

THE CUMBERLAND TRAILHEAD

The Voice of the Friends of the Trails

Winter 2022

Cumberland County, TN

Change Is in the Air for Friends of the Trails

Submitted by John Conrad

As the Friends of the Trails (FOTT) makes progress designing and constructing the Crossville Greenway, some changes to our organization are needed. For the past few years, FOTT has operated with a seven-member Board of Directors overseeing all activities with just one committee: The Hiking Marathon Committee. This organization has worked well, but the emphasis of our organization is changing from just building natural trails around the city to assisting with the conversion of narrow natural trails to wide hard-surface trails suitable for all users; hikers, dog-walkers, bikers, moms with strollers, skateboarders, etc. This will require more work in planning trails, negotiating with property owners and assisting with finding funding sources.

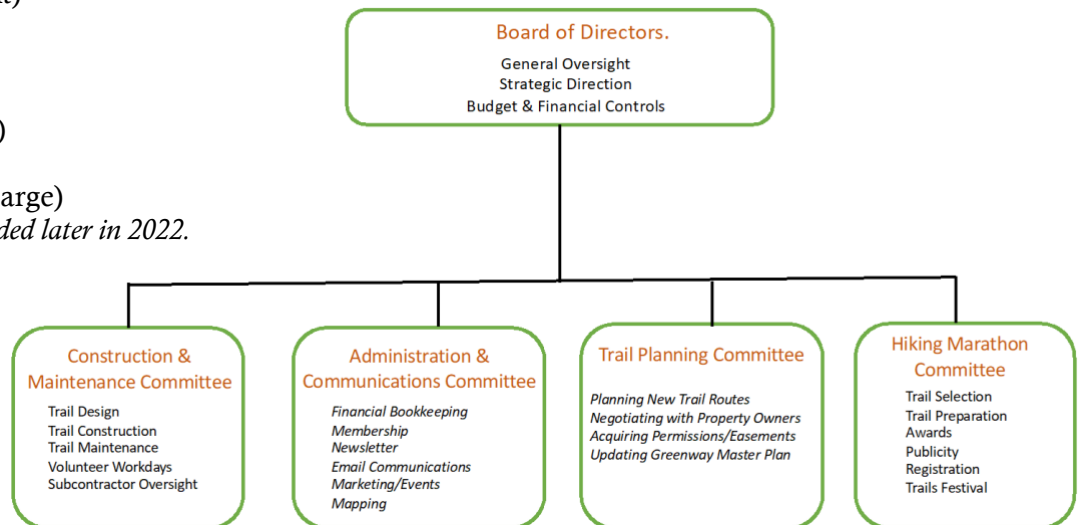
To address these issues, we are expanding the Board of Directors from seven to nine members and creating three more committees to address our main activities. These are shown in organization chart below.

2022 FOTT Board

John Conrad (President)
 Ethan Hadley (Vice-president)
 Valerie Hale (Treasurer)
 Mary deWolf (Secretary)
 Levonn Hubbard (At Large)
 Beth Wyatt-Davis (At Large)
 Ethan Medley (At Large)
 Ranger Mark Houston (At Large)

A fifth At Large member will be added later in 2022.

2022 FOTT Responsibilities



Trail Planning Committee

Brock Hill
 Cosby Stone
 Mark Richie
 Andrew Ingram
 John Conrad

We hope to add one or two more members later in the year.

The new **Construction and Maintenance Committee** under Brenda Gibbon's leadership will recruit members as more work sessions are scheduled.

The **Administration & Communications Committee** has yet to defined.

A Word from the Construction & Maintenance Committee

Submitted by Brenda & Steve Gibbon, Trail Construction & Maintenance

We began working with the FOTT just after the 2020 marathon. Our first work session happened at the Little Obed River Trail connected to the Woodlawn Loop Trail. It was a great opportunity to see the magic behind the new trails popping up around Crossville. Other volunteer opportunities came in the form of bushwhacking and scouting out trails with John Conrad and other FOTT members. Now, we are hooked!

Recently, Steve and I agreed to take on additional responsibilities presented when the new Trail Construction and Maintenance Committee was created. Our job is to coordinate with the great team of trail workers for new work sessions and trail maintenance.

Our current focus is on the first phase of the Habitat Trail in the Dewey Drive and Fuller Drive area of Crossville. The trail, when fully complete, will be ready to connect with the proposed Crossville Greenway. The excavation for the west side of the trail section is scheduled to begin at the end of January. When the full trail is complete, it will be another beautiful hike along the Little Obed River.

Steve and I plan to organize regular work sessions on the trails in Crossville. If you would like to be invited to these work sessions, please send me an email at fott.tcm@gmail.com



Left: Al Mellot and Gary VanDeCarr work to set a bridge on the Little Obed River Trail.



Right: Gary VanDeCarr clears a snag along the new Habitat Trail in Crossville.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

*Weather permitting, the first FOTT trail work session of 2022 will be on Saturday, January 22.
The crew will begin clearing the way for excavation work along the new Habitat Trail.
Watch your email for the formal announcement.*

TTA PLATEAU CHAPTER JOINS CROSSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Submitted by Norm Brinsley

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a parade for Santa to show and make merry. To that end, 20 members of the Plateau Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association joined a seemingly unending stream of people, vehicles, and horse-drawn conveyances marching from the Cumberland County High School to Main Street. The chapter's participation was organized by its energetic and creative member Carla Devine. Back in October, Carla proposed participating in the event and with the membership's agreement, she set to work building props, coordinating participation, and attending to all the administrative details. At the parade, the chapter's participants were led by long-time members Bill Harris and Cheryl Heckler who carried the banner depicting hikers seeking new trails.

