



## Bertha Chrietzberg: Environmental Advocate

**Editor's Note:** This story was reprinted from the Nov/Dec issue of *The Tennessee Conservationist*.

The natural resources of Middle Tennessee have a self-appointed guardian who watches over these precious treasures like Silas Marner with his gold.

Bertha Chrietzberg, a soft-voiced assistant professor of Outdoor Recreation and Aquatics who retired from MTSU in 1981, calls herself a "watchdog."

Being a citizen advocate for the environment has been a lifelong calling with Mrs. Chrietzberg, but since her retirement she has more time so be on "location."

"You have to go and look," she said.

For example, when a contractor for a public utility was digging near Black Fox Spring wetlands in Murfreesboro recently, Bertha was seen in the midst of huge equipment and sweating workmen, pointing out to the foreman that he did not have the required permit (she had already checked).

Murfreesboro and Rutherford County are her special province, and no day goes by without some kind of

environmental contacts and activities.

She goes armed with complete information about necessary permits and regulations, and sometimes she gets in touch with construction contractors if she finds - by going and looking - that the environment is not being protected properly.

"Most are very cooperative," she said. "I take numerous pictures to add to my environmental slide programs and to document environmental degradation such as litter problems and sedimentation runoff from improper management practices on construction sites."

Mrs. Chrietzberg worked with the city of Murfreesboro and the federal government in the routing of a new trail along the Stones River to connect the old Civil War Fort Rosecrans with the main body of Stones River National battlefield. In connection with the project, she went by helicopter with Congressman Bart Gordon to survey the site.

"When I began trying to expand the battlefield park in 1986," Gordon said recently, "Bertha was the first person

that came to mind. I knew if I got Bertha involved, the project would have a great chance for success. There is no one whose judgement I trust more. Her expertise has been extremely helpful."

It was in a little river town in south central Alabama that Mrs. Chrietzberg's devotion to nature was first spurred, by her mother.

"Mother loved wildflowers and plants," she said. "She took us (herself, two sisters and a brother) out all the time. We lived on the Alabama River. When I was eight, she camped out with us on a sandbar to watch an eclipse of the moon."

Years later, without any cash for college, Mrs. Chrietzberg took a business course the summer after high school and went to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. She was married to Jim Chrietzberg and was teaching in a high school when disaster struck. She contracted polio, which left her with a paralyzed right arm and other extensive damage. There followed years of treatments (10 years with a brace), but she overcame the handicap and went back to teaching.  
**(Continued on page 7)**

The President's Column . . .

Hello. First a few bits of news and notes. I have heard that our Vice-President is scheduled to leave the care free ranks of bachelorhood. Good luck Bob, there is nothing like it. As you probably noticed we have a new Editor for our Newsletter, Ms. Kellie Jones. She is asking that all submissions be turned in by the 15th of each month. The circulation staff (volunteers) is requesting that all submissions be on time, so that they may help TTA get out the newsletter and still plan their own lives. If you can meet this deadline then they can always know what day of the month the newsletter will be ready to fold, collate, stamp and mail. This group of volunteers, lead by Ms. Sally Oxford, do a marvelous job and deserve our thanks and most importantly our cooperation. Kellie, our new editor, puts the newsletter together on a computer using WordPerfect and can accept submissions on a disk. If you do not know if WordPerfect will accept your word processor's format use file format then she will not have to retype. Written submissions are of course still accepted. Kellie's address and the address for all newsletter submissions is printed on the back of every newsletter.

Due to health problems and family obligations, Beth Hammontree, our past editor was unable to continue with the newsletter. This change over caused us to miss the December edition and we were unable to get the renewal notices out on time. We will be running them in the newsletter thru March. If by that time you have not renewed your membership you will not receive your newsletter. Please renew as early as possible, as we are changing our method of tracking members. This list is what we make your mailing label from and it takes time to complete. NOTE: The new chapter address is on the back of the newsletter. This is the address to send your dues and address changes to: TTA, P.O. Box 41446, Nashville, TN 37204.

This being the beginning of the year, it evokes thoughts of fresh starts and new beginnings. We have THREE inactive chapters in our club; Chattanooga, Clarksville and Cumberland Mountain. There are still members of TTA in these areas; I know, I see their names on the mailing list. In these times of small conservation budgets and attacks on our wilderness areas everywhere, we need to pull together and show our numbers all across the state. An organized active chapter is our best method to attract attention to the wilderness and promote statewide hiking trails. If we do not stand up and be counted we will lose our wilderness. This is a democratic country and numbers dictate where our taxes are spent. Anyone interested in helping revive those chapters please contact me at 895-2098(home) or 893-1360 ext. 3879(work).

