

# 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.**



## National Park Service releases Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Proposal is Open for Public Review & Comment

*Comment Deadline May 15*

In February 2000, the National Park Service released a Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (The Plan). This document outlines a proposed management approach for the next 15 years, including hiking trails and visitor facilities. The document compares 3 approaches to area management, including a continuation of current management, an overall rustic management approach (Alternative A), and an increase in campground, picnic area, and trails development (Alternative B). The alternatives differ in the amount of parklands allocated to "enhanced recreation zones." (cont. on page )

### TTA SPRING BOARD MEETING & RETREAT

May 20-21

Reelfoot Lake State Park

Tiptonville, TN

All elected state officers and chapter chairs are urged to attend. All TTA members, and their families, are welcome to attend and participate.

We are scheduling a full weekend of hiking, pontoon boating, wildlife watching, socializing, all interspersed with business meetings with our board members. Families welcome! Come hike, have fun, meet the board members and hear reports about TTA's, CTC's, and TRAC's progress.

Please RSVP early to ensure your inclusion. Call Gloria Norrid to make your reservations for lodging and the pontoon boat rides: 901-382-4227.

See page 2 for additional information.

### SPRING BREAKAWAY 2000!

*Creates the Smoky Mountain Segment!*

*Students Build 3 1/2 Miles of New Trail Crest on Cross Mountain!!*

Spring slowly crept up on the students and volunteers this spring as they worked to build the "NEW" Smoky Mountain segment located in the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. Their goal: to reach the top of Cross Mountain, a 1,900 foot elevation change, one of the steepest on the Cumberland Trail. Did they make it? Yes indeed!

Who were these students? They were the University of Pittsburgh, Florida, Michigan, and Frostburg State Universities, Emory University, and Iona & Franklin Pierce Colleges. Throw in some help from Union College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and you have over 100 students cutting trail and learning about our relationship with the earth.

Who were these volunteers? They were TTA and CTC members from throughout the state as well as some who came across Tennessee's many surrounding borders. Throw in volunteers from our Sierra Groups, vested TN Department of Environment and Conservation employees, and you had 50 volunteers working hand in hand with the students.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for their hard work in completing the climb to Cross Mountain. The trail signage will be complete in April and the trail corridor will be open May 1...if you can find it...HIKE IT!

See CTC's April Newsletter and our wonderful website

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

for further details on the newest edition to the Cumberland Trail.

*Hello fellow TTA'ers (and TRAC'ers)!!*

*TN Rails-Trails Has Arrived!!*

TRAC is extremely excited to be a part of and affiliated with TTA. In addition to communicating our mission we thought you'd like to know about some of the current opportunities for hiking rail-trails across our fair state. First, our mission statement:

*To advocate the planning, development, and management of rail-trails throughout the State of Tennessee for the purposes of appropriate recreation, preservation of rail corridors and alternate transportation, in order to benefit the general public, communities, commerce and tourism*

Second, areas to hike: (see page 7 for additional information)

## Letters from Libby .....TTA's President

Dear friends,

First, we have some good news. Tennessee Trails has a new chapter in the works for the Martin, Tennessee area. The kick off meeting for the Northwest Tennessee Chapter is April 27. Brian Brown from Martin has been working closely with Jerry Linski, the West Tennessee Regional Director, and Gloria Norrid, Memphis Elected Board Representative, to get this organized. The Clarksville and Memphis chapters also helped by inviting folks from Martin to join them on a hike at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. We are all very excited about this and eagerly await their first hikes. Many of you will want to hike with them, watch for more details in the June newsletter.

Now, the sad news. Judith Bartlow, of the East Tennessee Chapter, and her husband John, will be leaving Tennessee to move to Sheridan, Wyoming. Judith is retiring from TVA as the Natural Areas Coordinator, Natural Heritage Project. Through her efforts with TVA, she helped create and develop Short Springs Natural Area in Tullahoma and Hemlock Bluff State Natural Area in Knoxville, as well as many other projects. She has helped to build trails, gotten materials, and organized outings. She was instrumental in founding the East Tennessee Chapter of Tennessee Trails Association and was their first chapter chair. She has always been an enthusiastic hike leader, and her untiring efforts made for a memorable annual meeting at Norris State Park several years back. We thank you for all your hard work, and we wish you the best in your new home out west. Happy Trails, Judith and John!!

Til next time, Libby Francis

### BSFNRR PLAN

(cont. from pg 1)

Big South Fork is one of the premier hiking areas in Tennessee, accessible to both Middle and East Tennessee, and containing over 300 miles of trails. How it is developed, and the uses which are allowed there, will affect the quality of hiking in Tennessee and Kentucky for many years to come. Under Alternatives A and B, the John Muir Trail would be extended as a hiking trail all the way to the south end of the park at Peters Bridge. New trails would be constructed at Bear Creek, Bandy Creek, Mount Helen, Darrow Ridge, and a new campground would be built at Rugby. Under Alternative B, more new trails than in Alternative A would be constructed in the Bear Creek, Zenith, Rugby, and Darrow Ridge areas. New campgrounds would be constructed at Alum Ford, Bear Creek, and along Mount Helen Road. New picnic areas would be constructed at Alum Ford, Airport Road, and Station Camp. In addition, "The Plan" has proposed for TRAC to cover the use of the former rail bed of the Oneida and Western (O&W) Railroad as a rail-trail.

