

**DEAR MR. COLEMAN**  
**by Gene Hawkins**

To: Mr. James Coleman  
Coleman Outdoor Products  
3600 North Hydraulic  
Wichita, KS 67217

Dear Mr. Coleman:

You owe me a new afro pick. It was one of your backpacking stoves that burned up mine, and I think you ought to buy me a new one. But perhaps I'm getting ahead of myself, Mr. Coleman, so I'll start at the beginning.

Last month I bought myself one of those little Feather 400 stoves that you make at your factory out there in Kansas. I've had this little blue butane stove that I've used for years. It works pretty good--as long as the weather's warm. But when it gets cold, butane stoves ain't worth spit. And when I wake up on a frosty morning I want hot coffee pronto! As a person of some maturity yourself, Mr. Coleman, you'll probably understand that.

My friend Kent told me that what I really needed was a white gas stove. He said white gas works a lot better than butane in cold weather. Since Kent has survived several winters up in the Colorado Rockies, I figured he ought to know about such things. He suggested that I buy one of your Feather 400 stoves, because they were well made, durable, and completely dummy proof. I guess Kent noticed my snarl and assured me that he meant no offense by that term. So the next day I hiked down to Cumberland Transit and put a Feather in my pack.

Well, last weekend I tried out the new Feather. My friend Patricia and I spent a couple of days at Stone Door, up in Grundy County. I don't know whether or not you've been there, Mr. Coleman, but if not you should check it out. It's a real pretty place. On the trip in we bought some of your Coleman fuel at Big Don's Market at Beersheba Springs. Patricia made me stay in the truck while she went inside to buy it. I had on my purple Bellweather winter bicycle tights, and Patricia said she didn't think Big Don was ready for bearded males in purple tights. But I digress.

We hiked up Big Creek to Alum Gap, where we camped for the night. The next morning it was real cold and everything was frozen solid. I pumped up the new Feather, lit a match, and that puppy fired right up, just like it was supposed to. It had my coffee boiling before a

Whisperlite could even start to mumble. In short, Mr. Coleman, your stove worked real good. But back to my afro pick.

I've got this afro pick. Or rather, I HAD this afro pick. It was a genuine 1960's model, with a plastic handle shaped like a fist and a peace symbol on it. Least you wonder, Mr. Coleman, I'm a bald headed white guy. And so you may well ask what a bald white guy is doing with an afro pick. Truth is, Mr. Coleman, I used the pick to toast cheese sandwiches over my camp stove. I've done it for years with my butane stove and it works real good. To be honest, Mr. Coleman, I didn't even know it WAS an afro pick until somebody asked me how I keep the bread crumbs out of my hair. But again I digress.

Later that morning Patricia and I stopped for some lunch and I thought a toasted cheese sandwich would go pretty good on such a cold day, so I fired up the Feather. I proceeded to toast my sandwich with the afro pick, not paying too much attention to it, I confess. I had no idea, Mr. Coleman, that your little Feather was so much hotter than my old butane stove! Patricia was first to notice the fire.

"Isn't this a lovely day," she was saying. "Such nice crisp weather, and did you notice that crested woodpecker back there?" She added without any urgency, "Oh and by the way, did you know your afro pick's on fire?"

Well, Mr. Coleman, I looked down just in time to see the plastic handle liquify and plop my sandwich right smack on the burner. The resulting conflagration vaporized my afro pick, scorched my beard, and didn't do the cheese sandwich much good either.

Now understand, Mr. Coleman, that I'm not ticked off about this little incident. In fact, I really like the Feather 400 and intend to keep using it. But I honestly think you ought to buy me a new afro pick. I've checked your stove real good, and while there's lots of safety warning stickers on it, there's not ONE WORD about afro picks! So I've made you this additional safety sticker. I'm sure you will want to xerox a few copies and paste them on all your new stoves. Hope this helps.

