

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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.

Winter Cleanup

It may seem like we had a mild winter and spring is fully upon us, but there are still some reminders of the winter. These reminders are trees and limbs lying in the trails. The Big South Fork was hard hit by heavy snow and ice and most trails still are not open. On April 18, a major cleanup will be made at the Big South Fork. Announcements asking for volunteers will be made in the papers so keep an eye out. If you don't see anything about it, call the Park office at **423-569-2404**. If you're thinking about using a chain saw, you have to be certified by the Park officials first, so call and find out how to go about that.



Tax considerations

Sure you like to hike and occasionally volunteer to do something for the TTA. You might be able to take a tax deduction for expenses associated with the volunteer effort. If you are a casual volunteer, the tax benefit will hardly be worth the effort to do the extra paperwork, but you should be aware of the possibility. If the thought piques your interest, here are a few things to consider.

1. The organization must be listed as a charitable organization - and the Tennessee Trails Association, Inc. is listed in the IRS Publication 78. The chapters are part of the TTA.
2. You must itemize deductions on Schedule A and file the Form 1040. There are limits that depend on your income, other deductions, etc.
3. Most folk's contributions will be for "out-of-pocket expenses when you serve a qualified organization as a volunteer." IRS Publication 526 should be reviewed. For car expenses, you can deduct unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses (gas, oil, tolls) or use the standard 12 cents per mile for 1997 (will be 14 cents per mile in 1998). You do need to perform a substantial duty and that would apply to most anyone who does trail maintenance for example.
4. If you contribute property, the deduction is limited to the fair market value of the property.
5. Records are required. The extent of record keeping depends on the type and value of contribution you make. Refer to the IRS publication for this one.

Disclaimer: I'm not a tax preparer nor accountant so don't take information here as authoritative. All this was summarized from IRS Publication 17, a very handy all purpose reference. The TTA was found as a qualifying organization on the IRS web page <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>, an electronic version of Publication 78.

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Cumberland Trail Notes and News

The Middle Tennessee Group of Sierra Club will be leading a back country outing May 8-10 to build trail on the remote Hatfield Mountain in the Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment. CTC is providing trail training and transportation to the back country site for the Sierra volunteers. We're excited about Middle Tennessee Sierra Group's participation in making the Cumberland Trail a reality!

BreakAway '98 is underway with construction of a suspension bridge over Middle Creek in the Tennessee River Gorge segment and is proceeding well. Renovation of the Signal Point access is 50% completed. Watch for a complete BA write up in the TTA May newsletter, and join the Plateau Chapter on the Tennessee River Gorge segment hike on April 25th.

Missed out on BreakAway '98?! Not to fear - plans are underway for a one-week summer BA program. More information on this will be in the TTA May newsletter.

Editor's note

We recognize that there are some problems in getting the newsletter out in time for the first hike in the month and are working on a solution.

Andy Stevens



Appalachian Trail Thru Hiker

J. R. "Model T" Tate, from the Clarksville Chapter, TTA is starting out on his third thru hike of the Appalachian Trail on April 2nd and would like to hear from TTA members. The following is a list of his stops and mailing instructions. He plans to take a camcorder along and put together a video and share it with us.

1998 Appalachian Trail Mail Drops
for

J. R. "Model T" Tate

| Drop No. | Latest Date to mail | Post Office | Miles from last drop/cumulative miles | Estimated arrival |
|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 6 April | Fontana Dam, NC 28733 | 163/163 | 19 April |
| 2 | 28 April | Damascas, VA 24236 | 289/452 | 12 May |
| 3 | 1 June | Waynesboro, VA, 22980 | 384/836 | 14 June |
| 4 | 24 June | Duncannon, PA, 17020 | 286/1122 | 8 July |
| 5 | 6 July | Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327 | 149/1271 | 20 July |
| 6 | 27 July | Cheshire MA, 01225 | 284/1555 | 9 August |
| 7 | 17 August | Gorham, | 309/1864 | 31 August |

| | | | | |
|---|---------|---------------------|------------|---------|
| 8 | 2 Sept | Monson, ME 04464 | 183/2047 | 16 Sept |
| 9 | No Mail | Mt. Katahdin, ME | 114/2160.7 | 29 Sept |

