

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

Save the Date!

Make your reservations NOW!

When: October 25-27, 2024

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park

Accommodations:

- ❖ **Lodge:** We have 50 rooms reserved. Online reservations available 10/27/23; (888) 867-2757 (Call Center) or (423) 881-5241 (Lodge Front Desk); use **Group #1440**. View room types: <https://tnstateparks.com/lodges/rooms/fall-creek-falls>
- ❖ **Cabins:** There are 30 cabins with fully equipped kitchens. Each cabin hosts six to ten people. <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/cabins/fall-creek-falls>
- ❖ **Campsites:** <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/campground/fall-creek-falls>

Host Chapters: Murfreesboro & Highland Rim



Annual Membership Meeting of Tennessee Trails Association

October 21, 2023

Pin Oak Lodge, Natchez Trace State Park, Wildersville, TN 38351

- President Duane Frichtl called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- President Frichtl read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting.
- A quorum of 110 TTA members were present.
- Recognition was given to all who contributed to the event's success and donations to the silent auction.
- The President's report included many successes of TTA including membership increases, financial status, and the hard work put in by the various committees. Recognition was made of two retiring board members, Terry Warren after 4 years as West Tennessee Regional Director, and Cheryl Heckler after 7 years as Membership Director.
- Treasurer June Callahan gave the financial report.
- Libby Francis, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented 4 nominations for Board positions: Jenny Fitzgerald and Jane Coffey for At Large Directors, both renewing for another 3-year term, Marti Owensby for At Large Director, and Dharma Alaksza for West TN Regional Director. With no additional nominations from the floor, the motion was made by Will Wisniewski and seconded by Karen Thomas to accept these members to the board. The motion passed.
- Libby Francis, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, presented some revisions to the By-Laws. The motion was made by Mark Hubbard and seconded by Michelle Kelley to accept the changes. The motion passed.
- Steve Turner, Clarksville Chapter, gave a memorial for long-time member Paul Schwab.
- Michelle Kelley, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented the 2023 TTA Awards as follows:
 - Cheryl Heckler, Plateau Chapter, Tennessee Trails Award
 - Wayne Simpson, Memphis Chapter, Mack Prichard Environmental Award
 - Betsey Darken, Scenic City Chapter, Bill Stutz Award
 - Philip Anderson, Clarksville Chapter, Bill Stutz Award
- The attending membership then heard reports from each of the chapter chairs describing the achievements of their respective chapters during the past year.
- Patty Deen, Highland Rim Chapter, and Sara Pollard, Murfreesboro Chapter, announced that the 2024 Annual meeting would be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park on October 25-27.
- The meeting concluded by auctioning off a weekend at Fairfield Glade to contribute to the silent auction proceeds.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

**Office Location:**

409 Thurman Avenue, Ste 102
Crossville, TN 38555

Office Hours:.....

Monday - Thursday
8 AM – 3 PM CT

Phone:

931-456-625

E-mail:.....

ctcoffice2014@gmail.com

Website:

www.cumberlandtrail.org

The Cumberland Trails Conference has been busy this year! The CTC has compiled multiple events that engage the community in what we do. Our monthly volunteer events have always been one of our top priorities. We love having the community help us build the trail, and it makes a massive impact on our productivity. Our annual volunteer hours are up to 2,557 hours! We are trying to get to 3,000 hours by the end of the year. We created a new event called the Cumberland Trail Summit, which will be hosted in a new trail town each year, with a focus on outdoor recreation within the Cumberland Trail State Park. We partnered with a multitude of organizations to bring you educational presentations, guided hikes, and adventure-packed excursions like pontoon boat rides and guided rock climbing. Don't worry if you missed this year's CT Summit. We will be hosting it in Hamilton County next year! Mark your calendars for our annual Wildflowers & Wonders art auction on April 13, 2024. We collect donated nature-themed art from locals and even renowned artists like Brent

Sanders. All proceeds go into our trail-building efforts. Each year, the art auction will be hosted in the beautiful Trinity Chapel in Dayton, TN.

Now, the information you all have waited for: our trail-building success story! Our trail crew has constructed over 11,700 feet of new trail in just over six months! This new segment of trail will tie into the Piney River Management Area upon completion. The terrain of this segment has proven to be a challenge, consisting of over 900 stone steps and pavers built just this year. That does not include the trail construction we completed last year for this segment. We also completed a one-mile section of trail on Highway 30 that will tie Graysville Mountain to Laurel Snow SNA when it is finished. As of now, the trail ends at an overlook where you can see Buzzard Point across the gorge. This segment is not currently open, as there is no trailhead or trailblazing. In addition to these segments, we also added a new trail in Laurel Snow SNA between Snow Falls Trail and Morgan Creek Bridge, though the trail ends at the bridge and is not yet blazed. Our trail crew has been working hard this year to try to get the trail constructed in its entirety, adding additional footage each week, so you can attempt a thru-hike!