You may review a copy of the 60-page "Plan" at the Big South Fork NRRRA's General Management Plan Information web site: [http://www.nps.gov/biso/gmp\\_news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/biso/gmp_news.htm) or call the park: 423-569-9778.

Public involvement is critical to the success of the general management plan. The planning team encourages all to share their comments, suggestions, concerns, issues, expectations, or ideas regarding the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area general management plan. A comment form is available and can be obtained from the following web address: <http://www.nps.gov/biso/webresp.pdf>

Then mailed by U.S. Mail to:

Big South Fork NRRRA – GMP Planning Team  
Southeast Regional Office  
National Park Service  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St. NW  
Suite 6R10  
Atlanta, GA 30303-9725

Comments may also be sent to:

Superintendent  
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area  
4564 Leatherwood Ford Road  
Oneida, Tennessee 37841

Or, if you prefer, e-mail: [john\\_fischer@nps.gov](mailto:john_fischer@nps.gov) and/or  
[biso\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:biso_superintendent@nps.gov)

submitted by Harold Draper, Adopt A Trail Officer and Bert Schappel, Rails-Trail

### TTA SPRING BOARD MEETING & RETREAT

(cont. from pg 1)

**Activities:** Reelfoot Lake State Park located in the northwest corner of Tennessee, is one of the greatest hunting and fishing preserves in the nation. The lake encompasses 25,000 acres (15,000 of which are water) and harbors almost every kind of shore and wading bird, as well as the golden and American bald eagles. Its many species of flowering and non-flowering plants attract botany enthusiasts from all over the country. Cypress dominates the margins of the lake, but many other trees and shrubs are also present.

The Keystone Trail winds along the shoreline of Reelfoot Lake for 1.5 miles (near the Interpretative Center). One way in and out.

Pontoon Boat 2-hour sunset cruise at the Airpark Resort Lake, departs after 5pm is \$7/adult, \$5/child. (Cruise captain provides a narrative about the lake.)

**Accommodations:** "Double Rooms" w/2 double beds, TV and a balcony, rate \$59+tax for 2 people, each additional person \$6. "Suite" (sleeps 6 people) contains a sleeping loft upstairs w/2 double beds, downstairs area has table w/chairs, sofa bed, refrigerator, TV and balcony, rate \$75+tax. You will be responsible for payment of your room and occupants. Reservations are subject to a cancellation fee for less than a 48-hour notice prior to scheduled day of arrival.

**FOR LODGING AND PONTOON BOAT  
RESERVATIONS CALL GLORIA NORRID:  
901-382-4227.**

**Meals:** Meals are available at the lodge and other restaurants in the area.

**Meeting:** Will be held at the Airpark Inn resort complex located on State Highway 78, ten miles north of Tiptonville.

Additional park information, can be found  
at the following web sites:

[www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/reelfoot/index.html](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/reelfoot/index.html)  
and

[www.gorp.com/gorp/publishers/falcon/wld\\_tnrl.htm](http://www.gorp.com/gorp/publishers/falcon/wld_tnrl.htm)

## BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Eric Wilson 423-628-2817 [ericavi@infoave.net](mailto:ericavi@infoave.net)

May 13 White Oak Creek. Yet another hike (in keeping with the theme this spring) on old Rugby roads. The hike will begin from the Harrow Road cafe at 11am ETZ and, after following sections of the original Central Avenue and the old County Road, will end near the White Oak Creek Bridge on Highway 52. Total length is 2-3 miles. For more information, please call Peter Erickson: 423-628-2071 or e-mail him: [chinese@highland.net](mailto:chinese@highland.net)

## CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849 [stevjune42@aol.com](mailto:stevjune42@aol.com)

**MEETS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues, 7pm, The Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

May 6-7 Overnight in Historic Rugby, Rugby, TN. Hike one or both days! On Sat we'll hike Colditz Cove, then later in the eve we'll hike the local cemetery. EERIE! We'll stay the night at the Pioneer Cottage. On Sun we'll hike the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole and Meeting of the Waters. All hikes are short, 3 to 4 miles, rated easy to moderate. Space is limited so pre-registration is required Call hike leaders: Eileen Hurt-615-742-3902, or Suva Bastin-931-645-2849.

May 13 Ashland City Bicentennial Trail, Ashland City, TN. This area is gorgeous with the Cumberland River on one side of this Rails-Trails corridor. The hike is 8 miles and rated easy. Questions and/or to pre-register call Charles Putman: 931-362-3669.

May 16 Monthly Meeting. 7pm, The Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

May 20-21 TTA Quarterly Board Meeting at Reelfoot Lake. All members are welcome to attend. See announcement in this newsletter for additional details.

