

TENNESSEE TRAILS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

*We are hikers and advocates that have helped to build, maintain,
and promote the responsible use of Tennessee trails since 1968.*

SUPPORTING THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



Three Awards Presented During TTA Annual Meeting

The Awards presentation took place on Saturday night during the Annual Membership Meeting. Congratulations to our award recipients for 2022!

The **Bill Stutz Award** is presented to an active hiker and TTA member for their contributions to the Association and to their chapter. **John and Deborah Martin of the Plateau Chapter**, received this award for 2022. Norm Brinsley, in his nomination letter said the following, "John and Deborah Martin demonstrate a sense of dedication to promoting the use of nature's wonderland, protecting the environment and supporting the Tennessee Trails Association's statewide mission of building and maintaining hiking trails. Their consistent hard work and enthusiasm has been contagious amongst chapter members. It has helped to build a core of activities that promote the values of the Plateau Chapter and the Tennessee Trails Association."

The **Tennessee Trails Award** recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of individuals in the furtherance of TTA's objectives. **June Callahan, of the Nashville Chapter**, received this award for 2022. June served as her chapter's treasurer for a decade and earlier this year volunteered to serve as the Tennessee Trails Association's Treasurer. Mark Hubbard, in his nomination letter wrote the following, "June inspired a renewed focus on solidifying the Association's financial integrity and worked tirelessly to improve its operational sustainability by developing a detailed financial policy and procedures manual. She has gently led the Finance Committee towards its goals with great humility and an ear to its members point of view."

The **Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award** honors lifetime leadership and personal contributions to hiking and conservation in the State of Tennessee. This award for 2022 was presented to **Earl Helmer of the Scenic City Chapter**. Robertson McGavock, in his nomination letter, mentioned that Earl was a stabilizing factor when the chapter went through a leadership change a few years after he joined in 2009. He has continually been involved with trail repairs and construction, receiving numerous awards from CTC and Tennessee State Parks. Earl is a Steward for Chattanooga Parks and Greenways, a Steward of the Tennessee River Gorge Land Trust and an active volunteer with the Red Cross. Robertson wrote, "His fellow Chapter members and I hold him in highest esteem and look on him as most worthy for the Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award."

Evan Means Grant Program

TTA's Board of Directors accepts Evan Means Grant submissions at quarterly board meetings. The grants support special volunteer projects that are compatible with the chartered objectives of TTA: promoting and developing a system of hiking trails in Tennessee. Deadlines for 2023 are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

All chapters are encouraged to look within their local area, identify a special trail or park project, request and submit a formal grant application. Grant requests less than \$1,000 are encouraged. However, if a project requires additional grant money, considerations will be made. Guidelines and applications can be found on the TTA website at www.tennesseetrails.org, under "Get Involved".

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

SAVE THE DATE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The Jackson and Memphis chapters are hosting the 2023 annual conference at Natchez Trace State Park near Wildersville/Yuma, TN. Dates are October 20-22, 2023. Wayne Simpson is already coordinating some great hikes.

The website lists a free continental breakfast. Free is only for those staying in a room at Pin Oak. Others may purchase for \$4.95 plus tax. The park restaurant has dinner buffets on Friday night (presently seafood) and on Saturday nights (BBQ foods).

We encourage you to reserve your rooms/villas/cabins/camping areas quickly as they often fill up well in advance of date.

RATES:

Please look at Pin Oak's website under TN State Parks Natchez Trace State Park to confirm rates. You can call or reserve online. Use **group code 3568** when making reservations.

- 41 Rooms at Pin Oak: regular rate \$128 per night. TN residents, AAA or Sr. Citizen rates are \$115.20 per night (all plus tax)
- 9 Villas aka Deluxe 2 Bedroom Cabin: 3 queen beds plus 2 roll away beds so you can sleep 6-8. 2 Bathrooms. Living room, deck. \$202 per night plus taxes.
- 5 one room cabins at Pin Oak Campground: \$49 per night plus tax
- 17 cabins at Cub Lake - \$115-130 per night depending on whether you get cabin for 2 or cabin for 4 (plus taxes)
- 76 Camping sites at Pin Oak with water, sewer, electricity. \$37 per night plus taxes
- 40 campsites at Cub Lake \$29 per night with water (no sewer) hookup or \$17 per night (no water, no sewer) plus taxes

REMINDER

Many chapters elect new officers, board representatives and hike coordinators in January.

Please check your chapter masthead this month. If there are updates needed, please include that information with your next chapter submission so that your chapter contact information can be updated.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2022 Annual Membership Meeting was held on Nov. 5th at Glenstone Lodge in Gatlinburg, TN. If you are a TTA member, and would like a copy of the Minutes of this meeting, please send your request to the TTA Board Secretary at ttasecretary68@tennesseetrails.org.



