

TENNESSEE TRAILS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Mission: To promote, construct and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective.

SPONSOR FOR THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



Spring BreakAway is Here Today!

February 29 – March 27

When you read this the 9th Annual Spring BreakAway program will be going on in the Rock/Possum/Soddy Segment of the Cumberland Trail. We will have 19 colleges, 1 AmeriCorps, and 1 Landmark Team. The CTC has plenty of space still available since we have two camps in Soddy Daisy, Dogwood and the Lutheran Camp. If you are interested in helping out, call the office or email Mark Stanfill. What a deal—a place to stay, good home cooking, and beautiful scenery while building the Cumberland Trail. If we don't see you in March, we will definitely see you at the BIG DIG II. What is BD2? Read the next article...

In case you don't already know, Spring BreakAway is an Alternative Break program, hosted by Tennessee Trails Association and the Cumberland Trail Conference, offered to colleges and universities throughout the United States. Students pay their own way to come to Tennessee to help TTA/CTC volunteers build the Cumberland Trail. BreakAway also provides educational programming about the environment, history, geology, flora and fauna found along the Cumberland Trail.

This year, we will be providing meals to **all** of our volunteers, so that students and volunteers can dine together (any amount of help you can provide as a volunteer is appreciated). We work about 7 hours each day and only on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is a free day, no work! Can't come an entire week? Consider coming for two days, like a Monday and Tuesday or a Thursday and Friday.

Call the CTC office anytime during February 29-March 27 (931-456-6259) and the staff there will provide you with the necessary details on where you will need to report for work, plus make any arrangements for lodging; if needed, at the Dogwood Camp or Lutheran Church Camp.

The Big Dig II, May 16–June 26 The Sequel

Just like Arnold's "I'll Be Back!", the BIG DIG is ready to return to Soddy Daisy, and conquer the Rock/Possum/Soddy Segment of the Cumberland Trail for another 20 miles of trail to build. If you participated last year, then you know what it's all about. For everyone else, the BIG DIG is our most ambitious program. It is six weeks and opened to everyone! For BreakAway, we have the students, but with the BIG DIG we need the volunteers. Volunteer participants will come from various places, including the local community. Last year, we saw representatives from AHS Volunteer Vacations, AmeriCorps, TN State Parks; various outdoor clubs such as Tennessee Trails Association, Chattanooga Hiking Club, ALDHA, Cherokee Hiking Club, Benton MacKaye Society, Hiwassee Hiking Club, Ozark Highland Trail Association, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, Landmark Volunteers (a nationwide premier high school service organization), and dedicated individuals from across the nation.

Last year, CTC launched the BIG DIG for the first time. This year, we will continue the momentum. How will it be different this year?

- ♦ **More Staff?** There will be more staff hired. Last year, we had 14; this year we will hire 24. The larger staff will instruct and lead teams of volunteers along side our WagonMasters who will be leading teams as well.
- ♦ **More food?** Well, you have seen Carol Haley's Adopt-a-Food Program. She has done a fantastic job in coordinating the kitchen and food areas.
- ♦ **More activities?** We will add more programs to the list that will include community outings such as RiverFest, Movie Nights, Baseball Outings, and Mountain Opera.
- ♦ **More volunteers?** That is where YOU come in! We need you to sign up and tell others.

We will continue to use the Dogwood Lodge Camp where there is enough, bunk, and shower space for everyone. Last year, volunteers enjoyed the "swimming hole" after a hot day on the trail. We will transport you to the work site and bring you back to where a fine evening of dining and entertainment awaits. Just think, each day you will be going to work in "gorgeous gorges," on hillsides, among trees that tower above you, in rhododendron and mountain laurel patches, and on wide slopes that hold the promise of wildflowers as spring progresses.

Sign up today on page 4! Find out ways to help with BIG DIG II!

Walking with Fount

I have indicated that I will personally visit all the chapters during my term as president. I would also like to be included in at least one event, such as a hike, picnic, party, etc. I would appreciate you letting me know when it will be convenient for me to make an appearance with your chapter.

I started the visits by attending the Nashville Chapter's January meeting. I was warmly received and very much enjoyed my visit there. I believe we need to have a good deal of sharing with members from chapter to chapter. Some of my most fun times have been in shared adventures. I told the Nashville folks that one of the things I most enjoy about being a TTA member and participation in the events are the smiles I see on all the many faces.

Look around the next time you get together with a TTA group and notice how many smiles you see. I firmly believe that enthusiasm is contagious and I would like to start an epidemic! If you haven't made your plans to participate in this year's BreakAway, mark it on your calendar to give some time to that effort. I will be there the first week and I hope to see a lot of you on the trail.

Happy Trails...

Fount

State Natural Areas Week March 29—April 4, 2004

Tennesseans from across the State are encouraged to join together in a weeklong celebration of State Natural Areas Week to be held March 29–April 4. Natural Areas Week will be celebrated across the state with hikes, canoe floats, and interpretative programming at many of Tennessee's 68 State Natural Areas. These unique lands are preserved in perpetuity, and protect habitat for many species of rare plants and animals.

The State Natural Areas Program was established in 1971 by the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act. Today, there are 68 Natural Areas located throughout the State covering more than 100,000 acres of ecologically significant lands. State natural areas are diverse landscapes that are often cooperatively managed with county, state and federal agencies and non-profit land trusts. They protect some of Tennessee's most pristine wetlands and swamps, globally rare glades and diverse barrens, vast gulf forests, and mountainous landscapes.

For more information about Natural Areas Week events in each state region call: (northeast) 865-594-5601, (southeast) 423-634-5774, (middle) 615-741-9205, (west) 731-512-1369 or go to the natural areas webpage at www.state.tn.us/environment/nh. The Natural Areas Program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

TTA's Calendar*

The following dates in 2004 refer to statewide activities involving TTA as a whole. Please refer to this calendar often to either prevent scheduling conflicts or to volunteer to get involved with major activities planned (National Trail Days, etc.).

Feb 29–Mar 27 Cumberland Trail Spring BreakAway

Mar 29–Apr 4 TN State Natural Areas Week

Apr 22 Earth Day

Apr 24-25 Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition's Leadership Council (AL)

May 1 Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)

May 16–Jun 26 Cumberland Trail BIG DIG II

Jun 5 National Trails Day

Aug 7 Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)

Sep 28 National Public Lands Day

Oct 17-20 Southeast Foot Trails Meeting (Monteagle)

Nov 6-7 TTA Annual Meeting

Nov 7 Board of Directors' Meeting
(Location TBA)

**Calendar will be revised as needed.*

Hey Middle TN Members! Want to watch some serious Eco-adventure films?

