

# TENNESSEE TRAILS



The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association

## WHAT IS IN A NAME?

I used to think that getting together for the TTA newsletter mailing parties caused me to want to spontaneously go hike because of the newsletter articles and being around folks I've hiked with so much previously. BUT THESE OBVIOUS THINGS ARE NOT THE ONLY HIKING ENTICERS.

You can be enticed to hike by just reading the addresses of the TTA membership. I'll go farther than that, too--if TTA members' neighborhoods and addresses were as great as their names sound, then trips to the Smokies, state parks and natural areas would hardly seem necessary. You could hike at home and be thrilled.

A few of my favorites are Split Log Rd., Neartop, Old Trail Cove, Hunters Trail Drive, Indian Mound, Skyline and Sunrise. I am utterly convinced that whoever named Sweet Briar was not a hiker unless they were involved in an oxymoron contest! Trough Spring does nothing for me, however, except to produce images of dehydrated hikers reluctant to share the trough with the farmer's hogs!

One TTA member lives on a road that suggests how you should hike--Pace Rd. There is a Sierra address and Grand View, plus Rising Sun Terrace and Navajo Lane. After your hike you can seek entertainment on Singing Springs and supper on Quail Ridge. You can clean up the supper dishes on Volunteer Dr. and settle in before bed at Fireside Ct.

The forest possibilities are just too numerous to mention all of them but here is a nice sampling: Cedarview, Cedarbluff, Rockwood, Red Oak, Woody Hill, Hickory Hollow, Walnut Grove, Applewood, Oak Branch Cove, Poplar, Lake Forest Lane, Meadow Glade Lane, Timberbrook, Beechwood, Ironwood, Oak Tree, Arbor Ridge, Oak Hill and Woodlawn. Woodlawn, of course, conjures up deceased hikers.

To get a view of all those forests and trees, then maybe you need to take a walk on some other TTA addresses such as: Rainier, Neartop, Lookout, Rural Hill, River Ridge, Glen Hill, or Harpeth View Trail. I keep wanting to go back to Grand View and Skyline.

All those years spent living and hiking in West Tennessee make me keep returning to the Chickasaw Bluffs address, thinking there should be 3 distinct addresses just as there are 3 different Chickasaw Bluffs.

Wear your hat when you hike on Birdsall and Wren's Nest. Carry your water bottle when you hike on Trough Springs or Dry Creek Rd.

Don't take Native American friends to hike on Jackson Bridge, Old Hickory, or White Bridge Rd.

If you eat dessert on Sugar Hill Rd. then don't be surprised if you struggle up Overhill Rd.!

When seeking out destinations you can choose from Natchez, Good Land, British Woods, Vine Ridge, Island Drive, Lakeland, Alamo Rd., Oregon, and on a clear day, seek out performances on Broadway.

If I wanted a home then I would choose Settler's Court over Miner's Cove. I sure would choose Scenic Ridge or Dawn Haven as a place to live over Crowcut or Foxhaven.

If I was feeling war-like or especially macho then I guess I would visit Arrowhead, Warrior or Viking. If I was feeling romantic then I would take Gondola to Cosmic. The other possibility would be to take Stallion down Applewood and up and over Windy Hill. Never mind that these roads are not in the same town. This is arm-chair travel.

I would not want to stub my toe

or stumble on Fall Drive. Falls Drive would be much more exciting and invigorating.

If I left out your outdoor-sounding address, then you can drop me a line at my boring address at 4951 Edmondson Pike in Nashville, TN 37211. If we ever get to sell our house, then we can seek out an exotic address like Eventide, Big Spring, Sequoyah or Eden Lane. I would be satisfied with Country Drive. I know Arleen would love Blackberry Lane.

If I could build my own house on a newly named street, then there's no doubt it would have to be named Happy Trails Lane. My first choice might be Chocolate Drive but Cookeville already has such a road (and a Russell Stover Candy factory outlet store to keep chocoholics hiking between morsels of chocolate!).

\*\*by Bob Barnett

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#### IT IS A SIGN OF RAIN . . .

