

TTA Second Quarter Board Meeting – 2005

May 7, 2005

Ellington Agricultural Center  
Nashville, TN

**In Attendance:** Anna Bertram, Fount Bertram, Gary Cooper, Libby Francis, Paul Freeman, Jenice Johnson, Leigh Jones, Rick Lausten, Gloria Lenski, Rosemary Marshall, Carolyn Miller, Carolyn Pierce, Doug Ratliff, Richard Savage, Barry Spearman, Sandra Spearman, Mark Stanfill, Anne Wesley

TTA President, Fount Bertram, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

Members in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of 1st quarter minutes for 2005

- Amendments.
  - In attendance, amended "Jack" to Jack Murrah.
  - Diane Manas sent an e-mail correction to the minutes regarding the heading of Newsletter. "Diane volunteered to look into the costs of going to a full service mail-house for printing and mailing the newsletter (and other publications, such as the Hike With Us brochure and Hiking Handbook for printing only, and Annual Membership Directory for both printing and bulk mailing) versus the current system where volunteers hand collate the newsletter and take it to the post office using our account to run the newsletter through as 1<sup>st</sup> class postage. A mail-house would send our newsletter through as "bulk mail" status, which may-no guarantees – save us some money".
- The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: June Parker was not present, but sent a note to Fount Bertram.

- Will receive a Treasurer's report within two weeks

Membership Report by Garnett Rush

- Total membership down by 50 members
- However, Memphis got 15 new members last month.
- Renewal steady at 40 – 50 /month.
- Gained 1 new supporting member and lost 4 supporting members.
- Returned newsletter from life members. Susan Bowden – former life member and no known forwarding address. Waldbiligs from Crossville. No longer live in Tennessee – make them inactive. If can't find them, then make them inactive.

East Tennessee Representative at Large Report

Position vacant – no report.

Middle Tennessee Representative at Large Report.

Brent Morris sent in a written report, as he could not attend the board meeting due to a prior work commitment.

Article in May – June 2005 Tennessee Conservationist was good publicity for the trail building at Collins Gulf Trail in May 2004.

Still looking for volunteers for trail work on the Alum Gap trail in the South Cumberland Recreation Area.

Has received an e-mail inquiry about forming a Dickson chapter.

West Tennessee Regional Representative Report

Jerry Lenski sent in a written notice that job responsibilities will keep him from serving as West Tennessee Representative after his term ends in 2005.

Cumberland Trail Report

Mark Stanfill:

- Breakaway report: 22 colleges, 3 high schools and an Americorp team were among the 300 people during the four-week period Spring Break program. Largest program ever in terms of number of participants. Trail work was in the Rock, Possum, and Soddy gorge system. Built 6 miles of trail in the Possum and Soddy sections.
  - Rock Creek is now open for hiking, as it only lacks one bridge.
  - Soddy section now has 3 miles open for hiking.Two men were hired to assist with the Breakaway program: Jim Hardy, Crossville and Jim Davis, North Carolina.
- Big Dig report: Third Big Dig scheduled for May 22 – June 25, 2005 with the purpose of building trail in the Soddy Creek area. Eight people have been hired as trail crew supervisors. The lodging will be at the Dogwood Church Camp in Soddy Daisy, TN. Jim Hardy and Jim Davis will also be assisting with the trail work. Mark Stanfill passed out flyers to the chapter representatives. Betty Porter will be in charge of cooking for 5 days of the week. Trail builders and camp help are needed.
- National Trails Day – June 4, 2005
  - Please e-mail Mark Stanfill if you will be working on the Cumberland Trail on June 4.
  - You can also register online.
  - Children – minimum age of 12 with adult supervision and prior approval.  
After 15, a child can work without adult supervision.
- Next week, Mark Stanfill will be interviewed by Laurel Creech of Team Green (Lightning 100) to talk about the Big Dig.

Paul Freeman: Changes to the CTC newsletter.

- A CTC newsletter was sent out in the last week. If you did not receive one, please contact the office.
- A newsletter costs them about \$3000. CTC wants to change to an electric newsletter. Will still have a print version for those without e-mail. The plan is to send out an electronic newsletter every 2 months.
- Ditch Witch – mechanized trail building machine. The machine has been used for about 50 hours. Works well in some areas and some areas are too rugged for mechanical trail building. Still need volunteers to operate the Ditch Witch.
- Hike on the Hill (AHS sponsored event). Paul Freeman attended this event and met the Senators from Tennessee.

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The week of May 1, Paul Freeman was in Washington, DC for a school trip, and was able to meet with the two Representatives from the State of Tennessee.

- Capital Campaign is on hold. State has assumed role for land acquisitions, so until we know what land needs to be acquired and what money is to be used, we are not actively soliciting money.
- CTC must negotiate a new contract with the State, as the State does not want to renew the existing contract. This change will show that the state is primarily responsible for land acquisition. The new contract should be complete by the end of June.
- Volunteer programs still needs money to operate and donations are welcome.
- State pays for 2 ½ staff positions. Where does day – to – day operating expenses come from? State pays office, telephones, Paul, Mark and ½ of Nora's salary. Donations, both small and large, chapter donations, TTA auctions and some grants.
- Goal is to get the Cumberland trail open through Soddy Gorge by the end of Big Dig.