Banff Mountain Film Festival's World Tour is coming to Nashville March 31 at 7:00 pm CST! For twenty-eight years, the Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) has celebrated the spirit of adventure and mountain environment. Each November, the world's best films on mountain (and outdoor) themes draws an international audience to the town of Banff, Canada, located in the Canadian Rockies.

Seventeen years ago, the BMFF began an outreach program to extend the festival to other communities to showcase the efforts and talents of the world's finest mountain filmmakers. Today, the best films from each year's festival go on a "World Tour" immediately following the three-day event in Banff.

The BMFF World Tour will make its only stop in Tennessee at the Belcourt Theater in Hillsboro Village in Nashville on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm CST. Tickets are available in Nashville at both Blue Ridge Mountain Sports locations (Page Road in Belle Meade and Bakers Bridge Road in Cool Springs/Franklin) ahead of the show for \$10 per person. On the night of the show, tickets may be purchased at the Belcourt Theater for \$12 per person. Please note, since seating is limited at the Belcourt Theater and may sell out due to the popularity of this event, it is wise to purchase the tickets ahead of time.

All proceeds from the ticket sales will be used to help fund the preservation of this historic Hillsboro Village movie theater.

See the best of mountain and outdoor adventure films on the big screen!

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Interim Executive Director Barry Spearman..... barry_spearman@yahoo.com
Development Director..... Arleen Decker deckerstudio@bellsouth.net
Program Coordinator..... Mark Stanfill mstanfill@onemain.com
Office Manager..... Susan Weber sweber1@usit.net
CTC Advisor..... Rob Weber..... robweber@usit.net

Office Location 19 East 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours 8am-5pm
Phone: 931-456-6259
Fax: 931-456-4934
Email: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com
Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

CT Volunteers...

Super Tuesday is over and the polls have closed! Who won? We did! I have very good news...as of this morning, I have confirmed our 20th college for Spring BreakAway! That's right 20, up from 17 last year. We are looking at about 320 students during the month of March. So it is urgent and critical that we get help and support from WagonMaster's, Experienced Trail Volunteers, and Trail Training Workshop participants. If you have experience in trail work, we need you to help the WagonMaster's teach these students. It's fun, it's easy, and you get to meet and work with some great college students who are looking for a positive experience on the Cumberland Trail. Participants from Trail Training Workshop this is great experience for you to lead small groups of students, receive support from our experienced volunteers, and to meet the criteria of trail work days for the discount if you chose that option.

So please let me know by email or return the form for the CTC's 9th Spring BreakAway.....and "Get Jacked Up" in Soddy Daisy. If you have any questions check out the Spring BreakAway information on the webpage www.cumberlandtrail.org or let me know. This is a great opportunity! We have 320 students along, and if they have proper guidance and help, we can get so much done during the program.

Thanks for you help and support!

Sincerely,
Mark

The Cumberland Trail STOMP

April 24, 2004

Mark your calendars...we're gonna hike the Cumberland Trail to raise money for the BIG DIG II. Various community organizations, hiking clubs, and churches along the Cumberland Trail corridor from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap will host a series of 8-10 hikes. Host organizations will be rounding up hikers, and hikers will be rounding up pledges. Last year, the Fairfield Glade Hiking Club in Crossville raised almost \$2,000, and the Oak Ridge Pathways team raised \$4,000 on fundraising hikes for the *Pathways for People, People for Nature* campaign.

If your chapter would like to participate as a host organization or as hikers, or you'd like to help on an individual basis, please contact Arleen Decker at 931-456-6259 (CTC Office), 865-856-9679 (HM) or deckerstudio@bellsouth.net.

Don't Delay! The Big Dig Volunteer Registration Form



Is on Page 4!

Jan 31st CT Hike Report

-submitted by Barry Spearman

We had a productive and fun maintenance-day in the Rock Creek Segment, January 31. It was a COLD start, 8 degrees at my house in Monterey, but probably closer to 18-20 degrees at Bill Leiper's shop in Sale Creek. It was a VERY dedicated group that trekked into Rock Creek Gorge that morning.

We were soon rewarded with a bright winter sun and rising temperatures—a wonderful day to be on the trail. After carrying heavy gravel and tools to the bottom of Rock Creek Loop, we broke into two groups. Chris Miller, Fran Wallas, and Donald Box took a bow saw, loppers, fire rakes, and mattocks. They completed maintenance on the Rock Creek Loop and worked on the trail to the third natural bridge. They found one downed tree, which will require a large chainsaw to remove.

Jim Lifsey, Pete Bernstein, Jim McCullough, and I completed the bridge and rock steps up the pier, then took tools and the 14-inch chainsaw and completed maintenance to approximately ¼ mile of the Rock Creek Suspension Bridge site. Chris had hiked the trail to the suspension bridge site in December and we knew that there was no maintenance required past the point where we stopped.

The temperature was probably approaching 50 degrees, and the views into the gorge were spectacular when we met up at the third bridge. We all agreed that it was one of the most beautiful days ever to be on the trail. We took our time on the long physically demanding hike up out of the gorge. We stopped at the overlook, and at a number of scenic places along the trail.

It was a great Saturday maintenance outing. We are all looking forward to the next one. Hopefully, we can have several more beautiful and rain-free outings this spring.

2nd Annual Cumberland Trail Conference's The Big Dig!!

What is it?

- ♦ The Cumberland Trail Conference's ambitious program to BUILD the Cumberland Trail
- ♦ Up to 100 VOLUNTEERS a day Building the 30-mile Rock/Possum/Soddy Segments

When and Where is it?

- ♦ May 16th to June 26th, 2004...Rock/Possum/Soddy Gorges...Hamilton County
- ♦ Housing Provided at the Dogwood Camp in Bakewell/Soddy-Daisy

Why are we Doing it?

- ♦ To complete the Cumberland Trail...a 300-MILE Tennessee State Scenic Foot Trail
- ♦ How soon you say...a completed trail by the year 2008 from Signal Point National Historic Park above Chattanooga north to Cumberland Gap NHP...goodness

We need your HELP and SUPPORT...HOW?

- ♦ TRAILBUILDERS...volunteer BELOW to build the Cumberland Trail
- ♦ COOKS...to oversee the daily activities at the Dogwood Camp
- ♦ DONATE FOOD...100 folks a day over 36 days...that's 3,600 mouths!
- ♦ SPONSOR the BIG DIG...every dollar goes right back into your community
- ♦ DONATE MATERIALS...tools and first aid kits...lumber & screws



Name/Organization: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Work phone: _____ Home phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Yes, I will VOLUNTEER on the following TRAIL DAYS (Check Monday to Saturday):

Week 1 (May 16-22nd):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Week 2 (May 23-29th):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Week 3 (May 30-Jn 5th):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Week 4 (June 6-12th):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Week 5 (June 13-19th):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Week 6 (June 20-26th):	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

CAMP LODGING: CIRCLE those NIGHTS where lodging/food is required (Sunday to Saturday).

