



## Clarksville, the City That Wouldn't Die

By James Ewing, *Tennessee Tales*

The first settlers in the area of Clarksville, Middle Tennessee's second city, gave new meaning to the term "never say die." When death came to some, it meant that others would come to take their place. And they adhered to a maxim that was probably old even then — "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again."

When long hunters (those who hunted for a year or more before returning to their homes) came into the area in the 1770s, some of them were impressed by the beauty of the countryside, the seeming fertility of the soil, and the abundance of wildlife. They dreamed of returning there at a later time to build their homes and settle down with their families.

Such a person was Moses Renfroe. He had noted a place where the Cumberland and the Red rivers joined, marked by tall bluffs with reddish-tinged rocks and appropriately called "Red Paint Hill."

Renfroe was present when the flotilla of some thirty flatboats, dugouts, and canoes led by John Donelson reached the Red Paint Hill landmark on April 12, 1780. Renfroe left the Donelson party that was to push on to French Lick (now Nashville).

With Renfroe were his family and the families of Joseph and James

Renfroe and their relatives, Nathan and Solomon Turpin, and a number of others. They proceeded up the Red River and settled at a point between what is now Clarksville and Port Royal.

What Renfroe and his people had not anticipated was the intense hostility that the Indians felt toward the white people who came with the notion of clearing off ground and raising crops. The flames of the Indians' resentment were fanned by the Spanish government.

The Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War, had left Spain in control of the mouth and the west bank of the Mississippi River. Spain did not like the idea of the settlers coming into the Cumberland area and sought to force their evacuation by uniting the Indians against them. Some historians say that Spain even paid a bounty for white scalps.

Meanwhile, Moses Renfroe was joined by others, the families of Isaac Renfroe, Isaac Mayfield, James Hollis, James Johns, and Abraham Jones.

Less than three months after Moses arrived, Indians went on the attack. Among the victims were Joseph Renfroe, Abraham Jones, and a number of others who were not identified. Devastated by their tragedy, the surviving settlers abandoned their homes and never returned.

Meanwhile, other settlements were being made along the Cumberland; and in 1784 John Montgomery, a long hunter of the 1770s, and Martin Armstrong chose a site on the eastern Cumberland and the Red rivers. There Armstrong laid out the town that would be called Clarksville.

It was named for George Rogers Clark, the Revolutionary War leader and a colleague of Montgomery. The county in which Clarksville was located would later be named for Montgomery.

Other settlers continued moving into the area. Many were killed. But the settlers kept coming. Montgomery himself was killed in 1794, just ten years after he had helped found Clarksville.

Of the spirit of the early Clarksville settlers, Charles M. Waters, author of *Historic Clarksville: The Bicentennial Story, 1784-1984*, wrote:

"Man does not give up easily. He is a resilient and restless creature responding to the magnetic attraction of two invisible forces, one of which is the lodestone of migration ever pulling him from where he is to what he hopes will be a better place. At the same time, man is drawn by another force, that of the love of the land which makes him want to stop and settle down."

Tragic indeed was the story of Valentine Sevier, who moved from Nashville to the New Providence area around 1790. It should be noted that Valentine was a brother of John Sevier who, in addition to his service as governor of the state of Franklin and of Tennessee and as a member of Congress, was noted for his exploits as an Indian fighter. In spite of numerous battles with the Indians and various military engagements such as the Battle of King's Mountain, John Sevier seemingly led a charmed life and reached the ripe old age of seventy. He also reared seventeen children to maturity.

Valentine Sevier had an untimely death because of tragedy that befell his family. His son-in-law, Thomas Grantham, was killed by Indians in October 1791 while hunting near Sevier's Station. The following January three of Sevier's sons were

killed. In 1794 another Indian attack was made on the Sevier Station and his two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann, Elizabeth's husband, Charles Snyder, Sevier's six-year-old son, Joseph, and two of his grandchildren were killed.

Sevier's twelve-year-old daughter Rebecca was scalped, but she recovered. Thus over a period of three years, Sevier lost four sons, two daughters, and two sons-in-law, along with several grandchildren. His livestock was stolen and his station burned, with the exception of his stone house, which still stands.

Sevier moved what was left of his family to Nashville, but he returned to Clarksville in 1796. Four years later he died, a broken and broken-hearted man. He was buried on his own property across the river from his abandoned station. The site later became a cemetery.

In 1795 Clarksville and the entire region greatly benefited from Thomas Pinckney's treaty with the Spanish and the Indians. The warfare, for all practical purposes, ceased.

During the entire year of 1984, Clarksville celebrated its bicentennial with a full calendar of events. The first occurred on a bitterly cold day, January 16, the two-hundredth anniversary of the purchase of the site for the city by John Montgomery and Martin Armstrong... Clarksville, a city of 55,000 population, had indeed come a long way since its modest and tragic beginnings.

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## State News

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### New TTA President Honored

Jerri Bull, 1990 President of TTA, was recently honored by being selected by the *Commercial Appeal* as one of their thousand people in the Mid-South who make life better for others by their voluntary efforts. The following article was published in the *Commercial Appeal*.

