

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



President's Corner

In 2018, America will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act as well as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Tennessee Trails Association (TTA).

National Trails Day sponsored by the American Hiking Society is a great time to get involved with the nationwide celebration. National Trails Day 2018 is the first Saturday in June. This year that date is June 2. If you are a TTA member, please consider hosting an event. If you want to see some other areas of the state or the country, visit the American Hiking Society website and search for events planned across Tennessee and the United States.

Of course, as President of TTA, I encourage you to visit areas in Tennessee to promote hiking as a healthy outdoor activity for all ages. As hikers, we should be introducing our family, friends and co-workers to the joy and benefits of outdoor activity.

2018 is also 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.

Carolyn Miller

TTA Second Quarter 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

**Bells Bend Outdoor Center
4187 Old Hickory Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37218
Saturday, May 5
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary's Report – Jackie York

- Approval of the Minutes of February 2018 Board meeting

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Woods

Membership Report – Cheryl Heckler

New Business

- Bylaws Committee Report
- Communications Committee Report

Old Business

- 2018 Annual Meeting Update
- Nominating Committee
- Awards Committee
- Website Update

To add items to this agenda, please contact TTA President, Carolyn Miller, one of the officers or one of the TTA board members or chapter chairs.

All board meetings are open to any TTA member and the public.

Only board members are eligible to vote on motions before the board.



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

CTC sincerely thanks all the students, volunteers, State Park staff, rangers, and State Park manager, Bob Fulcher for their efforts during the Spring Breakaway (Alternative Spring Break Program from March 4 - 30). We also want to thank the staff and management of Eden Ridge Missionary Retreat Center in Hebbertsburg and Camp Ozone in Ozone for the use of their facilities.

If you were not able to join the Spring Breakaway, or want to continue to build the Cumberland Trail, call the CTC office and arrange to join the Trail Crew during their weekly work days.

Volunteers! Multiple Trail Building opportunities! Ever want to help build a wilderness hiking trail? Below are two options for joining planned trail building programs.

1. The Cumberland Trail Conference has been awarded a contract to construct trail along Soak Creek. Trail construction begins after April 2. If you want to join the trail crew and build this section of the trail, please contact the CTC office to register and receive information about where to meet the CTC trail crew.
2. Trail construction is underway on a new section of the Cumberland Trail that will connect the Morgan County Visitor Center in Wartburg, TN to the top of Bird Mountain, headed north toward Frozen Head State Park & State Natural Area. Weather permitting; volunteers are invited to assist with construction. Tools and training are provided and no experience is required.

Scheduled dates for this event are: April 14, May 19, June 16 and July 14. Volunteers will meet at the Morgan County Visitor Center at 10:00 am ET for an orientation/safety meeting. Work will conclude by 3:30pm. To RSVP or for questions, contact Ranger Ingram at 423-419-9516.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: J.R. Tate 931-220-1359
clarksville@tennesseetrails.org
CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484
clarksville@tennesseetrails.org
TREASURER: Mary Schwab 931-645-9068
clarksvilletreas@tennesseetrails.org
SECRETARY: Donna Burdick 931-220-8497
clarksvillesecy@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484
clarkvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org
(call Paul & volunteer to lead an outing)
MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm CT,
Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd.

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

Apr 7 - Mule Day, Maury County Park, Columbia, TN. Parade, Arts & Crafts, Mule Pulling Show, Flea Market, Food & Commercial Vendors. Admission \$10. Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 8:00 am CT, I24 exit 11 Park & Ride, near Subway. 90 miles to Maury County Park.

Apr 14 - Ashland City Rails to Trails, paved section. 7.4 miles out and back. Easy. Donna Fondren 931-472-5185. Meet 8:00 am CT, Madison Street Kmart parking lot, Clarksville. 23 miles to trailhead.

Apr 17 - Monthly Chapter Meeting.

Apr 21 - Sewanee Domain, Hike from Green's View along the Perimeter Trail to Piney Point Trail, out and back to Piney Point, return to Green's View via Beckwith's Point. 5.5 miles. Moderate. Paul Schwab 931-645-9068. Meet 7:00 am CT, I24 exit 11 Park & Ride, near Subway. 129 miles to trailhead.

Apr 28 - Radnor Lake SNA. Seven trails to pick from; 4 easy, 2.6 miles; 1 moderate, 0.9 miles; 2 difficult, 2.7 miles. Leader Suva Bastin 931-216-0325. Meet 8:00 am CT, I24 exit 11 Park & Ride, near Subway. 50 miles to trailhead.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: To be determined
columbia@tennesseetrails.org
HIKE COORDINATOR: Jane Coffey 615-516-6551
columbiahikes@tennesseetrails.org
MEETS QUARTERLY: Meets quarterly at the Barnabas Center at
506 Fair Street, Franklin, TN 37064. The Barnabas
Center is located behind St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
Social hour from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Please check the TTA website for updates on our hikes.

