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.

SUPPORTING THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



2020 TTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

The Nashville and Sumner Trails Chapters will host the conference October 23 - 25, 2020 at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns TN, about an hour west of Nashville.

Attendees will have the option of newly renovated rooms at the Park's Inn or the campground inside the State Park. There is also commercial lodging in Dickson and other nearby towns.

In addition to Montgomery Bell, our hikes will include other nearby State and Municipal Parks and urban hikes in Nashville.

Members of the Nashville and Sumner Trails Chapters are looking forward to hosting hikers from across Tennessee!

For registration information for INN ROOMS, phone the Inn & Conference Center directly to make your reservation (615-797-3101 or 800-250-8613). Provide our GROUP CODE 9880 to receive special discount pricing on the Inn Rooms. Inn Rooms (some have 1K; some have 2Q) do not require a 2-night minimum but a deposit of one full night's stay is required (\$143.44/night; includes the tax). (Discounts for Seniors, Veterans, and Tennessee State Employees are available only when booking separately from our group rate.)

For the CAMPGROUND, contact the Park Office at 615-797-9052 or

https://tnstateparks.com/parks/campground/montgomery-bell. All sites come with a grill, fire ring, picnic table, and access to the bath house (showers with hot water). Campground sites are \$15-35/night, before taxes.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March is a wonderful time to hike in Tennessee. It's hard to go wrong with any day but mark your calendar as Spring begins March 19. The weather can be warm but can also be chilly with big rains or big snows. Be familiar with the "Ten Essentials" i.e. map, compass, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing, headlamp or flashlight, first-aid supplies, Firestarter, matches, knife, and extra food. You also need to practice the principal of "Leave No Trace." Mid-March is also a time to watch for wildflowers. The word paradise was borrowed from Greek paradeisos "enclosed park or pleasure ground". Merriam-Webster defines paradise as a place or state of bliss, felicity or delight. Some only dream of paradise but in Tennessee we live in it.

Your TTA Board of Directors had their first meeting of 2020 on February 8 and it was very productive. An Evans Means Grant was approved for the Friends of Tims Ford State Park to fund storybook panels for a Storybook Trail they are developing. Richards Designs was awarded the contract to build a new website and contracts have now been signed. I AM SO EXCITED to be a part of moving Tennessee Trails Association forward and grateful to work alongside your representatives.

Voltaire said "Wherever my travels may lead, paradise is where I am".

Dr. Seuss said "You're off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way."

Mary Davis said "A walk in nature walks the soul back home."

Keep on hiking and hope to see you soon.

Mary Etta Ward



Office Location: 409 Thurman Avenue, Ste 102 Crossville, TN 38555 Tuesday – Friday Office Hours:.... 10 am - 3 pm CT 931-456-6259 Phone: Office Staff: Teresa Kemmer Email: ctcoffice2014@gmail.com Website: www.cumberlandtrail.org

It is not too late to volunteer for Alternative Spring Break 2020: March 1 – April 3.

The 24th Spring Breakaway will be based at the Head of the Sequatchie area of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park in Pikeville, TN. BreakAway is an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program hosted by the Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC). College students from across the country pay their own way to come to Tennessee to work on the Cumberland Trail along with CTC volunteers. Students and volunteers participate in trail building/maintenance for a week. BreakAway also provides for educational opportunities about the environment, history, geology, flora and fauna along the Cumberland Trail.

- Trail will be built between Stinging Fork State Natural Area and Hinch Mountain.
- Volunteers are needed to host the students and to build trail with the students.
- Camp Moms and Camp Dads are needed to help with Sunday registration and meal prep.
- Food and lodging are provided.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to support the ASB program. Please contact the CTC office to volunteer or offer financial assistance for the ASB program.

If you are not available for the Spring Break program, we have other opportunities for you.

Join the trail crew for a day or more. This is your chance to walk on the trail before it is open to the public.

- The CTC Trail Crew is working on a new section of the Cumberland Trail, Stinging Fork to Hinch Mountain. This section is south of Crossville.
- Members of the crew are also working in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area and the Ozone area. These sections are northeast of Crossville.
- If you want to join the trail crew and build this section of the trail, please contact the CTC office to register and receive information about where to meet the CTC trail crew. We have a new e-mail address for volunteer questions and registration for programs: VolunteeratCTC@gmail.com.

Cumberland Trails Conference - con't.

Build the Cumberland Trail: Consider joining our trail crew as a paid employee. We are hiring Trail Crew members. No experience is necessary as we will train you. Contact the CTC office to apply and for more information.

As a non-profit organization, monetary donations are also appreciated to support the work of the CTC crew and staff.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Philip Anderson 931-561-0925 clarksville@tennesseetrails.org

VICE-CHAIR and CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE:

TREASURER:

SECRETARY:

Paul Schwab 931-801-9484 clarksville @tennesseetrails.org Mary Schwab 931-645-9068 clarksvilletreas @tennesseetrails.org Mary Ann Harris 931-647-9321

clarksvillesecy@tennesseetrails.org
NGS COORDINATOR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484 clarksvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org

(call Paul & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm CT,

Crow Community Center, 211 Richview Rd.

Mar 7 - LBL, a portion of Ft. Henry Trail and Pickett Loop Trail. 4.5 miles. Moderate. Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 8:00 am CT, at Kroger parking area, Dover Crossing Road, Clarksville. 51 miles to trailhead.

Mar 14 - South Cumberland SP, Fiery Gizzard Trail to Ravens Point via the Dog Hole Trail out and back. 8.8 miles. Difficult. Paul Schwab 931-801-9484. Meet 7:00 am CT, at I24 exit 11 commuter parking lot near McDonalds. 134 miles to trailhead.

Mar 17 - Monthly Chapter Meeting.