Jerri Bull's love of the outdoors goes way back. As a child she had enjoyed the outdoors, and as a mother of four daughters and a Girl Scout leader for 15 years she frequently went hiking and camping. Mrs. Bull, 55, is a past president of the Memphis chapter of Tennessee Trails Association and will be incoming state president.

The Parkway Village resident is contact person for the group, which has adopted the Chickasaw Bluff trail in Meeman-Shelby Forest among other projects. Active in Lichterman Nature Center since its beginning, Mrs. Bull also is a member of the Sierra Club and Save Shelby Farms Forest.

"I'd like for my grandchildren and others to see and enjoy the beauties of nature I have. If someone doesn't care, they may not be there," she says.

A grandmother who cares for three grandchildren, Mrs. Bull finds time to work as a crossing guard an hour and a half weekdays as she has done for 17 years at Cromwell School. Every other week she helps teach kindergartners and first-graders about safety at Safety Town at Southland Mall.

### TTA Member's Book Published

Cumberland Mountain chapter member, Brenda D. Coleman and co-author Jo Anna Smith have recently published *Hiking the Big South Fork* with the University of Tennessee Press. Carson Brewer says of the book, "This is more than a good hiking guide. It also is a folk history of the tough, colorful people who lived in the valley of the Big South Fork."

Strollers, hikers, and backpackers looking for a less-crowded alternative to the outdoor pleasures of the Great Smoky Mountains will enjoy discovering the beautiful, rugged Big South Fork of the Cumberland River in Tennessee and Kentucky. In Brenda and Jo Anna's book, the authors combine natural history with folk culture and legend to provide an interpretive guide to the trails of this relatively new National Park Service area. They have personally walked, measured, and rated every hiking trail. Hikers will thus find the guide invaluable in making their plans in the area.

The guide includes vital information on safety, park rules and regulations, and accommodations. Trailhead locations, features of each trail, and difficulty ratings are included in an easy-to-read chart designed to help hikers select trails suited to their interests and abilities. Maps are supplemented by detailed mileage logs to keep hikers informed of their progress and to clarify points of confusion. Also, mammals and birds of the area are

included for wildlife enthusiasts. Because of its wealth of historical, cultural, and physical detail, armchair explorers as well as hikers will enjoy this guide.

The book costs \$17.95 in cloth and \$8.95 in paper. Contact Jennifer Siler, 615-974-3321, 293 Communications Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-0325 for ordering information and shipping costs.

### **January Smokies Backpack January 27-28**

We will backpack to Pecks Corner Shelter via Bradley Fork Trail and return via Hughes Ridge and Chasteen Creek. About ten miles will be covered each day (moderate to difficult). Sleeping in the shelter relieves us from carrying tents.

In the event of deep snow, the trip will be scaled down. Winter togs are a must (bring your Christmas stuff!). Meet at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern) at Smokemont Campground Checkin

Station. Please pre-register by calling Gene Curp at 615-256-2566.

### **Trip Report Smokies Backpack**

From a pre-registration of 7 we had a trip of 3 backpackers. The other hikers were Sierra Club (this was a joint trip), leaving the leader responsible for TTA's reputation. Those of you who know me are right to be concerned.

A skim of spotty snow deepened as we climbed. At Cosby Knob shelter about 1 inch remained. The sub-twenties temperatures expected failed to arrive. Our coldest temperature noted was 27°.

Not only was the sky brilliant and the views far, but sun bathed the rocks at Mt. Cammerer creating a micro-climate oasis which I failed to get the rest of the party to leave after lunch! I set the example and re-entered the snow for the trek down. My loyal followers came along 30 minutes later.

Wild life was active, too. We saw trout in Big Creek, 3 does, 1 buck, 1 snake (on a sunny hillside which was snow free), a couple of moths flying above the snow, 1 bear, and a fearless shelter skunk. The wildest life was a party of 4 hikers from Florida who challenged us to a joke contest. It was a draw.

Those participating were Joe McCaleb, Kathlene Kitzmiller, and yours truly. For those who couldn't make it, I hope to see you on the trail soon. — Gene Curp

### **Annual Meeting Prize Winners**

In the midst of all the fun and excitement at the Annual Meeting, June Adams says she lost track of two winners of door prizes she contributed. She apologizes and asks if the winners of the corkscrew and the case of oil would please contact her at 907 Wall Street, Clarksville, TN 37040 (552-1148) so that she can mail your prize to you.

## **Chapter News**



### **Miscellaneous Clarksville News**

We had the good fortune to have Bettie Jo Wallace, history professor from APSU speak to our group at the October meeting. She is from Stewart County and is quite an authority on the subject. She told us a bit about the battle for Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson and revealed she is now working on a book to be published jointly by the state and by APSU. We also learned about the counties that make up Land Between the Lakes, some of the

history of their area, and the people who lived there.

After two previous cancellations, everyone agreed it was well worth the wait to hear Bettie Jo.

Our November meeting had Michael Huddleston from the Department of Forestry as our speaker. He brought a video of work and projects done by the Department. He also spoke to us about Stewart State Forest which lies mouldering within a stone's throw of us. This forest contains a stand of big-tooth aspens which are protected by the Conservation Department.

Michael turned out to be a very intelligent, informed and concerned individual who is attempting to teach the proper stewardship of our heritage. It appears that we "have met the enemy and the enemy is us."