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

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

ttacklarksville68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: ttacklarksvillehikes68@tennesseetrails.org

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

Saturday, December 2 - Dunbar Cave – Paul Schwab Memorial Hike 2 miles, easy. Hike in Honor of Paul Schwab. Circular Hike through Dunbar Cave State Park, some inclines. Hike Commences at 8:00 A.M. at Dunbar Cave. Hike Leader - Cinde Jones 870-215-8993

Saturday, December 9 – Hike with another Chapter

Saturday, December 16th – Liberty Park. 3.0 Miles, 70ft elevation gain, easy. The trail is paved except for approximately half a mile divided between wooden tread and natural turf. Most of the trail runs along the main channel of the Cumberland River and a cove with a large marina. There is a tribute to Wilma Rudolph who became a world-record-holding Olympic champion. You also pass a statue of Pat Summit Head who was the head women's basketball coach at UT and accrued the third most wins in women's basketball history. Hike Commences at 8:00 A.M. – Liberty Park Pond Parking Area. Hike Leader - Steve Turner 931-220-0927

Tuesday, December 19th – Clarksville Chapter Meeting. Agenda To Be Advised - Potluck

Saturday, December 23 – No Hike - Christmas

Saturday, December 30 – No Hike

Sunday, December 31 - Clarksville New Years Eve Hike – 4.5 miles, moderate. We will hike through downtown Clarksville and return. The entire hike is paved. Start walking at 2 P.M. CDT from McGregor Park Cumberland Riverwalk Pavilion. This is where the flags are. Hike Leader - Philip Anderson – 931-561-0925.

COLUMBIA/FRANKLIN CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Jane Coffey - 615-516-6551 and 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 P.M. Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Columbia/Franklin Quarterly Meeting. Meeting Location: Barnabas Center at 506 Fair Street, Franklin, TN 37064. Social hour begins at 6 P.M. with the meeting starting at 7. Our program this quarter will be a report from Jackie Kelly who hiked the entire Natchez Trace, from Nashville, TN to Natchez, Mississippi. The Natchez Trace is a 444-mile recreational road and scenic drive through three states (TN, AL, MS). It roughly follows the "Old Natchez Trace," a historic travel corridor used by American Indians, "Kaintucks," European settlers, slave traders, soldiers, and future presidents. Today, people can enjoy a scenic drive as well as hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping along the Parkway. Jackie presents the trials and tribulations of someone who had a dream and followed through with both perseverance and courage. We hope that all our members (current and prospective) will join us.

Columbia/Franklin Chapter continued

This month we are hoping to increase input on hikes and any other events that you think we should pursue. We are a hiking club, but there are other events that we will consider. No hike/event is too large or too small to consider. We welcome anyone interested in hiking to join us for this special presentation.

We will also discuss potential Winter hikes which will include our annual New Year's Day hike at Preservation Park in Thompson's Station. We would also like input on the proposed TTA Annual Meeting in 2025 in association with the Clarksville Chapter. Hope to see you then!

EAST TN CHAPTER (Oak Ridge / Knoxville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Rosemary Marshall - 865-985-9144 - ttaeasttennessee68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Carolyn Reeves - ttaeasttennesseehikes68@tennesseetrails.org

Saturday, December 2 - I. C. King Park, Knoxville. Let's plan our hikes for 2024 at this beautiful, renovated I. C. King Park. We can meet at noon and enjoy a warm bowl of chili under the shelter at the park. We will have our 2024 calendar ready and available for our hikers to reserve their favorite hike on their most desirable Saturday. As always, nothing is "set in stone" so don't miss out on scheduling your hikes. For those who want to hike, we will start at the trailhead and hike to the river and back. This will be an easy in-and-out hike with very little elevation gain and loss. The total mileage will be about 2 miles. Don't miss out on a wonderful upcoming hiking year. Preregistration is advised. Call or text Rosie at 865.985.9144 or email rosemary_L@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 9, Jackson Bend Branch Trail. 6 miles, moderate. The hike will start at the Lotterdale Campground entrance road where there is parking space. We will hike about 5 miles along Tellico Lake to an intersection with the East Coast Tellico Parkway. From there we will hike about 1 mile along the Parkway back to our vehicles, for a total of 6 miles. The trail has several steep hills, gaining about 200 feet, and has a variety of landscapes and scenic views. The hike is rated moderate. We recommend shoes to wear to and from the hike plus sturdy hiking shoes, other appropriate clothing, a snack, a drink, and a camera. If you are interested in a view of the area where we will be hiking and other trails in this area go to <https://www.tellicowater.org/east-lakeshore-trail> for trail descriptions and a unified view of the trail maps. We will meet at the Walmart parking lot in Lenoir City, TN 321 N, nearest the Murphy Gas Station*. We will leave there at 9:00 A.M. We should be at the trailhead by 9:45. We recommend that riders in a carpool pay the driver. The round trip distance from Walmart is 28 miles. After the hike plan on stopping at the Gondolier in Lenoir City on the way back for a meal and refreshments. For specific information about the hike please call Tom before the 9th at 865-582-5622 and leave a message or send an email to cressler@retiree.utk.edu. *If you are coming from I-40 on 321 toward Lenoir City turn left at the stop light just past the stop light for the hospital. At the next cross street, you will see Murphy Gas and the Walmart parking lot.

