

**Tennessee Trails Association
Second Quarter 2003
Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2003**

Those present for the Second Quarter Board meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association, held on Saturday, May 3, 2003, at the St. Bernard Academy Building in Nashville, Tennessee, were as follows:

Fount Bertram
Anna Clark
Jim Clark
Stewart Clifton
Jim Deming
Libby Francis
David Furse
Bill Hamilton
Leigh Jones
Gloria Lenski
Jerry Lenski
Diane Manas
Martin A. McCullough
June Parker
Jim Poteet
Doug Ratliff
Barry Spearman
Sandra Spearman
Russell Smith
Anne Wesley

From 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., there was time to socialize before the meeting began. Copies of the minutes from First Quarter and copies of the agenda for Second Quarter were available for all present.

1. Welcome. Leigh Jones welcomed all present and officially opened the meeting.
2. Approval of 1st Quarter minutes. After allowing Board members a few minutes to read through the minutes, Leigh called for a motion to approve the minutes with the few suggested corrections. The motion passed.
3. Treasurer's Report. June Parker, TTA's new treasurer, reported that there was "nothing outstanding" and "nothing unusual" for this quarter. She distributed copies of the Tennessee Trails Association Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2003, and copies of the TTA Profit and Loss for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2003. June reported that she is working on a guide for future

treasurers that will have specific notes about exactly what is due when. She also reported that Susan Turner from the Soddy Daisy chapter had returned two checks and that those checks would be deposited in the treasury. June also pointed out that WATeR was awarded an Evan Means Grant of \$600.00 conditional upon the receipt of a budget. The payment of this grant will appear in the accounts for Second Quarter.

In other matters related to the finances, a motion was made to approve up to \$50.00 for purchase a name plate for the Bill Stultz award. This motion passed.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made. This motion passed.

Another motion was made as follows: to name Sue Waldrop from the Nashville chapter as assistant to the treasurer. This motion also passed.

At this point in the meeting, there was some discussion of the insurance policy that TTA currently holds. Members decided that it would be good to have someone come to a future board meeting and briefly explain exactly what coverage is involved and what the group might need.

4. Membership Report. Anne Wesley gave an update on membership and said that several new members and several life members have been added. She said that overall memberships now include 503 individual memberships, 199 family memberships, 34 supporting members, 49 life Members, and 8 Students. She said that 19 Highland Rim members have not yet renewed and that in Cumberland Gap all are up for renewal. After considering other potential membership changes, Leigh then read a letter from Susan Turner, chapter representative from Soddy Daisy chapter, who explained that she has had a career change and will not be able to continue as chapter representative. Board members talked briefly about fine tuning a plan for the Soddy Daisy area. In other discussion, several members noted that Cumberland Gap has had some successful hikes with Cove Lake and agreed that chapters hiking together is a good way to build interest and a sense of community. Anne also said that she would work on drafting a process for admitting future chapters and that there would be guidelines which specify that some officers would be in place before the chapter is admitted.

5. Board Vacancies. There is still concern about the vacant position of the East Tennessee At-Large Director. Several possibilities were discussed for filling this position, and the nominating committee (Leigh Jones, Diane Manas, Jim Poteet, and Jerry Lenski) were asked to continue working on this matter. Jim Poteet called for each chapter chair to be on the lookout for members to assume leadership positions. Leigh said that she would send a message to chapter chairs in East Tennessee to ask for possible nominations for the East Tennessee position. A suggestion was made to form a standing nominating committee consisting of the two past presidents, the vice president, and one at-large member. Board members decided to bring this matter up for a vote at the November meeting.

6. Annual Meeting 2003 Update. The TTA Annual meeting for 2003 will be held at the Best Western in Townsend, Tennessee, on Friday – Sunday, Nov. 14 – 16. The three groups (East Tennessee, Big South fork, and Cove Lake) are working together and will prepare information for the upcoming newsletters.

7. Tennessee Conservation Voters, Stewart Clifton. This section of the Board was postponed until the arrival of Mr. Clifton. (See page 4.)

