

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
1ST QUARTER 1999
MINUTES

The meeting was held Saturday February 20th 1999 at the offices of the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment in Nashville, TN.

Present:

Jim Poteet	Rob & Susan Weber	Arlene Barnett
Ninez Giles	Patti Shaw	Sandra Spearman
James Leininger	Fount Bertram	Eric Wilson
Dave Walton	Don Coffman	Suva Bastin
Gloria Norrid	Libby Francis	June Miller
John Coleman		

Also present were:

Judy Wood	Forrest Evans	Alan Stokes
Bob Barnett	Jenice Johnson	Marietta Poteet

Reading of the previous board meeting minutes and minutes from the annual meeting were dispensed with and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Chapter Reports:

BIG SOUTH FORK (Eric Wilson) They are currently working with personnel at the Big South Fork to develop a working relationship and exposure of the chapter. They also continue to coordinate hikes with other TTA chapters.

CLARKSVILLE (Suva Bastin) Suva is the new chapter chair for Clarksville. They also have a new meeting place in Clarksville at the Crow Community Center.

COLUMBIA (John Coleman) This is a NEW CHAPTER. At the meeting it was voted and agreed to officially recognize Columbia as a new T.T.A. chapter. John Coleman has been elected as chair person and Gary Pool is serving as treasurer. They have had 2 very successful hikes already. Also voted and agreed to by the board at this meeting was to fund this new chapter with \$100.00 "seed" money to assist in its start up.

EAST TENNESSEE was not represented at the board meeting however Arlene Barnett said she heard they are getting some U.T. students to help them in trail maintenance.

MEMPHIS (Gloria Norrid) They also have a new meeting place – the Germantown Library. Gloria said the attendance has been better with this new location.

MURFREESBORO (Fount Bertram) Fount said they have done some reorganizing and the attendance at the meetings is up. They have 14 new members so far this year.

NASHVILLE (Dave Walton) Attendance is up @15-20% since moving to the Radnor Lake meeting facility. Jane Whitson is working on getting some hikes in the Cumberland River/Cockrill Bend area. Forrest Evans addressed the board with the latest status of Beaman Park. They are still open for hikes on a permit basis only, but hope to get a 2 mile loop trail roughed out this summer. Lots of planning still going on.

PLATEAU (Susan Weber) The weather has cancelled most of their hikes thus far this year. They are concentrating heavily on Breakaway right now. In May they plan on having Ellen Wolff for their program meeting. Ms. Wolff has hiked the A.T. to raise money for cancer research funding. She raised @ \$10,000 on her hike.

UPPER CUMBERLAND was not represented at the meeting but Libby Francis said the chapter is in dire need of a chapter chair. They have had some members agree to lead some hikes but are still in need.

ITEMS:

* NATIONAL TRAIL'S DAY is June 5th 1999. Arlene Barnett presented a flyer with the promotion of hiking the Cumberland Trail on this day. Several different sections will be hiked and vary in mileage and difficulty. This would not replace any events other chapters may have scheduled or want to schedule, but would serve as another alternative for hikers. Arlene will furnish more information on this event in the future.

*REPLACEMENT FOR WEST TENN. AT LARGE MEMBER RAY BURKETT
Gloria Norrid may have a replacement for Mr. Burkett but will have to wait a few weeks before it can be confirmed. The board decided to defer this item until Gloria can provide more information.

*SPRING AND SUMMER BOARD MEETINGS Discussion was heard on having the Spring board meeting held as a 2 day event and emphasize the event for non-board members also. Jim Poteet appointed the following members to check into facilities and availability for the May 15th 1999 board meeting.

Libby Francis checking on Montgomery Bell
Fount Bertram checking on Beersheba Springs
Don Coffman checking on Norris Dam
Eric Wilson checking on Pickett area

Also discussed was having the summer board meeting in Nashville. Historically the summer meeting has not been well attended and thoughts are that having it in Nashville may help attendance due to its central location.

***TREASURER'S REPORT** by James Leininger (Copy attached)

There is @\$4,000.00 available cash in our account. We've received 2 new life memberships. Some discussion was held on what to do with renewal memberships coming in at the old rates. It was decided to honor them as we get them and keep a check on how many come in at the old rate. Time may take care of this matter itself. It was also decided to not sell life memberships to corporations. All life memberships are to be to an individual. In the case where someone sends in more money for a membership than is required, James will check the legal regulations on this and see if there are some guide lines and procedures to follow. Right now, we are treating this excess money as donations.

It was voted on and agreed to by the board to authorize James Leininger to sign the 990 tax form for T.T.A. for 1998.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Ninez Giles. There are @ 34 more people to add to our renewal and new membership as of the beginning of the year (1999).

It was also agreed that the sample membership report by chapter that was distributed at the board meeting, be implemented to further track individuals by chapter. This listing will also greatly help the chapter chairs in having current and accurate membership information.