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

Apr 7 - Porter Creek and Plemmons Cemetery, GSMNP. 5 miles. Easy. Porter's Creek is known for its spring wildflower displays, the varieties of wildflowers and native plants number between 30 and 40. The first mile is a graveled jeep road. All along the right side of the trail are stone walls, chimneys, foundations and occasional stairways -- all signs of the families who made their homes here before the National Park Service moved in during the 1930s. Settled by members of the Whaley family in the early 1800s, the Greenbriar area supported 26 families before it became part of the national park, according to the late Carson Brewer. At 1.0 mile the road ends in a turnaround. Porter's Creek Trail continues on to the left. To the right is a spur trail to the Historic Farm Site and John Messer's cantilevered barn and the cabin, constructed from the remains of old structures in the area. The cabin was once headquarters of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and is maintained by the park for historic purposes. Once you leave the gravel road the trail becomes narrow and winds through deeply shaded forest dominated by hemlocks, magnolia and a heavy undergrowth of rhododendron. The wildflowers thin in the deep shade. At about 1.4 miles a crooked bridge of two split tree trunks forming an angle at a boulder about midway crosses Porter's Creek. On the other side are lots of boulders, a great place for a break next to the creek. The variety of wildflowers picks up again after the footbridge, with wild ginger, white- and purple-fringed phacelia and many others carpeting the ground here and there among massive buckeye trees and soaring tulip poplars. If time permits we will visit Plemmons Cemetery near the intersection of Middle Fork and Porters Creek, where you turn to go toward Ramsay Cascade. Plemmons Cemetery is one of the largest cemeteries in the Park. This additional hike adds about one mile and is relatively flat. 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.

East TN Chapter – con't.

We will meet in the Baptist Church of Bearden of Bearden parking lot for car-pooling and leave at 8:30 am and stop at the Cracker Barrel at Strawberry Plains Pike, leaving 9:00 am for those who would prefer to meet there. Don't forget dollars for carpooling. After the hike plan on stopping on the way back for a meal and refreshments. For specific information about the hike please call Tom before the 6th at 974-4422 or leave a message at 588-5622 or send an email to *cressler@utk.edu*.

Apr 14 - Emory Gap, Panther Creek, Judge Branch, Frozen Head State Park. 4.5 to 7.8 miles. Moderate. Join us on a flower hike in the Cumberland Mountains. We will park at the end of Flat Fork Road hike a portion of the Panther Creek trail and the entire Emory Gap trail to the falls. On the Panther Creek trail we will go about 1.75 miles and gain about 250 feet, turn around and go back to the Emory Gap trail, losing about 200 feet. The Emory Gap trail to the falls is about 1.0 mile and gains about 300 feet. At the falls we will turn around and go back to the parking area, losing about 350 feet. The total distance for this hike is about 4.5 miles. If time and energy allow we will relocate and take a second hike on the Old Mack and Judge Branch trails. This second hike is about 3.3 miles and gains about 300 feet by the turn around point. 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. We will meet in the Bearden Central Baptist Church parking lot for car-pooling and leave at 8:30 am stopping in Oak Ridge at Books-A-Million, 310 South Illinois Ave, and meeting in the parking lot nearest Illinois Ave. We will leave there at 9:00 am for those who would prefer to meet there. Don't forget your dollars for carpooling. After the hike plan on stopping on the way back for a meal and refreshments. For specific information about the hike please call Tom before the 13th at 974-4422 or leave a message at 588-5622 or send an email to *cressler@utk.edu*.

Apr 28 - This hike will be a little different this year as we will start at the Brady Mountain trailhead on Highway 68 close to Crab Orchard. It's the same hike as the one starting from Black Mountain trailhead - just reversed. The trail ascends gradually (for 1.5 miles) to Windless Cave, then, on to Black Mountain for a total of 4.5 miles. There is a one-mile loop trail at the top on which there are two really nice overlooks viewing Grassy Cove (very scenic). The southern portion of this loop is actually part of the Cumberland Trail. There are large-sized rock formations at the top of Black Mountain that are worth seeing. There are abundant spring beauty wildflowers here in full bloom at this time of the year. Come join us for a nice hiking adventure. We will return the same way on this hike back to Highway 68. Total miles: 9 (10 including the loop), Moderately difficult. Meet at ORNL Federal Credit Union in Kingston at 9:00 am. Call Carolyn Reeves at 865-399-2972 or *crhiker03@gmail.com* for further information.

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.

