

# 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.*

## TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, OCT. 30, 31, & NOV. 1 LAKESHORE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY EVA, TENNESSEE

The Memphis TTA chapter welcomes you to an annual meeting on the beach! We may not have the biggest mountains in Tennessee, but we'll offer the best hospitality. The Methodist conference center on the shores of Kentucky Lake features lots of recreational possibilities and excellent food. You can choose to stay in dorm-style cabins (sleep 12-14 people each, with showers) or in a private campground which has water and electricity hook-ups, bathhouse, and covered pavilion. There are also two nice motels in nearby Camden: the Guesthouse Inn (901-584-2222) and Colonial Inn (901-584-6666).

Here's a rundown on plans for the weekend (tentative and subject to change): Potluck dinner at 7 p.m. Friday. We'll have use of a microwave but not conventional ovens, and we have to clean up afterward. The general membership meeting will be held that night after the potluck. Breakfast Saturday is 8 a.m., with hikes at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park (right next door) starting at 9:30 a.m. A ropes course with certified instructors will be offered from 1 to 5 p.m. for \$8 per person. Dinner (buffet-style, with lemon pepper chicken as the main course) is at 5:30 p.m. (sorry it's so early, but that's when they serve it), and at about 6:30 p.m., a ranger from N.B. Forrest will give an interpretive program. The annual TTA auction will follow (Halloween attire is encouraged). The board meeting will be held during breakfast, which again is at 8 a.m. Hikes at N.B. Forrest and Natchez Trace State Park begin around 9:30 a.m.

Questions or suggestions? Call Debbie Gilbert, 901-454-0613.

*Registration form is on page 7*

### Contents:

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Cool, clear water  
CTC announcements

## Biographies

**Harold Draper** of Knoxville presently serves TTA as Adopt-A-Trail chairperson and immediate Past President. He was one of the founding members of the East Tennessee Chapter when it got its start in the summer of 1994. At that point in time, Harold had already worked with Bob Brown on the Cumberland Trail on Brady Mountain.

Harold has adopted the Curry Mountain Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. While maintaining his adopted trail, he noticed a newly installed bear snare and right after that a group of backpacks beside the trail. His fears that he was about to meet some bear poachers did not pan out as the group in question were part of a UT-Knoxville bear research project rather than unlawful hunters.

Harold shared another bear story involving a June hike he led in the Smokies for the Clarksville Chapter. The group stopped at a large hollow tree and just as someone observed that the tree would be a good place for a bear, wouldn't you know it, a bear cub ran out of the tree!

Harold was introduced to hikes in the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia by his parents. This prompted his lifelong interest in hiking as well as a career in public land management.

Harold's own children refer to the scenic routes he finds (that are usually slow, dirt roads barely passable by passenger car) as "longcuts" rather than shortcuts. Ask Harold about the "longcut" that made the most lasting impression on Harold's children—the "hair-raising" Ward's Ferry Road near Sonora, California.

Besides for hiking, Harold's hobbies include map annotation, botany, armchair travel (studying places to hike and visit). Professionally, Harold writes environmental reviews and decision documents for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Harold has an ambitious vision for TTA's future as five years from now he envisions a Kentucky-Tennessee Trails Association with 12 chapters and 1200 members. In the more distant future, Harold sees a completed Cumberland Trail, and a full time Trails Association Executive Director overseeing trail projects throughout the Southeast.

Harold enjoyed responding to questions leading to this article and wrote that a diversity of talents and interests over time is good for innovation. He felt TTA should not lose sight of its hiking trail focus. Apparently, Harold thinks that a continued sense of fun is important to the TTA experience, as he noted that the funniest thing he ever saw take place at a TTA Auction was the bidding war over a pair of "Red Dog Beer" boxer shorts.

*Submitted by Bob Barnett, Nashville Chapter*



*Harold working on the trail*



(Biographies cont'd from pg 2)

**Gene Curp** of Nashville was enlisted, along with Libby Francis, to add new life to the 1997 TTA fundraising auction. This new trio raised a record amount of money for trails in Tennessee. Gene's comments on the auction and the funniest thing witnessed was tongue-in-cheek as he said, "Notbing. Very somber events. We need to loosen up."

The youngest age cited by Curp for a trail experience was getting lost on a day hike at Natchez Trace State Park at age 26. Some time after that he joined TTA to meet other hikers and to learn about where to go hiking. He says his first hike with TTA was in the 70's sometime (Who can remember exactly when or where?)

He cites as most memorable a hike on Roan Mountain with over 20 hikers, when drenched backpackers chased away the wet and cold of an all-day rain in the shelter of a waterproof Forest Service barn. This was the outing where most folks in the barn were slumbering by 8:00 pm and Gene piped up to say, "The night life on these trips is killing me!"

