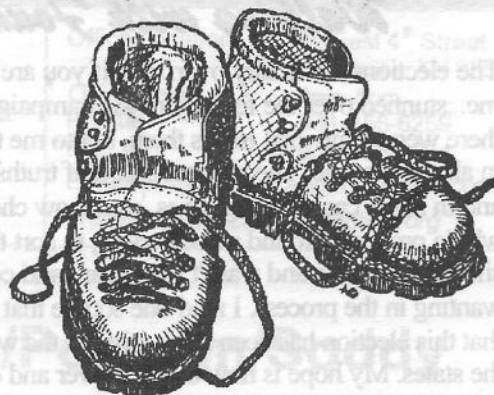


TENNESSEE TRAILS

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



TTA's 2004 Annual Meeting A Success: Thank You, Hikers!

--Ann Clark, Northwest Chapter

More than 149 "kindred spirits" from across Tennessee gathered on Nov. 5 - 7 at Pickwick Landing State Park for a weather-perfect fall weekend of hiking and raising funds to help build the Cumberland Trail. The Tennessee Trails Association 2004 Annual Meeting was indeed a success—and what a good time we had!

Record Attendance

After all the name tags, cookies, and goody bags were distributed and the final numbers tallied, Jim Clark of the co-hosting Northwest Chapter reported the official registration figures: 149 paid registrants and seven others for a total of 156 attending. Those in the "others" category also included Kindred Spirits musicians Lisa LeBleu and Teresa Collard, Martin, TN, who were joined by Teresa's mother from Atlanta, Georgia.

Music and the Unofficial Theme

Kindred Spirits, who entertained on Friday night, played folk, Cajun, and gospel music for a most appreciate audience. "They were really, really good and Teresa was so funny," said one TTA Member.

Another commented: "I sang along with every song." These musicians brought fine music and a general (unofficial) theme for the weekend: the good feeling of *kindred spirits* coming together to enjoy the outdoors and to raise funds for the Cumberland Trail Conference's Spring BreakAway, a program in which college students volunteer their time during spring break to help build the Cumberland Trail.

Auction—Record Donations!

From early in the afternoon on Friday until just before the auction on Saturday, there was a steady stream of interesting and unusual items flowing in and out of the main meeting area. The \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5 White Elephant tables were filled to capacity; the silent auction created a flurry of activity; the live auction items were placed for easy pre-auction perusal. Even other Pickwick Landing guests were curious about all the activity, and some came in to make purchases.

At the live auction on Saturday night, Auctioneer Jay Whorley did a superb job of moving items and adding to the good feeling the room.

Gloria Lenski from the co-hosting Memphis Chapter reports that proceeds from the live auction, the bake sale, and the White Elephant have exceeded all expectations. "Please look for final auction figures in the January newsletter when we will file a complete report," she said. "We are pleased that we will be able to present a most substantial check to CTC."

Hikes

The hikes at Shiloh, Big Hill Pond, and Tishomingo all received positive comments from participants. Thanks to the great hike leaders for guiding members on such good trails. A special thanks also goes to Dr. Tim Smith at Shiloh for meeting 37 TTA members and taking them on an historical hike at the park. Other hikes, leaders, and the approximate number of participants are as follows: Big Hill Pond - Ken Novak with 26 members, Big Hill Pond - Roy Corley with 6 members, Shiloh Hike - Freddi Felt with 3 members, Shiloh Compass Hike - Woody Pierce with 8 members, Tishomingo - Jerry Lenski with 26 members, Gloria Lenski with 21 members. Carol Haley also led a successful hike at Big Hill Pond on Sunday morning.

Thank you, hikers!

All of us involved with planning and organizing the 2004 meeting thank you—the hikers—for coming out in record numbers and for sharing your time, talents, and energy with us all. Thank you also for spending so generously at the auction!

Now, please mark your calendars for Oct. 14 -16, 2005, for the next annual meeting which will be hosted by the Columbia/Franklin, Highland Rim and Murfreesboro chapters and held in Middle Tennessee. More details about the next annual meeting will be forthcoming in other newsletters as we begin a new hiking year where both familiar and yet-to-be explored trails await us.

NOTE: Please look for all auction statistics and contributors in the January newsletter!

