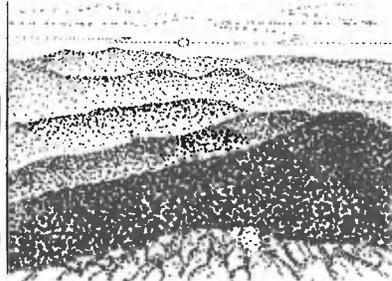


TENNESSEE TRAILS

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association



Help Realize the Dream of Rails to Trails Conversions in Tennessee

A bill has passed Congress that will provide funding to help convert abandoned railroads into alternative modes of transportation (i.e., trails). One of the potential projects would be a trail known as the Giles (TN) Limestone (AL) Trail. I have not seen the trail area, but am familiar enough with that area of both states to know that this trail would be a beautiful addition to the trail systems of Tennessee and Alabama.

Rails to Trails conversions in Tennessee are long overdue and there are three potential projects in the works already (look for more information about the other two projects in future newsletters). The plans for the trail in Alabama are further along than in Tennessee. All Rails to Trails conversions in Tennessee are threatened before they even become a reality due to bills in the legislature. This legislation would result in railroad right-of-ways reverting back to original landowners. The bill in the House that would threaten Rails to Trails conversions is #1313 sponsored by Representative Rigsby of Winchester and Senate bill #1416 sponsored by Senator Jerry Cooper.

Please call and/or write your Representative and Senator and tell them that you support Rails to Trails conversions. Tell them you support this specific project in Giles County. Finally, tell them that you oppose House bill #1313 and Senate bill #1416.

If you want to explore this trail, I will do that with interested people on Sunday, August 16th. Look for details in the July and August newsletters. More information on the trail can be obtained by writing or calling: Richard W. Martin, P. O. Box 308, Athens, AL 35611.

P.S. On February 11th Richard Martin, Jerry Miles of Pulaski, TN and State Representative Joe Fowlkes, who represents Giles County in the legislature, met with Commissioner Luna and other important staff from the Dept. of Environment and Conservation. Commissioner Luna made it clear that the State cannot take on the deeds to the trail in Tennessee. The State may be able to provide consulting help and other help contingent on the outcome of House bill #1313 and Senate bill #1416. Representative Fowlkes has pledged to support the trail and oppose the legislation that would jeopardize this project. If you live in his district, please contact him and encourage him for his support of the trail.

---Bob Barnett

HOW THE FIERY GIZZARD GOT ITS NAME

For those of you who have hiked/slid/scooted/crawled the Fiery Gizzard Trail, or who have always wanted to, have you ever wondered how it got that name? Here is one version:

David Crockett and his pretty redhaired wife, Polly, lived at a spring feeding Bean's Creek in Franklin County in 1817. Occasionally Davy went on long hunting trips, possibly at the urging of a tired Polly. One particular occasion, Polly suggested a 3-day trip and outfitted Davy with his provisions for the duration. Davy walked east and onto the Cumberland Plateau. On the third day, Davy was a frustrated hunter; no game had been seen, much less killed. So pride demanded he keep looking and the fourth day found Davy three days' journey from home and still frustrated. The area in which he now walked was the Battle Creek Valley across the mountain from Franklin County. Davy decided to take a tributary valley, the largest he had seen, which led back west and home. His hope for abundant game in this new (to him) valley was soon overshadowed by the valley's extremely rough terrain and impenetrable thickets. Two days later, a tired and very hungry Davy emerged from the gorge onto the plateau top. Hunger was beginning to make Davy forget his pride and long for home and Polly's cooking, when he saw smoke. The fire he reached soon afterward was heating a kettle and the settlers who saw him coming ran and greeted him and offered to feed him supper.

Davy walked up to the pot and looked into the boiling turkey soup. "Biled turkey?" Davy asked. "Yes, help yurself," was his answer.

Davy pulled his long Arkansas Toothpick knife from his leg sheath as he said..."Don't mind if 'in I do." He speared a piece, the gizzard, and immediately popped it into his mouth without thinking. His knife fell to the ground and he spat the gizzard violently into the dirt. A red face blew a long 'whew' and he said, "Damn! that was a Fiery Gizzard!"

(Contributed by Randy Hedgepath, Ranger Naturalist, South Cumberland State Park)
Look for other versions in upcoming newsletters--once I find them on BOB'S DESK!!