### **Eagle Watch Land Between the Lakes January 6**

We will be having an Eagle Watch on January 6th in Land Between the Lakes. The shuttles will leave the Woodlands Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. Only two vans (each carrying up to 13 people) may go in at a time. Please contact June Adamson, 552-1148, if you'd like to attend.

If the weather is reasonably good, some of us will go down to this area early to walk. There are a number of excellent trails there. Meet us at the K-Mart/Kroger parking lot at Northside at 8:00 a.m. or at the Nature Center at 9:30 a.m. to walk.

### **Tour Historic Clarksville January 20**

Join us January 20th for a tour of Historic Clarksville. Meet in the parking lot of the Chamber of

Commerce, 312 Madison St., at 9:00 a.m. We'll stop at Shoneys for lunch or you may bring your own. Contact Sarah Ussery for more details (Work - 645-6401 or Home - 647-7213).

### Chess Squares

1 stick butter, melted  
1 egg  
yellow cake mix

Mix together and press evenly into bottom of 13"x9" baking pan.

3 eggs  
8 oz. cream cheese  
1 lb. powdered sugar

Beat together and pour over cake mixture in pan. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.



Meets 1st Thursday, 6:00, TTU Biology Bldg., Pennebaker Hall

### Eagle Watch, Dale Hollow Lake January 20

This is the annual Eagle Watch sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Dale Hollow Lake, the 2nd largest wintering ground of the American Bald Eagle. Reservations are on a first come basis for both morning and afternoon trips. Each trip will last approximately 2 and 1/2 hours. It will also be cold, so come prepared!

This is a very popular event, so sign up early for one of the trips. For more details and to make reservations, call the Resource Manager's office in Celine at 243-3136.



Meets 3rd Thursday, Kingsway Christian Church, 7:30 p.m.

### Monthly Meeting January 18

Meet with us at Kingsway Church. As of press time, the program plans were incomplete. By the 18th, we'll have a program prepared and ready so bring your friends and join in the hospitality.

### Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, January 6

The Refuge's primary purpose is to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway. We expect to see a wide variety of birds, ducks, and geese as we walk the raised road through the Refuge, but the number we see depends on conditions way north of Memphis!

The road is six miles long (one way) with a lake observation area 2.5 miles from the parking lot. So, people can walk as far as they want to, and then walk out to their cars. Dress for the weather (if cold at home, it will be much colder at the Refuge).

The Refuge is located one mile east of Interstate 55 near Turrell, Arkansas. The carpool leaves Kingsway Christian Church at 7:00 a.m. Meet at the Refuge Headquarters parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For more information, call Betty Porter, 901-363-0213.

### Village Creek State Park January 20

We will carpool from Kingsway at 8:00 a.m. with the hike beginning at the park office (near Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas) at 9:30 a.m. This will be a hike of about 7 miles over mostly easy terrain, with a few steep

hills. Dress in layers and bring a lunch. (Bring a thermos of hot coffee and everyone will want to be your friend.) For more information, call Freddi Felt, 685-9915.

### Eagle Tour, Reelfoot Lake Sunday, January 28

Twenty spaces have been reserved on the tour bus to see the eagles. The bus will leave the Air Park Inn at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$1.00.

After the bus ride, we will eat lunch at a local restaurant. Then, to walk off that wonderful fried food, we will drive around to the east side of the lake and walk in on the refuge road (six miles round trip).

On Saturday night, January 27th, there will be a special program on endangered animals at 7:00 p.m. at the Air Park Inn. Because this will probably be a crowded weekend, anyone interested in staying over Saturday night should make room reservations early. Reelfoot Park's phone number is 901-253-7756. There are many motels in the area, also.

Reservations for the bus ride on Sunday are required. Call Betty Porter at 901-363-0213.

### Memphis Trip Reports

#### Work Trip

Due to a schedule snafu at Shelby Forest State Park, we were unable to work on the Chickasaw Bluff Trail on December 2nd. We will re-schedule early next year after deer hunting season ends. — Jerri Bull

#### Shiloh Military Trail November 11

We had a beautiful, warm day to tackle a compass hike through Shiloh Battlefield. Our method of orienteering was not an exact science, but we did finally get back to the finish line about 4:00 p.m. All 18 hikers, however, had a good time walking through the woods and fields, briars and underbrush, dry leaves and wet, muddy dirt. After



# 1990 Tennessee Trails Association Hiking Schedule

The following is a list of *scheduled* TTA hikes during 1990. This by no means reflects all TTA hikes. Check each issue of your newsletter for details on these and other hikes. If you would like to lead a hike, contact the chairperson of your chapter (listed on the back of the newsletter).

CL = Clarksville Chapter

ME = Memphis Chapter

Cookeville members check with

CM = Cumberland Mtn.

