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



THE BIG DIG NEEDS YOU

"Now is the time to start planning to attend Big Dig 2006 May 21 – June 24 at Dogwood Lodge at Soddy Daisy, TN. We really need help in the kitchen to support all the trail workers. You can help cook, prep and/or wash dishes. This is a fun time with fewer people but lots of old friends. If you want to work on the trail, that's great. But if you don't want to do trail construction, come for several days and help out in the kitchen. Breakfast is early but there is opportunity for a nap during the day. Call me and I will schedule time at your convenience. This year we are asking only for cash donations for food to keep the pantry inventory low.

Betty Porter 901-755-4740 Kitchen Coordinator"

Spring cleaning???

Don't throw away your "treasures"-Donate them to TTA's Annual Meeting Auctions

EVAN MEANS GRANTS ANNOUNCED

At their February Board meeting the TTA Board voted to award \$2325 worth of Evan Means grants to three volunteer groups across Tennessee to help underwrite trail related projects. Cumberland Trail Conference will use their \$1500 grant to help with Big Dig 2006. The Big South Fork chapter was granted \$225 to enable them to install tree identification labels to a variety of typical trees along the Laurel Branch Trail in the Rugby area. The trails Committee of WATeR is constructing a hiking trail along the eastern shoreline of Tellico Lake in Loudon County and their \$600 grant will help with the cost of building additional bridges.

Any volunteered based non-profit organization working alone or working through public agencies is eligible to apply for Evan Means Grants. TTA through its grant program looks forward to being supportive of all hiking and environmental groups throughout the state as they make it possible for future generations of Tennesseans to enjoy our great state's natural resources.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Start making plans now to attend
The annual meeting at Land Between the
Lake's

Brandon Springs on Oct 20-22, 2006! Watch for Details in Future Issues

-- Tom Howell, former BSF Chapter officer]

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFF:

Executive Director......Paul Freemanpaul.freeman@frontiernet.net

Trail Development &

Maintenance Coordinator: Vacant

Office Manager......Janet D. Smith.....janet.d.smith@frontiernet.net

Office Location 19 East 4th Street

Crossville, TN 38555

 Office Hours
 8am-5pm

 Phone:
 931-456-6259

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 931-456-4934

 Email: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

Think Ahead into 2006: Spring Breakaway - Soddy Daisy, TN - Dogwood Lodge

How would you like to be part of the kitchen cooking crew for BreakAway 2006? We always need lots of help and we run a happy kitchen. And I'll tell you a secret -- it is fun – except for that early wake -up call, but you can be first in the buffet line. Someone else does most of the clean up and everyone thinks you are wonderful for putting all that delicious food on the table.

BreakAway 2006 will run for four weeks during the time frame of February 26 to April 1st. The CTC is finalizing the schedule with the schools. We always have a big crowd of college students because they know our ASB is such a good experience. We need cooks and helpers and a dishwasher. If you are interested, give me a call. Please plan on staying several days so you can really learn the routine and also get to know the students. I need to schedule helpers so everyone does not come at the same time. Students arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave after breakfast on Saturday. They are on their own for Wednesday supper - and so are the cooks!

In 2006 we will not ask for food donations, but we will accept cash donations. There have been some minor problems in previous years with transportation and also container sizes. This year we have access to another food wholesaler as well as Sam's so we can keep a smaller inventory for the set menu.

I hope to see all you experienced cooks who worked previous BreakAways and everyone who has been thinking about working for the past three years. Come on, make the commitment; you will be glad you did.

Betty Porter, Kitchen Coordinator, 901-755-4740 Ray Haley, Chief Cook

Adopt-A-Trail: We Need Your Help

Due to our thrust to build new trail and the rash of storms over the last couple of years, trail maintenance on the Cumberland Trail has fallen behind in some areas. We need your help by adopting a segment of the Cumberland Trail. You can co-adopt with others if a favorite section is already adopted. Go to the Cumberland Trail webpage and see the Adopt a Trail page for a list of segments.

What do you have to do?

- $\sqrt{}$ Walk the segment 3 or 4 times a year, especially in the spring.
- √ Do what you can. If you can run a chainsaw, great!
- $\sqrt{}$ Report to the office what you did and the condition of the trail.

Adoptees can be individuals, families, scouts, hiking groups, or church groups. For more information or questions, contact CTC.

Your Generosity Benefits All

When you join or renew your Tennessee Trails membership, you have the opportunity to become a Supporting Member by donating a little (or a lot) above the regular dues.

In the past, Supporting Member donations in excess of the regular dues were allocated to TTA's general operating fund. At the November 2001 Annual Meeting, TTA's Board of Directors voted to allocate Supporting Member donations to the Evan Means Small Grants Fund. Your tax-deductible Supporting Member donations will now directly benefit trail projects throughout the state of Tennessee. We thank you all for your support of TTA at any membership level, but we hope you will enrich Tennessee's trail system by joining or renewing as a Supporting Member.