Vegetarian meal preferred: Yes No

How can I help (circle): Trailbuilder Cook Sponsor Big Dig Donate Food/Materials

I want to help sponsor the BIG DIG: ____\$35 ____\$50 ____\$100 ____\$500 ____Other

I want to help donate food or materials (please list): _____

Return Form to: CTC BIG DIG, 19 East 4th Street, Crossville, TN 38555; Fax to 931-456-4934; E-mail cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com. For more information: 931-456-6259 or www.cumberlandtrail.org

Local Big Dig Coordinators: Chattanooga/SoddyDaisy-Barbara Levi (423-332-5784); Nashville-Al Churcher (615-373-8314), Bakewell/Sale Creek-Bill Leiper (423-332-6671); Knoxville/Oak Ridge-Warren or Carol Devine (865-483-7894)

Cumberland Trail Conference, an associate organization of Tennessee Trail Association, is a

501 © 3 non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible. Please consult your tax-advisor.

Volunteer for The Big Dig!!

Don't Miss an Outing ... Plan Ahead, Register Early!

Our hike coordinators are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you in the event their hike needs to be cancelled by registering! There are times when a hike leader must limit (due to park regulations, etc.) the number of participants on an outing. Please do not wait until the afternoon or evening before the outing to RSVP. Plan ahead and register early.

Attention: Hike Coordinators

A TTA *Release of Claims & Hold Harmless Agreement* form (aka "Liability Waiver") must be signed by everyone before you start your hike or before carpooling to your hiking destination. They can be obtained from your local Chapter Officer or downloaded easily from our web site: www.tennesseetrails.org/release.php

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Thomas Howell

423-628-5521, tshowell@nxs.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Benita Howell

423-628-5521 or 865-974-7797, bhowell@nxs.net

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Tim and Lynn Takacs

615-824-7048 or 615-824-2571, lynntakacs@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Kathy Hicks

865-938-6846 or 865-576-3166, khudson3@utk.edu

CHAPTER NEWS: The Big South Fork chapter met Saturday evening, January 10, in Rugby. Officers elected for 2004 are Chair Tom Howell, Secretary/Treasurer Benita Howell, Outings Coordinator Kathy Hicks, and TTA Board Representatives Lynn and Tim Takacs. Chapter members voted to donate \$250 from the chapter treasury to the Cumberland Trail Conference (even before the enjoyable program on CTC accomplishments and goals presented by CTC Development Director Arleen Decker!). Thanks to Arleen and Ed Decker for braving icy roads all the way from Townsend to meet with us in Rugby.

Mar 6 Trail Maintenance in Rugby. Meet at the head of Laurel Branch Trail on Cumberland Avenue in Beacon Hill at 10:00 EST for general trail maintenance and to help remove a huge fallen hemlock that is partially blocking the Laurel Branch and diverting water onto the trail during high water. Bring loppers, fire rakes, and mattocks as well as water and snacks, and wear sturdy boots and work gloves. If the creek is too high to work on March 6, the work day will be postponed to March 13. For more information, contact Tom Howell at 423-628-5521 or tshowell@nxs.net.

Mar 20 Rock Castle near Jamestown, TN. This historic area was contested in the War Between the States by rival "bushwhacker" bands, the Union side led by "Tinker" Dave Beaty and the Confederate side by Champ Ferguson. Among the points of interest we'll encounter along the hike is a large rock house (rock overhang) that was used by the Beaty gang as a field hospital. We're very fortunate to have received special permission to hike on this private land, also known as the Grand Canyon of Fentress County. We will be hiking approximately 5 miles in the lower section of the gorge and the hike is rated moderate for some change of elevation. Wear sturdy hiking boots/shoes and bring water, snacks and lunch. We will meet hikers from the Murfreesboro and Nashville chapters at the Jamestown McDonalds at 9:30 CST, 10:30 EST. For more information or to register, contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbbertram@heartofin.net.

THE "10* ESSENTIALS"

Before you head out on the trail, check your pack to be sure it contains the following items:

- whistle
- food
- compass
- rain gear/extra clothing
- water
- map
- flashlight
- hat/sunglasses
- 1st aid kit
- fire starter

Other considerations:

- leave someone a copy of your hiking plans
- hiking poles
- common sense

* This list is not to be considered cast in concrete – and should be customized to each outdoor enthusiast's needs.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Bill Hamilton

931-920-2760, billhamilton@charter.net

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

Sandra Koenig 931-645-2048

MEETING: Monthly - 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CST,

Crow Community Center

211 Richview Rd

Mar 6 Mousetail Landing State Park in Linden, TN. This is an 8-mile hike rated moderate due to several hills. There is a beautiful overlook of the Tennessee River. Please call Darryl Butts for more information. 931-645-9177

Mar 13 Canal Loop, Land Between the Lakes NRA. This 10-mile loop covers the uppermost section of Land Between the Lakes. We will start out at Kentucky Lake and continue along the canal that joins Lake Barkley. This hike is rated easy with only a few hills and beautiful scenery. Please call Ron Ashley to register at 731-644-0009.

Mar 20 Historic Clarksville Tour. Join Suva Bastin on a tour of downtown Clarksville for an easy hike and interesting facts about our hometown. Call 931-645-2849

Mar 27 Montgomery Bell State Park Orienteering. Learn basic orienteering skills and have fun hiking in Montgomery Bell. Bring along a compass if you have one. Call Bill Hamilton at 931-920-2760.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 3 Fort Pillow State Park, Henning, TN. This will be an overnight camping trip. Fort Pillow is along the Mississippi River with several hiking trails along the earthworks and fortifications. We'll hike about 5-7 miles on Saturday, and hopefully another 5 miles on Sunday morning before returning. The terrain is rated relatively easy. There will be a small charge for camping. Contact Sandi Hamilton 931-920-2760.

