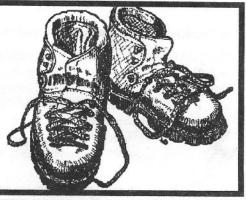
TENNESSEE TRAILS



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.

Breakaway Sept. 18-19

Devil's Backbone State Natural Area

Tennessee Trails Association will host high school volunteers from Nashville's Oasis House Nashville Pulse Program to continue building new trail at the Devil's Backbone State Natural Area on the Natchez Trace Parkway. This program was originally scheduled for Aug. but had to be cancelled due to the extreme heat wave in Middle Tennessee. We will leave from Nashville 7:30 am Saturday from the Oasis House parking lot on 17th Ave. South. We'll camp at Merriwether Lewis State Park on the Natchez Trace Sat. night.

If you haven't tried trailbuilding yet, this is an "easy" way to get started—it's not too far a drive from Nashville, and the trail work is primarily raking leaf cover with some mattock work required to level the trail on hillsides. There's about one mile of trail to be built to finish the work started this spring.

For additional details, call Arleen Barnett at (931) 707-8333 or abarnett@usit.net

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National Legislation

Update on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999, CARA (H.R. 701 in the House, S.25 in the Senate), "The most far-reaching conservation legislation in this half-century."

Last month Senator Bill Frist joined 12 of his colleagues in requesting that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee consider increasing the funding for state wildlife agencies under Title III of S.25 from 7% of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas federal revenues to 10% as provided in H.R. 701.

Senator Frist writes: "S.25 is a good bill for Tennessee in that it would provide an additional \$6 million annually to Tennessee Wildlife Resouces Agency for habitat conservation for both game and non-game species. This bill will also provide about \$6 million for state funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which has historically been underfunded."

Also very good news - Governor Sundquist joined his fellow southeastern states governors in endorsing the CARA principles at the last Southern Governors Conference. For this and many other initiatives such as:

- the Bicentennial Trails and Greenways Program (and the soon-to-bepublished Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan),
- the Cumberland Trail State Park and his, and Commissioner Milton Hamilton's, staunch support of it during last May's budget crunch,
- his quiet efforts that have resulted in large private landowners donating significant conservation lands to the state,

TTA members and all Tennesseans are deeply indebted to the Governor.

Committee action on H.R. 701 and S.25 has been postponed untul after the August recess, so you still have time to help with this once-in-alifetime opportunity to preserve Tennessee's unique natu-

ral heritage for your grandchildren and beyond.

The TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE website on August 4 showed that 7 of our 11 congressional deligates are CARA cosponsors; Senator Frist and Representatives Clement, Duncan, Ford, Gordon, Jenkins, and Tanner. Please call the local offices of our Senators and your Representative to urge that they cosponsor CARA or to thank them if they have.

-Bob Brown

Bridgestone/Firestone Conservation Area Dedication July 17, 1999 — 4000 acres

Wow! What a great day, the weather cooled off just enough, the huge white tent is set up in the corral, the stage is decorated with our banner and new BFCA logo, the barn is filled with dinner tables decorated with field stone and greenery from our rock garden, the 80 foot shed is lined with tables for our pot luck picnic, the TWRA guys have mowed the fields, pressured washed and painted the barns, the TWRA Educational Exhibit in place, the Dagger canoe is filled with ice and soft drinks, Tshirts are neatly folded and ready to sell, 300-400 dignitaries, family and friends have arrived, all we need is the bus from Nashville that is carrying the Bridgestone/Firestone Representatives. At last, in a cloud of dust, we could see them coming on the gravel road across the huge field of mowed grass. As they pull up to the parking area, our two daughters and other local "papparazzi" began documenting the moment by snapping photos of Mr. Masatoshi Ono, Chairman and C.E.O., as he steps onto the Bridgestone/Firestone Conservation Area for the first time since the 4000 acres was donated to the State. Everyone rushes to meet them and have to a chance to say thank you in person.

As the Dedication begins, the Corporation was welcomed by Gary Myers, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. Rex Boner, Southeast Representative of The Conservation Fund, served as our master of ceremonies.