Carpool Etiquette

Gasoline prices have continued to roller coaster up and down. Please be considerate and take your turn as a carpool driver. If you are a rider, always contribute to the cost of gasoline (i.e. bring small bills, it'll save time and prevent the inconvenience).

Your driver is not a chauffeur. Assist him or her by reading the map and/or directions to the trailhead. Help your driver remain alert on the drive home by staying awake and conversing. All passengers must wear seat belts to minimize the risk of injury in case of an accident!!! The drive is generally the most dangerous part of any hiking trip.

Get Away In Your Own Backyard! Special Winter Rates at Tennessee State Parks

No more excuses, it's time to get away, especially when Tennessee State Parks is offering special rates on its 360 villas and cabins, and 6 inns to those who seek a change of scenery or a little seclusion (no crowds) during the winter months. From now through March 31, 2006, all state park lodging will be discounted with the presentation of a Winter Discount Coupon.

With a Tennessee State Park's special Winter Discount Coupon, park visitors can buy 1 night and get 1 free. To stay at an inn, guests can purchase 2 rooms for \$79.95 or 1 room for \$42.95. The flexible 2 room special rate allows guests to use 1 room for 2 consecutive nights or use 2 rooms for 1 night.

Guests must present a Winter Discount Coupon upon check-in in order to receive the discount. The discount is good seven days a week and is valid only for reservations made on or after November 1, 2005 (the starting date of this promotion). Holidays are not included and certain other restrictions may apply. To receive a Winter Discount Coupon by mail, call the state park's information line at 615-532-0001 or toll free at 888- 867-2757. Winter Discount Coupons may also be printed from TDEC's web site at www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/promotions/.

The following Tennesssee State Parks (with inns and/or cabins) participating in this special Winter Discount promotion are Cedars of Lebanon, Chickasaw, Cumberland Mountain, Edgar Evins, Fall Creek Falls, Henry Horton, Meeman-Shelby Forest, Montgomery Bell, Natchez Trace, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Norris Dam, Paris Landing, Pickett, Pickwick Landing, Roan Mountain, Rock Island, Standing Stone, and Tims Ford.

There is a state park within an hour's drive from anywhere in Tennessee and each offers a wide range of recreational and natural opportunities for individuals, families and groups, so **no more excuses, it's time to get away.**

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

Our hike coordinators are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you if 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. 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 <u>before you start your hike</u> 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

BIG SOUTH FORK CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Charles Gibbs

423-628-5678; cgibbs@nxs.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Benita Howell 423-628-5521 or 865-974-7797, *bhowell@nxs.net* **BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:** Tim and Lynn Takacs

 $615\text{-}824\text{-}7048, \ lynntakacs@comcast.net \ or \ ttakacs@comcast.net$

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)
Eric Wilson 423-628-2817, ericavi@nxs.net

Tuesday hikes have resumed on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. All Tuesday hikes leave from the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby at 9:30 Eastern time. Eric Wilson will publicize details by e-mail on the previous Sunday afternoon, but he encourages hikers to suggest destinations and volunteer to lead these hikes.

Mar 17-19 Pine Mountain Settlement School, Bledsoe, KY. We'll join chapter member Mary Dresser, who now works at Pine Mountain, for the weekend, staying overnight Friday and Saturday on campus and taking most meals in the dining hall. Lodging will be \$25-\$30 per person per night, and individual meals range from \$5.25 to \$6.75. Mary will lead several hikes during the weekend on the Pine Mountain property, with additional excursions to Bad Branch Falls, Blanton State Forest, or Kingdom Come State Park. Some slots are still available for this weekend outing, so if you are interested contact Outings Coordinator Eric Wilson. All participants must register with Eric by March 5 in order to give Pine Mountain a definite count for lodging and meals. We'll report on our exploration of Southeast Kentucky hiking opportunities in the May newsletter.

COVE LAKE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Helm 423-562-1110, *Richard.Helm@ahss.org*

CO-CHAIR: Mari Haslam

423-562-3227, pittsteelersfan@earthlink.net

MEETING: Monthly - 2nd Monday at 6:00

pm ET

LaFollette Recreation Center's Craft Room, 201 S. 9th St.

Mar 19 Our group will be hiking in Big South Fork National Park. Patricia Bolton will be leading us on an easy-to-moderate trail. Please come prepared for unpredictable weather! Meet us at the Eagle Bluff gas station parking lot at 1:30 on Sunday.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Merri Hinton

andrews@logantele.com **CO-CHAIR:** Suva Bastin

931-645-2849

SECRETARY: Lucy Weikel 931-358-5794 j107sw@aol.com **TREASURER:** Sandy Janus

931-551-8523

OUTINGS COORDINATORS:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

Sandi Hamilton 931-920-2760 *billhamilton@charter.net* **MEETING:** Monthly - 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm CT, Crow

Community Center, 211 Richview Rd (Public is cordially invited!

