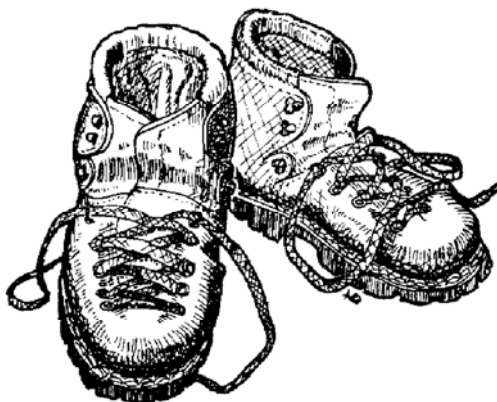


TENNESSEE TRAILS

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.***



"DON'T leave home without it."

What good will a green plastic credit card do you 20 miles from the nearest paved road? What do you really need when out away from civilization?

Experienced outdoor enthusiasts know what items are most important to bring - even for short walks or hikes out of base camp. The **"10 Essentials"** are items that cannot be improvised from materials lying on the forest floor. To be found without these few items, even only a few miles from car, camp or cabin, can spell disaster. The **"Ten Essentials"** are the end-product of years of hard-won experience. They are intended to help outdoor enthusiasts avoid getting into trouble in the first place, and, if that doesn't work, to minimize the damage.

The standard list of 10 essentials varies slightly depending on which source you go to. For example, the Boy Scouts, Sierra Club, and The Seattle Mountaineers', each have their own lists, yet they all incorporate the same basic items.

The following list is not to be considered cast in concrete - each outdoor enthusiast should customize his or her own kit for the barest minimum of supplies. Note that the first three items are for finding your way, the second three are for your protection, and the last four are for emergencies.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Flashlight, extra batteries and bulb
4. Hat, sunglasses, bug repellant, gloves
5. WATER!!! And a way to purify water. Extra food.
6. Clothing: raingear, socks, sweater, space™ blanket
7. Matches / lighter, candle / fire starter
8. Mirror, whistle
9. Pocket knife
10. 1st aid kit: moleskin, antibiotic ointment, medications.
 - Always tell someone else your hiking plans
 - Use your common sense

By avoiding unnecessary problems and dangers you will save on your own personal wear and tear, and probably get back home in one piece. However, if something does come up, at least you know you've got those 10 important items stowed away in your pack.

DON'T FORGET !!!

Saturday April 8

First Annual

Cumberland Trail Auction

The Cumberland Trail Conference and Tennessee Trails Association are hosting the very first auction dedicated to raising funds for the acquisition and protection of the 280-mile Cumberland Trail greenway in 13 counties in Tennessee.

The auction will be held at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, TN, the birthplace of the Cumberland Trail dream in the late 60's. Tickets are \$25 per person (\$45 per couple) and include a buffet dinner. Registration and silent auction 5:30-6:30pm EST; dinner 6:30pm EST and live auction begins at 7:30pm EST.

Call the Cumberland Trail Office at 931-456-6259 or e-mail Arlene Scheller: scheller@usit.net to order tickets, donate an item for the auction, or to make a cash donation to help sponsor the auction. Terry Chandler is donating part of the cost to have 1,000 Cumberland Trail prints made, but CTC needs to raise \$1,000 to help pay a share of the printing cost. This is a wonderful donation on Terry's part, so let's chip in and do our part too!

Some of the items we've received so far:

Auction Items
(cont. on pg 8)

...IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

SPRING BREAKAWAY 2000

MARCH 5-25TH

...CALL CTC'S OFFICES...

...VOLUNTEER...

(No Experience Required!)

Help build a new trail in the Smoky Mountain Segment of the CTC within the Royal Blue Wildlife Management area near Cove Lake State Park. Volunteers will stay in cabins at Norris Dam State Park in Lake City, TN. See your current issue of The Cumberland Trail newsletter for additional information and sign up sheets. Or, **JUST DO IT!** call the CTC office to schedule your volunteer work dates. 931-456-6259.