Note: Mail letters and packages to: J.R. "Model T" Tate
General Delivery
(town indicated)

Note: Mark letter or package, "Hold for AT Hiker"

Note: Post Office will not accept UPS, FEDEX or other non-US Postal Service deliveries

CLARKSVILLE

APRIL 4 Greeter & Suter Falls-Altamont, Jim Hampton, 647-5899 Suter falls hike to be lead by Park Ranger

APRIL 5 Sunday pm-Cheatham Dam, Lock B, Jack Held, 645-1348

APRIL 11 Indian Town Bluff , Ashland City, Wanda Cumberland, 906-3338 Easter Weekend

APRIL 18 Sewanee\Buggy Top Trail and cave Suva Bastin, 645-2849, 4.5 miles difficult, led by Park Ranger, Ray Eason(meet there 10am).

APRIL 19 Sunday pm-Pennyryle Forest, Ky, John Lenkes, 551-4333

APRIL 25 Frozen Head State Park, Wanda Cumberland, 906-3338

APRIL 26 Sunday pm-Radnor Park, Nashville, Jack Held, 645-1348

CUMBERLAND MTN.

The hike which Eric Wilson is leading to Burnt Mill Bridge on the 19th is to be a joint hike between the Nashville and CM chapters and is part of TTA's cooperative effort with the BSF. CM hikers should meet at Bandy Creek at 11 Eastern Time, Nashville hikers are meeting at 8 Central at Donelson K-Mart, or be at the trailhead at 12 Eastern time.

EAST TENNESSEE

April 18 (Saturday) - Frozen Head State Natural Area - Wildflowers everywhere! Hike Judge Branch and South Old Mac with lunch at Tub Springs. Return down North Old Mac. Moderate hike of 7 miles. Meet at Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. Questions? Call Keith at 423/376-4827.

April 21 (Tuesday eveing) - Chapter meeting at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge (corner of Turnpike and Lafayette, Traffic light #6). Janie Mertz will show her slides of Peru. Janie is a published photographer. Many of her photos are in natural history publications of the Great Smoky Mtns. National Park. Refreshments will be served.

April 25 (Saturday) - Grassy Branch and Falls Branch - Two trails in Cherokee National Forest. Falls Branch Trail is 2.6 miles round trip rated easy for experienced hikers and moderate for novice hikers. Features include 1 creek crossing and a 75' waterfall. Grassy Branch Trail is 4.6 miles round trip and is rated difficult. Descent is 1300' in 2 miles. with approximately 8 stream crossings, and several blowdowns. This hike is rated strenuous. Rewards include spectacular wildflowers. Meet at Hardee's on State Hwy. 68 in Tellico Plains at 9:00 a.m. Questions? Call Keith at 423/376-4827.

Trip Reports:

Members of Smoky Mountain Hiking Club (SMHC) joined our chapter for a 7-8 mile hike in the Norris Watershed. We totaled 28 in number!

Martin High led 5 members on a hike to Starr Mtn., a high elevation bog in the Cherokee National Forest. He filled us in on history and wildlife of the area, including hotels, spas, train trips, and turkeys. It was a blue-sky day!

MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS TTA APRIL NEWS IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

Due to remodeling at Davis-Kidd, our April and May meetings will be held at the Memphis main library, Peabody at McLean, in Meeting Room B.

APRIL MEETING: 7 p.m. Thur., Apr. 16th at the main library. A speaker from the WONDERS series will give a presentation about the new exhibition on Peru.