8. Associate Organization Reports.

CTC—Sandra Spearman reported that on May 11 training begins for the Big Dig. She said that 12 students have been hired and that four are from Tennessee. She said that many workers have come from the BreakAway experience and that all are hikers and “outdoor people.” She said on May 18 workers will move into Dogwood Camp; on the morning of the May 19, trail building will begin and will continue every day for six full weeks. Sandra invited all to come and work and to be a part of the Big Dig. She said the Web page has all the information and that some people will be coming to stay for the entire six weeks. Barry Spearman said, “We need you there!” Sandra also reported on the CTC auction and said that 152 people made bids and that there was a lot of participation. She said that a total of between \$11,000.00 - \$12,000 was raised. (EXACT FIGURES NEEDED HERE?)

TRAC—Jim Deming reported that work is ongoing in a number of areas. He spoke of work on the Oneida corridor, in Nashville, and at the Stone’s River Parkway. He spoke of some problems and potential in Polk County and reminded all that change—and progress on certain trails—often comes slowly. (Note: The continued mission of TRAC is “to act as a resource and mentor for the planning, development, and management of rail-trails throughout the State of Tennessee for the purposes of appropriate recreation, preservation of rail corridors and alternate transportation, in order to benefit the general public, communities, commerce and tourism.”)

9. Regional Representative Reports. Jerry Lenski, West Tennessee At-Large Director, reported about contacts he has made with those in Jackson who may be wanting to form a chapter. He said that 12 people attended a meeting in Jackson and that on May 17 there will be a joint hike (members of the Northwest chapter and interested others are invited to join) at Nathan Bedford Forest near Camden, Tennessee. Gloria is helping to make calls and contacts with those in the Jackson area who may be interested in forming a chapter. Articles have appeared in *The Jackson Sun*. Board members applauded Jerry’s efforts and success in building interest in West Tennessee.

10. Award Nominations. Leigh distributed a sheet with names of past award winners for the TTA Award, the Bill Stutz Award, and the Golden Squirrel Award. She asked that Board members e-mail nominations to her and that she will compile a list and/or prepare a ballot for the Third Quarter Board meeting in August. Leigh will send to Board members a letter about award requirements/qualifications.

11. Newsletter Editor’s Report. Diane Manas announced that in each newsletter, on the inside back page, there will be a block with the deadlines for submitting newsletter announcements for the following three newsletters. She asked that members notify their chapter hike and meeting program coordinators so they will also be aware of these deadlines, especially since she is going to be traveling in the upcoming months and may not get a chance to e-mail everyone a reminder. Also, Diane needs a volunteer to help with the newsletter. She said that the newsletter is composed in Microsoft Word and those familiar with Microsoft Word will be able to learn how to put together a newsletter quickly. She emphasized that she is putting out a call for assistance, now, because she will be away the entire month of February 2004 (this is when the March

announcements will be done) and will need a substitute editor. Board members that know of anyone who might be interested, are asked to please tell Diane (lots of training can be provided to anyone, even those without experience).

Diane noted the changes that have been made to reduce expenses related to the newsletter but that she'd like to propose that TTA mail one newsletter each month to outdoor gear retailers. A motion was drafted as follows: that TTA make a newsletter available free to post in some business locations as listed on the "Suggested Newsletter Mailing List—Outdoor Gear Stores" and to have chapter chairs review this list. This motion passed. There was additional discussion about the TTA brochure and about how to share hiking schedules.

At this point in the meeting, Stewart Clifton, lobbyist for Tennessee Conservation Voters, shared a two-page statement and update on proposed elimination of dedicated funding for wetlands, state land acquisition, and other land conservation efforts. A quotation from the statement is as follows: "The proposed permanent diversion of the real estate transfer tax and zeroing out the land acquisition funding is still headed for passage. The Governor, while apologetic, has not budged from his position, and has made no commitments for the future. However, the legislature has NOT yet acted on this, and there are encouraging signs that our recent rally and barrage of calls, letters, and personal visits are having effect."

12. Committee Reports.

National Trails Day. Fount challenged everyone at the Board meeting to send representatives from each chapter to celebrate National Trails Day on June 7 by working on The Big Dig, CTC's major trail building effort scheduled from May 18 – June 28. He said that there is excellent information about The Big Dig in the TTA newsletter (May) and that one could also access the CTC Web site for additional information. "Let's get people out and make a difference," he said. In an e-mail from Leigh following the Board meeting, she wrote: "Let Mark know in the CTC office how many from your chapter will be able to make it and how many will need lodging on Friday and/or Saturday night."