Letters from Libby President

Dear friends,

Many of you may have heard about the February 3rd announcement by Governor Don Sundquist that eight state parks will be closed; see website announcement: www.state.tn.us/environment/closings.htm. The parks targeted for closure are Big Hill Pond, Bledsoe Creek, Burgess Falls, Dunbar Cave, Fort Loudon, Fort Pillow, House Mountain, Indian Mountain, and the Inn/Restaurant at Reelfoot Lake. At the February 8th House Conservation and Environment Committee meeting Commissioner Hamilton, Commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), stated that the parks might not be closed, but managed in a drastically different way. I feel so shocked and saddened by this and hope that something will be done so that these parks will not be lost from public use. Most of us do not claim to be politically active, yet this presents an opportunity for us to learn:

...learn to become politically aware and see what our representatives are doing for the environment. Visit the TDEC website: www.state.tn.us/environment

...learn who your representatives are and if you don't agree with what they're doing, write them (they all have e-mail)

Don't know who your reps are? The web makes it easy and has posted addresses and phone numbers for each.

To find your House Rep:

www.legislature.state.tn.us/house/map/housemap.htm

To write your House Rep:

www.legislature.state.tn.us/house/members/Members.htm

To find your Senate Rep:

www.legislature.state.tn.us/Senate/Map/senmap.htm

To write to your Senate Rep:

www.legislature.state.tn.us/senate/members/Members.htm

Erin Kelley, with the Environmental Action Fund (EAF) has listed the following points you might want to consider before you write.

1. No set criteria for determining which parks would close. (Bledsoe Creek is a very popular park and had received \$300,000 in maintenance funds last year.)
2. Limited savings. (The plan proposes to move Park employees to other parks, resulting in no savings, and there would be a great cost in "mothballing" and closing the parks.)
3. Closing the parks would hurt state revenues. Our parks are top visitor attractions in the state.

We need to be more aware of political decisions because they affect all our lives. Commissioner Hamilton stated that if the Governor's budget was not passed as it is written there would be 6-7 more parks that would have to be closed. Express your feelings, and become more aware of the state's budget and tax issues. You won't know how much you've appreciated something until you find it has been taken away.

'Til next time

Libby Francis

Calling all shutter bugs!!!

Fount Bertram (Murfreesboro) and Gloria Norrid (Memphis) are in the process of putting together a slide presentation for statewide TTA Chapter uses. This collection is being designed as an introduction medium about who we are and what we do. It can be used as a programming topic for a local chapters' monthly meeting or a presentation package when conducting programming meetings to other community organizations.

We have received some slides, thanks to those sending them, yet we want more, more, more, and have plenty of room for more, more, more.

As mentioned in the January newsletter, we would prefer slides, however will gladly accept photograph prints and negatives. We will return all negatives, prints, and slides submitted to their owners upon completion of this project, provided the owners request this and owners clearly identify submissions so we know who to return them to. The sooner we receive submissions the sooner we can finalize our selections, which we need to finalize by our Spring Quarterly Board Meeting.

Send all submissions to:

Fount Bertram
2100 Bradyville Hill Road
Bradyville, TN. 37026

Thank you in advance for your help!

Tennessee's "Radnor Lake" License Plate Approved

Order yours now and start supporting Tennessee's natural areas and state parks. Prominently featured on the plate is Radnor Lake, one of Tennessee's first state natural areas. Proceeds from the sale of this plate will create a unique opportunity to acquire critical lands for the protection of natural areas and state parks all across Tennessee. Your support will help to insure the future of these important areas. The "Radnor Lake" specialty license plate will be ready April 1st. You may order now or wait until April 1st. Orders will be handled by your local county court clerk's office. Please note: you do not have to wait until your tags have expired to get these new plates. The initial cost of the "Radnor Lake" plate is \$35 (\$25 annual plate fee with a one-time handling fee of \$10), whereas, the cost of the "Radnor Lake" personalized plate is \$60 (\$50 annual plate fee with a one-time handling fee of \$10). One of the greatest threats to natural resources in Tennessee is development within ecologically sensitive areas. Help support Tennessee's natural areas and state parks by purchasing the "Radnor Lake" license plate.

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Eric Wilson 423-628-2817 ericavi@infoave.net

BUSINESS/MEETING REPORT:

Feb 4 Sixteen people including eight TTA members turned out for our February chapter meeting. Six of the visitors joined while attending the meeting so we had fourteen members present by evening's end. Current officers Eric Wilson, chair, and Barbara Stagg, secretary/treasurer, were re-elected for another year. Newly elected, as vice-chair, Peter Erickson is one of our most energetic hikers and trail builders.

Many of our members have been involved in the work on the Laurel Branch trail in Rugby. Due to large turnouts, with as many as thirteen volunteers, for the Saturday sessions, trail clearing has moved along quickly. Trail work sessions will be scheduled Saturdays throughout the spring. We encourage your helping -- volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Eric or Vi Wilson 423-628-2817 to volunteer.