Gene is a good person to consult about the Great Smokies National Park. He set a goal to hike all the trails in the park and at last count he was pretty close to that accomplishment. He cited his favorite trail for all seasons as the Appalachian Trail from Carver Gap to Highway 19E because of the varied topography and vegetation, and the scenic beauty, and last but not least, because of the wonderful winds.

Just maybe Gene can vouch for the intoxicating power of spring water as he spoke about getting lost fetching water in the Smokies when he truly thought he was just taking a shortcut back to camp.

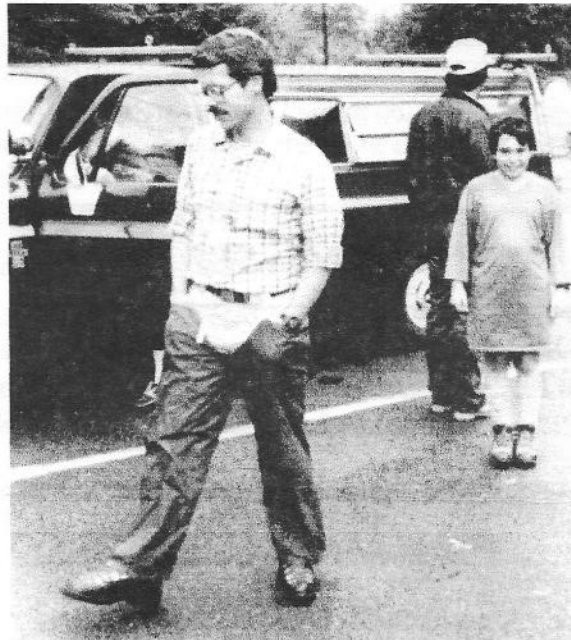
Gene reports that he certainly is employed at working (rumored to be an accountant). He lists hobbies besides hiking as reading (really!), general travel and philosophy and religion (Why fool with questions that can be answered?)

In terms of unusual sightings and experiences on the trail, Curp spoke of encounters with humans of the male species. One person was referred to as The Prophet of Deep Gap, whom he met on the AT near Hot Springs, North Carolina. The prophet claimed that a vegan diet cured him of testicular cancer. The other sighting, also on the AT, near

Robbinsville, NC was a guy who seemed to have the delusion that he was the actor William Holden in "Teahouse of the August Moon."

Gene pointed out an ironic observation about group hikes—the tendency of people to walk and talk and to talk about more dramatic places they had been and miss the drama and beauty around them in their present environment. Food for thought.

*Submitted by Bob Barnett, Nashville Chapter*



*Gene on a backpacking trip to Roan Mt*

*(Take a look at Gene's article on cool water on pg 6)*





## Hikes and reports

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### CLARKSVILLE

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SEPT. 5, Ashland City, Rails to Trails Jack Held, 645-1348  
Holiday weekend.

SEPT. 12, Fall Creek Falls, Suva Bastin, 645-2849

PawPaw trail, 4 miles, moderate

SEPT. 15, 6PM, Clarksville Chapter Picnic, Dunbar Cave  
906-3338

SEPT. 19, Percy Warner (Nashville), June Miller, 648-4195

SEPT. 26, Indian Town Bluff, Ashland City, Chuck Dewese,  
553-8683

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### EAST TENNESSEE

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Chapter meeting occasionally on 3rd Tuesday of the month at First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge on the corner of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Lafayette at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101.

September 12 (Saturday) - Max Patch Dayhike - Max Patch is a large, open, grassy bald or dome (elevation 4,629 feet) with excellent 360 degree views. >From the summit on a clear day you can see Mt. Rogers, Mt. Mitchell, and several peaks in the Smokies. This section along the Appalachian Trail is located about 26 miles east of Newport, TN in the Pisgah National Forest along the TN/NC border and is accessible from the Harmon Den exit off I-40, from Del Rio, TN or from Hot Springs, NC. This trek will involve a short car shuttle so we can hike a 6-mile section of the AT starting at Lemon Gap (elevation 3,550 ft.) and hiking "trail-south" to the summit of Max Patch for an elevation gain of 1,079 ft (180 feet/mile). This should be a moderate, but pleasant walk through some cool hardwood forests with some ridgeline views, open meadows, late summer wildflowers, and perhaps a creek cascade or two along the trail. Meet at Shoney's parking lot at the Rutledge Pike exit off I-40. for a 2.5 hour drive to the Max patch trailhead. Call Gerry at 481-0995 (work) or 483-2592 (home).

September 15th (Tuesday evening) - Chapter meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge. We will brainstorm next year's chapter organization and goals. Sounds boring, doesn't it? But this is how hikes, work days, publicity, money, and communication happen. If we do it right on the

front end, it is easy the rest of the year. No one gets burned out, we don't lose members, we have more fun, we hike great trails. See you at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101. Refreshments provided.

