

Tennessee Trails Association
4th Quarter 2000
General Membership Meeting Minutes

The general membership meeting was held Saturday November 11, 2000 in the Activities Hall of Brandon Springs Group Camp at Land Between the Lakes. Present were:

The entire TTA Membership

ANNUAL MEETING (Libby Francis) Thanks to Clarksville for a well planned Annual Meeting. Facilities, food and hikes were excellent.

CTC REPORT (Rob Weber) Rob Weber introduced BreakAway Coordinator, Carolyn Miller and gave an update on BreakAway. BreakAway is scheduled March 4-24, 2001. The following colleges/universities have committed to participate: Michigan University, Florida State, Iona College (NY), Wesleyan University and University of Vermont. CTC has awarded the following volunteers for providing 100 hours of service (and hard work) to the CT: Al Churcher, Suva Bastin and June Miller. (All were asked to stand to be recognized.)

Alan Stokes was recognized, and thanked, as the artist of the Nemo Bridge Crossing Over the Emory River poster on display.

Proposals for land acquisitions continue. There are 30 miles through 3 gorge systems with a cost of 2.5 million to purchase. Commitments from an 18-month capitol campaign will be used to acquire land, campaign kicks off soon. (Striving for \$1.7M in commitments from CTC, while \$800K coming from Federal Pass-through money.) The Conservation Fund will broker the acquisitions.

Site surveyor, Mike Lain recently died. A moment of silence was taken.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Big South Fork was not represented at the general meeting.

Clarksville (Suva Bastin) They've had good attendance and programs at each monthly meeting. Had good attendance on hikes. Members continue to renew memberships. They followed up on members with memberships that had expired months ago, and received renewals. They refurbished trails in the Dunbar Cave area. Their major project this year was the Annual Meeting.

New chapter officers for 2001: J.R. Tate is chapter chairperson, Ron Ashley is co-chair.

Columbia (Russell Smith) Russell Smith, Co-chair reported in Todd Horton's absence. Russell thanked Libby Francis for all of her help with the growth of the Columbia chapter. They have 8-10 very active members. Meetings have resumed the 4th Thurs each month. They may change their meeting day from Thurs to Tues. Their Holiday Party is scheduled Nov 30th. Todd Horton will remain chapter chairman in 2001.

Cove Lake was not represented at the general meeting.

East TN (Keith Mertz) Continue to have 2 hikes per month. The group is not meeting oriented however has scheduled a 2nd meeting for the year to plan 2001 hikes.

Memphis (Gloria Norrid) Memphis has been very active. Their adopt-a-trail work in Shelby Forest continues. They received 2 Evan Means Grant Awards. First award was for a footbridge in Shelby Forest, the second for 2 footbridges in Shelby Farms. Gloria introduced Frederick Belton, new Chapter Officer. Frederick spoke briefly of his past and future travel adventures. Invited members to join him Summer 2001 to view volcano activity in Tansania.

Frederick is 2001 chapter officer, replacing Ray Burkette.

Murfreesboro (Fount Bertram) The chapter has been very busy with trail projects. A major project is the mapping and development of a CT trail. Martin McCollough and Jim Schroeder were commended for all of their help with the CT. Edgar Evins SP has been and will continue to be a huge trail project. They worked several weekends in June, July and August constructing a 4-mile trail and completed it in time for an Aug 5th 25-year anniversary celebration of the park. All were invited to hike this deep-woods trail. On Dec 2nd they will begin development of the next 5-mile segment with flagging. Volunteers are encouraged to join in. The city of Murfreesboro received 350 + plus acres and has approached the

chapter for help developing a system of hiking trails. The city has proposed to provide meeting room space at the Barfield-Crescent Park in exchange for the help they'll receive on the 350 + acre area being developed. Officer announcements for 2001: Fount Bertram will continue as chapter office, Mark Stanfill as co-chair, Brent Morris is hike coordinator.

Nashville (Anne Wesley) Hike co-coordinator, Elizabeth Gerlock, organized day, overnight, car-camps and backpacks this past year. Anne made a suggestion to all present to consider offering and promote "newcomer" hikes. Anne described several successful fundraising events the chapter was involved in and suggested other chapters to consider fundraising as well:

- A convention in town contacted Anne to organize a day hike for its guests. In exchange, and as a thank you, they made a \$500 dollar donation to TTA.
- The chapter was invited to set up a booth at a local Earth Day event. In exchange, as a thank you, the organizer of the event set aside a percentage of the food sales and made a donation to TTA.
- Spare change jar at each monthly meeting has netted about \$25 dollars per month.
- A TTA member, Malcolm Pfothner, held a photo workshop for 19 people. Donations collected were \$285 dollars.

All money raised was given to local parks and CT to support hiking projects.

Thank you Jennifer Hann for coordinating the month meeting programs, Elizabeth Gerlock for scheduling hikes and Jim Poteet.

Officer announcements for 2001: Dan Brennan is new chapter officer, Dave Walton is co-chair in charge of programming.

Northwest (Jim Clark) Jim introduced his chapter chair, Joe Seago, a student at UT Martin and intern each summer at Meeman Shelby SP. Jim described the events leading up to the inception of the chapter, from 1st hike through the temporary setback of the death of Brian Brown, the original Chapter Officer and the chapter today after its reorganization in August. They continue to have monthly hikes. They have a canoe trip planned for April 2001 in addition to their hiking. Forthcoming project: Martin greenway. An 8-10 mile trail system in and around Martin.

Plateau (Leigh Jones) Leigh reported for this chapter. They are doing 2 hikes per month. A large portion of their members have been volunteering on CT projects. They are the hosts for the 2001 Annual Meeting (Nov 9-11).

Upper Cumberland was not represented at the general meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Libby Francis) The following slate of officers was presented. A motion was made (Gene Curp) and seconded (Barry Spearman) to approve the following officers: President, Libby Francis. Vice-President, Leigh Jones. Treasurer, Barbara Matheson (Barbara has been the Treasurer since May. We thank James Leninger for the many years he served. James resigned therefore Barbara filled the vacancy.) Secretary, Patti Shaw (Absent from meeting.) East TN Regional Director, Arleen Scheller. (Regional Directors hold their position for 3 years.) Membership Chairperson, Anne Wesley.

RECOGNITION AND ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS (Libby Francis)

Recognized :Doug Burroughs was presented with the "Super Guy of the Year" plaque for hosting our monthly newsletter parties. Jim and Jenice Johnson received a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their hard work maintaining the membership database.

Awards: The Bill Stutz Award is presented to a TTA member recognizing them for the service they've provided TTA. Anne Wesley presented the award to Diane Manas, newsletter editor. The Tennessee Trails Award is presented to a person or organization recognizing them for the service they have provided to the state of Tennessee. Libby Francis presented the award to Al and Vera Churcher. Vera for the many years, and at least 100 miles of trail blazing she has completed. And for Al, all of the years of trail building on the CT, plus his involvement each year soliciting support from merchants to donate auction items or tools for trail building. The Golden Squirrel Award is presented to a hike leader for losing his group before they get on the trail. Libby Francis presented the award to Jim Clark, Northwest Chapter Officer, for his September 23rd hike to Fort Pillow. A song was written to describe the day, lyrics were passed out to the members to sing the song to Jim. The song followed the tune of California Here I Come.

The General Membership Meeting closed. The Annual Auction began.