MARCH HIKE:

Mar 12 Outing to Sunnyside, the original Rugby Colony house that stands directly across White Oak from Horseshoe Bend. Meet 1:30 EST at Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. For additional information call hike leader Eric Wilson 423-628-2817.

Mar 25 Hike the older Rugby trails. We'll hike from Gobbler's Knob to Jones Waterfall, Ladies' Swimming Hole, etc. over the older Rugby trails that Peter Erickson has been working to resurrect. Meet 10am EST at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby. For additional information call hike leader Peter Erickson 423-628-2071 or e-mail him: chinese@compuserve.com

Coming in April, a spring wildflower weekend hosted by Historic Rugby, with support from our chapter. Details in the April Newsletter.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849 stevjune42@aol.com

MEETS: 3rd Tues, 7pm, The Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

Mar 4 Mousetail Landing State Park, Linden TN. 8 miles, moderate. If time and weather permits we may hike Lady Finger Bluff. For meeting time, place and to pre-register call Darryl Butts 931-645-9177.

Mar 11 Old Stone Fort Archaeological Area, Manchester TN. 2,000 year old Native American site. 5.5 miles, easy. For meeting time, place and to pre-register call Jack Bastin 931-645-2849.

Mar 18 Mossy Ridge Trail in Warner Park, Nashville TN. 6.5 miles, moderate. For meeting time, place and to pre-register call Chuck Dewese (our hike leader) 615-367-3518 or Jack Bastin 931-645-2849.

Mar 25 Bearwaller Gap trail, Carthage TN. 6 miles, moderate. For meeting time, place and to pre-register call Suva Bastin 931-645-2849.

HIKE REPORT (Submitted by Suva Bastin)

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Hike. The weather was splendid. 16 members celebrated the New Year hiking, munching goodies and tooting horns. (A special thanks to Dave Lavender of the Leaf Chronicle for the "C'mon, Hoof It!" article.)

Jan 8 Golden Pond area hike at Land Between the Lakes. Good! Good! Good! A little damp at the end but fun!, fun!, fun!

Jan 15 Nathan Bedford. What a pleasure to hike with members from the other chapters. We enjoyed meeting you.

Jan 22 Reelfoot Lake. Cancelled due to snow.

Jan 29 Natchez Trace. Cancelled due to snow.

We're looking forward to spring flowers.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Todd Horton 615-302-3336

todd1966@aol.com

Mar 25-26 Fall Creek Falls camp out or day hike. Join the Columbia Chapter at Fall Creek Falls State Park, the most visited park in Tennessee, for either or both days of hiking. Fall Creek has a variety of trails and accommodations to suit everyone, from paved strolling and bike trails to overnight backpacking routes and cabins, the inn, and developed campgrounds with hot showers. Though the Chapter can't lead a trip on every trail, the park really does have something for everyone. The Nature Center and nearby falls provides great views and neat stuff just a few yards from the parking lot, and views around the lake are equally accessible. Wildlife abounds throughout the area, and for 'alternative outdoor activities', try golfing the 18-hole championship course! The Falls, for which the park is named, plunge 256 ft. into the pool below. One of the highest falls east of the Mississippi River. Call John Coleman for info 931-388-9318.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Siler McCarty 423-566-1291
emccarty@highland.net

HIKE REPORT

Jan 15 We had 17 hikers join us for our Hemlock Bluff National Recreation Trail hike located in Loyston Point Recreation area. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed the crisp but comfortable temperature. (Submitted by Gordon Early)

EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Keith Mertz 865-376-4827 kmertz@compaq.net

MEETS: Tue Mar 21, 6:30 pm, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, corner Oak Ridge Turnpike & Robertsville Rd.

Mar 11 Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness. This will be a moderate 8-mile hike with two pretty healthy climbs. We will hike up the Snow side to Buzzard Point, eating lunch there. We will then return to the trail split and hike to Laurel Falls. We will leave McDonald's parking lot in Harriman (I-40 exit 347) at 8:30am. Dress for the weather and bring lunch and water. For more info call Don Coffman 865-376-5842.

Mar 21 Quarterly meeting. 6:30pm at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church at the corner of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Robertsville Road. On the program, Arleen Scheller, Resource Manager for the Cumberland Trail Conference, will give us an update on the Cumberland Trail and the BreakAway program, as it will be in full swing.

Mar 25 Big Ridge State Park. Meet at 9am Norris Middle School. This will be a moderate 5-mile hike. Bring water and a snack. Call Andrew Stevens 865-494-0852 for more information or to pre-register.