Walking with Fount

The elections are finally over...and if you are like me...stunned over the ferocity of the campaigns. I am sure there were some vital issues there, but to me they got lost in all the rhetoric. The accusations, half truths, innuendoes and in some cases, outright lies, somehow cheapened the whole process. I found myself trying to sort through and sift out what was and wasn't significant and coming up wanting in the process. I read one source that contended that this election has been as divisive as the war between the states. My hope is now that it is over and done with, we can put all of that behind us and we can come back together as a country and move on to dealing with the many problems that we face as Americans.

The positives, however, are abundant for us in the hiking community. I have word from Alabama that the Forever Wild Fund has purchased additional land in the Walls of Jericho area and they now have more than 20,000 acres of this pristine wilderness. With the 27,000 acres acquired by the Nature Conservancy on the Tennessee side of the border, we will have an almost unlimited opportunity to develop and use this beautiful acquisition. The Alabama people have cut a trail into the heart of the area and propose a network of 50+ miles of foot trails. There are some hikes scheduled for that area in the future. I would like to see us take a very active role in the development of this recreation area on the Tennessee side. I will be talking with the Alabama people more in days to come and will try to keep us on the cutting edge of the project.

The Cumberland Trail is continuing to put miles of hiking trail on the ground and still needs our volunteer efforts. The Spring BreakAway program is scheduled to run from February 27 through March 26, 2005. Please mark your calendars and set some time aside during this to volunteer your services. There are tons of things to do, even if you don't feel up to the rigors of actual trail building. If you have participated in the past, I don't have to tell you...but if you haven't...the experience of working with these kids is an experience you won't forget! It simple amazes me that year after year we get the quality of kids that we do. Discipline is something we just don't have to deal with. The kids come in with an unmatched enthusiasm that has to be seen to be believed. I tell them they are keeping me young and believe me I think that is true!

For those of you I got to visit with at our Annual Meeting...it means a lot to me to see people I only get to see once a year. For those of you that weren't there...well...you missed a good time! Maybe I will see some of you on the trails in the coming year...Happy Holidays and Happy Trails...

Fount

2005 Directory Change

The Board of Directors voted in the recent board meeting to modify the new directory by deleting the work telephone numbers and inserting e-mail addresses. In order for this to take place, we will need your e-mail address. Please send it to me and I'll get it added to your entry in the 2005 Directory. We assure you that this will not add spam to your system. We will not sell, loan or exchange your address with outside sources. I am confident this will enhance our ability to communicate with each other. If for some reason you don't want your e-mail included, just send me a note to that effect.

Fount Bertram
fwbertram@heartofin.net

Multi-Chapter New Year's Day Hike

The New Year's Day hike last January was a joint venture for several of the chapters. The hike was very well attending and it was a great opportunity to meet members from other Chapters. We were blessed with good weather. It was a little chilly to start but the sun came out and allowed us to shed our jackets when we stopped close to Screw Bluff Overlook for lunch. The food and beverages brought in by every-one were so generous that it was a mini hike just going up and down the food line! We feasted on ham, chicken, casseroles, salads, soup, fruit, brownies, chocolate cups, cakes etc. We sipped hot chocolate, tea, juices and other traditional beverages. A truly scrumptious start to the New Year. For more news on this great event, check Page 7, and be sure to mark it on your calendars!

Evan Means Small Grants Program Deadline is December 31, 2004

In February 2005, TTA's Board of Directors will award small grants memorializing Evan Means. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible with the chartered objectives of 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, 2004.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grant application for the February 2005 Evan Means Small Grant Program Award.

Grant request 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:

Leigh Jones, TTA Grants Administrator
P.O. Box 405; Pleasant Hill, TN 38555

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 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.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive Director..... Paul Freeman..... paul.freeman@frontiernet.net
Trail Development &
Maintenance Coordinator Mark Stanfill mark.stanfill@frontiernet.net
Office Manager..... Nora Beck..... nora.beck@frontiernet.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

Leaving Your Legacy in Rock/Possum/Soddy

We had more good times during our Fall Program based out of the Lutheran Camp in Soddy Daisy. Volunteers continued the effort building trail in Rock/Possum/Soddy Creek Gorges. There is now 20 miles of trail built of the estimated 35-mile segment. This engagement began in the fall of 2002 in Rock Creek and now we can proclaim with confidence that Rock Creek is open for hiking! I know that the last two years have been all about Rock/Possum/Soddy, but this stage will be coming to a close in 2005. If you have not been involved directly with the CTC in R/P/S than 2005 will be your last chance in "Leaving Your Legacy in R/P/S". After that our programs will be re-engineered and adjusted for a new location. We will still continue with Spring BreakAway and BIG DIG, but the format will have to change with the new environment. So in 2005 it will be "no holds bar" to complete R/P/S Segment.

