



TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

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CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 15-17, 1982

The meeting was held at Lakeshore Assembly, Eva, Tennessee, (Methodist camp).

Welcome by President Dave Stidham was followed by welcome to West Tennessee by Jill Norvell, president of the Memphis Chapter, who hosted the meeting. She showed slides featuring highlights of the area.

The president said one purpose of the meeting was to discuss further the forming of a Tennessee Trails Advisory Council. Jay Miller and Jack Johnson of the Arkansas Trails Council spoke on the operation of that council.

Mr. Miller, executive secretary of the Arkansas council, said Arkansas does not have long trails due to the lack of land and that Tennessee has an advantage in that regard. He said he wonders if a Tennessee council is needed, since TTA serves most of the functions. He said the key is having people to hike the trails, maintain them, support the association and its purpose.

He said the Arkansas council was formed in 1973 to advise the governor. It is made up of volunteers, interested people from agencies, organizations and individuals. They get support from user organizations. People who use the trails get together with people who maintain the trails to discuss issues of what is happening, correcting problems, etc. The Arkansas council publishes a trail guide, with donated time and money.

Mr. Miller said he is the only full-time person working on trails. He is paid by the state, is planner and trails supervisor for eight state parks.

The Arkansas Trails Council authorizes the formal opening of a trail. It must be ready for use and in good shape, be safe and have a map available for the public.

Industry (especially lumber companies) are supportive, donate funds and are on the council. They donate 10-foot wide easements. Much could be done if had more state support, Mr. Miller said. The Corps of Engineers is one of their main supporters.

Jack Johnson represents the Corps of Engineers. He described the Corps program in Arkansas, which is similar to that in Tennessee. There are 26 trails on Corps land in Arkansas.

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

Business Meeting

Officers were elected as follows, with no nominations from the floor: president, David Stidham, vice president, Bertha Chrietzberg, recording secretary, Evelyn Tretter, corresponding secretary and treasurer, Dot Lingerfelt, director, Grimes Slaughter.

David Stidham said TTA had sent alternate recommendations to the governor on his Safe Growth Plan. *These recommendations were drawn up by Bertha Chrietzberg.*

The president reminded the group that car pool coordinators are listed in the newsletter for each chapter location. Those interested in getting rides or riders to hikes and other activities should call these people.

He said a cooperative maintenance agreement has been signed with the state to maintain the portion of the Cumberland Trail from Cove Lake State Park to Oliver Springs.

TTA is supporting a bicycle trail following the Trail of Tears, it was announced.

The president announced the following other action taken by the association: supporting member of the Cherokee National Forest citizens group; supported legislation on use of volunteers on public land; opposed hunting in Frozen Head with dogs; opposed running trains on O&W track in Big South Fork National Recreation Area (supported proposal for rubber-tired vehicles for tourists); opposed oil exploration in wilderness areas.

The president said the association is still pursuing the matter of the Department of Conservation furnishing an office for use of TTA for soliciting volunteers.

He said a family membership, for additional members of a family already in the association, has been approved, dues to be \$2.00.

During the past year, he stated, the Cumberland Mountain Chapter has been established. TTA is now providing an activity almost every weekend, with long and short outings to serve everyone. The association is growing, now has 345 members.

Diane Davidson, Adopt-A-Trail chairman, said 15 trails have been adopted by 12 individuals. A trail manual has been provided for them.

Chapter Reports

Memphis: Jill Novell reported the chapter has 88 members, has hikes once a month, publishes an outing booklet, is selling tee shirts, has adopted the Chickasaw Bluff Trail.

Murfreesboro: Has adopted Twin Forks Trail (joint effort with horseback riders), 22 miles along Stones River; sponsored canoe trips, bicycle trips, speakers, potlucks, equipment presentations, workshops on edible plants, slide shows of wildflowers, etc., trail maintenance workshops, backpacking trips, worked on Long Hunter Trail.

Cumberland Mountain: Has 36 members, membership drive taking place, meets bi-monthly, sponsored various hikes, hosted Nashville Chapter at Pickett State Park, have educational type programs, had short course in white water instruction, adopted the Sergeant York section of the John Muir Trail. The chapter had three fund-raising projects popcorn sell, a dance and sold food at Bluegrass Festival, made \$600. Use funds for postage and hope to invest in a slide projector.

Nashville: Sponsored various hikes, educational programs, potluck dinners. Supported citizens group in Cherokee National Forest controversy.

TTA Award

The annual TTA Award was presented to Don Todd, a plaque and the "Trailblazer Award," a gag award with trophy made by the late Bill Stutz, a TTA director and pioneer, from his own hiking boot.