Rex stated "This is the greatest corporate philanthropic conservation gift in the history of Tennessee and one of the most significant anywhere in America today". (The Conservation Fund has an active land protection program in Tenn. and has resulted in over 25,000 acres protected for public use since 1988 and 1,209,678 across the Country)

Rex then gave some background information about other efforts to preserve the area and then quoted from a book, which was written about this land in the late 1800's that called it The Grand Canyon of The Cumberlands.

Senator Frist stated "I want to thank people here, the vision of Bridgestone/Firestone, the State of Tennessee, The Conservation Fund, the Friends of Scott's Gulf, the outstanding local leadership (and) the many volunteers because you have insured, not only, that we can leave here this afternoon, and tomorrow, and in the future, enjoy the trails, the river, the streams and the natural

beauty, but that you're providing the opportunity for the next generation to do just the same thing. So today we celebrate the very best of what America is all about, that partnering of the private and public sector, and I want to thank all of you who allowed me this opportunity to share this experience with you.

U.S. Senator Fred Thompson sent his Representative Chris Devaney to show his appreciation for the very kind and generous gift BFS made to the State of Tennessee. Mr. Devaney remembered that Senator Thompson first heard about the property at the local Buckboard Restaurant in Sparta in 1995.

Justin Wilson, Deputy to Governor Sundquist for Policy, was then introduced and asked Mr. Ono to come onto the stage to receive the Tennessee Natural Heritage Conservation Award. Mr. Wilson also noted during his presentation that BFS has also received the Governor's Award of Excellence in Hazardous Waste Management and the Industrial Pollution Award.

John Smolko, TWRA Commission Chairman, presented a plaque commending BFS for their generous donation "seeded in conservation and community spirit." The TWRA is the manager of the property and he stated they, along with The Conservation Fund, will ensure that the natural beauty and environmental integrity of the property will be preserved.

After hearing from other local dignitaries, Mr. Ono, took the microphone and stated "I have received your letters of thanks. The awards and gifts will be on display in a special place at our head-quarters in Nashville, but the rocking chair, I would like to have in my office. (he won our hearts with his sense of humor) When we began this process last year, it was not only important that we give this property to the state, it was important that we do it the right way. The response we have received from across the state and from the people of White and Cumberland Counties has been overwhelming. Our top priority has always been to protect this phenomenal piece of wilderness. The enthusiasm surrounding today's dedication reinforces that we have accomplished this goal." Mr. Ono also shared with us that Bridgestone/Firestone is planning a book about the property and has commissioned Senator Howard Baker and John Netherton to photograph the area.

Some guests were led on a hike to the Caney Fork River, Polly's Branch Falls and Oscar's Overlook, which is one of the most dramatic views of the gorge.

James Douglas, who began managing the BFCA-WMA for TWRA in February, stated "the agency plans to establish warm season grasses to improve the habitat for wildlife. About 650 acres of the 4000 acres is in open hayfields and pastures because of a dairy farm that operated here until it was given to the state. We have taken down about six miles of barbed wire cattle fencing. James said the two small lakes on the property will be managed for youth-only fishing every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Also, access into the area will be on foot. A parking area along Eastland Road with a hikers entrance gate is planned in the near future".

The boundary lines are still being painted and when finished it will help the public know the perimeter of the BFCA. TWRA maps are available at the Sparta-White County Chamber of Commerce showing the boundary on a topo and the locations of other properties which join the BFCA or is in close proximity to the

BFCA such as Bowater's Pine Plantation, Bowater's Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, and other private properties such as the remaining 11,000 acres owned by Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.