Apr 7 – Collins Gulf Loop Trail, South Cumberland State Park, Gruetli-Laager, TN. Joint hike with the Nashville Chapter. 12 plus miles. Difficult due to the distance, terrain and elevation changes. For experienced hikers only. We will hike along the west rim of Collins Gulf and down the Old Stagecoach Road to Sawmill campground, then back up the east side, passing Horsepound Falls and Suter Falls back to the start. In addition to spectacular waterfalls this trail has awesome spring wildflowers! Bring water, lunch, good hiking boots, hiking sticks and clothing appropriate for the weather. Bring water shoes for the creek crossings For more information and to register contact Marietta Poteet, *nannietta@blomand.net* or 931-924-7666. Meet at the Collins West Trailhead at 9:00 am CT. Address for Collins West Trailhead: 2689 55th Avenue, Gruetli-Laager, TN 37339. On TN Hwy 108 in Gruetli-Laager, watch for the small brown “Collins West” signs marking the 55th Avenue intersection. Follow 55th Avenue all the way to its end.

Apr 8 – Short Springs State Natural Area Spring Wildflower Hike. Celebration of Natural Areas Week. Dennis Horn will lead this Sunday afternoon hike at 2:00 pm CT. He will be assisted by Ann Cline. Dennis Horn is an author of several wildflower books and is a founding member of the Tennessee Native Plant Society. Meet in the parking lot, 2250 Short Springs Road, Tullahoma at 2:00 pm. Contact Joan Hartvigsen for more information, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.

Apr 13-15 – Trails and Trilliums Festival presented by the Friends of South Cumberland State Park. South Cumberland State Park Visitor Center, Monteagle, TN. Guided hikes will be offered Friday through Sunday. Most hikes include a shuttle from the South Cumberland State Park Visitor Center to each hike’s trailhead. All hikes require preregistration. Hikes include Shakerag Hollow, Sycamore Falls, Sherwood Forest, Denny Cove, Grundy Day Loop, Foster Falls, Greeter Falls, Grundy Lakes, Meadow Trail Birding. Family fun activities include nature-themed speakers and workshops. Register online by going to the website *trailsandtrilliums.org*. Contact Naullain Kendrick, *naullain@hotmail.com*, for more information.

Highland Rim Chapter – con’t.

Apr 21 - Virgin Falls State Natural Area, De Rossett, TN. (11 miles east of Sparta). 8.4 miles. Strenuous due to 800+ft. elevation change, rocky trail and distance. Marietta Poteet will lead this wonderful spring hike in Virgin Falls State Natural Area. Virgin Falls is a classic hikers’ trail and is one of the most beautiful in the State of Tennessee. We will pass three waterfalls: Laurel Falls, Sheep Cave and Virgin Falls. Virgin Falls is a 110 ft. beautiful falls which flows out of one cave and falls down into another cave. You will need to bring water, snacks, lunch and hiking sticks. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring water shoes for creek crossings. To register for the hike, email Marietta Poteet at *nannietta@blomand.net*. Trailhead address: 2080 Scotts Gulf Road, Sparta, TN 38583.

Apr 23 – Chapter Meeting. Dinner at 5:00 pm at Applebee’s, 1957 N. Jackson Street, Tullahoma. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at D. W. Wilson Community Center. Program: Sally Hubbard will speak about her Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage (The Way of Saint James) long distance hike in Spain.

Apr 28 - Sewanee Perimeter Trail Section, Forestry Cabin (Gate 5) through Shakerag Hollow to eastern University Gates at Highway 41A, Sewanee, TN. Moderate. 5 miles. We will leave vehicles at the eastern University Gates and begin our hike at Gate 5 off Brakefield Road. We will enjoy many great views, including Cherry Point, Rutledge Point, KA Point. We will hike down into Shakerag Hollow and see mature hardwood forests and tall cliffs and wet weather waterfalls. And we will enjoy spring wildflowers. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Bring hiking poles and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at the Blue Chair Café, 35 University Avenue, Sewanee, TN at 9:00 am CT. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811.

Planning Ahead:

May 11-14 – Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Cataloochee Valley, NC. Camping and Hiking Weekend. Joint activity with the Murfreesboro Chapter. Camping in Cataloochee Group Campground, Sites G001 and G002. May 11 to 13. These lovely, quiet campsites are situated along Cataloochee Creek. Site G002 is in full shade. Hikes will include the Rough Fork, Caldwell Fork, Big Fork Ridge Trails Loop Hike and the Cataloochee Divide Trail. Bring water shoes. We will view the Elk in the evenings and early mornings. We may hike to Max Patch on the way out. Contact Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811 to reserve space in the two group campsites. Site G002 is almost full but there is plenty of room in G001. Cataloochee Creek runs along the back of Site G001. Friday evening we will share an evening meal. Bring your own food for the remaining meals. We may not be able to eat at a restaurant because of remote location.

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

Apr 7 – Wildflower Hike. Glen Rognstad will lead our annual wildflower hike, probably to Sewanee with a stopover at Bluebell Island. The exact location will depend on how the weather develops this spring. You can reach Glen at 731-217-5966 or *glenrognstad@gmail.com*.