N = Nashville Chapter

Debbie Thibault, 243-3721

MU = Murfreesboro Chapter

## January

1/6	CL	Eagle Watch – Land Between the Lakes, Class I, June Adams 552-1148
	ME	Wapanocca Wildlife Refuge – Betty Porter 363-0213
	N	Burgess Falls “Wimp Hike” – Judy Jacobs 385-3327
1/10	N	Bledsoe Creek Full Moon Hike – Bob Barnett 831-1139
1/13	N	Virgin Falls Hike – Kevin Kimbro 333-0629
1/20	CL	Tour of Historic Clarksville – Class I, Sarah Ussery 647-7213
	MU	Stones River Battlefield – George Williams 890-3683
	ME	Village Creek State Park – Freddi Felt 685-9915
1/21	N	Photo Snow Hike TBA – Charlie Hann 776-1503
1/27	ME	Reelfoot Lake State Park Eagle Watch – Betty Porter 363-0213
1/28	N	Montgomery Bell Perimeter Hike – James Leininger 790-7855

## February

2/4	N	Radnor Lake Hike – Ninez Giles 297- 2281
2/10	CL	Ft. Henry Trails – Land Between the Lakes, Class I, Bessie Daniel 645-5426
	N	Gary Mithson’s Farm Hike – Judy Jacobs 385-3327
2/10-11	ME	Natchez Trace State Park/Board Meeting – Jerri Bull 363-4408
2/11	N	Snow Hike (if snow present) – Pat Anderson 383-2355
2/17	MU	Cedars of Lebanon – 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> miles, Class I, Fran Shepherd 895-2098
2/18	N	Mousetail Landing – James Leininger 790-7855
2/24	CL	Hidden Spring Trail, Cedars of Lebanon – Jesse Page 648-0285
2/24-25	ME	Herb Parsons Lake – Anne Lindholm 388-4123
	N	Bearwaller Gap Backpack – Bob Barnett 831-1136

## March

3/3	N	Savage Gulf – Kevin Kimbro 333-0629
3/10	CL	Longhunter State Park – Class I, Kate Perry 647-1985
	ME	Chewalla – Julie Barham 452-0085
	N	Grassmere Volunteer Day TBA
3/17	N	Montgomery Bell Lake Hike – Mickey Sutton 833-1992
3/17-18	MU	South Cumberland Beginners Backpack – Tom Shepherd 895-2098 or George Williams 890-3683
3/18-23	MU	Appalachian Trail Backpack – Nantahala area, Glenn Hanley 898-2104
3/23-24	N	Cedars of Lebanon Hike and Camp-out – Bob Barnett 831-1136
3/24	CL	Savage Gulf – Class III, Bessie Daniel 647-4837
	ME	Shelby Forest State Park – Maryanne Martin 366-4863
3/25	N	Bicycle Tour – Linda Bowman 449- 2575

## April

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4/1	N	Piney River Hike – Vic Canada 868-1072
4/7	CL	Frozen Head – Class III, Paul & Sue Carlton 647-9753
	ME	Ft. Pillow State Park – Edith Caywood 682-8551
4/7-8	N	Big South Fork Backpack – Paul Koehler 331-4139
4/8	MU	Short Spring Wildflower Hike – Dennis Horne 455-4742
	N	Virgin Falls Hike – Jeannie Bumbalough 824-6671
4/14-15	N	Easter Big South Fork Wildflower Weekend – Pat Anderson 383-2355
4/21	MU	Frozen Head Wildflower Hike – Bertha Chrietzberg 896-1146
4/21-22	ME	Sipsey Wilderness Area – Ray Burkett 386-8613
	CL	Virgin Falls Backpack – Class IV, Jim Herriman 645-3733 or Pam Oliva 552-0441
4/22	N	Fiery Gizzard Wildflower Photo Hike – Charlie Hann 776-1503
4/27-29	N	Longhunter State Park Campout with Work Day on 28th – Bob Barnett 831-1138
4/29	MU	Float Mill Ridge Trail – Betty Herring 895-8171

## May

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5/5	ME	Mousetail Landing State Park – Debbie Gilbert 454-0613
	N	Fall Creek Falls Hike – Jane Holladay 291-5973
5/12	CL	Montgomery Bell State Park – Carol Baker 552-1476
	N	Desoto State Park – Deborah Hill 449-3126
5/19	MU	Bike Hike, Historic Murfreesboro – Maryedith McFarlin 896-1344
5/20	ME	Wolf River Float Trip – Charlie & Jill Norvill 873-2149
	N	Canoe Day – Jim Thoman 292-4161
5/26	CL	Ft. Henry to Ft. Donelson – Class II-III, Bettie Jo Wallace
	N	Memorial Day Waterfall Tour – David Stidham, 736-5115
5/29	MU	Mossy Ridge (Percy Warner Park) – Cathy Williams 893-7748

## June

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6/1-3	ME	Board Mtg. & Work Day on C.T. – Jerri Bull 363-4408 or Bob Brown 748-4816
6/2	N	Honey Creek – Kevin Kimbro 333-0629
6/2-3	MU	Smoky Mtn. Backpack – Tom Shepherd 895-2098
6/7	N	Nightlife on 2nd Avenue – Bob Barnett 831-1136
6/9	CL	Natchez Trace – Carl Gadsey 552-2325
6/10	N	Percy Priest Canoe Day – Charlie Hann 776-1503
6/12	N	Radnor South Cove Loop – 5:30, Ninez Giles 297-2281
6/16	ME	Elmwood Cemetary Hike and Tour – Diana Houston 683-3330 (wk) or 388-3337 (home)
	MU	Rock Island State Park Swim Party/Picnic – Fran Shepherd 895-2098
6/17	N	Cave Tour – Lona Brown 889-6413
6/23	CL	Stones River Battlefield – June Adams 552-1148 (Bertha Chrietzberg will assist)
6/24	N	Burnt Mill Bridge – Vic Canada 868-1072