Apr. 4: NATCHEZ TRACE STATE PARK. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at Davis-Kidd; hike starts 9:30 a.m. at the park visitor center. About 8 miles, easy terrain. Contact Ray Burkett, 901-357-9183.

Apr. 18 (Sat.): SHELBY FOREST SOCIAL HIKE. Meet at Meeman-Shelby State Park visitor center at 9 a.m. to hike the Woodland Trail. 3 miles, steep hills. Contact Gloria Norrid, 901-382-4277.

Apr. 23-26 (Thur.-Sun.): BIG SOUTH FORK/PICKETT STATE PARK. Meet 9 a.m. Friday at the visitor center in Pickett, where we'll decide which trails to hike during the next three days. Hikes will vary in length and difficulty, and routes may be altered due to ice-storm damage. Lodging is available in Pickett (1-800-421-6683) and the Bandy Creek campground at Big South Fork (1-423-569-9778) is excellent. Contact Norma McMinn, 901-785-1479.

SIGNUP FOR CANOE TRAINING. If you want to take the May 9th canoe course taught by Freddi Felt, you must register by April 25th. Call Freddi at 901-685-9915.

SIGNUP FOR RAFTING TRIP: Anyone who plans to go whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River June 13th needs to pay their \$29 fee by the end of April. We need at least 12 people for this trip. There is a refund policy if you need to cancel later. Call Norma McMinn at 901-785-1479.

MURFREESBORO

Apr 18 Beginner Backpack, Mark Hall, 615-896-4345

Apr 25, 26 Pickett S.P. -overnight-day hike, Fount Bertram, 615-765-5337

NASHVILLE

April 1998 Hikes
Hiking Hotline 367-7045

April 4 - Percy Warner Park hike led by Julie Walski. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. for this lovely moderate hike. Call Julie at 333-6904 for meeting place and distance and to preregister.

April 5 - Fiery Gizzard Trail hike led by Charlie and Jennifer Hann. We expect to see many wildflowers on this 6 or 7 mile moderate hike. Meet at the Target parking lot at I-24 and Bell Road at 7:00 a.m. Call Charlie or Jennifer at 941-1503 for more information and to preregister.

April 5 - Ramsey Cascades hike led by Bob Barnett. This 8 mile moderately difficult hike in the Smokies includes the highest waterfall in the park and very big trees. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time in the parking lot of Battles Grocery Store on highway 73 going out of Gatlinburg. Call Bob at 832-6484 for more information and to preregister.

April 12 - Percy Warner Park hike led by Diane Manas. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the end of Belle Meade Boulevard at the stone arches leading into the park. We will hike 7 miles on this moderately challenging trail. Call Diane at 352-7777 for more information and preregister.

April 18 - Old Stone Fort Wildflower hike and Short Springs Trail Building hike led by Bob Barnett. Meet at the Visitor's Center at Old Stone Fort State Park at 8:30 a.m. Old Stone Fort is about 1 1/2 miles off I-24 near Manchester on highway 41. We plan to spend about 1 hour hiking and looking at wildflowers at Old Stone Fort before going to Short Springs for some trail work. We plan to be at Short Springs at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Call Bob at 832-6484 for more information and to preregister.

April 19 - Burnt Mill Bridge Wildflower hike (or trail maintenance if needed) led by Jim Poteet. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40 east for a 6 or 7 mile moderate hike. Call Jim at 377-4777 for more information and to preregister.

April 25 - Cedar Forest Trail hike led by Bob Barnett. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor's Center at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. We will do some light trail maintenance on this short easy hike. Call Bob at 832-6484 for more information and to preregister.

April 26 - Frozen Head State Park hike led by Charlie and Jennifer Hann. We will hike 7 or 8 miles on trails rated difficult in this park containing the highest peak in the Cumberland Mountains. The rewards are the beautiful views, wildflowers, and feelings of accomplishment. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40 east. Call Charlie or Jennifer at 941-1503 for more information and to preregister.