GOOD HIKING!

Thomas E. Shepherd

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Notes from the Editor . . .

Thank you to all who sent in corrections to the January newsletter. I have included these in this newsletter for your convenience. Everyone has been so helpful with providing information in such a prompt fashion. As Tom mentioned, I am using Wordperfect, mostly 5.0, but I have access to 5.1. Either disk size if fine (5 1/4 or 3.5). I will be happy to mail your diskette back.

As a new feature, I would like to hear your good ideas about recipes that work well on overnight hikes, snacks or sack lunches, or any other good ideas that work well on the trail. Also, please share your poems, artwork, cartoons, or craft ideas. Include a part of yourself in your newsletter!

Please call me if you have any additional information concerning dates or times that may change. My answering machine is on when I'm out, please leave your message. I don't get home from work until about 8:00 p.m., but I'm up late (at least until 11:00), so please call!

## STATE NEWS

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### **TRGT Options Two Important Tracts**

**Great News!** The Tennessee River Gorge Trust has just signed agreements to purchase a total of 750 acres of land.

Two properties have been optioned: 1) Pot Point (500 acres) - the most beautiful unspoiled single piece of property in the Gorge, and 2) the River Canyon Land Company's properties (250 acres) - a complex assemblage of lands owned by the worst developers in the Gorge. This will put a halt to their development.

The next few years represent the last chance for many of America's wetlands, farms and forests. Each day over 3,000 acres of undeveloped lands are lost to development. Nowhere is this threat more compelling than in the Tennessee River Gorge.

Pot Point is the most significant tract of land the Trust will ever have the opportunity to buy.

The Trust has already secured protection of the wooded slopes and river frontage for two miles on each side of Pot Point (Those two sections are owned by the Tennessee Division of Forestry). Purchasing Pot Point would protect a continuous corridor of 6- 1/2 miles of forested slopes and river frontage which would all be accessible for public use

through the many miles of trails already on the property. A paved county road runs all the way through the land, as well. Boat access to the property is also available.

Pot Point (named after the river feature it borders) is a spectacular mixture of old growth forest and field with 2-1/4 miles of river front property. From the river front lands, the property extends upward 1200 feet to above the bluffline. There are beautiful benches from the river all the way up on the side of the mountain. The old growth woodlands are a dry oak-pine forest on the south-facing side of the point and a rare beech-maple forest on the northeast-facing side. Bald eagles roost on the trees on the margins of the open fields along the river.

The property includes a 19th century subsistence farm unique to the Appalachian and southern Cumberland Mountains. The Trust plans to use the farm to host education seminars on conservation and land stewardship for small groups of children and adults. In addition, an annual three-week land institute may be offered to educate younger professionals planning to continue their careers in conservation.

TRGT optioned to buy a complex assemblage of properties from the River Canyon Land Company, a speculative development

company. The properties total approximately 250 acres. This land purchase would acquire most of this developer's property and thereby stop a very destructive element in the Gorge.

This purchase would save a population of mountain mint, a federally listed endangered plant. Also known as mountain skullcap, the blue and white flower grows in sparse populations elsewhere, but flourishes in the Gorge. However, a third of the mountain mint has already been destroyed by the riverfront subdivisions of the River Canyon Land Company. Buying the undeveloped land around the subdivisions would protect the remaining mountain mint population from destruction. While much of the land has been seriously abused, the Trust's intent is to end further abuse and let the land recover while encouraging scientific study of the mountain mint. Meanwhile, ospreys (a federally listed threatened species) nest on the remaining riverfront lands and the purchase of this property will help assure a suitable habitat for these and other birds.

**The challenge immediately ahead of us is to raise the money within the next nine months to complete the purchase of these critically threatened parts of the Gorge.**

Your support is needed now to help us meet this urgent need. We are short of operating funds due to the efforts put into these purchases and the organization of a fund-raising campaign. \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50 and \$25 gifts are our base of support. No gift is too small to be helpful; none too small not to be missed.