As the group began organizing and prepping their nature's wonderland displays of trees, animals, and snowflakes, they were joined by the ever-elusive Abominable Snowman, who in the Christmas spirit, offered greetings and goodwill to all. The Abominable Snowman, better known as Deb Westervelt, is the



Bill Harris and Cheryl Heckler hold the banner that will lead 20 members of the Plateau Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association along the parade route through downtown Crossville.



Deb Westervelt suits up as the Abominable Snowman ahead of the Crossville Christmas Parade in December.

chapter's Hike Coordinator and was this year's winner of the Tennessee Trails Association's Bill Stutz Award for "outstanding contributions, and leadership in helping the TTA accomplish its statewide mission."

While the group waited patiently in the typical December cold, members exchanged stories of hikes where severity of the weather exceeded that on parade day. Although some people huddled down to minimize the effect of the wind, others stood steadfast and simply braced for the next blast of wind. With symbolic displays in hand and treats to be dispensed during the procession, participants stayed the course, tapped toes to keep warm, and at all times kept their Christmas spirit. At the end of the journey, there was laughter, well-wishes, and a promise to make an even better showing next year.

With that, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from the Plateau Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association.

EXTENSION OF OVERLOOK TRAIL PROGRESSES IN FAIRFIELD GLADE

Submitted by Mark Richie

Top right: New volunteer, Bill Hunt, grooms out a rare stretch of mineral soil on the first switchback on the new Overlook Upstream Loop. Bill, a long-time hiker, and his wife recently moved to the Glade where he immediately volunteered for the trail crew. Good to have you, Bill.

Bottom right: Daunting is an understatement. Work on the new Overlook Upstream Loop began in early November 2021. The nearly half-mile addition traverses several rocky stretches that will require puzzling flat rocks into the trail or positioning large slabs as pavers. Longtime volunteer Joe Lucas holds a rock bar that makes that work possible. Behind, Frank Harkins, Doug Turner, and Jerry Brown turn a jumble of rocks into a trail.

Bottom left: Puzzling the trail. The day started out at 37 degrees and 14 volunteers arrived to work the Upstream Loop of the Overlook Trail. Here is an example of the slow going to remove and reposition rocks into the trail. Small sledgehammers are used to make a bed of crushed rock to support the larger slabs. To complete this sixty-foot section required about 70 hours of labor. The new loop is expected to be complete for a Marathon. Not certain what year that will be. The payoff will be views of two spectacular sheer cliffs along the way, plus over a half-mile walk along Daddy's Creek.



Get out and Hike!

Join us each Tuesday morning for a guided hike on one of our many hiking trails.



Every Tuesday at 9am
Weather Permitting

Meet us at 9am at the 4-Way Stop for a quick briefing on the day's hike by the hike leader. We will then carpool to the trailhead. Each week we will hike a different Fairfield Glade trail (roughly 2 miles, but sometimes they may be longer). Social distancing is encouraged. Visit <https://gladetrails.com> for more information about the weekly hikes.



Help others find the
Cumberland County
Hiking Marathon on
social media by including
this tag in all your posts.

#cchikingmarathon



Works on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

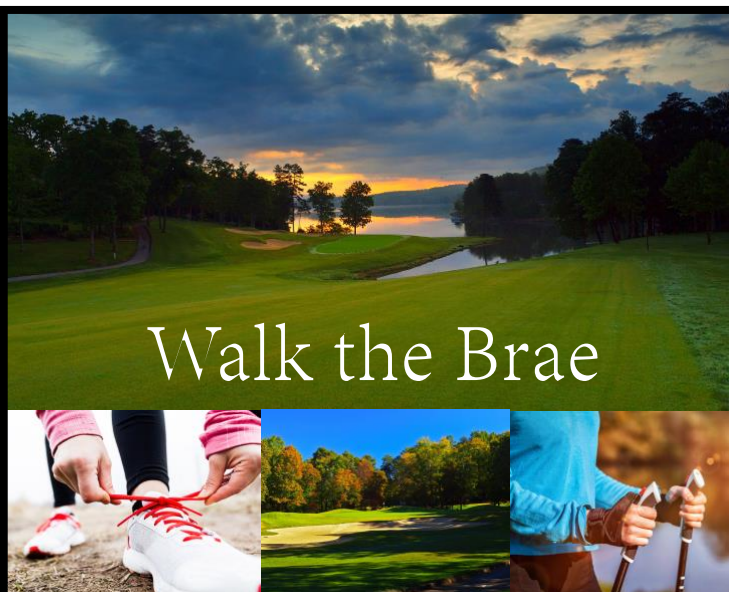
Thank you!

As of December 2021,
Amazon has donated **\$947.12**
to Friends of the Trails because you started your
Amazon order at <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Shop on!!

We want to hear from you!

If you have something to share
with FOTT members
in a future issue of
THE CUMBERLAND TRAILHEAD,
please email your submission to
Michelle Bayless, editor, at
dreaminofobx@gmail.com



Walk the Brae



Thursday Morning Walks in Fairfield Glade

We will be offering a group walk along the cart paths at Heatherhurst Golf Club every Thursday morning starting Nov 4th, and continuing during the winter months of December, January and February, while the Brae golf course is closed. (The Heatherhurst Golf Club is on Stonehenge Drive about two miles north of Peavine.)

We will meet on the front porch of the Clubhouse at 8:45am for a prompt 9am departure each Thursday. Please park in the lower parking lot on the right as you turn in to the golf club. A guide will be there to welcome you and will lead the walk around the front or back nine holes for a distance of about 2.5 miles.

No reservations are needed and it is a FREE event that is open to everyone. Bring your friends. This is a great opportunity to meet people and stay in shape during the winter.