It was pointed out that Mr. Todd attended the first meeting to established TTA in 1970. He came up with the idea of the Cumberland Trail and worked closely with it. He was president of TTA from 1970 to 1972. He is an authority on wild flowers and leads annual spring hikes at Frozen Head. Mr. Todd is a strong supporter of conservation ideals and active in several organizations supporting them. He lives in Wartburg. *No. See correction, minutes, Feb. 26, 1983.*

Report by State Trails Administrator

Terry Bohham, state trails administrator, reported on the state of trails as follows:

Trail of Lonesome Pine: Completed 45 miles. Maintenance of first 12 miles taken care of for one year. Official opening is planned for April 1983. Maps are in process of being made.

John Muir! Funding available for section York Mill to Pickett State Forest, but no personnel to accomplish this. Some land ownership problems are holding back the process. The state is looking to TTA for volunteer work. State will provide everything but manpower.

Savage Gulf, South Rim: Officially opened. Plans are to have all 65 miles completed by June 1983.

Cardwell Mountain, Trail of Tears: Being finished up. Needs use on it now. Five miles round trip.

Big Hill Pond, Pinson Mounds: Materials on site for trail construction.

Bicycle Routes on Abandoned Train Right-of-way: The state is looking at L&N and Tennessee Central abandoned tracks. Needs support with letters to commissioner.

Cumberland Trail: A CT ranger will have an office in Cove Lake State Park.

Miscellaneous: The state is looking into using prison labor for work on the trail system, with 6-man labor crews. The Department of Conservation would have to provide transportation and supervision.

The state is looking at the state park comprehensive trails program to see how state park trails can be tied in with scenic trails, to see if there are trails that are not used, to try to get the trails in better condition. Eight park trails are expected to be finished in the upcoming year.

Roan Mountain State Park will have skis for rent and will have skiing lessons.

Cumberland Trail Committee

A committee has been set up to get the trail immediately south of I-40 built. They will deal with route selection, find out land ownership, etc. This section should be completed by 1985.

Advisory Trails Council

The following people met to discuss an advisory trails council for Tennessee: Joe Gaines, Bertha Chrietzberg, David Rhyne, Butch Turner, Polly Wiley, Terry Chilcoat, Dave Stidham and Joe McCaleb.

Bertha Chrietzberg said the proposed council would have one or two members from all user groups, walkers, bicyclists, horsemen, canoeists, off-road vehicle users, etc., to join together to know what is happening in their particular area of interest. The parent group could inform the people of what is happening in the state. She said private groups, TTA, Sierra Club, Motorcycle Club, would carry the ball for the organization, taking the leadership.

Joe Gaines said a decision needs to be made as to what a trails council should be. He said it would be useful in getting trails issues into government.

David Rhyne suggested that only representatives of user groups should be voting members. This suggestion was opposed by Joe McCaleb, who thought it was too restrictive.

Butch Turner, representing the Memphis Motorcycle Club, said his group is interested in camping, weight, space problems, etc. He said it upsets a motorcyclist to have an area closed to him that was once open. They do not like to be called ORV's. They have problems with 4-wheel drives, etc. Each year there are less areas open to cyclists. They have a bad image and it is hard to live with. The cyclists want hikers to know they have problems also. He thinks an advisory council would resolve conflicts between different user groups and feels that a council would be good to break down these communication barriers.

David Rhyne said an advisory council would be a place where industry could sit in and know more about the interests of the people. Industry would be kept informed of long-range plans for trails, so if it was proposed for trails to cross their property, they could be prepared for it.

Goals and objectives were listed as follows:

Decide how to get organized.
Need for recognition of all the different user groups.
Funding.
Keep it a simple organization. Information-communications group, members to gather information and take it back to their organizations.
Consider name "advisory." This can be misleading. How much advising would go on?
Conflict resolution.
Trails safety and ethics.
Getting together on various issues.
Publication of some sort, even on a 4 or 5 year basis.
Have private sector get it started, then draw in agencies.
TTA planned to be an umbrella organization, but lacks diversity.
Committee within TTA to get together and try to set up an organization meeting.

Jay Miller of the Arkansas Trails Advisory Council invited TTA to come to observe and meet with his organization.

Workshops

Workshops were held on trail maintenance, first aid, food, map and compass use and trail ethics.

Evelyn Tretter, Recording Secretary

NOTE: Registration, a short hike and potluck dinner and show and tell were held on Friday evening, and a hike on Sunday.