

**TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES FROM
THE FOURTH QUARTER BOARD MEETING
AND THE 2002 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Tennessee Trails Association
4th Quarter 2002
Board Meeting Minutes**

November 10, 2002

TTA Vice President Fount Bertram called to order the 4th Quarter Board Meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association on November 10, 2002, at Fall Creek Falls State Park. (Because of a family emergency, TTA President Leigh Jones was unable to attend this meeting.) Present (noted in alphabetical order) were:

Fount Bertram
Dan Brennan
Anna Clark
Jim Clark
Jim Deming
Libby Francis
Gloria Lenski
Jerry Lenski
Carol Haley
Diane Manas
Siler A. McCarty
Brent Morris
Beverly Neurock
Jim Poteet
Doug Ratliff
Barry Spearman
Sandra Spearman
Russell Smith
J.R. Tate
Carl Turner
Susan Turner
Rob Weber
Susan Weber
Anne Wesley

(24 persons present)

APPROVAL OF 3RD QUARTER MINUTES

The minutes from the 3rd Quarter Board meeting (August 17, 2002) were approved with several corrections. Those changes were made for the file copies of the minutes, and corrected copies of the minutes were resent to all TTA Board members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carol Haley, treasurer, asked that each chapter chair submit a report to the treasurer. She said that the form (Chapter 2002 Treasurer's Report) must be turned in by January 25, 2003. She distributed the TTA Balance Sheet. She said that TTA will have to prepare a budget for 2003. Fount asked that Carol present a budget proposal by the February Board meeting. The following general plan was agreed upon: the finance committee will meet and discuss budget matters; Carol will prepare the budget proposal that will be distributed before the Board meeting; Carol will be in contact through e-mail with members of the finance committee: Carol Haley, Libby Francis, Gloria Lenski, Leigh Jones, Jim Poteet, Fount Bertram.

- The amount of \$6,478.42 was received from the auction, a figure that reflects the great effort put forward by all involved. These funds will go to CTC, and, as the treasurer noted, this donation couldn't have come at a better time because of the expenses associated with the extended BreakAway Program in March. (In a communication with the TTA secretary after the November meeting, Susan Weber said that she had received a check from TTA treasurer Carol Haley for \$6,697.81." The figure \$6,697.81 is the official figure record of the donation to CTC.

- Susan Weber noted that the group needs to secure an auditor again and that the auditor who was hired in 2002 would do it again for the same amount. A motion was made and seconded that the 2002 auditor be hired again. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Anne Wesley said that TTA currently has 1,013 members and that last year this time there were 825 members. Membership has increased through the addition of the Cumberland Gap and Highland Rim chapters, and interest continues to grow.

- The Board received a request from Carl and Susan Turner to establish the 14th local chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association, the Soddy Daisy Chapter. A motion was made and seconded that the Board accept the Soddy Daisy Chapter into TTA. The motion passed and all present welcomed Soddy Daisy as TTA's 14th chapter. Since TTA does not currently have a regional representative for that area, the new Soddy Daisy Chapter will receive help as needed from Brent Morris and Anne Wesley.

- The Board also passed a motion to present \$100.00 in "seed money" for Soddy Daisy. The treasurer will send money as soon as possible. Carol Haley said that other chapter allocations will be forthcoming. A motion was made that the minimum allocation should be \$100.00 and two dollars per member with the maximum being \$400.00. The motion was seconded and was passed.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION REPORT

TRAC—Jim Deming said that he was sorry he had missed the annual TTA business meeting and auction because of another obligation, but that he was glad to be able to at this Board meeting and bring everyone up to date on what is happening with TRAC. He said that TRAC is working on three trails. He said that the Hiwassee River Corridor has been purchased and that if it does not have commercial viability, then it could be a Rails-to-Trails project. The county now owns this, and there has been talk about putting a trail along with the rails. "It is a beautiful corridor," Jim said. He also said that there are other projects, including one in Memphis and one in Nashville. He said that right now we are just waiting see what happens and when. After some other decisions are made, then we can begin working on a trail, he said. Jim also mentioned work in the Big South Fork area and that there is hope that eventually a trail might join with the Cumberland Trail. Jim passed around a book entitled *Ohio Trails and Greenways*, a book which has much description, many maps, and the names of restaurants and hotels near the Ohio trails. He put forth the idea that TTA might want to consider a project such as this.

COPYRIGHT CONCERNS

Jim Poteet brought up fact that TTA needs to "nail down" the status of who owns the copyright to the Evan Means book *Hiking Tennessee Trails*. Jim said that TTA needs to find out where that book stands before the group takes on another book project. He said that Bob Brown should know about the copyright, and Rob Weber, who has connections with those who know, agreed to see where this stands.