UPCOMING HIKES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED:

Apr 15	Frozen Head	Keith Mertz
Apr 22	Max Patch	Carol and Rick Jones
Apr 29	Virgin Falls	Keith Mertz
May 13	Abrams Falls	John Keasling
May 27	Fodderstack (Cherokee NF)	Keith Mertz
Jun 3	National Trails Day	Harold Draper
Jun 17	Burnt Mill Bridge	Marvin Shanks/John Keasling
Jun 24	Chapter Picnic at Norris	Esther Ruffner / Judith Bartlow

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Fount Bertram 615-765-5357 fwbertram@hotmail.com

MEETS: 2nd Tues, 7pm, St. Marks United Methodist, 1403 E. Main St

BUSINESS REPORT:

The Murfreesboro Chapter is continuing to grow in membership and attendance. We have our programs set for the remainder of the year and also a good number of hikes are scheduled. We are planning a week backpack hike on the Appalachian Trail in June and our experienced backpackers are teaching the beginners the fine art of backpacking. Jim Schroeder and Mark Stanfill will present demonstrations at each of our meetings. Our next meeting will cover trail ethics, protocol and first aid.

MARCH HIKES:

Mar 14 Monthly Meeting. Storytelling takes a special talent and who better to present this fine art than renowned storyteller Carol Shelton. Meeting starts at 7pm. Everyone is invited to hear this wonderful craft. Also, those wishing to join in our June backpack trip will not want to miss Jim Schroeder and Mark Stanfill's presentation about trail ethics, protocol and first aid.

Mar 11 Hike the scenic Tennessee River Gorge section of the Cumberland Trail from Hwy 27, Suck Creek Rd, to Signal Point, if a car shuttle can be arranged. Hikers will cross creeks, see views of the Tennessee River and see the results of the BreakAway program efforts. Meet 7am CST at St. Marks Methodist Church in Murfreesboro to carpool or meet at the Burger King at the base of Signal Mountain on Hwy 27 near Chattanooga about 9am CST. Hike is rated difficult. For additional information call Mike Harvey 615-893-9594.

Mar 18 Virgin Falls. This 8 mile round-trip hike is rated difficult due to elevation changes and difficult climbs. Meet 7:30am CST at St Marks Methodist Church in Murfreesboro or the Union Planter's Bank in Woodbury at 8am CST. We plan to be at the trailhead by 9:30am CST. Have breakfast before you come, bring lunch and plenty of water. Sturdy boots are a must. For additional information call Fount Bertram 931-765-5357

SAVE THE DATE!! MURFREESBORO CHAPTER & CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE BACKCOUNTRY OUTING APRIL 28-30

The Murfreesboro Chapter of TTA, under the auspices of CTC and in partnership with the North Chickamauga Conservancy, is hosting a backcountry outing on the Bowater North Chickamauga Creek Pocket Wilderness Trail. The event will be a 3-day program to perform maintenance on this section of trail. The program will involve a backpack into a campsite, so participants should plan accordingly. Opportunities exist for those interested in working only a day or two. For additional information you can call Jim Schroeder 615-896-3023 or e-mail him: TennBadger@aol.com. (April newsletter will contain further details.)

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Ray Burkett 901-357-9183
rburkett@sscc.cc.tn.us

ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Norrid 901-382-4227
gloria.norrid@spcorp.com

MEETS: 3rd Thur 7p, Germantown Library (Sept-May)

Mar 4 Trail Workday at Shelby Forest, Memphis. Meet 9am CST at the visitor's center. Bring water, lunch and any equipment: gloves, shovel, clippers, saw, etc. Dress for the weather. For information call Ken Novak 901-377-9127.

Mar 12 River Bluff Walk, Memphis. Downtown Social Hike. Meet 2pm CST at the parking lot off Riverside Drive between Union and Beale in front of the Pier Restaurant. Join us for a 2-mile easy walk along the beautiful mighty Mississippi River. For information call John Martin at 901-386-3722.

Mar 16 Monthly Meeting: 7pm CST Germantown Library. J.R. Tate, a retired Marine from Clarksville, TN and a three-time thru-hiker on the Appalachian Trail will present a video show and talk about the true-life adventures on the Appalachian Trail. J.R., known as "Model T" on the AT, is the subject of numerous newspaper articles, national TV, and appeared on the "American Dream" on the CBS Evening News. Learn what really goes on during a 6-month, 2,161.3-mile hike through 14 states. There will be bear stories and humorous tales about the people J.R. met on the AT.