**WARNING!**  
**USE OF THIS DEVICE FOR TOASTING**  
**CHEESE SANDWICHES MAY RESULT**  
**IN MELTDOWN OF AFRO PICKS!**



Your friend,

Gene

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**MAY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Memphis</u>	<u>N.B. Forrest State Park, Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Nashville</u>	<u>Piney River, Arleen Barnett 832-6484</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Upper Cumberland</u>	<u>Fall Creek Falls, Paul Miller 526-7927</u>
<u>14-15</u>	<u>Upper Cumberland</u>	<u>Historic Rugby Music &amp; Crafts Festival</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>Clarksville</u>	<u>Savage Gulf, Ann Lowe 645-1454</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>Murfreesboro</u>	<u>N. Chickamauga Creek Hike/Swim, Heloise Shilstat/Kirt Huskie 896-6278</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>Upper Cumberland</u>	<u>Savage Gulf Virgin Timber Hike, Jim Talmage</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>Memphis</u>	<u>Elmwood Cemetery, Norma McMinn 785-1479</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>Upper Cumberland</u>	<u>Cedars of Lebanon S.P., Paul Miller 526-7927</u>
<u>28-30</u>	<u>Nashville</u>	<u>Waterfall Hikes in Smoky Mtns., Bob &amp; Arleen Barnett 832-6484</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>Upper Cumberland</u>	<u>Cedars of Lebanon, Paul Miller 526-7927</u>

ATTENTION TTA BOARD MEMBERS

Our second Board Meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 18th, at Franklin State Forest in the South Cumberland Natural Area. Cliff Stromeyer, Ranger at Franklin, has graciously allowed us the use of an old cabin at the entrance to the park. We will hike the North Rim Trail of Franklin State Forest in the morning, to be followed by an outdoor potluck picnic at the cabin and the Board Meeting. Lodging is available at the Smoke House Lodge (615) 924-2091; \$41.95 per night, and the Country Inn (615) 924-2221; \$32.95 per night, in Monteagle; tent camping is allowed within the State Forest itself. For those interested, we are considering a hike on the Buggytop Trail to the Buggytop Cave on Sunday. Specifics will follow in the June newsletter.

--Rob Weber  
TTA President

**NATIONAL  
TRAILS DAY**  
YOUR DAY TO HIT THE TRAIL.



You're invited to America's annual celebration of trails—National Trails Day. June 4 is the day for 3,000 outdoor events hosted by your local trail clubs, land managers and outdoor businesses. It's a day for hikes, rides, urban trail festivals, new trail dedications, workshops and a lot of fun.

So hit the trail with American Hiking Society and your favorite trail group for National Trails Day!

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It's that time of year again--bugs, bugs, and MORE BUGS! Below are a couple of articles to help with keeping bugs off of you and out of your home.

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### TICKS, CHIGGERS, YELLOW-JACKETS AND OTHER FUN STUFF

It is Spring! And not a minute too soon! That was a long, wet, slippery Winter--good riddance! But, since nothing is perfect, we need to remember some springtime tricks to make hiking in this wondrous season more pleasant:

**TICKS:** Some species carry Lyme disease. Even the common American dog tick can carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

**TRICK:** Tuck your pant legs into your socks, and your shirt into your pants. Wear light colored clothing that better shows dark ticks. Inspect your clothes often. Wear repellents applied to shoes, socks and pant legs.

**CHIGGERS:** Same as above, and stay away from any grasses that hang over the trail. Also, chiggers LOVE to repose in blackberry bushes. Repellent, repellent, repellent.

**YELLOW JACKETS:** (*small wasp family which usually nests in the ground*): not an item of clothing

**TRICK:** Keep your eyes open for small to large holes in the trail tread. If you don't have your contacts or glasses, be sure NOT to position yourself as the THIRD hiker in the hiking line. It takes those devils about that long to come out on the attack. If you are stung, moisten an aspirin tablet and apply directly to the site of the sting with a band-aid. Not a cure, but this helps.

**HYPOTHERMIA:** Abnormally low body temperature which could result in death; brought on by wind, cold, rain--any two, or all three.

**TRICK:** Wear only wool or fabrics with fiber blends. In other words, whatever dries fastest. And LAYER, LAYER, LAYER!

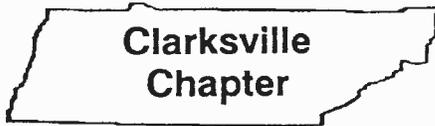
In spite of "all of the above," these spring hikes will be beautiful and memorable. Happy trails!

by Pat Anderson

### BUGS AND CRITTERS

- \* To inhibit moths, sprinkle clothes with dried lavender and cedar chips.
- \* To combat ants, put chili powder around their entry.
- \* Roaches? Mix baking soda and powdered sugar - place strategically.
- \* Houseplant insects? Use old dishwater or soapy water and spray on leaves. Then rinse.
- \* For fleas on pets, gradually introduce brewer's yeast into their diets.
- \* Look for non-toxic pesticides in your garden centers or hardware stores.

