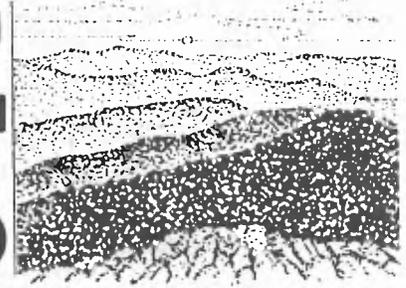


TENNESSEE TRAILS

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Trails Association



CUMBERLAND TRAIL MEETING CUMBERLAND MTN. STATE PARK FEBRUARY 25, 1995 at 7:00 PM

TTA wishes to welcome everyone to attend this most important gathering to discuss the revival of the Cumberland Trail. The immediate goals are to assess the need and possibilities for the C.T. and to form a Steering Committee. We recently hiked portions of Sections 1 and 2 and found much to be done, but saw all was not lost. The vast majority of the trails are intact, but in desperate need of maintenance and signage; logging and new construction have impacted short sections of the trail. This makes 1995 a critical year, for if we wait any longer, we may lose a dream...the very dream that founded TTA. Remember--this is a grassroots effort--it cannot work without member support!

As a preview to this meeting, Bob Brown will lead us on a hike of Brady Mountain at 9:00 am on the 25th, and Black Mountain at 9:30 am on the 26th, both of Section 5 of the C.T. A great opportunity to experience the C.T. See hike details in the Nashville Chapter listing.

If you have questions or input concerning this issue, or if you want to participate but cannot attend the meeting, don't hesitate to call. If you do plan to attend, please let me know.

Rob Weber, TTA President
(615) 952-2949

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR YOU TO RENEW YOUR TTA MEMBERSHIP FOR 1995. WE PURGE OUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST IN MARCH, SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON ALL THE GREAT SPRING HIKES, SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL TODAY.

Trip Report on Cumberland Trail Sections 1&2

In anticipation of the CT meeting scheduled for February 25 at Cumberland Mountain State Park (see details elsewhere in this issue), Jim Poteet, Rob Weber, and Jim Johnson hiked various parts of the CT during the weekend of January 14-15. On Saturday, the trio started the very wet adventure by visiting Cove Lake State Park, site of the original CT office and the demarcation between Sections 1 and 2. At the park office, we met a secretary and ranger, both of whom were there when the CT was active, and both were enthusiastic about the prospect of a renewed CT. Both individuals were a great source of information, which will be discussed in greater detail on the 25th.

The ranger led us to the start of the trail at a point nicknamed "suck air" because of the steepness of the ascent. This is where the fun began. We easily found the trail head, but immediately lost the trail due to very recent construction and logging on what had been the pathway. After about 20 minutes of floundering on the side of the hill, in the pouring down rain, we finally found steps leading up to the ridge. The trail up was blocked in several places by downfall from both logging and a recent ice storm. Once on top, the hike progressed much more smoothly. The trail on top was in better condition, with only a couple of places where we got momentarily disoriented. We continued northeastward to a point called Eagle Bluff Overlook. Along the summit, there was ample evidence of logging and motorized traffic, but damage was much less than on the hike up to the top.

On Sunday, we started on the La Follette (ask Rob to pronounce La Follette) side of Section 1, and climbed up the ridge again. This section was in much better shape, with litter being the biggest problem. The trail was easy to follow up to where it intersected a major power line, at which point the blazes disappeared for a while, and the trail was blocked by dead fall. After the hike down, we scouted out trail heads at Lake City, drove up Walden Ridge and hiked to Laurel Grove Lookout Tower, and found the trail head at Oliver Springs. The view from the lookout tower was spectacular, even with the low clouds and rain. Definitely worth the trip. On Walden Ridge, don't be surprised to encounter mountain bicyclists, who apparently frequent that section of the CT.

Finally wet, tired, and with night upon us, we started back to civilization and the closest Cracker Barrel. In general, we were pleased with the overall condition of the remnants of the CT. Slides and prints of various parts of the CT visited will be available at the meeting on the 25th. With the support and leadership of TTA, there is no reason that the Cumberland Trail cannot be returned to its former splendor.

--Jim Johnson
TTA Vice President



ATTENTION TTA BOARD MEMBERS

The first Board Meeting of 1995 will be February 11 at 2:30 pm at the L&C Tower, 401 Church St., in downtown Nashville. This is the home of the State Parks and Recreation Division. The meeting will be preceded by a hike of the newly acquired Shelby Bottoms. See the Nashville Chapter news for details. The Board Meeting will be followed by dinner at the Gerst Haus, a German tavern located across the Cumberland River from downtown. Please be sure to send in your agenda topics by Feb. 1. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!!!**

Thanks, Rob Weber

Preliminary Agenda Items

1995 Annual Meeting
Cumberland Trail
Obed Wild & Scenic River
TTA Trail Book
Piney River

Membership
SWEAT Program/Warner Parks
Rugby
State Report

NEW PLATE TO BENEFIT PARKS HITS THE STREETS--LITERALLY....