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

Friday, December 1 – Edgar Evins State Park. All Day. 8 miles rated challenging due to rocky terrain and steep ascents/descents with a total 1400-foot elevation gain. We'll start on the John C. Clayborn Millenium loop passing old rock walls, a rocked-in spring, an old limestone chimney, and an old foundation. In the middle of the loop, we'll pick up a connector trail through a moist hollow and ascend steeply to a ridgeline, following this until Center Hill Lake comes into view and we descend to parallel the lake. We then join another loop and head steeply up to the top of Merritt Ridge where we'll see some lovely old rock walls with awesome lake views before descending to continue around the peninsula close to water level to complete the loop and trace our steps back on the connector to finish the Millenium Trail loop. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots, and hiking sticks or trekking poles. We will meet at the John C. Clayborn Millenium Trailhead in Edgar Evins State Park. To register or for more information contact Jim Barritt, at jsbarritt@gmail.com or 931-492-3212.

Highland Rim Chapter continued

Friday, December 8 - Highland Rim Chapter Christmas Party, 5 P.M. Cathy Conley's home, 106 Hamilton Lane, Tullahoma. Pizza and a variety of beverages will be provided. Please bring a veggie or fruit tray and a dessert. Folks can party outside under the carport and yard or inside. This year we will have a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. Each person should bring a gift (maximum \$15). The gifts are nice. The "Dirty" part is that there will be "thievery" involved. Suggested gift items might be a gift card, book, ornament, food item, hiking item have fun with it. Bring your spouse and/or friend. Please contact Cathy to let her know you are coming and for more details, cgconley9@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 9 — Gilbert Gaul Loop, Fall Creek Falls State Park, 4.5 miles loop, easy to moderate, 100 feet elevation gain. There will also be an optional exploratory hike to Woodcock Cove climbing trails above Dunlap, around 3-5 miles, with one short but steep section. Group outing with Scenic City Chapter, Betsy Darken. The first hike on the Gilbert Gaul Loop has rolling hills, with half of the loop through the woods. On the return, the trail parallels the shore of beautiful Fall Creek Lake with several good views. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the Gilbert Gaul trailhead at 8:45 A.M. CT. Please register with hike leader Joan Hartvigsen, at 931-962-0811 or jhartvigs@comcast.net. Directions to Gilbert Gaul Loop Trailhead inside Fall Creek Falls State Park: follow the signs for Lodge/Restaurant and Piney Creek Camp. Before reaching the Lodge, turn right on Piney Creek Camp Road and follow it to the end of the road and trailhead.

Thursday, December 14 – Sewanee Perimeter Trail, The University of the South, Sewanee. 12 miles, moderate to difficult. On Dec. 14, Marietta Poteet will lead a hike on the Perimeter Trail which will be 12 miles in distance. We will meet at Lake Cheston and hike to the Water Tower Trail to hook up with the Perimeter Trail. We'll have 9 miles on the Perimeter Trail, then weave in and out the Fire Lanes and the Parallel Trail. This is a great hike to the back of the Perimeter Trail which is not often used. The trail will be rated moderate but may be difficult due to the mileage. Please call or email Marietta at nannietta@benlomand.com or 931-924-7666. We have been getting a lot of telemarketing calls so I will not answer the phone, but you can leave a message and I will get back to you.

Sunday, December 17 – Short Springs State Natural Area. Tullahoma. Busby Falls Loop, Laurel Bluff Loop, Connector Trail, Adams Falls Loop. 3.6 miles, total. Moderate. We will also visit the Machine Falls Overlook Deck. Meet at 1:00 P.M. CST at the Short Springs parking lot, 2250 Short Springs Road, Tullahoma. Bring water and a snack. Please register with Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net, or 931-636-2914.

Saturday, January 27 – Poteet's Chilly Chili Hike. The chilly hike is the Shakerag/Beckwith's Point loop. An alternate hike will be chosen if there is ice. More information soon. Contact Marietta Poteet, 931-924-7666.

May 14-16, 2024 – Camping at Cosby Group Campsite, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will hike to the Mount Cammerer Lookout via the Low Gap and Appalachian Trails. Other hikes include Porters Creek Trail or Ramsay Cascades Trail and Gabes Mountain Trail to Hen Wallow Trail. Joint outing with the Murfreesboro Chapter, Sara Pollard. Register with Joan Hartvigsen, jhartvigs@comcast.net or 931-636-2914.