Spring BreakAway 2005 will be the decade celebration as we go into the 10th year of hosting the program. The dates are February 27 – March 26. We will continue to use the Dogwood Lodge as our base of operations and use the Lutheran Camp in reserve. As of today we have 19 colleges and one Amerciorp team. Those who are not familiar with Spring BreakAway this is a national program for colleges to offer service learning in their curriculum. Students arrive Sunday afternoon, work Monday-Friday with Wednesday being their day off, and depart Saturday morning. We will be hosting four weeks where we will host between 80 and 100 students per week.

How can I help you ask? We need volunteers to help the students BUILD TRAIL. Students not

only meet other students, but they enjoy meeting people who are involved in TTA/CTC and learn about why you are out there with them. If you don't know how to build trail neither do they that is why we have leadership in place to teach you as well as them.

We need KITCHEN HELP to cook and help prepare the food for the hungry trail builders. Betty Porter will be leading the volunteers in the kitchen for both Spring BreakAway and Big Dig. She can use your help with either cooking or picking up food. We will also continue the ADOPT-A-FOOD for the program. This is where we ask TTA chapters to donate or to be in charge of raising funds to purchase food. Betty and I will coordinate this effort, so details will be coming in January. FUNDS!!! We need any additional funds for housing and food.

The Big Dig III will continue where Spring BreakAway ended. This is an opportunity for all to come out and volunteer their skills. Like BreakAway we will need trail builders, cooks, camp support, food, and funds. The dates are May 23 – June 25 at the Dogwood Camp. The CTC will be reaching out to the broad community and non-traditional methods (Bonnaroo) for volunteers. More details will be down the pike.

Contact me to learn more about how to "Leave Your Legacy" behind in Rock/Possum/Soddy.

Look for more details in the following TTA Newsletters and Happy Holidays to all.

Mark

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.

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, lynntakacs@comcast.net or

ttakacs@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Kathy Hicks 865-938-6846, khudson3@utk.edu

Because of Christmas at Rugby events on December 4 and 11 and the holidays, there are no regularly scheduled hikes in December, but chapter members should check e-mail for impromptu hikes around the Rugby area during the holidays.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual business meeting, Friday evening, January 7, 2005, in Rugby. We'll elect officers and plan hikes for the year. Check the January Newsletter for program details, meeting place, and time.

HIKE REPORT

November 6, 2004. Dedication of the Russell-Sonder Greenway, at the confluence of Crooked Creek and Clear Fork River at Peters Ford, Fentress Co. There were about 35 participants, many from Nashville who are associated in one way or another with the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. This area, accessible only by crossing the Clear Fork, has been set aside by its owners in an effort to protect the watershed of that stream, which merges with others to form the Big South Fork (BSF) of the Cumberland. We hiked about a mile and a half (one way, then returning) along an old county road that runs parallel to the Clear Fork. Several large rock cairns near the old roadway remain a mystery to us, but there may be one or two old-timers who remember what they were for. There is envisioned a much longer loop trail which will return to the point of origin along Crooked Creek, but we did not attempt this on account of time and the presence of several elderly hikers. Following the hike, Lee Russell and Ed Sonder spoke at the dedication ceremony. Due to heavy rains earlier in the week, we had to cross the Clear Fork by canoe and dinghy. Even that would have been impossible two days before. During time of drought, it may be possible to walk across it with appropriate footwear. Several of us in the BSF and Nashville chapters plan to plot out the loop trail, using a GPS device, and locate other points of interest accessible from the main trail. It must be borne in mind that this area remains private land.

--Tom Howell

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 website:

www.tennesseetrails.org/release.php

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 Janus 931-551-8523

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

Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd

Dec 4 Werner Park, Nashville, TN. Six miles moderate. It's always a pleasure to hike Werner Park and its close to home. For more information, contact Jack Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Dec 11 Pickett Loop, Land Between the Lakes. We have not hiked this trail in awhile. Located in the southern portion of Land Between the Lakes, the hike will be easy. Approximately 6 miles. For more information, contact Sandy Janus at 931-551-8523.

