



TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

P.O. BOX 4913
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 20, 1984

The meeting was held at Beersheba Springs, hosted by the Murfreesboro Chapter.

After a potluck supper on Friday evening, Mack Prichard showed slides and talked about the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

The fourth quarter board meeting was held.

On Saturday morning, John Christof, superintendent of South Cumberland State Recreation Area, made a short welcoming talk. The director of the Association of Interpretive Naturalists, meeting jointly with TTA, made a short talk. Randy Hedgepath, ranger-naturalist of SCSRA, gave a program of the history of the area, with slides, including Beersheba Springs and the mountain culture and industry.

President's Report

Evan Means announced that the Southeast Trails Conference, co-sponsored by TTA and the state Department of Conservation, would be held Nov. 1-3, 1984, at Paris Landing State Park, TTA to help with TVA's Fall Hike Day on Nov. 3.

The president said he had attended meetings of most of the chapters during the year. He reported on the 7th National Trails Symposium, which he had attended, and said he had met in Nashville with federal representatives to study a trails system for the Natchez Trace Parkway.

He said the association had joined in opposing the changing of the name of the Big South Fork National Park, a successful effort. (The Kentucky senator for whom Senator Howard Baker had proposed naming it did not know of Baker's proposal until late in the fray, said he did not want it named for him and withdrew his name.) (Enlarged president's report is included in secretary's file copy of these minutes.)

State Report

Bob Richards of the state Division of Parks and Recreation reported on the trails situation. He said one section of the Cumberland Trail is open, one will be completed soon and a third has been started.

He said there have been two setbacks in the program. The Trail of the Lonesome Pine will probably be removed from the Scenic Trails list after long years of working with landowners by the state and TTA to get easements. The state threatened condemnation of one holdout absentee owner's property, who stirred up the others with misrepresentation of the facts. Richards said the Trail of the Lonesome Pine is a dead issue.

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.

The other setback was a similar action which removed the Collins River from the State Scenic Rivers.

Richards said the thrust of the state division during the coming year will be "take care of our own." Trails in the state parks will be the main push.

Chapter Reports

Memphis: Jill Norvell said the chapter is very active. She said the members hike in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama as well as Tennessee, and in the Smoky Mountains National Park, and go on the Ocoee and Buffalo Rivers.

The chapter's first annual photo contest did not draw many entries but may be held again with more advance advertising.

Ms. Norvell said the chapter had an annual picnic and Christmas party. They have a three-fold exhibit on TTA which has been placed at Mud Island and other places. The chapter also has a display at a Memphis nature center.

Murfreesboro: Bertha Chrietzberg said the chapter had had several good trips, including eight days on the Appalachian Trail. They are developing the Twin Forks Trail on Stones River, of which Arthur Yates is almost a one-man trail builder.

Nashville: Vic Canada said members had worked on both work days on the Cumberland Trail during the year.

Cumberland Mountain: Howard Ray Duncan said since the chapter hosted the annual meeting last year, there has been at least one activity a month. They hike the Big South Fork trails as they are built. They took an active part in the proposed change of name of the national park. (Success - the park will retain its name of Big South Fork.) Members helped plan for the BSF's first annual wild flower hikes. TTA members led most of the hikes.

The chapter was instrumental in getting Coldlitz Cove adopted as a state natural area, blazed trails, did tread work, put signs in parking lot and enlarged it, getting county volunteers to do free work. The chapter is selling a print of a pencil drawing of Coldlitz Falls by a local artist. The chapter held a fundraiser at Fentress County Bluegrass festival and made over \$1000 profit. This will be applied to the Coldlitz project.

The chapter helped with the fall color festival on Sgt. York Day, sponsored by the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, and helped prepare the Fentress County tour guide published recently (members wrote some of the articles) and escorted reporters.

Chattanooga: Sam Powell reported that the work on the south end of the Cumberland Trail is halfway finished after the 500-year flood, when it rained 14 inches in five hours. Five miles of trail and bridges had to be relocated. One 120' bridge was gone without a piece ever being found.

Trail of Tears

Ed Oliver of McMinnville said the federal government is making a study of the Trail of Tears in view of making it a national historic trail. He had attended a public meeting in McMinnville. The government proposes to make the trail a motor trail (as it is now, administered by the state), with short foot loops. There is already a foot trail at Cardwell Mountain at McMinnville, an authentic stop by the Cherokees when being transported to Oklahoma.

Oliver said the Savage Gulf Preservation League is seeking members. The league has dedicated a painting by Wayne Morrison of Savage Falls. The SGPL has worked to protect the Gulf and surroundings. Contact Oliver in McMinnville if interested in joining.

Cumberland Trail

Dave Stidham, state TTA CT chairman, said the association is committed to building the trail from I-40 south. "This is a tremendous job," he said. Volunteers are needed. He said a long section near Grassy Cove is finished and a dedication is in order.

Stidham said an agreement has been obtained from Bowaters Paper Company to cross a long stretch of their property. This gives a fine trail from Black Mountain to some of Bowaters' pocket wilderness trails.

Stidham said there are four months in 1985 with five Saturdays, making four 4th Saturdays (already CT work days) available for the trail. He said chapters should plan work days.

National Guard Training Base - Motion

Bertha Chrietzberg said the National Guard is planning to build a southeastern training center in Warren, Grundy, Van Buren and Bledsoe Counties, near the South Cumberland State Recreation Area and Fall Creek Falls State Park. She said the environmental organizations will have to get busy and stop it. She said the guard is willing to establish a buffer zone to help protect the parks. Mack Prichard said the local people are against it. Many would be displaced. The Guard would even have air rights and ground to air weapons, air to ground and large ground weapons. He said the army would allow more mining and lumbering.