Cumberland Trails Conference

Office Location:	409 Thurman Avenue, Ste 102 Crossville, TN 38555
Office Hours:	Monday - Thursday 8 AM - 3 PM CT
Phone:	931-456-6259
Office Staff:	Savana Keeton
E-mail:	ctcoffice2014@gmail.com
Website:	www.cumberlandtrail.org

Please check the CTC website or contact the CTC office for updates on events and volunteer activities.



Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a very happy New Year!

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Paula Sanders 954-993-5541
Suva Bastin 931-645-2849

ttacklarksville68tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Paul Schwab 931-801-9484

ttacklarkvillehikes68@tennesseetrails.org

(call Paul & volunteer to lead an outing)

MEETS MONTHLY: 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm CT,
Wade Bourne Nature Center, 2308 Rotary Park Dr.,
Clarksville, TN 37043.

Dec 3 - Nashville Urban Hike. 4 miles. Moderate. Start at Bicentennial Capital Mall and hike along the Downtown Cumberland Greenway. Cross John Seigenthaler Memorial Bridge which is one of the longest pedestrian bridges in the world. There is a restroom at the end of the bridge. We will return to the mall through city streets and eat lunch at the Farmers Market. Meet 8:00 am CT, I 24 Exit 11 Parking Lot. 39 miles to the trailhead. Contact Paul Schwab 931-801-9484.

Dec 10 - Paris Landing SP Raptor Ridge Loop Trail and Gravel Beech Spur. 3.2 total miles. Moderate because of a few short steep sections. The trail is on natural turf through pretty woods with lots of views of Kentucky Lake. There are lots of pretty shells on Gravel Beach. Dogs are welcome if on a leash. There is a restroom near the trailhead. Meet 8:00 am CT at Dover Crossing Kroger Parking Lot. 42 miles to trailhead. Contact Cinde Jones 870-215-8993.

Dec 17 - Clarksville Greenway from Pollard Road Trail Head to Mary's Oak Drive Trail Head and back. 4 total miles. Easy. The trail is paved and follows an abandon rail road right of way through the woods. You will pass through some interesting rock formations. Dogs are welcome if on a leash. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Meet 9:00 am CT at the Pollard Road trail head. Contact Steve Turner 931-220-0927.

Dec 20 - Monthly Chapter Meeting. Meet 6:00 P.M. CT, at Wade Bourne Nature Center, 2308 Rotary Park Dr, Clarksville. Potluck supper, Bring your own drinks. Contact Paula Sanders 954-993-5541 or Suva Bastin 931-645-2849.

Dec 31- New Year's Eve Hike. 4.5 miles. Moderate. We will hike through Austin Peay campus, circle downtown Clarksville and return. The entire hike is paved. Dogs are welcome if on a leash. There is a porta potty at the trailhead. Meet 3:00 pm CT Red River East Trailhead, 820 Kraft Street. Contact Lionel Senseney 931-551-6738.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Jane Coffey 615-516-6551
Marvin Caine 931-486-1632

ttacolumbia68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Jane Coffey 615-516-6551

ttacolumbiahikes68@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.

Hike information unavailable at press time.

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 of having to stop to locate change).

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 to and from a trailhead is generally the most dangerous part of any hiking trip.

Joining TTA as a New Member? Membership Up For Renewal? 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.

Supporting Member donations support 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.

EAST TN CHAPTER **(Oak Ridge / Knoxville)**

CHAPTER CHAIR: Rosemary Marshall 865-985-9144
ttaeasttennessee68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Sherry Barber 865-209-6189
sbarber6189@comcast.net

Dec 10 - Ijams Nature Center. 4.8 miles. Easy. Only 3 miles from downtown Knoxville! One of our favorite trails has finally reopened after being closed for several years due to extreme weather. Join our chapter and once again hike the River Board Walk trail. After this pre-holiday hike, we'll celebrate our great year of hiking with a picnic in the park. Preregister with Rosie at *Rosemary_J@hotmail.com* or 865-985-9144.

HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER **(Coffee and Franklin Counties)**

CHAPTER CHAIR: Patricia Deen 760-703-8115
ttahighlandrim68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Tom Hartvigsen 931-962-0811
jhartvigs@comcast.net
(contact Tom & volunteer to lead an outing)
MEETS MONTHLY: 4th Monday

Dec 4 - Boiling Fork Trail, Fairview/Devil Step Campground, Tims Ford State Park. This is an easy 2.7 mile Sunday afternoon hike. Address: 129 Fairview Campground Road, Winchester. Trailhead parking and kiosk is on the right past the check-in/gift shop and Ranger house on the left. Additional parking across the road. This new trail features beautiful views of Tims Ford Lake and Devils Step Island. We will hike through woods of mature hardwood trees. Meet at 1 pm CT at the trailhead. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-636-2914. Bring water and wear sturdy hiking boots.

