

**3rd Quarter Board Meeting of Tennessee Trails Association
Ellington Agricultural Center
August 05, 2006 1:00 pm Central**

In Attendance: Anne Wesley, Fount Bertram, Gary Cooper, Don Dresser, Jenice Johnson, Cindy Walinski, Marnell Cothran, Merri Hinton, Anna Bertram, Garnett Rush, Leigh Jones, Suva Bastin, Carolyn Miller, Rosemary Marshall, Brent Morris, Bob Lyon, Lou Ann Partington, Paul Freeman
Visitors: Leslie Price

TTA President, Anne Wesley, called meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

I. Welcome.

II. Corrections to and approval of 2006 2nd Quarter Minutes

Cove Lake report – reported by Anne Wesley based on information from Murfreesboro – Instituted an educational program on the fundamentals of backpacking titled – Backpacking 101.

Motion to accept as amended. Seconded and passed.

III. Treasurer's Report – Lou Ann Partington.

- 13 month CD's with about a 2% increase in interest.
- Amazon.com commissions: TTA gets at least 10% paid back from any purchase made from Amazon if you go in through the TTA website. Currently, get rebate in form of Amazon gift certificates. We have never received money from Amazon; we have just received gift certificates. Due to way the account was set up, the gift certificates are sent to Jim Poteet. He writes a check to TTA for the value of the certificate.
- Budget for 2007: expect that we will have a deficit. Most of this is due to the lower revenue due to lower number of individual memberships.
- Reimbursements from TTA to members or chapters: a receipt must be submitted, signed with person/chapter requesting reimbursement, and reason why the money was spent.

IV. Membership Report – Garnett Rush.

- Membership is down by about 100 from last year. Most are probably from Nashville.
- Other areas: Supporting memberships are down. Some people are switching from family to individual memberships. Some supporting members have switched to Life Membership.
- Membership directories are being printed.
- Some concern that location at TWRA office is limiting attendance at Nashville monthly meeting.
- Follow-up of inquiries about TTA: While Garnett was out of town, current newsletter would be sent by e-mail, and then sent the next regular newsletter. Now that Garnett is back, she will resume sending the next two newsletters after the contact.

V. Cumberland Trails Conference – Paul Freeman

(a) Representative Report – Spring Report. (info to be included in minutes to sent by e-mail from CTC to TTA secretary)

- Breakaway 2007 – will be based in LaFollete
- Fall Volunteer Appreciation – October 5 & 6 at Frozen Head State Park: Social and also some trail maintenance.

- Obed section is re-open; downed trees have been removed.
- Hikes on TWRA property in the Fall – double check TWRA website to find dates that the areas are closed due to hunts.

(b) Update on 501(c)(3) status.

- Recommendation from CTC to table this issue at this time.
- Lou Ann Partington is concerned that she does not have the time to attend CTC board meetings.
- Independent auditor at CTC office for 3 weeks. The accountant that does the annual CTC audit hired him. TTA has received a copy of the audit. There were only suggestions, but no omissions found.
- Should TTA be approving grants: not necessary, but TTA Board should be aware of what is going on and should receive the audit.
- Without CTC, TTA would not require an audit.
- Unknown issue of relationship between Friends of Cumberland Trail State Park and CTC.
- Brent Morris – Suggests that some TTA board members be involved in some of the preliminary meetings with the Friends of the Cumberland Trail State Park, Tennessee State Parks, and the CTC. Fount seconded this suggestion.
- A comment about making sure that TTA gets respect from CTC.
- Comment from Anna Bertram: Governor has mandated that each State Park have a "Friends Group". Main purpose is to be a non-profit group to accept donations to enhance the state park.
- Will the Friends Group be a Support group or could they be in competition with CTC?

ACTION: 1 – 2 people from TTA Board to be in attendance at the CTC, Friends of Cumberland Trail State Park, and State Parks meeting scheduled in August.

VI. TTA Regional Representative reports.

(a) Middle TN Representative – Brent Morris.

- National Trails Day. Started building a loop trail on the Tennessee side at the Walls of Jericho. Twenty-five people showed up and Murfreesboro chapter brought about 12 of these people.
- National Public Lands Day – September 30.
Walls of Jericho – will try to finish the loop trail that was begun on National Trails Day.

- Short Springs. Want to build a bridge, but it has not been approved by the state. Current plan: build a pole bridge across the creek.
- Cumberland Wild. TTA booth at Beersheba Springs Friends of the South Cumberland and other groups planned a program to bring awareness to the fact that people are building houses around the South Cumberland area. Several hundred people attended the function.

(b) West TN Representative – Don Dresser.