September 26 (Saturday) - Big South Fork Trail Maintenance Hike - sponsored by TTA and national Park Service. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the Big South Fork Maintenance Shop on the East Rim of the Gorge. We will work on trails in the Leatherwood Ford-East Rim area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch and water. Tools will be provided. A carpool can be arranged from the KnoxAnderson County areas if interested. Call Harold Draper at 423/689-7757 for more information.

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### MEMPHIS

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#### MEMPHIS CHAPTER SEPTEMBER NEWS

\* MONTHLY MEETING: 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Main Library, meeting room B. We've invited Support Shelby Farms, Inc. to come talk about their effort to stop a road from being built through the park.

\* Sept. 13 (Sun.): MEMORIAL PARK SOCIAL HIKE. Meet 6 p.m. in the big parking lot near the funeral home. This is an interesting cemetery — check out the weird Crystal Shrine Grotto. For info, call Martye Burkett, 357-9183.

\* Sept. 26 (Sat.): VILLAGE CREEK STATE PARK, near Forrest City, Arkansas. Carpool at Davis-Kidd 8 a.m., hike starts at park visitor center around 9 a.m. It's about 6 miles, mostly easy. Contact Betty Porter, 901-755-4740.

\* Oct. 3 (Sat.): SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK, near Counce, Tenn. Carpool at DavisKidd 7 a.m.; hike starts at Shiloh visitor center 9:30 a.m. About 10 miles, but it's all flat. Contact Freddi Felt, 901-685-9915.

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### MURFREESBORO

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September 19 — South Cumberland Recreation Area. We will hike the 4.2 Mile Savage Day loop plus 2.5 miles out and back across the Meadow Creek suspension bridge along the North Rim to Quartz Pebble Overlook where we will break for lunch before returning. Total hike about 9.2 miles. Bring a lunch and plenty of water for this long but easy adventure with its many overlook views of the Savage Gulf.

Meet in the back of St. Marks Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, at 7:30 am. or Savage Falls Ranger Station off Hwy 399 at 9:00 am. Call Jim Schroeder at 615-896-3023 or e-mail TENNBADGER@aol.com to pre-register.

Ever see a "moonbow"? We are hoping for that experience when we hike/camp at Cumberland Falls State Park near Corbin, Kentucky. We are hoping for a clear night and a big Harvest Moon to help accomplish this. Join us on October 3 for this adventure! Camping is on a first come, first serve basis...no reservations can be made. There are 50 camp sites and hotel and cottage facilities. Reservations can be made for the inn and cottage facilities. Cumberland Falls is the only location in the Western Hemisphere where the "moonbow" phenomenon occurs, and only with a full moon. Contact Fount Bertram at (615) 765-5357 or e-mail fbertram@hotmail.com for further information. The park is on the net at <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/parks/i75frames/cumbfal2body.htm>

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## NASHVILLE

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Chapter Fundraiser Underway! Announcing the Tennessee Trails Association Bandana! This allcotton piece measures 22"x 22" and sports the official TTA logo and semi-official boots inside a double circle. Continuous bootprints ring the bandana, making a striking border. And do we have colors: Tan, green and yellow. Choose your favorite or get all three. Fifty percent of all profits from the sale of the bandana will benefit the Releaf Nashville program, which will plant new trees to replace those destroyed by the April tornado. The cost for each bandana is \$6. Buy yours at Nashville Chapter meetings or at Annual Meeting in October. You can also order by mail. Send \$6 plus \$1 shipping by check or money order only to Patty Latta, 1504 Fall Drive, Nashville, Tn 37207. Please allow four weeks for delivery. The TTA Bandana supports a good cause, looks great on you (and your dog!) and makes the perfect gift for any hiking or perspiring loved one. Load up now! Ch-Ching!!!!

Chapter elections will be held at the October meeting. Know someone who makes a good mover, shaker or leader? (Even YOU!) Nominate by speaking with Jim Poteet at 824-7666.

Janie Stone is Refreshments Chair and is always looking for volunteers. Supply the snacks at the next program meeting! Shame Martha Stewart with your culinary skills or just bring cokes and chips. Janie waits at 868-2043.

At this month's meeting, we'll get to know the Friends of Long Hunter State Park. President and ace lensman Jim Mealor will show slides and our own Bob Barnett (also a member of Friends of Long Hunter) will discuss the joint history of our two organizations. Bring a friend, stay for snacks and a chat afterward. Tuesday, September 22, 7:30, Radnor Lake Visitor Center.

### Chapter Hikes for September 1998:

#### September 5 — Long Hunter State Park

Bob Barnett will lead a hike prior to a morning of trail maintenance by the Friends of Long Hunter State Park. Meet at 7:30 am at visitors center to hike the easy, two mile Couchville Lake Trail. After the hike, join the Friends for trail clean up from 9 am until noon. This is guaranteed to work up an appetite, so the work crew will have lunch at the Chef's Table in Mt Juliet. Call Bob Barnett at 832-6484 to register.