May 26-28 Cumberland Trail Backcountry Outing & Work Weekend. Volunteers needed, no experience required! Come help put the finishing touches on this 13-mile segment. Call June Miller: 931-648-4195.

### HIKE REPORT:

March We traveled from Mousetail Landing to Bearwaller Gap, with stops in between to Old Stone Fort and Warner Park. Each hike was special and we had visitors and members from other chapters on each hike. Thanks so much to each of you for hiking with us. What fun sharing tales, munching lunch, and enjoying the trail.

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Todd Horton 615-302-3336

[todd1966@aol.com](mailto:todd1966@aol.com)

May 20-21 Mount Mitchell, NC. By now the snow should have melted in the Appalachian highlands. Join us in a climb up the highest mountain in the eastern U.S. Obviously, not a day trip for anyone driving in from the Columbia area. This will require at least one overnight before or after the trip and may require an overnight on the trail. Plans are still coming together, and if you are committed to a real climb on a real mountain, call John Coleman: 931-388-9318 to help put the final touches on these plans.

### HIKE REPORT:

Mar 25-26 Fall Creek Falls. Our camping/hiking trip was cancelled due to poor weather. We'll reschedule, watch for an upcoming announcement.

## COVE LAKE CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Siler McCarty 423-566-1291

[webmaster@tnrlca.org](mailto:webmaster@tnrlca.org)

Cove Lake Chapter invites you to join in a guided bird watching event at Blue Heron, KY in the Big South Fork River and Recreation Area (BSFRRA). Our guides will be the staff of BSFRRA, however an exact date in May had not been established at the time the May newsletter was being published. We are in close contact with the staff of BSFRRA and anticipate having a date by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Until then, everyone interested in participating with us should pre-register with Gordon Early by phone 423-566-8319, or email: [granddearly@aol.com](mailto:granddearly@aol.com) Gordon will notify all those pre-registered of the date as soon as it has been established.

## EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Keith Mertz 865-376-4827

[kmertz@compaq.net](mailto:kmertz@compaq.net)

May 13 Cades Cove/Abrams Falls hike. Moderate 5-mile roundtrip hike. Bring water and lunch, we'll eat at the falls. Meet 8:45am ETZ at the Maryville Hardee's on Lamar Alexander Parkway (Highway 321), on the right past the Blount Memorial Hospital. Questions and/or to pre-register call John Keasling: 865-966-3389.

May 27 Fodderstack Trail to Bob Stratton Bald. Moderately strenuous 8-mile roundtrip hike with an 800 ft elevation gain. If time permits, we'll do some of the Cold Springs Gap Trail. Wear sturdy boots, bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet 8:30am ETZ at the Foothills Mall in Maryville. We will gather on the north side (Penney's) of the Mall at the outer perimeter of the parking lot. Questions and/or to pre-register call Keith Mertz: 865-376-4827.

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

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

### ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Gloria Norrid 901-382-4227  
gnorrid@yahoo.com

**MEETS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur 7p, Germantown Library  
(Sept-May)

### MONTHLY MEETING:

May 18 Arleen Scheller will present a slide show on Tennessee's Millennium Legacy Trail and First Linear State Park: The Cumberland Trail. Lot's of exciting things are happening, come find out! Arleen is the full time Resource Manager for the Cumberland Trail Conference, an associate organization of TTA. See you 7pm CTZ, Germantown Library.

### HIKE SCHEDULE:

May 20-21 TTA Spring Board Meeting, Reelfoot Lake State Park, Tiptonville, TN. Saturday afternoon join us for a Pontoon Boat 2-hour sunset cruise at the Airpark Resort Lake. Cruise captain does a narrative about the lake. For information and reservations call Gloria Norrid: 901-382-4227. Members are encouraged to attend the entire weekend. See page 2 for additional information.

May 26-28 Sipsey Wilderness, Bankhead National Forest, Hamilton, AL. (Overnight) Lodging is planned at Cullman. For more information and/or to pre-register for this weekend of hiking call Margaret Dixon: 901-795-8634.

Hikers can expect to see tall trees, flowing streams, picturesque rock bluffs, and abundant wildlife. The rock cliffs rising from the waters of Lake Lewis Smith and along the canyons of the Sipsey River are outstanding examples of the Bankhead's rugged beauty.

On May 27 The hike will start at 9am CTZ at Sipsey Wilderness 10 miles south of Moulton. The 6-8 mile trail is rated easy to moderate. Later in the day we'll meet for dinner.

On May 28 Meet at the trailhead at the Sipsey River for a scenic hike.

## 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:

Our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was very well attended and we got a sneak peak into the new Barfield Crescent Park. Deborah Paschal, Murfreesboro's Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) representative presented maps and pictures displaying the current activities and plans for development under way. She also introduced us to the areas the MPRD has invited Murfreesboro Chapter members to become involved with in their planning and implementing stages. Exciting times are ahead for this excellent facility!

We also elected new officers to supplement our existing designations. Dr. Bob Hornsby was elected to serve as Vice Chairperson and Brent Morris was elected to serve as Hike Coordinator. These positions were implemented to relieve some of the "bottle necking" that was beginning to occur.

