

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.

# An Alternative View, and Two Cumberland Trail Hikes by Gene Curp, Nashville Chapter

"As an embassy of the Most High Light, I call forth Absolute God protection for this location. I invoke the Raspberry Sherbet Son of Divine Mother to secure this area for one mile in all directions. I call for all beings in the world to now awaken and realize their divinity and Oneness with all that is. All violence, abuse, despair, and negative Karma are now dissolved by the tryptic power of Lord Meladon, Lord Michael, and Melchizadek. It is done!"

Thus began the TTA Annual Meeting held at Norris Darn State Park. I personally missed the opening ceremonies, but have the opening remarks given to me on good authority. A helpful hostess at the bonfire directed me to the Nashville Chapter men's cabin where I found pantyhose on the bathroom floor and a witch's costume (or her dress, whatever) on one of the beds. I consulted the hostess, Cabin 5, and the revelers in Cabin 3. Being thus assured of my sleeping arrangements, I discovered on the fold-out couch new meanings to the phrase "roughing it."

After a fine, catered country breakfast (differing from a full British breakfast by the absence of grilled tomatoes and the addition of biscuits and sausage-gravy), we separated into our various hikes. A nine-mile outing on old Section 1 of the Cumberland Trail was taken by 34 to 36 hikers and finished by 34 to 32. Luckily we didn't have an exact count and were thus saved much anxiety and waiting around. We could only take 6 cars due to limited parking, but the rule-abiding membership appeared in 8 cars. A sprint by the lead car (which contained the only 2 people who knew where we were going), and your humble reporter, and the "net gurus of the CT homepage") failed to shake anyone, so we just made do.

We hiked upwards through a "dense canopy of roots and vines and all things green" (Isn't that wonderful, a canopy of roots?) to find more climbing. Winded, but undaunted, we continued the ascent. After gaining steadily we switched back uphill, to ascend steeply. We then found the trail went up, followed by a couple of hills. Well, this is no guidebook, so suffice it to say that the entire 9 miles was all uphill. The chlorophyll morass gave way to brilliant fall colors (really) which we were unable to see due to all the rocks. All I saw was trail and rock, but it was pretty interesting rock. I did get tired of the view of my shoelaces, however. After days (in dog time, which was really only hours) most of us got out.

Dinner Saturday night was a hit. Many well-deserved awards were given out, and new officers elected. Bob Barnett then lead a 3-person tag team down the auction trail. A hiking package, a backpacking package, a canoeing package, along with art, music, accouterments, impediments, junk and cast-offs interspersed with surprise finds, genuine bargains and great B&B opportunities were auctioned. Big fun on a low budget. Next year I bring my checkbook.

It is easy by the fireside at home to draw large loops with your finger, tracing trails on maps. I want to hike X to the Nth miles that morning, followed by ...Sunday dawned just as night ended. The 9-mile Nemo Trail CT hike collapsed into the 5-mile Devil's Breakfast Table section by general consensus. 2.4 miles BRAND NEW. We were the first group to travel it. But first the TTA road rally. With red flagging tape gaily fluttering from antennae, we took off without a clue of where to go. Rob Weber lead a merry chase—and he had recited a logarithm table and swore it was the route numbers to Wartburg (pronounced Whatburg). Two men with enlarging prostates and an appetite for coffee declared biological emergencies and had to drop out of the Road Rally. After regrouping in Wartburg at the NPS Obed Visitor Center (to find the men's room out of order—two men were smug), the final leg of the road rally took on a Baja offroad race feel as the road lost paint, the pavement and after miles of washboard gravel, lost gravel. "Can't get worse without blowdowns," my rider opined. Then two blowdowns. Luckily they were just limbs mostly missing the road. We arrived at Daddys Creek.

New trail. I confess I felt "fulfilled" after helping tromp down the moss at a virgin overlook at the end of a yellow-blazed spur. I have had my turn. And, hey, it's just one stinking rock out of many, this one sacrificed to us nature lovers. I just was among those who got there first.