Mar 4 Mousetail Landing, near Linden TN. 8 miles, moderate. See the reindeer moss, amid the evergreen forests. Eat lunch on a rocky bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. Look carefully and you may find a few fossils. Contact Darryl Butts 931 645-9177

Mar 11 Longhunter State Park. Hermitage 12 miles fairly easy. Hike along Percy Priest Lake, and through some beech tree forests. A few bluffs overlooking the lake. Call Sandi Hamilton 931 920-2760 for details.

Mar 25- Edgar Evans State Park- Abt 8 miles moderate- Climb up the swaying Fire Tower at the Visitors Center, then hike over a ridge to look out over the reservoir. Beautiful views. Sandy Janus 931 551-8523

Apr 1-2 Let's see J.R. Tate off on his Appalachian Trail thru hike at Springer Mountain, GA. Car camping. Contact Suva Bastin for details 931 645-2849.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Sherrie Yokley 931-381-9274, *yokley2004@bellsouth.net*

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing) **MEETING:** Monthly - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm CT

Grand Buffet (North of Spring Hill)

Mar 7 Chapter meeting at the Grand Buffet Chinese Restaurant. Our guest speaker will be Polly Rooker, Region II Biologist, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Pooly will speak about developing a backyard habitat for wildlife and attracting bluebirds.

Mar 11: More trail work at Stillhouse Hollow Falls. Same time (9:00AM to 3:00PM), same place. Bring water, lunch, gloves and a willingness to work. Rain/inclement weather date will be March 18.

Mar 25: Rick Lausten will lead a hike of the Pot Point Loop Trail near Chattanooga. This 11.9 miles moderate trail has an elevation change of 400 feet. We'll hike over a large natural bridge and have wonderful views of the Tennessee River Gorge. There are several creek crossings, so be prepared. Bring lunch, water and have sturdy hiking boots. We'll leave at 7:00 AM from the A&D Market on Hwy 431 (1883 Lewisburg Pike). We will also stop on the way home for dinner. Please call Rick Lausten at 615-373-0029 (home), 615-516-1417 (cell) or email at saturncar1@aol.com to register.

HIKE & ACTIVITY RECAP:

Jan 14: Bobby Hardeman led a group of eight hikers in the Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. After crossing the Green River on a three-car ferry, we departed from the Maple Springs Trailhead and hiked the Turnhole Bend trail to the Green River. We returned via the Raymer Hollow trail for a total hike of about 8 miles. After the hike, we stopped in Bowling Green for dinner and camaraderie.

Jan 21: We began trail-building at Stillhouse Hollow Falls. Eleven volunteers made great progress roughing in almost 1400 feet of trail and almost finishing about 300 feet. We still have a few water management things to do (water-dams and drainage) to do, but good progress is being made.

Feb 11 The winter storm that hit Tennessee forced a postponement of the Stillhouse Hollow Falls trail-building activity to Feb 18. (cont.)

Columbia Chapter (cont.)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 4 Chapter meeting at the Grand Buffet Chinese Restaurant in Spring Hill. Our guest speaker will be Pandy English, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, who will talk to us about the wildlife we may encounter on the trail. Pandy has a Master's Degree in biology from Austin Peay University and has worked for 20 as an interpretive naturalist at Dunbar Caves, Land Between the lakes and Warner Parks.

Apr 8 Bridge building at Stillhouse Hollow Falls. We'll build a bridge over the creek that feeds Stillhouse Hollow Falls. Bring battery-powered drills, saws, and carpentry tools. Lumber and screws will be provided. Bring water, lunch, gloves and a willingness to work. We'll meet at 9:00 AM and work until the bridge is finished. The rain date will be April 22.

Apr 15 Marvin Caine will lead a hike of the Short Springs Trail. This 3-mile hike follows streams, has a wonderful wildflower loop and we'll see Machine Falls, a 60-foot stairstep waterfall. More later. Contact Marvin at (931) 486-1632 or email at mlcaine@aol.com

May 2 Chapter meeting at the Grand Buffet Chinese Restaurant. Our guest speaker will be Daryl Ratajczak, Big Game Program Coordinator, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Daryl will talk about the big game animals in Tennessee, bears, deer and elk and how they are managed with in the state.

May 6 Russell Smith will lead a hike of the relatively new Beaman Park in northwest Davidson County. This is a fairly easy to moderate trail that is terrific for new hikers. We'll depart from the A&D Market on Lewisburg Pike and meet at the trailhead near Little Marrowbone Road. Call Russell Smith to register and for more information, (615) 790-1833, or email at carving082334@aol.com

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Rosemary Marshall

rosemary_l@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COORDINATOR:

(call & volunteer to lead an outing)

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

Mar 4. Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area-Twin Arches to Slave Falls. This 7-mile hike will take us past two of the largest natural arches in eastern U.S. (the world?), along with a scenic waterfall. As a bonus, another arch is thrown in toward the end of the hike. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at Food City in Oak Ridge, corner Illinois Avenue (Route 62) and Oak Ridge Turnpike (Route 95). Bring lunch and water. For more information contact Harold Draper at 865-689-7757 or draper@att.net.