## CHAPTER NEWS

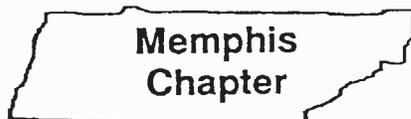


Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Governor's Square Mall.

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**May 21 - Savage Gulf Hike.** Call Ann Lowe 645-1454.

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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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**May 14 - Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, near Eva, TN.** Carpool at Kingsway Church at 7:30 am, or meet at the park's River Museum (at Pilot Knob) at 10:00 am. There's a trailhead there, from which you can choose 3-mile, 5-mile, or 10-mile loops. The trail has some fairly strenuous hills--keep in mind that this is one of the only places in West Tennessee that has mountain laurel, and it will probably be blooming at this time. Boots are recommended because some parts of the trail are quite rocky. Bring lunch and lots of water. The park has a nice campground if you'd like to come up the night before. Call Jerri Bull 363-4408 for more info.

**May 19 - Monthly Meeting.** Did you know there are water trails, too? That's what canoeists call the designated routes they follow. Since we have a couple of canoe trips coming up this summer, for our May meeting we hope to have a representative of the Bluff City Canoe Club talk to us about how to get started in this sport.

**May 22 - Elmwood Cemetery at 824 S. Dudley St. in Memphis.** This is really a Sunday afternoon excursion rather than a hike. Meet us at 1:00 pm at the cemetery. (Dudley St. is located off Lamar Ave., just west of the old Baptist rehab hospital.) We plan to spend a couple of hours wandering around the grounds, looking at the ornate gravesites of most of our city's most famous early citizens and admiring the giant old trees. It'll be a fascinating walk, but it will be warm, so bring water, sunscreen or a hat, and wear comfortable walking shoes. For info, call Norma McMinn at 785-1479.

### TRIP REPORT FLATSIDE PINNACLE

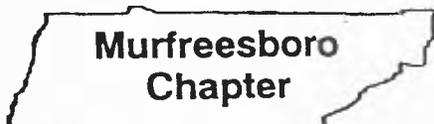
Despite the fact that this was an overnight trip, a 3 1/2 hour drive from Memphis, 23 people showed up at Lake Sylvia campground Saturday, March 19th, to hike a 9-mile segment of the Ouachita Trail. Because the trees were still leafless and therefore shadeless, the early spring sun felt warm, and a few people succumbed to the heat and turned back. But the majority continued on to Flatside Pinnacle, where they were rewarded with a grand view. Along the way, we saw many things of interest: rue anemone, bird's foot violet, the large white blossoms of the wild goose plum tree, and a black rat snake resting in the hollow of a tree.

On Sunday, March 20th, about 10 diehard hikers met to climb 1,011-foot Pinnacle

Mountain. The strong wind and overcast sky made the going easier, and they sprinted to the summit in just 30 minutes. On the way down, they stopped to admire bloodroot in bloom near the trailhead. Then they walked the short Kingfisher nature trail, which was lined with thousands upon thousands of spring beauties, trout lillies, and wake-robin trilliums. It was the perfect wrap-up to a weekend of hiking.

Reported by Debbie Gilbert

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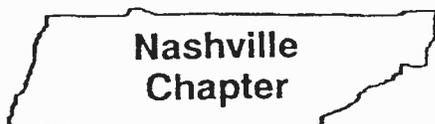


Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Methodist Church.

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**May 21 - North Chickamauga Creek Hike/Swim.** Call Heloise Shilstat/Kirt Huskie at 896-6278.

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

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**May 14 - Piney River.** It's hard to say that any one spot is the most beautiful in Tennessee but the Piney River trail comes

close. This is a 10 mile easy to moderate hike (mostly downhill) that has a wide variety of wildflowers, including lady slippers, a spectacular waterfall and some mighty good swimming holes. We'll meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot in the picnic area on Shut-In Gap Road at the base of the plateau out from Spring City. Call Bob or Arleen Barnett 832-6484 for more info.