### SEFTC Report by Fount Bertram.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Southeast Foot Trails Conference (SEFTC) was held at Table Rock State Park in Pickens, South Carolina the weekend of April 28. 26 organizations were represented. The goal of the SEFTC is to have a trail from Key West to Canada (5,000 miles).
- The Pinhoti Trail is coming through Alabama and AHS (American Hiking Society) is sending a vacation team to Cloudland Canyon State Park in Trenton, GA to build a trail from Georgia towards a connect point to the Cumberland Trail (over Lookout Mountain). Plan to flag a 9-mile section of trail.

Map on AHS webpage (SEFTC link) shows the trails that are on the ground. Fount Bertram, Paul Freeman and Carolyn Miller attended a daylong workshop during the SEFTC meeting. The workshop was entitled Board University and was taught by a representative from the Institute for Conservation Leadership.

Fount Bertram assigned Carolyn Miller to investigate the details associated with TTA Board attending the "Board University". The estimated cost for the class is \$50.00/person.

SEFTC attended by the following TTA members that were present at the Board Meeting: Fount Bertram, Anna Bertram, Paul Freeman, Carolyn Miller, Mark Stanfill.

Anna Bertram attended the Grant Writing Workshop.

Every organization had a display. TTA's display was the one that the Murfreesboro chapter made for Earth Day. (see below). Florida Trails Association display cost \$15,000.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 1. Leigh Jones and Small Grants Program.

- Barfield Crescent Park sent a thank you letter for the grant and a notice that they are starting a new outdoor program for adults.
- Water Group at Tellico sent a thank you letter for the grant money over the past years and a schedule of their workdays.
- CTC sent a thank you letter for the grant money for Big Dig program.
- Big Hill Pond State Park wrote a letter to thank us for the money given to them for trail maintenance.

#### 2. CTC/TTA Financial Status – Paul Freeman

At the January TTA Board meeting, a request was made for CTC to investigate the possibility of a financial split between CTC and TTA. Paul Freeman has talked to the CTC auditor and a local attorney in Crossville. His findings are:

- a. Cannot separate the financials, as we are one organization.
- b. President and Treasurer of TTA are still responsible for CTC.
- c. Attorney recommended forming two 501-C3 organizations as you cannot have two in one organization.

What would it take to for CTC to form a new 501 C3?

- a. 6 – 8 months
- b. CTC contracts and grants would have to be redone.
- c. Would need to rehire employees
- d. CTC would have to form a new board
- e. New bylaws for CTC.
- f. Estimated legal and related costs: \$2,000
- g. The million dollars from the Capital Campaign would have to be donated from TTA to CTC and would involve tax issues.

What if CTC takes over the TTA 501 C3?

- a. 3 – 4 months.
- b. No contract or grants to be redone.
- c. No employees to rehire.
- d. Estimated cost: \$100 to Secretary of State to change the charter.

Paul Freeman suggests that TTA get a second opinion from a different attorney, but one that has experience with non-profit organizations and accounting.

#### Discussion of the financial relationship between CTC and TTA

Cost to change charter from TTA to CTC (through an attorney): \$20.

Cost for TTA to get a new charter: \$100

What happens with finances during the interim? We can operate together until the state processes all the paperwork.

Sandra Spearman, TTA member, before go any further, let's make sure that this is what we want to do. Suggest that chapter chairs go back to their membership and discuss possibility of a split.

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Leigh Jones: we need to investigate the legal and financial aspects as voiced earlier by June Parker.

Fount Bertram: TTA is being held responsible for funds for which they do not have control.

Anne Wesley: Discussed last time that the trouble is that we are having trouble recruiting a TTA treasurer due to the amount of money and responsibility that has been introduced by the CTC.

Paul Freeman: If CTC and TTA split, then TTA would not need an audit.

Anne Wesley: Does CTC have suggestions for recruiting a TTA treasurer?

Paul Freeman: CTC money will probably always be greater than the TTA budget. Paul expects that there will be \$125 Million each year, so that will require an audit.

Sandra Spearman: Have discussed in the past to hire a treasurer for TTA.

Barry Spearman: Suggests that TTA seek a second opinion from another attorney.

Anne Wesley: Need to ask an attorney what responsibility a volunteer of TTA has for CTC's actions.

June Parker's original concern was the "the parent organization may file for the affiliate, if the affiliate does not solicit funds from an organization other than the parent organization".

Fount requests that the TTA Board receive a formal written opinion from the attorney that Paul Freeman consulted.

Anne Wesley: Even though an affiliation with CTC may require some changes for TTA, CTC has given TTA good publicity.

ACTION: Fount Bertram, Anne Wesley, and Jim Poteet will meet with an attorney and present information at next board meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS – TABLED

Jim Poteet could not attend the meeting. Therefore, there was no report regarding an electronic newsletter.