The following motion was passed:

RESOLVED: That TTA go on record as opposing the building of a National Guard training base near Spencer, Tennessee. The president will write a letter to go to all Tennessee congressmen and senators and others, opposing implementation of the proposed training base without a full environmental impact statement, with sufficient period of time for public knowledge and input." (Full text that was sent with president's letter to congressmen, etc. is attached.)

Election of Officers

The following officers for 1985 were elected: president, Dave Stidham; vice president, Howard Ray Duncan; corresponding secretary-treasurer, Dot Lingerfelt; director to finish term of Duncan, Bertha Chrietzberg; director, Sam Powell.

Awards

The TTA Award was presented on Saturday evening to Herman Baggenstoss of Tracy City. During most of his 80-plus years, Baggenstoss has worked hard to insure the wise use of Tennessee's natural areas. He was especially prominent in the designation and preservation of the Savage Gulf Natural Area and other units making up the South Cumberland Recreation Area, and its numerous trails. His personal commitment to the Tennessee trails program is evidenced in the Fiery Gizzard Trail, which is partially routed on his own property.

The new Bill Stutz Award was presented to Evelyn Tretter of the Nashville Chapter.

Miscellaneous

Evan Means said royalties on his book, Tennessee Trails, have increased markedly since the new edition has been out. Royalties for the second half of 1983 were \$66.03, and for the first half of 1984, \$242.81. Means donates the royalties to the TTA trust fund.

Dave Stidham, editor of the TTA newsletter, said he depends on the chapters and leaders for hike information and if it does not get to him by deadline each month (20th) he will leave out the planned hike.

An auction held Saturday evening, with Stidham as auctioneer, netted more than \$200.

Herman Baggenstoss talked about his long and many times single-handed fight for conservation in Tennessee.

John Christof showed the slide program on the SCSRA that is shown to visitors at the visitor center at Tracy City.

Evelyn Tretter
RESOLUTION ~~Meeting Secretary~~

Whereas

the establishment of a National Guard training range in four counties of the Cumberland Plateau may have a severe social and environmental impact on the residents of the area involved, and

Whereas

the damage caused by tanks and other vehicles and by exploding artillery shells may extend beyond the borders of the proposed range, and

Whereas

plants and animals that may be on the endangered species list and may exist nowhere else but the Cumberland Plateau, may be destroyed,

Therefore be it resolved by the Tennessee Trails Association in its annual meeting at Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, October 20, 1984,

that no action be taken to construct any facilities on the proposed National Guard Training Range until a full environmental assessment has been completed and an environmental impact statement has been made available to the public.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tennessee Trails Association annual meeting, October 20, 1984

The Year 1984 has been one of frustration and problems with communication for this president. Because of family health problems at the end of 1983, we got off to a slow start.

Board meetings were called March 11, May 5, and August 11, but there wasn't a quorum at any of them. Those who attended got a lot of work done, as shown in Evelyn's minutes.

Early in the year we approached The state trails administrator and Terry Chilcoat about the possibility of another Southeast Trails Conference. Terry Bonham assigned Bob Richards to work with us and preparations began. TVA did the reproduction of invitations, registration forms and programs and the Dept. of Conservation did the mailing. Terry Chilcoat contacted most of the prospective speakers. The result is the Fourth Southeast Trails Conference, to be held at Paris Landing State Park Nov. 1-3. It will be a mix of field trips and indoor workshops on the theme, "Volunteers on the Trail."

The President attended a conference on Water Resource Needs in January, sponsored by TVA in Knoxville. He again represented TTA at a "constituent" conference on recreation and tourism, called by TVA Oct. 1 and 2.

I tried to attend meetings of all chapters at least once during the year, but never caught up with the Murfreesboro Chapter. I was in contact with them through the meeting of the annual meeting committee April 19 and with Arthur Yates, who is handling Fall Hike Day during the Southeast Conference. Our third quarter board meeting was held at the home of Bertha Chrietberg in Murfreesboro.

I visited the Nashville Chapter last spring, The Cumberland Mountain Chapter July 14, and the Memphis Chapter Sept. 20. I am impressed by the vigor and activity of the local chapters, particularly the Cumberland Chapter's fund-raising activities and the Colditz Cove project.

David Rhyne and I attended a board meeting of the National Trails Council in Washington, D.C. March 24 and 25, and there wasn't a quorum there either. David's term on the NTC Board expired this year and he declined another term. He was replaced by Lester DeCoster of the American Forest Institute, Washington, D. C.

TTA member Mildred Walls of Huntingdon, Terry Chilcoat and I attended the Seventh National Trails Symposium in Russellville, Arkansas, May 27-30.

Evelyn Tretter, David Stidham and I met with Eugene Bohamel, planner for the National Park Service, and John Thompson, superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway, to discuss a planning study for a trails system on the Parkway. We suggested tying the Parkway to the Tennessee River Trails System via the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Early in the year, we supported the Cumberland Chapter in opposing the proposal to change the name of the Big South Fork Area to the John Sherman Cooper National Recreation Area. It turned out that Senator Cooper asked that the legislation, which had already passed the U.S. Senate, be dropped. I'm sure our input from TTA helped with that action.

We corresponded with the new Kentucky Trails Society, which is supporting the SE Conference. It will elect permanent officers at a meeting in Frankfort Oct. 26 and 27.

A request for help in planning trails in a new park in Collierville was referred to Jill Norvell.

In addition to the above activities, the President attended the annual meetings of the Tennessee Conservation League, National Wildlife Federation and the Outdoor Writers Association of America, plus a conference on environmental research needs.

Evan Means - 10-19-84