#### September 15 — Savage Gulf

Jim Poteet volunteered to lead a hike at Savage Gulf, and then rumor has it that he left the country before he could provide details. Call Jim at 824-7666 find out the length and difficulty of the hike and to register.

#### September 19 — Beaman Park

The Friends of Beaman Park continue their monthly explorations of this newest of Davidson County Metro parks. Bob Brown will lead a nature identification hike, and Forrest Evans will lead a faster-paced hike. Based on the interests of those who show up, we will decide that day where in the park we will hike. Meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road at 9 am and plan to hike until noon. For directions and to register for this hike, call Nancy Dorman at 299-9586.

PROGRAM MEETING Sept. 22 - Jim Mealor, president of Friends of Long Hunter State Park, will show slides of the park. Bob Barnett, the group's new membership chairperson, adds a perspective on the history of the Tennessee Trails Association's involvement with the park. Check out projects the group has accomplished in the past and new plans for 1998/99.

#### September 26 — Signal Mountain

Charlie and Jennifer Hann will lead a hike in the Signal Mountain portion of the Cumberland Trail. This will be 5+ miles of fairly strenuous hiking in Tennessee's newest state park. Because of the length of the drive and the amount of

measure out cap fulls), and a bottle of crystals will last longer than 1 ounce of tincture if you can keep from losing it. Best of all it is a neat, specialized piece of hiking gear.

I prefer the 2% tincture of iodine, because, well, I started using that method before Polar Pure was available, and, well, it's cheap, and, uh, I guess it's, you know, just sorta, well, easy. And it is certainly not too heavy.

*by Gene Curp*



### REGISTRATION FORM for Annual Meeting

Registration \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dorm:

Fri. night \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. night \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Campground:

Fri. night \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. night \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals:

Sat. breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.50,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. dinner \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.50,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sun. breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.50,

total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR REFUND IS OCT. 24. Make checks payable to TTA Memphis Chapter, Betty Porter, 6696 Stout Rd. Memphis TN 38119. (Betty can be reached at 901-755-4740.)

Remember to bring a little spending money for the ropes course and the auction!

# 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  
☐ NASHVILLE  
☐ PLATEAU (Crossville)  
☐ UPPER CUMBERLAND (Cookeville/Sparta)  
☐ AT LARGE

Mail to: **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**  
**P.O. BOX 41446**  
**NASHVILLE, TN 37204**

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH. MAIL TO: ANDREW STEVENS, 311 CROSS PIKE ROAD, CLINTON, TN 37716 or EMAIL: [stevens@usit.net](mailto:stevens@usit.net) or phone 423-494-0852

President: ..... Jim Poteet (615) 824-7666; [jpoteet@genesco.com](mailto:jpoteet@genesco.com)  
 Vice-President: ..... Arleen Barnett (615) 832-6484; [arleen.f.barnett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:arleen.f.barnett@vanderbilt.edu)  
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 Director-at-Large: ..... Bertha Chrietberg (615) 896-1990  
 Director-at-Large: ..... Don Coffman (423) 376-5842  
 Membership: ..... Ninez Giles (615) 297-2281; [ninez@juno.com](mailto:ninez@juno.com)  
 Cumberland Trail: ..... Rob Weber (423) 533-2620; [robweber1@prodigy.net](mailto:robweber1@prodigy.net)  
 Adopt-a-Trail: ..... Harold Draper (423) 689-7757; [hmdraper@knoxnews.info.net](mailto:hmdraper@knoxnews.info.net)  
 Clarksville Chair: ..... Wanda Cumberland (931) 906-3338  
 Cumberland Mtn. Chair: ..... Eric Wilson (423) 628-2817; [ericavi@InfoAve.net](mailto:ericavi@InfoAve.net)  
 East Tennessee Chair: ..... Judith Bartlow (423) 494-9421; [jpbartlow@tva.gov](mailto:jpbartlow@tva.gov)  
 Memphis Chair: ..... Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613; [MemFlyer@aol.com](mailto:MemFlyer@aol.com)  
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 Murfreesboro Chair: ..... Mike Harvey (615) 893-9594; [mike.harvey@wrightind.com](mailto:mike.harvey@wrightind.com)  
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 Upper Cumberland Chair: ..... Barbara Phiher (931) 537-6852  
 TTA Web Page: ..... <http://www.tn-trails.org>  
 Cumberland Trail Web Page: ..... <http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail>

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



~~Your Membership Expires 2/99.~~

~~Many thanks to the~~  
~~members of the~~  
~~Tennessee Trails Association~~  
~~Nashville, TN 37204~~