## July

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7/7	CL	Float Trip on Red River – Roy Donan
7/6-8	N	Cosby Campout with climb of Mt. Cammerer and Albright Grove hike – Bob Barnett 831-1136
7/8	ME	Spring River Float Trip – Maryanne Martin 366-4863
7/21	MU	Canoe Trip, Elk River – Tom Shepherd 895-2098
	CL	Picnic at Hematite, KY – Dianne Clawson

## August

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8/11	CL	Swimming Hole Hike – Land Between the Lakes, Pam Oliva 552-0441
8/10-18	MU	Appalachian Trail Backpack – Virginia area, Glenn Hanley 898-2104
8/18-19	ME	Board Meeting, Davy Crockett State Park – Hiking and other activities, Jerri Bull 363-4408
8/19	N	Waterfall Picnic & Swim – Evelyn Tretter 859-0566
8/18	MU	South Cumberland Wildflowers & Old Swimming Hole – Bertha Chrietzberg 896-1146

## September

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9/2-3	N	Labor Day Picnic/Campout – Charlie Hann 776-1503
9/8	CL	Cardwell Mtn. & Cumberland Caverns – Jim Herriman 645-3733
9/9	ME	Picnic at Kamp Kiwani – Jerri Bull 363-4408
9/11	N	Radnor Lake Ganier Ridge – 5:30 p.m., Sally Garrard 371-8469
9/15	MU	Cardwell Mtn. Hike & Cumberland Caverns – Bill Stewart 473-4697
9/22	CL	Pinson Indian Mounds & Big Cypress Swamp – Anne Lowe 645-1454
	ME	Nathan Bedford Forest State Park – Debbie Gilbert 454-0613
9/23	N	Foster Falls to Raven Point – James Leininger 790-7855
9/29-30	N	Savage Gulf Backpack – Paul Koehler 331-4139

## October

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10/5-7	ME	Ouachita Trail – Betty Porter 363-0213 or Maryanne Martin 366-4863
10/6	N	Natchez Trace Hike – Janet and Dick Davies
10/13	N	Laurel-Snow Hike – Kevin Kimbro 333-0629
10/14	N	Warner Park Hike – Pat Anderson 383-2355
10/20	CL	Fall Creek Falls State Park – Class III-IV, Keith Wilbourn 645-5426
	ME	Hatchie Wildlife Refuge – Bob Ford 988-5511 (wk) or 664-1146 (hm)
10/20-21	MU	Fall Creek Falls Backpack – Tom Shepherd 895-2098 or George Williams 890-3683
10/21	CM	No Business Hike – James Smith 879-9325
10/27-28	State	Halloween Cumberland Trail Workday and Hike – Bob Brown 352-7474
10/28	N	Fall Photo Hike – Charlie Hann 776-1503

## November

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11/3-4	State	Annual Meeting – Montgomery Bell State Park, Dot Fowler 834-2654
11/3	MU	Stones River Canoe Trip – Joint with TSRA
11/17	CL	Indian Town Bluff – Anne Lowe 645-1454
	ME	Big Hill Pond State Park – Ray Burkett 386
	MU	Radnor Lake State Natural Area – Bettie Herring 895-8171
	N	Walls of Jericho Hike – Bob Richards 742-6688
11/23	N	Foster Falls Day Loop Hike – Pat Anderson 383-2355
11/24	N	Big Creek Loop Hike – James Leininger 790-7855
11/25	ME	After Thanksgiving Day Hike – Steve Smith or Gary McEntire 876-5215

## December

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12/1	ME	Work day on Chickasaw Bluff Trail – Jerri Bull 363-4408
12/6	N	Joint TTA-Audubon Christmas Dinner – TBA
12/9	ME	Wolf River Hike – Larry Smith 458-2757
12/15	N	Christmas Party – TBA
12/17	CL	Christmas Party – TBA
12/20	ME	Christmas Party/Regular Meeting – TBA
12/29-31	N	Standing Stone New Year's Weekend – James Leininger 790-7855

## Hike Leaders

Please read the following if you are submitting material to the newsletter and if you are leading a hike.

When scheduling a hike:

- A. Submit a detailed but concise written description of your upcoming hike in time for its inclusion in the preceding newsletter (deadline - 15th of month). In other words, if you are leading a hike in February, submit your hike details to Dot Fowler by the 15th of January. Mail to Dot Fowler, 4501 Packard Dr. N-4, Nashville, TN 37211.

Please include the following:

1. Chapter hosting the hike
  2. Date of hike
  3. Time and place to assemble for carpool and at trailhead
  4. Number of miles to be traveled and/or length of time involved in reaching the trailhead
  5. Length of the hike itself in miles and/or hours
  6. Difficulty rating (1-5, where 5 is most difficult)
  7. Suggested clothing & footwear (e.g., walking shoes or hiking boots, raingear, etc.)
  8. Suggested provisions &/or equipment (e.g., lunch, water, flashlight, etc.)
  9. Person and phone number to contact (include area code)
- B. Submit a brief trip report for the newsletter following the hike. Due to limited newsletter space, try to limit this to one page.

this arduous trek, ten of us relaxed over a very good dinner at the Catfish House on the bank of the Tennessee River. — Betty Porter

### **Wolf River/Shelby Farms Night Hike November 16**

All of you who thought it was too dark and too cold missed an exciting night hike. We started our trek with Larry Smith flagging down one of the giant earthmovers which was about to crash into a disabled earthmover under the Walnut Grove Road bridge.