INSTALLMENT PLAN FOR PAYMENT OF LIFE MEMBERSHIPS was discussed and it was decided that we would not publicize a payment plan and would discourage the idea. It would be left to each chapter to work with any request they may get for this and try to accommodate the individual accordingly. A maximum of 4 payments within a 12 month period was recommended.

1999 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY It was decided that unless we mail the directories people won't get them. The sample directory at the meeting will be re-run due to some printing problems. It will also be re-formatted to show the membership alphabetically by each chapter. We will initially order 700 copies and distribute to members. Additional copies will be ordered as needed (at a cost of @ \$1.27 per directory).

MILLENIUM HIKING PROGRAM For the year 2000 a statewide effort will be made to hike all the @165 trails in the Evan Means book. Each chapter will be responsible for the trails in their region. Jim Poteet will check with Elizabeth Gerlock to see if she will coordinate this effort among the chapters.

LAFOLLETE/CUMBERLAND GAP CHAPTER This "chapter" is still in the planning stage. They had a hike scheduled for Feb. 27th and will see what response and interest comes from it. If formed, it would be and remain a small chapter.

1999 ANNUAL MEETING Fount Bertram of the Murfreesboro chapter said things are well on the way. Reservations for 100 have been made at the Dubose Center in Monteagle. The meeting will be held November 5, 6, & 7. Friday's meal will be catered for \$5.00 per person as opposed to having the usual pot luck for Friday night. More details as time draws near.

2000 ANNUAL MEETING The Clarksville chapter will host and plan the 2000 annual meeting.

CTC/CTSP REPORT Rob Weber reported that progress is going well on the CT. He is an employee of CTC through the Lindhurst Foundation of Chattanooga and hopes to have complete trails in @ 4 years. Full time employees will be: Rob Weber, Arlene Barnett and part time employee Susan Weber. There will also be 2 park rangers effective July 1st 1999. Bowater & Champion Paper have given permission for CT trail corridors. Also Breakaway is quickly approaching. The board agreed to fund half the cost of 1999 Breakaway T-shirts.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND INVESTMENTS Due to current bylaws these funds are restricted to very limited earning potential. To change, the membership would have to vote on the issue. Rob Weber, James Leininger, Arlene Barnett, Jim Poteet, and Bob Brown will check into this further to see what options are available.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FUND We are currently searching for a representative to take Bob Barnett's place on this council. Bob has represented T.T.A. on the council since it became a member. Dave Walton (Nashville chapter) will find a replacement for this position from the Nashville area.

FUNDING REQUEST FOR EXOTIC SPECIES WORKSHOP WITH TDEC The board did not approve the \$200.00 request to help fund this workshop/conference.

LIABILITY INSURANCE James Leininger has researched this area and came up with a \$425.00 annual policy. This contains no medical coverage. There was some discussion and concern however on the officers and directors individual responsibility and exposure involved in this issue. The board voted to get the \$425.00 policy and James will get clarification on any exposures for the officers and directors as we grow.

TTA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM The board decided to set up a grants program from the royalties from the Evan Means book sales. A committee was formed to set policies and practices for this program. The committee is comprised of: Jim Poteet, James Leininger, John Coleman, and Fount Bertram.

TTA E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION SERVICE Discussion lead to some concern that this would/could get very cluttered and lengthy with so much e-mail circulating about. It was agreed that the issues would be kept to trail related items to help eliminate the clutter and a rep from each chapter would be needed to coordinate and evaluate the e-mail prior to releasing to membership addresses. Discussion was also raised about giving/selling the TTA membership database to others. It was agreed that as of this meeting, it would require board action to release our database to any other agency or organization.

TTA SLIDE SHOW Fount Bertram agreed to head up the project of getting a new slide show in place by the annual meeting (Nov. 1999). He will get a committee together to review slides that each chapter will submit for the slide show. Fount was authorized to spend up to \$200.00 by the board for the cost of duplicating the slides used.

TTA PROMOTIONAL DISPLAY BOARD The board approved a budget of \$100.00 to get a new display board made. Alan Stokes will work on this project. The current display board is outdated and in poor condition. It was also noted that not all members knew we had this promotional tool available.

TTA LICENSE PLATE Fount Bertram has been researching the possibility of getting a TTA license plate made. Due to changing regulations and requirements, it remains a challenging issue. Jim Poteet will work on getting an announcement regarding the plates in the newsletter for membership response. We will target collecting money for TTA plates at the annual meeting (Nov. 1999). It will require (as of this writing) a pre-payment of \$25.00 by at least 500 applicants to get the plate originally issued.

TTA INPUT TO BIG SOUTH FORK MASTER PLANNING Several members have already written Big South Fork regarding concerns and desires for the park's future use. It was voted on by the board that Jim Poteet will write a letter expressing TTA's desire for the future of the park.

BY-LAW REVIEW A copy of the current bylaws was distributed at the meeting. Board members are to review them and identify any current bylaws that they would like to see revised, changed, dropped, etc. and be ready to discuss them at the next board meeting. Any changes can then be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in Monteagle in November.

Patti Shaw / Recording Secretary