Mar 11. Hickory Bend Bluffs. A 3-mile hike along the shoreline of Melton Hill Reservoir in Loudon County. There is a strenuous off-trail option to see some nice bluffs and a less strenuous on-trail option that can visit some of the same scenery. It is strenuous because there is no trail and the bluffs are steep and rocky. Meet at Earth Fare Supermarket, Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek Shopping Center, west Knoxville, at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the site. Those who wish can eat lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. Contact Harold Draper at 865-689-7757 or draper @att.net for more information

Mar 18. Frozen Head State Park-Petros Mines. On this five-mile hike from Armes Gap to Frozen Head, hikers will be able to look into old mine entrances and imagine being forced to work long hours in the mines for 25 cents per day. The trail continues to the top of Frozen Head where the old fire tower still stands. Elevation change is 1100 feet. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hilltop Market, Oak Ridge (Junction Illinois Avenue and West Outer Drive). For more information, contact Ray and Jo Ann Garrett at 865-483-4466.

Mar 25 Possum Segment, Cumberland Trail. Join the first official TTA hike on this newly opened segment. The portion we do depends on recent rainfall (two major bridges have yet to be constructed) and interest of participants. If safe fords of Little and Big Possum Creeks are possible, we will hike the entire segment one-way: 10 miles, with slightly less than 1,000 ft. elevation gain and the same amount of elevation loss. Other than trail designers and builders, you will be among the first to see the views from Bare and Perkins Points, to wonder about the spectacular rock fall that formed The Amphitheater, to ascend the Stairway to Heaven and perch atop Stack Rock, to picture kayaking Class V rapids through The Impassible Canyon, and to marvel at recently-discovered Little Possum Falls. Be prepared for a long but exciting day, creek fords, and the possible opening of tick season. Trekking poles are recommended. We will meet at 8 am at a location to be determined near the Rock-Possum-Soddy segments of the Cumberland Trail. These segments are just west of US-27 near Soddy-Daisy. TN. Friday night camping at the Dogwood Lodge (headquarters for CTC's BreakAway) is a possibility. Call Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or Email wdevine@bellsouth.net.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER (Tullahoma Area)

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

MEETING MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, see announcement below for location.

Mar 21 Monthly Meeting Tom Bentley will be speaking about "Maps, Charts, Compass, and GPS." This will be a hands-on sort of meeting that will use everything from Tennessee road maps, topographic maps, a GPS receiver, and laptop computer. Sharing of hard-earned experiences will be encouraged. Join us at 6:00 PM at the Tullahoma Western Sizzlin if you want to eat and at 7:00 PM for the program.

Mar 25 Perimeter Trail, Sewanee, TN We will continue the Eat-Hike a portion of the Perimeter Trail-Eat hike this month and in future months. The hike will be approximately five miles. There will also be time to do other things in the area. We will meet at The Blue Chair restaurant in Sewanee at 9:00 A.M. Contact Joan Bentley at (931) 455-5849 or jbentley@edge.net to register.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Gary Cooper 731-424-5375 *gcooper52@yahoo.com*

MEETING: Meeting: Monthly:1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT at Perkins

Restaurant 999 Vann Drive, Jackson, TN

Mar 7 Monthly Meeting come to eat at 6:00 or 7:00 for the meeting to discuss past and future hikes. Everyone welcome.

Mar 11-Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Camden, TN-Join us for a 6-mile hike rated moderate over hilly terrain. Meet at the Park Intrepretative Center. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water. To register, for time and carpool information call Candy Higgs 731-660-2332 chiggs @armstrongallen.com

Mar 25 Sat-Sun-Sewanee Spring Wildflower Hike-We will hike Shakerag Hollow in the morning. It's a wonderful trail through big trees with a great view from the side of the mountain. We will use carpools to shuttle people down the trail so that we can have various hike lengths depending on fitness level. Afterwards we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant. The hike continues after lunch with an afternoon trip/wildflower show at Bluebell Island on the Elk River. There are so many flowers on the island that you literally have to "tiptoe through the Bluebells". This is a not to be missed hike.

For all information and to register call Glen Rognstad 731-217-5966 grognstad@charter.net

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Carolyn Pierce 901-755-5635, *cedpierce2000@yahoo.com* **BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Gloria Lenski

901-213-0604, glorialenski@yahoo.com

MEETING: Monthly (Sept - May) 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Rd. Turn east off Germantown Parkway onto Trinity Rd. approx. 1 mile on the right. Library shares entrance with Bert Ferguson Community Center

Mar 4, Baker's Pond and LaGrange Boardwalk This is an easy 3-4 mile hike to the source of the Wolf River and on the boardwalk along the Wolf at LaGrange. A Wolf River Conservancy will join us and talk about Baker's Pond and the conservancy plans. We will meet at the Citgo station at the northeast corner of US Hwy 72 and (cont.)