Then, after a brisk walk along the Wolf River and through the forest to see some of the big trees, we took a short cut around one side of the dump to return to our cars. Although the county is working day and night to cap this closed dump, dreadful odors of methane gas and other unspeakable decomposing things caused us to hurry. We had to be careful, however, to step over the streams of noxious liquid wastes leaching out of the clay cap. All this was especially difficult since we had our flashlights off to keep from being spotted by the security guards! Close-up, first-hand experience with garbage dumps give you a new appreciation of another big problem of our environment.

Thanks, Larry, for an evening we will long remember. I am sure you will be glad to know that policemen decided five little, old ladies in hiking boots were no menace to society. — Betty Porter

### **Tree Planting**

Thanks to those who came on November 18th to the Wolf River and helped plant those many trees and shrubs for the Wolf River Conservancy. Our group planted around 500 trees and have the aching backs and muscles to prove it. Thanks to Julianne Barham, Edith Caywood, Betty Porter, Jerri Bull and Curtis Follis. We wouldn't have made it without Edith's delicious soup after the tree planting. That gave us enough energy to hike about 8 miles along the Wolf River after the morning's work.

### **After Thanksgiving Hike**

On November 26th, a lot of people evidently felt the need to get out and walk after Thanksgiving. There were 23 people in addition to Steve and Terry, park naturalists, who helped lead our hike on the Chickasaw Bluff Trail.

The weather was overcast and rather gloomy, but it was warm and did not rain so we enjoyed the beauty of the park. Some lucky people caught a glimpse of deer at the beginning of the hike and then again around Pioneer Springs. At one point, a pileated woodpecker flew across the path before disappearing into the woods. About seven geese were spotted flying above us and several kinds of birds were heard and seen along the trail.

It was a great hike, and we got through so early that some said it couldn't be eight miles while others had no doubt at all. Whatever the distance, it is a lovely trail, and we especially thank Steve and Terry for helping us. We will also miss Gary McEntire who has left Shelby Forest State Park to go to Paris Landing State Park. We wish him lots of luck! — Jerri Bull

### **Hiking For the Nineties: Some Resolutions**

1. I'll volunteer to lead more hikes.
2. I'll take more pictures (of people, not interesting fungi), to preserve the memories.
3. I'll carry an extra bag to pick up trash I see along the trail. I know I'm not the one who littered, but if I don't pick it up, who will?
4. I'll do more trail maintenance: clearing brush on the spot, and making notes on what needs to be done on a future visit.
5. I'll write more letters to my Congressman about environmental issues that could affect state parks.
6. I'll learn to rock-climb, and I'll live to tell about it.
7. I'll attend the annual meeting and spend lavishly at the auction.
8. I'll never get lost again...well, maybe once or twice.

— Debbie Gilbert

## **Murfreesboro Chapter**

Meets 3rd Thursday, St. Mark's Methodist,  
7:00 p.m.

### **1990 Meetings**

There is a change in our meeting night for 1990. We will meet on the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of this month.

### **January Joint Meeting With Tennessee Ornithological Society Davis Biology Building**

This month we will meet on January 9th (2nd Tuesday). The time remains unchanged (7:00 p.m.) but since we will be meeting with the Murfreesboro chapter of TOS we will meet in the Davis Biology Building at MTSU in room 121. This location change will only be for the January meeting.

Our speaker will be Chris Myers and the subject is a fascinating one — Bats. Come learn about these interesting and very useful creatures. Chris has a pet bat who would accompany him except it is hibernating currently. Maybe another time...

### **Quotable Quote**

**"Man must recognize the necessity of co-operating with nature. He must temper his demands and use and conserve the natural living resources of this earth in a manner that alone can provide for the continuation of his civilization."**

— Fairfield Osborn

## November Meeting

The business meeting consisted of the nominating committee report, discussion of the Christmas potluck supper and hike reports. There was a good crowd that welcomed Malcolm Pfothenauer for a return engagement. Malcolm's program was of a photographic safari to Namibia and his narrative and stunning slides were enjoyed by all.

## December Meeting

An almost overflow crowd enjoyed an evening of excellent food and good conversation at the beautiful home of Heloise Shilstat. Two items of business consisted of the approval of changing the meeting dates (discussed next) and the election of chapter officers for 1990. They are as follows:

Chairperson: Bettie Herring  
Vice-Chairperson: Fran Shepherd  
Secretary: Cathy Williams  
Treasurer: Bertha Chrietzburg

## Stones River Battlefield Hike

January 20th

On Saturday, January 20th, we will hike the 5-mile historic trail in this park. This is an easy (Rating I) hike that should take about 2 hours, and this includes stopping at the historic markers.