It's like my parents always taught me, when someone gives you something, just say thank you and I do believe we showed Mr. Ono how much we appreciated this wonderful gift and I think we made them all feel right at home. It's not to late, if you didn't get to come and would like to send a thank you note. The address is Masatoshi Ono, Chairman & CEO, Bridgestone/Firestone, 50 Century Blvd., Nashville, Tenn. 37214 (send a copy to Chris Karbowiak at the same address) Submitted by Brenda Cardwell, Friends of Scott's Gulf and Tennessee Trails Member

The following are service acknowledgements from *The Tennessee Conservationist* July-August issue

VOLUNTEER: Evan Means, Outdoor Writer - Oak Ridge

His lifetime efforts led to passage of the Tennessee Trails System Act. He continues this passion for trails development with cooperative efforts to further the Cumberland Trail and other hiking trails across the state.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Robert Weber, Pikeville

Rob Weber as founder of the Cumberland Trail Conference and its project manager has built an organization of enthusiastic volunteers, marshalled landowner and community support and partnered effectively with government to rejuvenate the Cumberland Trail as Tennesee's 53rd state park.

Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Environmental/ Conservation Achievement

(Minimum 25 years Tennessee Involvement)

Sam Powell, Signal Mountain

Sam Powell is a long-time conservationist and founding member of the Tennessee Trails Association since 1972. His untiring volunteer efforts to develop the southern terminus of the Cumberland Trail involved engineering of steep trail switchbacks, suspension bridge construction from Signal Point and the Tennessee River Gorge northward. His dedication to Tennessee's natural heritage has inspired many others to help with what is now know as the Cumberland Trail State Park.

TTA Quarterly Meeting Saturday, August 21, 1999

Nashville, 17th floor of TDEC, 4th and Church Street TTA members and guests welcome. Contact Jim Poteet or Arleen Barnett for more information.

Fall BackCountry Outing Obed Wild and Scenic River September 23-26

Join us for 2, 3, or 4 days this fall as we create the Obed WSR Segment of the Cumberland Trail. We will camp on the Obed River behind Hatfield Mtn, approximately a 1.5-mile backpack. Trail work will be close at hand. Shuttle service to the access site from Cumberland Mtn. State Park will be available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. Volunteers should be equipped with backpack, tent, bag, pad, stove, water filter, multiple water containers, food, rain gear, swimming suit, old clothes (you will get dirty), sturdy boots, gloves, and first aid kit.

To join this outing or for additional information please contact Rob at 423-533-2620 or robweber1@prodigy.net, or Arleen at 423-707-8333 or abarnett@usit.net. Please see the Cumberland Trail summer newsletter for further details.

September 25--Volunteer for National Public Lands Day.

Show your support for Big South Fork National River. On Saturday, September 25 TTA and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area will participate in National Public Lands Day, a nationwide event involving 140 sites in all 50 states. The Big South Fork site is one of three in Tennessee this year. The Big South Fork event will be held from 9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT at the East Rim Maintenance Area 10 miles west of Oneida on Tennessee Route 297 (Leatherwood Road). Volunteers will help maintain trails in the Leatherwood Ford area of the park. For more information on National Public Lands Day, call 1-800-Vol-Teer or find it on the web at www.npld.com. To sign up for the Big South Fork event, contact Harold Draper at 423-689-7757 or hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net.

BIG SOUTH FORK Eric Wilson (423) 628-2817 ericavi@InfoAve.net

Wednesday September 22. An experiment with a mid-week hike for all of you who work or are otherwise tied up on weekends. Celebrate the last day of summer with a hike in the Yahoo Falls area of the BSF. Loops as short as 1.1 miles and as long as 9.4 miles are possible. We can choose trails based on the weather and the interests of the hikers. Meet at Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby at 9 Eastern time. Contact Vi or Eric at 423 628 2817 or ERICAVI@INFOAVE.NET for further information and to register for the hike.

CLARKSVILLE Suva Bastin (931) 645-2849 Stevjune42@aol.com

September 4 - Fall Creek Falls - Call Darryl Butts - 931-645-9177

September 11 - Indian Town Bluff - Call Wanda Cumberland - 931-906-3338

September 18 - Bledsoe Creek State Park, Gallatin, Tn. - Call Suva Bastin at 931-645 2849

September 25 - Signal Point-Edwards Point - Chattanooga, Tn. Call June Miller - 931-648-4195

COLUMBIA John Coleman

(931) 388-9318 jbcoleman@hotmail.com

Columbia Chapter Meeting:

NEW DAY OF THE WEEK!!! Different Place!!

