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.**



TTA AUCTION SETS NEW RECORD!!! THANK YOU TTA!!!

Submitted by Susan Weber

On behalf of the Cumberland Trail Conference, thank you for the most successful TTA Auction to date! Over \$4,500 was raised this year to support our Cumberland Trail BreakAway 2001 Program in March.

TTA members out did themselves this year. We added raffle tables to entice the interest of everyone...it seemed to work! The price of Drakes "Devil Dog" cupcakes has tripled, thanks to Dan Brennan of the Nashville chapter. These Yankee cupcakes are very scarce in the south...Dan had to pay \$3.75 a piece for them. He said he would consider each a meal and relish every bite! Of course, the Bake Sale was a big success...hikers do love to eat.

Thanks to all the chapters who donated magnificent auction merchandise...you really came through for us, AND thanks to everyone who purchased these wonderful items. A special thanks to Diane Manas and Mary Kay Carmichael for their assistance with recording bids and check-out. And last, but certainly not least, we couldn't have done it without our wonderful auctioneers: Gene Curp, Libby Francis, Dave Walton, and Herb Kneeland. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Clarksville Chapter for a superb Annual Meeting!



2000 TTA AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Tennessee Trails Award

The Tennessee Trails Award is presented for outstanding contributions to the Association or for the furtherance of trails and natural resource programs and opportunities within Tennessee. This year the award was presented to two deserving individuals who continue to work hard on our state trails and are an inspiration to us all, Al and Vera Churcher.

If it weren't for Vera and her 100 + plus miles of trail blazing we'd have had to fall back on our compass and map reading skills. (Translated: half of us would never have stepped foot on a trail.) Vera has blazed over 100 miles of trails throughout the state and has no desire to stop now. Her chocolate brownies have been used to bribe labor from the volunteers at BreakAway and commanded high dollars at each fund raising event.

Year after year, Al solicited and received high dollar auction items necessary to raise funds for BreakAway. Al has been the sole voice to ask for help with donations from our members to buy trail-building equipment for the Cumberland Trail as well as soliciting hardware store merchants to donate lopers, fire rakes and tools.

Together their efforts have included providing snacks for the Nashville chapter monthly meetings, hosting newsletter parties, distributing newsletters to area merchants and spokespersons to our legislators in Washington on environmental issues.

Congratulations Al and Vera!

Bill Stutz Award

The Bill Stutz Award is presented in honor of the late Bill Stutz, past TTA member and beloved hiker. The award is presented to an active hiker for his or her individual contribution to the Association or one of its chapters. This year the award was presented to Diane Manas.

Diane became a member of TTA in February 1997. Since then, her enthusiasm for hiking and TTA has been unending. She has represented TTA at numerous public functions, making TTA more visible while obtaining new members. On the trails she spreads the gospel of TTA to strangers, handing them newsletters or collecting addresses to send them a newsletter. Her unofficial title of "greeter" comes natural as she welcomes new faces to each of the Nashville chapter monthly meetings. She has taken over as hike leader to keep hikes (and an overnight trip) from being completely canceled, leads several hikes a year (sometimes several in one month) and volunteers rides to car-poolers on TTA outings, only to accept gas money as a donation made to TTA. Finally, Diane is our Newsletter Editor. She has done a superb job of getting all of our association and chapter news in and to us on time. Congratulations Diane!

Golden Squirrel Award

Nominations are taken throughout the entire year and judged on a hike leaders' ability to totally lose their entire hike group. The award is presented each year during the Annual Meeting. This year's recipient is Jim Clark of the Northwest chapter. You can read about Jim's day in the <u>Tennessee</u> <u>Trails</u> newsletter, Nov 2000 issue, under the Northwest Chapter heading or you can call Jim for all of the details...

(Please note: It is not the intention of TTA or its' volunteer hike leaders to lose their group. Sometimes it happens, and for this The *Golden Squirrel Award* exists.)

Dear friends,

What a wonderful Annual Meeting! Thanks go out to Clarksville's Chapter Officer Suva Bastin, and the entire Clarksville chapter, who worked so hard to make this event a success. The weather was great, just a little chilly at night, for those brave enough to camp. The huge bonfire on Friday night made getting into our cold sleeping bags a lot easier. The hikes were excellent and the auction was an event to remember. Who could forget the fashion display of "Lightnin' Legs" Vera Churcher and the "Nice Bass" shorts? Congratulations to Vera and Al Churcher for receiving the Tennessee Trails Association Award and to Diane Manas for receiving the Bill Stutz Award. Your continued commitments to the hiking community are greatly appreciated. Congratulations also go out to Jim Clark, Northwest chapter officer, and the Memphis chapter, for winning the dubious Golden Squirrel Award - there were many folks in the running for that one. But most of all, everyone had a lot of fun, met a lot of old friends and made a few more new ones. Plans are already in the making for a great annual meeting next year, to be hosted by the Plateau chapter and take place in the Smokies. Reserve the date now, mark your calendar for Nov 9-11, 2001.

Till next time ...

Libby Francis

FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

The Clarksville Chapter was pleased to have hosted the 2000 TTA Annual Meeting at Brandon Springs Group Camp in Land Between the Lakes. We knew right from the start this would be a perfect spot to have an annual meeting because the area had so many miles of hiking trails and provided hiking lengths and terrain for all levels of fitness. In addition, the group camp had everything we needed

to house, feed and hold meetings. Bottom line, the area is absolutely beautiful and we wanted to share it with you

For numbers, we registered 119 members - 28 of them from Clarksville, a few showed up (some non-members, hope they'll make the decision and join) for the auction and didn't stay for the night so their count is inconclusive, I think it was only about 5 or 6. Of the 119 registered, 98 stayed in the group camp area, 45 in tents/vans/autos, 53 were split out between the male and female cabins. The remaining 15 stayed in local hotels/motels.