We will meet at the Visitor's Center at 9:00 a.m. Here is a short cut to the park that does not follow the highway markers. Exit I- 24 at exit #78B and take a left at the 1st traffic light (Thompson Lane with McDonalds on corner). Where the road ends at Manson Pike, take a left, then the 1st right into the battlefield. At the stop sign (old Highway 41), take a left and the left into the Visitor's Center. Call George Williams at 890-3683 for more information.

## Trip Report

On November 18th, ten members met on a beautiful but cool morning to hike the 4-mile trail in Old Stone Fort State Park. This area is rich

with history dating back approximately 2000 years. After the 2-hour hike which saw considerable warming, we viewed a slide show at the Visitor's Center.



Meets 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Cumberland Museum

## January Meeting

Meet us January 25th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cumberland Museum for discussion of an appropriate winter topic, skiing. Bill Maki (as in Mack-ee) will be our speaker and will present a slide show, display skiing gear and equipment, discuss the Nashville Ski Club, and skiing in general. So, if you ever wanted to give skiing a shot but didn't know where to start, join us on this winter Thursday night.

## Bledsoe Creek Night Hike

January 10

Meet at the Bledsoe Creek State Park office at 7:00 p.m. with your flashlight in hand. We will do a short flashlight hike through the woods of the park to get you warmed up. Then, we will do some star gazing from the park's observation platform if the skies are clear.

After the star gazing those who are interested can stop for hot food or a beverage in Gallatin or the Rivergate area. Please pre-register for this hike by calling Bob Barnett at 831-1136 no later than January 7th.

To reach Bledsoe Creek, take Hwy. 25 out of Gallatin toward Hartsville. You should soon see signs directing you to the park.

## Virgin Falls Hike

January 13

Come join the Nashville Chapter on our annual winter hike to the unusual and fascinating Virgin Falls, located on the Caney Fork River area in White County.

This area is unique in that 2 waterfalls, Virgin and Sheep Cave Falls emerge from high caves, run a short distance across flat terrain, drop off a cliff and disappear into another cave not to emerge again. Virgin Falls is the largest at a 110 ft. drop, and the area also has other outstanding features like overlooks and other smaller waterfalls.

The trail is approximately 8 miles in length and is rated strenuous (Class III-IV). The trail is rocky and steep in places, and we will cross streams, so hiking boots and proper clothing are a MUST!

We will meet at the KMart parking lot on Donelson Pike off I-40 East at 6:30 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. To pre-register and for more information contact Kevin Kimbro at (615) 333-0629.

## Winter Photo Hike

January 21

We will meet at the Donelson K-Mart parking lot at I-40E and Donelson Pike at 7:00 a.m. From there we will head east to the Cookeville area and do two waterfalls there and then head to Colditz Cove State Natural Area.

Since this is to be a photo hike, we will take the time to photograph along the way. There won't be much hiking but what there is will be rough and wet, so dress appropriately. See you then! Charlie Hann, 776-1503

## Montgomery Bell Hike

January 28

Come join Sissy and I on a twelve-mile hike through the hills of Montgomery Bell State Park. The trail will follow the perimeter of the park and take approximately six

hours depending on our pace and how long we stop for lunch.

This is not a strenuous hike although it is long and will probably require a quick pace. Therefore, you should exercise some consideration of doing this hike.

We will meet behind the visitor's center at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, the 28th. You should bring a lunch and water. Montgomery Bell is located 35 miles west of Nashville. Take Charlotte Pike (U.S. 70 West) to the park entrance.

Pre-registration is requested. For additional information, call James Leining at 790-7855.

### Trip Report Pickett State Park

It was a gorgeous weekend to camp at Pickett State Park. Heloise Shilstat and her dog, Ruffin, and Elaine Ware and her dog, Callie, hiked with me to Twin Arches, Charit Creek Lodge, Slave Falls, and Jake's Place on Saturday, November 11.

We were joined back at the campground by Dale Diskell and Kate Griffin for a night hike of short, but scenic proportions. On Sunday, we hiked a portion of the Hidden Passage Trail. Crystal Falls and the rock formations along the trail were a delight. It was also good to see Nashville area Boy Scouts on the trail.

All in all, it was a great weekend in the Big South Fork. Hope you'll join us next time we go! — Happy Trails, Bob Barnett

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## Cumberland Trail News

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### Tennessee River Gorge Snow Hike

C.T. Section 9, Jan. 20 or 27

Once again we are hoping for snow in the Gorge on the first of the above dates. If no snow on the 20th, we'll give Mother Nature a second chance on the 27th, but will go on the latter date, snow or no snow. If there is snow, the hike will be from Signal Point to Edwards Point both of which (and the trail between) will provide grand winter views.

If there is no snow either date, we shall repeat the great "snow hike" of last February from the C.T. parking area in Prentice Cooper State Forest to State Highway 27 with many fine views of the Tennessee River Gorge and Suck Creek and a short, optional off-trail trip to a unique and spectacular

waterfall and gorge scene preserved forever in Alexander Wyant's 1866 painting, *Tennessee*.