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 P.M. CT

Saturday, December 2 — Cane Creek Canyon Preserve, Tuscumbia, AL. 8 miles, moderate trail. Features spectacular vistas, several waterfall sites, and the under-bluff trail section. Meet at Panera Bread in Jackson at 7:00 A.M. for the carpool or meet in the Preserve parking area at 9:45 A.M. Post-hike supper stop at Falafel restaurant, Corinth, MS. Register for the hike by Dec 1 with Glen Rognstad 731 217-5966 (text) or glenrognstad@gmail.com

Friday, December 8 — Chapter Christmas party, 6 P.M., at the home of Barbara Hobock
hobock75@gmail.com

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CHAIR: Nancy Wark- ttamemphis68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Wayne Simpson - w.simpson1@comcast.net

We wish to announce that Nancy Wark is now our Chapter President and to thank Charlie Bright for his decades of service to the Memphis Chapter and the hiking community.

Saturday, December 2 – Meeman Shelby Forest – Woodland Trail. 4 miles. Meet at the parking lot near the restrooms past the Visitor Center but a short distance to the trailhead. There are 5 steep hills and two possible stream crossings on this trail which is considered strenuous. Plan to hike 2.5- 3 hours. Sturdy boots, hiking poles, plenty of water and a snack are suggested. Registration is required. Contact: Lynne Witherington – withlynn@aol.com

Saturday, December 9 – T.O. Fuller. 4 miles. This 4-mile hike covers moderate to rugged terrain with some wetland and a possible stream crossing. At the end of the hike, there is the option of an additional one-mile loop. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring water and a snack. The Discovery Loop trail includes part of the Nature Bluff trail of the Chucalissa Indian Village. Allow 2.5 hours for the hike. Registration is required. Where to park and the start time for the hike will be sent to you after you register. Contact: Janet Sheahan – janet.n.sheahan@gmail.com

December 12 – Herb Parsons. 6 miles, easy. This is an easy 6-mile hike around the lake and through the woods. Meet at the lake parking lot and bring snacks and water. Registration is required at which time you will receive a start time. Please include your phone number and email. Rain will cancel the hike. Contact: Nancy Wark: 901-240-1521, nhwark@bellsouth.net

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.tennesseehikes.org/blog/murfreesboro

Saturday, December 2 - Sherwood Forest State Natural Area. Sewanee. 3-mile loop rated easy. 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 A.M. CT at the trailhead. Directions to trailhead: Take Exit 134 off Interstate 24 and turn left toward Sewanee for 3.1 miles. Turn left on Hwy 156 and continue for 8.5 miles. Turn right on Old CCC Road and continue 2 miles to the parking area located at the end of the road. For more information or to sign up, contact Sara Pollard at 615-714-3610 or sarapollard@gmail.com.

Friday, December 8 – Chapter Christmas Celebration. Friday at 6:00 P.M. CT at Lynn Rosser's house. We will gather outside around Lynn's fire pit so bring your lawn chair and your beverage of choice. The chapter will provide the main course, 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.

Next month – there is no chapter meeting in January. The next meeting is February 13.



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 P.M. CT in the REI Community Room 261 Franklin Rd, Brentwood TN.
Optional Pre-Meeting Activity if posted on the TTA website calendar.

Friday, December 1 – TTA volunteer day at Beaman Park, Ashland City, TN. 9:30-11:30 AM. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Beaman Park Nature Center. Activities include invasive removal, trail rehab, or whatever the ranger needs. Please consider helping and please contact Wendy Fish: 4fishies@comcast.net or 615-268-4586.

Saturday, December 2 -- Sewanee Perimeter Loop, Sewanee, TN. 9 miles. Moderate to Difficult (due to distance and elevation changes). We will start at Greens View and hike counterclockwise to a nice overlook before walking across the plateau on a forest road that passes by the equestrian center. On the other side of the plateau, we'll hike down to Bridal Veil Falls and then across to the War Memorial at University View. From there, we walk across the University campus back to the start. Bring lunch/snacks, water, good hiking boots, and clothing appropriate to the weather. Option: Shenanigans or Mountain Goat Market for post-hike nourishment. Contact Doug Burroughs at dougburroughs@tennessee.usa.com or (615) 587-0085 (please leave a message) for more information and to register. Be sure to register in case the schedule has to be changed. Updates to the information for this hike will also be posted on the TTA website Events Calendar.

Every Wednesday -- Radnor Lake Standing Hike (December 6, 13, 20, 27), 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 A.M. 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.

Friday, December 8 -- Bowie Nature Park, Fairview, TN. Short Hike (5 miles) or Long Hike (7.5 miles). Easy to Moderate. We'll take the Lake Van Trail (1/2 mi.) to the beginning of the Perimeter Trail (4.5 mi) which we'll hike counterclockwise. The trails are wide and pass through a pine/oak/hickory forest. For the longer hike, we'll combine some of the interior loop trails for an additional 2.5 miles. To register and get details about the meeting time and place, contact Kathy Woods at 615-473-6824 or kwoodz@comcast.net.

Saturday, December 9 -- Nashville TTA Holiday Party, Home of Sharon Dowdy, Nashville, TN, 6 P.M. Text RSVP and the number of people in your party to Doug Burroughs at 615-587-0085. Address and parking details are to be provided in a follow-up email. Sharon will provide a butternut squash lasagna as well as plates, napkins, cups, silverware, water, and ice. Potluck on accompaniments, drinks, etc.

