



TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

P.O. BOX 4913
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING October 23-24, 1981

The meeting was held at Camp Cumberland (Methodist camp), Crossville. About 40 people attended. Friday night was devoted to show and tell and board meeting.

Saturday morning Terry Bonham, state trails administrator, reported on the state of trails in the state. Among other comments, he said:

Landowners need to be protected from liability. They get a paper but it has not been tested in court.

Legislation for conservation easements was passed, but it is still more viable to get standard trail leases.

Many cutbacks have been made in Conservation. For example, there is now no one to survey.

There is a more rational attitude with state officials but the public is apathetic. Mr. Bonham solicited help of TTA: Let legislators know views.

Trail of the Lonesome Pine: Three tracts keeping it from being completed. No surveyor is available (Department of Transportation may furnish surveyor.)

New administrator for TLP is Jim Greenway.

Thirteen acres have just been purchased. There is a cooperative agreement with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club to maintain 12 miles.

Work is progressing on the Cumberland Trail, but slowly. Bonham recommends establishing local chapters where trails are being built, especially in East Tennessee.

South Cumberland Recreation Area: There is a full-time, full-force crew. Collins River Bluff loop trail soon to be finished.

West Tennessee: Big Hill Pond observation walks and platforms have been built, and nature trail and boardwalk at Pinson Mounds. Goal is to revive and build Chickasaw Bluffs Trail. It has had zero funding the last few years.

Overmountain Victory Trail: Shut down at present - politics entered picture.

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

John Muir Trail: Assured of becoming reality. Enough funds have been acquired from the shutdown of another project to build from Rugby to Frozen Head.

Walter Mayer, U.S. National Park Service ranger, gave the keynote address. He showed slides of the Big South Fork (where work has slowed down) and discussed the Obed Wild and Scenic River.

The president, Mrs. Chrietzberg, gave a report. She said there are now chapters at Nashville, Murfreesboro and Memphis and one will soon be organized at Jamestown. The Murfreesboro Chapter is building the Twin Forks Trail on Stones River, Nashville Chapter the Long Hunter Trail at Percy Priest Lake. The president reported on a meeting with Jeannette Fitzwilliams, new president of the National Trails Council. Ms. Fitzwilliams recommends "self-help" in getting trails on the ground, getting a chairman of volunteers in the Department of Conservation to coordinate and seek volunteers, and forming a statewide trails advisory council. Mrs. Chrietzberg said TTA will assist at the Land Between the Lakes Hike Day on Nov. 7.

Goals for the immediate future are to support the Cumberland Trail, form a state trails advisory council, and send a position paper to the governor on trails in his Safe Growth Plan.

Diane Davidson explained the Adopt-A-Trail project. Joe Gaines suggested that volunteers be solicited at the upcoming Intergroup Conference.

Sharen Patterson said there is a dire need for new chapters at Roan Mountain, Chattanooga and Oak Ridge, among other places.

Chapter reports: Jill Norvell said the new Memphis chapter has sponsored four hikes. Diane Davidson reported that the Nashville Chapter had held a trails construction workshop, with Dave Rhyne and Bob Richards as instructors, and had hosted the visit to Nashville of Ms. Fitzwilliams, and had built a part of the Long Hunter Trail, with more planned. Betty Smith showed slides of Long Hunter construction and of the first TTA hike on it. Reggie Reeves, Long Hunter Park superintendent, said there will be a paved trail at Couchville Lake in the park for handicapped. Ms. Smith said a hike for the handicapped will be planned by the Nashville Chapter.

Mrs. Chrietzberg presented the annual TTA Award to Bowaters Southern Paper Company and Hiwassee Land Company (affiliates), with the "Bill Stutz Boot" going to Dave Rhyne, Bowaters employee and TTA member who has headed Bowaters Pocket Wilderness Trails construction. Clarence Streetman accepted for Bowaters and Hiwassee.

Sam Powell, who was not present to receive his TTA Award in 1980, was recognized. Having headed construction of a portion of the South Cumberland Trail, Powell gave some suggestions on how to get volunteers: "Go to District Council Boy Scouts Round Table, give CT patch to workers, get on TV and radio and in the papers, have tools ready." He said that 350 boys were trained one weekend in trails construction. He suggested advertising at public outdoor functions such as hawk watch, etc.

Dave Stidham read proposed changes in constitution and by-laws. With one or two changes, they were adopted. Major items concerned honorary memberships and lowering requirements for forming chapters from ten to five members. Other items were rearrangement and some changes in wording. Copy of corrected Constitution and Bylaws attached to minutes.

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A motion was passed to have the association sell TTA license plates as a co-project with River Conservancy. The board will decide whether to retain a profit and how to sell.

Andra Fuson, membership chairman, said she will declare December 1981 Membership Month, and asked that each member try to enroll five new members.

A motion was passed to take a proposal to the upcoming Intergroup Conference to have a joint annual meeting in 1982 with the conference.

^{+ the N.T. Council} ~~that TTA~~ ^{Shane Cyh. B. 1} Evan Means said there is a chance ~~that TTA~~ can have an exhibit at the World's Fair in Knoxville in 1982, ~~if can get a business sponsor.~~

A motion was passed to have TTA take the lead in forming a statewide trails advisory council as proposed by Ms. Fitzwilliams.

Saturday evening two workshops were held, first aid, led by Bertha Chrietzberg, and construction of the Cumberland Trail, led by Dave Stidham. Mr. Stidham is chairman of the CT. Two sub-committee chairmen were appointed, Bob Brown and Sam Powell.

Evelyn Tretter
Recording Secretary

~~6/1/82~~

See corrections - at end of
1-22-82 Board meeting minutes