### NEW BUSINESS

- National Trails Day – June 4, 2005  
If your chapter has a project, you can register your project through AHS (American Hiking Society) and get some good publicity.

Memphis Chapter – National Trails Day event at the Nature Center in Memphis.

Murfreesboro Chapter – National Trails Day weekend project working at the Big Dig over the weekend of June 4.

- National Public Lands Day event – September 2005  
Yahnali land in the Columbia/Franklin area (12, 900 acres) turned over to TWRA.  
Jim Schroeder, Brian Bowen and Forrest Evans have been working on building and designing trails in this area.
- Hermitage Trails Proposal. To build hiking trails on the property surrounding the historical home of Andrew Jackson. The 1100 acres of property is managed by a foundation, and they want some hiking trails on the property.  
Motion: Libby Francis moved that TTA should accept this proposal.  
Seconded by Leigh Jones. Motion passed.
- Walls of Jericho Trails Proposal  
On April 23, Fount attended the Alabama dedication of the Walls of Jericho. TWRA, District II, as of January 2006, will be responsible for the Tennessee side of the property. Stay tuned for further details about trails to be built in this area.
- As regards requests for help in building trails, a point was made that when we get a specific request for trail building, could we solicit someone other than a Board member to be the Project Manager?

### Chapter Reports

- Memphis - Gloria Lenski and Carolyn Pierce. Participated in an Earth Day Event. They created a banner (\$250 for an appliqué banner with the TTA logo). Twenty-six people signed up to be put on an e-mail list for notification about hikes. They have 80 people on their e-mail list for upcoming hikes. Memorial Day weekend they will have a Big Dig volunteer weekend. Networking with other outdoor organizations: Sierra Club, Bluff City Canoe Club and Tennessee Native Plant Society.
- Jackson – Gary Cooper. Several hikes and several inquiries. The Jackson chapter has information on the web page of the local paper, the Jackson Sun.
- Northwest Chapter. No report.
- Highland Rim – Doug Ratliff. Membership still around 25. Speaker Don Davidson – birding trip to the Rio Grande valley. Speaker Dennis Horn – member of the Native Plant Society talked about wildflowers. Hard time getting hike leaders. Manned a booth during Earth Day at AEDC.

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- Columbia/Franklin – Rick Lausten  
Monthly meetings: 10 – 20 people.  
Tennessee Parks and Greenways just bought land in Still House and have contacted the chapter for future work on this property.
- Clarksville - Judith Tate sent in a written report.  
Participated in the Friends of Dunbar Cave Park event. Participated in Earth Day work projects at Dunbar Cave and the Land Between the Lakes.  
Continuing to work on Rotary Park.  
Planning for 2006 TTA meeting. It will be held at the Land Between Lakes at Brandon Springs
- Murfreesboro – Anna Bertram.  
Still doing trail building and trail rerouting.  
Jim Schroeder working on trails on the Yahnali land  
The chapter National Trails Day event is participating in the Big Dig.  
For National Trails Day, CTC will publicize the chapter with the highest attendance of volunteers and the chapter with the highest percentage of volunteers.  
Manned an Earth Day booth.  
Yard Sale chapter fundraiser – May 21.  
June – cookout.  
July – Jeffrey Hunter speaking about hiking the Alabama Pinhoti Trail.

Good turn out by chapter members at annual meeting.  
Still selling pocket calendars for a fund-raiser.

### 2005 Annual meeting report:

Meeting once a month for planning purposes.  
Hikes planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
Need volunteer hike leaders from other chapters.  
If your chapter wishes to sell anything during the meeting, you must contact Anna Bertram.

- Nashville – Jenice Johnson  
New meeting location at the TWRA office at Ellington.  
Picnic planned at Warner Parks with night hikes.
- Upper Cumberland – Richard Savage.  
Hike every Saturday. Usually 10 – 15 persons on the hikes and persons from other chapters join them. Local paper makes announcements of their hikes.
- Plateau – Carolyn Miller  
Wednesday hikers: 20 – 25 people regularly hike on with this group.  
Now meet quarterly, instead of monthly.

Plateau Chapter helped to clear the trails at Cumberland Mountain State Park of downed trees.  
Plateau chapter has volunteered to re-route part of the Cumberland Trail on Black Mountain.

- Big South Fork  
No representative. Impromptu hikes.
- East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall.  
Two hikes have been cancelled due to weather related events.  
Patty and Robert Paul. Met on the Honey Creek Trail in the Big South Fork and are now married. They have increased publicity for the hikes. They will lead four hikes for the chapter this year.  
Contributed 130 pounds of food to the 2005 Breakaway program.  
Harold Draper coordinating a June 4 National Trails Day event.
- Cove Lake – No Report

### Other Items of Business

- Nominating Committee needs to be activated. The members for this year will be:  
Past Presidents: (Leigh Jones and Libby Francis)  
At-Large Members: (Jerry Lenski and Brent Morris)  
President: Fount Bertram
- Newsletter Issues. Discussion about the newsletter deadline being on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Miller  
TTA Secretary, 2005