Friday, December 15 – Henry Hollow / Laurel Woods Combo, Beaman Park, Nashville. Roughly 9 miles. Moderately 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 several ridges. Bring a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Meet at the Creekside Trailhead. Register with Mark for details and updates: midtn@tnhiker.net or (615) 669-3221.

Saturday, December 23 – Holiday Greenway Hike, Franklin, TN. 5+ miles. Easy. 7:30 A.M.. Meet in front of The Coffee House at the corner of 2nd Ave., North, and Bridge St in Franklin at 7:30 A.M. Come early if you want to grab a hot drink to take on the walk. We will hike the connector path to the Greenway and then take the Greenway to Williamson County Rec Center, make a loop, and walk back to the Coffee House. Optional coffee and breakfast after at the Coffee House, or if they are too full, at one of the other many places nearby. Or use this as an excuse to wander downtown Main Street and do last-minute shopping. Parking along 2nd Ave., but also in a free parking lot at the far corner of 2nd Ave., S., and Main St., just 2-3 blocks away from the meeting spot. Email Barbara Bennett to RSVP, BLBennett@comcast.net.

PLATEAU CHAPTER (Crossville)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Bill Wisniewski - 931-335-9360 - tplateau68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Deb Westervelt - 931-267-2243 - tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org
MEETS MONTHLY: 2nd Thursday at 6:00 P.M. CT

All of our hikes can be found in the Chronicle Scene Section calendar, on our website <https://tennesseetrails.org/chapters/plateau-chapter/> or Facebook Group page: TTA PLATEAU CHAPTER CROSSVILLE. We look forward to Walking in the Woods with you.

Saturday, December 2 -Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area, Jamestown, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Four+ mile, moderate sometimes strenuous thru hike. 1,463 feet elevation change. A vehicle shuttle is required. We'll start at the Black House Mountain Road Moccasin Rock Trail junction leaving shuttle cars at the Pogue Creek Trailhead. Pogue Creek Canyon features immense sheer bluffs and cliffs, the Killdeer Arch, many rock houses, and beautiful, rich forests of hemlocks, beech, sycamores, basswood, oaks, and hickories. Depart at 8:00 A.M. CT from the Crossville Cracker Barrel rear parking lot. Carpool gas costs \$6. Bring electrolyte water and snacks. We'll eat lunch at the Sawbrier Brewery in Jamestown. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. For additional information contact the hike coordinator, Deb, by email at tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243.

Sunday, December 3 - MEADOW LAKE: Soldier's Beach Trail. Distance: 1.9 miles. Rating: Easy **10 A.M. -11:30 A.M.** Soldier's Beach Trail at Meadow Lake is a 1.9-mile lightly trafficked loop trail located near Crossville, Tennessee that offers the chance to see wildlife and is good for all skill levels. **MEET AT:** the trailhead, 1437 City Lake Rd, Crossville, TN 38572. Bring water, bug spray, sunscreen, and a snack. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be leashed. For more information contact hike coordinator, Sirka, email plateaulocalwalks@yahoo.com or text (404) 790-3945.

Wednesday, December 6 - CT Grassy Cove Section Brady Mountain, Grassy Cove, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Strenuous out-and-back, 4.8 miles with 1,108' elevation gain. This trail leads to a stunning overlook of Grassy Cove, a nostalgic scene of rolling farmland, classic barns, and grazing cows and sheep, surrounded by protective mountains. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Depart 8 A.M. from Central Baptist Church, South Main St, Crossville, TN. Carpool gas costs \$2. Pack (electrolytes) water, snacks, and lunch. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. For additional information contact the hike coordinator, Deb, by email at tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org or text 931-267-2243.

Sunday, December 10 - Seven Bridges Trail. Distance: 2.1 miles. Rating: Easy to moderate. **10 A.M. -11:30 A.M.** Seven Bridges Trail is a 2.1-mile lightly trafficked loop trail near Crossville, Tennessee, with a great forest setting. The trail is good for all skill levels. The trail has interesting rock formations and SEVEN bridges built by volunteers. It is a "lollipop" configuration. **MEET AT:** the northern parking lot of the Methodist Church on Westchester Drive. Bring water, bug spray, sunscreen, and a snack. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be leashed. For more information contact hike coordinator, Sirka, email plateaulocalwalks@yahoo.com or text (404) 790-3945.

Wednesday, December 13 - Leatherwood Loop / Sunset Overlook, Oneida, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. Long Hike: This is a moderate to strenuous 6-mile hike with a variety of scenery, including a couple of nice overlooks. **Short Hike:** 3 mi easy out and back to Sunset Overlook. Depart 8:00 A.M. CT from the Crossville Cracker Barrel. Carpool gas costs \$6. Bring electrolyte water and snacks. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. For additional information contact the hike coordinator, Deb, by email at tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243.

