

**2008 First Quarter Board Meeting of Tennessee Trails Association**  
**February 2, 2008 1:00 PM CST**  
**Edgar Evins State Park**  
**Silver Point, TN**

**Attendees:** Carolyn Miller, Joe Matlock, Pam Miller, Libby Francis, Nora Beck, Lynn Takacs, Tom Bentley, Rosemary Marshall, LouAnn Partington, Debbi Hicks, Garnett Rush, Millette Jones, Fount Bertram, JR Tate, D. Jack Smith, Bob Richards, Candy Higgs, Don Dresser, Ray Garrett, Bobby Hardeman, Robert (Bob) Richards.

**Guests:** Anna Bertram, Diane Manas, JoAnn Garrett, Gavin Ward, Molly Clarke  
**SAGA members:** Bob Hardin, Dan Reese

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 12:56 PM by President, Rosemary Marshall.

II. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes

Don Dresser **moved** to approve. LouAnn Partington moved to approve as amended with the following addition:

- Vendors at the Annual Meeting.

Motion: Move that we have no outside vendors at the annual meeting.

Seconded: Ray Garrett. After some discussion, the motion passed with 3 nay votes.

February 2, 2008 First Quarter Board Meeting: amendment to the minutes of the 2007 Fourth Quarter Minutes. Motion regarding vendors at the Annual meeting was tabled.

Don Dresser revised his **motion** to approve as amended. Motion was seconded and motion passed with a unanimous vote.

III. Treasurer's Report

a. LouAnn Partington: Budget is in good shape.

- o Plateau Chapter still owes \$1000 for the deposit for the annual meeting.
- o Evan Means contributions approximately \$1800. This is increase from around \$750 for the previous year.

b. Don Dresser: In the process of hiring a new auditor.

- o Chapter chairs can use the old form – Chapter Audit Report.
- o Chapter Audit Reports for calendar year 2007 need to be sent to Don Dresser.

IV. Membership Report – Garnett Rush

Membership is running around 650 members.

V. Nominations to Fill Board Vacancies

a. West Tennessee Rep – had two persons interested in the position.

Rosemary Marshall recommends the appointment of D. Jack Smith, a member of the Memphis Chapter. He is a lawyer and has served in the legislature.

**Motion** to accept the appointment of D. Jack Smith was made by Tom Bentley. LouAnn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. TN Rails to Trails Advisory Council (TRAC) – still have an open position for a representative to serve on the TTA Board.

- Fount Bertram says that there is some activity in East Tennessee area
- Currently a rail line might be abandoned in the Oneida area.
- TRAC – still an associate organization of TTA.
- Bob Richards – State Trails Coordinator.
  - Recently met with governing to discuss Clarksville railroad.
  - Johnson City is buying right-of-way from Johnson City to Elizabethton to convert to a rail-to-trail.
  - Monteagle has approximately \$500,000 grant for a rail to trail along part of the Mountain Goat Rail Line.

**Motion** to appoint Bob Richards as TRAC representative to TTA was made by Nora Beck. Motion seconded by Fount Bertram. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### VI. Regional Representative Reports

- a. Middle Tennessee – Libby Francis.
- Interested in forming new chapters in the Middle Tennessee area.
- b. East Tennessee – Joe Matlock
- Adopt-A-Trail Program.
    - Previous Program – people volunteered to assist with maintaining a section of trail. They would hike the trail and report maintenance needs.
    - Tom Bentley suggests working with the Friends of the different State Parks – 26 of the parks have active Friends groups.
    - Need to add information to the left side of the TTA website.
    - Bob Richards – would like to be listed as a contact for Trails and Greenways with a link on the TTA website to website for Bob Richards.
    - Still need to have a TTA Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator.
    - **ACTION Needed:** job description in order to guide a potential volunteer to know what they should accomplish.
    - **Motion** by Tom Bentley to revise the website to include links to the TDEC Greenways and Trails Coordinator. Second by Carolyn Miller. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### VII. Chapter Reports

1. Columbia/Franklin – Bobby Hardeman
2. Big South Fork - Lynn Takacs
  - Evan Means Grant received last year was appreciated.
3. Clarksville – J. R. Tate
  - Participating in a Wellness Seminar at Austin Peay University in February and will promote the recreational opportunities at Rotary Park.
4. East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall
  - December 15 elected new treasurer, Bob Uhren.
  - Will be hosting the Annual meeting in 2009.
  - Have 25 hikes scheduled for 2008.
  - Plan to recognize National Trails Day with either a chapter activity or by participating in another organized activity.

5. Highland Rim – Tom Bentley.

Working with both the Friends of South Cumberland  
and the Friends of Short Springs.

Have 36 – 40 hikes planned for the year with a range of difficulties.

Easy: Eat-Hike-Eat; Moderate; Difficult;

Planning some backpack trips.

Summer months: kayaking or canoeing.

6. Jackson – Candy Higgs.

No report.

7. Cove Lake - no representative.

8. Murfreesboro - Millette Jones.

Bertha Chrietzberg – awarded one of the Governor’s Environmental  
Stewardship Award - the Robert Walker Sparks Lifetime Achievement  
Award.

Jim Shroeder & Martin McCullough – 1000 hours of service to CTC  
Fount Bertram – 300 hours of service to CTC.

Offering hikes every weekend and sometimes two hikes.

Offering backpacking trips.

Adventure trips – Fount and Anna Bertram.

First one will be to the Tennessee State Museum

Chapter Business Cards: Chapter info, including meeting times and  
officer names and contact info.