If cream in coffee collects at the top edges of a cup.  
If dogs suddenly begin to eat grass.  
If cats sneeze or lick their fur backwards.  
If field mice run wildly in the open areas.  
If a pig straightens the "curl" in his tail.  
If cattle refuse to drink water in dry weather.



If sheep turn their backs to the wind. (Heavy rain.)  
If hens spread and ruffle their tail feathers.  
If a rooster crows at night. (Rain before morning.)  
If chickens go to roost earlier than usual.  
If robins sing loud near the house.

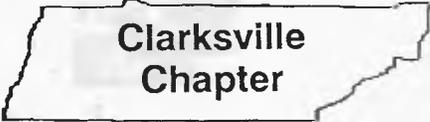
If ducks or geese become noisy (without reason.)  
If the rain crow calls loudly in the woods.  
If snakes become very active in dry weather.  
If flies or mosquitoes suddenly swarm into the house.  
If bees cluster near their hives.

If owls hoot in the daytime (or loudly at night.)  
If dogs or cats carry their young to higher ground. (Flood.)  
If horses begin scratching themselves against trees, or their tails appear extra bushy.  
If birds or ducks nest on high ground, expect wet Summer.  
(Expect a dry season if nest is close to edge of stream.)  
If fish swim to the surface of streams. (Storm.)  
If smoke and soot fall down instead of rising fast.  
If terrapins seek high, dry ground.  
If spiders crawl aimlessly about, glow worms shine brighter, or crickets sing louder . . . expect lots of rain.

# Chapter News

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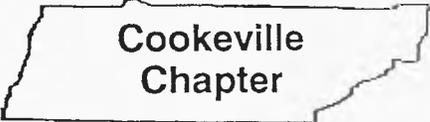
## Clarksville Chapter

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

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MARCH 20 - Long Hunter State Park, Class II, Percy Priest Reservoir, 8 miles. Call Donna Sleight, 326-5554.

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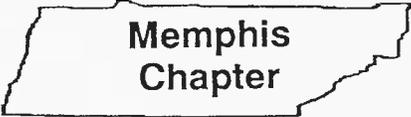


## Cookeville Chapter

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MARCH 20 - Black Mountain. No details were received for this hike, however, you may contact the chapter chair, Jack Murphy at 537-9827.

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## Memphis Chapter

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

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MARCH 6 - Work Day at Chewalla in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Please come out and give us a

hand! We'll meet at Betty Porter's house, 3056 Clearbrook, at 8:00 a.m. and start work at 9:00 a.m. We'll be doing light trail maintenance--small tools such as clippers will be useful--and possibly painting blazes, so wear work gloves and old clothes. If it is raining, we will still hike the trail. Bring lunch and water. Call Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408.

**ATTENTION!** Anyone interested in the Petit Jean State Park outing on April 16-18 in Arkansas, you need to make reservations immediately for a room or cabin. (Please note that the February newsletter should have said "lodging"--not "lunch"! If you plan to camp, you should attend the next two Memphis chapter meetings to meet with other people who want to camp. Please call Debbie Gilbert, trip leader, at (901) 454-0613 if you plan on going on this trip.

MARCH 18 - Monthly meeting at Kingsway Church. Our guest will be Glen Miller, manager at Wapanocca Wildlife Refuge, who will talk about the species found in this rich wetlands area.

MARCH 20 - Shiloh National Military Park, near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. Carpool at the church at 7:00 a.m. or meet at 9:30 at Ed Shaw's restaurant at the edge of the park. We will probably do the 10-mile "environmental" hike, most of which is through woods rather than open battlefields. Terrain is flat and easy. Bring lunch and water. For info call Martye Taylor, 357-9183.

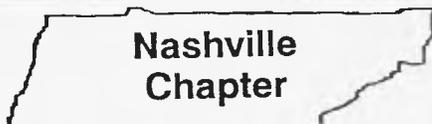
APRIL 3 - Natchez Trace State Park, near Wildersville, TN. Meet at the church at 7:00 a.m. or meet at 9:30 at the park office. We will shuttle cars to the big pecan tree and do the 8-mile hike back to the office. Terrain is easy to moderate. Bring lunch, water, and sun protection (on those early spring hikes, there isn't much shade yet). For info call Ken Novak 377-9127.