4/17 Frozen Head State Park (overnight). Wartburg, TN. Manuel Knight, 931-358-2115

4/24 Earth Day Observance Trail Maintenance at Rotary Park. Clarksville, TN, Sandy Janus, 931-645-9177

4/24 Earth Day Observance North-South Trail, Land Between the Lakes NRA. Dover, TN, Sandy Janus, 931-645-9177

5/1 Wildflower Hike on Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail. Ashland City, TN, Charlie Putnum, 931-362-3669

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rick Lausten

615-373-0029, saturncarl@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Tanya Juday 931-490-0856

MEETING: Monthly - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm CST

Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

Mar 2 MONTHLY MEETING 6:30 pm at the Grand Buffet Chinese Restaurant, 5228 N. Main Street, in Spring Hill. Jerry Link will be our speaker for March. Jerry will speak on ultralight backpacking. Jerry has vast experiences hiking numerous trails across the U.S. He has thru-hiked the A.T. and will give information and advice on "lite" backpacking. Members and guests, please come out for this meeting and support Jerry and enjoy a great meal together. New members are ALWAYS welcome and we always adjourn by 8:00 pm. Also, please try to bring some food staples to be set aside for the Cumberland Trail BreakAway and BIG DIG II. See the February newsletter for a suggested list of items.

Mar 6 Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Area near Manchester. Hikers will have a choice of hiking the easy Enclosure Wall Trail, 1.25 miles or to also add the Little Duck River Loop Trail, an additional easy 1.5 miles. The total will be approximately 2.8 miles. We would love to see a lot of our new members and those who have been waiting on an "easy" hike to come and join us. This hike will be led by Bobby Hardeman. To register, call Bobby on his cell phone at 615-308-7955 or e-mail at puttr22@aol.

Mar 20 Laurel-Snow, Bowater Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, TN. Spring is here! And there isn't a more beautiful place in the spring than at the beautiful 80 ft. high Laurel Falls and the breathtaking view of the Tennessee Valley from the 1,700 ft. elevation of Bryan Overlook. The trail is 9 miles and is rated moderate with one difficult climb and one creek crossing. Elevation gain, 850 ft. from the parking lot to Bryan Overlook. For information, to register and obtain meeting time/location, contact Toni Reeves at 615-790-3839 or tonireeves@bellsouth.net.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Mar 13-14 OVERNIGHT CANOE TRIP Ernie Stewart, owner of River Rats Canoe Rental, has made a generous offer of up to 12 canoes free of charge for this float trip down the Buffalo River. Call Ernie for information at 931-381-2278.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 9-10 Overnight backpacking trip to Frozen Head State Park-Leader: Kerry Summers

Apr (Date TBD) Overnight backpack hike on the Hobbs Cabin Trail. Leader: Stan Ritter

Apr (Date TBD) Meriwether Lewis Loop Trail

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm

865-426-4472, RHelm@ahss.org

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam

423-562-3227, pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Monday at 6pm EST

LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room

201 S. 9th St.

Mar 10 Trail-work Day. We have set aside the Wednesday following our monthly meeting as our standing trail-work day. We will be working on our local project, the LaFollette Nature Trail. Bring sturdy boots, work gloves, snacks and water. Meet at 1:00 pm at downtown parking lot behind City Hall. Contact Faith Dippold for more information at 423-566-8026.

Mar 13 Hike on the Cumberland Trail—Eagle Bluff to Tank Springs. Join Gordon Early for a hike in our own back yard on this often-neglected stretch of the CT. This section of the trail follows the backbone of Cumberland Mountain with several views of beautiful Powell Valley, Norris Lake Watershed, and the city of LaFollette. Interesting rock formations are a sure see, along with a good possibility of early spring wildflowers such as trailing arbutus and bloodroot, and an outside chance of wild goats await your delight. Bring sturdy boots, water, snacks, lunch and a spirit of adventure for this difficult (for us) 7-mile hike. Meet at 8:00 am at the Eagle Market parking lot in Jacksboro. For reservation/information, contact Gordon Early 423-566-8319.

REPORTS:

On January 14, a group of 13 came out to begin some serious reclamation of the LaFollette Nature Area in downtown LaFollette. Focusing on where the trail begins downtown, we cleaned up the area around the two picnic tables, picking up the trash and clearing out the overgrowth of privet. We also did a preliminary clearing of the trail all the way to where it comes out on the gravel road along Big Creek. With rake and mattock, Richard and Faith cut the first 30 yards of actual trail. Reporters from the Volunteer Times came out to see our work and take pictures for a write up in the local paper.

On January 17, another group of 13 took a trip to Yahoo Falls in the northernmost part of the Big South Fork NRR in Kentucky. The weather had not been cold enough to produce an ice cone this year, but the falls were beautiful. We took the side trip to Yahoo Falls Arch, where we stopped to eat our lunch. Our trip back took us by overlooks of the falls from the bluffs above. Back at the parking lot, we took in the breath-taking view of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River from a nearby overlook. Finally, we couldn't resist the urge on our trip back to Tennessee to go back through the BSF at Leatherwood Ford and on to Baccarra's Restaurant at Sharps Place for a delightful dining experience. (We toyed with the idea of crashing the Poteet's TTA party in Rugby.)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 18 LaFollette Nature Trail.
Vance & Wanda Lawson 423-562-6856.

Apr 25 Savage Gardens, Lake City.
Richard Helm 865-426-4472.

May 22-23 Camping at Kentucky Mushroom Farm.
Jerry & Sharon Phillips 423-563-0867.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall
rosemary_l@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Bob Uhren

snowcap34@charter.net

TREASURER: Harold Draper

h.m.draper@att.net

Mar 27 Savage Gulf SNA, Collins Gulf Trail. From the Collins Gulf entrance we will explore the upper end of this trail from Fall Creek sink to the suspension bridge across Collins River. Features include spring wildflowers, waterfalls, sinks, and views of the gorge (gulf). The trail is rocky and steep in places and rated moderately difficult. Wear good shoes. Distances, by car, it is 180 miles round trip; by foot, it is 7 miles. Meet at the parking lot across from Roane County High in Kingston, leaving at 8:30 am EST. Don Coffman, 865-376-5842, don_e_coffman@yahoo.com.

Mar 13 Blue Heron Loop Trail, Big South Fork National and Recreation Area. This scenic, 7.5 moderate hike includes a riverside stroll to Devil's Jump (a Class IV rapid), a gradual trek up to a rock house, and continues through the remnants of an old mining community to two spectacular river overlooks before passing through Cracks-in-the Rock. We will finish at the outdoor mining museum. Bring water, lunch, money, and the usual hiking gear! The group may decide to eat and socialize before we return to Knoxville! We will meet at 8:00 am EST at Ingles on Emory Road near I-75. To register, call Robert & Patty Paul at 865-983-1985 or paulr@monroe.k12.tn.us.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Mar 27 – Savage Gulf SNA – Don Coffman

Apr 3 – Betty Ezell Hike

Apr 17 – Albright Grove, GSMNP – Jay Ross

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Doug Ratliff
931-455-0249, dougratliff@hotmail.com

MEETING: Monthly - 3rd Tuesday at 7pm CST
D.W. Wilson Center, 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma

Mar 6 Greeter Falls to Stone Door Ranger Station, Savage Gulf SNA, Beersheba Springs, TN. This hike features scenic waterfalls and beautiful overlooks. The trail is 6 miles and rated moderate due to the rocky and uneven footing we will be walking over. Sturdy hiking shoes are a must, along with snacks, lunch, and water. This is a one-way hike which requires a car drop at each end of the trail. Contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718 or bmorris@edge.net for information and to register.