Please send to:

**TRGT  
505 McClellan Bldg.  
721 Broad St.  
Chattanooga, Tn.  
37402-2916**

### **Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail News**

Tennessee Natchez Trace Trailblazers Wants You!

Since last April the members of the TNTT have cleared and blazed almost 8 miles of this newest National Scenic Trail. The job was done by large groups of volunteers who turned out for three well publicized Saturday work sessions and by a core group of eight or so "regulars" who worked one morning or afternoon almost weekly. The route has been flagged in stages by Parkway Asst. Superintendent Marcal Crudele, while District Ranger George Heron helped with trailwork and provided handtools, chainsaws (to NPS qualified volunteers), and weed eaters. A Trailblazer member brought his bushhog on several occasions, and at least one Parkway neighbor has offered the use of his when the work reaches his area.

This group deserves the thanks and support of the

TTA. TNTT invites all interested TTA members to join their group. To get on the mailing list for notices of their outings please write Trailmaster Marty Luffman, P. O. Box 894, Smyrna, TN 37167.

### **March 1, 2, 3 Land Between the Lakes Fort Henry Trail Complex**

These trails are easy/moderate, with a variety of connections that gives a choice of loop hikes from 3 to 15 miles in length. Stream crossings are not hazardous and trails are well-marked. No water is available on the trails. The Fort Henry Trailhead has no water or restrooms.

This is wild country--- wooded hills with sunken roads that follow Grant's artillery movements, bottom lands like mountain coves, abandoned log cabins, beaver-dammed ponds, wild turkey and deer. If the winter weather is at all decent we should be seeing a good showing of early spring flowers. There should be some migrating song birds.

Piney Campground (with rest rooms and showers) will open March 1st for all sorts of camping. More conventional beds are available at Paris Landing State Park Inn (901-642-4311), which is about 15 minutes west of Ft. Henry Trailhead, or Dover Inn Motel (615-232-5556), which is about 20 minutes east of the Trailhead on U.S. 79.

Use the U.S. 79 western entrance to Piney Campground. The trip from Memphis through Milan and

Paris should take about 3 hours. We will gather at Fort Henry Trailhead at 10:00.

Civil War history buffs can enjoy the adjacent Fort Donalson Military Park, Dover's Surrender House and the Historical Markers relating to Fort Henry.

If you want a short Sunday morning hike, the Picket Loop is a natural. It is approximately 4-4 1/2 miles with about a mile of this along the Panther Bay shoreline of Kentucky Lake. We have seen Merganser Ducks in this area.

Some severe legging has been done along parts of the entire complex, but nature has done a good job of repairing the raw traces.

There will be a contour trail map for everyone who pre-registers with K.B and Mary Humphreys, Paris (901-642-3621 or 642-5785) or with Ray Burkett (901-386-8613), Memphis.

### **LOOK WHAT'S COMING:**

The National Wildlife Federation, the world's largest conservation organization, with 4.5 million members, will hold its annual conference in **Memphis** this year. It will be at the Peabody Hotel March 21-24. There will be a number of workshops and seminars free to the public, and also a special session at the Agricenter focusing on wetlands and bottomland hardwood forests. For more information, call the NWF at (202) 454-0613. You may also call Debbie Gilbert in Memphis at (901)454-0613.

## CHAPTER NEWS

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### **A New Chapter?**

Could the Franklin-Grundy County (Beersheba Springs, Monteagle, Sewanee, Tracy City, etc) support a new **Tennessee Trails Association** chapter? Several members of the TTA board have pondered that very thought. Local members of TTA need to answer that question for us.

There are already active members in the area. There are abundant hiking areas, and the potential exists for the opening of new places to hike. There is a virtually untapped population of hikers in the area which really includes a large number of people. Also take into consideration the part-time residents (vacioners) that don't live there year-round yet spend a great deal of time in the area.

What could a local chapter do in the area? They could sponsor outings or help lead outings sponsored by the Department of Conservation personnel in the area. They could join with the Savage Gulf Preservation League in helping to protect the area. Currently the area is threatened by development in several areas. A local chapter could help bring to reality the Mountain Goat Trail, it would convert an abandoned railroad trail into Tennessee's first Rails to Trails conversion trail. If you are interested in a chapter for this area, please call **Bob Barnett (831-1136)** or **Tom Shepherd (895-2098)**.