**May 26 - Program Meeting.** We will see some special slides of a Northwest hiking and camping trip. Join Malcolm, Jean and Sasha Pfothenauer in their adventure through Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. This will be a program to remember, so bring a friend to share in the beauty of Malcolm's and Jean's photography. For those who wish to meet and eat before the meeting, meet at 5:30 at the Red Lobster, 833 Murfreesboro Rd. Any questions, call Pat Anderson 383-2355.

**May 28-30 - Waterfall Hikes in the Smoky Mtns.** The cabin we reserved in Townsend for Saturday and Sunday evenings is full, but there are campgrounds along the river in Townsend. There are 3 lovely waterfalls in the Tremont area that we will explore on Saturday. We called the ranger at Tremont to be sure that we could still hike these trails since we found out when visiting the park in April that the flooding had washed away many parts of the Little River Road and the road was closed between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Cades Cove. We will probably hike to Abrams Falls in Cades Cove on Sunday, and Monday's hike will be decided upon by the group. For more info call Bob or Arleen Barnett 832-6484.

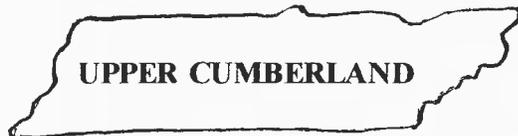
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**TRIP REPORT**  
**HOBBS CABIN BACKPACK**  
**MARCH 26-27**

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Ever wondered what carved those dry creeks, or trickling pebbled brooks?..we know. Five backpackers and one day hiker covered the 8.5 mile North Rim Trail out to Hobbs Cabin. Spectacular vistas followed throughout the day, as rain shadowed and threatened, and we found Hobbs Cabin empty and waiting. The skies opened late Saturday night, and pounding rain on the tin roof sent us to tossing in our sleep. Setting out on the North Plateau Trail Sunday morning, we saw the carver of those creeks and brooks--water. To keep dry was unthinkable, to ford the creeks was folly, and soon we took to sloshing our way thru 10 miles worth of knee high water. And no, Susan and Kevin, that was not a fish on a line caught in my rain gear, but only a tie strap unraveling behind me! Quite an adventure...thanks to my wife, Susan, and to Kevin Kimbro, Alan Stokes, Woody McLaughlin, and day hiker Tom Holland for rowing it out.

Reported by Rob Weber



The May meeting of the Upper Cumberland Chapter of TTA will be held at Ross Cardwell's cabin at Lost Creek. For those who do not know the way, we will meet at

First Union Bank on Hwy 111 in Sparta at 5:30 pm on **Tuesday, May 3**. If conditions are favorable, we will go into Lost Creek Cave, so bring a flashlight. This meeting will be a cookout.

**May 14 - Fall Creek Falls.** Rated strenuous. Meet at First Union Bank Hwy 111 in Sparta at 9:00 am or Betty Dunn Nature Center at Fall Creek Falls at 10:00 am. Call Paul Miller 526-7927 for more info.

**May 14-15 - Rugby Music and Craft Festival in Historic Rugby 10:00 am - 6:00 pm each day.**

**May 21 - Savage Gulf Virgin Timber Hike.** Meet at First Union Bank Hwy 111 in Sparta at 8:30 am or at Savage Gulf Ranger Station at 9:30 am. 8-10 miles, moderate. Jim Talmage will lead the hike. Call Paul Miller 526-7927 for Jim's phone number and/or details of the hike.

**May 28 - Cedars of Lebanon State Park.** Meet at west side of Penney's in Cookeville at 10:00 am. Paul Miller 526-7927.

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**"MODEL-T" TATE ON THE A.T.**

As some of you may know, J.R. Tate, chairperson of the Clarksville Chapter, left around Easter to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. J.R. has done this before and was just itching to get back in the mountains again. He would love to receive letters, cards and goodies at his mail drops. On the next page is a listing of mail drops and dates. Hint: He likes chocolate-covered raisins and M&M peanut candies. Remember he has to carry it on his back so don't go overboard!