April 14 – Big Hill Pond. 7 miles. Moderate. Our hope is that the wild azaleas along the lake will be blooming. Melinda Pearson will be our hike leader, who can be reached at *hurstme@bellsouth.net* or 731 225 4293. We will carpool, leaving from Panera at 8 am.

Planning Ahead:

May 19 - Overnight Loop, Cumberland Mountain State Park. 8 miles. Moderately difficult. Those who wish to camp Friday or Saturday night are encouraged to do so. Our hike leader will be Jeff Chambers. For additional information, please contact Jeff at *chambers.jeffreyb@gmail.com*.

Date TBD – Henry Horton SP. The park offers a monthly float and camp excursion on the Duck River. Park personnel would transport our camping gear (so we don't have to risk getting it wet). We would like to schedule a trip if enough folks want to go. If you are interested, please contact Dusty King, at *dusty@kingplc.com* and let him know which months would work best for you. A map of Henry Horton State Park is here - <http://tnstateparks.com/assets/pdf/additional-content/park-maps/10-henry-horton.jpg>.

Board Positions for 2018

We currently have four open board positions for 2018: Vice President, West Tennessee Regional Director, and two members to serve on the board.

If 2018 is your year to serve, please contact one of the officers or regional directors to submit your name for further consideration by the nominating committee and the entire board of directors.

We still have some committee positions open to members. These positions were created as part of the bylaws revision in October 2017 in an effort to engage members who wanted to serve the organization but not have responsibility as a board member. Open committee positions are noted below.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee is responsible for the long term development of leadership within the organization, and to provide a slate of qualified candidates for election to the board at each Annual Membership Meeting, and to recommend qualified replacements for any vacancies that may occur. 2 positions open for members and a member willing to serve as the West Tennessee Regional Director

Audit Committee. The duties of the Audit Committee shall be to oversee policy compliance, conflicts of interest, ethics, and program integrity. They shall select, retain, oversee, and interact with the auditors for the Association. The Auditors shall report directly to the Board. Audit Committee - two board positions and several positions for members are available on this committee.

Awards Committee. This committee shall recommend to the Board candidates for the various recognition awards provided by these bylaws. The chair of this committee shall be the Vice President. two board positions and several positions for members.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Charlie Bright 901-829-4434
memphis@tennesseetrails.org
VICE-CHAIR: Francis Ruffin 662-781-5034
memphisvice@tennesseetrails.org

Apr 6-8 - Petit Jean Mountain State Park, Morrilton, AR. Join TTA for a wonderful hike atop beautiful Petit Jean Mountain. We will explore one of Arkansas' highest waterfalls, a natural cave area with Indian pictographs, and several unique rock formations. Meet the hike leader, Susan, at the Mather Lodge overlook on top of the mountain at 9:00 am Saturday. We will shuttle down the road to the Cedar Creek trailhead, for an easy to moderate 4-mile hike. This will include a view from the overlook at the top of Cedar Falls, exploring Rock House Cave and Turtle Rocks and a natural bridge. You will need a flashlight to find the pictographs in the cave shelter. We will shuttle back to the lodge for a lunch break. The lodge has a wonderful restaurant, so plan on eating there! After lunch, we will hike a 2 1/2-mile hike to the base of Cedar Falls, for a different view! This is a moderate hike, and it's really steep going out! For those wanting another option, there are a lot of other neat things to do on the mountain. Be sure to visit Petit Jean's gravesite and boardwalk, which offer a breathtaking view of the Arkansas River, the Automobile Museum, and Bear Cave area. You can walk to these sites from within a few feet of the parking lot. Pick up brochures at the visitor center, or the lodge. There is also a possibility that, if a large number of hikers attend, we'll have both a group for turtle hikers and a group for rabbit hikers. On Sunday morning, we will meet again at the lodge at 9:00 am and drive a short way to the trailhead at "Seven Hollows". This is an easy 4.5 mile hike, with beautiful scenery, another natural bridge and interesting things to explore. We should be finished in time for everyone to head back to Memphis by noon. Pre-registration is required. Call Susan Hughes at 901-491-4917 to register. Reservations for park lodge, cabin, or camping call 501-727-5431. If you stay at a hotel in Morrilton, plan on a 15-20 minute drive to get to the lodge atop Petit Jean. Directions to park: take Hwy 9 (Exit 108) off I-40 at Morrilton south 9 miles to Oppelo. Then head west 12 miles on Hwy 154 to the park; OR, take Hwy 7 off I-40 (south). Driving time is estimated at 3 hours from Memphis. www.petitjeanstatepark.com.

Memphis Chapter – con't.