Dec 9 - Highland Rim Chapter Christmas Party, 5pm, Cathy Conley's home, 106 Hamilton Lane, Tullahoma, TN. Pizza and a variety of beverages will be provided. Please bring a fruit or vegetable tray or dessert. The party will be outside under the carport and in the yard and inside. There is a hot tub and a fire pit outside. There will be a story-telling contest, corn hole and foosball. Please contact Cathy to let her know you are coming and for more details, *cgconley9@gmail.com*. Also, please check the website for information.

Highland Rim Chapter – con't.

Dec 10 – Ritchie Hollow Trail to Snoopers Rock and return. 8 miles. 1,450 ft elevation change. Moderate. The Ritchie Hollow Trail connects the Tennessee River to the Pot Point Loop Trail on top of the mountain in Prentice Cooper State Forest. We will pass Blowing Wind Falls as we meander through mature hardwood forests on our way to Snoopers Rock. Snoopers Rock is a bare rock promontory offering a wide view of the Tennessee River Gorge. Throughout the hike we will enjoy beautiful views of the Tennessee River. Meet at the Ritchie Hollow Trailhead parking lot across from Pot Point Cabin, 17805 River Canyon Road, Chattanooga at 8 am. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931-636-2914.

Dec 15 - Sherwood Forest State Natural Area, Sewanee, TN. South Cumberland State Park. Easy three mile loop hike. This hike offers great views, beautiful forests and interesting geologic features. Meet at 9 am CT at the trailhead. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, *jhartvigs@comcast.net* or 931- 636-2914. Directions: take exit 134 off Interstate 24, turn left toward Sewanee for 3.1 miles. Then turn left on Hwy 156. Continue 8.5 miles and turn right on Old CCC Road and continue 2 miles to parking area located at the end of the road.

Dec 17 - Lost Cove Trail, Sewanee, TN. Five to seven miles, steep uphill and downhill with some bushwhacking. Contact Marietta Poteet for more information and to register: *nannietta@benlomand.net* or 931-924-7666.

Planning Ahead:

Jan 28 – The 21st Annual Poteet Chilly Chili Hike.
Details TBA.

JACKSON CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Melinda Pearson 731-225-4293

ttajackson68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Glen Rognstad 731-217-5966

ttajacksonhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS MONTHLY: 1st Monday at 6:00 pm CT

Saturday, Dec 3 - Walls of Jericho near Manchester, TN. 6 miles. Difficult due to elevation and terrain. The round trip hike is strenuous, but well worth the effort. From the trailhead, the trek descends more than 1,000 feet into a box canyon that showcases the dynamic landscapes of the Cumberland. from the exposed limestone formations decorated with lichen and moss to the tranquility of Hurricane Creek. As the trail winds into the canyon, the sound of the forest is as diverse as the scenery from woodpeckers to chipmunks to footsteps in the leaves. The bluff funnels hikers into a large limestone amphitheater carved over the years by Turkey Creek. Even though it is only 6 miles it will take about 6 hours to hike so pack plenty of water, snacks and lunch and dress according to the weather. Hiking boots are recommended. We will meet at the Waffle House in Sewanee (exit 134 off I-24) at 8:00 and drive to the trailhead arriving by 9:00 am (or meet at the Alabama trailhead at 9:00). Please register with Glen Rognstad if you plan to attend. 731-217-5966 or *glenrognstad@gmail.com*.

Sunday, Dec 4 - Sewanee. Meet at the Waffle House in Sewanee (exit 134 of I-24) at 8:00 a.m. to hike near Sewanee. It will be a short hike: 2.4 miles out and back from the "Cross" to Morgan's Steep through Proctor Hall. Please register with Glen Rognstad if you plan to attend. 731-217-5966 or *glenrognstad@gmail.com*.

Monday, Dec 5 - Monthly meeting. Mulligan's in Jackson. 6 pm. We will meet on the left side of building this month.

Saturday, Dec 10 - Nathan Bedford Forest State Park. 6 miles. Moderate due to some elevation change. We will meet in the parking lot near the Pilot Knob folklife center. We will then caravan to the back gate where the hike will begin. It will feature some newly accessible areas that were opened up by the 2020 tornado which include some view of Kentucky Lake and recently installed camping cabins. We will also visit an interesting abandoned retreat camp previously owned by Bethel College. Now having a back gate, the park can offer hikers better access to some of the more remote trails due to a property acquisition a few years ago. As we enter the park by the back gate we will be able to appreciate the new group camping area. Hikers will also be able to observe the new signs at the trail intersections that were purchased through an Evans Means Grant (TTA). There will be an option for a 3-4 mile hike that will include all of the above except the abandoned campsite if you prefer. Susan will need to know by Thursday, December 8 which hike you prefer and if you are planning to hike. We will meet at 9:30 am at Pilot Knob meaning from Jackson it is about 70 miles (1 hr 20 m). Please text/call Susan Woods at 731-441-8066 or email to *woodsbob@bellsouth.net*.