The snow hike is about 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles round-trip and the no-snow hike, about 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles point-to-point, both involving gradual elevation changes of maybe 200 feet. A snow hike on a rocky trail such as this with possible icy spots must be classed as difficult. The no-snow hike is moderately difficult. Good hiking boots are mandatory as well as sufficient layered clothing (preferably wool including hat and mittens), and a water and windproof outer layer, to be prepared for anything from frigid blasts to cold rain or fog.

On either day we shall meet at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Std. Time at the Signal Point parking area. Car shuttles will be arranged. For more details, call

no later than Friday, January 19th: Graham Hawks, 615-266-0314 (work) or Bob Brown, 615-748-4816 (work).

This will be a joint TTA/Tennessee River Gorge Ramblers hike. The Ramblers were recently organized to give supporters of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust an opportunity to participate in outings within this natural treasure and to help in trail maintenance. A periodic newsletter will keep Ramblers updated on outings, and we plan to have several joint TTA/Ramblers hikes and C.T. maintenance trips in 1990.

I hope every TTA member interested in the Cumberland Trail will join the Tennessee River Gorge Trust and support its vital preservation efforts. — Bob Brown

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## News From Our Parks

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### Warner Parks Nashville, 615-352-6299

Please pre-register for all events.

- 1/4 & 1/6 Winter Woods Hike — 9:00 a.m. to noon
- 1/9 Night Hike — 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- 1/19 Trees in Winter — 9:00-3:00
- 1/20 Trees in Winter — 9:00-3:00

1/26 Astronomy Program — 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Meet at corner of Vaughn Road and Old Hickory Blvd. If overcast, program is canceled.

### South Cumberland State Park 924-2980

- 1/1 Raven Point Excursion — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Visitor Center; 2 miles roundtrip, easy
- 1/6 Greeter Trail — Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station; 3 miles roundtrip, moderate

1/7 Big Creek Rim -- Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Stone Door Ranger Station; 7 miles roundtrip, easy  
1/20-21 Hobbs Cabin Overnighter -- Meet on the 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. You must supply your

own needs and be prepared for winter weather. 17 miles roundtrip, easy  
1/27 Lost Cove Cave Tour -- Meet at Carter Natural Area parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Bring light,

helmet, and lunch. 5 miles roundtrip, strenuous  
1/28 Cowpie Tour (Fiery Gizzard Trail) -- Meet at Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m.; 3 miles roundtrip, moderate

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## Upcoming Hikes

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### CLARKSVILLE

1/6 Eagle Watch, Land Between the Lakes  
1/20 Tour of Historic Clarksville

2/10 Ft. Henry Trails, Land Between the Lakes  
2/24 Hidden Spring Trail, Cedars of Lebanon

### COOKEVILLE

1/20 Eagle Watch, Dale Hollow Lake

### MEMPHIS

1/6 Wapanocca Wildlife Refuge

1/20 Village Creek State Park  
1/27 Eagle Watch, Reelfoot Lake

2/10-11 Natchez Trace State Park  
2/24-25 Herb Parsons Lake

### MURFREESBORO

1/20 Stones River Battleground

2/17 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

### NASHVILLE

1/6 Burgess Falls Hike -- Details from Judy Jacobs, 385-3327  
1/10 Bledsoe Creek Full Moon Hike

1/13 Virgin Falls Hike  
1/21 Photo Snow Hike  
1/28 Montgomery Bell Perimeter Hike

2/4 Radnor Lake Hike  
2/10 Gary Mithson's Farm Hike  
2/11 Snow Hike  
2/18 Mousetail Landing  
2/24-25 Bearwaller Gap Backpack

### STATE

2/10-11 Board Meeting at Natchez Trace State Park

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Objectives: To promote, construct, and maintain a statewide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective. Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail. Regular dues are \$8.00 per year; \$3.00 for students and family dependents.

**Mail dues and address changes/corrections to: TTA, P.O. Box 4913, Chattanooga, TN 37405**

#### 1990 TTA LEADERS

PRESIDENT: Jerri Bull, Memphis 901-363-4408  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Tom Shepherd, Murfreesboro  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Pat Anderson, Nashville 383-2355  
CORR. SECT./TREASURER: Dot Lingerfelt, Chattanooga, 842-8043  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Evelyn Tretter, Goodlettsville, 859-0566

James T. Jones, Jackson, TN Board Rep. 1989-1991  
Betty Porter, Interim Board Rep. 1988-1990  
Bertha Chrietzberg Board Rep. 1990-1992

Bob Brown, TTA Chairman of Cumberland Trail  
James Leininger Adopt-a-Trail State Coordinator, 790-7855  
June Adams, Clarksville Chapter Chairperson  
Debbie Thibault, Cookeville Chapter Chairperson  
Bettie Herring, Murfreesboro Chairperson  
Ken Pittman, Cumberland Mtn. Chapter Chairperson  
Chattanooga Chapter -- Inactive  
Debbie Gilbert, Memphis Chapter Chairperson  
Dot Fowler, Nashville Chairperson (James Leininger, Board Rep.)

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**EDITOR: Dot Fowler, 4501 Packard Dr. N-4, Nashville, TN 37211, 615-834-2654 (Hm), 615-350-7866 (R & M Biometrics).**  
All submissions for the newsletter due no later than the 15th of each month.

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**Come Hike With Us!**  
**Tennessee Trails Association**  
**P.O. Box 4913**  
**Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405**