13. Chapter Reports. Chapter reports were given as follows:

Big South Fork (Bob Hemminger, Board Representative).

Clarksville (Bill Hamilton, Board Representative)—At least 25-30 people are attending meetings every month. J. R. Tate presented a program about the Colorado Trail, Diane talked about hiking in New Zealand, and Ben Clark talked about climbing Mt. Everest. There are lots of hikes scheduled by this group.

Columbia (Russell Smith, Chapter Officer)—Russell reports that there are 8 – 10 core members who attend meeting and events. This group has a new meeting place. They are planning to participate in the Big Dig.

Cove Lake (Richard Helm, Chapter Officer)—Leigh read a report from this group which is doing a lot of hiking and having regular monthly programs. Programs at recent meetings have been given by Arlene Scheller, Mark Stanfill, Bob Green, and Jerry Stamp.

Cumberland Gap (Rosemary Register, Chapter Officer).

East Tennessee (Beverly Neurock, Chapter Officer).

Highland Rim (Doug Ratliff, Chapter Officer). Fifteen people usually attend meetings each month and there are usually two hikes a month. All is going well.

Memphis (Gloria Lenski, Board Representative). Gloria reported that 45 people recently showed up for an urban hike and that 36 people were present for a hike in Shelby Forest. The Virgin Falls hike was a success with 12 persons present. Programs presented have been good and have included one on trailside birding. Gloria said that at the May meeting, Nancy Warren from the Northwest chapter will give a presentation entitled "Hiking in Spain." Nancy presented a program previously about her experiences in hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Murfreesboro (Martin McCullough). Martin reported that on the topic of wildflowers, those in the Murfreesboro chapter "have covered them well!" This group has also hiked with the Memphis group and they like the joint hikes. He offered a suggestion for a joint program on Oct.

Nashville (David Furse, Chapter Officer). David reports that there have been many programs and many hikes. Some of the programs have included one on safety, one from Bill Riley (Grotto Society), and one about a hike on Kilimanjaro. Attendance at meetings ranges from 30 to more than 60; there are 12- 15 hikes each month.

Northwest (Jim Clark, Chapter Officer). Jim reported that programs have included "The Five Trails to Mt. LeConte" (Anna Clark) and a program about Yellowstone by UT Martin Archivist Richard Sanders. Recent hikes have been to Big Hill Pond, Land Between the Lakes (North-South Trail and Canal Loop), and in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. This group is planning to join the Memphis group for a May 17 hike at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park.

Plateau (Charlie Jones, Chapter Officer). Leigh shared a report from Charles of the Plateau chapter. One half a day each month is spent in park work. There have been a several programs, including one by Joe Kelly who is a ranger in the Smokies.

Soddy Daisy (Charlie Jones, interim officer). Susan Turner is returning to school to learn how to operate a semi-tractor trailer. The Board is seeking people to serve as officers for this group.

Upper Cumberland (Helen Anglemier). Leigh shared a letter from Helen. The group is active and enjoying joint hikes with other groups. There are now some younger members. Helen wrote: "We are no longer an old ladies group."

14. Old Business. Fount said that several reports have been received about how funds have been used from the Evan Means Small Grants program. Reports have been received from CTC, from Friends of Shelby Farms, and Friends of Trails (Ashland City). As a part of the grant process, each group receiving a grant is to make a project completion report.

Martin McCollough put forward an idea about hikers carpooling and sharing expenses for gas. He said that a good general guideline is five cents per mile. There was some discussion of all hikers sharing transportation expenses. The Board noted that the newsletter editor often includes a reminder for each hiker to contribute to the driver's expenses.

Fount solidified plans for the TTA mug orders.

15. New Business. There were reminders of the Southeast Foot Trails Conference in October and of the next TTA Board meeting to be held August 2 at the St. Bernard Academy. Members also noted that the 35th anniversary of TTA will be in December that that there should be some celebration planned at the annual meeting in November.

16. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. All were invited to a post-meeting gathering at Libby's home.