Jackson Chapter – con't.

Friday, Dec 16 - Chapter Christmas Party at Barbara Hobock's house (57 Copper Ridge Cove in Jackson). Happy hour begins at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. We are asked to bring appetizers, salad, veggie or dessert. (Barbara providing meat and bread). and it is BYOB. Please text or email Barbara if you plan to attend and what you will be bringing to eat (as we don't want everyone to bring the same thing). *hobock75@gmail.com* or 731-431-7119 (or tell her at December meeting)

LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday, Jan 2 - Chapter meeting at Mulligans in Jackson. 6 pm.

Saturday, Jan 7 - Pin Oak Trail at Natchez Trace State Park

Monday, Jan 16 - Canal Loop at Land Between the Lakes. Joint hike with Clarksville Chapter.

Don't Miss an Outing Plan Ahead Register Early!

Our hike coordinators are volunteers. Make it easier for them to contact you if a hike needs to be cancelled by registering!

There are times when a hike leader must limit the number of participants (due to park regulations, etc.) on an outing. Please do not wait until the afternoon or evening before the outing to RSVP.

Plan ahead and register early.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Charlie Bright 901-829-4434
ttamemphis68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Wayne Simpson
w.simpson1@comcast.net

Dec 3 - Herb Parsons Lake, Fisherville TN. This is an easy 6 mile hike around the lake and through the woods. Meet at the lake parking lot at 9:15 am and bring snack and water. Hike will start at 9:30 am. Registration is required NO LATER than 6:00 pm Thursday, December 1. Please include your phone number. Rain will cancel hike. Nancy Wark: 901-240-1521, *nhwark@bellsouth.net*.

Dec 10 - Meeman Shelby Forest - Woodland Trail. 4 miles. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot in the area farthest from the Bluff Rd. park entrance. There are 5 steep hills and two possible stream crossings on this trail. Plan to hike 2.5 to 3 hours. Hike begins at 9 so please arrive early for announcements. Sturdy boots, hiking poles, plenty of water and a snack are suggested. Registration is not required but please let the hike leader know you plan to hike. Marion Quinlen: 901-482-8640, *mquinlen@gmail.com*.

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.

TIP

Avoid cotton clothing as "cotton is rotten" and "cotton can kill" when outdoors in cooler temperatures. Cotton dries slowly and won't keep you warm when you get wet, while wool, fleece and other synthetics will. Reconsider wearing jeans if rain is predicted – they weigh too much and take forever to dry.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Jeanne Conatser 615-971-8894
djconatser@comcast.net
Sara Kennedy 615-692-9057
ttamurfreesboro68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Sara Pollard 615-714-3610
ttamurfreesborohikes68@tennesseetrails.org
MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm CT, Barfield-Crescent Park's Wilderness Station, 401 Volunteer Road, Murfreesboro
BLOG: *www.tennesseetrails.org/blog/murfreesboro*

Dec 9 – Chapter Christmas Celebration. Friday evening at 6:00 pm at Jay Brain's house in Regenwood. The address is 2915 Canterbury Court. We will gather outside around Jay's fire pit for grilled hamburgers and ribs. Bring your lawn chair and beverage of choice. The chapter will provide paper plates, napkins, cups, and utensils. Please bring a side item or dessert to share. Invite your family and friends to join us in this celebration of the holiday. You **MUST** let us know if you plan to attend so we know the amount of meat to purchase. Please email or text Jeanne Conatser by December 5 at 615-971-8894 or *djconatser@comcast.net*. Alternate date for inclement weather: Friday, December 16.

Dec 15 - Sherwood Forest State Natural Area. Sewanee. 3 mile loop. Easy. Joint hike with the Highland Rim chapter. This hike offers great views, beautiful forests and interesting geologic features. After the hike we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at 9:00 am CT at the trailhead. Directions to trailhead: Take Exit 134 off Interstate 24, turn left toward Sewanee for 3.1 miles. Turn left on Hwy 156 and continue 8.5 miles. Turn right on Old CCC Road and continue 2 miles to parking area located at the end of the road. For more information or to sign up, contact Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or *sarabpollard@gmail.com*.

Dec 18 - Bearwaller Gap, Carthage. 6 miles. Moderate to difficult. This Sunday morning hike goes along the shoreline of Cordell Hull Lake passing waterfalls, old home sites and rocky overlooks. We'll start at the Defeated Creek campground area and hike to the Tater Knob Overlook. Bring water, snacks and lunch. For more information or to sign up, contact Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or *sarabpollard@gmail.com*.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Doug Burroughs 615-587-0085
ttanashville68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Barbara Bennett 202-236-0880
ttanashvillehikes68@tennesseetrails.org
(email Barbara & volunteer to lead an outing)
MEETS MONTHLY: 4th Tuesday 6:00 pm CT in the REI
Community Room 261 Franklin Rd, Brentwood TN.
Optional Pre-Meeting Activity: See the TTA website
calendar.