LOCAL WAL-MART STORE HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT

Evelyn Tretter of the Murfreesboro Chapter has called in with good news. The Wal-Mart Company has authorized another grant to TTA in the amount of \$498.86 through their store in Goodlettsville to be used for a conservation/environmental project in Tennessee. Last year Wal-Mart gave a grant of \$1,000 to TTA, which was used for the Black Fox Wetlands project in the Murfreesboro area.

We want to thank store manager, Sherman Bowlds, and all the Wal-Mart folks for thinking globally but acting locally. We will use the money wisely and where it can do the most good. The Board will consider the use of this money at the February 22nd Board meeting.

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION 1992 HIKING SCHEDULE

Cookeville Chapter = CC
 Clarksville Chapter = ClC

Memphis Chapter = MC
 Nashville Chapter = NC
 Murfreesboro Chapter = MuC

MARCH	1	MC	Fisherville Lake, Anne Lindholm (901) 388-4123
	14	NC	Mammoth Cave Big Woods, David Scott (502) 726-2630
	21	MC	Mousetail Landing S.P., Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613
	21	ClC	Long Hunter S.P., Donna Sleight, 326-5554
	21	MuC	Radnor Lake Wildflower Hike, Cathy Williams 893-7748
	21	NC	Natchez Trace, Bob Brown 352-7474
	28	NC	Piney River, Kevin Kimbro, 333-0629
	28	CC	Frozen Head Wildflower Hike, Paul Miller 526-7927
APRIL	5	MuC	Tullahoma Wildflower, Dennis Horn 455-5742
	11	ClC	TBA
	11	NC	Percy Warner Wildflower Hike, Paul Koehler 331-4139
	18	ClC	Frozen Head State Park, Kate Perry 647-1985
	25	CC	Standing Stone S.P., Jack Murphy 537-9827
	25	MC	Village Creek S.P., Julie Barham (901) 452-0085
	25	MuC	Canoe Trip, Heloise Shilstat 896-6278 or Bettie Herring 895-8171
	25	NC	Virgin Falls, Jeanne Bumbalough 824-6671
MAY	9/10	NC	Gee Creek Wilderness, Jim Thoman
	9	MC	Natchez Trace S.P., Contact TBA
	10	NC	Rock Creek Loop, Pat Anderson 383-2355
	12	NC	Radnor Lake Evening Hike, Sally Garrard 646-4079
	15-17	MC	Blanchard Springs, Mountainview, AR, Contact TBA
	16-17	ClC	Smoky Mountain N.P., Roger Greer 648-8769
	16	MuC	Pickett S.P. Hikes, Kurt Husky 896-2189
	23	CC	Laurel Snow Pocket Wilderness, Bonnie Greene 836-3969
	23-25	NC	Waterfalls Hike, David Stiddem
	30-31	NC	Cumberland Mtn. S.P., Bob Barnett 832-6484 BOARD MEETING and Cumberland Trail Work Weekend
JUNE	13-14	NC	Camp-Out, Desoto, AL, Debra Hill 449-3126
	14	MC	Wolf River Float Trip, Freddi Felt (901) 685-9915
	20-21	ClC	Big South Fork, James Neblett 387-3317
	20	MuC	Father's Day Hike/Family Picnic, Stones River Battlefield, Kurt Husky 896-2189
	26-27	NC	Roan Mtn. Camp-Out, Bob Barnett 832-6484
	27	CC	Roan Mtn. Weekender, Judy Van Cleve and friends 473-8136
JULY	12	MC	Spring River Float, Ray Burkett (901) 357-9183
	11-12	NC	Rock Island/Bone Cave, Lona Brown & Pat Anderson 383-2355
	18	ClC	Hiwassee Scenic River Float Trip, Roger Greer 648-8769
	18	MuC	Blue Hole Swim, Rock Island S.P., Evelyn Tretter 859-0566 or Bettie Herring 895-8171
	25	CC	Water Hike, Bill Jones 526-5317