By Gary Buchanan, Editor, The News

The Tennessee State Flower is "blooming" in the form of a popular cultural plate depicting the purple iris. State Senator Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) was the prime sponsor of the bill. A fundraiser for the Tennessee State Parks, the \$25 additional fee for the license plate is earmarked for the parks. The new license plate may be purchased when motorists renew their tags. A cultural application must be filled out, clearly designating the desire for an Environmental State Parks plate. For more information, contact your local County Clerk's office.

HIKE DIFFICULTY RATING

EASY: 5 miles or less; mostly level ground; hills will have slight incline.

MODERATE: Distance will not exceed 10 miles; may include rocky slopes; gain in elevation generally will not exceed 350 feet per mile.

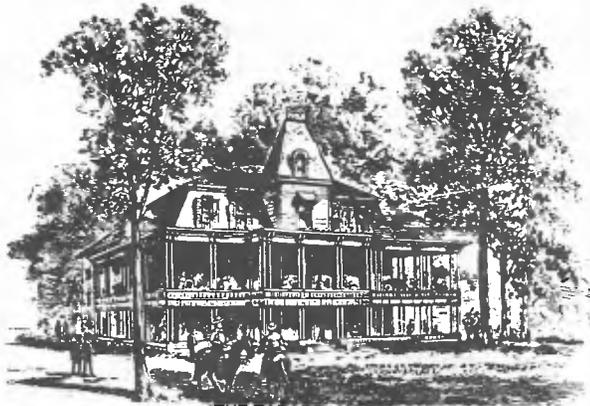
STRENUOUS: Any distance more than 10 miles; however, shorter distances may be strenuous due to elevation gain or rocky slopes; may include long stretches hiking on boulders (where it helps to be a mountain goat); any elevation gain of more than 350 feet per mile.

DEATH MARCH: Hikes exceeding 22 miles, scheduled by anyone wanting to avoid backpacking.

From the October, 1994 issue of Making Tracks, the Chattanooga Hiking Club Newsletter.



GENTLEMAN'S SWIMMING HOLE TRAIL



THE TABARD HOTEL
From Harper's Weekly. Copyright, 1880, by Harper & Brothers

Rugby's natural and cultural history has become an important link to the heritage of the Cumberland Plateau and the Big South Fork. Among the hidden treasures of this area is the serene beauty of the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole. A portion of the trail leading to it was built by Rugby colonists in the 1880's. It leads one through the forest and down into the gorge eventually reaching the Clear Fork River.

To begin your journey to this spot, travel along Highway 52 west of the Rugby Visitor Centre a half mile. Look for the Laurel Dale Cemetery sign. Turn north onto Donnington Road/Canyon Ave, a gravel road. Along this road to the cemetery, a few points of interest have been marked with numbered posts. Posts 1-3 are along the road and at the cemetery; posts 4-14 are along the trail. While using this area, please respect private property of the residents and do not trespass.

Post #1, 0.1 mile. The area on the left hand side of the road behind the fence was once the site of two Tabard Inns. The first inn was built in 1880 and burned in 1884, while the second was built in 1887 and burned in 1899.

Post #2, 0.2 mile on the right. A modest 2-story structure was built here in 1880. Victims of Rugby's 1881 typhoid epidemic were brought here for nursing. Many recovered, however, seven did not and are buried at Laurel Dale Cemetery. The well at Tabard Inn was found to be the source of the epidemic, which greatly damaged Rugby's reputation as a healthful place to settle or visit.

Post #3, .255 miles from Post #2 on the right. Laurel Dale Cemetery.

Post #4. As you follow the loop, drive to the left of the cemetery. You will see the parking area and trailhead sign for the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole. This 0.4 mile trail leads you through the forest and down the gorge to the Clear Fork River and the swimming hole.

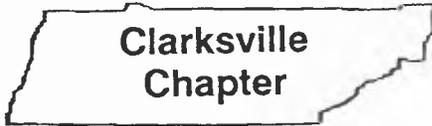
Post #11. Witch's Cave.

Post #12. River View.

Post #13. Meeting of the Waters. The trail divides at this point. You will continue to the left to go to the Swimming Hole. To the right, in one mile, you would come to the Meeting of the Waters, a popular picknicking, fishing and courting place in the 1880's. This is where Clear Fork River and White Oak Creek converge.