Mar 21 - Stones River Greenway from Kohl's Hermitage Trailhead to Percy Priest Dam out & back. 4.8 miles. Easy. Philip Anderson 931-561-0925. Meet 8:00 am CT, I 24 Exit 11 commuter parking lot near McDonalds. 47 miles to trailhead.

Mar 28 - Dunbar Cave SP, Long Trail. 2.5 miles. Moderate. Paula Sanders 954-993-5541. Meet 9:00 am CT at the trailhead picnic table.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIR: Jane Coffey 615-516-6551 columbia@tennesseetrails.org

CHAPTER CO-CHAIR AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Marvin Caine 931-486-1632 columbia@tennesseetrails.org
Jane Coffey 615-516-6551

HIKE COORDINATOR: Jane Coffey 615-516-6551 columbiahikes@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS QUARTERLY: Meets quarterly at the Barnabas Center at 506 Fair Street, Franklin, TN 37064. The Barnabas Center is located behind St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Social hour from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Please check the TTA website for updates on our hikes.

EAST TN CHAPTER

(Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER CHAIR:

Rosemary Marshall 865-985-9144 easttennessee @tennesseetrails.org Sherry Barber 865-209-6189 sbarber6189@comcast.net

WEBMASTER:

Mar 14 - GSMNP Roaring Fork Nature Trail to Grapeyard Ridge Trail. The hike is a moderate 7.9 miles with elevation gain of 1300 ft over 6 miles. On this hike we'll see stone foundations, rock walls, cemeteries, train engine remains, babbling creek and quiet woods. We will begin our hike from Roaring Fork Nature Trail close to the Bud Ogle Cabin. This is a 10 mile shuttle, hence it is very important to pre-register by March 9. The meeting time and places are to be determined upon registration. Send email to Rosie at rosemary_L@hotmail.com or text or call 865-985-9144.

Mar 28 - River Bluff Trail, Norris Dam. 4 miles. Easy. We will park at the trailhead on Dabney Road and hike the lower section of the trail along Norris River, less than two miles each way. The walk along the river is relatively flat. Where we will turn around the trail goes up the bluff to make a loop. Some may want to walk the loop. We recommend shoes to wear to and from the hike plus sturdy hiking shoes, other appropriate clothing, a snack, something to drink and a camera. We will meet at the Central Baptist Church of Bearden parking lot for car-pooling and leave at 9:00 am and stop at Ingles Market, 215 Cedar Lane in North Knoxville, leaving at 9:15 am for those that prefer to meet there. Also, you may meet us at the southeast end of the Wal-Mart parking lot at the I-75 / State 61 intersection near Norris, leaving there at 9:45 am. This is a short hike. On the way home, depending on the time, we may stop for lunch and/or beverages at a place near I-75 at Clinton. For additional information on this hike, contact Tom Cressler before March 27th at 588-5622 or cressler@utk.edu. If you want to meet us at the trailhead take I-75N to exit 122; turn right on TN-61; about 1.4 miles turn left on to US 441 and proceed across the dam; turn left on to Dabney Road, the first road on the left after the second hair-pin turn, staying left, going downhill, to the parking area.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER

(Coffee and Franklin Counties)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Tom Bentley 931-455-5849
highlandrim@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP: Marietta Poteet 931-924-7666 highlandrimtreas@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS & PROGRAM COORDINATOR & NEWSLETTER
CONTACT: Joan Hartvigsen 931-962-0811

highlandrimhikes @tennesseetrails.org

(contact Joan & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 4th Monday at 7:00 pm CT at the D. W. Wilson Community Ctr., 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma.

Mar 7 – "Weed Wrangle", 8 am at Tims Ford State Park, 1 pm at Old Stone Fort State Park. "Weed Wrangle" is a state-wide clean-up event dedicated to ridding Tennessee of non-native invasive plants such as Bradford Pear, Chinese Privet and multiflora rose. Contact Ranger Dalton Smith, dalton.smith@tn.gov, Tims Ford State Park and Ranger Leigh Gardner, Leigh.gardner@tn.gov, Old Stone Fort State Park. If you have questions you can also contact Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net.

Mar 14 – Millennium Loop Trail and Merritt Ridge Loop Trail Hike, Edgar Evins State Park. Silver Point, TN. 8 miles. Moderate. Steep in places. Joint hike with the Soddy-Daisy Chapter, John Politte. Meet at 8:30 am CT at the park's visitor center. This hike features wildflowers, huge beautiful hardwood trees along the high ridges and awesome views of Center Hill Lake. Bring water, snack, lunch, hiking sticks and wear sturdy hiking boots. Please contact Joan Hartvigsen to register and for information on a carpool from the Manchester Cracker Barrel Restaurant, jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-962-0811.

Mar 21 – Stone Door Trail to Greeter Falls via Big Creek Rim Trail and return via Laurel Falls Trail. South Cumberland State Park. Stone Door Ranger Station, 1183 Stone Door Road, Beersheba, TN. 9.5 miles. Easy to Moderate. Bring water, snacks, lunch and hiking sticks. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Please register with Marietta Poteet, nannietta @blomand.net or 931-924-7666. This hike offers awesome overlooks at Stone Door and along the Big Creek Rim Trail and the fabulous Greeter Falls.

Mar 23 – TTA Chapter Meeting and Friends of Short Springs Membership Meeting. Dinner is 5 pm at Ruby Tuesday, 1936 North Jackson Street, Tullahoma. Our meeting is 7 pm at D. W. Wilson Community Center. Our program is "Review of Spring Wildflowers" by Dennis Horn.

Con't on next page

Highland Rim Chapter - con't.