UPPER CUMBERLAND

Looking Ahead..... May 2 - Get Acquainted Hike and Social led by Ann Markham. Call Ann at for more information and to pre-register.

May 2 & 3 - Beginners' Backpack at Piney River led by Libby Francis Piney River has many wildflowers and the trail follows a lovely tumbling stream. We will hike 6 miles on a moderate trail. Call Libby for equipment suggestions and if you need to share equipment Meet at Donelson K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40 east at 9:00 a.m. on May 2. Call Libby at 885-5718 for more information and to preregister.

May 3 - Honey Creek hike led by James Lenninger. This is a substantial but beautiful hike with overlooks, waterfalls, Indian rock houses, the South Fork of the Cumberland River, and more! It is a 5 mile loop rated difficult. Meet at 6:45 a.m. at the K-Mart/Kinko parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40 east. We leave at 7:00 a.m. Call James at 726-3272 for more information and to preregister.

Hikes coming up are:

March 28, 1998: Savage Gulf and Savage Falls, 1 mile to 6 miles easy. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at First Union Bank and 9:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station.

April 4, 1998: Northrup Falls and Table Rock, short but strenuous. Hike is followed with potluck at Barbara Phifers. Meet at Penneys in Cookeville parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

April 11, 1998: Hurricane Bridge Picnic Area and Chapter Meeting. Hike to Floating Mill with additional hiking there. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the picnic area. Bring a picnic lunch for the meeting following the hike.

April 25, 1998: Piney River, 10 to 12 miles moderate. This hike is mostly down hill with a shuttle from the parking lot to the trailhead. Meet at Penneys in Cookeville parking lot at 8:00 a.m. or at First Union Bank in Sparta at 8:00 a.m. Be at the trailhead at 9:30 a.m.

May 9, 1998: Cumberland Trail on Black Mountain and Chapter meeting, 5 miles strenuous. Hike is mostly down hill to Windless Cave, then straight back up to the top! Remember to look at the wildflowers on the way back. (You can catch your breath discreetly that way.) Meet at Penneys in Cookeville parking lot at 9:00 a.m. or at First Union Bank in Sparta at 9:00 a.m.

May 23, 1998: Cumberland Mountain State Park, 6 miles moderate. Meet at the Ranger Station at 9:00 a.m.

Listed times are Central Time. For information about any hike or meeting, contact Marnell Cothran at 931-738-5874 or Nora Miller at 931-526-9252.

Trip Reports

Standing Stone State Park Lake Trail Saturday, February 14, 1998 By Nora Miller Wow! What a way to spend Valentines Day, hiking on a beautiful day with your favorite person and/or people. We could hardly believe the turnout. A scarce, sunny day brought 21 of us happy hikers out to enjoy the beauty of the area. After a relief stop at the Standing Stone Ranger Station, we headed for the parking lot at the base of the dam to begin what was supposed to be a relatively easy to moderate hike, except for the climb at the beginning. A couple of newcomers found the climb too difficult so turned back early. Jack and Marnell Cothran and Willa Parrish started out early while the rest of us went to the Ranger Station. After getting upon the top of the ridge, we met Jack, Marnell, and Willa returning and reporting some downed trees that appeared to be too challenging to try to maneuver. Well, I don't know if the rest of us just didn't have good sense or were filled with determination. Whatever it was, we continued on climbing over tree branches, over and under downed trees, and going up and around or down and around downed tree. One tree was so

PLATEAU

April 11th Piney River Trail; 10 miles, moderate, Leader: Charlie Jones (931) 456-5169. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cumberland Mountain State Park office parking lot.