Apr 14 - International Harvester Managerial Park, Lakeland. 3 ½ miles. We will hike through Lakeland's International Harvester ("IH") Managerial Park. The park is located adjacent to the Lakeland Senior Center on the west side of Canada Road, between I-40 and Hwy 70 at 4523 Canada Rd. We will meet in the parking lot and get underway at 9:30 am. Allow 2 1/2 hours for the hike. We will hike through mostly bottom land forest, although there are some moderately strenuous places with elevation changes in beginning and at the end. The trail also goes through a nice meadow and along a small lake. There is one shallow water crossing. Be prepared for the mud if we have had recent rain. Terrain-appropriate waterproof footwear and hiking poles recommended. Bring water and snacks. Heavy rain or the threat of severe weather will cancel. Feel free to call or email me if you have questions, Marion Quinlen, 256-273-9720, mquinlen@gmail.com.

Apr 21 - Shiloh National Battlefield Park. This will be a historical hike following the route of Albert Sidney Johnston across Shiloh on April 6, 1862. To hike will be lead by Charlie Spearman, Interpretive Ranger at Shiloh. Charlie will lead us from General Johnston's starting point at what is the southwest corner of Shiloh and end near Spain's field where General Johnston died at about 2pm. Charlie is a wonderful story teller and historian of what happened at Shiloh. The hike will involve some bushwhacking. It will be about five miles. We will conclude the hike at about 2pm. We will meet at the visitor center at 9:00 am. For questions or to sign-up contact Charlie Bright at charlie.bright2010@gmail.com.

Apr 28 - Chewalla Lake Recreation Area, near Holly Springs, MS. This is a 7-mile moderate hike through woods, along the Chewalla Road Trail to the Pine Mountain Road. Meet at 9:30 am. We start at the trailhead from the MSL-Chewalla Lake Road. Park along the road, near the trailhead. Wear boots, bring water and snack. Rain cancels the hike. For more information call Janet at 901-494-4452. Directions: From US HYW 78 take the Lake Center exit, turn west onto HWY 178, turn north onto Higdon Road and drive 3 miles to the entrance.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Tony Jones 615-397-4463
murfreesoroboro@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER: Sara Pollard 615-714-3610
murfreesorobrotreas@tennesseetrails.org

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

HIKE & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:
Jennifer Zahn 615-943-8853
murfreesorohikes@tennesseetrails.org

BLOGMASTER
Craig McBride 615-394-6121
murfreesoroblog@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

Apr 7 – Cheeks Bend, Part of the Duck River State Natural Area Complex. The 1.8 mile balloon trail has scenic overlooks on the Duck River. The trail is relatively flat, so rated easy. There is also a short cave that leads to an overlook bluff. Bring water and snacks and wear good hiking shoes. After the hike we can go to a local restaurant for lunch. Contact Jennifer Zahn at 615-943-8853 or *jenzahn@gmail.com* for more information.

Apr 10 – Chapter Meeting. We will have a presentation from Val Hoepfner, the executive director of WMOT Roots Radio 89.5 FM, the flagship Americana radio station based in the College of Media and Entertainment at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Hoepfner has been the director of the Center for Innovation in Media and executive director of WMOT since 2014. Hoepfner will discuss the history of WMOT and National Public Radio, its format change to Americana music and WMOT's programs and Wired In Sessions.

Apr 21 - Cumberland Trail Backpack. Possum Creek and Rock Creek Gorge sections. 14.9 miles total. Strenuous for this 2 day, 1 night backpacking trip. Saturday we will start at the Heiss Mountain Road trailhead off Highway 111 near Soddy Daisy and hike 7.1 miles to the Little Possum North campsite. On the way to our campsite we'll pass a beautiful view from Perkins Point, Imodium Falls over Little Possum Creek, and cross the stunning Big Possum Creek and Little Possum Creek bridges. The campsite has water available from the Little Possum Creek. The next day from our campsite, we'll hike out 2.4 miles to the Retro Hughes trailhead and continue on the Rock Creek Gorge section for 5.4 miles to the Upper Leggett Road trailhead in Sale Creek. Elevation gain and loss on the Possum Creek Gorge section is 1,000 feet and the elevation change on the Rock Creek Gorge section is 300 feet. We'll also see lots of wildflowers, overlooks that offer spectacular views of the gorge into the Tennessee River valley, and opportunities to see hawks and eagles. This backpacking trip will be challenging but everyone will go at their own pace and enjoy the scenic views and interesting rock formations. For more information or to register, contact Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or *sarapollard@gmail.com*.

Murfreesboro Chapter – con't.

Apr 28 – Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro. 3.6 mile loop trail. Easy. The trail is flat and there are access points to leave the trail. This loop hike goes throughout the preserved portion of the battlefield where the Union and the Confederacy battled for control of the road and railroad connecting Nashville with states to the south. With troops totaling more than 80,000 men combined, the two armies fought during the three day period, starting December 31, 1862. If time permits, we'll visit the visitor center for a slide show and displays about this battle and the Civil War. For more information or to sign up, contact Jennifer Zahn at 615-943-8853 or *jenzahn@gmail.com*. Pack lunch, water, snacks.