### **Cookeville Chapter**

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

### **February Meeting**

Information was not available at press time.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Charit Creek Hostel Overnight Trip-Big South Fork October 19-20, 1991**

Reservations taken and needed now for the overnighter at Big South Fork's secluded get-away! Nestled down in the valley, the lodge awaits 24 first-come, first-serve campers eager to experience the adventure offamily-style meals, double bunkbed slumber, solar-heated showers and no electricity. Don't forget miles of trails, too! Just imagine all this and more for only \$40.95/person! Ten reservations have already been taken, but at least two more are needed to hold the two rooms at the lodge. **Immediate response is urgent** or we will lost this opportunity. Contact Debbie Thibault for details. Home: 243-3135 or work: 243-3721.

### **Memphis Chapter**

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month.

### **February Meeting**

Thursday, February 21, at Kingsway Church. Marvin

Nichols, of the Hatchie Wildlife Refuge will show slides and talk about their conservation programs.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February 9 - Pinson Mounds**

Carpool for this hike will leave Kingsway Church at 7:30 AM or you can meet us at 9:00 A.M. at Pinson Mounds near Jackson, TN. After hiking at Pinson, those who wish can go on to the Cypress Grove Nature Area where we can walk along the boardwalk in the swamp, have lunch before going back to Memphis. Dress for the weather and bring food, water and a friend. Memphis contact for this trip is Julianne Barham 452-0085 and those in the Jackson area can contact J.T. Jones at 422-1444.

#### **March 16 - Big Hill Pond State Park**

We hope you will join the Memphis Chapter for a hike at Big Hill Pond State Park near Pochantas, TN, on Saturday, February 16. Carpool will leave Kingsway Church at 7:30 AM, or you can meet us at the park office at 9:00 AM. Bring food, water, and dress for the weather. The hike will be approx. 8 miles over moderate terrain. For further information, contact Betty Porter, 363-0213.

### **March 9 - Wolf River Hike**

Meet at Shelby Farms soccer field parking lot at 8:00 AM. Hike is about 6 miles, easy. Call Freddi Felt, 685-9915.

### **March 16 - Tishomingo State Park**

This is near Iuka, Mississippi. Come see the only real climbing rocks in the state! This is about an 8 mile hike, sometimes rugged terrain. Very scenic, especially with the first wildflowers of spring emerging. Carpool at Kingsway Church meets at 7:00 AM, or meet at the park office at 10:00 AM. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and rain-gear. Call Debbie Gilbert, 454-0613 for more details.

### **Murfreesboro Chapter**

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

#### **February Meeting**

No information available at press time.

#### **Upcoming Events**

\*Buggy Top Hike Date Changed\*

**February 16 - Buggy Top Hike** - (Previously scheduled for February 23). We do not plan to hike in the caves.

You need to bring snacks and water. Hiking boots and layered clothing are a must. Plan to meet at St. Marks Methodist Church on Main Street, in Murfreesboro, or at Hardees off I-24, Monteagle.

Four miles of good exercise to walk off holiday goodies. For more information contact Bettie Herring 895-8171.

### **Nashville Chapter**

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Cumberland Museum.

#### **February Meeting**

Join us on Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 for the monthly meeting at the Cumberland Museum. Deb Beazly of the Warner Park Nature Center Staff, will present a slide presentation about the Warner Parks and hiking trails.

#### **Chapter News**

No news available at press time.

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February 2 - Old Stone Fort/Groundhog Day Hike**

The group will gather at 9:00 AM at the Visitor's Center. You will need to bring a lunch. The hike is approximately 3-5 miles long, easy hiking. You need to pre-register by calling Bob Barnett at 831-1136.

\*Radnor Lake Hike Date Changed\*

**February 24 - Radnor Lake Hike** (previously scheduled for February 10)

Plan to meet in the West Parking Lot at 2:00 PM. The

trail is 3.5 - 4 miles, moderate difficulty. This hike will follow the upper ridge of the lake. If you need additional information, please call Ninez Giles at 297-2281.

### **NEWS FROM OUR PARKS**

\*For this edition, nothing was received from any of the area parks. Please help contact park personnel so that information can be published in future newsletters. Spring is fast approaching, and this will be a lovely time to enjoy our State Park's activities.