Mar 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Johnson's Shutins State Park, Lesterville, MO. Hike to the summit of Taumsauk Mtn. (the highest point in MO). On Saturday we will hike a 12-mile trail rated moderate, on the Ozark Trail. On Sunday we'll hike a 3-mile trail. Call Carol Haley for more details 901-388-9163.

Apr 1 Mousetail Landing State Park, Parsons, TN. This 8-mile trail is rated moderate with some steep and rugged hills. Carpool 7:30am CST from Walnut Grove soccer field, or meet at 10am CST at the visitor center's parking lot. For more information, call Ray Burkett 901-357-9183 or e-mail him: rburkett@sscc.cc.tn.us

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Anne Wesley 615-851-1052 ttahiker@juno.com

MEETS: 4th Tues, 7:30pm, Radnor Lake Visitor's Center, Granny White Pike

HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

Mar 4 Edwin Warner Park. Dan Brennan is the hike coordinator. Call our Hiking Hotline 615-367-7045 for more information about this hike.

Mar 4 Through the Woods Scramble & Bonfire in Hickman County. Join us on a different kind of hike in Primm Springs, 1-hour southwest of Nashville. Join in this two-hour cross-country hike through the woods, over hills, into hollers. Agility would be an advantage. Visit overlooks. Finish with a stroll across a beautiful meadow, to gather at the bonfire beside the creek. Mostly off trail hiking. Rated moderate. Wear sturdy hiking boots and layered clothing. Bring lunch and water. Hot chocolate will be provided. Meet 9am CST at Harris Teeter grocery on Highway 100. Call Mary Donaldson 615-297-9056.

Mar 5 Stone Door. Overlooks of Savage Gulf and the crevice in the bluff that is the stone door are some of the visual rewards. The hike will start near the door, follow Big Creek Gulf trail to Alum Gap and return on the Big Creek Rim trail. Call hike coordinator Percy Rucker 615-833-9385 to register. Meet 7am CST at Target on Bell Road / I-24.

Mar 5 Radnor Lake. For a hike closer to home. We'll hike 4 miles. Call Paul Smith 931-270-8766 to register. Meet 2pm CST at the visitor's center.

Mar 11 Maude's Crack. Get a look at Maude's Crack! Come hike in the Big South Fork down through Maude's Crack and up No Business Creek to the John Muir Overlook. We'll then hike along the John Muir Trail to the Massey Branch and Rock Creek and end the hike at the Blevins Cemetery. This will be a one-way, 15-mile hike requiring a car shuttle- Because of the necessity of a shuttle, it is important to pre-register for this hike. We will meet 6am CST at the K-Mart/Kinko's parking lot on Donelson Road (just north of I-40). Call Richard Horvath 270-586-0178 to register for this hike.

Mar 11 Beaman Park. If you missed the scramble through the woods earlier this month, try this one. Hike leader Jimmy Smith has planned a family friendly creek exploration from 9am until noon. Beaman Park is not officially open to the public so hiking in this yet to be developed park is by permit only and space is limited. Call Nancy Dorman 615-299-9586 to reserve your spot. We'll meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road.

●.....▶ The 22nd Annual Percy Priest Lake Clean Up Saturday April 1st

The Clean up is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Long Hunter State Park. Participants should meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot on the west side of Percy Priest Dam or the Long Hunter State Park Visitor's Center. The Clean up will begin at 9am CST. Refreshments, trash bags and other supplies will be provided. For more information call 615-889-1975 or 615-885-2422.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont.)

Mar 12 Honey Creek. Call Jim Poteet 615-824-7666 for details and to pre-register for this hike.

Mar 17 Friday Night Out. Meet between 6 and 7 CST at the Bongo Java coffeehouse at 2007 Belmont Blvd, across from Belmont University. From here we'll walk to nearby Tabouli's restaurant for dinner at 7pm (for what is possibly the easiest hike every offered by this chapter). Call Paul Smith 931-270-8766 to register.

Mar 18-19 Joyce Kilmer Wilderness (Overnight). Please contact Richard Horvath 270-586-0178 to register for this hike.