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

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MARCH 20 - Buggytop Trail/Cove Cave, Call Ron Ferrara 893-3515.



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

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MARCH 6-7 - Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville, Alabama. We will hike Saturday and/or Sunday in this lovely, rustic park built by the CCC in the mid-1930's. There are many trails with lengths from 1 1/2 to 5 1/2 miles, and many combinations available, from easy

to difficult. The Huntsville Chapter of the Sierra Club will hike with us. The park has 5-person rustic cabins each with kitchen and bath for \$42.00 per night (2 night minimum) and an improved campground with 86 sites. Reservations may be secured with a credit card by calling (205) 534-3757. Huntsville is a 2 hour, 110 mile drive from Nashville. For further directions, call Pat Anderson at 383-2355.

MARCH 20-21 - Backpack (or Day Hike) at Mousetail Landing State Park. This will be an easy backpack with some of our hiking along the banks of the Tennessee River. We will be getting rid of our packs when we stop at the first backpack shelter, so the majority of our hiking will consist of carrying only snacks and water.

There is room for 8 people in the shelter. More backpackers are welcome if they bring their own tent. Arleen and I will probably carry our tent, allowing room for at least 10 backpackers. The park is off of U.S. Hwy 100 near Parsons, TN in Perry County, and 13 miles west of Linden. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. We most likely will be finished and back to the Visitor Center by 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

Please preregister by calling Bob or Arleen Barnett at 832-6484 before March 13. More details can be provided at that time because the trail had not been previewed yet when this article was written. It has been a while since I hiked this trail, but I do remember a delightful trail with gentle hills and wonderful river



# TTA Trail Inspection Form

## Adopt-a-Trail Program

Name of Trail: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Trail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Trail Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Be as detailed as possible when describing the problem conditions and the location of these problem areas. Summarize any maintenance tasks that you performed. In addition, list any recommendations you may have for the management agency in charge of the particular trail.

### TRAIL SURROUNDING AREA

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

### TREAD

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendation for Additional Maintenance:

### FOOT BRIDGES & STEPS

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

### SIGNS & BLAZES

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

## CAMPSITES

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

## LITTER

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

## ACCESS ROADS

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

## PARKING AREAS

Condition:

Maintenance Performed:

Recommendations for Additional Maintenance:

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Rate the following aspects of the trail (check one which fits best):

Trail Use             1. Trail appears to be heavily used  
                          2. Trail appears to be moderately used  
                          3. Trail appears to be seldom used  
                          4. Can't determine use of trail

General Condition    1. Trail is well maintained  
                          2. Trail in need of seasonal maintenance  
                          3. Trail in need of substantial maintenance  
                          4. Can't determine trail maintenance needs

Send a copy of this form when completed to:

Tennessee Trails Association  
P. O. Box 41446  
Nashville, TN 37204

views.

**MEMPHIS CHAPTER  
TRIP REPORT**

**MARCH 25 - Program Meeting at the Cumberland Science Museum at 7:30 p.m. All You Ever Wanted to Know About Backpacking But Were Afraid to Ask!!**

Many of our members have been asking for a program on backpacking and Gene Curp has graciously agreed to do this for us. Gene has backpacked extensively in the Smokies (his goal is to hike all the trails in the Smokies) as well as other parts of the country. This will be a very practical hands-on approach, as Gene will be bringing his pack already loaded for a trip he is planning on taking that weekend. For those of you who might be interested in Libby Francis' backpack at Long Hunter State Park in April, this is your chance to get some pointers on equipment, clothing, food, etc.

Our Jan. 17 trip to see eagles at Reelfoot Lake was a great success. The good weather resulted in 20-30 sightings (depending on who was counting!) and the birds accommodated viewers and photographers alike by sitting in full view, posing for the cameras, and best of all, staying in place for long periods of time. Duck and Canadian geese counts are extremely low at Reelfoot this year, due to a milder winter north of here. But our disappointment in not seeing these migrant waterfowl was more than made up by seeing so many eagles. After a walk to the observation platform in the Grassy Island area, we started for home.

