



TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

INC.

P.O. BOX 4913
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37405

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING October 11, 1986

The annual meeting was hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter at Camp Lookout October 10, 11 and 12. Friday evening's program included a covered dish supper and a slide program about the Tennessee River Gorge at Chattanooga, "The Grand Canyon of the Tennessee," by Graham Hawks. Mr. Hawks outlined the efforts being made to preserve the beauty of the canyon by the Nature Conservancy and River Gorge Natural Area Trust.

The business meeting on Saturday morning began with a welcome by Everett Kidder, chairman of the Chattanooga Chapter.

President's Report: President David Stidham listed new developments, including the new format and size of the newsletter under editor Dot Fowler; the dedication of the Black Mountain-Brady Mountain section of the Cumberland Trail on Sept. 20, preceded by a luncheon honoring landowners and other special supporters; and support for various environmental and trails issues, including land acquisition at the Big South Fork.

Chapter Reports: Memphis - Jerri Bull reported that the chapter has had an active outing schedule; worked on Section II of the CT; adopted the Chickasaw Bluff Trail; worked with the Wolf River Conservancy; had several exhibits at various functions; Jerri had been on a morning talk show; and the chapter coordinates with the Sierra Club. Murfreesboro - Bertha Chrietzberg said the chapter is being reorganized. The members have hiked once or twice a month during 1986. Cumberland Mountain - Howard Ray Duncan reported that 50 people went on the January 1 outing; the chapter helped put on the BSF wildflower weekend. Chattanooga - Everett Kidder said there is an active movement for coordinating preservation and development in Chattanooga, with the Nature Conservancy a participant. Nashville - Pat Anderson said the chapter has a lot of new members. She delivers extra copies of the newsletter to three outdoor outfitters. The chapter members have worked on the Cumberland Trail.

Committee Reports: Membership chairman Bob Barnett said new hike report forms were being sent to hike leaders, to be completed by hike leaders and returned promptly. He sends "please come back" letters to non-members who go on hikes. Adopt-a-Trail chairman Charles Hann said each chapter should have a coordinator for the program, and that more publicity is needed to coordinate statewide efforts. He is working on a certificate for adopters. Bob Richards said that each inspector should go by the office of the trail administrator before going on the trail. Richards said the inspections would be a great help to the state trails program.

Big South Fork. Howard Ray Duncan, who is a BSF ranger, reported that trail work is at an end in the park, with 150 miles of footpaths and 125 miles of riding trails. The park will be turned over to the Park Service.

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

Plans had called for 350 miles of trails. Duncan said some of the most beautiful parts have no trail. He said an effort is being made to acquire Laurel Fork Gorge. Duncan will spend three days inspecting this area, traveling 25 miles up the creek. He said Bandy Creek campground is unused at present. Due to high fees, the concession managers gave up. The facility cost 6.8 million dollars. It will be turned over to the Park Service and tent sites will cost \$8. Cherit Creek Hostel is greatly improved and is immaculate. It is free now. American Youth Hostel will probably operate it. Horseback riders are getting on the Twin Arches trail.

The president announced that a resolution was passed at the fourth quarter board meeting to oppose the creation or opening of additional access roads into the gorge area. This resolution will be sent to the appropriate members of Congress.

Report of State Trails: Bob Richards reported that 12 miles of the Cumberland Trail in Cumberland County was recently dedicated, and that 21 miles will be dedicated soon. Section II is operational, with TTA having formal agreement with the state to maintain. Section I gets lots of unofficial use. Permission has been obtained from the owner of the McCloud Tract, 1100 desirable acres which the CT would cross, to do studies with a view to the state obtaining it for a natural area. The thrust for spending money on trails during the next year is in state parks, where some trails are 50 years old. Adopt-a-trail people are needed.

Tennessee River Gorge. The president reported that a resolution was passed at the fourth quarter board meeting to support the efforts of the Tennessee River Gorge Natural Area Trust to protect the gorge's scenic beauty. The Cumberland Trail overlooks this gorge at Chattanooga.
Resolution attached.

Election of Officers: The following officers were elected for 1987 - president, Howard Ray Duncan; vice president, Pat Anderson; president-elect, Bob Barnett; corresponding secretary-treasurer, Dot Lingerfelt; recording secretary, Evelyn Tretter; director for three year period, Bertha Chrietzberg.

Awards: The TTA Award was presented to Bob Richards. The Bill Stutz Award was presented to Bob Brown of the Nashville Chapter.

Miscellaneous: Ed Oliver said members are needed in the South Cumberland Preservation Association. Dues are \$3 and may be mailed to Oliver at 215 West Sparta Street, McMinnville, 37110. Bertha Chrietzberg said the annual meeting of the Tennessee Environmental Council will be held at the Evins Craft Center Dec. 4-5-6. (She represents TTA on the Council.) Hikes, square dancing and the annual auction were highlights of the TTA weekend. The Cumberland Mountain Chapter will host the meeting next year.

Evelyn Tretter, Recording Secretary

About 50 people attended the annual meeting.