HIKE ONE OR BOTH DAYS:

On Mar 18:

Hike and, for a change, enjoy a hangover. We will hike an 11-mile loop, which includes a side trip to Hangover in the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness near Robbinsville, NC. Hangover provides one of the most stunning, 360° views in western NC. The hike will start from the Maple Springs Trailhead at 8:30am CST (9:30am EST) and follow the Haeo Lead with return via the Deep Creek Trail. This hike is strenuous with an initial elevation gain of 1800 feet to Haeo and Hangover. Horse Cove Campsite near the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is open, but without water. Accommodations are available at Fontana Village 800-849-2258, which is about 25 miles from this trailhead. Please contact Richard Horvath 270-586-0178 to register for this hike.

On Mar 19:

Slickrock Creek. Wet & wild (flowers that is). Catch early spring wild flowers on this 10-mile loop hike that walks parts of four trails in the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness. Starting from the trailhead near Tapoco, we will hike parts of the Slickrock, Ike Branch, Yellowhammer Gap and Nichols Cove Trails. With a little bit of prior warm weather, spring beauties, violets, bloodroot, sessile trillium, and rue anemone could be blooming. The "wet" part? There are several stream fordings (possibly knee deep or more) of Slickrock Creek. We will meet at 8:30am CST (9:30am EST) at the Slickrock Creek Trailhead, which, if you are travelling south on US-129, is an immediate right turn across the bridge over Calderwood Lake. The Horse Cove Campsite near the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is open, but without water. Accommodations are available at Fontana Village 800-849-2258, which is about 10 miles from this trailhead.

For an area map, see website: www.main.nc.us/graham/hiking/slickrock.html



NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont.)

Mar 19 Fiery Gizzard. Jennifer and Charlie Hann are leading this 6-7 mile hike in the South Cumberland State Recreational Area. Cascades, rock formations, and the Fiery Gizzard Creek Gorge provide visual interest for this hike. With luck the most intrepid of wildflowers will be making an appearance. We will meet 8am CST in the parking lot of the Target on Bell Road/I-24. Register by calling 615-941-1503.

Mar 25-26 Smokies Backpack (Overnight)

We will Start from Newfound Gap and hike 4.1 miles west along the Appalachian Trail to its intersection with the Fork Ridge Trail. Fork Ridge will take us 5.1 miles to our campsite on the Deep Creek Trail. On Sunday we will hike Deep Creek UPHILL for 4 miles to our awaiting cars. Everyone will be responsible for providing their own gear. We will have one unbridged crossing of Deep Creek to navigate, and everyone should be prepared for sleeping at 3,000 feet (i.e. colder than normal temperatures). I strongly suggest we all spend Friday night at Elkmont Campground in the park so that we can have an early start on Saturday. Park regulations limit backcountry group size to 8 people. Therefore, I will give preference to the first 7 TTA Members who RSVP. Non-members are welcome if I do not fill all spaces. **Everyone must RSVP no later than March 17** call Anne Wesley 615-851-1052.

Mar 25 Shelby Bottoms Greenway. We will meet 9am CST in the parking lot for Shelby Bottoms in Shelby Park. We will hike on the newly completed section along the river. The trail is easy with no change in elevation. We will hike 4-5 miles. Afterward we will go to the Radio Cafe for lunch. Call Elizabeth Gerlock 615-356-6260 for more information and to register.

Mar 25 Beaman Park. Charter member of Tennessee Trails, Bob Brown, and his dog Trouble will lead this hike to view the early spring wildflowers. Beaman Park is not officially open to the public so hiking in this yet to be developed park is by permit only and space is limited. Call Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586 to reserve your spot. We'll meet 9am CST at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road.

Mar 28 Monthly Meeting. Do you know your Dutchman's Breeches from your Heart's-A-Burstin'? How about Toad Lily, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, or Flame Azalea? Come enjoy Ranger and Naturalist Randy Hedgepath's lecture with beautiful slides as we revisit some of these beautiful Tennessee wildflowers in advance of our upcoming spring hikes.

Apr 1 Long Hunter State Park Clean Up. Participants should meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot on the west side of Percy Priest Dam or the Long Hunter State Park Visitor's Center. The Clean up will begin at 9am CST. Refreshments, trash bags and other supplies will be provided. For more information call 615-889-1975 or 615-885-2422.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466

MEETS: 3rd Thurs, 7pm CST, Crossville Housing Authority

- Mar 11 Upper/Lower Piney Falls. 3-miles, rated moderate. The waterfalls can be spectacular this time of year; we may even encounter some early wildflowers! Join us! Meet 8am CST at Cumberland Mtn. State Park Visitor's Center. For additional information call hike leaders: Pam and Terry Brophy 931-707-7234
- Mar 16 Chapter Meeting. 7pm CST. Crossville Housing Authority.
- Mar 25 Fall Creek Falls. Adventure Hike. 2-miles, rated difficult. Joe Bayless is leading this adventure hike - a new way down to the falls via a steep hill, but fun! Meet 8am CST at Cumberland Mtn. State Park Visitor's Center. For additional information call hike leader Joe Bayless 423-881-4121