Mar 28 – Bear Creek Backcountry Loop Trail, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Trenton, GA. 8 miles. Moderate. Joint hike with the Murfreesboro Chapter, Sara Pollard. The focus of Cloudland Canyon State Park is a deep gorge carved by Sitton Gulch Creek. Bear Creek Backcountry Trail drops down from the East Rim of the gorge to cross Bear Creek. This forested walk takes us into seldom seen areas, offering several beautiful vistas of East and West Rims of the gorge. Consider bringing water shoes for crossing Bear Creek. Bring water, snacks, lunch, hiking sticks and wear sturdy hiking boots. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-962-0811. We will meet at 7:45 am CT at Monteagle Elementary School or 9:00 am CT at the Cloudland Canyon State Park Visitor Center.

Planning Ahead:

Apr 9-11 – Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, TN. Camping and Hiking. We have reserved a group campsite in Flat Creek Group Campground for Thursday and Friday nights. We will hike Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Contact Joan Hartvigsen to reserve a spot in the campground, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811. Thursday's hike: Emory Gap Trail to Falls and Judge Branch Trail, 3 miles. Flat. Friday's hike: See below for hike description. Saturday's hike: West Lookout Tower Trail and Bird Mountain Trail Loop, 7 miles. Steep.

Apr 10 – Good Friday Hike. Frozen Head State Park. Wartburg, TN. North Old Mac Trail and South Old Mac Trail Loop with a visit to the Lookout Tower. 8 miles, total. 1,800 feet elevation change. Joint hike with the Murfreesboro Chapter, Sara Pollard. This hike features spring wildflowers, hemlocks, creeks and awesome mountain views. There is the option of camping at Flat Creek Group Campground Thursday and Friday nights. Contact Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-962-0811, to reserve a spot in Flat Creek Campground and information on meeting time and place for the hike.

Apr 24-26 – Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove. Camping and Hiking Weekend. Joint activity with the Murfreesboro Chapter, Sara Pollard. We have reserved a gorgeous group campsite in Cades Cove Campground. Room for 10 small tents on the tent pads with more space on the gravel. Covered picnic pavilion with picnic tables. Flush toilets and drinking water nearby. We will hike Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday we will hike a section of the Anthony Creek Trail. Saturday we will hike the Gregory Ridge Trail. Sunday we will hike to Abrams Falls and back. Azaleas and spring wildflowers will be blooming. Reserve your spot soon. Contact Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-962-0811. Friday we will share a dinner at our campsite. Saturday we have the option of having dinner in Townsend.

2020 TTA Board of Directors Meetings

Saturday, May 2: 11 AM Hermitage Library 3700

James Kay Lane

Hermitage

Saturday, Aug 1: 11 AM Hermitage Library 3700

James Kay Lane

Hermitage

Sunday, Oct 25 Time and Location to be

announced.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Melinda Pearson 731-225-4293

jackson@tennesseetrails.org
TREASURER: Anne Goodson 664-1556

jacksontreas @tennesseetrails.org
SECRETARY: Terry McCoy 731-535-0625

jacksonsecy@tennesseetrails.org

HIKE & FACEBOOK COORDINATOR:

Glen Rognstad 731-217-5966 jacksonhikes@tennesseetrails.org

(call Glen & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Monday at Panera Bread, Vann Dr., Jackson. Dinner 6:00 pm CT; Meeting 6:45 pm

Mar 7 - Big Hill Pond. 6 to 7 miles. Moderate. We will meet at the boat ramp area to begin the hike. We will hike along the lakeshore and through swampy areas, ridges. meadowlands. The highest point is at the observation (fire) tower at 611 feet. It is optional to climb the tower. The lowest point is 380 feet. The diversity in landscape provides for a diversity of plant and bird life. The area contains second-growth timber, with chestnut oak, blackjack oak on the ridges and black gum, willow, elm, tulip poplar, birch, oak, cedar and pine in the lower areas. The swamp areas have bald cypress, cottonwood, oak, pin oak, willow oak, weeping willow, alders, bitternut, sweetgum and tupelo. Please contact Howard at howardropp1@gmail.com or 731-693-4248 if you plan to go. Meet at Panera Bread at 7:45 and leave at 8:00 or meet at trailhead at 9:30. The plan is to eat at "Top of the River" after hiking.

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Jackson Chapter - con't.

Mar 21-22 - Walls of Jericho State Natural Area and Wildflower Hike. 7 miles with 1000 feet elevation drop. Intermediate to difficult. The "Walls of Jericho" is a massive unique natural rock formation featuring 150-200 foot vertical limestone walls rising above Turkey Creek that flows over alternating small falls, pools and smooth bottoms. The actual "walls" are at the closed end of a half-mile long narrow wooded canyon, where the canyon walls close together and form a natural U-shaped amphitheater with several levels. At the end of the canyon, a waterfall drops into a 50 foot sink hole that then re-emerges lower down the canyon through the holes and cracks in the canyon walls. This place is absolutely beautiful, almost spiritual. The hike starts and ends at the Alabama trailhead. The route is 3+ miles, one way, and is downhill most of the trail into the gorge. That of course means the hike back is mostly uphill. The trail along the upper part of Turkey Creek is often muddy, slippery and requires several stream crossings and can be somewhat difficult. Bring/wear sturdy hiking shoes, water, snacks and lunch. Don't forget to bring a camera, rain gear, hat, flashlight and a good attitude. Meet at the Waffle House just off I-24, exit 134 at 8:00 am to drive to the trailhead which is located just south of the Tennessee state line (south of Winchester). We will meet at the trailhead at 9:00 am. We will be staying overnight Saturday at a motel in Monteagle. There are 2-3 at the Monteagle exit off I-24. On Sunday, the plan is to hike in the Sewanee area at both Sherwood Forest and Shakerag Hollow. Sherwood Forest is a 2.5 mile loop and features a natural bridge. Shakerag Hollow is a 2+ mile hike on the domain of the University of the South and is known to have the best early spring ephemeral wildflower displays in the state. For additional information/details and to register for hikes, contact Glen Rognstad at 731-217-5966 or at glenrognstad@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead:

Apr 4 – 8 - There are several hikes scheduled thru TDEC at natural areas in Tennessee. You may look at their webpage for more details. Some listed are Taylor Hollow (north of Nashville) and Hatchie River.