Dec 3 - Garrison Creek Loop Trail, Natchez Trace Parkway, Southwest of Franklin, TN. 6.3 miles. Moderate. Meet at 8:00 am in Franklin or 8:45 am at the trailhead. The trail winds through woods and fields, with sections on the original Natchez Trace. Post hike options: Other short trails along the parkway and/or take the short drive to Leipers Fork for something to eat. For more information on the hike & trailhead, and to register, contact Doug Burroughs at dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com or 615-587-0085 (text or leave a message).

Every Wednesday - Radnor Lake Standing Hike (December 7, 14, 21, 28), Radnor Lake State Park, Nashville TN. 5 miles. Moderate. Meet at the Visitor Center, West Parking Lot off Granny White, 1160 Otter Creek Road. Arrive 5-10 minutes early to be ready to hike at 7 am, or earlier if everyone has arrived. This hike has elevation gains on both Ganier Ridge and South Cove Trails. We usually walk at a moderate pace and finish up around 9 am. There are several opportunities to take shorter and flatter alternatives if you want to make it an easier hike. Text Doug Burroughs at 615-587-0085 to register.

Dec 10 – Nashville Chapter Holiday Party, Franklin, TN. 6 pm. Plan to bring a dish to share. For location and other details, please rsvp to Barbara Bennett, BLBennett@comcast.net.

Dec 24 – Franklin Greenway, Franklin, TN. 5 miles. Easy. Celebrate the holiday with an easy hike along the Franklin Greenway. Meet at 7:30 am in front of the Coffee House at the corner of Bridge St and 2nd Ave., N in downtown Franklin. Parking along 2nd Ave, N. After the hike, which winds along the Harpeth River, behind Franklin High School, and over to the Williamson County Rec Center and back, enjoy coffee and/or breakfast at the Coffee House or finish your holiday shopping in downtown Franklin or at the Franklin Farmer's Market. Email Barbara Bennett to register. BLBennett@comcast.net.

Nashville Chapter – con't.

Dec 29 – Henry Hollow/Laurel Woods Combo, Beaman Park, Nashville, TN. Roughly 9 miles. Strenuous for terrain and length. We'll combine the Henry Hollow Loop trail with the eastern loop of the Laurel Woods trail. These paths will take us across creeks and over a number of ridges. Dress & pack for the weather – think layers! Bring a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. We'll meet at the Creekside Trailhead parking lot. Plan for roughly 5-6 hours trail time. Register with Mark for details and updates: midtn@tnhiker.net or 615-669-3221. Alternate date for inclement weather: January 5, 2023.

Planning Ahead:

Jan 7 – Millennium and Merritt Ridge Trails, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point TN. 8 miles. Moderate to difficult. We will hike the Millennium Loop Trail which is 2.5 miles and follows an old road bed that once led to the Wolf Creek Community. There are two remnant homesteads that can be found along this trail as well as several stone walls. The Merritt Ridge Loop Trail branches off the Millennium Trail approximately one mile in. It climbs steeply on top of Merritt Ridge and offers spectacular views of the lake and surrounding landscape especially in winter. The Merritt Ridge Loop Trail is 5.5 miles long, for a total hike mileage of 8 miles. There is an option to hike only the Millennium Trail loop, but one half of that would be leaderless. The Millennium Trail is rated moderate. Bring water, snacks, lunch, good hiking boots and hiking poles. The Merritt Ridge Trail can be slick after a rain. For more information and to register contact Nancy Juodenas at njlj1011@gmail.com or 615-319-8811.

Attention: Hike Coordinators (aka Hike Leaders)

A TTA Release of Claims & Hold Harmless Agreement form (aka "Liability Waiver") must be signed by everyone before you start your hike or before carpooling to your hiking destination. They can be obtained from your local Chapter Officer or downloaded easily from our website: <https://tennesseetrails.org/hikes-events/liability-release-form/>.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Norm Brinsley 931-202-2338
tplateau68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Deb Westervelt 931-267-2243
tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org
MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm CT

The Chapter hikes every Wednesday and two Saturdays a month. For up-to-date information on our hikes visit <https://tennesseetrails.org/chapters/plateau-chapter/>

Wednesday Dec 7 - Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN - Ladder, Bluff, Lake and Island Trails. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Short Hike: We'll hike 5 miles on the Ladder, Bluff, Lake and Island trails. Long Hike: Add 2 miles out to and back to the Natural Bridge. Depart 8 am CT from Cracker Barrel's rear lot in Crossville. Gas cost \$5. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Pack water, snacks and lunch. Contact hike coordinator, Deb, email *tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org* or text 931-267-2243.