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Denise Charvoz or Barbara Phifer 931-738-3595

- Mar 18 Edgar Evins. This is a fairly short hike with ups and downs that aren't too severe and great views of Center Hill Lake. Meet at the tower at 9am. For additional information call Helen Anglemier 931-858-5947 or email her: helena@cookeville.com. Please note: we announced in the February newsletter we would be going to Colditz Cove on March 15 however, due to a change in plans with hike leader Barb Phifer, we have rescheduled Colditz Cove for April 15.

HIKE REPORTS

- Jan 15 Nine people took this hike to beautiful Virgin Falls. Two more from our chapter met us on the way back from Laurel Falls. It was a tough hike, but very rewarding. The weather was fantastic. We started out in winter clothes and by afternoon had removed many layers--one was even in zip-off shorts. Can you believe we actually saw hepatica and violets in bloom?
- Jan 21 Twelve people went to the barbecue dinner at Barbara Phifer's home. The food was great, the company superb, and we were very productive planning hikes through June. Thanks for opening your home to us once again, Barbara.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (cont.)

- Feb 5 Nine people and one well-behaved dog hiked the Collins River Trail at Rock Island. The weather was great and we learned some historical facts of the area. Thanks Allen and Lilyane Shaphard for this rewarding hike. The forest ranger, Joe, also informed us of some interesting facts. Several of us later had a delicious lunch at the Rock Island grocery store.

UPCOMING HIKEs TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED:

- | | | |
|--------|--|--------------|
| Apr 8 | Savage Falls | |
| | Willa Parrish | 931-738-8175 |
| Apr 15 | Colditz Cove | |
| | Barbara Phifer | 931-537-6852 |
| Apr 29 | Piney River | |
| | Marnell Cothran | 931-738-5874 |
| May 6 | Black Mountain | |
| | Carol Anderson | 615-597-5660 |
| | or email her: ander@dtccom.net | |
| May 13 | Mystery Hike at Bridgestone Firestone Conservation Area. | |
| | Ross Cardwell | 931-738-2760 |
| May 20 | Standing Stone | |
| | Barbara Phifer | 931-537-6852 |
| Jun 20 | Virgin Falls | |
| | Marnell Cothran | 931-738-5874 |

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper 865-689-7757

hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net

If you are interested in maintaining a particular trail or section of trail, please contact Harold Draper, Adopt A Trail Coordinator 865-689-7757.

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

....future announcements will appear here....

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE NEWS

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Executive Director..... Rob Weber
robweber@usit.net
Resource Manager Arleen Scheller
scheller@usit.net
Financial Administrator Susan Weber
sweber1@usit.net
Office Location..... 19 East 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours..... 8am – 5pm
Phone: 931-456-6259
Fax: 931-456-4934

<http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail>

AUCTION ITEMS (cont. from pg 1)

A Terry Chandler Original Painting of the
Cumberland Trail
A Jim Wright Original Painting of the
Cumberland Trail
Terry Redlin Prints
Ducks Unlimited Prints
Woodcarvings by Smoky Mountain
Woodcarvers and Crossville
Woodcarvers
Vacation Getaway at Historic Rugby
Vacation Getaway at Loew's Vanderbilt
Plaza
Vacation Package at a Tennessee State
Park (with lodging, meals, and golf)
Jean Cole Original Ceramic Lamp
Sam Powell's Wildlife Nature Housing
Nature Photography by Mack Prichard,
Terry Bonham, Bertha Chrietzborg, and
Mike Harvey
Copper Bug Sculptures
Handmade Quilt
Great Smoky Mountain Railway Excursion
Ocoee River Raft Excursion
Knoxville Symphony Tickets
Vacation Getaway at Charit Creek Hostel
Hiking and Trail Books by Bob Brandt and
Russ Manning/Sondra Jamieson
Lots of hiking and outdoor gear and clothing!
Girl Scout Thin Mints (No joke—we got
\$40 for a box at the TTA auction!!)
THERE'S LOTS MORE BUT WE'RE
NOT GOING TO TELL EVERYTHING!!
COME TO THE AUCTION TO FIND OUT—
THERE WILL BE LOTS OF DOOR
PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS TOO.