Thursday Sept 2nd

FIELD TRIPMeet at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Franklin near Cool Springs at 7pm. Learn about purchasing the correct boots and other cool equipment. Attendees will receive a 10-15% discount on some items. Call Hugh Bullock for details. 931-388-4653 or 931-380-8401

September HIKE: Sept 18th (Saturday) LeConte in 1 day! Call John Coleman 931-388-9318 jbcoleman@hotmail.com for info. or Hugh Bullock @ 931-388-4653 931-380-8401

EARLY Oct Hike: Oct 2nd Not a real hike but sure to be really fun. LOW ROPES COURSE. Higher Pursuits company will provide a Low Ropes Course and Challenge and initiative activities. Meet at Maury County Park @ the JC Shelter at 9am. The course will last from 9 til noon. Bring a picnic lunch for a post course picnic in the park. For details call Dawn Nelson @ 931-840-8575.

OCTOBER ALL MONTH: If you've been waiting for a LONG one, here it is: Walk to NATCHEZ MISSISSIPPI with John Coleman. The hike/walk should take about 14 days!! We need to plan ahead so call John Coleman for details 931388-9318 jbcoleman@hotmail.com.

EAST TENNESSEE Esther R Ruffner

(423) 281-0567 eruffner2@tva.gov

Meeting notice The East Tennessee Chapter will hold a quarterly meeting on September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 1500 Oak Ridge Turn Pike. Turn off the Turn Pike onto Robertsville Road to enter the church parking lot. Enter the church through the red doors in front. Esther Ruffner will meet you there. Please plan to attend as we make plans for the coming year.

Report—On July 31, three brave hikers weathered the hottest day of the year to hike the 8 miles of the Middle Prong Trail in the Smoky Mountain National park. We saw lots of beautiful butterflies, one snake, and heard about a large rattler on the trail but did not actually see it. It was definitely cooler in the mountains than down in the Valley.

September 11—Ken Cole will lead a hike to Coyote Point on Lone Mountain. This 6.5mile hike is rated moderate to difficult and involves some climbing. Beautiful views of the Clinch River and surrounding valley can be enjoyed from Coyote Point. To carpool, meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of 1st American Bank in the Tri-County Shopping Center in Oliver Springs. Car pooling is strongly encouraged because of very limited parking at the trail head. Bring lunch, lots of water, and dress appropriately for the weather. For further information, call Ken Cole at 423-494-6810.

September 19—Cove Lake Dinner Hike. We will meet to use our feet (hike), then eat! at Louie's on the Lake in Cove Lake State Park, Caryville. Meet in the car park adjacent to the eatery at 4:00 p.m. The hike is a very easy 3-mile (approximately) stroll on paved trails. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are a must for dinner. Call Ken at 494-6810 (evenings) to reserve your place on the hike and for dinner.

September 25—Big South Fork Trail Work Day. See article elsewhere in newsletter.

MEMPHIS Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613 MemFlyer@aol.com

* NEW CHAPTER CHAIRMAN NEEDED: Debbie Gilbert, who has been chairman of the Memphis chapter since 1989, has resigned from the position in order to take a job as an environmental reporter with a daily newspaper in Gainesville, Georgia. The Memphis chapter has not yet decided on a replacement. An announcement will be made soon.

This is Debbie speaking: I want to thank TTA for changing my life when I joined in 1994. I can't even begin to count all the good friends, great trips, and wonderful memories I have experienced through this organization. There doesn't seem to be a comparable group in Georgia, and I will certainly miss the regular group hikes. If any of you happen to be in my area, look me up and we'll go hiking! My house is just 15 miles from Unicoi State Park and Anna Ruby Falls, and just an hour east of Amicalola Falls, the starting point of the Appalachian Trail. I'm also less than 90 minutes from Chattanooga, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Great hiking in any direction, except toward Atlanta. If you would like to contact me, my new address is: 397 Pinecrest Circle #4, Cleveland, GA 30528. Home phone: 706219-3189. Work phone: 770-532-1234. Happy trails!