Mar 16 MONTHLY MEETING Learn hiker safety tips, hear about past/upcoming hiking trips, and meet members/friends. New hikers and guests are always welcome. See you at 7:00 pm CST at the D.W. Wilson Community Center, 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma.

Mar 20 Rueben Creek, Sherwood, TN. This will be an off-trail hike of approximately 6 to 8 miles and rated moderate. We hope to see lots of wildflowers. The current plans are to meet at 10:00 am at the First Baptist Church parking lot in Cowan. Call Joette Carter at 256-776-3551 to register and to get the latest information.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Lee Sparks

731-298-1658, leesq@bellsouth.net

MEETING: Monthly: 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm CST

Lambuth University, 705 Lambuth Blvd,
Hyde Hall in basement on Maple Street

Mar 2 MONTHLY MEETING Meet new friends and hear about past and upcoming hiking trips. New hikers and guests are always welcome! Join us at 7:00 pm at Lambuth University.

Mar 13 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area, Camden, TN. Join us for a 6-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain. Meet at the Park Interpretative Center at 9:30 am and bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. New hikers welcome! To register and for carpool information, call Ellen Volet at 731-427-3666.

Mar 20-21 Cumberland Trail. Join the Memphis group for weekend hiking on the Cumberland Trail in the Soddy Daisy area. Saturday's hike will be an 8-10 mile hike rated moderate on a new trail currently being built in Hamilton County. This hike is in the gorge with beautiful waterfalls. Registration required. For information and to register, call Carol Haley at 423-332-3216.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 3 Shiloh National Military Park Living History Event. Watch for details in the April newsletter. Contact Sara Hakim at 731-425-3260 or email hakim@lambuth.edu.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Pierce

901-755-5635, cedpierce2000@yahoo.com

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Gloria Lenski

901-213-0604, glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETING: Monthly (Sep-May) 3rd Thursday at 7pm CST
Germantown Library

Mar 6 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area, Camden, TN. Join us for a 6-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain. Meet at the Park Interpretative Center at 9:30 am. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. New hikers welcome! For more information or to carpool call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604.

Mar 18 MONTHLY MEETING Meet new friends and hear about past and upcoming hiking trips. New hikers and guests are always welcome! Join us at 7:00 pm at the Germantown Library.

Mar 20-21 Cumberland Trail. Join us for weekend hiking on the Cumberland Trail in the Soddy Daisy area. Saturday's hike will be an 8-10 mile hike rated moderate on a new trail currently being built in Hamilton County. This is a hike in the gorge with beautiful waterfalls. Registration required. Please call Carol Haley, 423-332-3216.

Mar 27 Meeman-Shelby Forest, Chickasaw Bluff Trail. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 am. Bring water and lunch. This hike begins with a car shuttle to the north end of the trail for a 7-mile easy to moderate hike through the forest. We will connect up to the Woodland Trail and hike back to the Visitor Center. New hikers welcome! For information, call Ken Novak 901-377-9127.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 3 Meeman-Shelby Forest, Full Moon Hike. Join us for a 2-mile easy night hike at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park! Beginning at the Visitor Center at 7:00 pm, Ranger Samantha Morouney will lead us over the paved bike trail down towards the riverbottoms where many barred and great horned owls reside. You won't find wilder night life than this on a Saturday evening! New hikers welcome! For information, call Norma McMinn at 901-785-1479.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Anna Bertram (also Board Rep.)

615-765-5357, abertram@heartoftn.net

CO-OFFICER: Faylene Timbs

615-895-2314, ftimbs@bellsouth.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Ron Dunn

615-867-3301, trekkingtn@yahoo.com

615-895-5546, bdraude@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Jaye Kiblinger

615-898-1291, jayekiblinger@yahoo.com

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Tammy Day

615-904-0009, tlday@comcast.net

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CST

Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station

697 Barfield Rd., Murfreesboro

CHAPTER NEWS: An opportunity still exists for a Publicity Director! To volunteer or for further information, contact Anna Bertram at abertram@heartoftn.net or 615-765-5357.

Publicity Director—Obtains information concerning approved hikes, outings, and events from the Outings Coordinator. Obtains information from the Program Coordinator concerning the monthly programs. Empowered to advertise the approved hikes, outings, events, and planned monthly programs, in any free public medium such as local newspapers, magazines, e-zines, and radio stations, and to post upcoming activities on community bulletin boards, etc. (It is recommended that this include the Weekly Calendar at the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal.)

We're also excited about the start of a monthly Beginners and Newcomers Hike. Jeanne' Hoechst-Ronner has volunteered to be the hike leader for these monthly hikes. All members are encouraged to participate to help welcome our guests and to introduce them to hiking with TTA. There are still a lot of people out there who have never heard of TTA and who would welcome a chance to find out about hiking and our great organization.

Mar 13 Montgomery Bell Trail (western section), Montgomery Bell State Park. Burns, TN. We will be hiking 7.2 miles through diverse forest rich in Tennessee beauty and history. Along the way, we'll visit a chapel and log cabin commemorating the birthplace of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In addition, we may be fortunate enough to spot some of the wonderful wildlife (deer, hawk, pileated woodpecker) that calls the park home. This hike is rated moderate for elevation change and a few creek crossings. Bring water, snacks, proper footwear and \$\$ for a late lunch at Carl's Perfect Pig in White Bluff. Montgomery Bell charges a State Park Access Fee so if you don't already have your annual pass bring \$3 to feed the machine. For more information, carpool planning, or to register, contact Ron Dunn at 615-867-3301 or trekkingtn@yahoo.com.

Mar 20 Rock Castle near Jamestown, TN. This historic area was contested in the War Between the States by rival "bushwhacker" bands, the Union side led by "Tinker" Dave Beaty and the Confederate side by Champ Ferguson. Among the points of interest we'll encounter along the hike is a large rock house (rock overhang) that was used by the Beaty gang as a field hospital. We're very fortunate to have received special permission to hike on this private land, also known as the Grand Canyon of Fentress County. We will be hiking approximately 5 miles in the lower section of the gorge and the hike is rated moderate for some change of elevation. Wear sturdy hiking boots/shoes and bring water, snacks and lunch. We will be meeting at the Woodbury Hardee's at 7:30 am CST to carpool. For more information or to register contact, Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fjbertram@heartoftn.net.