Memphis Chapter (cont.)

Mississippi Hwy 5, about 45 minutes east of Memphis. We will caravan to the trailhead, and then to the La Grange Boardwalk. Carpool meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Target store on Poplar at Forest Hill, or at the Citgo station at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Call Freddi Felt at 901-685-9915.

Mar 11-12, Petit Jean Mountain State Park, Morrilton, AR Join TTA for a wonderful hike atop beautiful Petit Jean Mountain. We will explore one of the state's highest waterfalls, a natural cave area with Indian pictographs, and several unique rock formations. Meet the hike leader, Deena Spuryer, at Mather Lodge on top of the mountain, at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. We will shuttle down the road to the Cedar Creek trailhead, for an easy to moderate 4-mile hike. This will include a view from the overlook at the top of Cedar Falls, exploring Rock House Cave and Turtle Rocks, (You will need a flashlight to find the pictographs in the cave shelter.) We will shuttle back to the lodge for a lunch break. The lodge has a wonderful restaurant, so plan on eating there! After lunch, we will hike a 2 1/2-mile hike to the base of Cedar Falls, for a different view! This is a moderate hike, and it's really steep going out! For those wanting another option, there are a lot of other neat things to do on the mountain. Be sure to visit Petit Jean's gravesite and boardwalk, (which offer a breathtaking view of the Arkansas River), the Automobile Museum, and Bear Cave area. You can walk to these sites from within a few feet of the parking lot. Pick up brochures at the visitor center, or the lodge. On Sunday morning, we will meet again at the lodge at8:30, and shuttle a short way to the trailhead at" Seven Hollows". This is an easy 4mile hike, with beautiful scenery and interesting things to explore. We should be finished in time for everyone to head back to Memphis by noon. Registration required. CallDeena Spuryer at 901-685-7706 to register. Reservations for park lodge, cabin, or camping call 800-264-2462. If you stay at a hotel in Morrilton, plan on a 15-20 minute drive to get to the lodge atop Petit Jean. Directions to park: take Hwy 9 (Exit 108) off I-40 at Morrilton south 9 miles to Oppelo. Then had west 12 miles on Hwy 154 to the park; OR, take HWY 7 off I-40 (south). Driving time is estimated at3 hours from Memphis. www.petitjeanstatepark.com Mar 16, Monthly Meeting RIM TO RIM IN THE GRAND CANYON. Join Woody and Carolyn Pier as they retrace their steps, through slides and narration, down the North Kaibab Trail to Phantom Ranch and up the Bright Angel Trail. Bring friend or guest and experience the adventure. See you at 7:00 pm at the Cordova Public Library

Mar 25, Big Hill Pond State Park, Pocahontas, TN We will hike an 8-mile loop trail rated moderate over wooded hills, through rock outcroppings, crossing a0.8 mile boardwalk over Dismal Swamp, and lunch at the fire tower overlooking the Tuscumbia river valley. Meet at the board dock at 9 a.m. and bring lunch and water. Boots strongly recommended. Park pass \$3 per car. For more information call Deena Spuryer at 901-685-7706. http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/BigHillPond

April 1, Meeman-Shelby Forest near Millington Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. and bring water and snacks. We will hike the Woodland Trail, a 4-mile hike through mature forest along bluff tops and bottomlands. This hike is rated easy to moderate. New hikers welcome! Park pass \$3 per car. For information, call Jerry Lenski at 213-0604.Directions: From Interstate 40, take exit 2-A, turn right, go 6 traffic lights to Watkins Road (this is Highway 388), turn left and go until the road dead-ends. Turn left, go one mile to a four-way stop, Shelby Forest General Store and turn right, go one mile, turn left into the park.

http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/MeemanShelby

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

CHAPTER NEWS:

CTC BreakAway and Big Dig application forms can be downloaded from the CTC website http://www.cumberlandtrail.org. Volunteers are needed now for Monday through Friday for BreakAway to work on the trails with the college students, or in the kitchen preparing meals with Betty and Ray. Room and board will be furnished at the Dogwood Camp. More information is on the website. Remember, TTA is the sponsor of the Cumberland Trail and this is our trail.

<u>TTA Logo Shirts</u> – Help our Chapter's treasury and show your pride in our great organization by purchasing and wearing the TTA logo. Long sleeved, short-sleeved and sweatshirts are still available. Contact: Anna Bertram *abertram @heartoftn.net* or 615-765-5357.

<u>Planning Ahead</u> – Please remember to set aside items for the Murfreesboro TTA annual yard sale as you start your spring housecleaning. The probable date this year will be early June.