The auction was a huge success! Thanks to everyone from every chapter who brought and bid on items because together we helped to raised just over \$4500 dollars.

I cannot say thank you enough to the Clarksville chapter members for all of their support, help and hard work. I received commitments of help from everyone right from the start. I am so proud and appreciative to each one of you! Special thanks go to: June Miller for handling all of the registration details. Ron Ashley for coordinating all of the hikes and their hike leaders. And, to the hike leaders for bringing everyone back safely (it was deer hunting season) and on time. Judith and J.R. Tate for organizing our entertainment and program guests. Jo Putman for all of the posters we saw throughout the meeting room. Wanda Cumberland for collecting door prizes. And, Bessie Daniels, our t-shirt lady.

Without further ado, I pass the Annual Meeting torch on to the Plateau Chapter.

Happy hiking and help build more trails... The Clarksville Chapter & Suva Bastin, Chapter Officer

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

TTA OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Each year, at the Annual Meeting the TTA Board elects five officers for a oneyear term plus one at-large board representative for a three-year term. The election resulted in the following changes, effective January 1, 2001:

President Libby Francis
Vice-President Leigh Jones
Secretary Patti Shaw
Treasurer Barbara Matheson
Membership Director Anne Wesley

At-Large Representative

for East TN Arleen Scheller

Other Officer Changes: (new / renewing chapter officers)

Clarksville J.R. Tate
Columbia Todd Horton
Memphis Frederick Belton
Murfreesboro Fount Bertram
Nashville Dan Brennan
Northwest Jim Clark

Feel free to contact any Board or Chapter Officers with suggestions or ideas. Information for contacting Board Officers is located in the Officers column on page 11 of this newsletter, while Chapter Officers' information is located within each chapter header. Please note: Changes made will appear in January's newsletter.

EDGAR EVINS STATE PARK TRAIL WORK CONTINUES

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the woods! We are meeting with the Edgar Evins SP Park Rangers December 2^{nd} at 9am CST to begin working on the next section of trails at EESP. This area of the trail system will capture some of the outstanding viewsheds and overlooks of the lake. It is approximately 5 miles in length and needs to be "bushwhacked," flagged and cut. It's not possible to do all of this work in one day, therefore we will be planning for additional work days/weekends (watch for announcements in upcoming newsletters). Bushwhacking is a lot of fun and all of you are invited to come and participate.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! TOOLS PROVIDED!

Note: there are a few places where the terrain may be strenuous - sturdy hiking boots are essential. You will get dirty so wear grubby work clothes and gloves. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water.

If you haven't hiked the Jack L. Parker Millennium Trail yet, you need to get out and do it. It is a very good example of a peaceful and tranquil deep woods trail.

To volunteer or obtain additional information, contact Fount Bertram: 615-765-5357, or e-mail him: fwbertram@hotcom.net

ANNUAL MEETING MADNESS AND MAGIC LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES, TN NOV 10-12

Submitted by Jim Poteet

The Annual Meeting is always a bit of Magic, and this year was no different as TTA folk journeyed from the distant reaches of the state, and beyond, to the Land between the Lakes for our annual gathering of the hiking clan.

It is a special magic when we get to renew our once a year acquaintances, or when we get to spend time with folks we've only previously met in passing, or when we think about the people we had hoped to see but who weren't there. It's also great fun to watch the excitement of those who are experiencing their very first annual meeting.

But this year, there seemed to be some madness afoot as well. Maybe it was due to the full moon (or was it a "fool" moon) rising in the east, and spreading its mysterious magical charm around Brandon Springs.

The warm-up for Friday night's entertainment was a welcome blaze in the cavernous fireplace. We were then briefly entertained by Elvis, reincarnated as a charming 10-year-old karaoke singer and her equally charming younger brother. If there is any question about the magic here, you only had to look at their mother's face as she videotaped the performance.

The main entertainment consisted of a bluegrass quartet that had just come together as a group for the first time. They left us with the sounds of the Orange Blossom Special and images of guitars, fiddles and banjos magically winging their way across the western sea in a mass migration to the land of the rising sun. Do you suppose they left our country because they were tired of being picked on? Such madness!

While the entertainment was going on, other madness was taking place throughout the activity center. Several folk in the back of the hall were spotted dancing with invisible partners as the band played a magic bluegrass waltz. And a certain unnamed individual was spotted in the auction area brushing her cat, which was suddenly, magically transformed into a backpack that then went onto the auction tables. I wonder what surprise is in store for the lucky (?) person that made the winning bid for this cat cum backpack when on some Friday the thirteenth in the future they find themselves on a lonely trail just as the sun is going down and another "fool" moon is rising.

Next we were enchanted by the magic of J. R. Tate, who has physically hiked the AT thrice, taking six months or so to complete each trek, but who now can and obviously does spiritually hike it from end to end in a single moment of memory.

Saturday was a day for hiking and exploration. The Land between the Lakes is full of the ghosts of the past – the Indians, the ironworkers, the farmers, the loggers, and the moonshiners. The men and women who shaped this land and were in turn shaped by it are gone. The farms, the homes, the schools, the churches, the iron furnaces, and even the stills, have all but disappeared, hidden behind the grimly magic looking glasses of interpretive signs.

It is ironic that almost the only surviving traces of what has taken place here are the cemeteries.

What is here now are recovering forests and prairie, with much progress already showing, but much, much, more to go. And fortunately, there are lots of hiking trails that can take us to places where we can reflect on the past, enjoy the present, and anticipate the future.