Finding no challenge too large or too small, this one-woman conservation outfit has put her boundless energy into opposing TVA's Columbia dam; protecting the tiny rare Sunnyside lily habitat in a Midstate glade about to be destroyed by Interstate 840; discovering and reporting several barrels of toxic waste in the edge of a wood (and making a follow-up visit to the spot); serving on the Rutherford County Solid Waste Task Force; adopting (through TSRA) the East Fork of Stones River and reporting attempts to destroy the quality of this stream; and monitoring a 50-acre rare plant area for the Tennessee Department of Conservation. The list is almost endless.

Her current major project at Black Fox Spring is an unusual teaming of citizens groups, local government, the university, private enterprise and landowners. It is projected that 60 acres of wetlands fed by the historic spring will be protected from pollution and disturbance, with a biological study site, visitor center, trail and boardwalk, where the public will be able to study biology. She helped organize the Black Fox Wetlands Preservation League and is on the board of directors.

John Pittard, a Murfreesboro city councilman with whom Mrs. Chrietzberg as frequent dealings, said of her:

"I am very impressed with her as a constant, diligent strong advocate for conservation. She expresses her strong views in a very thoughtful and dignified way. Everyone is encouraged to work with her."

**Editor's Note:** The original feature article was written by **Evelyn Kerr Tretter**, a freelance writer living in Goodlettsville and is a frequent contributor to **The Tennessee Conservationist**.

### Membership Renewal

Unless you have a Lifetime Membership in the Tennessee Trails Association, your membership expires on January 1, of each year. All TTA memberships are based on the calendar year and not one year from the month you join.

Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1991 (Jan.-Dec.) with the type membership checked below:

- Student \$ 6.00
- Individual/Family \$ 15.00
- Supporting \$30, \$40, or \$50
- Life \$150.00

**MAIL DUES TO:**  
 Tennessee Trails Association  
 P.O. Box 41446  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Students do not have voting privileges. Supporting members may be organizations or individuals. Each organization should designate a representative to cast its vote and up to three addresses to receive the newsletter. Family dependent members do receive a separate newsletter.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ME WITH CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ OR AT LARGE \_\_\_\_\_

# UPCOMING HIKES

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## COOKEVILLE

2/9 Stagecoach Road  
2/23 Fall Creek Falls Hike  
3/9 Bearwaller Gap @  
Cordell Hull  
3/16 Big South Fork-Bike  
Ride  
3/23 Mt. Leconte Alum  
Cave Trail

## MURFREESBORO

2/16 Buggy Top Cave,  
S.C.S.P.  
3/9 Laurel Snow Pocket  
Wilderness Day Hike

## MEMPHIS

2/9 Pinson Mounds  
2/16 Big Hill Pond  
3/1 Land Between  
the Lakes  
3/9 Wolf River Hike  
3/16 Tishomingo State  
Park

## NASHVILLE

2/2 Old Stone Fort  
Groundhog Day  
Hike  
2/24 Radnor Lake  
3/1 Natchez Trace  
Parkway

## NASHVILLE continued

3/16 Cedars of Lebanon  
3/16 Laurel Falls  
3/16 Warner Park,  
Mossy Ridge  
3/23 Volunteer Trail  
3/29 Cumberland Falls  
Trail

## INACTIVE CHAPTERS

Chattanooga  
Clarksville  
Cumberland Mountain

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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.

**Mail dues and address changes/corrections to: TTA, P.O. Box 41446, Nashville, 37204**

### 1990 TTA LEADERS

PRESIDENT: Tom Shepherd 615-895-2098  
VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Barnett 615-831-1136  
CORR. SEC./TREASURER: Dot Lingerfelt 615-842-803  
SECRETARY: Evelyn Tretter 615-859-0566  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Jerri Bull 901-363-4408  
BOARD REP: James T. Jones 901-422-1444  
BOARD REP: Bertha Chritzberg 615-896-1146  
BOARD REP: Sally Garrard 615- 356-3867

Bob Brown, TTA Chairman, Cumberland Trail 615-352-7474  
Bob Barnett, Adopt-a-Trail State Coordinator 615-831-1136  
Randy Hammtree, Cookeville Chapter Chair 615-526-5242  
Bettie Herring, Murfreesboro Chapter Chair 615-895-8171  
Debbie Gilbert, Memphis Chapter Chair 901-454-0613  
Charlie Hann, Nashville Chapter Chair 615-941-1503

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**EDITOR: Kellie Jones, 111 Old Hickory Blvd., SW #294, Nashville, TN 37221 (615) 662-1303(H)**  
**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 41446**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37204**