### HIKE SCHEDULE:

May 6 Smith Fork Creek canoe float. We had so much fun with this last year we're going to do it again! We'll go from Liberty to Dowlstown. Pastoral, but lively float, approximately 7 miles long with a stop to check out a small cave. Bring water, life jacket, canoe, lunch, flashlight, and shoes you can get wet. Participants are required to wear their life jackets. Sorry, but no children under 12 on this trip. We will meet 9am CTZ at West DeKalb School just west of Liberty. It is possible to rent a canoe from MTSU's recreation center: 615-898-2104. Questions and/or to pre-register call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278, or e-mail her: [hshilstat@hardaway.net](mailto:hshilstat@hardaway.net)

May 9 Monthly Meeting. 7pm, St. Marks United Methodist, 1403 E. Main St

May 13 Fiery Gizzard Trail. We'll do the entire 13-mile hike, end to end. This hike, once featured in Backpacker Magazine, is well known for its spectacular scenery, includes waterfalls, bluffs, and spring wildflowers. This hike is rated difficult because of some rough terrain and moderate assents. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring lunch and plenty of water. Be prepared to have a memorable experience! This hike requires a vehicle drop at each end, yet we'll start the hike from the Grundy Forest trailhead. It is imperative that anyone interested MUST pre-register so we can arrange the carpooling and car drops properly at each end of the hike. We'll meet to carpool at 7am CTZ at the Murfreesboro Cracker Barrel, I-24/Hwy 231. An optional stop for dinner would be at the Smokehouse restaurant in Monteagle. Questions and to pre-register call either Sandy Zuri: 615-895-0409, or Brent Morris: 931-728-8191 or you can email Brent: [bmorris@edge.net](mailto:bmorris@edge.net)

### HIKE REPORT:

Apr 1-2 No April Foolin' - Three backpackers set up camp in beautiful Big South Fork Recreation Area surrounded by bluebells and blue phlox then continued our hike on the Angel Falls loop. We were surprised with a burned out forest that we hadn't heard about! Trailing Arbutus, Pussy's Toes, White Vetch, and Serviceberry were blooming amid the charred wood. At the lower elevations we found another 40 different wildflowers. Sunday we hiked to the O & W Bridge and returned to Murfreesboro just in time to greet the rain.

Submitted by Heloise Shilstat

# NASHVILLE CHAPTER

## CHAPTER OFFICER:

Anne Wesley 615-851-1052

ttahiker@juno.com

**MEETS:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tues, 7:30pm, Radnor Lake Visitor's Center, Granny White Pike

## HIKING HOTLINE

**615-367-7045**

May 6 Stone Door to Collins Gulf, Savage Gulf / South Cumberland State Recreation Area. This is a one-way hike and requires a car shuttle. Troy Fox and his trail dog, Abe, will start at the Stone Door Ranger Station and hike the Stone Door trail to the door, and then follow the Big Creek Gulf trail down through the door to the Connector Trail. We will hike the Connector Trail east, stopping at Cator Savage Cabin for lunch. Upon reaching the intersection with the west loop of the Collins Gulf trail, we will turn into Collins Gulf and pass Horsepound Falls and Suter Falls on our way to the Collins Gulf parking area. This is approximately 10 miles and may require multiple stream crossings depending on the weather. Initial elevation loss of 700 ft as we drop down the Door and then a gradual gain of 750 ft. This is my favorite route in all of South Cumberland, you won't be disappointed either! To obtain meeting time, location and to pre-register call Troy Fox: 615-834-1426.

May 6-7 Joyce Kilmer Wilderness, near Robbinsville, NC. Hike one or both days. Richard Horvath will lead a weekend of hikes in the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness. The #3 Group Campsite at the nearby Rattler Ford Campground (heated showers!) has been reserved for the nights of May 5 & 6. For additional information and/or to pre-register, for one/both days, call Richard: 270-586-0178.

On May 6 Bob Stratton Bald Hike. We'll hike to the top of Bob Stratton Bald in the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness the old fashioned way - bottom to top. Starting from the Rattler Ford Campground, this will be a 15-mile loop hike up the Stratton Bald Trail and back down the Naked Ground Trail. There is a 3100-foot elevation gain in the 7 ½-miles to the top of the bald qualifying this hike as VERY STRENUOUS!! If the weather is clear, views from the bald are worth the effort. Wild flowers should be abundant in the lower elevations. We will meet 7:30am CTZ (8:30 ETZ) at the Rattler Ford Group Camp.

On May 7 Joyce Kilmer National Recreation Trail and Hangover Hike. Hike one or both trails. We'll start by hiking the 2 miles of interconnecting loops that are the Joyce Kilmer National Recreation Trail. This trail winds through groves of immense poplars and hemlocks that have never been logged. This hike is rated EASY. For those wishing to hike the JKNR trail we will meet 7:30am CTZ (8:30 ETZ) at the Joyce Kilmer Recreation Trail parking lot. Following this hike, we will walk a 10-mile loop on the Haoe Lead and Deep Creek Trails with a stop at Hangover for a 360-degree view of the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness and the southern Smokies (provided we have clear weather!). This hike includes an elevation gain of 1800 feet during the first 5 miles of trial and, consequently, should be considered STRENUOUS!! For those wishing to hike Hangover we will meet 9am CTZ (10am ETZ) at the Joyce Kilmer Recreation Trail parking lot to carpool to the trailhead near the Maple Springs Observation Point.