AUGUST	1	MuC	South Cumberland Wildflower Hike, Bertha Chrietzberg 896-1146
	7-9	NC	Charlie's Bunion Camp-Out, Paul Smith 388-0215
	15-16	NC	David Crockett S.P., Bob Barnett 832-6484
			BOARD MEETING
	15	ClC	Natchez Trace-Meriwether Lewis, Suva Bastin 645-2849
	15	MuC	Hiwassee Raft Trip, Bettie Herring 895-8171
	16	NC	Giles-Limestone Proposed Rails-to-Trails Hike, Bob Barnett 832-6484
	22	CC	Cumberland Mtn. S.P., Paul Miller 526-9252
	23	MC	Annual Picnic/Lichterman Nature Center, Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
	28-29		Cumberland Trail Work Weekend
SEPTEMBER	12	NC	Long Hunter S.P. Full Moon Hike, Bob Barnett 832-6484
	19	ClC	Pinson Mound State Archeological Area, Manuel McKnight 358-2115
	19	MuC	Fall Color Hike, Collins Gulf/Stone Door, Bob Brown 352-7474
	23	NC	Percy Warner Evening Hike, Paul Koehler 331-4139
	26	MC	Ft. Pillow State Historical Area, Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613
	26	CC	Bear Waller Gap Trail, Judy Van Cleve 473-8136
OCTOBER	9-10	NC	Frozen Head S.P., Libby Francis 889-5718
	17	MC	Tishomingo S.P., Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613
	17-18	ClC	Savage Gulf Day Trip, Roger Greer 648-8769
	17	MuC	North Rim Savage Gulf, Cathy Williams 893-7748
	24	CC	Standing Stone/Cooper Mtn., Paul & Nora Miller 526-9252
ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 30, 31 AND NOVEMBER 1 - Nathan Bedford S.P., Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408			
NOVEMBER	14	MC	Chewalla National Forest, Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
	14	NC	Big Creek Loop, Martha Lisle 361-8382
	21	ClC	Ft. Donelson National Military Park, Sarah Ussery 647-7213
	27	MuC	Long Hunter S.P., Volunteer Trail, Bob Barnett 832-6484
	28	CC	Trail of Tears-Cardwell Mtn. at Cumberland Caverns, Judy Van Cleve 473-8136
	29	MC	Annual Thanksgiving Hike, Meeman Shelby S.P. Jo DeWitt (901) 382-4569
	28-29		Cumberland Trail Work Weekend
DECEMBER	3	NC	Christmas Party, Cumberland Museum
	7	NC	Radnor Lake Full Moon Hike, Bob Barnett 832-6484
	13	MC	Wolf River/Shelby Farms, Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
	15	ClC	Christmas Party
	17	MC	Christmas Party Laurel Hills Winery, Ray Skinner (901) 725-9128

CHAPTER NEWS

CLARKSVILLE

Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Governor's Square Mall.

MARCH 21 - Long Hunter State Park, Call Donna Sleigh 326-5554.

COOKEVILLE

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at Hyder Park Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 28 - Frozen Head Chimney Top Hike, Call Paul Miller (615) 526-7927. We will meet at the Cookeville Cracker Barrel at 8:00 a.m. CST, off exit 287 of I-40. This will be a strenuous hike of about 10 miles.

MEMPHIS

Meets the third Thursday of each month at Kingsway Church, in the Scout Building at 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 1 - Herb Parsons Lake at Fisherville. This is one of our only Sunday afternoon hikes this year. Meet at the Shelby Farms

Soccer Field parking lot on Walnut Cove at 12:15 p.m., or meet at the lake at 1:00 p.m. Bring snacks and water. 7 miles, easy. Call Anne Lindholm, 388-4123.

MARCH 19 - Program meeting at Kingsway. A representative from the Memphis Pink Palace Museum will present a program on the new Wonders series exhibit, "The Etruscans." Come and learn about this fascinating but little-known civilization.

MARCH 21 - Mousetail Landing State Park. Carpool at Kingsway 7:00 a.m. or meet at park office 10:00 a.m. 8 miles, moderate, with some strenuous hills. Wear boots, bring lunch, water, snacks and raingear. For info call Debbie Gilbert, 454-0613.

MURFREESBORO

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at St. Mark's Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

MARCH 17 - Program meeting. A representative from

Radnor Lake will present a program on this State Natural Area.

MARCH 21 - Wildflower Hike, Radnor Lake. South Lake and South Cove Trails (1 mile each; moderate to strenuous), and option for additional 1.4 miles on Lake Trail (easy). There should be an abundant supply of wildflowers, including Larkspur. We may have someone going along who can identify the flowers. We'll probably see turtles, ducks, cardinals and possibly Canadian geese. Bring water (food is not allowed in State Natural Areas). We'll plan to stop afterward for lunch. Carpool will leave at 8:45 a.m. from the Murfreesboro Broad St. Kroger parking lot. Meet at the end next to Northfield Blvd. We will begin the hike at 10:00 a.m. from the east parking lot on Otter Creek Road. For those who wish to meet us at Radnor Lake, turn west onto Otter Creek Rd. off of U.S. 31 (Franklin Pike). For info, call Cathy Williams 893-7748.

is 1 mile south of the entrance to the Trace at Leeper's Fork off Hwy 46. There are two hiking options: the first section of trail is just under 5 miles one way. For those who wish to continue on, the next portion of the trail is an additional 10 miles. Car shuttling will be arranged for both options. Bring lunch, water, raingear. Note: This is also used as a horse trail. For more info, call Bob Brown (615) 352-7474.