Submitted by Betty Porter

**MARCH 27-28 - Blue Heron/Big South Fork. Call Bob Stephenson for details at 672-4064.**

**TRIP REPORT**

No one expected clear blue skies and 70° temperature on January 23, but that is what we experienced on our hike at Village Creek State Park. Despite a few wet spots, we had a very nice walk. And we got a special surprise when a huge flock of Canadian geese and Snow geese flew overhead.

Submitted by Betty Porter

**PREDICTING WEATHER BY SPECIAL DAYS**

Rain on MONDAY means several rainy days that week.  
If the sun sets clear on TUESDAY, expect rain before Friday.  
Rain on the FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH, most of month will be wet.  
Rain on the first SUNDAY of a month means rain on the three following Sundays.

If dandelions bloom in April, expect a hot, wet July.  
If March is dry, expect plenty of rain later in season.  
If no rain on JULY 2nd, no hard rain for 6 weeks afterward.  
If cold before NOVEMBER 15th, expect a mild winter to follow.

If the sun sets behind clouds on Thursday, rains before Saturday.  
If the frogs "holler" early in a warm MARCH, they will "freeze back" three times before Spring really comes.  
If the last FRIDAY AND SATURDAY of a month have good weather, the month to come will be nice. (If bad, expect a bad month.)  
If there is bad weather on EASTER SUNDAY, the 7 Sundays following will also bring rain.  
Every day over 100 degrees in JULY means one below zero during the month of January to come.

A windstorm on NEW YEAR'S DAY means floods later in the year.  
The FIRST 12 DAYS OF JANUARY foretell the weather for the 12 months to come. Good days, good corresponding months. Bad or wet days, wet months. (For example, 6th day - 6th month, etc.)

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THANKS! Betty for the trip reports. I would like to encourage all members to submit trip reports for the newsletter.

Arleen Barnett, editor

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## Mid-South's top spots for hiking in spring

There are many, prime spring hiking areas in the Mid-South. Here are some of the best, according to members of the Memphis chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association:

- **Mousetail Landing State Park, near Linden, Tenn.** — Good fishing at the Tennessee River and many blooming trees and shrubs have made this 6-year-old park extremely popular. There's an 8-mile trail that stretches from the park office to a ridge overlooking the river. The trail features a hut capable of accommodating eight overnight guests.
- **Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area, near Eva, Tenn.** — A great location for wildflowers; many plants here resemble those that grow in the mountains of East Tennessee. There are more than 30 miles of hiking trails that meander through the park, providing good views of woods, water and wildlife.
- **Village Creek State Park, near Wynne, Ark.** — Five trails dot the park, ranging from ¼-mile to 2.77 miles. One of the most popular is the 2.16-mile Old Military Trail that follows the first improved travel route from Memphis to Little Rock. The park features wildflowers and such trees as sugarberry, canebrake, red mulberry and sugar maple.
- **Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, near Millington** — The park features four trails, including the Chickasaw Bluff Trail that stretches 8 miles from the Mississippi River Group Camp to Poplar Tree Lake. The day-use trails are popular during spring and summer. Spring hikers can expect to see blossoming tulip poplars and dogwoods.
- **Tishomingo State Park, near luka, Miss.** — The park offers 13 miles of woodland trails that feature a swinging bridge, plenty of short-hike routes, an abundance of rock patterns and numerous dogwood trees. Some trails wind through the bottoms bordering Bear Creek, while others thread along the gorge walls. Trail lengths vary from ¼-mile and 1-mile loops to 6-mile loops.
- **Big Hill Pond State Park, near Pochontas, Tenn.** — The park features many hiking trails, including one that has a 0.9-mile boardwalk across Dismal Swamp. There is an opportunity to see much aquatic vegetation like pickereelweed and such trees as Virginia willow, cypress and Tupelo gum.
- **Natchez Trace State Park, near Wildersville, Tenn.** — Blooming dogwood trees fill the park during the spring, creating an almost magical atmosphere for hikers. One of the best hikes originates at the park office and ends at a giant pecan tree.
- **Fort Pillow State Historic Area, near Henning, Tenn.** — With more than 15 miles of hiking trails, this is one of the state's most popular facilities. Three trails are available, including a segment of the Chickasaw Bluff State Scenic Trail. Blooming dogwoods cover the area in the spring. The hilly terrain also features hardwood forests and numerous opportunities to view wildlife.
- **Shiloh National Park, near Shiloh, Tenn.** — This area is popular with Civil War buffs and others who enjoy visiting a historical location. It offers several hiking trails, including the 2-mile Shiloh Battlefield Trek and the 3-mile Shiloh Indian Mounds Trek. All of the hikes are sponsored by Shiloh Military Trails Inc. of Memphis.
- **Reelfoot Lake State Park, near Tip-tonville, Tenn.** — Even though there is no extensive trail system, this park remains one of the most visited in the spring because of its abundance of aquatic plants. The area features many species of flowering and nonflowering plants, which attract botany enthusiasts from across the nation. Cypress trees dominate the lakeshore, but many other trees and shrubs are present.