After returning from our various expeditions, we were treated to a delightful lecture by Dr. Chester from APSU who used his magic talents to explain and put into context what we had experienced during the day. On the madness side, Dr. Chester would be especially interested in receiving reports from any TTA members who can come up with any creative or novel uses for certain raccoon bones.

Then it was time for the highlight of our gathering – the annual TTA auction, which once again this year benefited the CTC Spring BreakAway program.

The chapter genies had worked their magic in acquiring a wonderful assortment of goods and services donated by various supporting companies around the state, as well as arts and crafts contributed by the many talented TTA members. We also had the usual collection of weird stuff gleaned from attics and basements and other black holes in the universe.

As the auction progressed, the magic of the items was complemented by the madness of the bidders. We had the usual heated bidding exchanges. Once again, we had some husband and wife bidding competitions, although I was spared, since Marietta couldn't make it this year. We had grown men vying for the honor and privileges of claiming Vera's candy corn drawers. (Just why did Al pass up this prize?) It is our understanding that this celebrated item is now preparing for a world tour. We will anxiously await a full report on this development. We also had seemingly intelligent men willing to pay \$3.50 each for nickel Drake's Devil Dogs imported just for the occasion from the nether world of New Jersey.

Once stroke of luck during the auction, which has to have been pure magic, was the discovery of a little known French artist, Lee Jardin, who specializes in botanical prints. We have it on good authority that Lee is so pleased with being recognized that he plans to become a Life Member of TTA.

The real magic of the auction was the fact that we raised more than \$4500 for BreakAway, a new record. (cont. on pg. 4)

ANNUAL MEETING MADNESS AND MAGIC (cont. from pg. 3)

As the auction came to an end, several small discussion circles formed to reflect on the evening's accomplishments and to philosophize about the world in general. These groups seemed to gravitate to the indoor and outdoor bonfires and tackled such pressing issues as the relative merits of homemade versus store-bought beer, the pro's and con's of screw tops versus corks, the importance of mouth to mouth recreation as a life saving device, and the relevance of any of these topics to the vote counting in Florida.

At one point a theory was advanced by one of our resident legal advisors that if someone standing before a roaring fire does not periodically rotate anterior to posterior, temperature differentials will build up in the body which will result in the splitting of the someone into two parts. Extensive empirical investigations were conducted throughout the evening at the bonfire, but the results were inconclusive when it was found that neither of the two parts split from our subject had any temperature at all. Go figure.

A magical all-purpose slogan also was revealed. It seems to work for supporters or detractors of either political persuasion, as well as for the parents of teenage children, as well as for those TTA members who couldn't bring themselves to bring themselves to our magic weekend – "What were you thinking?"

By now you've figured out that you had to have been there in order to understand some of this inside stuff. So next year, be there! November 9-11, 2001.

Editor's Note: Opportunity Strikes

On occasion I have some "white" space available in the newsletter. I am inviting each of you to help in the process of compiling short and informative articles about anything related to hiking and the outdoors that I could place into these "white" spaces. Please include your name and phone number when submitting articles for consideration so I may contact you if I have questions and to recognize your work when your article is published. Photos will be accepted, provided they arrive with the following information: submitted by, photo taken by, location and full names of those appearing.

Thank you for your help. Diane Manas

Page 11 contains my mailing address.

Articles and photos submitted will become the property of TTA and will not be returned to you.

EVAN MEANS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

5mall Grants Request Deadline December 31, 2000

In February 2001, TTA's Board of Directors will award small grants honoring Evan Means. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible to the chartered objectives of the TTA; promoting and developing a system of hiking trails in Tennessee as well as working for the conservation of natural resources. Project proposals are due no later than December 31, 2000.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grants application for consideration against the February 2001 Evan Means Small Grant Program Award.

Grant requests in the range of \$300-\$600 are encouraged. However, if a project requires additional grant money, considerations will be made.

For additional information and an application, please write to:

TTA Grants Administrator P. O. Box 41446 Nashville, TN 37204

The small grants program was established in February 1999 to honor Evan Means - journalist, author, conservationist, hiker, trail builder, originator of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder of the Tennessee Trails Association. Mr. Means has won countless awards for his work over the years to protect Tennessee's natural resources and beauty, as well as for his dedication to projects that allow hikers to enjoy this natural beauty.

TTA SPRING BOARD Meeting & Retreat May 16-20, 2001

Each Spring TTA plans an informal weekend of hiking, socializing and fun. In addition, time is set aside for TTA's Board Members to meet and hear reports on the TTA's, CTC's and TRAC's progress.

Our tentative location selected is Cove Lake State Park, a one-hour drive north of Knoxville. Come hike, have fun, meet the board and hear reports about our association's progress. Families welcome!

Watch for further details and confirmation of the location in upcoming newsletters.

ATTENTION:

And, Nashville, Columbia, Knoxville, Any Other & Murfreesboro Area Members

Members
Passing By
These

Areas

A 10% discount is available to all TTA members on all non-sale items from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports at their 2 Nashville and 2 Knoxville area locations. You must present proof of TTA membership, which is the address label found on your newsletter.

HIKING Tennessee Trails

Our very own hiking guide is currently undergoing revisions in preparation for a 6th edition. Ideas and suggestions on the guide's layout and formatting, improvements, trail descriptions needing to be added/deleted (you're invited to write new or update old trail descriptions) must be submitted to Bob Brown before December 31, 2000. The final manuscript will be submitted to Pequot Press in August 2001.

If you have a favorite trail that you wish to see included, call Bob.

If you like to hike and write, call Bob.

If you like to draw maps, call Bob.

Get involved! Call Bob!