Thursday Dec 8 - Plateau Chapter Christmas Party. Party starts at 5 pm. Please bring a dish to share and a \$15 nice gift for the Christmas gift exchange (dirty Santa). Gift exchange is optional. The Chapter will furnish meat, drinks, plates and silverware. No Alcohol allowed on church property. United Methodist Church Annex, Neecham St, Crossville, TN. RSVP Norm by email *huxianlj@gmail.com* no later than Nov 30th that you will be attending or for additional information.

Saturday Dec 10 - Savage Gulf – Collins West Trailhead, Collins Gulf Trail -Gruetli-Laager, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Long Hike: Strenuous 8 mile in/out hike past Sutter and Horsepound Falls with spectacular bluff overlooks and rock formations to Schwoon Spring. Short Hike: 5.6 strenuous miles to Sutter Falls, Horsepound Falls and back. Depart 8 am CT from Tractor Supply NE corner of parking lot in Crossville. Bring water, lunch and a snack. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Carpool gas cost is \$7. For additional information contact hike coordinator, text/call 931-267-2243 or email *tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org*.

Plateau Chapter – con't.

Wednesday Dec 14 - CT Black Mountain, Grassy Cove, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Short Hike: easy 3 mile hike from HY 68 trailhead to Windless Cave and back. Long Hike: 6 moderate miles, in/out past Windless Cave to the top of the mountain overlook and back to HY 68. Cumulative ascent 1300 feet south to north. The Black Mountain Section includes a climb through beautiful forest land up the southwest flank of Black Mountain. It passes by Windlass Cave and terminates at the top of the mountain with impressive "house-sized" rock formations. It provides passages through additional rock formations. The loop also provides several overlooks south and east over Grassy Cove and one partially obscured overlook north over Bat Town Cove. Depart 8 am CT from Central Baptist Church, South Main St in Crossville. Bring water and a snack. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Gas cost \$2. For info text/call hike leader Cyn Hartlieb 717-571-4120.

Wednesday Dec 21 - Whites Creek Natural Area, Rockwood, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. The Whites Creek 3.5 mile trail begins along the shoreline and continues as a woodland walk along the ridge tops overlooking the Watts Bar reservoir of the Tennessee River. The hike is rated moderate due several hill climbs to get your heart pumping. Pack water and snacks. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. Depart 8 am CT from Central Baptist Church, South Main St in Crossville. Gas cost \$5. For additional information contact the hike coordinator, Deb Westervelt, text/call 931-267-2243 or email *tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org*.

Wednesday Dec 28 - Pioneer Loop Trail, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Pioneer Loop Trail. Short Hike: easy 4 mile short loop crossing at the swinging bridge to return to the boat dock. Long Hike: Easy 8 miles long loop. This trail travels along a lake, into the woods, and then back along the lake. Depart 8 am CT from Central Baptist Church, South Main St in Crossville. Gas cost \$1. For additional information contact the hike leader Bill Wisniewski 931-335-9360. Bring snacks, water, bug spray and sunscreen.

SCENIC CITY CHAPTER

(Greater Chattanooga Area)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Jane Ellett 423-309-7879

ttasceniccity68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Betsy Darken 423-718-2060

ttasceniccityhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS QUARTERLY: Thursday of the week following the TTA

Board Meetings in Feb, May, Aug and Oct at 5:30 pm ET

Saturday, Dec 3 - Cumberland Trail: Little Soddy Trailhead to Soddy Gulf Trailhead. Moderate. About 7 miles. Think of this hike as a calorie-burning adventurous romp before our Scenic City Christmas party. We'll drop a car off at the Soddy Gulf trailhead and head up to Little Soddy Creek, where you'll get a guided tour of the remnants of coal mining operations that first revved up in 1866. Our trail initially hitches onto an old ore car rail path, while further down we may be able to smell the ghosts of 24 hard-working miner mules, who "were given the best care possible" by Mr. Jeffrey of Little Soddy Gulf. Next, after risking our lives crossing Hotwater Road, we'll go up and around Posey Point into the gorge of Deep Creek, where rock climbers have replaced the ghosts of miners. Then we'll take a bridge across an impressive min-gorge filled with giant boulders—and maybe even water if we ever get rain again around here. Ascending again and rounding another point into Big Soddy Creek gorge, we'll find a truly impressive bridge that we all hope will survive the next major flood, unlike its predecessor. After once again ascending toward the top of the plateau, we'll roll down into the valley again, where we'll check out rumors that there is now a bridge across Board Camp Creek. But don't count on it. Bring your water shoes. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at the Durham Street parking lot (ball fields) off Dayton Pike in Soddy-Daisy at 8:30 am ET. With a very short drive and a moderately short hike, we'll get back in plenty of time to become respectable for the party. <https://bit.ly/3Qjdc0S>. Please register with hike leader Betsy Darken, 423-718-2060.