The trail treadway rock work was spectacular...visually, asthetically, workmanship-wise...and in steepness. It was one way in and out, yet remarkably was uphill both ways. And I happen to know not a single hiker failed to shortcut down the road to the cars (Sorry, Gene...I didn't cheat...Arleen). Desperate to get on the road, but completely lost...we waited. One could only go left or right, yet there was the long way, which was also the fastest, and the short, direct route that took longer. This sounded like 4 ways, but the only clarification we got from Rob was, for goodness sake, don't go back the way we came! A Crossville member rescued us from Rob, and lead us out to the Interstate, where the entire assemblage stopped at the very first McDonald's they came to. No kidding. Except for Bob Barnett, who was spotted across the street at Hardee's in his truck. How do you know it's Bob? One look at the bumper stickers, and after that, you just know.



# 1997 TENNESSEE TRAILS AWARDS

It's difficult to select a couple of individuals or organizations to receive the Tennessee Trails Award and the Bill Stutz Award, because there are so many people and organizations who consistently give of their time, money and effort to support trails in Tennessee. There are many efforts in progress around the State—Paul & Pam Miller and the Upper Cumberland Chapter's contributions to preserving Scott's Gulf; the Murfreesboro Chapter's work to preserve Black Fox Wetlands, revitalize the Twin Forks Trail, and help build the Stones River Greenway; the Nashville Chapter's work at Short Springs Natural Area; Clarksville Chapter's plans for Cheatham Dam and Indiantown Bluff; and the Memphis Chapter's trail work at Meeman-Shelby State Forest and Bagley Bottoms. The East Tennessee Chapter faithfully maintains trails in the Smokies, Hemlock Bluff, Whites Creek and other trails. The Cumberland Mountain Chapter is in the beginning stages of partnering with the Big South Fork National Recreation Area to support, promote and assist with trail building and maintenance in the Big South Fork. The Cumberland Trail Conference is spearheading an effort to build the Cumberland Trail. And the list goes on....

However, Mrs. Sally Beaman, and Lee Beaman, of Nashville rose to the top of the list to receive the Tennessee Trails Award for their generous assistance in making possible the purchase of 1,500 acres of land in rural northwest Davidson County for the Metro Nashville Parks and Greenways to preserve as a natural area. Undisturbed parcels of land of this size are a rarity in Middle Tennessee and the Beamans are to be applauded for their vision of preserving a wild place for Middle Tennesseans to enjoy.

The Bill Stutz Award is given to an individual or chapter for making a significant contribution at the State or Chapter level to the Tennessee Trails Association. Kevin Kimbro of Pegram was honored for almost seven years of maintaining the TTA membership database and literally producing miles of mailing labels for the monthly mailing of the Tennessee Trails newsletter. Kevin has also shared his love of the Bowater Pocket Wilderness trails with others by leading hikes at Virgin Falls, Honey Creek, Laurel/Snow, Piney River, etc.

## Out with the Old... In with the New...

How appropriate that as we are about to begin a new year, we welcome the new Tennessee Trails newsletter editor, Andrew Stevens of Clinton, a member of the East Tennessee chapter. After talking with me, Harold Draper, Jim Poteet, and countless others, Andrew still wants to tackle the job. He will begin his tenure with the January, 1998 issue. Andrew and wife, Diana, are long-time TTA members and avid hikers.

Thanks to all the chapter chairs and TTA members who have faithfully sent me hike info, trip reports and articles of interest. I have enjoyed helping promote trails through the newsletter and look forward to the fresh creativity that Andrew will bring to the newsletter. I encourage all TTA members to WRITE TRIP REPORTS, SEND IN TRAIL-RELATED ARTICLES FROM MAGAZINES YOU READ, and OBSERVE THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH DEADLINE!

Don't forget to send Andrew your 1998 Hike Schedules for the January issue and any changes to chapter chairs and Board representatives for the back page of the newsletter. AND—please let him know if the area code has changed for your phone number (i.e., 931 vs. 615). THANKS!

You can send newsletter information to Andrew via e-mail at stevens@usit.net, or snail mail to Andrew Stevens, 311 Cross Pike Rd., Clinton, TN 37716, or phone (423) 494-0852 (home).

-- Arleen Barnett, EX Newsletter Editor

OOPS! In last month's issue we asked you to check your mailing label for your membership expiration date but the expiration dates were not printed on the labels. Please check your label this month and if you have an expiration date of 12/97, send in your check to be sure you don't miss the January issue of the newsletter. Thanks!

# CLARKSVILLE

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the City of Clarksville Crow Community Center at 211 Richview Rd.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO AUCTION PARTICIPANTS!