HIKES:

Mar 4 Murfreesboro Beginner/Newcomer Hike. Long Hunter Day Loop, Long Hunter State Park, Hermitage, TN. Walk a 4.1-mile loop, rated easy, that wanders through a forest of mixed oak and hickory, rocky areas of cedar, along bluffs overlooking Percy Priest Lake. Bring water, a snack, and a \$3 offering for the state if you haven't purchased a 2006 park pass. For those interested, bring \$\$ and restaurant suggestions for an after hike lunch. Contact Jeanne' Hoechst-Ronner at (615) 890-9084 or hoaxie@comcast.net

Mar 11 For those of you that haven't had an opportunity to hike in the new Yanahli Wildlife Management District, here it is. Through the cooperation of the TWRA, State Natural Heritage and TTA, there is a lovely 3.5-mile balloon loop trail that was completed and dedicated on National Public Lands Day 2005. This is an easy trail that has a frontage along the Duck River with some very attractive overlooks. A short side trip takes the hiker to a scenic little cave along the way. This is the first of many foot trails planned for this recreation area. Wear sturdy hiking footwear and dress according to existing weather conditions. Bring snacks if desired, and plenty of water. For further information and to pre-register, contact Fount Bertram at (615) 765-5357 or email fwbertram@heartoftn.net

Mar 14 Monthly Meeting Our program will be <u>Beautiful Tennessee</u>, an hour-long stunning visual journey to Tennessee's most scenic places where we hike. Recently aired on NPT, this is your chance to see it without breaks or appeals for subscriptions. A brief business meeting, with dismissal at 8:30 PM, will follow the documentary.

Mar 18-19 Backpack, Frozen Head SP, Wartburg, TN. This backpack will be in a rugged, mountainous area of the Cumberland Plateau. This area is known for its scenic mountainous views, overlooks and rock formations. We will hike the south Old Mac trail and part of the Chimney Trail to Mart Fields campsite. A short side trip to the Frozen Head fire tower is also possible. Sunday's hike will be down the Chimney Top trail to our vehicles, total hike 10 miles. Sturdy hiking boots are required and since the hike does involve significant elevation change it is rated moderate to difficult, depending on hiking experience. Carpools can be arranged.

Murfreesboro (cont.)

The hike will start from the park visitor center at 11:00 am local time (eastern). Contact Tony Hook at *Hook1162A@MSN.com* or 615-849-9636 **Mar 25** Angel Falls Overlook, Big South Fork NRRA. We will begin hiking at Leatherwood Ford and follow a section of the John Muir Trail to Angel Falls Overlook, offering one of the best views in the park. We will return via the same trail for a round trip distance of 6 miles. The overlook hike is rated moderate for uneven terrain, narrow ledge crossings, ladders, and bluffs at the overlook. If there is sufficient interest, we can then hike the Angel Falls trail, which parallels the river and offers a spectacular display of wildflowers as well as Angel Falls itself. (Note: Angel Falls isn't a typical waterfall but rather a class III-IV rapid.) The Angel Falls trail is 4 miles round trip and rated easy. Wear sturdy footwear and bring snacks, lunch, water and dress in layers. For more information or to sign-up contact Ron Dunn at 615-867-3301 or *trekkingtontn@yahoo.com*.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICER: Jim Johnson 615.356.6246, *jimjohnsonjr@gmail.com*

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

Mar 28 Monthly Program Meeting: Our guest speaker this month is Nancy Dorman of the Friends of Beaman Park. One year ago the park officially opened to the public, nine years after the land was purchased. Nancy will update us on present happenings in the park and the schedule for further implementing of Metro's master plan. Join us at 7PM at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency headquarters building on the campus of Ellington Agriculture.

Mar 4 Beaman Park First Saturday Hike 9-noon Age level: Adults, 8+ Don't miss this opportunity to take a guided hike with one of the many knowledgeable Friends of Beaman Park volunteers and explore the still new Beaman Park – it's 1,500 acres of forest on the Highland Rim and a natural treasure! Friends of Beaman Park call Warner Park Nature Center 615-352-6299 for reservations and directions.

Mar 5 Frozen Head State Park. Rated difficult due to the distance and the elevation gain. We will hike approximately 11 miles on the Chimney Top and South Old Mac trails. Sturdy boots, water, lunch, and clothing appropriate to the weather equired. Call Doug Burroughs at (615) 587-0085 to register and for the meeting place and time.

Mar 10-12 Great Smoky Mountains NP, Cataloochee car camp and hike to see the Elk. We will leave Nashville Friday afternoon to arrive in the Cataloochee area of the Smokies before sunset. We will car camp for 2 days and day hike in the area to hopefully view the elk herd that has been living there. Those who wish may also stay for 4 days of backpacking in the Cataloochee area (Mon.-Thurs.) An alternate backpacking route will be planned for the Cades Cove area and lower elevations if the weather is too cold. Call Nancy Juodenas at 615-319-8811 or e-mail Jerry Hendrixson at BigWagee @aol.com for more information and to register.