LEADERSHIP CONCERNS

Jim Poteet initiated some discussion about leadership concerns. He said that the nominating committee (Jerry, Diane, and Jim) has been focusing on filling two positions: the treasurer's position because Carol wants to retire on January 22, 2003, and the East Tennessee At-Large Director position. He said that TTA continues to have problems in finding leadership, and he raised some questions about what the organization could do. He suggested that TTA take a pro-active stance to leadership in general and said that we should try to put together a leadership training school or workshop, perhaps even making this a regular event at the annual meeting. "The focus here could be on TTA history, policies and procedures, and the *Hikers' Handbook*," he said. This might be a way of generating more interest, especially if the chapter chairs could recommend/encourage several people to attend and to consider taking state positions. He said that TTA should start working actively by looking for people who are willing to put in the time and effort to make this work. He said that TTA needs to find more leaders and find more ways to get knowledge out.

Dan noted that work is continuing on the notebook for chapter chairs and that this notebook should help with developing leadership; Rob said that TTA has worked hard for many years to build organizational structure. There was additional discussion about organizational structure, time constraints, and increasing chapter membership. It was also noted that there should be some "backup" for key positions, especially for the positions of membership director and newsletter editor. J. R. Tate reminded everyone of the balance that the group has got to have and the middle ground that can be reached "Consider," he said that we're part of a wonderful corridor that will go from Florida to Maine. We need to continue to be a part of that that."

After a short break, there was more discussion about the need for leadership training sessions and the need to have a balance of activities. Additional ideas were offered and Fount urged all present to think and come back with ideas. He said there should be some recommendations by the February Board meeting and that something could be put in place by May. There was a motion made that Jim work with Sandra Spearman to find dates for the May meeting.

CHAPTER CHAIR NOTEBOOK

Dan gave an update on the work that is being done on the notebook for chapter chairs. He said that he and others are just gathering ideas for this notebook and that they are open to suggestions. Some of the information will include what it is like to run a smaller chapter, what some of the responsibilities of the officers are, and how to run a chapter meeting.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Diane Manas said that there will be no more inserts about the annual meeting for a while but that the newsletter will still be 12 pages. The next newsletter will have wrap-up reports from the 2002 annual meeting. She reminded everyone to give details about what is happening at chapter meetings and details about upcoming hikes and events. She reminded everyone to get materials in on time so announcements can be published in the newsletter. She said that if anyone in a local chapter has interest in writing an article, please ask that person to contact her. (Note: The Board appreciates the outstanding work that Diane does as editor of *Tennessee Trails*.)

EVAN MEANS GRANTS

There was the announcement that in February the TTA Board of Directors will award the Evan Means Grants. Certain criteria need to be met for these grants, and proposals are due on December 31, 2002. The Web site is a great tool in assisting anyone applying for a grant.

OLD BUSINESS

- After a question from Gloria Lenski, Board members continued to discuss possibilities for the May Board meeting and the possibility of spending Saturday and Sunday morning at Camp Dogwood. There was a suggestion to make the effort to get some non-Board members to attend.
- The Board reappointed a representative (Jim Deming) to the Tennessee Conservation Voters. This gives TTA a presence on Capitol Hill and a direct link to the discussion of important issues.
- East Tennessee, Big South Fork, and Cove Lake will host the annual meeting next year (2003), and members will report soon about the time, the place, and all the particulars. For the 2004 annual meeting, the Memphis and Northwest chapters will serve as hosts. It was noted that there was one hundred percent participation of all chapters at the 2002 meeting and that a new chapter added.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fount said that the Southeast Regional Foot Trails Coalition is official and that TTA is a part of this. Fount will be on the steering committee. Seven states participating. The group is meeting once a month and planning for 200 participants at the next big event. Some volunteers from TTA are needed; TTA will be responsible for the liaison and for some hike leadership.

Others are encouraged to attend. There was successful meeting in April of last year, and all are looking for a good turnout for the upcoming meeting, too, which will be at Mont eagle. There will be training workshops, planning sessions, and reviews of who has done what and who is going to do what. This group is looking at a trail beginning in Florida and ending up in Canada, so there will be many opportunities for leadership as plans develop. Fount believes that this is where we should be and that TTA's participation will give the organization a real voice with tax dollars and money coming out of Washington. He said to be thinking about this and to encourage others to participate.

- The TTA reorganization committee has the following membership: Jim Poteet, Leigh Jones, Anne Wesley, Gloria Lenski, and Jim Clark. Brent Morris will be added to the reorganization committee.

- Jim Deming offered comments about general Board meetings. He suggested that once in a while there could be an executive Board meeting where some additional work could be done.

After several additional announcements (another invitation to help with CTC's Big Dig in May and June, the next Board meeting Feb. 1, 2003, etc.), the meeting was adjourned.

**Annual Meeting
Tennessee Trails Association
Saturday, November 9, 2002
Fall Creek Falls**

The 2002 annual meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association was held Nov. 9 – 10, 2002, at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

The chapter reports were presented before the entire assembly during the annual business meeting prior to the auction. There were reports from all thirteen chapters as listed below:

1. Cumberland Gap
2. Highland Rim
3. Memphis
4. Murfreesboro
5. Nashville
6. Northwest