Thursday, December 14 - Plateau Chapter Christmas Party, Crossville, TN. First United Methodist Church Annex 69 Neecham St. The party starts at 5:30 P.M. Please bring a dish to share and a \$15 gift for the Christmas gift exchange. 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 email or text Bill tplateauchairperson@gmail.com 931-335-9360 your intent to join us for the party.

Saturday, December 16 - Dog Cove, Sparta, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. SHORT HIKE: easy 4-mile in/out hike to a circa 1800s farm home following alongside Lost Creek and crossing the creek several times. **LONG**

HIKE: Short Hike plus 1-mile strenuous side loop trail to an arch. Depart at 8:00 A.M. CT from the outer parking lot of Harbor

Plateau Chapter continued

Freight, 145 Highland Square, Crossville, TN. Carpool cost is \$5. Bring (electrolytes) water, snacks, and lunch. Don't forget tick/bug spray and sunscreen. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. The gas cost is \$3. For additional information contact the hike leader, Deb, by email at tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org or text/call 931-267-2243.

Thursday, December 20 – Dry Creek Falls Trail (Dog Cove to Lost Creek), Sparta, TN. Joint hike with Upper Cumberland Chapter. 5-mile thru-hike to enjoy this newest trail, which was opened in April 2021, with nice rock formations to spice up the scenery. The highlight is Dry Creek Falls, which has 2 waterfalls. This hike should be considered moderate in this direction because of the elevation changes and the rocky terrain. We'll drop shuttle cars at Lost Creek first. We will start hiking at the Dog Cove Parking Lot. Depart 8:00 am CT from the outer parking lot of Harbor Freight, 145 Highland Square, Crossville, TN. Carpool cost is \$5. Bring lunch, snacks, (electrolytes) water, bug spray, and sunscreen. People 18 and over, members and non-members welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. For additional information contact the hike leader, Deb, text/call 931-267-2243 or email tplateauhikes68@tennesseetrails.org.

SCENIC CITY CHAPTER (Greater Chattanooga Area)

CHAPTER CHAIR: Lucy Cahill - tasceniccity68@tennesseetrails.org

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Betsy Darken - 423-718-2060 - tasceniccityhikes68@tennesseetrails.org

MEETS QUARTERLY: Thursday of the week following the TTA Board Meetings in Feb, May, Aug and Oct at 5:30 P.M. ET

Saturday, December 2 — Laurel Falls, Bryan Overlook, and a hidden natural bridge, about 8 miles, moderate, about 900' el. gain, out-and-back. We'll walk by interesting remnants of mining activity along wild and woolly Richland Creek and take switchbacks to Laurel Falls, which is always impressive. We'll then head up a steep trail to the top of the plateau, cross Laurel Creek, and take an easy stroll over to Bryan Overlook. There we'll find a great view of the Richland Creek gorge and the town of Dayton. Next, we will follow a narrower trail to admire the rocks and clefts near the end of this peninsula. Before we head back, we will take another trail over to a tucked-away natural bridge. Lots of entertainment! Water shoes may be needed (assuming we ever have rain again). For carpooling/caravanning, meet at 8.30 A.M. ET at the Durham Street parking lot (ball fields) off Dayton Pike in Soddy-Daisy. <https://bit.ly/3Qjdc0S> Please register with hike leader Betsy Darken, at (423) 718-2060. Carpool costs \$2.00.

Tuesday, December 5 — Lookout Mountain: Hardy Trail, Mountain Beautiful Trail, Bluff Trail, Craven's House Trail, loop, 3.9 miles, easy/moderate, 731' el. gain. We'll start at Cravens House and wind our way across and up the east side of Lookout Mountain, go under Point Park Bluff, and back around to Cravens House. Since it is December, we should begin to see some of the beautiful views Lookout Mountain has to offer. Meet at the Cravens House parking lot at 8:30 A.M. ET [here](#). Please register with hike leaders Marti & Roy Owensby sewmarti@aol.com, 423-309-0579. The carpool cost \$0.00.

Saturday, December 9 — Gilbert Gaul Loop, Fall Creek Falls State Park, 4.5 miles, loop, easy to moderate, 100' el. gain. There will also be an optional exploratory hike to Woodcock Cove climbing trails above Dunlap, around 3-5 miles, with one short but steep section. The first hike to Gilbert Gaul Loop has rolling hills, with half of the loop through the woods. On the return, the trail parallels the shore of Fall Creek Lake with several good views. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the trailhead at 8:45 A.M. CT, or for carpooling/caravanning, meet at 8.30 A.M. ET at the Durham Street parking lot (ball fields) off Dayton Pike in Soddy-Daisy. <https://bit.ly/3Qjdc0S> Please register with hike leader Joan Hartvigsen, at 931-962-0811 or jhartvigs@comcast.net. Carpool cost: \$5.00.