50th Anniversary of TTA

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.

All chapters are encouraged to consider compiling chapter histories (pictures are always welcome) to commemorate the past.

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.

Supporting Member donations support 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.

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

Apr 7 - Collins Gulf Loop Trail, Gruetli-Laager, TN: 12 plus miles. Difficult due to the distance, terrain, and elevation changes. For experienced hikers only. Joint hike with Highland Rim Chapter. We hike along the west rim of Collins Gulf and down the Old Stagecoach Road to Sawmill campground, then back up the east side, passing Horsepound Falls and Suter Falls back to the start. But, our route may be subject to change depending on water levels at the stream crossings. Be sure to bring lunch, water, good hiking boots, water shoes (for stream crossings), and clothing appropriate to the weather. Contact Doug Burroughs at dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com or 615-587-0085 for more information and to register. Meeting Place: I-24 exit 59, former Target Parking lot, 5420 Target Dr, Antioch, TN 37013. Meeting Time: 7:00 am (Should be at trailhead around 9:00 am).

Apr 24 - Chapter Meeting. This country's national wildlife refuges are seldom crowded and are great places to explore. Most have no admission charges, and many have hiking trails that lead to unique vistas and observation points, Nora Beck will describe some of the trails and special places in the National Wildlife Refuge system in Tennessee and other regions of the country.

Apr 28 - Bike Ride. Bicentennial Cumberland River Trail, Ashland City, TN. 20 miles. Easy. We will meet at the Mark's Creek Trailhead on Chapmansboro Rd. The first section of the ride consists of 4 miles of paved greenway along the Cumberland River. We will ride over multiple bridges, including a spectacular trestle bridge, spanning Sycamore Creek. On the way we will see remnants of the old railroad bed, and possibly wildfowl on the river. The second section of the ride is the Eagle Pass section which is not paved but consists of very fine, crushed gravel. Because of this section it is better to have a hybrid type bike rather than a road bike. We will ride all the way and through Lock A Campground to the Cheatham Dam. At this point we will turn around and retrace our route back to the trailhead. Bring water, snacks and of course your bike and helmet. We will eat lunch in Ashland City after the ride. Contact Nancy Juodenas by email: njlj1011@gmail.com or phone: 615-319-8811 for meeting time and information.

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Bruce Whitehead 941-716-3620
Bob Obohowski
plateau@tennesseetrails.org
TREASURER: Gena Whitehead 941-716-3620
plateautreas@tennesseetrails.org
MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm CT
BLOG: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/plateau

There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information or to register for any of our hikes, contact the hike coordinator, Deb Westervelt, via email plateauhikes@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243. For a list of monthly hikes, visit the Plateau Chapter blog. **Check the blog one hour prior to hike time for cancellation or for any other updates/changes to our schedule before hiking.**

Apr 4 - Cumberland Trail Rock Creek Gorge Loop, North of Soddy Daisy. We'll hike the 6 mile loop from the Lower Leggett Rd Trailhead following Rock Creek to Boiling Springs with a side trail to Leggett Point Overlook <http://www.cumberlandtrail.org/maps-and-guides/trail-segments/three-grges/rock-section/>. Depart 7:30 am CT Trinity Tabernacle Church on Hwy 127 South. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Carpool cost \$6.

Apr 7 - Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg - two hike options: SHORT HIKE: We'll hike 5.6 mi on **Panther Branch trail** out and back to DeBord Falls and Emory Gap Falls. LONG HIKE: meet Jan Lyon 10 am ET at Frozen Head SP visitors center, 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg TN, Hike an 8 mile loop in on **Spicewood Branch, Chimney Top, South Old Mac, and Judge Branch trails** to view early spring wild flowers and ridge top views. Rated moderate to difficult as it has 1600 ft. elevation gain and is steep in areas. Need good hiking boots, water, food and rain gear. Contact Jan for more info at 865-406-5732 or email janlyons.fun@gmail.com. Depart VF Outlet Mall at 7:30 am CT. Carpool cost is \$6. Pack water, snacks and lunch.

Apr 11 - Savage Gulf Laurel & Ranger Creek Falls, Monteagle. We'll hike 6.6 mi out and back to Ranger Falls. This hike features two overlooks and a stone door. Depart 7:30 am CT from Tractor Supply on West Ave. Carpool cost is \$8. Pack water, snacks and lunch.

Apr 12 - Chapter Meeting. 6 pm CT at First United Methodist Church Annex, 69 Neecham Street, Crossville. Program will be on Norway by John Wiggington. Join us for dinner beforehand at 5 pm CT at Las Margaritas in Woodmere Mall. Contact Chapter Chair, Bruce Whitehead, 941-716-3620 or email plateau@tennesseetrails.org if you intend to join us for dinner.