Apr 18 - Sipsy Forest near Russellville, Alabama.

May 2 - Charlies Bunion in the Smoky Mountains (weekend trip).

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR:

Charlie Bright 901-829-4434 memphis @tennesseetrails.org Francis Ruffin 662-701-6284 memphisvice @tennesseetrails.org

VICE-CHAIR:

Mar 7 - Chickasaw Bluff & Woodland Trail, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. 6 miles. Moderately strenuous. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 (please avoid parking right at the door) and shuttle to the Chickasaw Bluff trailhead. The trailhead, at about 417 feet, is one of the highest points in Shelby County. The trail quickly descends below 300 feet and follows a creek down to the Mississippi flood plain. After crossing Beaver Creek at about 2.5 miles, we encounter a few rolling hills before climbing the "Dragon's Spine" to the Woodland Trail. We will take the less hilly side of the trail and return to the Visitor Center. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. For more information contact Wayne Simpson, w.simpson1@comcast.net or 901-385-1988 (land line; do not text). In the event of bad weather, the hike will be rescheduled for March 8, Call or email to find out about a possible postponement. NOTE: Due to trail conditions at Beaver Creek, the route may need to be changed, but the meeting time and place will not change.

Mar 14 - Herb Parsons Lake State Park, Fisherville. 6 miles. Easy. Hike around the lake and through the woods. Meet at 9:30 am at the lake and bring snacks and water. Rain will cancel. For questions contact Linda Red, 901-489-9157.

Mar 21 - International Harvester Managerial Park, Lakeland. 4 miles. The park is located adjacent to the Lakeland Senior Center on the west side of Canada Rd, between I-40 and Hwy 70 at 4523 Canada Rd. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:15 am and get underway at 9:30 am. Allow 2 1/2 hours for the hike. We will hike through mostly bottomland forest, although there are some moderately strenuous places with elevation changes in the beginning and at the end. The trail also goes through a nice meadow and along a small lake. There is one shallow water crossing. Be prepared for mud if we have had recent rain. Terrain-appropriate, waterproof footwear and hiking poles recommended. Bring water and snacks. Heavy rain or the threat of severe weather will cancel. Feel free to call or email if you have questions, 901-482-8640, mquinlen@gmail.com.

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Memphis Chapter - con't.

Mar 28 - Big Hill Pond State Park near Pocahontas, TN. Parts of Big Hill Pond, Tuscumbia and Dry Ridge Trails. 8-mile loop. Moderate to moderately difficult. We will meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot above the boat dock. The hike begins at the boat dock on Travis McNatt Lake. After 2.5 miles of rolling hills, we come to the halfmile long boardwalk across Dismal Swamp. The next 0.7 miles goes up a fairly steep hill to the fire tower where we will have lunch. After lunch we have another 4 miles of mostly moderate hills until we finish back at the boat dock. Good boots are suggested due to a sometimes swampy area near the end of the hike. If you sometimes use hiking sticks, this is probably a trail where you'll want to bring them. Be sure to bring plenty to drink and food for your lunch. Rain will cancel. For information contact Wayne Simpson, w.simpson1@comcast.net or 901-385-1988 (land line; do not text).

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS:

Jeanne Conatser 615-971-8894 Sara Kennedy 615-692-9057 murfreesboro@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER/HIKE COORDINATOR/BOARD REP:

Sara Pollard 615-714-3610 murfreesborotreas@tennesseetrails.org

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Jennifer Zahn 615-943-8853

murfreesborohikes@tennesseetrails.org

BLOGMASTER Craig McBride 615-394-6121

murfreesboroblog@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS MONTHLY (except Jan, Feb, Jul, Aug): 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT, Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness

Station, 697 Veterans Parkway, Murfreesboro **BLOG**: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/murfreesboro

Mar 7 - Big Frog Mountain. Southeastern Tennessee located in the Cherokee National Forest. 11 miles with 2,000 feet elevation gain. Difficult because of elevation gain and distance. Joint hike with the Nashville Chapter. The hike begins at the trailhead just above Thunder Rock Campground off U.S. Hwy 64 that runs along the Ocoee River near the Whitewater Center. For further details, contact Jan Safavi at 615-390-9146 or safavi.jan@gmail.com.

Murfreesboro Chapter - con't.

Mar 10 - Chapter Meeting. Kelli Handley will be our guest speaker. Kelli will explain the benefits of hiking for mental and physical health and will demonstrate a fitness program to help hikers of all fitness levels prepare for day hikes, multi-day hikes, and backpacking. She will include exercise modifications for beginners and those with special considerations. Additionally, she will explain how certain exercises may help prepare hikers for various terrains and obstacles that they may experience on the trail. There will be an opportunity for attendees to participate in a short 'master class' consisting of a few of the recommended exercises. Participation isn't required. Wear attire appropriate for light movement if you want to participate. Kelli is an avid hiker who, along with her husband, hits the trails as frequently as possible. She holds a Masters of Science from MTSU and has been a health and fitness consultant, personal trainer, and group fitness instructor for over 20 years.

Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness. 12 miles. Moderate to strenuous. Located in the 10,000 acre Wildlife Management area in White County, Tennessee. We will meet at the Polly Branch Falls trailhead, hiking the Polly Branch Trail to the River Trail, with stops at Upper and Lower Polly Branch Falls. We will then take the Caney Fork River Trail to Joe Holloway Rock House, and road walk about ½ mile to the Yellow Bluff trailhead. Then proceeding on the Yellow Bluff Trail, with a side trail to the Overlook, then back to the Polly Branch Falls Trail. There are a couple of stream crossings so bring water shoes, in addition to hiking boots, water, snacks, and lunch. For more information on ride sharing from Murfreesboro, and to register contact 615-887-0212 Wayne Yancev at wayne.yancey@gmail.com.