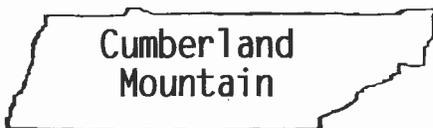
Post #14. Gentlemen's Swimming Hole.

CHAPTER NEWS



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

Ann Lowe of the Clarksville Chapter reports that she and several interested people have been working to preserve 26 acres of natural area in the Buena Vista Park area. Developers have submitted it for rezoning to commercial C-5. It will go to a second reading before the Metro Council on Jan. 17. If you'd like more information, you can contact Ann at 242-4022.



Meeting and hike the third Saturday of each month at varying locations.

The newly reorganized Cumberland Mtn. chapter met at the Rugby Community Room Dec. 17 with 16 members present. Watch us grow! After hot chocolate and visiting, trip and project plans for 1995 were discussed. We then got down to hiking on the 2 1/4 mile loop trail to the

Gentlemen's Swimming Hole and Meeting of the Waters on the Clear Fork River. Portions of this trail were built by Rugby's British colonists in the 1880's and may be the oldest publicly used trail system in Tennessee. Besides the beautiful sandstone bluffs, clean and wild river, and great huge white pines, hemlocks and poplars, a unique feature is several large sandstone waterbars put in place by the early trail builders. After some food and fellowship at Rugby's Harrow Road Cafe, we all went back to Christmas shopping and planning.

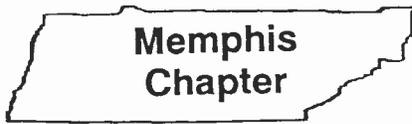
Call Marvin Shanks 879-9765 for details of February chapter meeting and hike.



A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly.
Specialization is for insects.

--Robert Heinlein

Sent in by Betty Porter of Memphis



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

FEB. 16 - Monthly meeting. We're working on getting someone to talk to us about the sport of orienteering, but so far we haven't been able to locate them (pun intended). Stay tuned.

FEB. 18 - WALKING TOUR IN OXFORD, MISS. Carpool from the Piggly Wiggly parking lot at Perkins and Knight Arnold at 7:15 am, or meet us at 9:00 am at the Kate Longest museum on the Ole Miss campus. Wear good walking shoes (not boots), and bring water. We plan to stop for lunch at a restaurant on the square, but you can bring your own food if you like. We'll visit Rowan Oak (William Faulkner's place) and various other sites on the University campus and in the town square. For info, call Jerri Bull, 363-4408.

FEB. 25 - CHICKASAW BLUFFS TRAIL, MEEMAN-SHELBY STATE PARK. Meet at 8:00 am at the visitor check-in station at north park entrance. Hike begins after we shuttle cars. Trail is about 8 miles, and we'll probably have to climb over downed trees. Bring lunch and water. For info, call Anne Lindholm, 388-4123.

MAR. 4 - BIG HILL POND STATE PARK. Carpool at Kingsway Church at

7:00 am Hike starts 9:00 am at park's boat ramp. Trail is 8 miles on ^{moderately} hilly terrain. Boots strongly recommended and there's a low area on the trail that will be muddy. Call Ken Novak 377-9127.

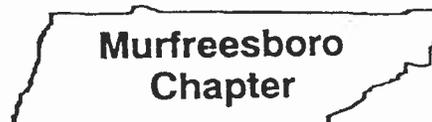
RABBIT UPDATE

Pooper, the auction rabbit, met an untimely end at the paws of a neighborhood callico cat. Pooper was exercising on the front porch when the cat got between Pooper and Paul. Pooper zigged when it was time to zag. Pooper had just returned from a trip to Universal Studios and Sea World in Orlando.

Pooper will be missed.

The Mean Ole Puddy Tat is dead meat when Paul catches it!

-- Paul Goldstein

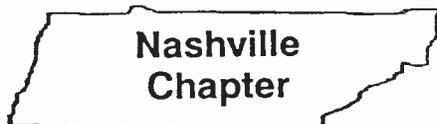


Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Methodist Church.

FEB. 18 - STONES RIVER BATTLEFIELD. Meet at Visitor's Center at 9:00 am. For more info, call George Williams at 890-3683. (Please note that the phone number listed on the annual hike schedule is incorrect).

ATTENTION!

There will be a Murfreesboro Chapter restructuring meeting at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Methodist Church, downstairs in the rear of the building. It is very important that all Murfreesboro TTA members attend this meeting in order to have input into the restructuring and share any ideas they might have. There will be membership directories, TTA 25th Anniversary T-shirts, patches, etc. available.