*Compiled by Larry Rea*

TTA has an Adopt-A-Trail and Inspect-A-Trail program. The form found on the next page in this newsletter is used for both purposes. It would be great if each trail that is part of TTA's annual hike schedule would be inspected and a form turned in to be sent to the managing agencies for each trail. It is not time consuming to inspect a trail as you hike it and it takes very little time to fill out a form afterwards. Thanks to Gene Curp (Nashville), Jerri Bull (Memphis) and Valerie Stringer (Nashville) for their consistent trail reports.

## MARCH HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Date	Chapter	
6-7	Nashville	Monte Sano, Huntsville, AL, Pat Anderson 383-2355
6	Memphis	Chewalla Work Day at Holly Springs, MS, Jerri Bull 363-4408
20	Clarksville	Long Hunter State Park, Donna Sleigh 326-5554
20	Cookeville	Black Mountain, Jack Murphy 537-9827
20	Memphis	Shiloh Nat'l Military Park, Martye Taylor 357-9183
20	Murfreesboro	Buggytop Trail/Cove Cave, Ron Ferrara 893-3515
20-21	Nashville	Mousetail Landing Backpack/Day Hike, Bob Barnett 832-6484
27-28	Nashville	Blue Heron/Big South Fork, Bob Stephenson 672-4064

### SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA MARCH ACTIVITIES

- Mar 7, 10:00 a.m. - Raven Point Excursion. Meet at Visitor Center, 2 miles easy.
- Mar 13, 10:00 a.m. - Lost Cove Cave Tour. Meet at Carter Natural Area parking lot. Wear old clothes, hard hat, bring lunch and drinking water; 5 miles strenuous.
- Mar 14, 10:00 a.m. - Greeter Falls. Meet at Stone Door Ranger Sta. 1 mile, moderate.
- Mar 20, 10:00 a.m. - Small Wilds Hike. Meet at Foster Falls picnic shelter. 5 miles, easy.
- Mar 21, 1:00 p.m. - Shake Rag Hollow/Wildflower Hike. Meet at Green's View in Sewanee. Randy will take you to one of the best places to see early wildflowers, 2 miles, moderate.
- Mar 28, 1:00 p.m. - Collins Gulf Wildflower Hike. Meet at Savage Gulf Ranger Sta. This is a spectacular place with a carpet of wildflowers. 4 miles, strenuous.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 1993 (Jan-Dec) with the type membership checked below:

_____ Student	\$ 6.00	MAIL DUES TO:
_____ Individual/Family	15.00	Tennessee Trails Assn.
_____ Supporting	\$30, \$40 or \$50	P. O. Box 41446
_____ Life	150.00	Nashville, TN 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

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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

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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.

1993 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:	Jerri Bull, Coordinator (901) 363-4408
	Bob Barnett, Coordinator (615) 832-6484
Cookeville Chapter:	Jack Murphy, (615) 537-9827
Murfreesboro Chapter:	Ron Ferrara, Chair, (615) 893-3515
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  
P.O. Box 41446  
Nashville, TN 37204