Dec 18 Annual Christmas Party. Pot Luck Dinner at the home of Jo & Charlie Putnam. Thanks, Jo & Charlie for opening your lovely home to us again. Eating time is 6:00 pm. For more information, contact Jo or Charlie Putnam at 931-362-3669.

NO MONTHLY MEETING in December. The Christmas Party will be our meeting for December.

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Hike. Downtown Clarksville, TN. Two miles. Start the New Year right "hiking with friends." For more information, contact Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

Jan 1 New Year's Day Hike. Montgomery Bell State Park. White Bluff, TN. Rated moderate - 8 or 12 miles. Who knows maybe someone will bring black-eyed peas and corn bread to share for lunch!! For more information, contact Suva Bastin at 931-645-2849.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rick Lausten

615-373-0029, saturncar1@aol.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Tanya Juday 931-490-0856

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

Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

Dec 7 MONTHLY MEETING 6:30 Grand Chinese Buffet 5228 N. Main Street Spring Hill, TN. This is our annual Christmas Party, please join in. We will do a small gift exchange (\$5 max with a hiking theme). Our speaker will be Spencer Knoch. Spencer is an accomplished hiker, he has thru hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine and is a registered Maine Guide having taught backpacking in the Maine wilderness. Spencer is a lightweight backpacker and will speak to us on his recommendations for light weight backpacking gear.

(cont') COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

Dec 5 Brenda Callahan will lead our chapter on a hike of the Buggy Top trail near Monteagle, TN. This is a 4.5 mile hike rated moderate due to the high bluffs and steep descent. You will need to bring a change of cloths for after our hike we will attend the Christmas celebration for the Festival of Lessons and Carols in the Episcopal All Saint's Cathedral at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. This special choral service is patterned after the celebration by the same name that has been held at King's College, Cambridge University in England since 1918. The Chapel is beautiful; the voices angelic; the services is awe-inspiring. Bring water and lunch for the trail. After the services we will have dinner at The Smokehouse Restaurant. We will meet at Stan's Restaurant just west of I-65 Columbia exit 46 and leave at 9 am. For more information and to register call Brenda at 931-987-0678 or bkc4389@yahoo.com.

HIKE REPORTS

On October 9, Toni Reeves led a joint hike with the Nashville chapter of the Piney River trail, part of the Cumberland Trail. To begin someone please tell Toni this is not a flat trail but has several hills to climb. There were 9 of us who did climb those hills in the pouring rain. Entertainment was provided as we watched Toni do the Copper Head two step while singing that ever popular song "Keith! There's a snake on that Rock!" While Toni worked to get her heart rate back down the rest of us watched and photographed the camouflaged retile, herpetologically known as "ankelus biteus." But wait our day was not over yet, for as we crossed the bridge over the Pine River we discovered the recent storms had washed away the steps from the bridge. While several climbed down the 15 feet to the river bank others chose to ford the river over the many rocks. After a long, wet day of hiking we stopped in Cookeville and had a Mexican dinner where we met friends from the Upper Cumberland chapter.

On October 16, we hiked in the Savage Gulf, and hiking this is what hiking in Tennessee is all about! Hiking this trail in October is fantastic! Five of us hiked in the best weather possible, 60 degrees and bright blue skies. We sat on the bluff, feet dangling, sun and wind in our face eating our lunch. We walked through hard wood forest with the autumn colors surrounding us. We crossed streams and saw plunging water falls. Anytime anyone wants to hike this Eden, please give me a call.

On October 23-24, Ernie Stewart led seven soaked backpackers on Roan Mountain. Ernie reports that after hiking Saturday in soaking rain, being soaked in by clouds and weather not improving on Sunday they decided to pack it in and not continue their hike.

On October 30, Bob Warnica led a hike on the Virgin Falls Trail. We hiked up to a great view of the Caney Fork River Valley but on our way down lost the poorly marked trail in all the lief cover. We bushwhacked our way back to the main trail, then the five of us preceded on to our reward, a view of the spectacular Virgin Falls. After, we stopped for a great dinner of bacon and eggs and to share stories of our hike at Sparta's Huddle House.