Mar 14 – "Pick a Park" series. 4 miles. Easy. Two for one - Montgomery Bell State and Narrows of the Harpeth State Parks. Bring your State Park Passport book. We'll hike the Ore Pit Trail Loop that passes the historic church site by the Visitors' Center. Meet at the Visitors Center at 10:00 am, or email Jeanne if you are interested in carpooling or be part of a caravan from Smyrna. Then on to the Narrows of the Harpeth to hike 2 miles out and back on the bluff trails and by the old tunnel. Both are rated easy, natural surface trails, about 2 miles each for a total of 4 miles. This is a family friendly hike and a chance to visit two state parks in one day. Bring snacks and water. Please RSVP by email to Jeanne Conatser at djconatser@comcast.net in case we cancel for weather.

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Mar 28 – Bear Creek Backcountry Loop Trail. Cloudland Canyon State Park. Trenton, Georgia. 8 miles. Moderate. Joint hike with the Highland Rim Chapter. The focus of Cloudland Canyon State Park is a deep gorge carved by Sitton Gulch Creek. The Bear Creek Backcountry Trail drops down from the East Rim of the gorge to cross Bear Creek. This hike takes us into seldom seen areas, offering several beautiful vistas of the East and West Rims of the gorge and fascinating geology. Consider bringing water shoes for crossing Bear Creek. Bring water, snacks and lunch. We will meet the Highland Rim Chapter hikers at 7:45 am CT at Monteagle Elementary School or 9:00 am CT at the Cloudland Canyon State Park Visitor Center. To register or for information on the carpool from Murfreesboro, contact Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or sarabpollard@gmail.com.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR:

615-715-1517.

Doug Burroughs 615-283-0507 nashville@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Nancy Juodenas 615-319-8811 nashvillehikes@tennesseetrails.org

(email Nancy & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT in the REI Community Room, 261 Franklin Road, Brentwood. For directions, visit: www.tennesseetrails.org/nashville.php BLOG: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/nashville

Mar 7 - Monte Sano State Park. 5 or 8 miles. Moderately strenuous. This park is uniquely located right in the city of Huntsville and features a combination of interesting geographic features and great views. Plans (subject to trail conditions) are to hike two combination routes based on the McKay Hollow and Stone Cuts trails (moderately strenuous for relatively steep inclines, rocky segments, and rugged footing.) We'll likely encounter muddy segments and shallow water crossings so choose your footwear accordingly. We'll meet up 7:00 am and have lunch on the trail. Those interested will have dinner locally and should arrive back by around 7 pm. Contact Mark Hubbard for meetup location and details: mark.hubbard@mhhub.us or

Mar 7 - Big Frog Mountain. 11 miles with 2,000 foot elevation gain. Difficult because of elevation gain and distance. Joint hike with Murfreesboro Chapter. Hike begins at the trailhead just above Thunder Rock Campground off of U.S. Hwy. 64 that runs along the Ocoee river near the Whitewater center. Contact Kathy Woods: kwoodz@comcast.net or 615-473-6824 for further details.

Nashville Chapter - con't.

Mar 14 - Nashville Urban Hike. 4 to 5 miles. Easy. Start time is 8:00 am at the Carillon Bells, north end of Bicentennial Mall, near Farmers' Market and TN State Museum. We will follow greenways a good deal of the way. The route will head east, next to the 1st Tennessee Ballpark, leading to the Cumberland River Greenway. We will follow the edge of the river, heading south to Ft. Nashboro and then past Broadway at the Music City Star depot and up the hill to explore the Betty Brown Tree Trail near Ascend Amphitheatre, and on past where Pinewood Social is. With a great view of the river, this is our turnaround point. We'll proceed towards Husk restaurant on Rutledge Hill and appreciate the Victorian architecture, then downhill to the edge to the honky-tonk district. We walk the Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge with some great city views towards Nissan Stadium and go north along its side. Turning towards downtown we cross Woodland Street Bridge, pass city hall and continue to the state capitol for another special view. Here we return to our starting point, although an optional extra mile or so is available into Germantown. We are hiking on pavement. Bring water or plan to purchase some along the way. Our treat for finishing up will be an optional visit to Farmer's Market by lunchtime for some fresh fruit and possibly an ice cream at Jeni's. The TN State Museum is also an excellent visit and with free parking. Contact Tom Vickstrom: 615-405-6713 or tomzinger55@gmail.com.

Mar 21 - Johnsonville State Historic Park is a day-use park named for former President Andrew Johnson who also served as the Union Military Governor of Tennessee during the Civil War. This 1,075-acre park located in Humphreys County commemorates the site of the Johnsonville Depot, the Battle of Johnsonville and the historic town site of Johnsonville that existed from 1864-1944 prior to the formation of Kentucky Lake. In 2012, the park opened a new welcome center which features a museum, theater and gift shop that offers visitors an opportunity to learn more about the Johnsonville Depot and the 1864 Battle of Johnsonville. There is also information about the 80 year history of Old Johnsonville, the town that grew up around the Union supply depot in 1864 and was flooded by Kentucky Lake in the spring of 1944. There are approximately 10 miles of wellmaintained trails: • Historic Johnsonville Trail is 8 miles long • African-American Cemetery Loop Trail is 0.5 miles long • Civil War Forts Trail The park is on the Tennessee River, an hour and a half due west of Nashville. Contact Karl Dupre for travel details at: karld@comcast.net or 615-207-2250.