May/2nd g
CTC

Summary Sheet
The Big Dig 2003

General Contact Information:

CTC Office in Crossville – 931-456-6259

Dogwood Camp – 423-332-3216 (beginning 1 p.m. EDT, May 18, 2003)

Primary Contacts:

Mark Stanfill, Program Coordinator

Sandra Spearman, Big Dig Coordinator

Cumberland Trail Conference

19 East 4th Street

Crossville, TN 38555

Office: 931-456-6259

Fax: 931-456-4934

E-mail: cumberlandtrail@rocketmail.com

Lodging and meals: Out-of-town volunteers may reserve free lodging and meals with CTC at the Dogwood Camp* – contact Mark or Sandra to reserve your spot and arrange for meals (breakfast, trail lunch and dinner). For those arriving for lodging on May 18, please delay your arrival until after 1 p.m. EDT. For those needing lodging the night of June 28, please contact Mark or Sandra.

Daily Schedule: Leave the Dogwood Camp each morning in 2 shifts. Shift assignments for volunteers will be made the previous evening. Shift 1 leaves at 7 a.m.; shift 2 leaves at 8 a.m. In the afternoon, the walkout from the worksite will be timed to have shift 1 arriving back at the Camp at approximately 3:00 p.m. and shift 2 arriving back at the Camp at approximately 4 p.m. (All times are Eastern time zone.)

Pickup location for local volunteers: Volunteers who live in the area and who do not wish to drive to the Dogwood Camp each morning may park at Rechoboth Baptist Church, lower parking lot. The church is located on Hwy 27, immediately north of Highwater Road (Possum Creek Campground turnoff). Pickups will be made at this location shortly after 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday. Rechoboth has been very gracious in allowing us to park there so we need to keep all our vehicles congregated in one place (lower south corner) and be sure to keep that area clean. On Sunday, local volunteers must meet us at the Camp.

Equipment and Clothing: Trail work is dirty. Wear old, comfortable clothes – long pants are required. Hiking boots or work boots are necessary in order to protect your feet. Raingear should also be in your daypack. Your daypack should be large enough to carry lunch and water during the workday. During warm weather outings, we recommend 1 gallon of water per person.

Medical: Trail work is physically demanding, so participants should be in good-to-excellent physical condition – able to use trail tools and hike 5 miles per day.

Weather: May and June in Tennessee can be quite warm, and rain is common. Daily work schedules will be altered if it is raining hard when it is time to depart for the trailhead.

Alcohol/Drugs: Not allowed in any location or part of our program. This includes the lodge, meetings areas, the surrounding property, vehicles, and the trail itself.

*See directions to the Dogwood Camp on the back of this sheet.

**Cumberland Trail Conference
The Big Dig**

What to Bring

For overnights at the lodge:

Sleeping bag or linens for twin bed
Pillow
Towels
Personal toiletries (no soap, shampoo, etc. is provided)
Comfortable shoes for running around the camp – you'll definitely want to shed your hiking boots after a day on the trail
Swimsuit – the lodge is located on a lake – good swimming area available

For the trail:

Long pants (no shorts on the trail)
Hiking boots – be sure they are broken in. It might also be wise to have an extra pair of shoe laces with you.
Daypack or fanny pack large enough to hold lunch and at least a gallon of water for you on the trail
Leather work gloves (we provide gloves, but if your hands do not fit well in size men's large, you may wish to bring your own gloves)
Water bottles – enough to hold a gallon of liquid
Rain gear

Additional items we recommend:

Sunscreen
Sweatband or bandanna
Insect repellent (we may be working in places where ticks are abundant)
Ivy block (if you are particularly susceptible to poison ivy)

A washer and dryer is available at the lodge (no quarters needed!). Bring your own laundry detergent. We recommend that overnights have at least 2 changes of trail jeans since the washer and dryer are going to stay very busy and you may not have access to them every day.