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan We have plans in January to hike at Flame Girl's (Cindy Kinnard) cabin just north of Nashville and Spencer Knoch has invited our chapter to a potluck dinner at his home in Leipers Fork. We will notify you of the exact dates.

Feb 12 Bobby Hardeman will lead a hike at Fall Creek Falls. Register at puttr22@aol.com.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm

865-426-4472, Richard.Helm@ahss.org

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam

423-562-3227, pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETING: Monthly - 1st Monday

Doris and Gordon Early's home

Cove Lake Chapter has no hikes scheduled for December. Check out Other hikes sponsored by other chapters, especially the New Year's Potluck Hike!

Dec 6 MONTHLY MEETING and annual Christmas Dinner will be held the first Monday in December (Dec. 6) at Doris and Gordon Early's home. For more information, contact the Earlys at 423-566-8319. Reservations to next October's outing to Hike Inn need to be turned in, along with your money, to Mari Haslam this month. Contact Mari at 423-562-3227 for more information.

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall

rosemary_1@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Bob Uhren

snowcap34@charter.net

TREASURER: Harold Draper, h.m.draper@att.net

East TN Chapter has no hikes scheduled for December. Check out Other hikes sponsored by other chapters.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Doug Ratliff

931-455-0249, dougratliff@hotmail.com

MEETING: Saturday, Dec 11, Time and location to be determined. Please contact Doug Ratliff for details.

Dec 4 Fall Creek Falls State Park. Join us for a scenic, moderately rated 5 mile walk. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring water, and a snack. To register, contact Brent Morris at 931-454-1718 or bmorris@edge.net.

Dec 11 MONTHLY MEETING/CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Instead of our normal monthly meeting, we will have a Christmas Social on the afternoon/evening of December 11. For time, location, and to sign up to bring a finger food, please contact Doug Ratliff at 931-455-0249 or dougratliff@hotmail.com.

TRAIL WORK REPORT

Members of Tennessee Trails Association, the Friends of Short Springs, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation worked at Short Springs State Natural Area near Tullahoma on National Public Lands Day, September 18. The Adams Falls loop trail was completed and trash along the highway was collected. Thanks to Ellen Anderson, Sharon Bell, Pat Clemens, Marjorie Collier, Jeff Corser, Lee Harris, Earl Kiech, Brent Morris, Doug Ratliff, and Ross Roepke. Also, Earl Kiech and Doug Ratliff installed five new trail signs in October.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Lee Sparks

731-298-1658, leesq@aeneas.net

MEETING: Meeting: Monthly: 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT
Lambuth University, 705 Lambuth Blvd, Hyde Hall in basement
on Maple Street. Look for TTA signs.

Dec 4 Big Hill Pond State Park, Pocahtontas, TN Meet at the boat dock in the park at 9:30 am.. The 8-mile loop trail hike is rated moderate and elevations vary from 611 to 380 feet. An 0.8 mile boardwalk crosses Dismal Swamp, a unique area with abundant wildlife. Bring lunch and water. Boots strongly recommended. After the hike we will have a bonfire social at Ann Knighton's. New hikers welcome! To carpool and to register for the hike, contact Sara Hakim 731-425-3260 hakim@lambuth.edu To plan the food for the social, contact Ann Knighton alittleless50@msn.com

Dec 7 MONTHLY MEETING Come help us plan our hike schedule for 2005. New hikers and guest are always welcome!

Dec 12 Harbor Town Hike Christmas Hike We are joining the Memphis chapter for a Christmas hike in Harbor Town. To register, contact Gary Cooper 731-424-5375 or gcooper52@yahoo.com.

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 7:00 pm CT
Germantown Library

Dec 4 Downtown Historic Hike, Part 2 Join us for an interesting and educational 6-mile hike through the oldest and most historic part of city of Memphis. The walk starts at 9:30 am at the Memphis I-40 Welcome Center parking lot, on the northwest corner of Riverside Drive and Jefferson. It is likely to be cold and maybe windy...check the weather and dress appropriately. New hikers welcome! For information, call Jerry Lenski at 901-213-0604.

Dec 9 Memphis Chapter Annual Christmas Party. 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 dishes and soft drinks; an oven is available for heating, and we'll supply kitchen facilities, coffee, plates, cups, and eating utensils. Socializing begins around 6:30, with dinner at 7:00 pm. The 2005 hiking schedule will be distributed at the meeting afterward. Call Betty Porter at 901-755-4740 for directions.