Mar 18 Mullens Cove Loop Trail, Prentice Cooper State Forest. N. Chattanooga, TN. Mullens Cove Loop Trail offers views of the Tennessee River Gorge, rock bluffs and cascading streams. The trail is rocky in places and passes over several streams and hills. Even though there are no great changes to the elevation, this hike is rated moderate for the hills, mileage (10.2 miles), rocky terrain and one boulder field. Sturdy hiking shoes are required! Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water for this all-day outing. For information, carpool meeting time and location, and to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777. (continue to March 18)

(Mar 18 cont') Nashville Chapter

Mar 18 Stones River Greenway, Nashville. The exploration of Nashville's magnificent and emerging greenways program continues. When complete, the Stones River Greenway will extend from near Opry Mills to the Percy Priest Dam and will connect to the Shelby Bottom Greenway via a beautiful pedestrian bridge over the Cumberland River. We will walk the most upstream segment, from Lebanon Road (US70) to the dam and return, a total distance about six miles. Meet at 9:00 am at the trailhead in front of Kohl's off Lebanon Road where the road crosses the Stones River, between Donelson and Hermitage. No pre-registration required. Call trip leader, Bob Brandt, 615-292-1775, a member of the Metro Greenways Commission, if you need directions.

Mar 19 Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge Trails, Warner Parks. West Nashville, TN. Bloodroot, Spring Beauties, Cut-leaf Toothwort, oh my. March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Depending on where Mother Nature is in this cycle will determine which wildflowers will be blooming. Warner Woods and Mossy Ridge Trails combined makes this hike 7 miles long, and rated moderate due to the uneven terrain and several ascents/descents we will encounter along the way. Bring water and snacks, and wear sturdy hiking shoes/boots. We will meet at the flagpole at the end of Belle Meade Boulevard (BM Blvd. intersects with West End Ave). For additional information, meeting time and to register, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

Mar 25 Ashland City bi-centennial greenway (est. 4 miles) hikeon Saturday this rustic rail-trail quietly runs through a rural section of the lower Cumberland River. The path is flanked by bluffs on one side and by water on the other. Expect wildlife viewing opportunities. Rated easy. Followed by lunch at Riverview. Call Jim and Jenice Johnson to preregister 356-6246

PLANNING AHEAD:

Apr 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Lakeshore Trail Backpack, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park. Fontana Dam, NC. If you've thought about it but had no one to go with. here's your opportunity to backpack the entire length of the Lakeshore Trail (~34 miles) over a 3day period. We'll hike12 miles on Fri, 11 on Sat and 10.6 on Sun. Because this outing is in a remote area of the park ("secluded" with no easy exit points) and the semi-high daily mileage, this outing is rated moderate and only open to experienced backpackers. Even thought there isn't any great changes to the elevation (we'll be around 17-2,300 feet), there are hills, plus you can expect the typical GSMNP terrain to have roots, rocks, ruts and mud. Along the way we may see a variety of wildlife in addition to the only albino deer that makes the lakeshore area its home, and maybe even see a few early spring wildflowers. Since this is a one-way route, the plan is to eliminate the pre/post car positioning required by hiring a local shuttle service to drive us to the start of our hike early on Friday morning.

(cont., April 7-9 ...)

(cont., April 7-9 Nashville Chapter)

Then when we exit the trail on Sunday, we hop into our cars and head home. In order to get on the trail early on Friday morning, rooms nearby have been reserved for Thursday night. The group size is limited to 8, and REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED before March 20. Approximate cost per person for the room and ride is about \$50 (lower, if we have 8). To secure your reservation, a \$25 deposit (first received, first reserved) is required and totally refundable, provided your space can be filled. For more information, call Diane Manas at 615-352-7777.

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, www.utm.edu/~iclark/trails/. Meetings start at 7:00 pm CT on the UT Martin Campus, Boling University Center, Room 231

Mar 25. Bear Creek Loop, South Visitor's Station at LBL. 6.7 miles in a loop through woods, along ridges, across fields, along part of the Fort Henry Trail System and along the banks of Bear Creek. (There are three stream crossings that might be over the top of low-cut boots/shoes.) Easy to moderate with just a couple gradual climbs.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: James Hubert 931-459-4839, jhubert1@frontiernet.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Mitze Anderson

931-788-6731, Wanderso121@yahoo.com

MEETING: Art Circle Public Library's Community Room, 154 East 1st

Street, 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. Rain cancels.

Mar 4. Standing Stone State Park, Livingston, TN. The hike is about 6 miles long around the lake and rated moderately difficult due to the length. This should be a good hike in which to enjoy the spring weather and see some wildflowers. Meet at the Cracker Barrel at 8:00 AM CST. For more information and to register, contact James Hubert 931/459-4839 or by e-mail at jhubert@frontiernet.net.