NASHVILLE

Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at the Cumberland Science Museum at 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 26 - Program meeting. Bob Brown, TTA Cumberland Trail Coordinator, will present the history of TTA's involvement in building the C.T. including February's recent work trip and the planned work trip for May, 1992. Bob Barnett will close out the program talking about TTA's Adopt-A-Trail and Inspect-A-Trail Programs. If you have questions or suggestions for future programs, call Arleen or Bob Barnett at 832-6484.

MARCH 14 - Mammoth Cave Big Woods. For info call Dave Scott (502) 726-2630.

MARCH 21 - Natchez Trace State Park. Come hike the newly completed portion of "The Devil's Backbone" with Bob Brown. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Garrison Creek Visitor Center, which

SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK NEWS (Call 924-2980 or 924-2956 for more info)

February 29 and March 1 - Cross Gulf Overnighter. Meet at the Stone Door Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to begin this backpack adventure with Randy. We'll shuttle to Savage, walk the South Rim and camp at the Stage Road Campsite on Saturday. Sunday we'll hike across the gulf on the Connector Trail. 14 miles-Strenuous.

March 7 - 1:00 p.m. Sweden Cove Loop (3 miles roundtrip-Moderate). Meet at Franklin State Forest entrance on Hwy 156, 8 miles east of Sewanee.

March 8 - 10:00 a.m. Greeter Falls Excursion (1 mile roundtrip-Moderate). Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station. Beautiful waterfalls and a mature forest under towering sandstone cliffs.

March 14 - 1:00 p.m. "Values of a Natural Area" Slide Program (30 minutes) at Visitor Center.

March 15 - 1:00 p.m. "Tennessee Wildflowers" Slide Program (30 minutes) at Visitor Center.

March 22 - 10:00 a.m. Gizzard Gorge Grapple (4.4 miles roundtrip-Strenuous). Meet at the Visitor Center.

March 28 - 10:00 a.m. Horsepound Gulf Hike (4 miles roundtrip-Strenuous). Meet at the Swiss Memorial School in Gruetli-Laager.

March 29 - 10:00 a.m. Lost Cove Cave Tour (5 miles roundtrip; about 5 hours-Strenuous). Meet at the Carter Natural Area parking lot. Join Randy for a hike down Buggytop Trail to the cave entrance. Bring your lights, a hardhat, lunch and drinking water for this wonderful wild cave experience.

CAVE OFFERS NATURAL ESCAPE

If you are looking for an excuse to get out of the house during these winter months, consider visiting the Dunbar Cave State Natural Area. The main attraction is, of course, the cave. Other features of the 110-acre park include: three nature trails, a lake for fishing, and a picnic area.

I enjoyed the hiking trails the most. The trails are maintained only enough to ensure the safety of the visitors. The natural setting, with fallen and decaying trees, takes you back to an earlier time. The trails range in length and difficulty, but each contains beautiful scenery. If you take the longer trail, look for the curious "twisted" trees. On the shorter trail around the lake, evidence of beavers' work can be seen.

The park is a sanctuary, and wildlife abounds there. A pair of Great Horned owls nest there, and their eggs should be hatching soon. If you want a closer encounter with the wildlife, bring some bread; the ducks will welcome you. For those of you who like to fish, Swan Lake contains Blue Gill, carp, catfish and bass. A valid Tennessee fishing license is required. Some of these fish are quite large. I saw one fish so big, that had I hooked him, he would have pulled me in.

The cave itself contains about 10 miles of explored passages and maintains a constant temperature of 58 degrees throughout the year. The cave itself is not overly attractive, but the tour is interesting. If you are lucky, you may see bats, salamanders, eyeless and unpigmented cave fish and unpigmented crayfish. Tours are available to organized groups and are limited in size. It is necessary to bring your own flashlight, since the cave is not electrically lighted. Tours take about 1 1/2 hours. Reservations are required (648-5526).