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

FEB. 5 (SUNDAY) - RADNOR LAKE. Meet at 2:00 pm at Visitor's Center. Call Bob or Arleen Barnett for details 832-6484.

FEB. 11 - SHELBY BOTTOMS HIKE. Meet at the Cumberland Science Museum at 9:00 am to wander this newly acquired tract of bottom land on the Cumberland

River in downtown Nashville. Contact Rob Weber (615) 952-2949.

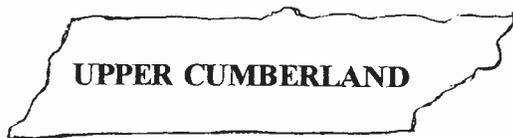
FEB. 12 - OLD STONE FORT. Meet at the Sports Unlimited parking lot at the Harding Place exit on I-24 at 9:00 am to carpool to Manchester (about an hour's drive) or meet us at the Visitor's Center at the park at 10:30 am. We will hike about 5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Call Bob or Arleen Barnett at 832-6484.

FEB. 18 - WARNER PARK. Meet at the Mossy Ridge-Warner Woods trailhead parking lot off Hwy 100 at 8:30 am. We will hike the beautiful 4 1/2 miles of the Mossy Ridge trail, and for those who care to continue the experience, we will hike the 2 1/2 miles of the Warner Woods trail. These trails are of moderate difficulty due to the hilly terrain and possible slippery spots. Bring water and a light snack if you like. After the hike, we'll go to Shoney's on Harding Road for a hearty lunch! Call Ninez Giles at 297-2281 or 1-800-688-6534 for more information.

FEB. 23 - Monthly meeting at Cumberland Science Museum.

FEB. 25 - BRADY MOUNTAIN. Come explore TTA's own portion of the Cumberland Trail as Bob Brown leads us on this 7.5 mile portion of Section 5. Moderately difficult hike. We will meet at the Cumberland Mountain State Park office at 9:00 am CST. Contact Rob Weber 952-2949.

FEB. 26 - BLACK MOUNTAIN. Bob Brown will lead us on this 4.5 mile portion of Section 5 of the C.T. Moderately difficult hike. We will meet at Cumberland Mtn. State Park office at 9:30 am CST. Contact Rob Weber 952-2949.



Meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Union Bank in Sparta.

FEB. 7 - Chapter Meeting. Dr. Mitchell will give us a presentation on hypothermia and introduce the chapter's new First Aid Kit to us. Meet at 6:30 pm. Contact Bonnie Greene 836-3696 Sparta, or Paul & Pam Miller 526-9259 Cookeville.

FEB. 11 - Shelby Bottoms Hike and TTA Board Meeting. See Nashville Chapter for hike details.

FEB. 18 - CLIFTY CREEK IN SCOTT'S GULF. This will be a rugged and fast-paced hike, 4-5 miles, very strenuous. Meet at First Union Bank in Sparta at 9:00 am. Contact Bonnie Greene 836-3696 Sparta.

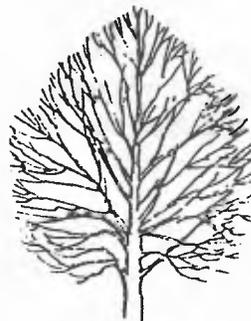
FEB. 21 - CPR CLASS. Jack Murphy has arranged for an instructor to teach a class on CPR. Cost: \$6.00 per person. Respiration safety devices will be available for purchase at a cost of \$6.00 each (not required for class). Class will be at First Union Bank in Sparta from 6:00-9:00 pm. Contact Bonnie Greene 836-3696 Sparta, or Paul & Pam Miller 526-9259 Cookeville.

**WHALE TRAIL AND
JUNGLE BOOK HIKE
DECEMBER 29, 1994**

We called everyone on our lists again and got a group of seven together to go line walking (not dancing) with Ross Cardwell. Ross marks property lines for a living. This day he was going in to check the lines on some property in Scott's Gulf near High Rock. The property line looks like a whale, so we christened the hike the "Whale Trail" or "Jonah's Jog." On the hike were Ross and his dog, Jack, Bonnie Greene, Tom Kelly, Tom's friend Nancy Stone, Gwen and Emily Guy, Emily's friend Joey Pratt and myself.

We hiked up thru the woods, learning that line walking is tough. Property lines in this area seldom border roads and sometimes go up cliff sides. Lucky for us there were no sheer cliffs on the Whale Trail. Ross explained how to make and read property markings. He also let us in on a few tricks to play on other line walkers, such as painting a line 20 feet up the side of a tree, leaving the next guy wondering how it was done. Next we walked a road that goes to High Rock the back way. Ross ran out of time so we lunched along the trailside and headed back. It was a pretty, 8-mile hike.