The Cumberland Trail Conference would like to thank all the members of the Tennessee Trails Association for their participation and outstanding contributions to this year's annual auction. Due to your extraordinary efforts, we were able to raise \$1,715.80 to go towards the Cumberland Trail project in 1998. Once again, you have shown your commitment and support towards the completion of the Cumberland Trail—we couldn't have done it without you!

There were many people behind the scenes who helped make this year's auction a success. We want to thank Bob and Arleen Barnett who spent endless hours gathering auction packages throughout the state. Our auctioneers, Bob Barnett, Gene Curp, and Libby Francis, who could sell sand to a dying man in the desert and make it seem like a must-have bargain! The numerous individuals who donated their personal time and expense in making handmade items, i.e., walking sticks, baked goods, fishing flies, photos, etc., we cannot tell you how much it means to us for you to have taken the time and effort to make these items! To all of you who simply cleaned out your closets, it made a difference and made for some interesting packages!

And finally, we would like to say how grateful we are to the many people who actually spent money to buy these wonderful auction items. We hope you enjoyed attending the auction as much as we did presenting it. THANKS!

--Susan Weber

### **CTC Award Presentations**

Jim Lifsey, of the Plateau Chapter, received our first Bob Brown Volunteer of the Year Award. As you know, Bob Brown has placed untold effort towards the completion of the CT, and is reocgnized by all in the conservation community as an individual willing to give of his time toward the preservation of earth's natural resources. It was fitting then, that the Bob Brown Award was presented to the volunteer who contributed the most time to the construction and maintenance of the CT in '97, Jim Lifsey. Jim, known among his fellow trail builders as the "Rock Man" for his superb trail building skills, was presented with a beautiful piece of crab orchard stone with a plaque engraved on it. A fitting tribute to all of the fine rock work Jim has done on the trail. Thanks, Jim, for your outstanding volunteer work on the Cumberland Trail!

Morgan County Regional Correctional Facility received the first annual Cumberland Trail Award, presented to an individual or organization for their outstanding contributions to the Cumberland Trail for '97. Through their efforts, a 2.5 mile portion of the Obed Wild and Scenic River Segment, the Devil's Breakfast Table Trail, is now open. Twenty-six TTA hikers explored this trail during TTA's annual meeting, and will attest to MCRCF's trail building skills. The CTC appreciates all of the folks from MCRCF who have assisted in this endeavor! THANKS!

# CUMBERLAND MTN.

There are no scheduled hikes for December. Stay tuned for January, 1998.

## **EAST TENNESSEE**

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge on the corner of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Lafayette at 7:00 pm in Room 101.

DECEMBER 7 (Sunday) - HOUSE MOUNTAIN STATE NATURAL AREA hike led by Harold Draper. Meet at 8:30 am at the Home Depot/Food Lion parking lot at East Towne Crossing Shopping Center in Knoxville, exit 8 off of I-640. We begin our hike after a short 12-mile drive to the state park parking area and trailhead. From the trailhead we climb steeply one mile to the mountain top. On a clear day, we will see nice views of Knoxville and the great valley of East Tennessee more than 1,000 feet below us, as well as the Great Smoky Mountains and nearby Clinch Mountain. Total distance is 5 miles in a loop hike. Hikers should bring lunch and water. Call Harold at (423) 689-7757 for more information.

# **MEMPHIS**

Meets the third Thursday at 7:00 pm at Davis-Kidd, 387 Perkins Extended

December 13 (Saturday) - Elmwood Historic Cemetery Walking Tour. Meet at the cemetery's visitor center at 10 am. Comfortable walking shoes, rather than hiking boots, are recommended. Plan on spending 2-3 hours. For directions, call Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613.

December 18 - Memphis Chapter Christmas Party. At Betty Porter's house, 6696 Stout Rd. near Germantown (for directions call 755-4740). It's potluck, so bring your favorite holiday dish and a beverge if you like. Socializing begins around 6:15 pm, dinner at 7. The party also serves as our December meeting.

# **MURFREESBORO**

Meets the third Tuesday at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Methodist Church.

Holiday/Solstice Party. Members of all chapters are welcome. Saturday, December 20, 4 PM until 10 PM. Come early to enjoy the woods and/or to avoid getting lost. Bring food for a buffet and whatever you prefer to drink. A low/practically non-alcoholic punch, cups, plates, utensils, etc. will be provided.

