesseetrails.org

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secretary@tennesseetrails.org

Membership Director

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membership@tennesseetrails.org

Previous Past President

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pastpresident2@tennesseetrails.org

West TN At-Large Director

Margaret Dixon 901-603-7680
westregional@tennesseetrails.org

Middle TN At-Large Director

Joan Hartvigsen 931-962-0811
midlleregional@tennesseetrails.org

East TN At-Large Director

Garnett Rush 865-268-5181
eastregional@tennesseetrails.org

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Newsletter Deadlines:

Deadlines for Chapter announcements and articles of special interest are due on the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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

Please note: Newsletter submissions to the "editor" address are automatically copied to the webmaster for inclusion on the TTA website.

2018 TTA Board of Directors Meetings

Saturday, Feb 3: 1 PM

Bob Brown Field
Station building at
Percy Warner Park,
Nashville 7199 TN-
100, Nashville, TN
37221

Saturday, May 5: 1 PM

Bob Brown Field
Station building at
Percy Warner Park,
Nashville 7199 TN-
100, Nashville, TN
37221

Saturday, Aug 4:1 PM

Location to be
announced.

Sunday, Oct 28: 9 AM

Brandon Springs
Group Center, Dover.

GO GREEN

Electronic Newsletter Available

This is reminder that you can now receive your monthly newsletter via email. If interested please contact Cheryl Heckler at *membership@tennesseetrails.org* and please include your email address.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please note the deadline for submissions for the January newsletter will be December 5.

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

Dec 17

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,
Cheryl Heckler 931-200-7436 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 _____ -- _____
Cell 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.

** _____ **

Please list me with the following chapter:

___ Clarksville
___ Columbia/Franklin
___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)
___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)
___ Jackson
___ Memphis
___ Murfreesboro
___ Nashville
___ Plateau (Crossville)
___ Soddy Daisy
___ Sumner Trails (Sumner County)
___ 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 partner organization (CTC) and associate organization (TRAC). (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.