(cont') MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

Mar 27 Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park, Manchester TN. This hike is ideal for newcomers and beginners as well as seasoned hikers interested in experiencing a 2000 year-old Native American ceremonial site nestled between two forks of the Duck River. Ancient mounds, walls, river cliffs, water falls and the ruins of a turn-of-the-century mill make this an interesting adventure as well as a great opportunity to get acquainted with new friends. The 3¼-mile hike is rated moderate for some hilly areas. Bring proper footwear, water and \$\$\$ as we will complete our cultural experience with lunch at Crockett's in Manchester! For more information or to register, contact Jeanne' Hoechst-Ronner at 615-890-9084 or hoaxie@comcast.net.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: David Furse

615-353-6435, dfurse@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Elizabeth Gerlock

615-356-6260, EYGERLOCK@bellsouth.net

MEETING: Monthly - 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm CST

St. Bernard Academy Building

2021 21st Ave South

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045

Mar 23 (7:00 pm) MONTHLY MEETING This month...for you, for Spring, nature photographer Terry Livingstone displays his images of wildflowers. Terry has been working at his craft for 27 years, and he's the co-author of the coffee-table book, *The Warner Parks: Nashville's Natural Legacy*. Come and see "the subtle magic inherent in familiar places."

Mar 6 1st Saturday Hike in Beaman Park. Joelton, TN. Join Friends of Beaman Park as we explore one of Nashville's newer parks being developed by volunteers. We will enjoy the park with the leaves off the trees and better views into the woods. Our hike will be from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon CST on terrain rated easy to moderate. We will meet at the spring on Little Marrowbone Road. For information and to register, contact the Warner Parks Nature Center at 615-352-6299.

Mar 6 Bagel Hike at Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. First we will hike the Mossy Ridge Trail (4.5 miles, rated moderate due to elevation changes) and afterward, we'll stop for coffee/tea and a bagel at Breuggers Bagel at Hwy 70/100 split. Meet at 9:00 am CST at the Deep Well parking area (stone entrance into park on Hwy 100 about 1.5 miles from split). For information and to register, contact David Furse at 615-353-6435 or dfurse@comcast.net.

Mar 7 Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park. Nashville, TN. We will have wonderful views of Percy Priest Lake with the leaves off of the trees as we hike across bluff tops on the Eastern Shore of Percy Priest Lake. You will have the option of hiking the 4-mile day loop or the one-way trail to the camp site for a total of 12 miles. Both trails are mostly flat. The day loop is rated easy, but the longer hike is rated moderate for distance. Bring water, snacks, lunch, and sturdy boots. Meet at 8:00 am at the trailhead just off Hobson Pike, 1 mile north of the park entrance. Bring \$3.00 for park entrance fee unless you have purchased an '04 state sticker. E-mail Robin Harkins at redtailtime@hotmail.com or call her at 615-399-3872 (home) or 615-260-6369 (cell).

Mar 7 Piney River Trail Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Spring City, TN. This 10-mile trail is a point-to-point hike that will require some carpooling. We will actually start at the terminus near Newby Branch Forest Camp, and end at the trailhead some 5 to 6 hours later. The trail is rated as "moderate" mainly due to the distance. Most of the trail is located in the gorge near the river and offers many opportunities for pictures. (cont' on next page)

(cont') NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont' Mar 7) We will cross over a total of 6 bridges, one being a 100' suspension bridge. We will follow an old narrow gauge railroad bed with rock houses and bluffs nearby. There will be a few stream crossings and some rock hopping. We will meet at 6:00 am CST at the Kinkos on Donelson Pike. Members from other chapters are welcome. Be sure to call and set up a time and place to meet up with us. Brian Mahoney, btmahoney@aol.com or 615-479-4385.

Mar 13 Big Creek Rim Trail, Savage Gulf SNA. Beersheba Springs, TN. We will start at the Stone Door Ranger Station and hike the Stone Door and Big Creek Rim Trails, then return via the Laurel Trail for a total of 6 miles. This is an easy hike with some very small stream crossings. The trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau above the Big Creek Gulf with several overlooks into the Gulf. There are also views of Laurel Falls and Laurel Gulf near the Ranger Station. This hike will be at a comfortable pace for those who may have taken a beginners' hike or two, or those who would like to take a bit more time to enjoy the scenery or take photos. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. We will meet at 8:00 am at the Target on Bell Road (I-24 exit 59). For information and to register, contact Lillian Ey at 615-746-8890 or eyintn@hotmail.com.

Mar 14 Wildflower Viewing on the Mossy Ridge Trail, Warner Park. Nashville, TN. March rolls in like a lion and out like a lamb and depending on where we are in this cycle, it will determine the wildflowers that will be blooming. In either case, you can expect to see some! Mossy Ridge Trail is 4½ miles and rated moderate for the numerous hills we will ascend and descend along the way. The pace will be slower than the usual 2 miles per hour in order to see and identify the wildflowers. Bring water, snacks and any wildflower books you may have, and wear trail shoes/boots. We will meet at 1:00 pm CST at the "Deep Well" parking area of the park. The road (not signposted) leading into Deep Well intersects with HWY 100 about 1½ miles west of the HWY 70/100 split in Belle Meade. The only visible marker for this road is the large gray stone arches on the left. Turn left, going through the arches, and follow the road through several picnic areas until you reach the t-intersection—this is Deep Well. For information, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Mar 14 Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park. Chattanooga, TN. We'll hike a combination of 4 trails to make the hike a 12-miler. The terrain is rocky in some areas and hilly; therefore, rated moderate and requires you to wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring snacks, lunch, and water. We will meet in the Target parking lot on Bell Road (I-24, exit 59). For additional information, meeting time, and to register, contact Brian Dion at 615-331-7331 or Brian.Dion@state.tn.us.

Mar 19-21 Fourth Annual Leprechaun Leap Backpack. Chattanooga, TN. This will be a 3-day trek on the Tennessee River Gorge segment of the Cumberland Trail. We will hike one of the most beautiful sections of the CT located near Chattanooga. The trail has several spectacular overlooks into the "Grand Canyon of the Tennessee" and Mullins Cove. We will also see several natural rock formations such as Mushroom Rock and Indian Rock House. The trail is reasonably level with no major elevation changes and rated moderate. There are 2 options: (1) All three days—10 miles on Fri., 8 on Sat. and 8 on Sun. (2) A two-day backpack—7 miles on Sat. and 8 miles on Sun. The group size is limited to 12 and you must pre-register. For information, contact Herb Kneeland at 615-298-4462 (O), 615-460-1144 (H) or hdk3@comcast.net.