Saturday, Dec 3 - Scenic City Chapter Christmas Party, 6 pm – 10 pm!! We'll celebrate at the home of Lucy Cahill, 6441 Harbor Master Drive, Hixson, TN, 37343. Please bring an appetizer to add to the merriment! Form your own caravans! Wear your Christmas costumes! (Or repurposed Halloween costumes.) BYOB.

Tuesday, Dec 6 - Chickamauga Creek Trail, near Rocky Face GA. Moderate. 6 mile loop, 1033' elevation gain. This is an uncrowded "nice forest walk," which we will do counterclockwise to get most of the uphill over with first. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at Wendy's, left (east) off I-75 Exit 1 (East Ridge) at 8:30 am ET. Please register with hike leader Dave Graham, 423-315-7886.

Scenic City Chapter – con't.

Saturday, Dec 10 – Ritchie Hollow Trail to Snoopers Rock and return. Moderate. 8 miles, 1,450 ft elevation change. The Ritchie Hollow Trail connects the Tennessee River valley to the Pot Point Loop Trail on top of the mountain in Prentice Cooper State Forest. We will pass Blowing Wind Falls as we meander through mature hardwood forests on our way to Snoopers Rock. Snoopers Rock is a bare rock promontory offering a wide view of the Tennessee River Gorge. Throughout the hike we will enjoy beautiful views of the Tennessee River. Meet at the Ritchie Hollow Trailhead parking lot across from Pot Point Cabin, 17805 River Canyon Road, Chattanooga at 9:00 am ET. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-636-2914. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at Food City on Signal Mountain Road at 8:30 am ET, in the near back corner of the parking lot at 8:30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3pk0suY>.

Tuesday, Dec 13 - BMT Lost Creek Campground to Childers Creek. About 3 miles in & out. Easy. This is an especially outstanding section of the Benton McKaye Trail (BMT) as it parallels Big Lost Creek through a deep limestone gorge with cascades and waterfalls. The trail follows an old railroad grade built for logging in the early 1900s, then later used for a road. Beautiful rock formations are seen on both sides of the trail, with plenty of great stopping places. The hike will be an in-and-out till we can find out where it comes into Reliance. The only drawback is a 7-mile access drive on a gravel road. However, the road is in excellent condition compared to other Forest Service roads in the Cherokee NF. For carpooling/caravanning, meet in the parking area near the gas station at Food City in Ooltewah, right off I-75 exit 11, at 8:30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3dwmbxn>. Please register with hike leader Trish Appleton, 423-240-3443 or appleton-p2@comcast.net.

Saturday, Dec 17 - Prentice Cooper State Forest: Mullins Cove and Ransom Hollow. 5 miles. Moderate. Great views of the Tennessee River Gorge and interesting boulders to squeeze through! For carpooling/ caravanning, meet at Food City on Signal Mountain Road, in the near back corner of the parking lot, at 8:30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3pk0suY>. Please register with hike leader Tammy Hendrick at 315-949-8187. trail. Cliffs, creeks, waterfalls! For

Con't on next page

Scenic City Chapter – con't.

Tuesday, Dec 20 - Lookout Mountain: St Elmo Trail to Glenn Falls. 4-5 miles, out-and-back. Moderate. This relatively new trail starts close to the parking lot for Guild Trail and bobbles along the eastern side of Lookout Mountain, making its way in fits and spurts to the Glenn Falls Trail. The latter takes us to the beautiful stream that creates Glenn Falls. We'll also make our way through a natural (?) tunnel to see the upper part of the creek. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at Food City in St. Elmo, in the area of the parking lot straight ahead off TN Ave, at 8:30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3C3Um9L>. Please register with hike leader Betsy Darken, 423-718-2060.

Tuesday, Dec 27 - Shake Rag Hollow, Sewanee, TN. 2.5 miles in & out. Moderate, 740' elevation gain. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at the parking lot just after LaQuinta Inn, which is right (north) off I-24 Exit 175, at 8:30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3QITAD4>. Please register with hike leader Tom McElhone 805-208-4654 or sarmitta@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Dec 31 - South Cumberland State Park: Big Creek. 9.9 miles. Strenuous due to descent into and ascent out of Big Creek Gulf, 1,620' elevation gain. Start wearing off undesired Christmas bonuses right away! We'll make a loop using Greeter Trail, Big Creek Gulf Trail, connector trail, and Big Creek Rim carpooling/caravanning, meet at the Durham Street parking lot (ball fields) off Dayton Pike in Soddy-Daisy at 8.30 am ET. <https://bit.ly/3Qjdc0S>. Register with hike leader Betsy Darken, 423-718-2060.

SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Donna & David Hobbs 803-634-3470
ttauppercumberlandhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Donna Hobbs 803-634-3470
ttauppercumberlandhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

Dec 7 - Bearwaller Gap Trail. 4.6 miles. Moderate. Named after black bears that used to be in middle TN wallowing in the woods. Starting at Tater Knob Overlook, the 4.6 mile hike will be 2.3 miles out with one 0.3 mile hill (grade 5%-24%) and back with one 0.4 mile hill (grade 8%-25%). Well-marked trail composed of rock, roots, and dirt. Bring hiking shoes, hiking poles, and water. To carpool, meet 9 am at the Gallatin Wal-Mart, 1112 Nashville Pike, near Chick-Fil-A or 10 a.m. at the Tater Knob Overlook. From Gallatin drive 30 miles east on TN 25. Turn left onto TN 80. Drive 2.6 miles and turn right onto TN 85. Drive 1.6 miles and turn right onto TN 263. Drive 1.7 miles and turn left into Tater Knob Overlook/Bearwaller Gap Trail. There are bathrooms located at the trailhead. For those interested, we will discuss eating at a local cafe. For more information or if meeting at the trailhead, contact Judy Jenkins at 615-403-0002 or email judy_jenkins@comcast.net.

Sumner Trails Chapter – con't.

Dec 9 - Holiday dinner at Kennesaw Farms Clubhouse for all Sumner Trails TTA members.

Dec 29 - White House Greenway. 3 miles. Easy. 10 am. Out and back on the mostly level and paved path along Honey Run Creek from the White House HS parking lot at 508 Tyree Springs Rd. (New Shackle Island Road) past the Veterans Memorial to Hwy. 76 and return. Lunch to follow if so desired. Contact: John at 925-759-0517 or Donna at 925-759-0518.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER

(Sparta / Cookeville)

CHAPTER CHAIR Cathy Moran 931-544-2764

ttauppercumberlandhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Cathy Moran 931-544-2764

ttauppercumberlandhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

Wednesday Dec 7 - Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN - Ladder, Bluff, Lake and Island Trails. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See Plateau listing for hike details and registration information.

Saturday Dec 10 - Savage Gulf – Collins West Trailhead, Collins Gulf Trail -Gruetli-Laager, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See Plateau listing for hike details and registration information.

Wednesday Dec 14 - CT Black Mountain, Grassy Cove, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See Plateau listing for hike details and registration information.

Wednesday Dec 21 - Whites Creek Natural Area, Rockwood, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See Plateau listing for hike details and registration information.

Wednesday Dec 28 - Pioneer Loop Trail, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See Plateau listing for hike details and registration information.

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

Newsletter Editor

LouAnn Partington 931-393-4835
ttaeditor68@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 ttaeditor68@tennesseetrails.org. 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 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:
ttaeditor68@tennesseetrails.org

Please note: Newsletter submissions to the "editor" address are automatically copied to the webmaster.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



YES, I WANT TO JOIN TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, I AM . . .

☐

A NEW MEMBER

Dec 22

☐

RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year, unless you have a Lifetime Membership.

Gift Memberships are also available. Contact our Membership Director,
Cheryl Heckler 931-200-7436 ttamembership68@tennesseetrails.org

Please Mail This Form To:

Membership Director

P.O. Box 41446

Nashville, TN 37204-1446

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual \$25.00

___ Family \$35.00

___ Student (FULL TIME) \$15.00

___ Supporting (\$50.00, \$100.00 or more)

___ Life Member (Individual) \$500.00

___ Life Member (Family) \$750.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone () _____ Zip _____ -- _____

E-mail _____

For privacy, please do not list the following in
the TTA Annual Membership Directory

☐ E-mail addresses

☐ Mailing address

☐ Telephone numbers

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by
mail.

Please list me with the following chapter:

___ Clarksville

___ Columbia/Franklin

___ East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)

___ Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)

___ Jackson

___ Memphis

___ Murfreesboro

___ Nashville

___ Plateau (Crossville)

___ Scenic City (Greater Chattanooga Area)

___ Sumner Trails (Sumner County)

___ Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville)

___ At Large

When you become a TTA member, you will have access to the Members Area of our website (www.tennesseetrails.org) which includes the Membership Directory listing members by chapter and how to reach them. You will also receive our monthly newsletter which contains information on upcoming hikes, events, chapter meetings, and volunteer opportunities. We encourage you to review the Hiking Handbook (under the Hikes & Events section), a reference containing information about TTA, trail etiquette, and hiker responsibilities. We invite you to attend any number of monthly meetings where you will enjoy diverse programs, socializing and refreshments. Also, we hold our annual meeting in the fall at one of Tennessee's many parks for a weekend of hiking, camaraderie, and programs, in addition to learning about the progress and plans of the organization.

Not a member yet? Please check out one of our hikes or meetings soon!