Bob Brown 123 Blackburn Avenue Nashville, TN 37205 615-352-7474

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Eric Wilson 423-628-2817 ericavi@infoave.net

We are preparing for the holidays. Therefore, no hikes have been scheduled this month. Have a safe, enjoyable and healthy holiday. We'll start the new year with our annual chapter meeting, watch for details in the January newsletter.

BIG THANKS CLARKSVILLE!

FOR HOSTING OUR FUN-FILLED ANNUAL MEETING NOV 10-12

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Suva Bastin 931-645-2849 stevjune42@aol.com

MEETING: Replaced by Dec 19th Holiday Party. See details below.

- Dec 2 Natchez Trace Parkway, Scenic Drive and Hike. We'll drive a segment of this beautiful parkway before reaching our hiking destination: the Meriwether Lewis Monument site. The trail begins here, is 6 miles and rated easy to moderate. Bring snacks, lunch and water. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Suva Bastin: 931-645-2849.
- Dec 19 **HOLIDAY PARTY** (replaces our monthly meeting). Jo & Charlie Putnam have invited us back to celebrate the holiday season in their warm and friendly home. Lots of holiday cheer will be had by all. Come share as we reminisce the highlights of this past years hikes and consider where we may want to go in 2001. Bring a covered dish (or two) and beverage. To obtain directions, party time or to volunteer any help Jo & Charlie may need, please call them at 931-362-3669.
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Hike. We're going to stay close to home and hike in downtown Clarksville. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Suva Bastin: 931-645-2849.

HIKE REPORTS:

On Oct 7th, 12 members traveled to Rim Rock State Park and the Garden of the Gods in Southern Illinois. The entire day presented us with great adventures. First, we took a car ferry across the Ohio River. Next, we visited a cave in the Rim Rock SP. Then, on to the Garden of the Gods where the rock formations were quite impressive. (You won't want to miss this area the next time we offer this trip.) We rounded out the day by hiking 4 miles on the River to River trail. We rode the ferry, again, back over the Ohio River on our return home.

On Oct 14th, 7 members were joined by members of the Friends of Dunbar Cave and Clarksville Academy Key Club where we cut new trail in the Dunbar Cave State Natural Area. Many THANK YOUs to everyone who helped! We cleared a long section of the trail and only have a small section left.

Oct 21-22 J.R. Tate led a backpack weekend in Big South Fork NRRA. *The following report was submitted by J.R.:* "They just kept coming... first, 10 dragged in, red-eyed from the early wake-up call, sipping luke-warm coffee and dodging sporatic showers that delayed the dawning. Then 3 more, until 18 hardy souls strained by the asphalt shackles and ready to brave the BSFNRRA's dreaded Laurel Fork Creek and its 10 – yes 10 – crossings. I told everyone I felt pretty confident there wouldn't be much in the way of stream crossings because it hadn't rained in ages and it was the driest October in Tennessee in over 37 years. I also reassured everyone the crossing, if any, 'would be a piece of cake.' Three hikers, Wanda Cumberland, June Miller and Faye Balbac, showed good sense, (having heard my 'should be a piece of cake' before) passed the trip off as a day hike and turned back before our 'water scene'. The remaining 15 continued on, with Ron Ashley meticulously shooing the brood along from his sweeping point at the rear. Within the first 7 crossings everyone was wet from their ankles to their thighs. And, still in good moods until they reached crossing #8, containing obstacles and making the crossing tricky. Finally, we made it through the 9th & 10th crossings to our campsite for the night. The campfire and the stories we shared around it warmed our tired and still slightly wet feet. On Sunday morning we broke camp and continued along the loop trail back to the Visitor's Center. I managed to get in an extra mile or so on the way back. Hey, 'if you don't care where you are, then you can't be lost!' Thanks go to Paul Avalon for his compass skills, Bill Hamilton for bringing a detailed map and to the family of bikers who pointed the correct way out. Thanks to all who joined me. From Clarksville: Bill Hamilton, Paul Avalon, Darryl Butts, Suva & Jack Bastin, Chuck Guthrie, Jim Darke & son Paul, Sandi Hamilton, Wade Winters & son Evan and James Neblett. From Nashville: Linda Mostashari."

On Oct 28th, 41 people came out to our Annual Bonfire and Potluck Dinner at the Rotary Park. Our day started early with planting flowers and cleaning up the trails in the park. By mid-day we were plenty dirty. So, we took a break, went home, got cleaned up and returned with our potluck meals. It was a full, gratifying and fun-filled day.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Todd Horton 615-302-3336 todd1966@aol.com MEETING: Replaced by Nov 30th Holiday Party. See details below.

Nov 30 MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Libby Francis will share a video presentation of the Mound Bottom and the Ancient Native Americans who inhabited the Harpeth River Valley. (This is a follow-up to our hike and meeting in October.) See you 6:30pm CST at the Bethel Room (Hunter Matthews Complex - NE corner of the Columbia Courthouse Square).

ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are preparing for the busy holiday season. Therefore, no hikes have been scheduled this month. Have a safe, enjoyable and healthy holiday. Watch for upcoming hike schedules and meeting announcements in January's newsletter.

HIKE REPORT:

There have been 2 chapter hikes since our last newsletter. The weather was PERFECT for both! Seven people braved the rocks of the Fiery Gizzard on Oct 29th. Nine people wondered off (trail needed blazing! - possibly a future chapter activity?) around the countryside at Devil's Backbone on Nov 5th.

REMINDER:

EVAN MEANS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM DEADLINE IS DEC 31

SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Siler McCarty

423-566-1291

webmaster@tnrlca.org

We are preparing for the busy holiday season. Therefore, no hikes or meetings have been scheduled this month. Have a safe, enjoyable and healthy holiday. Watch for upcoming hike schedules and meeting announcements in January's newsletter.

EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER

(Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Keith Mertz

865-376-4827

KeithMertz@msn.com

Dec 2 Sugarlands Mtn Trail, GSMNP. We will hike 3.1 miles up the Sugarlands Mtn. trail to its junction with Huskey Gap trail and then turn left and hike 2 miles down to Newfound Gap Rd. The total hike distance is 5.1 miles and rated moderate. The first 3 miles have a net elevation gain of 750 feet while the last 2 miles have a loss of 1200 feet. After the hike, and for those wanting a little more hiking, we will do a 3-mile round-trip hike on the Old Sugarlands trail which starts across Newfound Gap Road from the Park Headquarters. Rated easy. Bring lunch, water and dress appropriately for the weather. We'll meet 9:30am EST in front of the Sugarlands Visitor's Center. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Esther Ruffner: 865-281-0567.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

<u>CHAPTER OFFICER:</u> Frederick Belton 901-327-3674 fbelton@hotmail.com <u>ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:</u> Gloria Norrid 901-382-4227 gnorrid@yahoo.com

MEETING: Replaced by Dec 21st Holiday Party. See details below.

- Dec 1-3 Big South Fork NRRA & Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN. Join us to hike the spectacular Big South Fork NRRA and discover the scenic, botanical and geological wonders found nowhere else in Tennessee. Norma McMinn will lead a weekend of hikes in the area. Hike one or both days. Just let Norma know when you will be joining her so you won't be left behind. In addition to the hiking, Norma can provide information on the lodging. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Norma McMinn: 901-785-1479.
 - On Sat, weather permitting, we'll hike the Honey Creek Loop trail. The 5-mile trail is rated difficult because we will walk over uneven and rough terrain as well as through a creek bed. Sturdy hiking boots are strongly recommended, bring an extra pair of socks. Meet 7:30am EST at the Pickett State Park office.
 - On Sun, the hiking trail to be announced.
- Dec 10 Downtown Memphis Social and Hike. This is a favorite holiday hike. Meet 2pm CST in the Peabody Hotel lobby near the Christmas Tree. We will walk down to Harbor Town, along the river, then walk or take the trolley back to the Peabody Hotel. For additional information, call Gloria Norrid: 901-382-4227.
- Dec 21 **CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY** (and brief meeting). In lieu of our regular meeting, this month we'll have our annual holiday party at Betty Porter's house, 6696 Stout Road. Bring your favorite festive dish(es) and soft drinks; an oven is available for heating, and we'll supply the kitchen facilities, coffee, plates, cups, and eating utensils. Socializing begins at 6:30pm CST, dinner at 7pm. Our 2001 hike schedule will be distributed during the brief meeting portion of the evening. For directions, call Betty Porter: 901-755-4740.
- Jan 6 Herb Parsons Lake, Fisherville, TN. Bring lunch and water, and join the fun for this easy 6-mile walk around the lake. Carpoolers meet at 8:30am CST at the soccer field on Walnut Grove Road (located on the south side of Walnut Grove, west of the traffic light at Farm Road). If you want to drive directly to the lake, the hike begins 9am CST at the lake. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Kathleen Griffin 901-767-0529.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Fount Bertram

615-765-5357 fwbertram@hotcom.net

MEETING: Takes place Dec 12th. See details below.

Dec 2 Edgar Evins State Park Trail Work Day. Come get involved in the first stages of developing our next 5-mile section of trails in this park. We need bushwhackers, tree flaggers and trail cutters. No experience required! Tools provided. Note: there are a few places where the terrain may be strenuous - sturdy hiking boots are essential. You will get dirty so wear grubby work clothes and gloves. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. Meet 9am CST at the park Visitor's Center. This is exciting stuff so come and help us make history! For additional information, call Fount Bertram: 615-765-5357, or email him: fwbertram@hotcom.net

Dec 10 Smith Fork Creek Canoe Float, from Cottage Home to Liberty in DeKalb County or on the Stones East Fork in Rutherford County (look at your map please). Exact float area yet to be determined and will depend on which is floatable! A cold weather float can be great if the sun is shining and the water at the right level. Both sections are around 7 miles. These are just pastoral or class I rivers. But, you never know! If it is cold, you will need thermal protection, quick-dry clothes, and rain pants or a wet suit. For meeting time, location and to pre-register, call Heloise Shilstat: 615-896-6278 (hm), 615-254-5461 (wk) or e-mail her at work: hshilstat@hardaway.net

Dec 12 MONTHLY MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY. This is a "potluck" party in addition to our monthly meeting. Everyone needs to bring a favorite dish to share with the group. Please increase the ingredients in your recipe because we will be joined by the Edgar Evins State Park Rangers and Debra Paschal from the Parks and Recreation Department. It'll be a fun and very informative evening. See you 7pm CST at James Herring's house (1810 Diana Street, Murfreesboro). For additional information or directions, call James: 615-896-4356.