Maybe this will be a good night for seeing the stars. If not, at least we'll have a fire in the fireplace! Please plan to go sock footed in the house.

Directions: From Nashville go southeast on I-24 to I-840. Take I-840 to Murfreesboro exit. Turn left at Thompson Lane (second red light). Continue through the Hwy 231 intersection, past the VA Hospital, to Hwy 96. Turn left. Go ½ mile. Heloise's driveway is on the left. 3719 Lascassas Pike, 896-6278.

From Sparta: West on Hwy 70 past Liberty, then southwest on Hwy 96 toward Murfreesboro, over the Stones River bridge. Continue downhill. Heloise's driveway is on the right, 3719 Lascassas Pike, 896-6278.

New Year's Day Frozen Head Hike. Five or six miles. This is great in the snow, but we won't go if it's raining! One year we stood for lunch at Tub Spring and ate black eyed peas and greens and cornbread. Maybe fake champagne. Maybe coffee. This is the plan!

Call Heloise 896-6278 to discuss or register for the hike. We'll meet at 7:30 AM at the Cone gas station at the Murfreesboro exit off I-40 to accommodate hikers outside of Murfreesboro. Otherwise, we'll take Hwy 96.

# NASHVILLE

### HIKING HOTLINE 367-7045

December 7 - Big South Fork - Maude's Crack hike led by Jim Poteet. We will hike 6 or 7 miles in the Big South Fork area with an interesting history. (How did Maude's Crack get its name?) Plan to meet at 7:00 am at the K-Mart parking lot in Donelson to carpool. Call Jim at 377-4777 for more information and to preregister.

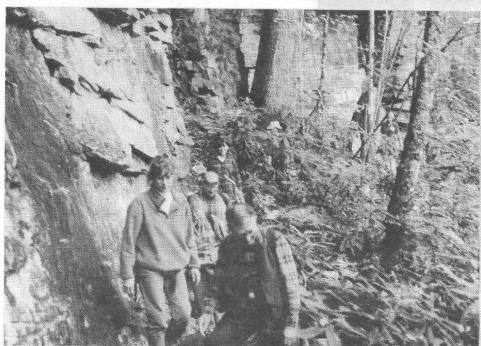
December 14 - Long Hunter State Park - Volunteer Trail and Chili Supper provided by Jennifer and Charlie Hann. Come celebrate the holiday season with a hike overlooking



Devil's Breakfast Table Hike on the CT (Notice the rocks...)

Morgan's Overlook into Obed Wild & Scenic River Gorge





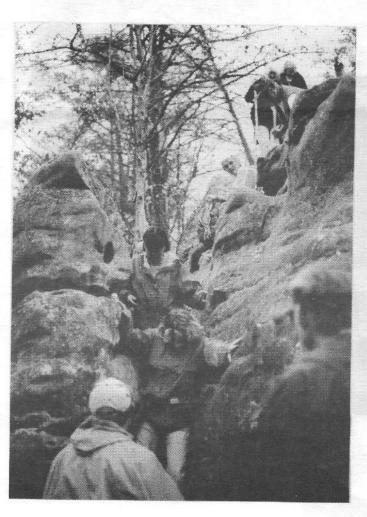
Another Exercise in the Study of Shoelaces

December 1997

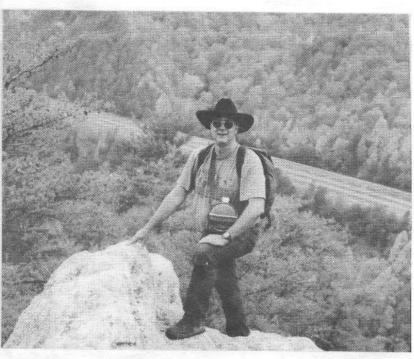
# HIKING AT THE 1997 TTA ANNUAL MEETING....



Thirty Something Hikers on the Cumberland Mountain Segment of the Cumberland Trail



The famed "Crevice"



Devil's Racetrack Overlooking I-75 Barry Spearman, Plateau Chapter

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Percy Priest Lake. Afterwards, enjoy Charlie and Jennifer's hospitality at their charming home not far from Hickory Hollow. Call the Hanns at 941-1503 for time and meeting place and to preregister.