Want to talk to some of the larger employers in some of the communities to see if we could encourage chapter formation and health benefits of hiking.

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- (c) East TN Representative – Vacancy.
Still don't have a representative. Nominating Committee: need an East Tennessee Representative.

VII. Chapter reports.

- Columbia – Sherrie Yokley. Some new members. July meeting – planned hikes for fall.
- East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall. One hike in July and one planned for August. Backpacking hike in September. Pizza party to train new hike leaders: release forms, safety, shuttles, etc.
- Highland Rim – Brent Morris. Doug Ratliff had a conflict, so could not attend. Meeting location has changed. Now meeting at the Crocket's restaurant in Tullahoma with 15 – 20 people in attendance. Currently, section hiking the Perimeter Trail at Sewanee. Marietta Poteet gave a really good presentation about Africa.
- Memphis. No representative and no report.
- Murfreesboro – Anna Bertram. Alternate activities, water feature hikes, caves, etc. Have a pamphlet with hikes and events planned through January. Inviting all chapters to participate in the Pumpkin Festival the first weekend of October and the multi-chapter hike on January 1, 2007. Educational program for potential backpackers. Sponsoring J.R. Tate at 2 cents per mile hiked on the AT. Fount is going to match the amount. Will be doing sections of the Cumberland Trail. Third annual chapter fundraising yard sale is scheduled. Membership is slowly, but steadily increasing.
- Plateau – Carolyn Miller. Wednesday group hikes every Wednesday and is potential source for new members. Chapter picnic in July and invited some of the non-member Wednesday hikers.
- Upper Cumberland – Cindy Walinski. Richard Savage is hiking in Australia. Trying to find a replacement for Richard Savage as the chapter chair. Everyone wants to hike and not attend the board meetings. Have trouble getting new members, but hiking regularly.
- Nashville – Jenice Johnson. New hike coordinator – Libby Francis. Need to work on membership. Location of the meetings may be a problem. They have had good attendance at the meeting if they call people to remind them of the meeting.
- Jackson – Gary Cooper. Have had one canoe trip on the Buffalo River in West Tennessee. Hiked on Kati Trail in St. Charles, MO. Float trip scheduled on Current River in Missouri.
- Clarksville – Merri Hinton. Rotary Park finally reopened after November tornado. Getting some new members. Had a full-page article in the newspaper.

VIII. Presentation by Friends of the Cumberland Trail – cancelled due to a family

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emergency.

IX. Nominations for Annual Awards. (List of previous recipients attached)

- Potential for an award named for Bob Brown. It would be for a person who has given the most to trails and hiking in the State of Tennessee, not necessarily a TTA member.
- Motion: Anna Bertram made a motion to recognize Bob Brown with a special lifetime achievement award for his outstanding service to TTA, CTC and hiking activities in State of Tennessee. To be presented at the TTA annual meeting in October. Second by Fount Bertram. Motion passed.
- Motion: Anna Bertram made a motion that TTA have a committee chaired by Brent Morris to find and designate a permanent trail related feature to name in honor of Bob Brown. Second by Fount Bertram. Motion passed.
- Tennessee Trails Award nomination: Jim Schroeder nominated by Fount Bertram. Seconded by Brent Morris. Motion passed.
- Bill Stutz Award nominations:
Nominees: Robert and Patty Paul, East Tennessee chapter members
J. R. Tate, Clarksville chapter member.
Due to having two nominees, paper ballots were submitted.
- Golden Squirrel Award nominations:
Nominees: Mary Edith McFarland nominated by Fount Bertram.
Seconded by Anna Bertram. Motion passed.

X. Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition update – Fount Bertram.

Passed around information about the Great Southeastern Hiking Festival to be held the first weekend of May 2007 in Montreat, North Carolina. This is the fourth Biennial event.

XI. TTA Communication Issues

- Hiking Handbook Advertisements.
- 2006 Membership Directory. Membership directory to be sent August 2006. Diane Manas sold two advertisements to help defray costs.

XII. 2006 Annual Meeting Update – Merri Hinton.

Need photos of other chapter's hikes for a PowerPoint presentation.
Need chapter name and location.
Need auction items and white elephant items.

XIII. 2007 Evan Means Grants – Leigh Jones.

August newsletter has information concerning the 2007 grants.

XIV. 2006 National Public Lands Day – September 30.

Harold Draper – Plans for East Tennessee program.

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XV. Old Business

Trails at the Hermitage. Libby Francis is the lead person.
She plans to do some work on these trails this fall.

XVI. New Business.

- Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild and Scenic River are soliciting comments concerning the Oil and Gas Management Plan for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 7 and Fount Bertram is scheduled to attend.

XVII. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Miller,
TTA Secretary