Big Dig Programming
May 19 - June 28, 2003

Week 1

Monday, May 19	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, May 20	Bill Haley – Tennessee Aquarium
Wednesday, May 21	Tom Morgan and Lynne Haas (Dayton) – songs and ballads of Walden's Ridge
Thursday, May 22	Joni Lovegrove (Oak Ridge) – Cherokee Lore
Friday, May 23	Mike DeFosche and the Cumberland Trail Tornadoes/Square Dance

Week 2

Monday, May 26	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, May 27	Chattanooga Nature Center
Wednesday, May 28	Charles Lemming (Soddy) – Soddy gorge fish and mines and music and moonshine
Thursday, May 29	Down Yonder (Hamilton/Marion County) – Old Time Music from the Cumberlands
Friday, May 30	Bob Townsend and the Fiery Gizzard String Band

Week 3

Monday, June 2	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, June 3	Bill Haley – Tennessee Aquarium
Wednesday, June 4	The Smith Sisters (Soddy/Flat Top) Possum Creek Sawmills and Mountain Life
Thursday, June 5	Joni Lovegrove (Oak Ridge) – Cherokee Lore
Friday, June 6	Down Yonder (Hamilton/Marion County) – Old Time Music from the Cumberlands

Week 4

Monday, June 9	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, June 10	Bill Haley – Tennessee Aquarium
Wednesday, June 11	open date
Thursday, June 12	Ed Brown (Dunlap) – Music of Sequatchie Valley
Friday, June 13	Citico (Hamilton County)

Week 5

Monday, June 16	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, June 17	Bill Haley – Tennessee Aquarium
Wednesday, June 18	Carson Camp – Dunlap Coal Ovens Museum
Thursday, June 19	Bob Fulcher (Cumberland Trail State Park) – The Life of Emma Belle Miles
Friday, June 20	Mike DeFosche and the Cumberland Trail Termites

Week 6

Monday, June 23	Mack Prichard – State Naturalist
Tuesday, June 24	Bill Haley – Tennessee Aquarium
Wednesday, June 25	James Reddon Band (Dunlap, Ringgold, Signal Mtn, Taylor Ridge)
Thursday, June 26	Steve Smith (Soddy) – History of Soddy Coal Mines
Friday, June 27	Citico (Hamilton County)
Saturday, June 28	Butterfly Count in Soddy Area – Bill Haley/Tennessee Aquarium

Cumberland Trail Conference

Big Dig – 2003

Information Sheet

Who are we?

The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) is an associate organization of Tennessee Trails Association (TTA), a volunteer nonprofit organization established in 1969 to promote, construct and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources around these trails.

Formed in 1997, CTC's focus is tri-fold: the **acquisition, construction, and maintenance** of the Cumberland Trail and adjacent wild lands; long-term **protection** of its more than **300-mile linear greenway** and the natural resources around it; and **increasing the environmental awareness** of our youth, landowners, citizens along the corridor, and individuals who come from throughout the region, the country, and the world, to walk lightly through these woods, mountains, valleys, gorges and watersheds of East Tennessee.

Having noted our strong leadership, broad-based grass-roots support, and our determination to build and maintain the Cumberland Trail, Tennessee's governor provided public support in 1998 by designating the trail Tennessee's first linear state park. CTC has the responsibility of acquiring, building, and maintaining the trail. CTC publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts numerous outings on the Cumberland Trail. More information can be found on our website at www.cumberlandtrail.org.

Overview of Cumberland Trail Conference's Big Dig - 2003

The Big Dig-2003 is a 6-week program of trailbuilding (May 19 – June 28, 2003) combined with environmental education, history, culture, and musical sessions, which will take place in the Rock, Possum, and Soddy gorges of Hamilton County, near Soddy Daisy, TN. The footpath has been designed by our volunteer teams through 5,000 acres which were secured for the Cumberland Trail during the past year. The corridor itself is flagged and ready to build. The **result of this program** will be 30 contiguous miles of new trail added to this new recreational system, increasing our completed system from 120 miles to 150 – on our way to 300!

Structure of the Big Dig Program

Our **model for success** is our annual spring BreakAway program which has brought college students to Tennessee during their spring breaks since 1996. In May and June of 2003, this successful model will be used in the largest on-the-ground effort in our history. Volunteer leadership drawn from our well-trained volunteer cadre, student leadership drawn from alumni of BreakAways of the past 2-3 years and other college-age interested people, and as many as 100 volunteers per day (from age 16 on up!) from Tennessee and across the nation will put trailbuilding activity in those gorges in *high gear*. Youth is welcome and encouraged, though those under 16 must be in a supervised, organized group with not less than a 1:3 ratio of adults to children. CTC should be consulted in the formation of these groups and their scheduling. Call us for more information on scouts and other youth participation.