Mar 24 - Monthly program meeting. Day Hiking in Southern France in the land of the Cathars. Three Nashville Chapter members signed up with an adventure company last year for a 10-day guided hike and tour in southwestern France. We hiked through the hilly countryside as well as small villages and towns. We learned about local wine and cheese production directly from the producers. And we learned about the medieval history of the castles perched on the steep peaks throughout the area. Bring a friend!

PLATEAU CHAPTER

(Crossville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Norm Brinsley 931-202-2338

plateau@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER: Clark Zedric 217-520-9889

plateautreas @tennesseetrails.org

Bob Obohoski 931-456-4282 boardplateau@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm CT BLOG: www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/plateau

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

There is a leaderless hike (typically 5 - 7 miles) every Wednesday morning. For additional information or to register for any of our hikes (unless otherwise noted), contact the hike coordinator, Deb Westervelt, via email plateauhikes@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243. For a list of monthly hikes, visit the Plateau Chapter blog. Check the blog one hour prior to hike time for cancellation or for any other updates/changes to our schedule before hiking.

Mar 4 - Gentleman's Swimming Hole, Rugby, TN & Colditz Cove, Allardt, TN. This is a combined 3.5 mile moderate hike. Colditz Cove features a pristine 1.5 mile loop to the 60 foot high Northrop Falls. A short drive brings us to the Gentleman's Swimming Hole for an additional 2 mile hike. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Depart from Cracker Barrel at 7:30 am CT. Carpool cost \$5.

Mar 11 - Daddys Creek Section Trail, Hebbettsburg, TN. Long Hike: This will be a 7.5 moderate mile thru hike along Daddys Creek, past a 1940s cave house once home to a family for years. Requires an 8-mile shuttle. Short Hike: Starting from the Keyes Rd Trailhead to the connector trail yellow gated parking area is 4.7 moderate miles. Depart 7:30 am CT from Southwest parking lot of the VF outlet mall on Interstate Drive. Those in the Fairfield Glade area may join the caravan at 7:45 am at the 4-way stop at the intersection of Peavine Road and Stonehenge Drive. Carpool cost is \$2. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch.

Mar 12 - Chapter Monthly Meeting. Meeting held 6 pm in the First Methodist Church Annex on Neecham St. Meet for dinner at 4:30 pm Abuela's Cuban on Main Street downtown. Please let Norm know you are coming to dinner, 772-529-9243.

Mar 14 - Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Collins Rim Trail, Gruetli Laager, TN. Long hike: From the Collins West Trailhead. We will in/out hike 7-8 moderate miles on the East side of the rim with scenic overlooks. Short hike: 5 miles or less in/out. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Depart at 7:30 am CT from Trinity Tabernacle on Hwy 127 South. Carpool cost is \$7.

Plateau Chapter - con't.

Mar 18 - Big South Fork (BSF), Grand Gap Loop, Oneida, TN. Long hike: This is a 6.8 mile moderate loop trail hike among cliffs and boulders with spectacular views of the BSF Gorge from Angel Falls Overlook. Short hike: 4 miles in/out. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Depart 7:30 am CT from the Crossville Cracker Barrel SW parking lot. Carpool cost is \$6.

Mar 21 - GSMNP Walker Sisters Cabin and Little Green Brier School. Long hike: 8 mile in/out moderate to strenuous due to 1500' elevation gain. Short hike: 4.5 mile easy hike in/out turning around at the end of Little Brier Gap Trail. Our hike will start from the Metcalf Bottoms campground on Metcalf Bottoms Trail .6 mi to the school then Little Brier Gap Trail to a junction of a gravel road and Grassy Rd. The gravel road leads .25 mi to the Walker Sisters Cabin and spring house where 10 children were raised. Carpool cost \$8. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Depart at 7:30 am CT from Dorton United Methodist Church one mile east of Peavine Rd on Hwy 70E.

Mar 25 - Cloudland Canyon, West Rim Loop Trail. Long hike: We'll hike 6 miles, lollypop loop, rated moderate to difficult starting from "Parking West Rim Loop Trailhead". Short hike: 3.5 miles in/out. Most of the hike is moderately difficult, becoming strenuous on several short sections. Gorgeous overlooks of the canyon, Cherokee Falls, Hemlock Falls, and views of the towns of Trenton and Lookout Valley, a drop of 1200'. There is a wide variety of mosses, ferns, mushrooms, and wildflowers. Depart from Trinity Tabernacle Church Hwy 127 South 7:30 am CT. Carpool cost is \$9. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch.

TIP

Dressing in layers will allow you to adjust to different levels of exertion. Weather can change unexpectedly in the spring, fall and winter, and proper layering will help keep you comfortable, warm and dry.



SODDY-DAISY CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Jean Smith 423- 596-7681

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TREASURER: Robertson (Bob) McGavock 423-667-2960

ertson (Bob) McGavock 423-667-2960 soddydaisytreas@tennesseetrails.org

HIKE COORDINATOR: Patricia Appleton 423-332-6517 soddydaisyhikes@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS QUARTERLY: Tuesday of the week following the TTA Board Meetings in Feb, May, Aug and Oct at 6:00 pm ET at Burk's United Methodist Church, 6433 Hixson Pike, Hixson

> Additional information may be seen at our web site: http://www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/soddydaisy

Mar 3 - Laurel-Snow Trail hike to Laurel Falls. 6.1 miles in and out. Moderate. Meet at the Durham Street parking lot at 8:30. Tom McElhone. 805-208-4654.

Mar 7 – Flipper Bend. 93. Miles. Moderately strenuous. We will meet in the Soddy Daisy Walmart parking lot just north of the service station at 830 am. Hike Leader: John Politte, 423-304-8327.

Mar 10 - Harrison Bay State Park. Easy. Meet at 8:30 am at the park. Hike Leader Nancy Allen: 423-987-0941.