Dec 12 Harbor Town Christmas Hike We will meet in the Peabody Hotel Lobby near the Christmas Tree at 5:00 pm and walk down to Harbor Town along the river then walk or take a Trolley ride back to the Peabody. Approx 5-6 mile walk. New Hikers Welcome. For information, call Jerry Lenski, 901-213-0604

(cont') MEMPHIS CHAPTER

Jan 8 Herb Parsons Lake, Northeast of Collierville, near Collierville Arlington Rd. and Macon Rd. Hike begins at 9:45 am at the lake. Carpool meets at 9:00 am at the soccer field on Walnut Grove Road (located on the south side of Walnut Grove, west of the traffic light at Farm Road). Bring lunch and water and join the fun for this easy 6-mile walk around the lake. New Hikers Welcome! Call Freddie Felt at 901-685-9915 for information.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Anna Bertram (also Board Rep.)

615-765-5357, abertram@heartoftn.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(Call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Ron Dunn

615-867-3301, trekkingtn@yahoo.com

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

Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station

697 Barfield Rd., Murfreesboro

Dec 11 Beginners and New Comers - How to pace yourselves for the holidays: Start your morning with a brisk, moderate, 2 1/2 mile walk on the Warner Woods Trail. Move to a gentle stroll at the Cheekwood grounds and mansion during their "Festival of the Holidays." Relax over lunch in "The Pineapple Room" Enjoy the rest of the day. Bring water, snacks, and \$\$\$. For more information, contact Jeanne' Hoechst-Ronner 890-9084 or email hoaxie@comcast.net.

Dec 14 We will meet one hour earlier for the Family Christmas Dinner Party, starting at 6:00 pm. Bring a favorite holiday dish to share, and bring your family and friends. Beverages, plates, and other eating utensils will be furnished. We will have a wonderful after-dinner program brought to us by Bobby Fulcher, the Manager for the Cumberland Trail State Park. Bobby's presentation will be on Cumberland Trail Music and Cultural Resource Management. Those who know Bobby will attest to the fact that he is an especially entertaining speaker and musician with many talents. You will also have this one last chance to stock up on T.T.A. t-shirts, caps, and bandanas before Christmas, so bring your check books!

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan 1 NEW YEAR'S HIKE AND FEAST - MULTI CHAPTERS - AT THE BRIDGESTONE - FIRESTONE CENTENNIAL WILDERNESS. The tradition lives on! The superstition is that whatever you do on New Years Day, you'll continue to do all year, so come out and hike and feast with us! Contact Fount Bertram at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan 8 Newcomers and Beginners Hike at Long Hunter State Park with Jeanne' Hoechst-Ronner 615-890-9084 or hoaxie@comcast.net

(cont') MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

Jan 11 MONTHLY MEETING. The program will be The Lewis and Clark Trail, Part II, presented by Bertha Chrietzberg.

Also, announcing a monthly Swap and Shop starting at the January meeting! Do you have items suitable for camping and hiking you no longer use? Have you up-scaled your equipment and still have the old ones? Come a few minutes early and bring your articles. Stick a price tag on them if you wish. We'll have an "official" Swap and Shop table for displaying them. You might even find something you want too! Just take your articles home at the end of the meeting if they have not been bought or swapped. No fees. No strings attached. Bring them as many times as you like.

Jan 15 Rugby Hike and Social at the Poteet's home, Shadowlands. Anna and Fount Bertram 615-765-5357 or abertram@heartoftn.net

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: David Furse

615-308-7988, dfurse@comcast.net

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Nancy Juodenas, njuodenas@hotmail.com

Sue Waldrop

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

TN Wildlife Resources Association meeting room at Ellington Agricultural Center, 5105 Edmondson Pike

HIKING HOTLINE - 615-367-7045

Dec 4 Beaman Hike, Joelton, TN. Join Friends of Beaman Park as we explore one of Nashville's newer parks being developed by volunteers. Our hike is from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon CT 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

Dec 5 Mill Creek South Greenway Community Center for a 3-mile walk (mostly paved) and then an additional 2 mile walk at the greenway along Mill Creek at my house, which is about 1 mile away. Meet at 2:00 at the Antioch Antioch Community Center which is located at Blue Hole Rd. 1/2 mile north of Bell Road. From I-24 East, exit at 59 and go right on Bell Rd. for about 1 mile to Blue Hole. Right on B.H. to Community Center on left. Coming from I-65 go East on Bell Road about 6 miles to Blue Hole. Old Hickory becomes Bell at Nolensville. Left, North on Blue Hole. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. May dine out together after at local eatery. Call Lee Harris 315-0440 or ephaut@juno.com for more information and/or reservations.