To reach Dunbar Cave from Clarksville, take U.S. Highway 79 north and turn right on Dunbar Cave Road. The park is open 365 days a year from 8:00 a.m. until sundown.

(Contributed by Janice Reilly, Features Editor, Austin Peay All-State newspaper)



I'VE NEVER BEEN LOST;
I WAS ONCE
DEWILDERED
FOR THREE DAYS.
BUT
NEVER LOST!

Daniel Boone

THANKS!!!!

When my article seeking new volunteers in relation to some TTA activities appeared in the February newsletter, I did not expect to be flooded with people responding, but I did expect some sincere people to respond--and they have. Thank you! At least one of those volunteers is brand new to TTA, along with others who have been around for quite some time but are accepting new roles and responsibilities. We've got a good geographical mix of volunteers, too.

Kevin Kimbro and **Pat Anderson** of the Nashville Chapter are going to work with processing memberships to take some of the load off of Tom and Fran Shepherd, Arleen Barnett and myself. **Jerri Bull** of the Memphis Chapter has agreed to work with Adopt-A-Trail/Inspect-A-Trail. New Nashville member **Kaye Berryhill** seems like a perfect volunteer to help with representing TTA with the Environmental Action Fund and contacting legislators on behalf of EAF legislation. Kaye's work schedule and mine will limit our legislative involvement to evenings and weekends. We will utilize correspondence, phone calls and newsletter articles any time we can on behalf of EAF. If anyone is available that could work some with other volunteers and a paid environmental lobbyist at the legislature, then that would be wonderful. **Cathy Williams** of the Murfreesboro Chapter has volunteered to help **Debra Hill** and others put together a TTA membership directory. I hope the others have contacted Debra already.

THANKS to **Lou Sullivan** and **Pat Anderson** who produced our February newsletter and did such a good job. THANKS to my better half for taking over this publication as of this month, without nearly the fear and trepidation that I am feeling. THANKS to **Sally Oxford** for hosting the newsletter mailing parties during 1991 and continuing into 1992. THANKS to the regulars that help with those mailings, including: **Pat Anderson, Evelyn Baker, Arleen Barnett, Libby Francis, Sally Garrard, Charlie Hann, Jane Holladay, Paul Koehler, and Dorothy Sills**. If you've helped and I did not recognize you, then help me remedy that in the April newsletter. A very special THANKS to **Tom Shepherd** for serving TTA as president for 1991. A very special THANKS to **Evan Means** because his Tennessee Trails book continues to bring new members into the organization. THANKS to **Roger Greer, Bessie Daniel, and Ann Lowe** and all the people leading hikes for the Clarksville chapter and their efforts to increase Clarksville chapter membership. They have been calling members to remind them about renewing, and recruiting new members among the hoardes of mall walkers at Governor's Square Mall. I was proud to represent that chapter at a March of Dimes Kickoff Breakfast at Austin Peay University recently.

Next month I will salute the activities of the Memphis chapter and lots more individuals who are due some well-deserved praise.

Happy Trails Always,

Bob Barnett

P.S. If you know someone who works hard for TTA and they have not been recognized for their contributions, please let me know about them.

Mail dues, address changes/corrections and membership applications to:

TTA
P.O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

All newsletter submissions due by the 15th of each month. All submissions, questions and/or comments should be addressed to:

ARLEEN BARNETT
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

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.

1992 TTA LEADERS

PRESIDENT:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Tom Shepherd (615) 895-2098
CORR. SEC/TREAS:	Judy Van Cleve (615) 473-8136
SECRETARY:	Evelyn Tretter (615) 859-0566
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES:	Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
BOARD REP:	James T. Jones (901) 422-1444
BOARD REP:	Bertha Chrietzberg (615) 896-1146
BOARD REP:	Sally Garrard (615) 646-4079
MEMBERSHIP:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
CUMBERLAND TRAIL CHAIRMAN:	Bob Brown (615) 352-7474
Adopt-A-Trail:	Bob Barnett, Coordinator (615) 832-6484
Cookeville Chapter:	Nora Miller, Co-Chair, (615) 473-8136
Murfreesboro Chapter:	Bettie Herring, Chair, (615) 895-8171
Memphis Chapter:	Debbie Gilbert, Chair, (901) 454-0613
Nashville Chapter:	Evelyn Baker, Chair, (615) 391-3479/833-5763
Clarksville Chapter:	Roger Greer, Chair, (615) 648-8769

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Come Hike With Us!
Tennessee Trails Association
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