Mar 14 – Millennium and Merritt Ridge Loop, Edgar Evins State Park. 8 miles. Moderate. Joint hike with Highland Rim Chapter. The hike is described as moderate, but steep in places. We will meet the Highland Rim TTA group at 830 am CT at the park's visitor center. Thus, we must depart the Soddy Daisy ballfields promptly at 730 am ET. Call John Politte: 423-304-8327.

Mar 17 – Forestry Cabin/Dotson Point Loop portion of Sewanee Perimeter Trail. 4.5 miles. This route is along the bluff and is a nice easy rolling hike. A short detour at the start will get us to the Forestry Cabin for a good view of the valley. Dotson Point further along the trail also offers a nice view but note that the farthest rock out on Dotson Point is not for acrophobes. The payoff: Views from the Forestry Cabin and from Dotson Point are from opposite sides of Thumping Dick Cove, so you can see where you were or where you are going. Hike leaders are Marti and Roy Owensby: 423-309-0579.

Mar 21 - Two moderate hikes totaling 5 miles. First we'll do the Denny Cove Trail (2.8 miles), followed by a hike to do the Climbers Loop Trail (2.2 miles). We will depart the Soddy Daisy ballfields parking lot at 830 am. Hike Leader: Tom McElhone. 805-208-4654.

Mar 24 - Brush Creek Trail. 5 to 6 miles, in and out. Easy. This trail is also shared with bicyclists. The trailhead/kiosk is located at a small parking area on US 64, one mile East of Boyd Gap on the left. The trail will start out on the North side of US 64, then double back under the highway to meander easily above Brush Creek, and finally offer views of #2 Ocoee Lake. We'll meet at Ooltewah Food City pkg lot at 8:30 am or at the trailhead at 9:15 am. Hikers that want to meet and double-up at Hixson Target at 8:00 am must call me the day before to confirm. Hike Leader: Bob McGavock, 423-667-2960.

Soddy Daisy Chapter - con't.

Mar 28 – Soak Creek between Stinging Fork Falls Trailhad and Piney River Trailhead; 7 miles. Moderately strenuous. Vehicle staging required. We will meet at the Soddy Daisy ballfields parking lot at 8:30 am. Tammy Hendrick, 315-949-8187.

Mar 31 - Glen Falls. 4 to 5 miles roundtrip. Will start from the parking lot across from Ruby Falls. Meet at Food City in Red Bank at 8:30 am or at trailhead at 9:00. Hike leader: Rene Grace, 423-593-8128.

SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS:

Marcia Powell 217-855-3013 Jenny Fitzgerald 615-517-8185 sumner@tennesseetrails.org

TREASURER:

John Jones 615-533-0127 sumnertreas@tennesseetrails.org

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Duane Frichtl 309-830-9720 boardsumner@tennesseetrails.org

Mar 5 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting. 10 am Hendersonville Library at 150 Saundersville Road. Join us for the meeting and then stay for a walk along the Hendersonville Greenway. We will discuss possible future hikes. We may go to lunch after the meeting if there is interest. For more information call Marcia Powell 217-855-3013.

Mar 9 – Beaman Park, Nashville. 3.2 miles. Easy to moderate with a couple of hills. Join us on a loop that leaves from the Beaman Park Nature Center. 5911 Old Hickory Blvd. We will follow the Sedge Hill Trail down to the Creek and take the Henry Hollow Loop Trail up across the ridge and back down to the creek, returning back along the Sedge Hill Trail to the Nature Center. Hiking poles recommended. Those who wish to carpool, please meet us at the Kroger in the Glenbrook Shopping Center at 9:00 am, 1010 Glenbrook Way, Hendersonville or meet at the park Nature Center at 9:30. For more information please contact Jenny Fitzgerald at mrzfitz@gmail.com or 615-517-8185. We hope you will join us!

Mar 18 – High Ridge and Shoreline Trails Loop, Bledsoe Creek State Park. 2.4 miles. Easy to moderate. At 10:00 am we will start the hike from the Visitor Center/Park Office, 400 Ziegler Fort, Gallatin, TN. Trail surface includes gravel, dirt, rocks and steep stairs. Recommend water, hiking shoes and poles. For questions contact Bob Dudney at 615-415-7115 or rsdudney@comcast.net.

Con't. on next page

Mar 25 - Narrows of the Harpeth. 2 to 4 miles. Moderate. This hike follows alongside the river, passing through an area known as "The Narrows". Here, the Harpeth River in a 5 mile bend nearly curves back on itself. Highlights include a panoramic view of the area and a man-made tunnel that goes about 100 yards through the bluff at the narrowest point. Back in 1890 Montgomery Bell, using slave labor bored the tunnel to provide water power for his iron ore mill. We usually see lots of wildflowers so bring your books, also footwear you don't mind getting wet or muddy, and walking sticks for some slippery sections. Meet for carpooling at the Glenbrook Kroger parking lot, 1010 Glenbrook Way, Hendersonville at 9:00 am CT or at the Harris-Street Bridge trailhead at 10:00 am CT. After the hike we'll have lunch at Carl's Perfect Pig in White Bluff. For further info contact Judy Jenkins at judy_jenkins@comcast.net or 615-403-0002.

Mar 30 - Spring Wildflower Hike on the Jones Mill Trail (Long Hunter State Park) Easy to moderate. Join us on the trail as it meanders through several cedar glades and wooded trails and boasts an impressive array of spring wildflowers. We'll hike the outer loop which ascends Bald Knob, the highest overlook on Percy Priest Lake and circle back for a 3.5 mile trek. While we will keep the hike moving, there will be occasional stops to observe various Spring wildflowers that are in early bloom. Be advised this is also a mountain bike trail and the occasional bike(s) get first right of way. Carpool will leave the Glenbrook Kroger at 8:45 am or meet at Jones Mill Trail head at 9:30 am, located at 9933 Barnett Road, Mt Juliet TN (use address as trailhead is different location than main entrance to the park). We'll have lunch at the Margarita House Mexican Restaurant too before carpooling home. Contact Jenny Fitzgerald at 615-517-8185 or mrzfitz@gmail.com with questions. Hope you can join us!