Tuesday, December 12 — Sherwood Forest, 2.7 miles, loop, easy. We will see impressive rock formations and a nice view of the steep railroad track where the trains needed pusher engines to chug up the mountain. Naturalists

should look for the rare Painted Snake Coiled Forest Snail (!!) which has only been found in Franklin County, TN. Our relatively short hike should leave time to stroll through the Monteagle Assembly area, which was founded in 1882 as part

Scenic City Chapter continued

of the Chautauqua educational movement. The Assembly just happens to be near the Mountain Goat. How convenient! For carpooling/caravanning, meet at 8:30 A.M. ET at the parking lot just after LaQuinta Inn, right (north) off I-24 Exit 175. <https://bit.ly/3QITAD4> Please register with hike leader Ginny Kidd, at (423) 304-3799. Carpooling cost \$5.

Saturday, December 16 — Franklin State Forest South Rim loop, 6.3 miles, moderate, 662' el. gain. This hike west of South Pittsburg takes us through a hardwood forest to the southeastern edge of the Cumberland Plateau, overlooking coves and eaten out by gulches. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at 8:30 A.M. ET at the parking lot just after LaQuinta Inn, right (north) off I-24 Exit 175. <https://bit.ly/3QITAD4> Please register with hike leader Tom McElhone, at 805-208-4654 or sarmitta@yahoo.com. Carpool costs \$5.00.

Tuesday, December 19 – Enterprise South Nature Park: Poe Run Path, Upper Poe Run, Poe Run Overlook, Deer Hollow, and Hidden Lake Trails, easy to moderate, approximately 4 miles, el. gain 420'. Enjoy this beautiful park, which was once the site of the Volunteer Army Ammunitions Plant. We will check out one of the open bunkers and hope to see wild turkeys or deer. Meet at 8:30 A.M. ET at the parking area to the left just after the park entrance. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/T3cykMHnRDDEvFzs8> Please register with hike leader Tim Booth, (423) 400-2011, tcebooth@epbfi.com. The carpool cost \$0.00.

Saturday, December 23 — Boyd Gap to Brush Creek Trail in the Cherokee National Forest, 6 miles, moderate, 600' el. gain, plus an optional second hike on the Scenic Spur Trail, starting at the foot of Chilhowee Mountain, 3.3 miles, easy, 393' el. gain. The first hike involves an easy shuttle, a few creek crossings with bridges, and nice views of the Ocoee River gorge. For carpooling/caravanning, meet in the parking area near the gas station at Food City in Ooltewah, right (east) off I-75 exit 11, at 8:30 A.M. ET. <https://bit.ly/3dwmbxn> Please register with hike leader Tammy Hendrick at 315-949-8187. Carpool costs \$5.00.

Tuesday, December 26 — Summit Knobs Trail, about 5 miles, easy, in and out. This hike bobs up and down gentle hills as it makes its way to Harrison Branch Creek, our turnaround point. The full name of the trail is Summit Knobs Equestrian Trail—we'll have to watch our step! Restrooms are available. For carpooling/ caravanning, meet at 8:30 A.M. ET at Food City, 4510 Highway 58, just northeast of the Highway 58 exit off Highway 153. The trailhead is located on Ferdinand Piech Way, a right turn off Highway 58 just before Harrison Elementary School. Please register with hike leader Will Latham, at (704) 365-8889. Carpool costs \$1.00.

Saturday, December 30 — Raccoon Mountain: Laurel Point and several trails. A shorter hike of 4 miles, a longer hike of an extra 3 miles or so, both easy—we'll be hiking entirely atop the mountain with very little elevation change. It is almost all in the woods, with a couple of brief open spots on the trail that provide some wonderful views of the Tennessee River. There should be plenty of time afterward to see the Visitor Center with its impressive view and its rich display of the history of TVA's pumped storage facility on Raccoon Mountain. For carpooling/caravanning, meet at 8:30 A.M. ET at the parking lot just after LaQuinta Inn, right (north) off I-24 Exit 175. <https://bit.ly/3QITAD4> Please register with hike leader John Prescott, at (352) 496-0977. Carpool costs \$1.00.

SUMNER TRAILS CHAPTER

CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS: Donna & David Hobbs - 803-634-3470 - tsumnertrails68@tennesseetrails.org
OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Donna Hobbs - 803-634-3470 - tsumnertrailshikes68@tennesseetrails.org

Friday, December 1 – Holiday Party for Sumner Trails chapter members and guests at the Kennesaw Farms Clubhouse, 1000 Lt. Gibson Circle, Gallatin, TN. Social time at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 6:30 P.M. Respond to Donna and David Hobbs, ddhobbs@bellsouth.net, no later than noon on November 24. Reservations are required since this is a catered event.

Wednesday, December 6 – Franklin Greenway in downtown Franklin, 5 miles. Easy. Paved. Out and back; turn around wherever you want for a shorter walk. Much of the trail is along the Harpeth River. Park on N. 2nd Ave between

Sumner Trails continued

Bridge St. and N. Margin St. (alongside Riverside Franklin home decor store, 144 Bridge St. @ N. 2nd Ave.). The trail begins about 1 block north at N. Margin St. and N. 2nd Ave. Carpoolers meet at Glenbrook Kroger, 1010 Glenbrook Way, Hendersonville at 8:45 A.M., or at the greenway at 10 A.M. After the hike, we can explore the Christmas atmosphere of downtown Franklin and have lunch. Contacts are John (925-759-0517) and Donna (925-759-0518).