April 25th Tennessee River Gorge Segment/Cumberland Trail 8 miles, moderate.[note this is a change from previous schedule] Leaders: Rob & Susan Weber (423)533-2620 Meet at 8 a.m. at Cumberland Mountain State Park office parking lot. Be the first to cross the new suspension bridge at Middle Creek recently built by the students and volunteers of BreakAway! Also, get a first look at the newly renovated Signal Point trail access. (Note: At the time of this publication, the bridge is still under construction as BreakAway is in progress; depending on completion of this project, this hike may need to be changed last minute.)

big that we crossed it three times on trail switchbacks. We reallhated to see so many of our beautiful hardwood trees down. Many of the large beech trees were down. It took us four hours to do what should have been a two and a half to three hour moderate hike. We had 10 newcomers who completed the hike so undaunted that some of them joined the Upper Cumberland Chapter. No one fell or was injured on the hike. How about that! We were really sorry that Carolyn Isbell and her mother, Juanita York, were unable to do the hike with us. I hope they will give us another chance. We will try to be better informed on the condition of the trails after this. The rest who completed the hike were John and Helen Anglemier, Gene and Nancy O'Neil, Brilla Weilenman, Barbara Phifer, Chris and Valerie Cantrell, Richard and Diane Miller and their son Simon, Tim and Susanne Morton, Paul and Nora Miller, and Janice Garman. It was a wonderful day and everyone agreed it was worth the effort.

TRIP REPORT FEBRUARY 28, 1998 SAVAGE GULF AND SAVAGE FALLS By Nora Miller Due to the REALLY BIG SNOW and the damage it caused to the trails and forests of state parks in the area, the hike to Hidden Passage at Pickett State Park was changed to the more southerly location of Savage Gulf. You couldnt have asked for a more beautiful and perfect day for a hike. The trails were clear and Savage Falls was spectacular. After the short hike to the falls, we hiked to the other side and enjoyed lunch at Rattlesnake Point. How thankful we can be to live in an area where such beautiful places to hike are so accessible. The South Cumberland has so much to offer. We hope to return in May to enjoy the mountain laurel and rhododendron in bloom. The twelve happy hikers who shared the wonderful experience were: Barbara Phifer, Brilla Weilenman, Richard, Diane, and Simon Miller, Janice Garman, Marnell Cothran, Willa Parrish, Bonnie Greene, Wayne Broadway, Paul and Nora Miller.

TRIPREPORT MARCH 7, 1998 BLACK MOUNTAIN By Nora Miller A group of us gathered in wide-eyed anticipation. However, the weather was against us this day. We hit cold rain in Crossville but drove on up to the trailhead. After waiting in the cars for awhile, we decided to give up and go somewhere for lunch. Better luck next time.

TRIP REPORT MARCH 14, 1998 ROCK ISLAND PARK By Pam Miller and Connie Whitesell It was so nice getting out on the trail and seeing everyone again. Paul had a bike club activity to go to, so did not join us on the hike. Mary Jane Fliss and we were a little late and watched everyone take off as we changed into our boots. It seemed like everyone was there, Bonnie and Wayne, Willa, Marnell, Carol Anderson, Denise, Nancy O'Neil, Dorothy Sills, Barbara Phifer, and several others. In all there were 18 people and 3 dogs, including little Harry, who is now 12 years old and very deaf. He stayed close to mama thinking, I love it here, but I dont know where I am. If the trail was not in good shape when we got there, it was when we left. Two people packed out large bags of cans and trash. People unfamiliar with TTA

might have thought we were coming from a big beer bash in the woods. Wally Bigbee had pruning shears and a saw and cleared every branch larger than your thumb. The track is pretty wide. You can walk three abreast. After this group went thru, we have no doubt a wheelchair with mountain bike tires could make it on the trail. The loop seems longer now than before, about three miles total. After the Collins River Loop, we did the Eagle Trail near the boat launch and put in another two miles or so. Someone complained that the trail was steeper than advertised and that the hike was not moderate. Someone replied that you might be out of breath, but your heart will thank you for it later. All in all it was a beautiful day. We enjoyed it! When we got back to Cookeville, we met Paul at El Tequila for quesadillos, yum!