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER CHAÎR: Cynthia Karrington 931-303-3409 uppercumberland@tennesseetrails.org HIKE COORDINATOR: Cathy Moran 931-544-2764

uppercumberlandhikes@tennesseetrails.org

Mar 7 - Pogue Creek Canyon, Fentress County near Pickett State Park. 6.5 miles. Moderate to strenuous. Pogue Creek is a surprise with many outstanding features including beautiful.bluffs and cliffs ,rock houses, overlooks and displays of reddish-orange and yellow layers of sandstone throughout the gorge which contribute to a special hike well worth exploring. Meet at JC Penny's Cookeville at 8:00 am side parking lot . Contact and register with Cynthia at 931-303-3409 or *Ckpennvalley @gmail.com*.

Upper Cumberland Chapter - con't.

Mar 14 - Wheeler Farm Loop, Spencer TN. 3.5 miles, Moderate. We'll hike to Medley Arch, a unique 90' high arch/natural bridge. Then depending on weather we'll hike off trail to a multi-level waterfall that emerges from the side of a cliff and disappears at its bottom. We'll hike to the back side of Medley Arch. We'll then return to the trail and descend to Cane Creek Valley where we'll take a side trail to view Cane Creek. From Cane Creek we go up the valley to Wheeler Falls, a 120 foot tiered waterfall with 2 separate sources at the upper level. Continuing down the valley we will visit the remains of the bottomland farm home site. We retrace are steps back to Wheeler Falls and ascend the old farm road to complete the loop. A total elevation gain/loss of 400 feet. Bring lunch, snacks, water and wear good hike boots and dress for the weather. We will meet at U.S. Bank, Hwy 111, Sparta (across from McDonalds) at 8 am CT. Contact Pete Broehl at 931 738-3551 or email at pabroehl@blomand.net to register.

Mar 21 - Fiery Gizzard Trail, South Cumberland State Park. Tracy City, TN. We will do the 9 mile loop beginning at the Grundy Forest Trailhead. We will hike down in the gulf out to Raven's Point and return on the Dog Hole trail. Strenuous because of boulder fields, stream crossings and steep ascents and descents. Meet at the Grundy Forest trailhead in Tracy City at 8:45 am CT. There is an option to hike the Dog Hole trail out to Raven's Point and back to the Grundy trailhead using the Dog Hole trail. Both options are around 9 miles. Bring water, lunch, snacks, headlamp and hiking boots. Meet at the Grundy Forest trailhead in Tracy City at 8:45 am CT. For information and to register contact Gary Kimbrell garykimbrell1@gmail.com or text 931-215-9520.

Mar 28 - Groundhog Ridge Trail, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cosby, TN. 8 to 9 miles. Very strenuous. We will ascend Mount Cammerer along the Groundhog Ridge Trail. This trail is not maintained but is generally easy to follow. The upper parts of the trail are steep and in places trees have fallen across the trail. There is also some rock scrambling near the top. We will be rewarded with outstanding views from the upper parts of the trail and from the Mount Cammerer lookout tower. We will return by taking the Mount Cammerer Trail to its junction with the Appalachian Trail. We will hike on the AT, descending to the Lower Mount Cammerer Trail, then to its junction with the Groundhog Ridge Trail and then back to the beginning. Bring lunch, water, snacks, headlamp, raingear, and wear good hiking boots. You can meet us at 7:00 am CT at the Penney's parking lot in Cookeville. For information and to register contact Gary Kimbrell at 931-215-9520 or garykimbrell1@gmail.

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

Newsletter Editor

LouAnn Partington 931-393-4835

editor@tennesseetrails.org

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING HIKE INFORMATION

When submitting monthly hike listings, please include the following information:

- Date, trail name, location (Park, City, State), mileage, rating (easy, moderate, etc), hike description (what you may expect to see, elevation changes, obstacles that affect the hike rating), what to wear or bring, meeting time and location, and hike leader's contact information.
- Please identify any hikes that are multi-chapter events.
- Please DO NOT format the submissions (avoid bold, italics, underlining or colored text), as this slows the editorial process.

Hike descriptions are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. A good hike description can encourage members (and prospective members) to try a new hike, but also alerts prospective hikers to outings that may be unsuitable for their level of expertise, fitness, or fear of heights and suspension bridges.

All submissions should be made by e-mail to editor@tennesseetrails.org. This e-mail address is automatically copied to our webmaster. All submissions MUST be received by the 10th of the month PRIOR to the hikes (i.e. February hike listings must be submitted by January 10) in order to be included in the newsletter. Late submissions will be updated on the TTA website, but have no guarantee of inclusion in the newsletter.

We will also be glad to print any hike reports, general chapter news and hike or event photographs as space permits.

Newsletter Deadlines:

Deadlines for Chapter announcements and articles of special interest are due on the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

All submissions are subject to editing. Articles of general interest and non-hiking events will be included as space permits.

Please send all submissions to: editor@tennesseetrails.org

Please note: Newsletter submissions to the "editor" address are automatically copied to the webmaster for inclusion on the TTA website.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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!!!

	WANT TO JOIN TENIA NEW MEM RENEWING Memberships are for one y Gift Memberships are also	BER MY MEMBEF year, unless you have a l	Lifetime Membership.	Please Mail This Form To: Membership Director P.O. Box 41446 Nashville, TN 37204-1446
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