Mar 20 Laurel-Snow, Bowater Pocket Wilderness. Dayton, TN. Spring is here! And there isn't a more beautiful place in the spring than at the 80 ft. high Laurel Falls and the breathtaking view of the Tennessee Valley from the 1,700 ft. elevation of Bryan Overlook. The trail is 9 miles and is rated moderate with one difficult climb and one creek crossing. The elevation gain is 850 ft. from the parking lot to Bryan Overlook. For information, to register and obtain meeting time/location, contact Toni Reeves at 615-790-3839 or tonireeves@bellsouth.net.

(cont') NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Mar 20 Joint hike with the Murfreesboro Chapter, Rock Castle near Jamestown, TN. This historic area was contested in the War Between the States by rival "bushwhacker" bands, the Union side led by "Tinker" Dave Beaty and the Confederate side by Champ Ferguson. Among the points of interest, we'll encounter along the hike is a large rock house (rock overhang) that was used by the Beaty gang as a field hospital. We're very fortunate to have received special permission to hike on this private land, also known as the Grand Canyon of Fentress County. We will be hiking approximately 5 miles in the lower section of the gorge and the hike is rated moderate for some change of elevation. Wear sturdy hiking boots/shoes and bring water, snacks and lunch. Fount Bertram from Murfreesboro is the hike leader. Doug Burroughs is coordinating carpooling from Nashville. Call Doug at 615-587-0085 for information about meeting time and place and to register.

Mar 21 Fiery Gizzard Trail, Grundy Forest to Foster Falls, South Cumberland State Park. Tracy City, TN. This 12.5 mile trail is considered one of the most interesting and challenging in the Southeast. Attractions along the way include Big Fiery Gizzard Creek pouring through the slot of Black Canyon, the pillars of Chimney Rocks, Sycamore Falls, the opening to Dog Hole mine, Raven Point overlook, Laurel Gorge, and Foster Falls. This beautiful hike is one way and requires a shuttle. It is rated difficult for length, rocky terrain, ascents, and descents. Bring snacks, lunch, water—sturdy boots are required. Meet 7:00 am at Target parking lot on Bell Road and I-24. E-mail Robin Harkins at redtailtime@hotmail.com or call 615-399-3872 (home) or 615-260-6369 (cell).

Mar 25 (Thu) Wildflower Scouting at Short Springs State Natural Area and Blue Bell Island. Tullahoma, TN. Both Blue Bell Island and Short Springs SNA are well known for their abundance of wildflowers. Even though the terrain is slightly hilly and the footing uneven, hiking in both areas is fairly easy. There are creek/stream crossings at both locations; therefore, you may get your feet wet and will want to bring an extra change of socks and/or shoes. Combined, we will hike a total of about 4 miles. Bring snacks, lunch, water and any wildflower books you may have, and wear trail shoes/boots. We will meet at 8:30 am CST to carpool from Target on Bell Road (exit 59 off of I-24). For information, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Mar 27 Shakerag Hollow. Sewanee, TN. Short Springs State Natural Area and Blue Bell Island. Tullahoma, TN. Join us as we explore the top spring wild flower areas of our region. Our total distance will be about 6 miles. We will be stopping often to enjoy and identify many spring wildflowers along the way. Bring snacks, lunch, water, and wear sturdy boots. For information and to register, and obtain meeting time/location, call Jim or Marietta Poteet at 615-824-7666 or 615-824-7286.

Mar 27 Newcomers Hike on the Nashville Greenway. Nashville, TN. We will hike for about 2 hours (3-4 miles?) on the not-yet-completed Nashville Greenway along the Stones River in Donelson, near the YMCA. There are river views, interesting abandoned buildings and trestles, and lots of birds. We should see some wildflowers. Tennis shoes are fine as the way is paved and the elevations are gradual. Bring water. We will go somewhere after the hike for brunch/lunch. Pre-register with Libby Francis, 615-889-5718, or libbylibbys@comcast.net.

Mar 28 Double Bagel Hike, Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge Trails, Percy Warner Park. Nashville, TN. Reward yourself with two bagels after completing both Warner Woods Trail and Mossy Ridge Trail at Percy Warner Park. Both trails combine for a total of 7.5 miles and the hike is rated moderately difficult due to elevation change and distance. Bring water, snacks, and sturdy boots. After the hike, we will go to Breuggers Bagel at Hwy 70/100 split. Meet at 9:00 am CST at the Deep Well parking area (stone entrance into park on Hwy 100 about 1.5 miles from split). For information and to register, contact David Furse at 615-353-6435 or dfurse@comcast.net.

(cont') NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Mar 28 Obed Wild and Scenic River Segment of the Cumberland Trail. Wartburg, TN. This hike will be about 6 miles long with overlooks of the river and will be rated difficult due to climbing over and up rocks. Call Jerry Hendrixson at 615-423-7019 for meeting location and times.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (UT at Martin / Weakley County)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Clark

731-587-2225, jclark@utm.edu

MEETING: usually the 2nd Thursday

Call for confirmation or visit our chapter website.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm CST

UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center, Room 231

WEBSITE: www.utm.edu/~jclark/trails/

Mar 27 Canal Loop at Land Between the Lakes NRA. Dover, TN. The Canal Loop is the trail used by Nancy Warren to train for Mount Kilimanjaro! It has lots of ups and downs with fantastic views of Kentucky Lake. This trail is extremely popular, it is 12 miles long, but there are numerous connector trails to cut it down substantially to about any length you want. There have been some improvements on this trail recently (as of Dec. 20th)—better signs and some repairs. For information and to register, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225 or jclark@utm.edu.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 17 Bell Smith Springs, Shawnee National Forest. Eddyville, IL. Eight miles of bluff tops, springs, water-eroded rocks, and the tallest natural bridge in Illinois. There should still be lots of spring-blooming flowers. Hikers on the trip to nearby Jackson Hollow this time last year were treated to a sea of Dog Tooth Violets that were not quite ready to bloom, perhaps this year these will be out en masse. There are several stream crossings, perhaps not over the boot tops, but if you don't have waterproof boots, you will get wet! For information and to register, contact Jim Clark at 731-587-2225 or jclark@utm.edu

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Miller

931-260-6674, cardan@usit.net

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm CST, Art Circle Public Library's Community Room, 154 East 1st Street in Crossville

Mar 11 MONTHLY MEETING. Community Room of the Art Circle Public Library. 6:30 pm CST. Speakers: Connie Barlow, popular science author, and Michael Dowd. They will present a program about the scientific understanding of the universe. Connie will discuss the most recent discoveries that have been made through the use of space probes, the inspirational insights of astronauts and scientific discoveries made by astronomers using powerful telescopes. Bring your star-loving friends of all ages and join us for a sparkling evening of education about the universe.