Who will lead?

The strength of CTC is in its base of more than 600 volunteers. Its trailbuilding leadership has as its backbone a group of 27 "WagonMasters" who are dedicated to seeing the project to its completion. Each has spent much time on the trail with our leadership team; has received specialized training in trailbuilding techniques, leadership, and safety; has proven his/her ability to successfully lead work crews; and has been certified by CTC's executive board as meeting all the requirements of the WagonMaster volunteer position.

A team of college students who have a special interest in environmental sciences and outdoor recreation will receive meals, lodging, and a small stipend to be on-site each day and lead volunteer work teams under the direction of our WagonMasters.

Who will volunteer?

Volunteer participants will come from various places, including the local community, AHS Volunteer Vacations, AmeriCorps, various outdoor clubs such as Sierra Clubs from across Tennessee, hiking clubs in the area, Landmark Volunteers (a nationwide premier high school service organization), and dedicated individuals from across the state and nation. We encourage people who want to "give back" to their community to come work with us. Corporations, clubs, high schools, colleges, scouts, and other groups will also be given an opportunity to organize their "Big Dig Day" so that their employees or group members can come together as a team to create a piece of the Cumberland Trail in their own "backyard." All volunteers are appreciated, and can agree to work with us for as few as one day, or as many as 42!

What will a day of trailbuilding entail?

WagonMasters and student leaders will form work crews from the volunteer participants, transport them from the Dogwood Camp where out-of-towners will be lodged; work on assigned projects for the day; and return the next day until a specific project is finished. That project might be a stretch of trail, a bridge, a set of rock steps, or erosion bars. **The actual worksite also might be as close as a few yards from a road, or as far as 2 miles from a road, therefore volunteers must be prepared for a 5-mile hike every day.** Naturalists from Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and private groups or individuals will roam the work-sites, teaching the work crews about their natural surroundings.

We create a 36" tread, with a 4' X 8' corridor "box" so that the casual dayhiker as well as a backpacker with large external frame pack can comfortably walk the trail without dodging trees, bushes, or limbs. Trail paths are designed for the maximum enjoyment of the hiker and minimum impact to the environment. "Rewards" such as overlooks, waterfalls, wildflower patches, or unusual or interesting trees are built in to the design process.

Sample Trailbuilding Tasks:

Our most-used tools are loppers, clippers, fire rakes and mattocks (a mattock is a grub hoe/axe combination).

- Leaf duff is raked from the tread down to mineral soil to discourage plant regrowth.
- The corridor "box" (4' x 8') is cleared with loppers and folding saws.
- Plant roots are removed (though roots essential to large trees near the trail are protected)
- Sidehill areas are cut using a mattock. The soil is drawn down to a more walkable level with a fire rake (resulting in a 36" tread having a 5% slope to the downhill side so that water can gently drain off the trail tread without causing erosion).
- Water bars are installed in steep areas to control any erosive effects of water drainage.
- Rock steps or staircases are created in those areas of short, but unavoidable, steepness so that erosion will not occur through use of the trail, while also allowing the hiker a safer climb up out of the steepness.
- Footbridges are built over streams or drainages – protecting the hiker during high water but also keeping the hiker out of stream or drainage beds where their traffic might damage them.

After the day is done:

Evening programs at the Dogwood Camp will focus on the natural environment of the CT corridor, historical use of its lands, and how it might best be protected. Community members as well as trail volunteers are welcome to attend these programs. At present, educational or cultural programs are scheduled for every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday night of the Big Dig, and most Wednesday nights as well. Examples include Mack Prichard, Tennessee State Naturalist, discussing the wilderness of the Cumberland Plateau and its current environmental condition; Steve Smith (TVA employee) sharing with the group his artifacts and his knowledge of local history; Joni Lovegrove with her entertaining and informative presentation about Cherokee folklore; and Bill Haley (a Soddy Daisy native) of the Tennessee Aquarium with his raptor program. Friday nights are reserved for mountain music presentations by local groups.

In 2004, we do it all over again – on a different portion of the Cumberland Trail corridor. And we keep our Big Dig programs going each spring, along with numerous other outings throughout each year, until we complete the 300-mile Cumberland Trail in 2008!