Dec 16 Stone Door and Greeter Falls Hike, South Cumberland SP. Both trails going to the "Door" and falls are short and rated easy. We'll return via a stop at Crockett's Roadhouse, in Manchester, for a late lunch. Bring snacks, water and money. Dress appropriate for the weather. Meet 9am CST at St. Marks United Methodist church (1403 E. Main St., Murfreesboro) or 10am CST at the Manchester Shoney's (I-24 Exit 114). Questions and/or to preregister, call Fount Bertram: 615-765-5357, or email him: fwbertram@hotcom.net

Frozen Head New Year's Day Hike and Celebration, Wartburg, Jan 1 TN. Celebrate the New Year in the good old traditional way with a hike (to Tubb Springs) and food (black-eyed peas and hamhock, cornbread, dessert, champagne, etc.) Hike distance is 61/2 miles and rated moderate for the uphill climb to Tubb Springs and easy for the downhill back to our cars. Heloise Shilstat has organized this hike for years and each year Mother Nature changes the scenery. It is a hike not to be missed! Everyone takes part and participates by bringing something. If food preparation isn't your thing, you can carry water, stove, champagne or whatever we need your help with. Due to the shorter daylight hours, we will leave 7am CST from the Cone service station at the I-40/Hwy 231 junction. Call Heloise to preregister, coordinate food and carpooling: 615-896-6278 (hm), 615-254-5461 e-mail (wk) or hshilstat@hardaway.net If weather makes Frozen Head unreachable, we'll go to Bearwaller Gap, near Cathage, TN.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Anne Wesley 615-851-1052

MEETING: Replaced by Dec 16th Holiday Party. See details below.

HIKING HOTLINE 615-367-7045

Dec 2 Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park and Chili Lunch, Hermitage, TN. Join Charlie and Jennifer Hann for an easy hike and socializing over chili. Meet 10am CST at the Volunteer Trail parking lot on Hobson Pike. Participation is limited to 10, so pre-registration is mandatory. Call Charlie and Jennifer: 615-941-1503.

Dec 3 Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. Sparta, TN. Quoted from the November Newsletter, Upper Cumberland chapter news: "Ross Cardwell has gotten all of the trail signs up at the trailheads as well as at each point of interest and intersection so you can't get lost, even if you try." These will be new trails for the hike leader unless she can scout them before hand. Come along, bringing your adventuresome spirit, and be sure your time schedule is flexible enough to hike, at least, 8 of the 12 miles that are cleared, sign-posted and opened for hiking. The terrain is rated moderate. Wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. Meet 6:45am CST at Kinko's in the K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike, Exit 216-C off of I-40. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Diane Manas: 615-352-7777.

Dec 9 Jack L. Parker Millennium trail, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point, TN. We have been reading about this new hiking trail developed by the Murfreesboro Chapter in earlier issues of our newsletter. Now, Alicia Gray is providing an opportunity to hike this 4-mile trail, rated easy. Bring snacks, lunch and water. The hike will start about 9am CST. For exact meeting time, location and to arrange carpooling, call Alicia Gray: (hm) 615-453-5138, (wk) 615-399-4226 ext 217.

Dec 9 Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, Sparta, TN. This hike is 8 miles and rated difficult. This will be a joint hike with the Nashville Ski Club. Boots providing ankle support are highly recommended. Wear appropriate clothes for the weather and bring lunch, snacks and water. Meet 7:30am CST at Kinko's in the K-Mart parking lot on Donelson Pike, Exit 216-C off of I-40. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Paul Smith: 615-832-9388. (cont. on pg. 8)

Memorial Gift. . .

TTA is in receipt of a cash gift from Mary Kay Carmichael in memory of Crawford Smith, the son of her very close friends, Joe and Claudette Smith. Crawford was a student at the University of Tennessee who thoroughly enjoyed hiking and fishing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont. from pg. 7)

Dec 10 Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, Nashville, TN. We will hike 3 major trails to make this a 12-mile day. Because of the hike's length and the many hills we will climb and descend the hike is rated moderate. We will walk a section of the original Natchez Trace and pass a rock quarry where the WPA mined rock for the stonework you will see throughout both parks. We will lunch at the new nature center. Plan for the hike to take at least 6 hours. Wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We'll meet 10:15am CST in the open field left of the Belle Meade Blvd entrance to Percy Warner Park. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Herb Kneeland: 615-460-1144 (hm), 615-298-4462 (wk) or by e-mail: hdk3@home.com

Dec 16 Figure 8 hike at Warner Park, Nashville, TN. Join TTA and (1 soon to be tired) Naturalist, Heather Perry, as we hike the Mossy Ridge and Warner Woods trails that'll make up this 7-mile "Figure 8" hike. The trail is rated easy to moderate. Wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We'll meet 8am CST at the "Deep Wells" parking area off Highway 100. Deep Wells road is 1.7 miles west on Hwy 100 from the Hwy 70/100 (McClure's, Corner Market, Harris Teeter) split in Belle Meade. Questions and/or to preregister, call Heather Perry: 615-352-6299.

Dec 16 HÖLIDAY PARTY. It's time again for the our chapter Holiday Party!! In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at 6:30pm CST at Jim and Marietta Poteet's house. Please bring a potluck salad, entree, casserole, appetizer or dessert. Sodas are provided, and it's BYOB if you desire anything else to drink. The Poteet's address is 324 Raintree Drive in Hendersonville. Maps will be provided at the Nov 28th meeting (hopefully you will have received this newsletter and read this prior to the Nov 28th meeting). If you need directions, call Anne Wesley: 615-851-1052. See you there!

Dec17 Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail, Ashland City, TN. Never hiked on an old railroad bed? This is an 8-mile trail and is rated easy for the terrain, moderate for the length. Soft sole shoes welcome. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Don't bring any snacks, only a light lunch, plenty of water and some money. Afterward we'll treat ourselves to yummy desserts and coffee at the Dessert Company, a few blocks away from the trailhead. Meet 9:30am CST in the Kroger parking lot on Charlotte Pike, one block west of Whitebridge Road. Questions and/or to pre-register call Diane Manas 615-352-7777.