Mar 13 Virgin Falls. This is an 8-mile moderately difficult to difficult hike to the 110-foot tall Virgin Falls. Along the way, we will pass a 30-foot waterfall, Big Laurel Falls. This is a great hike during the spring when there should be plenty of water going over the falls and wildflowers along the trail. Meet at 8:00 am CST in front of the Tractor Supply store. For more information and to register, contact Gene or Myra Holloway at 931-788-1724 or by e-mail at Holloway_MB@roanestate.edu.

(cont') PLATEAU CHAPTER

Mar 27 Rock Creek Loop, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Soddy Daisy, TN. This is a moderate loop hike of 5.7 miles. The loop features rock staircases and overlooks with views of high bluff lines. There should be a variety of wildflowers along the trail. Meet at 8:00 am CST at Cumberland Mountain State Park Visitor Center in order to carpool to the trailhead. For more information and to register, contact Bill Eldridge at 931-456-4459 or by e-mail at billsue@multipro.com.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 3 Standing Stone State Park, Monterey, TN. This is a moderate, 5-mile hike around the lake, and should be a good hike to enjoy the spring weather and see wildflowers. For information and to register, contact Charles and Leigh Jones at 931-484-5298 or e-mail cejones9@earthlink.net.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

Arleen Decker 865-856-7262 deckerstudio@bellsouth.net

This chapter is being reorganized. For further information, contact Arleen Decker at 865-856-7262 or deckerstudio@bellsouth.net. In the interim, you are welcome to attend other chapter's (13 to choose from) outings, events and meetings.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Savage

931-526-2035, savage_richard@hotmail.com

Mar 6 Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, TN. We will hike to Laurel Falls and Snow Falls. The hike features two overlooks. The hike is 10.5 miles and is rated moderate to strenuous because of two ascents. For a shorter (and much easier) hike one can hike to Laurel Falls and return, a distance of 5 miles. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00am CST. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. For information and to register, contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or savage_richard@hotmail.com.

Mar 13 Tennessee River Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail, Signal Mountain, TN. We will hike an 8-mile segment of the Cumberland Trail from Signal Point to Hwy 27. The hike features striking overlooks of the Tennessee River Gorge. The hike is rated moderate for the rocky terrain and hills. This is a one-way hike and will require shuttling. You can meet us at 7:30 am CST in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:00am. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. For information and to register contact Pat McBride at 931-836-3255 or Rita England at 931-836-1312.

Mar 20 Standing Stone State Park Lake Trail, Hilham, TN. This hike is about 5 miles and rated easy to moderate. Hopefully, we will see a lot of wildflowers. You can meet us at 9:00 am CST at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta or in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 9:30 am. Bring snacks, water, lunch, and wear good hiking boots. For information and to register, contact Wayne or Bonnie Broadway at 931-432-8346 or jwb2@charter.net.

Mar 27 "Flower Garden," Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness, Sparta, TN. The hike is 5 to 6 miles and rated moderate. We counted over 50 species of wildflowers at this site a couple of years ago. The hike will pass by Upper and Lower Polly Branch Falls and end up at the Caney Fork River. There is a possible side trip to Copper Cascades. Heavy rains could force a change in the route. You can meet us at 8:30 am CST in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 9:00 am. Bring snacks, water, lunch, extra socks, and wear good hiking boots. You will need to set aside enough time to enjoy this beautiful season of the year. If you need to hurry, drive alone and be prepared to hike out alone. For information and to register contact Ross Cardwell at 931-738-2760 or riverwood@blomand.net.

OFFICERS:

President

Fount Bertram 615-765-5357
fwberram@heartoftn.net

Vice-President

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

Treasurer

June Parker 615-832-5418
jmparker13@hotmail.com

Secretary

Nancy Juodenas 615-643-0936
njuodenas@hotmail.com

Past President

Leigh Jones 931-484-5298
cejones9@earthlink.net

Past President

Libby Francis 615-889-5718
libbyslibbys@comcast.net

West TN At-Large Director

Jerry Lenski 901-255-6574
jlenski@yahoo.com

Middle TN At-Large Director

Brent Morris 931-454-1718
bmorris@edge.net

East TN At-Large Director

Arleen Decker 865-856-7262
deckerstudio@bellsouth.net

Membership

Toni Reeves 615-790-3839
tonir@bellsouth.net

Cumberland Trail Conference

Representatives

Sandra Spearman 931-839-2320
sandbar@multiopro.com

TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council

VACANT

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD
ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

Newsletter Editor

Tina Dean editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for Chapter announcements
and articles of special interest
are due as follows:

Due	For Newsletter Dated
March 5	April 1
April 5	May 1
May 5	June 1

Articles submitted are subject to editing
and will be included as space permits.

Please send all submissions to:
editor@tennesseetrails.org

ADOPT-A-TRAIL NEWS

ADOPT-A-TRAIL OFFICER:

Harold Draper 865-689-7757 h.m.draper@att.net

Have You Considered ...

Maintaining a particular trail or section of trail?

Through the cooperation of land managers, who periodically inform us of volunteer opportunities, TTA can put you in touch with several Adopt-A-Trail programs, or offer suggestions on how to approach local land managers in your area.

The Adopt-A-Trail program is quite simple and flexible. Volunteers or chapters select the trail they wish to adopt and at the same time determine the level of trail maintenance they wish to undertake. Their only commitment is to hike, inspect, and report on the trail's conditions and maintenance needs twice per year. Light trail maintenance (clipping, pruning, trash and minor blow-down removal) is encouraged during each inspection. Serious trail problems identified will be reported to the local land management agency for resolution.

To obtain an Adopt-A-Trail or Trail Inspection form, call Harold Draper: 865-689-7757

TENNESSEE RAILS-TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

website: www.TNRailsTrails.org

TRAC is in the process of being reorganized. Stay tuned for further information.

MISSION: To act as a resource and mentor for 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.

Tennessee Trails Merchandise Order Form

_____ TTA Patch6.00
Round embroidered patch, sew it on anything.
_____ TTA Window Decal3.00
A must for each car.

TTA turned 35 in December 2003!

**Celebrate TTA's Birthday, and show
your affiliation with pride!**

_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt ...16.00*
Choose Size: Small / Medium / Large / X-Large
Choose Color: Sand / Yellow / Stone-Gray
_____ TTA 35th Anniversary Commemorative Patch6.00
Round embroidered patch commemorating TTA's 35th
Anniversary, sew it on anything.

_____ *Shipping & Handling on T-shirt Orders ONLY!!! 1.50

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE hm: (____) _____ wk: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

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.