Monthly meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, September 16th at the Germantown Library. Our speaker will be Dean Whitworth of the Sierra Club, who will give a slide show about logging in public forests.

- * VILLAGE CREEK STATE PARK, near Forrest City, Ark. Car pool at Davis-Kidd at 8 a.m. or meet at park visitor center at 9:30 a.m. Hike is 5 or 6 miles, easy to moderate. Debbie Gilbert is listed on the schedule as the contact person, but Ray Burkett has agreed to answer phone calls regarding the hike. His number is 901-357-9183.
- * MAMMOTH CAVES NATIONAL PARK, Kentucky. It's about a 5-hour drive from Memphis, so most people will go up on Friday. The plan (which may change depending on weather) is to hike Saturday and do a cave tour Sunday. There are motels and campgrounds in the area. For information, call Carol Haley, 901-388-9163.

MURFREESBORO Fount Bertram

(615) 765-5357 fwbertram@hotcom.net

Monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesdays at St Marks at 7 pm.

September 25, 1999. Big South Fork. Angel Falls Overlook by moonlight. We'll start up at dusk and be up top for the full moon. This is a moderate 6 mile hike. Bring a flashlight and extra batteries. Wear appropriate footwear, i.e. hiking boots. Call Heloise (615) 896-6278 (home) or (615) 254-5461 (work)

September 24, 25, 1999. Camp Big South Fork, Bandy Creek Campground. Hike to Sunset Overlook Friday night for the sunset. It is spectacular!! Bring flashlight and extra batteries. We will meet at the Bandy Creek Visitor's Center 1 hour before sundown for the hike. We will have dinner at Bacarra's Family Restaurant following the hike. Call Fount Bertram (615) 765-5357 (home) or (615) 7657520 (work) or fwbertram@hotcom.net (e-mail)

NASHVILLE Dave Walton (615) 646-5355

Monthly Program Meeting! Some trails lead to caves! Our guest speaker will be Gabby Call of the Nature Conservancy. Gabby, when not in the office, can frequently be found in one of the many caves in Tennessee. For instance, earlier this summer, she was on a crew that erected a bat gate over the entrance to Hubbard Cave in Warren County. For hiking folks who have an active interest in underground trails, and for those whose caving curiosity has yet to be tapped, Gabby's "deep" experiences in this area will make for a lively presentation. Bring a friend or two. Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 pm, Radnor Lake Visitor Center.

Hike Schedule

September 4 (Saturday) - Radnor Lake: Dan Brennan is coordinating this hike which includes both ridge trails. Meet at 9 am in the Visitors Center parking lot and register by calling Dan at 615 - 599 - 4713.

September 11 (Saturday) - Collins Gulf to Hobbs Cabin: Taking Collins Gulf Loop from trailhead to Stage Coach Road, down to the Connector Trail, and then up to Hobbs Cabin. If there are enough people for a shuttle, we'll go on to the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Otherwise, we will retrace the Connector Trail, and return on the West Loop of the Collins Gulf Trail by Horse Pound Falls and Suter Falls. The total distance is approximately 19 miles and is rated difficult. Register with Troy Fox at 615 - 213 - 5141 (work) or 615 - 834 - 1426 (home).

September 12 (Sunday) - Stone Door: If you could not join Troy for the 19 miles, Jim Poteet is providing another opportunity to enjoy the South Cumberland State Recreation Area. His hike will be 8 to 10 miles and is rated moderate. Meet in the parking lot of the Target store at Bell Road and I-24 at 8 am. and register by

Sit is

calling at 615 - 824 - 7666.

September 18 (Saturday) - O & W Bridge / Leatherwood Loop: This Big South Fork hike is approximately 8 miles long and rated moderate. We'll have some beautiful overlooks and a nice swimming hole at the impressive O&W bridge. Call Anne Wesley at 615 - 851 - 1052 for meeting time and location.

September 18 (Saturday) - Beaman Park: Bob Brown will be leading this fall wildflower hike. Formal development, in the form of an entrance gate, has begun on this newest of Metro parks, and the Friends of Beaman have begun work on its first trail. The rest of the park is completely undeveloped. For a hiking experience that is unique in Davidson County, call Nancy Dorman and register for this hike at 615 - 299 - 9586.