1994

APPLACHIAN TRAIL MAIL/SUPPLY DROPS  
for  
J.R. "MODEL-T" TATE

<u>DROP NO.</u>	<u>LATEST DATE TO MAIL</u>	<u>LOCATION OF POST OFFICE ALONG APPLACHIAN TRAIL</u>	<u>MILEAGE: LAST DROP/ CUMULATIVE MILES</u>	<u>ESTIMATED ARRIVAL</u>
1	31 March	WALASI-YI CENTER Rt. 1, Box 1240 (Neels Gap) Blairsville, GA 30512	31/31	(Start 5 April) 07 April
2	05 April	NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CTR. Box 41, US 19W Bryson City, NC 28713	104/135	15 April
3	09 April	FONTANA DAM, NC 28733	27/162	19 April
4	18 April	HOT SPRINGS, NC 28743	106/269	27 April
5	02 May	DAMASCUS, VA 24236	184/452	12 May
**(OFF TRAIL 20-26 MAY TO TENNESSEE)**				
6	23 May	PEARISBURG, VA 24134	163/615	02 June
7	06 June	WAYNESBORO, VA 22980	217/832	16 June
8	18 June	LINDEN, VA 22642	116/948	24 June
9	28 June	DUNCANNON, PA 17020	169/1117	08 July
10	11 July	DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA 18327	148/1265	20 July
11	22 July	KENT, CT 06757	175/1440	01 August
12	30 July	CHESHIRE, MA 01225	111/1551	09 August
13	10 August	HANOVER, NH 03755	165/1716	20 August
14	22 August	GORHAM, NH 03581	141/1857	31 August
15	06 Sept.	MONSON, ME 04464	180/2037	16 Sept.
16	No Mail	MOUNT KATAHDIN, ME	118/2155	29 Sept.

NOTE: (Unless otherwise indicated) Mail letters and packages to:  
J.R. "MODEL-T" TATE  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
(Town Indicated)

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* Mark letter/pkg. "HOLD FOR A.T. HIKER" [\*\*No UPS or FEDEX\*\*]

# SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

(615) 924-2980

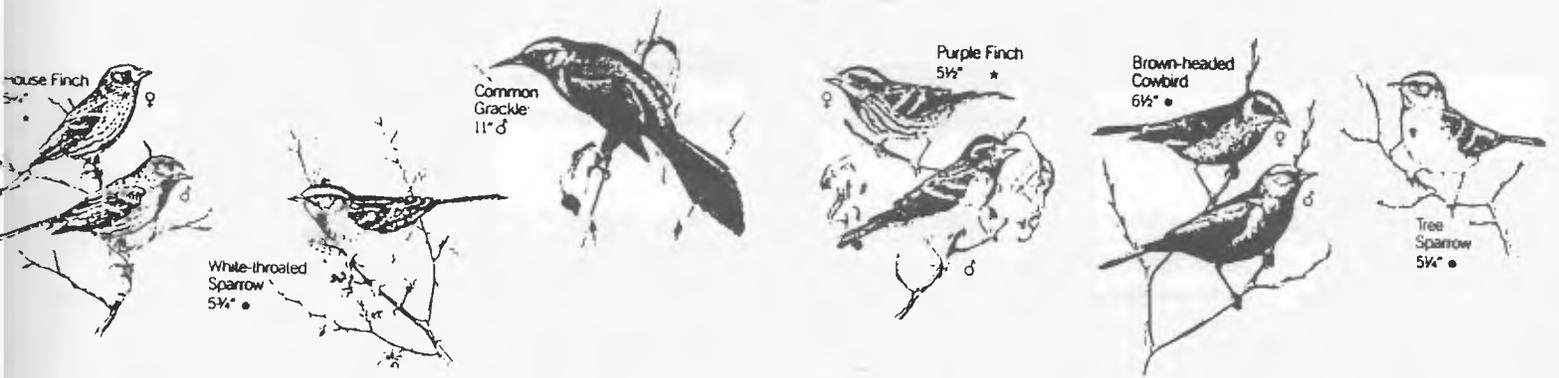
**SUNDAY**      MAY DAY!--HELP THE PARK---Meet at the Grundy Forest Picnic Area. Do you  
**MAY 1**      want to help keep the park beautiful? Well...Join Randy for a work project  
**10 AM**      that will do just that. We'll clean up the creek, improve the trails, or  
 other jobs that improve the park's appearance. 2 Hours.