December 16 - Nashville Chapter Christmas Party, 6:00 pm at Cumberland Science Museum Dining Room upstairs. Tennessee Trails will again join with the Audobon Society for our Annual Christmas Party. Make plans to attend and bring a covered dish to share. Drinks and paper goods will be supplied. There will be a slide show so bring 10 or so of your favorite slides to share with the group. If you would like to help with decorations, call Vera Churcher at 373-8314 or come at 5:00 to help.

ATTENTION!!! NEW MEETING PLACE AND DAY BEGINNING IN JANUARY, 1998. We will begin meeting in the Community Room at Radnor Lake State Natural Area Visitor Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. January's meeting date will be Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Remember to use the Granny White Pike access to Otter Creek Road since the road through the natural area is closed to thru traffic from Franklin Road. For more information, call Dave Walton at 646-5355.

## PLATEAU

Meets the third Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Crossville Housing Authority, 202 Irwin Ave.

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>; Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness. 5 miles, strenuous. Call Jim Lifsey for details at 931-839-3939.

Cumberland Trail Tennessee River Gorge Segment

Thirteen people ventured out on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, to explore the Tennessee River Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail near Chattanooga. The adventuresome included our hike leaders, Bill Eldridge and Jim Lifsey, along with Carolyn Miller,

Leigh Jones, Bob Bowman, Susan Weber, Allan Love, Christa Underwood, Carol Tyler, Gene and Myra Holloway, and Bob and Ruth Worshik. We started the hike at the Rainbow Lake Trailhead on Signal Mountain and walked 8 moderate miles to Highway 27, where we shuttled cars. The trail was in excellent condition, all except for the first bridge crossing Middle Creek (it didn't exist as it had been washed away), so where there's a will, there's a way. Bill and Jim found some large rocks to clamber over, and along with a few helping hands, we made our way to the other side. I have since been informed that this bridge will be part of next year's Breakaway project, so...after March we'll be able to stroll across!

The trees were beautiful shades of gold and crimson. with partridge berries lining the trail and "Hearts-A-Bursting" out all over! The day started out overcast. but the fog lifted just enough during our lunch stop to view the beautiful Tennessee River from one of the many overlooks. We also crossed a LARGE swinging bridge that sent a few shivers along its boardwalk! Towards the end of the hike, mother nature decided we needed a little more rain (sundrops we called them) to enhance the already gorgeous greenery along this historic trail. We will definitely be heading back in the Spring to look at the many wildflowers! This is a must-see segment of the Cumberland Trail-many of the hikers from the Plateau Chapter claimed it was the most beautiful hike they'd ever been on!

-- Susan Weber, Plateau Chapter

# UPPER CUMBERLAND

Please contact Denise Charvoz, Chapter Chair, for hike info and details (615) 738-3595.

#### SILENT AUCTION

We're trying something new this year to allow Tennessee Trails members and other interested parties who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting to still participate in the fundraising auction to benefit the Cumberland Trail. We saved some of the good stuff for you! If you haven't finished your holiday shopping, these items would make great gifts. Please mail, e-mail or call your bid in to Bob or Arleen Barnett by December 15. The highest bidder by December 15 will be notified by phone.

Item #1 - Apple Brook Bed & Breakfast, near Natchez Trace Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee

One night's lodging for two people (no holidays—weekends based on availability)

Value: \$95.00 Minimum Bid: \$60

Expiration Date: 4/30/98

Item #2 - Weekend Getaway Package from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Nashville, Tennessee

Two-day free rental of two backpacks, two sleeping bags and a 2-person tent. Two weeks' advance notice requested. Expires 9/29/98

Item #3 - John Prine Christmas Cassette Tape. There are three of these to bid on.

Value: \$10.00

Item #4 - Two General Jackson Showboat MidDay Cruise Certificates. Valid 2/8/98 through 11/11/98

Value: \$26

Item #5 - Guided Hike at Warrior's Path State Park with Ranger/Naturalist Marty Silver.

Expiration Date: 4/30/98

Item #6 - One registration for Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Solo or Tandem Canoe School in May/June 1998. Value: \$35.00

Item #7 - Family Membership at Chattanooga Nature Center for 1998.

Value: \$35.00

Item #8 - Handcrafted Cane Hiking Stick with rubber tip and Loop Handle, made by John Martin of Memphis Chapter. There are 4 of these.

Value: Priceless

Item #9 - Canoe the Sequatchie trip for two (3-4 miles) for 1998. Not valid on holidays or holiday weekends.