Dec 30 Shelby Bottoms Newcomers Hike, Nashville, TN. Shelby Bottoms is located in the floodplain along the Cumberland River in East Nashville. It is flat and very easy. Elizabeth Gerlock is coordinating this and the length of the hike will be determined by the enthusiasm of the hikers. Bring snacks, water and money. Afterward we'll go to a local restaurant for lunch. Meet 9am CST at the park entrance located near the intersections of Shelby Avenue and South 20th Street. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Elizabeth Gerlock: 615-356-6260.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

(UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Jim Clark 901-587-7369 jclark@utm.edu
Joe Seago 901-587-8405 joeseago@backpacker.com
WEBSITE: http://mug.utm.edu/trails

ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are preparing for semester finals and the busy holiday season. Therefore, we have not scheduled any hikes or meeting this month. Have a safe, enjoyable and healthy holiday. Watch for upcoming hike schedules and meeting announcements in January's newsletter.

The October meeting of the Northwest Chapter featured Nancy Warren telling about her March 1999 trip to Zermatt for a guided trip to the base of the Matterhorn. This was a year of record snowfalls in Switzerland, and there had been an avalanche in the area just prior to Nancy's arrival. Nevertheless, Nancy and her companion donned crampons and enjoyed their late winter's hike and climb. Her slides contrasted with our hot and humid slides of the Fort Pillow outing two weeks before.

HIKE REPORT:

On Oct 28th Jim Clark led a hike at Montgomery Bell State Park. *The following was submitted by Jim Clark:*

Five folks from the Northwest Chapter were joined by two from the Nashville area for an outing on the Montgomery Bell West trail. This trail encompasses some historical sites including iron ore pits dug with slave labor and the site of the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. October in West Tennessee had been warm and dry, and this day was typical of the weather we had been having. Due to several springs in the area, there was water flowing in some of the streams, but generally speaking the area was extremely dry. We started out at precisely 9:30am, after posing for the mandatory shot of the group at the trailhead. We started out in a generally westward direction, skirting the rather crowded camping area, across a creek and down the trail that led to the ore pits. The trail has some gradual ascents and descents. We passed by Hall Cemetery and through a wetlands area (well it would have been wetlands in a normal year). Here there is a walkway in a bad state of repair that provides a testament to the poor state of parts of Tennessee's State Parks due to budgetary constraints. Since it was dry, there was little risk in walking on it, for even if one fell through, one would just drop a couple feet onto dry ground. We stopped for lunch on the edge of Lake Woodhaven and then continued on through the gold and brown leaf-filtered sunlight. After about 5 miles, our group split, half returning the 2.7 miles along Creech Hollow Lake and three continuing on the Montgomery Bell East trail. Those who returned on the shorter route swore up and down that the stretch along Creech Hollow Lake was the most beautiful section of the entire hike. No doubt their intent was to make the others feel guilty for missing it! The 3 who continued on the eastern section of the trail passed by Wildcat Creek. Although the flow was, no doubt, lessened by the drought, it still provided a pleasant place to stop and listen to the brook tumbling over the limestone outcroppings. After crossing the creek several times, the trail climbed a ridge. In the distance one could see Lake Acorn and just barely catching a glimpse of the park inn. After descending the ridge, the trail ended up near the park visitor's center and picnic area. Distances: 7.5 for the shorter hike and 11.2 for the longer one. One of the nice things about scheduling a hike like this is that it provides an opportunity to become familiar with a park that we might not otherwise visit. Even though it was a glorious day in autumn, away from the parking lots, on a Saturday, we saw only 3 other hikers all day. Participants: Sandy Davis, Anna Clark, Catherine Grove, Nancy Warren, Libby Francis, Teresa

Campbell and Jim Clark.

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Vicki Perdue 931-456-6466 **MEETING:** Replaced by Dec 14th Holiday Party. See details below.

Dec 9 Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness, Spring City, TN. This short hike of 3 miles is rated easy to moderate and ends at the Stinging Fork Falls - a 35-foot waterfall. Meet 8am CST at the Cumberland Mtn. State Park office. Questions and/or to pre-register, call Arleen Scheller: 931-707-8333.

Dec 14 HOLIDAY PARTY (replaces our monthly meeting). Bring a dish to our Annual Holiday Party and enjoy all the delectables that our potlucks have to offer! Don't forget the gift exchange! See you 6pm CST at Carol Tyler's home, 107 Sheffield Dr. For additional information, call Carol: 931-484-4925.

> REMINDER: EVAN MEANS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM DEADLINE **DEC 31** SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS

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)

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Jim Pasco

615-382-4443

http://members.aol.com/trac2trail/depot.htm

MISSION: To act as a resource and mentor for 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.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER:

Helen Angelmier

931-858-5947

helena@cookeville.com

Dec 16 Hidden Passage Trail, Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN. This trail for all seasons is 8 miles long, yet rated easy. Wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and water. We will meet 8am CST at Penney's on Jefferson Street. Call our hike leader for questions and/or to pre-register, Carol Swindell: 931-526-4590, or e-mail her: cwswindell@cookeville.com Or. vou pre-register with Helen Anglemier 931-858-5947. Helen's e-mail: helena@cookeville.com

HIKE REPORTS:

Two of our gung-ho hikers hiked the new 4-mile trail at Edgar Evins State Park on a beautiful October Saturday afternoon just made for hiking.

On Oct 14th about 10 or so from our chapter joined about that many from the Plateau chapter for a hike and hot dog roast potluck lunch at Burgess Falls. We had a great time getting to know them and thank them for the invitation. Bob Bowman cooks a mean hot dog.