**SATURDAY**      SMALL WILDS EXCURSION---Meet at the Foster Falls Trailhead. Join Randy for  
**MAY 7**      this walk along the bluffs. Panoramic views, waterfalls, and pretty wild-  
**10 AM**      flowers await you. 5 miles roundtrip--about 4 hours. (bring a lunch)

**SATURDAY**      MEADOW BIRDWALK---Meet at the Visitor Center. Our meadow trail is a good one  
**MAY 14**      to look for the birds who nest here, but spend the winter in the tropics.  
**8 AM**      Join Randy for this walk in observance of Migratory Bird Day. 1 mile--easy  
 About 2 hours.

**SUNDAY**      MOUNTAIN LAUREL WALK---Meet Randy at the entrance to Franklin State Forest.  
**MAY 15**      On a good year, the North Rim of Sweden Cove is a great place to see an  
**10 AM**      abundance of blooming laurel. 4 mile roundtrip--easy--about 4 hours.

**SATURDAY**      RAVEN POINT SUNSET---Meet at the Visitor Center. One of the best places to  
**MAY 21**      enjoy the sunset is this panoramic view of the Fiery Gizzard. 2 mile--  
**6 PM**      roundtrip--2 hours--easy.



**SUNDAY**      LONE ROCK WALK---Meet at Swim Beach Parking Lot at Grundy Lakes. Join Randy  
**MAY 22**      for a leisurely tour of the Lone Rock Trail. This pretty area has extensive  
**3 PM**      historical importance and good natural diversity. 2 mile roundtrip--easy--  
 about 2 hours.

**SATURDAY**      GREETER FALLS TOUR---Meet at the Greeter Falls Trailhead. Join Randy for a  
**MAY 28**      tour of this set of spectacular falls. 2 mile roundtrip--moderate--about  
**10 AM**      2 hours.

**SATURDAY**      GRUNDY FOREST DAY LOOP---HANES HOLE---Meet at the Grundy Forest Picnic Area.  
**MAY 28**      Join Bill Summers for a walk around the head of Fiery Gizzard Gorge featur-  
**1 PM**      ing the beautiful chilly swimming holes. 2 mile roundtrip--moderate.

**SUNDAY**      SAVAGE FALLS HIKE---Meet at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station. Join Bill for  
**MAY 29**      a tour of the Savage Day Loop Trail. 4.2 mile roundtrip--easy--about 4  
**1 PM**      hours.

**MONDAY**      LOST COVE CAVE TOUR---Meet at the Carter Natural Area Parking Lot. Join  
**MAY 30**      Bill and enjoy the 58° constant temperature of this rugged and spectacular  
**10 AM**      cave. We recomend multiple light sources, a helmet, and a lunch. 4.5 mile  
 roundtrip--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 1994 (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 \_\_\_\_\_ OR AT LARGE \_\_\_\_\_ HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT

TTA? \_\_\_\_\_

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

TTA  
P.O. Box 41446  
Nashville, TN 37204

Newsletter submissions due by 15th of the month to Arleen Barnett, Newsletter Editor

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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.

**1994 TTA LEADERS**

PRESIDENT:	Rob Weber, (615) 952-2949
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
CORR. SEC/TREAS:	Judy Van Cleve (615) 473-8136
SECRETARY:	Evelyn Tretter (615) 859-0566
BOARD REP:	James T. Jones (901) 422-1444
BOARD REP:	Bertha Chrietzberg (615) 896-1146
BOARD REP:	Bessie Daniel (615) 647-4837
MEMBERSHIP:	Bob Barnett (615) 832-6484
CUMBERLAND TRAIL	Bob Brown (615) 352-7474
ADOPT-A-TRAIL:	Jerri Bull, Coordinator (901) 363-4408
	Bob Barnett, Coordinator (615) 832-6484
Upper Cumberland Chapter:	Paul D. Miller, Chair, (615) 526-7927
Murfreesboro Chapter:	David & Colette Dill (615) 273-2707
Memphis Chapter:	Debbie Gilbert, Chair, (901) 454-0613
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TENNESSEE TRAILS is printed by Budget Rapid Printers, Nashville, 327-1068  
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