Dec 5 Stillhouse Hollow Falls The hike is about one mile (1/2 mile in and 1/2 mile out). We will also walk to Rattlesnake Falls, which is about a mile away from Still House Hollow Falls. This hike is also about a mile round trip. The hikes are very easy, except for the option of going to the bottom of Rattlesnake Falls, which has some tricky steps along a ledge. We will meet at our office which is located at 1205-A Linden Avenue, right off 12th Avenue South.

(cont' NASHVILLE CHAPTER

(cont') Dec 5 We will go south on 65, take the Saturn parkway, take highway 43 through Columbia and it is hard to find if you don't know where it is. To register, contact Steve Walsh at 615 386-3171.

Dec 11 Trail building work day 9:00-12:00 at Beaman. Call 299-9586 for more information.

Dec 11 HOLIDAY PARTY It's time for our annual Holiday Party! In lieu of our monthly meeting, we will gather at 6:30 pm CT at Jim and Marietta Poteet's home (324 Raintree Drive in Hendersonville). Please bring a snack, finger food or your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share. Sodas, paper goods and cutlery are provided, and it's BYOB if you desire anything else to drink. There are several options for finding Jim and Marietta's house. For those that like to travel by GPS, the latitude/longitude coordinates are: 36.26585/-86.57825. Check TTA web calendar for directions (www.TennesseeTrails.org), or e-mail jpoteet@genesco.com.

Dec 11-12 Frozen Head Backpack. For more information, contact Nancy Juodenas at njuodenas@hotmail.com.

Dec 12 Sewanee Perimeter Trail. University of the South. Sewanee, TN. The Perimeter Trail provides wonderful bluff overlooks, waterfalls and views of interesting homes perched on a bluff. We will hike only 9 1/2 miles of this 20-mile trail that weaves its way around the University of the South campus. This is a one-way hike (not a loop) and will require us to have cars parked at each end of the trail. The trail is rated moderate for some climbs and rock scrambling. Wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water, lunch and snacks. Afterwards we will eat at a local restaurant.(bring \$\$\$) For meeting time and place and to register call Doug Burroughs at 615-292-9307 or Doug.Burroughs@state.tn.us.

Dec 18 Volunteer Trail, Long Hunter State Park. This hike is rated moderate due to the 11-12 mile length round trip. It is relatively flat and follows the lake. Wear sturdy shoes as it is somewhat rocky. There is a \$3 parking fee, unless you have a parking pass. We will meet at the trailhead at 9:00am. Register with Garnett Rush, rushga01@yahoo.com

Jan 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE & FEAST. BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE WILDERNESS AREA.

Derossett, TN. This is a joint outing with several Middle TN chapters. We will hike Polly Branch Falls Trail to the Screw Bluff Overlook, which is at the end of the Chestnut Mountain Trail where we will serve up a New Year's Day feast, socialize and take in the views of the Caney Fork River Gorge. We will return to our cars via the Chestnut Mountain Trail. The total hiking distance is 6 miles and rated moderate due to the rocky, uneven terrain and two small stream crossings. Sturdy hiking shoes that provide stability are strongly advised! Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing something (black-eyed peas, cornbread, greens, cook stoves, cook pots, paper plates, cups and cutlery, desserts, cider or hot chocolate and the water for making them, napkins and garbage bags to remove our trash). Even if you're not a chef, you can help by carrying in/out stuff. **DON'T DELAY, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE DECEMBER 29!** To sign up for a task and obtain carpool meeting time/location, call or email June Parker at 615-832-5418 or jmparker@bellsouth.net. Sorry, this is not an outing recommended for young children or dogs.

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 CT

UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center, Room 231

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

Northwest Chapter does not have any hikes scheduled for December. Please join other Chapter activities.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Miller

931-260-6674, cardan@usit.net

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

There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information or to get on an e-mail list for the hikes, contact Bill Haynes at 931/707-7606 or e-mail sue1290@frontiernet.net.