May 7 Twin Arches, Big South Fork Recreation Area. Join Charlie and Jennifer Hann for a somewhat less rigorous hike in the BSFRA. Twin Arches gets its name from the spectacular limestone formations. You just gotta see this beautiful area. For meeting time, questions, and to pre-register, call Charlie and Jennifer Hann: 615-941-1503.

May 12 Friday night out with TTA. For those who weren't able to make the shortest walk last month from Bongo Java to Tabouli's, here's an even shorter hike. We'll meet 6:30pm CTZ at Finezza Trattoria, 5404 Harding Rd. (at the split of Hwy 70 and 100 in Belle Meade) for some great Italian food and camaraderie. Please RSVP on or before Wed May 11<sup>th</sup> with Paul Smith: 931-270-8766.

May 13-14 Smokies / Appalachian Trail Dayhike. On Sat we will hike along the AT from Newfound Gap in the GSMNP east to Inadu Knob. From Inadu Knob we will take the Snake Den Ridge Trail down to the Cosby campground for a total of 25 miles. In order to complete our hike before sunset, we will begin hiking around 5am CTZ. The good news is we should be at Charlie's Bunion to watch the sunrise. Hopefully we will be back at the Cosby campground to watch the sunset. On Sun we will evaluate our aching muscles and choose a suitable hike within the park. If you are interested, you must have already completed a 20+-mile dayhike, be able to maintain a 2½ miles per hour pace even with some prolonged ascents and have adequate gear for a long distance dayhike. Questions and/or to pre-register call Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052.

May 14 Fiery Gizzard. Plan is to go down Fiery Gizzard Creek, then climb up to Raven Point, then return by the Dog Hole Trail. This hike is rated as difficult. Meet 8am CTZ at Target Bell Road / I-24. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and lunch. Questions and/or to pre-register call Jim Poteet: 615-824-7666

May 23 Annual picnic. It's time for our annual picnic! In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at Shelter # 6 in Edwin Warner Park around 5:30pm CTZ for dinner, games and a used gear rummage sale. Shelter #6 is located off Vaughn Road near the Owl Hollow trailhead. (Vaughn Rd is the intersection where the steeplechase takes place on Old Hickory Blvd) Please bring a potluck salad, casserole or dessert, and we will provide the drinks and utensils. Do you have some used hiking or camping gear that you would like to sell? Bring it along, and perhaps you can find a good home for it. Are you too dignified and refined to compete in a three-legged race, water balloon toss, and other intense games of skill and stamina? Well, we have Blue Ridge Mountain Sports gift certificates for the winners. Bring a flashlight if you would like an after dinner hike along the 1/3 mile Owl Hollow Trail. Family members and friends are especially welcome at this picnic, and yes, they can compete in the games, but please, no wagering is allowed. Questions, directions, call Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052.

## NASHVILLE CHAPTER (cont.)

- May 27 Downtown Nashville Newcomers Hike. Have you lived here a long time and think you really know Nashville? We challenge you to come on this one with hike leader Guerry Jameson, and learn more than is humanly possible to remember about our city - if you are new to Tennessee Trails or new to Nashville you won't want to miss this fun and educational journey. There will also be an opportunity to socialize after the hike. Questions and to pre-register call Guerry: 615-859-4159.
- May 27 Beaman Park. The Friends of Beaman Park are offering an alternative to the strenuous hikes taking place earlier this month. Although an entrance gate has been erected, 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. Pre-register by calling Nancy Dorman at 615-299-9586. We'll meet 9am CTZ at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road.

### HIKE REPORT:

Apr 2 Bluebell Island and Short Springs. Three slightly waterlogged hikers braved the 100% chance of rain and hiked about 3 miles at Bluebell Island and Short Springs. Mother Nature was generous, and we needed the backstroke for only part of the trip. We were rewarded with a profusion of bluebells, trillium and troutillies. There was clear evidence of substantial "poaching" at Bluebell Island; lots of bluebells were missing and sad, pitted hills remained. The biggest incentive for wet April morning hikes was at Short Springs, however. On the ridge, we found flame azaleas, blueberry bushes, and spring beauties. As we made our way down the steep grade toward the water, we were delighted by hillsides of trillium, in magenta, white, yellow and pink; wild geranium; violets of every color, anemone, foam flower, blue-eyed grass, and blood-root. Toward the bottom, we were greeted by fire pinks, wild ginger, purple/blue phlox competing with the purple phacelia, and deep purple larkspur. Along the wet springs area, hundreds of ferns joined the mix and shared the lush wet. As we made our way up the north-eastern slope above the springs, jack-in-the-pulpit, may apple (which contains podophyllin-a bitter substance used in medicine as a purgative), dutchman's breeches, rat bane or pipsissewa, and squaw corn (or squaw root) appeared. At the top of the last ridge, we discovered sweet shrub along with many redbud, dogwood and other flowering trees. Short Springs is definitely on the "got-to-do" list for spring hikes, rain, and pouring rain or no rain! Submitted by Jennifer & Charlie Hann

## PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466

### MEETS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 7pm CST, Crossville Housing Authority

- May 13 Alum Cave Bluff Trail, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park. We will hike to Mt. LeConte via the Alum Cave Bluff Trail. At 6,593 feet above sea level, we hope to still see some wildflowers! This hike is 10 miles and rated moderate to difficult. Meet 6am CTZ at the Hardee's on Peavine Rd. Questions and/or to pre-register call hike leader Bob Bowman: 931-456-5169
- May 18 Chapter meeting, Crossville Housing Authority, 7pm CTZ. Janie Mertz, with the East Tennessee Chapter, will present a slide program on Costa Rica. Come and enjoy this beautiful tropical get-away, if only for one hour!
- May 27 Panther Branch Trail, Frozen Head State Park, Wartrace, TN. This trail offers beautiful sandstone bluffs and has a reputation for wildflowers blooming all year long! This hike is 2 miles and rated moderate. Meet 8am CTZ at the Dairy Queen on Genesis Rd. Questions and/or to pre-register call hike leaders: Jim and Kathy Kraus 931-707-5170.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

### CHAPTER OFFICER:

Denise Charvoz or Barbara Phifer 931-738-3595

- May 6 Black Mountain. This is a 5-mile hike and rated moderate in difficulty. Bring plenty of water and lunch, we'll eat at the enchanting spot called Windless Cave. Meet 9:30am at I-40 exit #329 or at the trailhead shortly after. Questions and/or to pre-register call Carol Anderson 865-376-4895 or, email her: [ander743@bellsouth.net](mailto:ander743@bellsouth.net)
- May 13 Mystery Hike at the new Bridgestone Firestone Conservation Area. This is a 5-6 mile hike rated moderately difficult. Meet at Penney's in Cookeville at 7:40am or First Union Bank in Sparta at 8:15am. Questions and/or to pre-register call Ross Cardwell: 931-738-2760 or email him: [riverwood@blomand.net](mailto:riverwood@blomand.net)
- May 20 Standing Stone. We will see the wild flowers in bloom for this time of the year. This hike is about 5 miles and rated moderate. Meet 8:15am at Penney's in Cookeville or 9:30am at the dam. Questions and/or to pre-register call Barbara Phifer 931-537-6852.
- Jun 17 Virgin Falls. Marnell Cothran 931-738-5874

### HIKE REPORTS:

- Mar 18 Edgar Evins. Four people showed up for this walk on a beautiful spring day. Ranger Ray Eason was leading a wild flower walk at the same time we planned our walk, so we decided to go with him and his group of four people. We made our own trail in the woods down to a bull dozed trail and saw many wildflowers in bloom. Ranger Ray told us interesting stories about the use of the plants for medicinal purposes, dyeing baskets, war paint and some folklore. The walk back up a long hill was a little tiring, but all of the TTA people were troopers, refused the ride, and walked the hill.
- Mar 25 Standing Stone, unscheduled hike. With the temperature approaching the 80's, 10 people gathered to see the incredible array of wildflowers. Mother Nature sure didn't disappoint us. The hills were spectacular with many varieties of flowers in bloom. Several people in the group were quite knowledgeable about the blooms and we certainly stopped to "smell the roses" What a wonderful time of the year!
- Mar 28 Bowater Area, unscheduled hike. This time we had a gathering of 9 to hike in the Bowater area. We had our lunch at a wonderful waterfall and saw about nine cranes nesting in the trees.
- Apr 1 Stone Door Rim Trail, unscheduled hike. We hit a run of unscheduled hikes and still had a good gathering of hikers - 6 this time. We lunched at the Alum Gap Campground, and then headed on to Greeter Falls, where we saw both upper and lower falls. We had arranged a car shuttle, which saved from having to backtrack the trail.
- Apr 6 Standing Stone. Time had passed since our last visit to Standing Stone, which had an entirely different display of wild flowers at every step.
- Apr 8 Savage Gulf. Mother Nature's sudden change in weather caused us to cancel this hike. Where had spring gone today?

# TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

## BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Charlie Tate 931-381-9569 cstate2@mail.state.tn.us  
website: <http://members.aol.com/trac2trail/depot.htm>

**TRAC MEETING:** May 20<sup>th</sup> 10am CTZ L & C Tower  
4<sup>th</sup> & Church, Nashville  
7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

See our web site for news and topics being considered. Everyone is invited to attend.

