



# TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

P.O. BOX 4913  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING November 18, 1978

The meeting was held at the Resource Manager's Office at Cordell Hull Lake. The following were present:

Jim Dahl  
Mike Casad  
Harry Williamson  
Bill Hager  
Evelyn Tretter  
Betty Smith  
Dot Lingerfelt  
Bessie Shelton  
Bob Brown  
Grimes Slaughter  
Ruth Slusher

Stan Gorin  
Mike Dahl  
Russell Fryer  
Russell Jarrell  
Dave Stidham  
Elizabeth Cade  
Margaret Mann  
John Brown  
Bill Stutz  
Evan Means

Board members  
not present:

Don Todd  
Gordon Newland  
Dave Rhyne

The president, Grimes Slaughter, outlined some of the TTA activities of the past year:

1. The association had opposed the building of a prison at the entrance to Frozen Head Natural Area. Grimes Slaughter and Don Todd had been active in this matter.
2. Jack Neff had very actively represented TTA on a committee to help formulate shore management policy at Cordell Hull Lake.
3. The association had been instrumental in reaching an informal verbal agreement with Stearns Coal and Lumber Co. to get a trail easement connecting Daniel Boone National Forest to Pickett State Park and Forest.
4. Bob Brown had headed an effort to prevent a radar tower being placed on Black Mountain. This matter was still pending.
5. A letter had been written supporting state protection for Indian Town Bluff, and urging further development of the Chickasaw Bluffs Trail.
6. The Association had participated in the dedication hike of Piney River Pocket Wilderness trail opened by Bowaters Paper Co., with a huge turnout of hikers.
7. The association had pushed for the successful acquirement by the state of the Harriman and Northeastern railroad abandoned right-of-way for the John Muir Trail.

Objective: To promote, construct, and maintain a state-wide system of hiking trails, and to work for the conservation of natural resources inherent to this objective.

Sponsor for the Cumberland Trail

8. Grimes Slaughter, Ruth Slusher and others had attended a public hearing in Morgan County to support enforcement of strip mining laws in the vicinity. On this occasion, Grimes Slaughter was pushed around considerably by irate miners.

The following officers were elected for 1979: Joe Gaines, president; Russell Fryer, vice president; Dot Lingerfelt, corresponding secretary and treasurer; Evelyn Tretter, recording secretary.

Evan Means was elected to the board of directors to replace Gordon Newland, whose term was expiring. Other board members are Dave Stidham, chairman of the Nashville chapter; Grimes Slaughter immediate past president; Bill Stutz; Don Todd.

The outgoing president suggested that a proposal to adopt a trail classification system be resumed.

A tentative schedule of hikes for 1979 was made up. The final list will be published in the January newsletter activities

Dave Stidham reported on ~~activities~~ by the Hashville Chapter. Some were:

1. A telegram had been sent to the federal senators supporting the Alaska Coalition effort.
2. The chapter had joined the effort to keep a radar tower off Black Mountain, and to seek state protection for Indian Town Bluff and push the Chickasaw Bluff Trail.
3. The chapter had contributed \$15.00 to the Solar Coalition for Sun Day.

A suggestion by the Nashville Chapter to give a bar to be worn with the TTA patch for trail work was adopted by motion.

Harry Williamson, state trails administrator, reported on the Trail of Tears, the South Cumberland Recreation Area, the Cumberland Trail and other matters. The Young Adult Conservation Corps had worked on the north segment of the Cumberland Trail. Acquirement of easements had been the main job during the year, with some new trail cut. Some sections along Walden Ridge had been difficult areas to acquire easements and an effort to establish rapport with the public would be made before pushing forward.

The Trail of Tears, an automobile route with side hikes, is ready for use. Interim brochures were about ready. Signs had been erected for trails at Cumberland Caverns and at Pilot Knob in Rutherford County. The Trail of Tears was about to become the first trail to be completed under the state scenic trails act.

In the South Cumberland Area, the CETA crew was about to be immobilized due to lack of further government funding. The Youth Conservation Corps was being utilized and two new campsites had been completed. A trail map of the whole system was at the printers.

Mr. Williamson said that maintenance in some parks had fallen down, and that there is hope that the ~~state~~ division will soon have its own maintenance system.

He reported that Bone Cave and Big Hill Pond are being developed by the state.

An administrator had been acquired to push trail work in West Tennessee. YCC is available.

The abandoned railroad in Morgan County will have trestles restored in the near future and bike and horse trails will be established on it.

Mike Dahl reported on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. Seventeen to twenty miles had been opened on Nov. 1, 1978. Twelve to fourteen more miles were usable. The north portion Virginia line to Highway 25, should be ready for grand opening by July. The YCC had built three campsites. The trail is not quite ready for backpacking. 92% of easement agreements have been obtained. A unique public relations program has been carried out in releases to area newspapers. The many small communities in the long corridor are considered as one long community in these releases. Feature stories about people and places along the trail have done much to improve the public attitude. Mr. Dahl expressed the hope that the trail would be continued 30 miles into Virginia.

Mr. Dahl suggested that TTA's role in regard to this trail could be in maintaining it. He hopes to organize a TLP conference, open only to TTA members.

Bob Brown said that Boy Scout troops had done a great deal of work on the Cumberland Trail and could be utilized again.

Mr. Dahl announced that cross country skiing will soon be available at Roan Mountain State Park on an experimental basis. Rental equipment will be available. Three trails are being opened.

Mr. Dahl stated that an attractive and historic statue of Nancy Ward had been located and would be acquired for a museum along the Trail of Tears.

Evan Means reported that an avid interest in hiking trails is developing in the Memphis area, and that a membership drive should be conducted there.

Mr. Means stated that the final draft of his book on trails in Tennessee is being typed. TTA members have contributed to the book, and Mr. Means has assigned royalties to the association.

Mr. Means also reported that the Southeastern Trails Conference that had been held in September at Cumberland Falls State Park in Kentucky had been disappointing as to attendance. Only about 80 people had registered. Promotion had not been adequate.

After adjournment of the meeting, members of the group hiked to the lake on a portion of the Bearwallow Trail and rode boats back to the dam, courtesy of the Corps of Engineers.

Evelyn Tretter, Recording Secretary