Mar 18. Signal Point to Edwards Point, Signal Mountain, TN. This is a 5.5 mile hike along a portion of the Cumberland Trail that will give us some good views of the Tennessee River Gorge from both overlooks. The hike is rated moderate due to the elevation change from Middle Creek to the ridgeline. Meet at 8:00 AM CST at the boat dock parking lot at Cumberland Mountain State Park for the 1-1/2 hour drive to Signal Point. For more information and to register, contact Carolyn Miller at 931/456-4465, 931/260-6674 or by e-mail at Carden @usit.net.

SODDY DAISY CHAPTER

This chapter is being reorganized. For further information contact Charles Jones, East Tennessee Representative At-Large at ceiones9@earthlink.net. In the interim, you are welcome to attend other chapters (13 to choose from) outings, events and m eetings.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER (Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER OFFICER: Richard Savage 931-526-2035, savage_richard@hotmail.com

Mar 4 North Old Mac and Spicewood Trails, Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. This hike to Frozen Head Mountain, one of the highest peaks in the Cumberland's, features nice views. We will ascend the mountain on the North Old Mac Trail and descend using the Spicewood Trail. (The hike is 9 miles and is rated strenuous because of the elevation change of almost 2,000 feet. Bring snacks, lunch, and water. You can meet at 8:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register contact Richard Savage at 931-526-2035 or savage-Richard@hotmail.com

Mar 11 Sweden Cove Trail and West Rim Trail, Franklin State Forest. Sewanee. TN. This will be a shuttle hike and will start at the park headquarters. We will first hike to Tom Pack Falls, a 20-foot high wall of water. We will cross the highway, hiking on and below the bluff line of Sweden Cove. We will end at Cave Spring after 8.2 miles. The hike has several scenic overlooks and interesting rock formations. It is rated easy to moderate with one short descent and ascent near the falls. Bring lunch and snacks and wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots. You can meet us at 7:30am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville, at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:00am, or at the trailhead about 10:00. For information and to register contact Cindy Walinski 931-394-3413 cwalinski@blomand.net.

Mar 16 Chapter Meeting. Join us for dessert and coffee at the home of Kathleen Gordzelik, Cookeville, TN. Kathleen and Richard Savage will make a presentation about their trip to the American southwest last summer, which included visits to 8 national parks, hot springs, and more. To register contact Kathleen at 931-520-6294 or gkhs@multipro.com Mar 18 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 8:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville or at the US Bank across from McDonald's in Sparta at 8:30am. For information and to register contact, contact Margaret at 931-738-5874 or leron @blomand.net.

Mar 25 Pioneer and Byrd Lake and Creek Trails, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. We will hike the Pioneer Trail, which circles Byrd Lake and is about 5 miles long. Then, we'll hike 3 to 4 miles on the Byrd Lake and Creek Trails below the dam. Both trails are rated easy. You can meet at 9:00am CT in the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register call Eugene Cummings at 931-528-6139.

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Newsletter Editor

Leslie El-Sayad editor@tennesseetrails.org

Newsletter Deadlines

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

are due as follows:

<u>Due</u> <u>For Newsletter Dated</u>

March 10......April 1

April 10 Mayl 1

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

<u>Please send all submissions to:</u> <u>editor@tennesseetrails.org</u>

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.

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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NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

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

YES, I WANT TO JOIN TENNESSEE TRAILS A NEW MEMBER RENEWING MY MEMBER Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Li Gift Memberships are also available. Contact of	Mar 06 Membership Director P.O. Box 41446 Nashville, TN 37204-1446	
Garnett Rush 615-352-7217 rushga01@yahoo.com		
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Please list me with the following chapter:		
Big South ForkCumberland Gap Clarksville East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)	Memphis Plateau (Crossville)	
ClarksvilleEast TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)Columbia/FranklinHighland Rim (Manchester/Tu		
Cove Lake Jackson	Northwest (UT at Martin/Weakley) (Sparta/Cookeville)	
	At Large	
When you become a TTA member, you will receive: (1.) TTA's Hiking Handbook, a reference book containing information about TTA, trail etiquette, hiker responsibilities, etc. (2.) TTA's monthly newsletter, containing information on hiker safety, upcoming hikes / overnight trips, volunteer opportunities, chapter meeting announcements, as well as events occurring within TTA's Associate Organizations: C.T.C. and T.R.A.C. (3.) Annual Membership Directory, listing members by chapter and how to reach them. You are invited to attend any number of monthly meetings scheduled, where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. In addition, in the spring and fall we meet at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie and where the board members can meet to exchange ideas and hear reports on TTA's progress. As a member of TTA, you are welcome to attend all TTA / CTC / TRAC functions.		

Purchase Order

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February 20, 2006

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Leonard,

Doug Burroughs will be hosting the Newsletter Party this Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00p.m.

Please call him to arrange pick-up/delivery of this March 2006 newsletter: Doug (hm): 292-9307 (office): 532-3060 (cell): 587-0085 Home address: 507 33rd Ave (Rose Hall Condo), Elevator Pass Code: 21567