.....  
Hello fellow TTA'ers (and TRAC'ers)!! (cont. from pg 1)

## Second, local areas to hike:

TRAIL	AREA	COUNTY	MILEAGE
Bald River	Cherokee NF	Monroe	5.6
Consauga River	Cherokee NF	Monroe	2.5
Crowder Branch	Cherokee NF	Monroe	1.5
Grassy Branch	Cherokee NF	Monroe	2.7
Hemlock	Cherokee NF	Monroe	2
Laurel Branch	Cherokee NF	Monroe	2
Long Branch	Cherokee NF	Monroe	1.5
McNabb Creek	Cherokee NF	Monroe	2
N. Fork Citico	Cherokee NF	Monroe	5
S. Fork Citico	Cherokee NF	Monroe	7
Betsy Ligon	Erin	Houston	2
Cumberland River	Ashland City	Cheatham	8.5
Bicentennial			
Tellico Plains	Tellico Plains	Monroe	.85

Other areas where possible projects are planned, or in the works, include Bolivar, Bristol, Sequatchie Valley, and Crab Orchard. Check out a rail-trail near you!

## RAIL-TRAILS - THE BIGGER PICTURE

Across this great land over 75 million people use rail-trails every year. Whether it's a primarily rural rail-trail like the Katy Trail which follows the Missouri River from Kansas City to St. Louis or a more urban Rail-Trail like the East Bay Path in Rhode Island. Rail-Trails offers something for everyone. Should you find yourself in the following areas or if you're getting ready to plan your summer rambles, consider some of these areas as destinations:

TRAIL	AREA	COUNTY	MILEAGE
Wood River	Idaho	Blaine	20
Bizz Johnson	California	Lassen	25
Kal Haven	Michigan	Kalamazoo/ Van Buren	34.1
Monterey Peninsula	California	Monterey	4.3
Allegheny Highlands	Pennsylvania	Somerset	14
Traverse Area	Michigan	Grand Traverse	2.4
Heartland State	Minnesota	Hubbard/ Cass	50
Rock Island	Nebraska	Lancaster	2.4
Heritage	Iowa	Dubuque	26

Rail-Trails also exists in many other states such as West Virginia, Florida, Kansas, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, and Missouri. To see what we're doing locally in Tennessee, visit our web site:

<http://members.aol.com/TRAC2TRAIL/depot.htm>  
or call our national office at 202-797-5400.

Submitted by Jim Pascoe and Margo Farnsworth of T.R.A.C.

## ABOUT TRAC

Once upon a time (just after the turn of the century) there was a land called the America, which had across its height and breadth almost 300,000 miles of railroad. Commerce and personal travel abounded and the rail system prospered, and it was good. As time went on other types of transportation became more lucrative and efficient. Rails were abandoned and the weeds grew up between the tracks. Every year America loses between 1,000 and 2,000 miles of railroad. A common misconception is that those of us who enjoy hiking on rail-trails relish the loss of these tracks. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Many times when lines are abandoned they are lost to the public forever – for transportation of any kind whether by train or on foot. Protecting these linear greenways is vital for our recreation, our transportation, and our historical values. "Railbanking" is one way to protect rail lines, which have been or are going to be abandoned. Simply put, railbanking protects a linear space occupied or formerly occupied by tracks by its conversion to a trail. Through the National Trails System Act, a national program was created which allows anyone to petition an abandoned rail line to be "railbanked". Additionally, many states have their own legislation making railbanking easier. If you have questions about a rail line near you, please contact our Nashville office: 615-532-0018.

Submitted by Jim Pascoe and Margo Farnsworth of T.R.A.C.

## TRAC NEWS:

The Mayor of Whitwell has expressed interest in the proposed Sequatchie Valley Rail-Trail. Vickie Perdue of the Plateau Chapter of the TTA and Mark Franklin, a resident of Crossville and a member of the Governor's Committee have agreed to help in the recruitment of activist members for the Crossville / Crab Orchard Rail-Trail (C-CORT) corridor. Anyone wishing to become involved is invited to contact Vickie Perdue 931-456-6466.

## ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

### ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper 865-689-7757

[hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net](mailto: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.

# CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

## CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Executive Director	Rob Weber robweber@usit.net
Resource Manager	Arleen Schellerscheller@usit.net
Financial Administrator	Susan Weber sweber1@usit.net
Office Location	19 East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours	8am – 5pm
Phone:	931-456-6259
Fax:	931-456-4934
E-Mail	cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com
Website:	<a href="http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail">http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail</a>

*Cumberland Trail Approved for  
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps  
(NCCC)  
May 4-June 14*

Great news!! A team of 12-13 NCCC volunteers will arrive at Norris Dam State Park on May 4 to spend 6 weeks constructing the Smoky Mountain Segment of the Cumberland Trail, picking up where the BreakAway students left off in March.

*National Sierra Club Service Trip  
May 7-13*

As of this writing, there are eight Sierra Club volunteers signed up for the first Sierra Club Service Trip on the Cumberland Trail. Volunteers are coming in from California, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to work on the Smoky Mountain Segment of the CT!! This is a backpack outing with base camp on Montgomery Creek. Volunteers are welcome to join the group for the entire week. Because of access issues and the remoteness of the base camp area, volunteers must commit for the entire week. There is a cost of \$110 to cover the Sierra Club fee and includes meals, shuttling, and leadership costs. Call the CTC office to get involved.