Value: \$40 Minimum Bid: \$30

Item #10 - Family Membership to Bays Mountain Park Assoc., Kingsport, Tennessee for 1998. Unlimited admission to park plus 6 additional passes to programs (Planetarium, Nature & Barge)

Value: \$35.00

Item #11 - Mountain Stage CD Christmas Music featuring Kathy Mattea, The Roches, David Morris, Michael Martin Murphy, Mike Seeger, Larry Groce & the Mountain Stage Band and others Value: \$17

Item #12 - Dinner for Two at Monell's Restaurant, Nashville Value: \$20

Item #13 - Lunch for Two at Monell's Restaurant, Nashville Value: \$16

Item #14 - Saturday Breakfast/Brunch for Two at Monell's Restaurant, Nashville Value: \$20

Item #15 - Canoe Float on the Stones River for 2 people with Heloise Shilstat, Murfreesboro TTA member.

Value: Priceless

Item #16 - Earth Mama Cassette Tape featuring Joyce Rouse singing Friend of the Earth, Less is More, The Bird Song Value: \$10

Item #17 - Two Nights for 2 people at Friends Bed & Hearth near Sparta, Tennessee, Hostess Denise Charvoz

Value: \$100 Minimum Bid: \$55

Item #18 - John Conlee's Greatest Hits Cassette Tape (2) Value: \$10

Item #19 - R.B. Morris CD, Country Artist from East Tennessee Value: \$17

Item #20 - Live From Mountain Stage CD (Folk) Value: \$17

#### Silent Auction Bid Form

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: Auction Coordinator, P.O. Box 41446, Nashville, TN 37204 or phone (615) 832-6484 or e-mail: arleen.f.barnett@vanderbilt.edu BY DEC. 15!!!

#### ADOPT-A-TRAIL

TRAIL MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be placed on a call list for trail maintenance, contact Rob Weber (423) 533-2620 for details.

If you are interested in maintaining a particular trail or section of trail, please contact Harold Draper, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator at (423) 689-7757.

# Nemo Bridge Trail of the CT's Obed Wild and Scenic River Segment is open and ready to explore!!!

**The Cumberland Trail Conference** is pleased to announce that the Nemo Bridge portion of the "trail of a thousand steps" was completed by the sweat and effort of Tusculum College of East Tennessee and TTA volunteers during a mini-BreakAway November 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Three days of trail work on the rise from Hell's Gulch to BreakAway Bluff, the bluff trail to the overlook., and the connector of the original Nemo Trail and the new CT extension brought the completion of the trail. This amongst the snow of a November cold snap—and it was cold!!! Thanks to the coordinating efforts of site leaders Karen and Larry Childress of Tusculum College and to the hardy students: Josh Ellinger, Pamela Smith, Kathryn Bonjour, Robin Newberry, Heather Rhoton, Lori Cullum, and Amnada Nehr. Volunteers who joined us included Alison Brayton, Barry and Sandra Spearman, Arleen Barnett, Mike Harvey, David Sims, Jim Lifsey, Fran Wallas, Greg Rost, and Bill Eldridge.

#### THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS!!

For upcoming hikes on this trail and all the trails of the Cumberland Trail visit our web site at: http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail



		ORDER	FORM		
	Hiking Tennessee Trails, 4th Edition		\$ 9.95		
	TTA Adopt-A-Trail Manual		3.00		
	Round Traditional TTA Patch		3.00		
	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary TTA Patch		3.00		
	TTA Fanny Pack (Green with embroidere	d boot logo)	15.00		
	TTA Window Decal		1.00		
	include postage. Mail your check payable allow 4 weeks.	to TTA and mail to	o: Libby Francis, 2104	Snook Drive, Nashville,	TN 37210.
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NASHVILLE PLATEAU (Crossy UPPER CUMBER) AT LARGE	rille) LAND (Cookeville/Sparta)		HVILLE, TN 37204		
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION	ONS ARE DUE BY THE 15 <sup>TH</sup> TN 37716 or e-mail to: steve	ens@usit.net	L TO: ANDREW STEVENS,	NEWSLETTER EDITOR,	
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Harold Draper (423) 689-7757; HaroldD385@aol.com

Plateau Chair: Mary Kelly (615) 456-7749 Upper Cumberland Chair: Denise Charvoz (615) 738-3595

TTA Web Page: www.tn-trails.org

Adopt-A-Trail:

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