Friday, December 15 – Beaman Park, 4.1 Miles with 491 ft elevation gain, moderate. Hiking poles are recommended. The hike will start at the Visitors Center at 10 a.m., taking the Sedge Trail to the Henry Hollow Loop Trail. After completing the Henry Hollow Loop, we will hike back to the Visitors Center on the Sedge Hill trail. Carpoolers meet at Glenbrook Kroger, 1010 Glenbrook Way, Hendersonville at 9:15 A.M. Contact David, ddhobbs@bellsouth.net or 803-634-3470.

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

Saturday, December 2 -Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area, Jamestown, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See the Plateau Chapter listing for details and registration information.

Wednesday, December 6 - CT Grassy Cove Section Brady Mountain, Grassy Cove, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See the Plateau Chapter listing for details and registration information.

Wednesday, December 13 - Leatherwood Loop / Sunset Overlook, Oneida, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See the Plateau Chapter listing for details and registration information.

Saturday, December 16 - Dog Cove, Sparta, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See the Plateau Chapter listing for details and registration information.

Thursday, December 20 – Dry Creek Falls Trail (Dog Cove to Lost Creek), Sparta, TN. Joint hike with Plateau Chapter. See the Plateau Chapter listing for details and registration information.

Check this out!



Patty Dean, of the Highland Rim Chapter sent this 3-minute video from a WVLT News feed (CBS) and part of their “Exploring Tennessee” series. The title is [“Exploring Tennessee: Hiking more than 300 miles on the Cumberland Trail”](#) It explores the history of the Cumberland Trail project and Cumberland Trail State Park. It even mentions Evan Means and Mack Pritchard, along with our Tennessee Trails. Our members might be interested in seeing this. Click on the link to see it.

OFFICERS:

President

Duane Frichtl 309-830-9720
ttapresident68@tennesseetrails.org

Vice-President

Michelle Kelley 901-484-2998
ttavicepresident68@tennesseetrails.org

Treasurer

June Callahan 615-945-7462
ttatreasurer68@tennesseetrails.org

Secretary

Susan Woods 731-441-8066
ttasecretary68@tennesseetrails.org

At-large Directors (terms expiring listed after name)

Mark Hubbard (2025) 615-715-1517
ttaboard68@tennesseetrails.org

Wayne Drown (2025) 803-646-0972
ttaboard68@tennesseetrails.org

Susan Woods (2025) 731-441-8066
ttasecretary68@tennesseetrails.org

Libby Francis (2024) 615-319-7501
ttaboard68@tennesseetrails.org

Duane Frichtl (2024) 309-830-9720
ttapresident68@tennesseetrails.org

June Callahan (2024) 615-945-7462
ttatreasurer68@tennesseetrails.org

Jenny Fitzgerald (2026) 615-517-8185
ttaboard68@tennesseetrails.org

Jane Coffey (2026) 615-614-1083
ttaboard68@tennesseetrails.org

Marti Owensby (2026)
ttamembership68@tennesseetrails.org

Regional Directors

West TN

Dharma Alaksza (2026)
ttaregionalwest68@tennesseetrails.org

Middle TN

Sara Pollard (2025) 615-714-3610
ttaregionalmiddle68@tennesseetrails.org

East TN

Will Latham (2024) 704-365-8889
ttaregionaleast68@tennesseetrails.org

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD

ARE LISTED WITHIN EACH CHAPTER'S HEADER

Newsletter Editor

Mary Lewis Tims 731-780-5550
ttaeditor68@tennesseetrails.org

2023 TTA Board of Directors Meetings

All members are invited to attend board meetings.
Contact Duane Frichtl for the link to join Zoom meetings!

Feb 6, 6:30pm CST via Zoom

May 7, 6:30 pm CST via Zoom

Aug. 6, 6:30 pm CST via Zoom

Oct. 27, at 8:00 am at Fall Creek Falls Lodge



Newsletter Deadlines:

Deadlines for Chapter announcements and articles of special interest are due on or before 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.



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

☐

A NEW MEMBER

☐

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

Dec 23

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 (required) _____

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

- ☐ E-mail addresses
- ☐ Mailing address
- ☐ Telephone numbers

Please list me with the following chapter:

<input type="checkbox"/> Clarksville	<input type="checkbox"/> Murfreesboro
<input type="checkbox"/> Columbia/Franklin	<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville
<input type="checkbox"/> East TN (Oak Ridge/Knoxville)	<input type="checkbox"/> Plateau (Crossville)
<input type="checkbox"/> Highland Rim (Manchester/Tullahoma)	<input type="checkbox"/> Scenic City (Greater Chattanooga Area)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> Sumner Trails (Sumner County)
<input type="checkbox"/> Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Cumberland (Sparta/Cookeville)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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!