Call the Nashville Chapter's Hiking Hotline at 615 - 367 - 7045 for the latest information on our hikes.

PLATEAU Bob Bowman

(931) 456-5169

September 11 — Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness, 3 Miles – Easy to Moderate Meet at Cumberland Mtn. State Park Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. CST Hike Leaders: Joe and Carol Schulte (931) 484-5010

*September 16 - **Program meeting** at 7:00 p.m. CST at the Crossville Housing Authority: John Bilbrey of the East Tennessee TTA Chapter will present a slide show on hiking a segment of the Appalachian Trail and Backpacking.

September 25 — Savage Gulf Rim Trail: 6 Miles - Moderate Meet at Cumberland Mtn. State Park Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. CST Hike Leaders: Bob and Jean Bowman (931) 456-5169

UPPER CUMBERLAND

Denise Charvoz/Barbara Phifer (931) 738-3595

Hikes

We have reserved the shelter at beautiful Burgess Falls on September 18. Meet there about 9:30 a. m. This is a relatively short hike, but there are steep inclines, roots and rocks to walk over, and some steps. After the walk we will have hot dogs, potato chips, and coke provided out of our treasury. Please register with Nora Miller (931-526-9252) or Helen Anglemier (931-858-5947) so the right amount of food can be purchased. Hike planning for the next quarter will be discussed. We need to become active once again, so we can enjoy some wonderful times as we have in the past. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

Check elsewhere in the newsletter about the statewide hike/outing in October. Maybe we can do some car pooling. More information about our participation will be in the October issue of the newsletter.

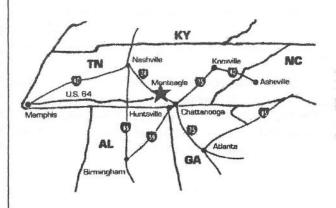
TRIP REPORTS: We didn't plan any hikes in August thinking it might be too hot—guess we called that one right.

ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER

The Murfreesboro Chapter would like to invite everyone to the 1999 Annual meeting to be held November 5-7 at the Dubose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. The meeting will begin with dinner Friday night (serving between 6-7 p.m.) and conclude with Sunday afternoon hikes. The agenda will include a bonfire on Friday night (please bring instruments for joining in the entertainment), a choice of hikes, the annual meeting and auction on Saturday night, and the annual Board meeting on Sunday morning. The Debose center offers a variety of lodging choices (see the registration form) and will be serving our meals. Anyone requiring special meal arrangements should include that information on the registration form. A map and directions to the Debose Center are located on their web page at www.deboseconf.com.

Monteagle and the surrounding area offers a variety of sites. Points of interest include the Tracy City Bakery (wonderful!), South Cumberland State Park, the University of the South at Swanee, the Monteagle Assembly Grounds, and the Monteagle Winery.

We hope to see a wonderful turnout again this year. Please complete the registration form and return it no later than October 15, 1999.



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.

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 or phone 423-494-0852

President:	Jim Poteet (615) 824-7666; jpoteet@genesco.com
Vice-President:	
Treasurer:	James Leininger (615) 309-8611 wileiningr@aol.com
Secretary:	Patti Shaw (615) 889-6472
Past President:	
Past President:	Rob Weber (423) 533-2620; robweber1@prodigy.net
West Tennessee Director-at-Large:	
Middle Tennessee Director-at-Large: .	Libby Francis (615) 889-5718 Lfran99625@aol.com
East Tennessee Director-at-Large:	Don Coffman (423) 376-5842 dcoffman@pstcc.cc.tn.us
Membership:	Ninez Giles (615) 297-2281; ninez@juno.com
Cumberland Trail:	Rob Weber (423) 533-2620; robweber1@prodigy.net
Adopt-a-Trail:	Harold Draper (423) 689-7757; hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net
	Gloria Norrid (901) 382-4227; gloria.norrid@spcorp.com
TTA Web Page:	
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