*Let's Complete the Obed  
Wild & Scenic River Segment  
of the Cumberland Trail!!!  
May 28-30  
Backcountry Outing*

There's only 1½ miles of trail to build in order to complete the 13-mile Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment of the CT. In addition, there are some revitalization and maintenance issues in the Breakaway Bluff area we'll complete. Volunteers will backpack into the Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment near Wartburg, TN. Call the CTC office to get involved.

## *They're Here!! Terry Chandler's Prints*

The official unveiling of nature artist Terry Chandler's original painting of the Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment of the Cumberland Trail, "Obed – Maple Bloom", was Saturday, April 8 at the First Annual Cumberland Trail Auction held in Oak Ridge. The "ooohs" and "aaaahs" at the auction were a testimony to Terry's superb ability to capture the wild beauty of the Obed.

In addition to donating the proceeds from the sale of the original painting, Terry has also given the Cumberland Trail Conference exclusive marketing rights for 1,000 signed and numbered prints over the next six months. After the first six months, Terry will begin marketing the print through his dealerships and website.

**Don't Delay**  
You have several choices  
of signed and numbered prints:

Unframed Print	\$40. + shipping & handling
Matted and Framed Print (Standard Version)	\$139. + shipping & handling
Matted and Framed Print (Deluxe Version)	\$199. + shipping & handling

You can view the Standard and Deluxe Framed Versions of the Obed Wild & Scenic River Print on the Cumberland Trail website:  
<http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail>

All orders are processed through the Cumberland Trail Conference office. CTC will receive \$40 for the unframed print, \$67 for the Standard Framed Print, and \$82 for the Deluxe Framed Print. Orders for framed and unframed prints will be forwarded to Appalachian Glass & Frame Shop in Oak Ridge, and shipped via UPS to the purchaser.

This is a wonderful contribution on Terry's part to help the Cumberland Trail! Don't procrastinate! Give the gift of art!

## **HELP CREATE THE TRAIL OF DREAMS**

**Volunteer Opportunities Exist:**

- ◆ trail adoptions available
- ◆ help build new segments of trails
- ◆ help maintain established segments

Call the CTC office  
Let them know where you can help



## OFFICERS:

### President

Libby Francis 615-889-5718  
lfran99625@aol.com

### Vice-President

Leigh Jones 931-277-3228  
cejones@webtv.net

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VACANT

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### Cumberland Trail Conference Representatives

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sandbar@usit.net

### TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council

Charlie Tate 931-381-9569  
ctate2@mail.state.tn.us

### Other Chapter Officers:

Listed within each Chapters' header

## Newsletter Deadlines:

Copy due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for an announcement to appear on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month

(ie: April 10th submissions will appear May 1st)

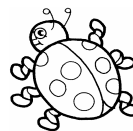
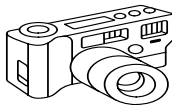
### Please send all submissions to:

Diane Manas  
5729 Stoneway Trail  
Nashville, TN 37209  
615-352-7777

e-mail: diane.manas@nashville.com  
dianemanas@home.com

# Last Call...

# To 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 before, 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!



# LAST & FINAL CALL

## Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Hiking Tennessee Trails, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.....\$12.95  
\_\_\_\_\_ TTA Patch ..... 3.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.  
\_\_\_\_\_ TTA Window Decal ..... 1.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ A must for each car.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail your check payable to:

Tennessee Trails Association  
c/o Marietta Poteet  
324 Raintree Drive  
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Please allow 4 weeks for delivery and prices shown include postage.

Tennessee Trails Association  
P.O. Box 41446  
Nashville, TN 37204-1446  
  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Nashville, TN  
PERMIT NUMBER 4053



**NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.**

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below. If you fail to re-apply we will send you one newsletter and a reminder notice. If you have not re-applied by this time, your membership will terminate.

**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
_____ Family	\$35.00
_____ Student	\$15.00
_____ Life Member	\$500.00
_____ Supporting	(\$200.00, \$100.00, \$50.00 or other)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please list me with the following chapter:

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

☐ Please do not list my e-mail address in the TTA Annual Membership Directory

**Please Mail This Form To:**  
**Membership Director**  
**P.O. Box 41446**  
**Nashville, TN 37204-1446**

**...volunteer ?...**

endless opportunities  
available  
contact your local  
Chapter Chairperson

When you become a TTA member, you will receive a monthly newsletter containing information on hiker safety, upcoming hikes / overnight trips, volunteer opportunities, chapter meeting announcements as well as events occurring within TTA's Associate Organizations: C.T.C. and T.R.A.C. You are invited to attend any number of monthly meetings scheduled, where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. Each April you will receive the Membership Directory listing members by chapter and how to reach them. Every spring and fall we meet at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie and where the board members can meet to exchange ideas and hear reports on TTA's progress.

**As a member of TTA, you are welcome to attend all TTA / CTC / TRAC functions.**