(cont') PLATEAU CHAPTER

Dec 4 Walls of Jericho Wilderness and Recreation Area, Winchester, TN and Jackson County, AL. This is the new area open to the public. The hike is 7 miles roundtrip and is rated strenuous due to the elevation change of 1000 feet and the slippery areas near the bottom of the trail. However, the hike is worth the effort due to the 150 - 200 foot rock cliffs in the canyon from which the area derives its name. Wear boots; bring a hiking stick, food, water, and snacks, as it will be a long day. Meet at the Tractor Supply parking lot in Crossville at 8:00 CT to carpool. A group of hikers are planning to eat dinner at the Foglight Restaurant near Rock Island State Park on the way home. Bring money (also BYOB), if you intend to eat at the restaurant. For more information and to register, contact Bill Harris at 931/484-9152.

Dec 9 MONTHLY MEETING Christmas Social and monthly chapter meeting. at 6:30 pm at the Community Room of the Art Circle Public Library. We'll have our annual Christmas social with heavy hors d'oeuvres. We'll also have a secret Santa gift exchange (value \$5 - \$10). Last but not least, we need to elect chapter officers for next year and plan hikes for 2005. Sue Eldridge has volunteered to coordinate the food list and be the contact for the social. For more information, call her at 931/456-4459.

Dec 11 Lilly Bridge Overlook, Obed Wild and Scenic River, North of Crossville, TN. We'll hike to the Lilly Bridge Overlook and then go along a ridge to a point where Clear Creek and the Obed River join. This will give us a total distance of about 4 miles. The trail is easy most of the way, but is rated moderate due to some elevation gain. Bring snacks and water. Meet at the Genesis Road Dairy Queen at 8:00 am CT. For more information and to register, contact Carolyn Miller at cardan@usit.net or 931/260-6674.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

Arleen Decker 865-856-7262

This chapter is being reorganized. For further information contact the T.T.A. President, Fount Bertram, at 615-765-5357 or fwbertram@heartoftn.net. In the interim, you are welcome to attend other chapters (13 to choose from) **outings, events and meetings.**

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Savage

931-526-2035, savage_richard@hotmail.com

Dec 4 Virgin Falls, Bowater Pocket Wilderness, Sparta, TN. This is one of Middle Tennessee's most interesting hikes featuring waterfalls and caves. The hike is 8 miles and is rated moderate to strenuous. For a shorter hike, one can hike to Laurel Falls and return which makes the length 4 miles. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. You can meet us at the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 8:00 am CT or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:30. For information and to register contact Louise Miniard at 931-528-9115 or lminiard@flowservice.com.

Dec 11 Meadow Creek, Monterey, TN. This trail winds along Meadow Creek on property belonging to the Meadow Creek Conservation Coalition. The trail is overhung with rhododendron, mountain laurel, and hemlock with numerous bluffs. The hike is about 3 miles and is rated moderate. There are numerous choices for a longer hike that could include more bluffs, a small waterfall, and an old moonshine still site or two. You can meet us in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville at 9:00 am CT. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. For information and to register call Bonita Barger at 931-268-3935.

Winter's Beauty

Is it not fine to walk in spring,
When leaves are born, and hear birds sing?
And when they lose their singing powers,
In summer, watch the bees at flowers?
Is it not fine, when summer's past,
To have the leaves, no longer fast,
Biting my heel where'er I go,
Or dancing lightly on my toe?
Now winter's here and rivers freeze;
As I walk out I see the trees,
Wherein the pretty squirrels sleep,
All standing in the snow so deep:
And every twig, however small,
Is blossomed white and beautiful.
Then welcome, winter, with thy power
To make this tree a big white flower;
To make this tree a lovely sight,
With fifty brown arms draped in white,
While thousands of small fingers show
In soft white gloves of purest snow.

--W.H. Davies

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TN Rails To Trails Advisory Council

VACANT

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ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

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Tina Dean 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, contact Harold Draper at 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.*

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

Newsletter Deadlines

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

Due For Newsletter Dated

Dec 5.....January 1

Jan 5.....February 1

Feb 5.....March 1

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

Please send all submissions to:
editor@tennesseetrails.org