Minutes

MINUTES UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF TTA FEBRUARY 14, 1998 By Nora Miller Following the hike at Standing Stone State Park, we met at the shelter below the dam to hold our business meeting. We welcomed the following new hikers: Janice Garman, Tim and Suzanne Morton, Richard, Diane, and Simon Miller, Chris and Valerie Cantrell, Juanita York, and Carolyn Isbell. The Richard Millers and Brilla Weilenman paid to receive the chapter newsletter. New business involved deciding to have a booth at the Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18 at the Tennessee Tech Quad. We agreed to set up a booth to inform the public about hiking in the area and to provide information about Scotts Gulf. The following members agreed to man the booth: 10am to 12 noon: Barbara Phifer and Suzanne Morton; 12 noon to 2 p.m.: Gene and Nancy O'Neil; 2pm to 4pm: John and Helen Anglemier. Anyone else is invited to come and help out.

MINUTES UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF TTA MARCH 14, 1998 By Barbara Phifer We ate catfish and hamburgers at Rock Island Market. The childs plate of catfish was plenty and great! So many people were waiting to eat that we didnt dare have our meeting at the tables. So, we met on the benches out front. We decided we must make hay in April and May to see as many wildflowers as possible. Denise reported on the TTA board meeting held on February 21, at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in the L&C Tower in Nashville. It sounds as most of the chapters are doing well. Crossvilles Plateau Chapter had 100% membership renewal! The Cumberland Mountain Chapter reports much damage to the trails in the Upper Cumberland by the recent snowstorm. Volunteers are needed to help clear the trails. Call Eric Wilson at 423-628-2817. Volunteers and bridge building materials are needed for the Breakaway on the Cumberland Trail. Call Rob Weber at 423-533-2620. Those attending the chapter meeting were Janice Garman, Brilla Weilenman, Willa Parrish, Dorothy Sills, Nancy O'Neil, Bonnie Greene, Wayne Broadway, Marnell Cothran, Denny and Nancy Landis, Denise Charvoz and me. y

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.



Partial group of hikers at Observation Point in the Norris Watershed on Jan. 4, 1997.

ORDER FORM

| | |
|---|--------|
| ___ Hiking Tennessee Trails, 4th Edition | \$9.95 |
| ___ TTA Adopt-A-Trail Manual | 3.00 |
| ___ Round Traditional TTA Patch | 3.00 |
| ___ 25th Anniversary TTA Patch | 3.00 |
| ___ TTA Fanny Pack (Green with embroidered boot logo) | 15.00 |
| ___ TTA Window Decal | 1.00 |

Prices include postage. Mail your check payable to TTA and mail to: Libby Francis, 2104 Snook Drive, Nashville, TN 37210. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Life Membership. YES, I want to join Tennessee Trails Association:

_____ Student \$6.00

_____ Supporting, \$30, \$40, \$50

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| _____ Individual/Family | 15.00 |
|-------------------------|-------|

_____ Life Member \$500

_____ Corporate Sponsor _____ (Amount enclosed)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Please print clearly

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE LIST ME WITH THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER:

CLARKSVILLE

NEW MEMBER

_____ CUMBERLAND MTN (Jamestown/Rugby)

RENEWAL

_____ EAST TENNESSEE (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)

MEMPHIS

MURFREESBORO

Mail to:

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

NASHVILLE

P.O. BOX 41446

PLATEAU (Crossville)

NASHVILLE, TN 37204

_____ UPPER CUMBERLAND (Cookeville/Sparta)

AT LARGE

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH. MAIL TO: ANDREW STEVENS, 311 CROSS PIKE ROAD, CLINTON, TN 37716 or EMAIL: stevens@usit.net or phone 423-494-0852

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TTA Web Page: <http://www.tn-trails.org>
Cumberland Trail Web Page: <http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail/>

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Member in good standing
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