



TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

P.O. BOX 4913

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 14-16, 1983

The meeting was held at Pickett State Park, hosted by the Cumberland Mountain Chapter.

After a potluck supper on Friday evening, mini-presentations were made by Dave Stidham on old mills; by Warren Dixon on his backpacking hike into the Grand Canyon; and by Bob Daum on the Big South Fork National Park. All illustrated their programs with slides. The fourth quarterly board meeting was held.

The annual business meeting was held on Saturday morning. A welcome by the president, Dave Stidham, and the chairman of the Cumberland Mountain Chapter, Steve Burke, was followed by a program by Bobby Fulcher of the Department of Conservation, on the culture of the north Cumberland Plateau.

Officers for 1984 were elected as follows: president, Evan Means; vice president, Bertha Chrietberg; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Dot Lingerfelt; recording secretary, Evelyn Tretter; director for three-year term beginning January 1984, Howard Ray Duncan (replacing Sharen Patterson Bracy, whose term will expire at the end of 1983).

Chapter Reports

Cumberland Mountain (George Minnigh)--The chapter has had a 30 percent increase in membership during the year, helped by having outdoor, fun meetings. The chapter was instrumental in getting state ownership for Northrup Falls Natural Area.

Memphis (Bob Barnette)--The chapter is helping to build a trail on a 60-acre natural area in Memphis city limits. The chapter has been successful in getting TTA and the Memphis Chapter listed at the Memphis public libraries.

Chattanooga (Dot Lingerfelt)--The chapter was formed this year and has 28 members. They have had several work parties on the Cumberland Trail.

Nashville (Vic Canada)--The chapter worked on increasing membership, and had an exhibit at the Outdoor Show of the South. Also chapter members manned the TTA booth at the TVA barge when it was in Nashville.

Murfreesboro (Arthur Yates)--Good reponse was reported to all activities. The chapter publishes its own monthly newsletter. Rutherford County executive attended one chapter dinner, offered county support. The chapter has adopted the Twin Forks Trail. Two miles are complete, Walter Hill to Coleman Bluff. The chapter will sponsor a public hike last Sunday in October on the trail. They have constructed a 35-foot bridge, mostly with manual labor, and will have a swinging bridge (32 feet) on the next section. The total length of the trail will be 22 miles, with one shelter.

Statewide Report

The president reported that the board of directors has pushed forming chapters, and also promoted the Adopt-a-Trail program, placing the responsibility on the chapters. The board sponsored the exhibit at the TVA barge in Nashville, which was open nearly full-time during the barge's five-day stay. The association maintains a section of the Cumberland Trail, and is active in mapping route and constructing other sections.

Report on Cumberland Trail

The Cumberland Trail chairman, Dave Stidham, said that proceeds from the auction to be held that night would go to help replace bridges on the south end of the CT washed out in flood.

Section heads for the trail are as follows: Signal Point north to Highway 127, Sam Powell; Highway 127 to point halfway to Pikeville, Bob Wagner; from this point on to Pikeville, Gene Curp; Pikeville to Stinging Fork Creek, Dave Rhyne; Stinging Fork Creek to I-40, Bob Brown. TTA is in charge of routing and building all this trail south of I-40.

North of I-40, the state is building the trail. One section, from Cove Lake State Park north to Oliver Springs, is being maintained by TTA under a cooperative agreement with the state. Grimes Slaughter is TTA leader to do this maintenance.

All the above people need volunteer help, Stidham said. He reported that Sam Powell is in charge of replacing the bridges which were washed out; Gene Curp is flagging the route on his section and has had good cooperation from Bowaters Paper Company's president and forester; Bob Brown's section is already constructed, and he is renewing contacts with property owners, marking the sections, getting all back in good shape (this section includes Grassy Cove).

Stidham reported that the board had designated the fourth Saturday in months that have five Saturdays as work days on the Cumberland Trail. Chapters will organize volunteer work. Twenty-four hours of work gets a CT patch.

Report of State Trails Administrator

Terry Bonham reported that two labor crews are working at the north end of the Cumberland Trail. The trail is nearly complete from Caryville to Cumberland Gap. Five miles of the trail are in the national park. The state has a cooperative agreement with the national park system and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in building and maintaining this section of trail.

Bonham reported that a prison crew is working between Oliver Springs and the Nemo bridge. There are landowner problems between this bridge and Crab Orchard, which are being negotiated. The governor's Safe Grown Plan mandates the completion of the whole CT by the end of 1985.

Other highlights: Two blocks of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine are still crucial, with landowner problems, but Bonham said he expects to get this wrapped up. The South Cumberland Recreation Area has 100 miles of trails officially open. Dedication took place Oct. 9. The Cardwell Mountain Trail is open and needs use. Big Hill Pond is open to the public but not finished. A statewide trails planning project will examine the needs of the trail system.

A resolution was passed as follows: "Resolved, that the Tennessee Trails Association extend thanks and appreciation to the editors of the newsletter, 'Tennessee Trails': Evan Means, who had the job for 11 years, and the present editor, David Stidham, and to recognize this position as one of hard, meticulous work, without which the association could not communicate or expand."

TTA Award

Stidham announced that Bob Brown of Nashville had been selected for the 1983 TTA Award. Brown, Evan Means and Mack Prichard got together in the fall of 1968 to talk about originating a Tennessee trails system. Brown helped organize the Tennessee Trails Association, was elected its first president in December 1968, and vice president the following year and began work on the Cumberland Trail, building the trail in Cumberland County and other sections. He went on the first exploratory hike on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine.

Brown presented a program about TTA at an Appalachian Trail Conference biannual meeting at Boone, N.C.; helped draft the Tennessee Trails System Act and organized the first state trails seminar, at which it was presented; and helped incorporate TTA. He has administered the funds from life memberships and the Means book, "Tennessee Trails." At present he is a section head for part of the Cumberland Trail.

New Award. Stidham announced that the board had voted to establish a new award for one TTA member each year, guidelines to be announced. The action would be subject to approval of the membership.

Saturday evening's auction of donated items produced about \$300, with Dave Stidham as able auctioneer. Door prizes were distributed. Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon and Sunday were devoted to hikes.

Evelyn Tretter, Recording Secretary

1985 annual
meeting to
make official.
E. Tretter