--Paul D. Miller



APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CONFERENCE

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Harpers Ferry, W.Va. 25425-0807
Telephone: (304) 535-6331
Facsimile: (304) 535-2667



September 16, 1994

Mr. Gene Curp
114 West Ridge Dr.
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Dear Mr. Curp:

Thank you for your inquiry about the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Department of Transportation's plans to build a four-lane Route 58 highway that would cross the Trail in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area in southwest Virginia. Enclosed is some additional information about Route 58 that may be of interest to you: a copy of the Jefferson National Forest's request for public input, and a tip sheet on what you can do if you are concerned about Route 58. Quite frankly, I am hoping you can help us increase public awareness of one of the most serious threats facing the Appalachian Trail today.

Two nationally renowned recreational and natural resources will be changed forever if the highway is built: The 2,155-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the 120,000-acre Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. Mt. Rogers is one of fourteen national recreation areas in the country and home to the two highest peaks in the state, three wilderness areas, superb hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and hiking opportunities, and many rare and endangered species. This new highway will decimate one of the most beautiful and remote sections of the Appalachian Trail and split the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area in half—without producing any significant social or economic benefit, in our view.

While we are not optimistic at this point about the responsiveness of state transportation officials, we do believe that the involved federal agencies will carefully analyze issues raised by the public. In fact, the Forest Service recently asked for public input on this issue. People who are concerned about this project should write, before October 30, to:

Ms. Joy Berg, Forest Supervisor
Jefferson National Forest
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, Va. 24019-3050

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this significant threat to the natural and recreational values of the Appalachian Trail and the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. Thank you for your interest in the Appalachian Trail.

Sincerely,

Don Owen
Resource Management Coordinator

p.s. The September/October issue of the *Appalachian Trailway News* contains an excellent story about Route 58. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

Margaret C. Drummond <i>Chair</i>	Arthur P. Foley <i>Treasurer</i>	<i>New England Region</i> Douglas Christie	<i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i> David N. Barr	<i>Southern Region</i> David K. Dirlam	David N. Startzell <i>Executive Director</i>
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		Christine Wolfe	M. Virginia Musser	Paul R. Worsham	

A Volunteer Nonprofit Corporation Responsible for Management and Protection of the Appalachian Trail • Founded in 1925

Note from the Editor: Gene Curp forwarded this letter to me for the newsletter. I called and spoke with Don Owen on Jan. 17 and he said it is not too late to write or call about this issue. The Forest Service has received over 1,000 responses to date--almost entirely opposed to the plan. It would be great if they received another 300-400 responses from TTA members. Don't procrastinate--write a letter!

--Arleen Barnett

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Unless you have a lifetime membership in TTA, your membership expires on January 1 of each year. All TTA memberships are based on the calendar year and not 1 year from the month you join. Please register me as a member for the calendar year 1995 (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: Membership Director
Tennessee Trails Assoc.
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ PLEASE LIST ME WITH THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER:

- CLARKSVILLE EAST TENN. CUMBERLAND MTN MEMPHIS
- MURFREESBORO NASHVILLE UPPER CUMBERLAND AT LARGE

All newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Mail to Arleen Barnett, Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 41446, Nashville, TN 37204

TTA 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.

1995 TTA LEADERS

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- VICE PRESIDENT: Jim Johnson (615) 356-6246
- CORRES. SEC/TREAS: Judy Van Cleve (615) 473-8136
- SECRETARY: Evelyn Tretter (615) 859-0566
- BOARD REP: Heloise Shilstat (615)896-6278
- BOARD REP: Bertha Chrietzberg (615) 896-1146
- BOARD REP: Bessie Daniel (615) 647-4837
- MEMBERSHIP: Ninez Giles (615) 297-2281
- CUMBERLAND TRAIL: Bob Brown (615) 352-7474
- ADOPT-A-TRAIL: Jerri Bull (901) 363-4408
- CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: J.R. Tate, Chair (615) 326-5453
- CUMBERLAND MTN.: Marvin Shanks (615) 879-9765
- EAST TENNESSEE: Harold Draper (615) 689-7757
- MEMPHIS CHAPTER: Debbie Gilbert (901) 454-0613
- MURFREESBORO CHAPTER: David Dill (615) 273-2707
- NASHVILLE CHAPTER: Jim Poteet (615) 377-4777
- UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER: Paul D. Miller(615) 526-9259

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Come Hike With Us!
P. O. Box 41446
Nashville, TN 37204