On Oct 21st, forty, new and old, Friends of Scott's Gulf came to see and hike the trails in the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. The following was submitted by Brenda Cardwell:

We met at the Polly's Branch Falls trailhead & campground where Ross Cardwell oriented us on the trail over to Yellow Bluff. Marnell Cothran, Bonnie and John Broadway, and Ross led the group to our first junction. While the group was catching up, Brenda Cardwell updated everyone on the trail work so far and our future trail plans. Marnell then surprised everyone by announcing that this was really a workday instead of a hike and our tools were hid behind the trees. "Just kidding!!!" Everyone got a kick out of that and said to let them know when we were really going to have a workday and they would volunteer. We then continued our hike, which took us along the plateau under a canopy filled by gold and red leaves. We crossed two hollows where the creeks had dried and were now covered with carpets of multi-colored leaves. We came to the wetland at Gunstock Branch and were welcomed by the resident bullfrogs. This was the site of a lake many years ago and you can still see remnants of the earthen dam. After going just a little further we were at Yellow Bluff. The two overlooks at Yellow Bluff are named for the yellow color of the sandstone cliffs and even though the day was overcast the view was still fabulous. Here we had a leisurely lunch, taking time to get acquainted. John Harwood brought Rawanda Konate from Paris, France, and a medical student at TSU, who wanted to see what our countryside looked like. We were proud to show her one of our natural treasures. It was good to have Paul and Pam Miller back on the trail with us. Paul's health has slowed him down a little (but not much). They brought their dogs Riley (who eats coats) and Molly to add to the enjoyment of our day. After lunch we started back and took the spur trail over to Boar Hog Gap. crossing a hollow of yellowing ferns and a rock-sheltered cove. There, we have two of the most spectacular bluff overlooks and one of the very few gaps in the bluff line where you can get down to the river. It is an extremely steep cut and can be dangerous, yet a beautiful area. The 61/2 miles round trip hike to Yellow Bluff and Boar Hog Gap gave us 4 different views up and down the Caney Fork River Gorge in all its fall glory. Everyone was excited and pleased with the development of the new trails and are looking forward to seeing more on our next outing.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Executive Director Resource Manager Program Coordinator Office Manager

Office Location

Office Hours

Rob Weber Arleen Scheller Tanya Meachen Susan Weber 19 East 4th Street

Crossville, TN 38555 8am - 5pm

website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

robweber@usit.net scheller@usit.net

tmeachen@onemain.com

sweber1@usit.net

Phone 931-456-6259 Fax 931-456-4934

E-Mail: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

We would like to recognize the following individuals and businesses that helped make this year's auction the best ever!

Businesses:

listed in order by chapter location

Big South Fork

Grey Gables B&B **Highland Manor Winery** Historic Rugby PWP Greenhouses

Clarksville

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Eastern Mountain Sports Murfreesboro Outdoors Skedaddle Bikes

Nashville

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Plateau (Crossville)

The Bath Room **Cumberland County Bank** Dave Kirk Chevrolet Plateau Truck & Tractor Ruby Tuesday's Restaurants VF Factory Outlet

Please remember when patronizing these merchants, let them know you're a member of TTA and how much you have appreciated their support.

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Also, if you know any of the Artisans, ELVES Or Merchandise Donors listed, please let them know you're a member of TTA and how much you have appreciated their support.

OFFICERS:

Libby Francis 615-889-5718

lfran99625@aol.com

Vice-President

Leigh Jones 931-277-3228

cejones@webtv.net

Treasurer

Barbara Matheson 615-373-7291

bmath@mindspring.com

Secretary

Patti Shaw 615-889-6472

snappy1@mindspring.com

Past President

Jim Poteet 615-824-7666

jpoteet@genesco.com

Past President

Harold Draper 865-689-7757

hmdraper@knoxnews.infi.net

West TN Regional Director

Jerry Lenski 901-255-6574

gfl@psimemphis.com

Middle TN Regional Director

Barbara Draude 615-895-5546

bdraude@mtsu.edu

East TN Regional Director

Arleen Scheller 931-707-8333

scheller@usit.net

Membership

Ninez Giles 615-297-2281

ninez@juno.com

Newsletter Editor

Diane Manas 615-352-7777

dianemanas@home.com

Cumberland Trail Conference Representatives

Barry & Sandra Spearman 931-839-2320

sandbar@usit.net

TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council

615-382-4443 Jim Pasco

Other Chapter Officers:

Listed within each Chapters' header

Newsletter Deadlines:

Copy due the 6th of the month for an announcement to appear on the 1st of the following month

(ie: Dec 6th submissions will appear Jan 1st)

Please send all submissions to:

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

e-mail: dianemanas@home.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN ...

CONSERVATION VOTER ACTION NETWORK The First Conservation Voter Action Network in TN

Are you concerned about sprawl, pollution, protecting our natural and scenic areas and the quality of life for your family? Then, take this opportunity to participate in a new email based network that will enable concerned citizens throughout Tennessee to become informed and target key decision-makers have about significant environmental decisions at the local, regional, and state level.

The Action Network is NOT a listserv. You and other participants will only be contacted via email 6-10 times a year when your voice is needed. The Network will send you a summary of the targeted issue and a sample letter for you to personalize. The Network's system will then send these letters ! to the targeted decision-maker and report on the outcome. Though it is the first in state, the Network is modeled after other! successful national and state systems, and uses new technology that is more effective than just using email alone.

The Action Network is a new initiative of the TN Conservation Voters Action Fund, a recently formed non-profit conservation organization, working in coalition with several groups in the state to establish and manage this Network. Your email address is safe and will never be sold or given out. At any time, you may contact the program to be removed permanently from the Network.

To sign up, send an email to Erin Kelley, Director, at: tenneaf@mindspring.com.

Please encourage friends and colleagues to join as well.

Twenty well-timed letters Make all the difference in the world!

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

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When you become a TTA no volunteer opportunities, chap	eter meeting announceme	a monthly newsletter containing information or ints as well as events occurring within TTA's As	n hiker safety, upcoming hikes / overnight trips, sociate Organizations: C.T.C. and T.R.A.C. You grams, 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.