SAVE THE DATE!!

CTC & MURFREESBORO CHAPTER N. Chickamauga Pocket Wilderness

BACKCOUNTRY OUTING APRIL 28-30

The Murfreesboro Chapter of TTA, under the auspices of CTC and in partnership with the North Chickamauga Conservancy, is hosting a backcountry outing on the Bowater North Chickamauga Creek Pocket Wilderness Trail. The event will be a 3-day program to perform maintenance on this section of trail. The program will involve a backpack into a campsite, so participants should plan accordingly. Opportunities exist for those interested in working only a day or two. For additional information you can call Jim Schroeder 615-896-3023 or e-mail him: TennBadger@aol.com. (April newsletter will contain further details.)

First Annual Tennessee Paddle 2K Obed Wild & Scenic River April 7-9, 2000

The Tennessee Paddle Club in Knoxville is hosting the First Annual Tennessee Paddle 2K April 7-9, 2000 on the Obed Wild & Scenic River near Wartburg, TN. They have invited the Cumberland Trail Conference / Tennessee Trails Association to lead hikes on Friday and Sunday on the Cumberland Trail as part of the event. The race is scheduled for Saturday so no hikes will be done on Saturday.

The Tennessee Paddle event will have live music, activities, food vendors, the race, of course, and water activities on the Obed, and more. We are excited to be a part of this event, which will hopefully join the other famous annual paddle events around the country. More information on the Tennessee Paddle 2K can be found on their website: <http://www.tennesseepaddle.com>

We are looking for volunteers to staff a Cumberland Trail Conference booth at the festival from 1-6pm CST on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We are also looking for volunteers to lead the hikes on Friday and Sunday.

Here's the hike info:

Friday, April 7 - Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment Cumberland Trail Hike - 4 miles roundtrip, rated easy. Meet at 9am EST at the kiosk at Rock Creek Campground at Nemo Bridge.

Sunday, April 9 - Bird Mountain Hike on Frozen Head Segment of the Cumberland Trail. 7 miles roundtrip, rated moderate because of the steep climb at the beginning; but the rest of the hike is easy. Meet at 8am EST at Frozen Head State Park Visitor's Center.

Keep in mind that Saturday, April 8 is the Cumberland Trail Auction in Oak Ridge, so if you're planning on coming to the auction, you might want to make a weekend of it!

If you'd like to help, let me know!! Arleen Scheller 931-456-6259 or email me: scheller@usit.net

**NEW !!!
GUIDE BOOK**

**100 HIKES IN™
THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK
second edition**

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Other Chapter Officers:	
Listed within each Chapters' header	

In November 1999 our very own Russ Manning of Norris, Tennessee, released, as a 2nd Edition to his previously titled *The Best of the Great Smoky Mountains*, a newly expanded and completely updated guidebook *100 Hikes in™ the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 2nd Edition*. This is a first venture for Russ into the *100 Hikes in™ Series*. Many of us are most familiar with Russ through his other local guidebooks, to name a few: *Trails of the Big South Fork: A Guide for Hikers, Bikers and Horse Riders* and *Tennessee's South Cumberland: A Hiker's Guide to Trails and Attractions*.

100 Hikes in™ the Great Smoky Mountains, 2nd Edition has incorporated Russ' user-friendly hiker's-guide format that we like and with details we rely on: trails grouped by access points; clearly drawn maps with legends and directions to trailheads; accurate mileage listings, elevation changes, trail connections, cautions and descriptions. In this edition, Russ has added more hikes (30) covering more trails, suggested more backpacking and day-hike loops and introduced more background and natural history information.

With all of the TTA hikes (and backpack trips!) forthcoming, now's the time to study up. See your local bookseller and if it isn't available you may contact the publisher: The Mountaineers Books 800-553-4453, website www.mountaineersbooks.org

REMEMBER

Newsletter Submissions

**Are Due By
The 10th Of The Month**
Please send all submissions to:

Diane Manas
5729 Stoneway Trail
Nashville, TN 37209
615-352-7777
e-mail: diane.manas@nashville.com

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PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

**NEW MEMBER AND
RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

YES, I want to join Tennessee Trails Association...

(Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.)

_____ Individual	\$25.00
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Please list me with the following chapter:

_____ Big South Fork	_____ Plateau (Crossville)
_____ Clarksville	_____ Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville)
_____ Columbia	_____ At Large
_____ Cove Lake	
_____ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)	
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_____ Murfreesboro	
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