Con't on next page

Plateau Chapter – con't.

Apr 18 - Walls of Jericho Tennessee Trailhead, near Winchester. We will hike an 8 mile loop on difficult rocky trails. We'll cross the creek bottoms, pass a cemetery, then a low wide waterfall and 30 foot tall Tunnel Falls. Carpool cost is \$10. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Depart from Tractor Supply at 7:30 am CT.

Apr 20-22. – Spring Getaway to Brevard County NC. Depart VF Outlet Mall at 7:30 am CT. Carpool cost estimate \$20-25. Pack water, snacks and lunch for 3 days. For more information contact and to sign up contact Cheryl Heckler, 931 -200-7436 or thehecklers@charter.net ASAP.

- **Friday** - Black Balsam Knob trailhead https://www.romanticasheville.com/black_balsam.htm off of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Hike to the first bald at 1 mile and eat lunch; continue on for a 5 mile loop For those wanting a shorter, hike to the 1.5 mile sign and return for a 3 mile hike. **Saturday** - High Falls Trailhead at the Dupont State Recreational Forest Visitor Center. Stop at the Hooker Falls parking area on the way for a short walk to Hooker Falls and back to car then driving on to the Visitor Center. Hike the 7 mile hike described in link below with a shorter hike option: the Triple Falls and High Falls loop for a 3 mile hike. Hike description: https://www.romanticasheville.com/dupont_waterfall_hike.htm
- **Sunday**, we have a choice of: Hike the 4 mile Graveyard Fields & Waterfall Loop - hike description: <https://www.romanticasheville.com/graveyard.htm> or hike 4 miles total for an in and back hike to see Rainbow Falls, Turtle Back Falls, Stairway Falls, and Hidden Falls - hike description: https://www.romanticasheville.com/rainbow_falls.htm. We can also opt to drive eight miles past Gorges State Park to see Upper Whitewater Falls, part of the highest waterfall in the eastern USA. It is a short walk - hike description: https://www.romanticasheville.com/whitewater_falls.htm.

Apr 25– Big South Fork Leatherwood, Sunset Overlook Trail, East Rim Overlook. 7 miles. Pack your lunch, snacks and bring water. Depart Cracker Barrel at 7:30 am CT. Carpool cost is \$6. Pack water, snacks and lunch.

SODDY-DAISY CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Jean Smith 423- 596-7681
soddydaisy@tennesseetrails.org
TREASURER: Robertson (Bob) McGavock 423-667-2960
soddydaisytreas@tennesseetrails.org
HIKE COORDINATOR: George Bonneau 423-842-3619
soddydaisyhikes@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>

Apr 3 - Stringer's Ridge. Approximately 4-1/2 miles. Moderate. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Spears Avenue at 9 am. Hike leader: Gail Stokes 423-756-8219.

Apr 7 - Heiss Mountain trailhead to Retro Hughes trailhead. Will stage vehicles. Approximately 10 miles. Strenuous. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: John Politte 423-304-8327.

Apr 10 - Cloudland Canyon State Park to Ascalon. Will stage vehicles. \$5 parking fee. Approximately 5 miles. Easy to moderate. Meet at Food City in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: Ed and Donna Pyers 423-344-9271.

Apr 14 - Prentice Cooper (Signal Mountain High School to Middle Creek and back). Approximately 5 miles. Moderate. Meet at Food City in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: Kathy Daniels 931-265-1661.

Apr 17-19 - Black Rock Mountain, Georgia retreat.

Apr 21 - Chickamauga Battlefield. Approximately 4-1/2 miles. Easy. This hike will cover the west side the Battlefield taking in Snodgrass Hill and Horseshoe Ridge, going across Dyer Field near a small cemetery. The trail will cross Lafayette Road and loop back to Battlefield Road and the parking lot. Meet at Food City in Red Bank at 9 am.or at the visitor center lower parking lot at 9:30 am. Hike leader: Gloria Nelson 423-645-9008.

Apr 24 - Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness in Spring City. Easy to moderate, Between 3 and 4 miles first part and last part is really easy. People can stay on the bluff if they want or go down in the gorge for the waterfall. Meet at Durham Street parking lot in Soddy Daisy at 9 am. Hike leader: Trish Appleton 423-240-3443.

April 28 - Cloudland Canyon Sitton Gulch. Approximately 5 miles. Moderate. Meet at Food City in Red Bank at 9 am. Hike leader: Ed and Donna Pyers 423-344-9271.

SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

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

Apr 14 – Narrows of the Harpeth. 2 miles. Easy except for optional climb to the ridge top. Over the years we have found great wildflowers on this short hike. The trail travels along the Harpeth River and a climb to the ridge top allows great vistas on both sides and a long range view of Montgomery Bell's gravesite. But the main feature is a manmade tunnel under the ridge which allowed water to power Bell's iron ore mill back in the early 1800's. We will visit both side of the tunnel. Walking sticks are recommended as the trail paralleling the river can be pretty muddy and slick. After the hike we will have lunch at Carl's Perfect Pig in White Bluff. Meet for carpooling at First Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9 am CT or at the trailhead. For further info contact Iron Ore Al at *ballallenger@aol.com*.

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

Apr 7 - Savage Gulf SNA Beersheba Springs, TN. 8 miles. Moderate to strenuous due to the fact that we will return up Grassy Ridge. Hopefully we will see the bluebells blooming at Long Bottom Fields and Catur Savage Cabin. We will check out 2 historic Beech trees and several home sites. Meet at the Stone Door at 8:30 am. We will drive to the sharp curve on Hwy 56 and park. For information and to register contact Vicki Williams at 615-351-9599 or *vwill55@gmail.com*.

Apr 14 - Ray Branch, Tims Ford State Park, Winchester, TN. 12 miles. Moderate to strenuous due to distance. This hike will start at 8:30 am from the Tim's Ford Visitor Center. The trail wraps around Tim's Ford Lake for the majority of the 12 miles and has some of the most awesome lake views around. Rolling hills and the lack of major hills or valleys make for the perfect long distance casual hike. Please bring sturdy hiking shoes, weather appropriate clothing, and a snack for your hike leader Mike Shane. For information about the hike or to register please contact Mike Shane 931-446-4306 or *mikeshane@charter.net*.

Upper Cumberland Chapter – con't.

Apr 21 - Savage Gulf Waterfalls, Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Gruetli-Laager, TN. Highlights of this hike include nine of the major waterfalls of Savage Gulf and spectacular spring wildflower displays. We will descend into the gulf along the Collins Gulf Trail past Suter and Horsepound Falls. We will then continue past the Catur Savage cabin and the Sycamore Sink on Big Creek. We will then use a portion of Grassy Ridge Road to join the Connector Trail. After a side trip to Ranger Falls we will visit Upper and Lower Boardtree Falls and Upper and Lower Greeter Falls before exiting the park. Water conditions could force an alteration in the route. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 7:00 am CT, at the US Bank in Sparta across from McDonald's about 7:20, or at the Greeter Falls parking lot about 8:30. For information and to register contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or *savage_richard@hotmail.com*.

Apr 28 - Chimney Top Trail, Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. We will hike to Chimney Top from the ranger station via the Chimney Top Trail. The view from the top is wonderful. We will lunch at the top and those who want a shorter hike can then retreat along the ridge top to the Spicewood Branch Trail for a total distance of about 9.1 miles. Those wanting a longer hike can proceed to the Lookout Tower for some more great views from atop Frozen Head Mountain returning via the North Old Mac trail for a total distance of 12 miles. Bring lunch, water, snacks, headlamp, raingear, and wear good hiking boots. Elevation changes and the distance covered make both routes strenuous. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 7:00 am CT. We will begin the hike from the Frozen Head ranger station around 9:00 am CT. For information and to register contact Gary Kimbrell at 931-215-9520 or *Gary.Kimbrell@fbttn.com*.

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.

OFFICERS:

President

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

Vice-President

Vacancy
vicepresident@tennesseetrails.org

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Jackie York 615-294-8241
secretary@tennesseetrails.org

At-large Directors (terms expiring listed after name)

Carolyn Miller (2018) 931-839-3213
president@tennesseetrails.org

Jackie York (2018) 615-294-8241
secretary@tennesseetrails.org

Kathy Woods (2018) 615-473-6824
treasurer@tennesseetrails.org

Jim Poteet (2019) 931-924-7666
board@tennesseetrails.org

Vacancy (2019)
board@tennesseetrails.org

Vacancy (2019)
board@tennesseetrails.org

Cheryl Heckler (2020) 931-200-7436
membership@tennesseetrails.org

Linda Latter (2020) 615-419-4845
board@tennesseetrails.org

Vacancy (2020)
board@tennesseetrails.org

Regional Directors

West TN

Vacancy (2020)
westregional@tennesseetrails.org

Middle TN

Joan Hartvigsen (2019) 931-962-0811
midleregional@tennesseetrails.org

East TN

Garnett Rush (2018) 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

2018 TTA Board of Directors Meetings

Saturday, May 5: 1 PM

Bells Bend Outdoor Center, Nashville
4187 Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37218

Saturday, Aug 4:1 PM

Location to be announced.

Sunday, Oct 28: 9 AM

Brandon Springs Group Center, Dover.

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.

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

Apr 18

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; (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 hikes or functions.
Not a member yet? Please check out one of our hikes or meetings soon!