Created a “blog” – slide shows and e-mail info. They link to the TTA  
website.

9. Northwest - No representative.

10. Memphis - Debbi Hicks.

Great Christmas party.

Gavin Ward – Memphis Chapter member in attendance.

11. Nashville - Nora Beck

Active chapter.

Still looking for a “Program Chair”

Great system of Greenways and will soon have a pedestrian bridge to  
connect Shelby Bottoms to an area near Opry Mills

Recent chapter meeting: presentation was made about “An Inconvenient  
Truth”, the Al Gore film. Contact Nora if you want to contact the speaker.

12. Plateau - Joe Matlock

New co-chairs: Myra Holloway and Jan Barber.

Treasurer: Jim Grove.

Small, but active chapter (38 members)

Majority of members are retired, so have a weekly hike on Wednesday.

13. Upper Cumberland – Pam Miller

Hike almost every week

One of their chapter members has a website with photos.

VIII. Annual Meeting Report for 2007 – Carolyn Miller

- o Around 201 pre-registered, but ended up with around 211 members in attendance.
- o Thanks to all the members who attended.

- Thanks for all the miscellaneous donations, as well as the donations for the live auction and silent auction.
- A total of \$6420.30 was raised and donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference for the 2008 breakaway and trail building projects.

IX. Old Business

- a. Betty Porter letter – Rosemary Marshall read a thank you letter written by Betty Porter in regards to her being one of the crew of three that were presented the 2007 TTA Award.
- b. PSA for TTA (15 minutes) - Debbi Hicks
  - 30 second PSA was shown.
  - Materials cost - \$247 for the BETA tapes - to be reimbursed by TTA. Actual value around \$1600.
  - Packet of information – how to contact television stations.
    - List of stations.
    - Sample e-mail letter to contact a television contact either in programming or traffic.
    - You take the tape to the station and they will make a copy of your tape. DO NOT give them the tape.
    - Need contact info in order to write a “Thank You Letter”.
    - Can also go to your local cable company – ask for the “traffic” person.
- c. 2008 Evan Means Small Grants Committee Report – LouAnn Partington.
  - 2007 grant reports – all follow up reports have been received except for the group in Memphis.
  - Any volunteer based non-profit agency can get a grant to assist with trail building project.
  - 4 submissions for 2008
    - 1. CTC - \$600: Support Spring Trail building Project – April – June
    - 2. Ohio State University Group to work at Cumberland Gap State Historic Park - \$ 300
    - 3. Friends of Beaman Park – building bridges at Beaman Park – recommend \$600.
    - 4. Watershed Association at Tellico Reservoir. Benches along the trail - \$637.

**Motion** by Libby Francis to fund all four projects for the amounts specified.  
Motion seconded by Garnett Rush. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- d. Vendors at the Annual Meeting - LouAnn Partington  
Motion was previously tabled at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting.  
Therefore, the motion is still on the floor.

Discussion:

- LouAnn sent e-mail survey to all the chapter chairs:
  - One reply was absolutely not and two were in favor.
  - The other responses wanted information only tables with no items to be sold.
  - Think that vendors could advertise TTA through their website.
  - Difference between a vendor and a sponsor.

## Alternatives:

1. No vendors at all.
2. Information table – no vendor in attendance.
3. Vendor demonstration tables.
4. Vendor – demonstration tables and allowing sales.

If demos, when would they have time to demonstrate their wares?

Bob Richards – says we should seek “sponsors” versus vendors.

**Motion** tabled from the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting, “**Motion:** Move that we have no outside vendors at the annual meeting”. The motion did not pass as there were 4 yea votes and 8 nay votes.

**Motion** by Don Dresser to allow for the 2008 annual meeting to have an information table with details to be decided by the local chapter with the Board to subsequently review whether providing the information was disruptive to the meeting and to review the policy. Seconded by Tom Bentley. Discussion: this will put a burden on the local chapter. Others said that no harder to ask for information than to ask for a donation of an item for the auction or a donation for the annual meeting.

**Motion** passed with 14 yea votes and 1 nay vote.

e. TennesseeGreen.com update – Millette Jones

Associated with “The Tennessean”

Information of environmental interest

Would list hikes and chapter meetings links on their website.

Weekly, spotlight an event of one of the member groups with a focus on Middle Tennessee

f. Possible date change for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting – Scheduled for May 3.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is same date as the SEFTC Leadership Council meeting in Chattanooga.

Fount Bertram and JR Tate will attend the SEFTC meeting.

Ellington Agricultural Center – probable location for the May 3 board meeting.

X. New Business

a. Alliance for the Cumberland Mountains - Fount Bertram

- Purpose is to protect the Cumberland Mountains, including the land and water.
- No Dues and no fees.
- TTA has been asked to join the Alliance – all we have to do is fill out an application for membership.
- Question: Do we need to appoint a representative? Fount Bertram offered to represent TTA.
- They publish a newsletter that would allow for publicity for TTA.
- **Motion** made by Ray Garrett that TTA join the Alliance for the Cumberland Mountains. Motion was seconded by JR Tate. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- **Motion** by Garnett Rush to accept Fount Bertram as the TTA representative to the Alliance for the Cumberland Mountains. Motion was seconded by LouAnn Partington. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

b. Southeast Foot Trail Coalition (SEFTC) Leadership Council

Next meeting: May 3 in Chattanooga.

As of June 30, 2008, American Hiking Society will discontinue all financial support for the SEFTC. There are 37 organizations making up the SEFTC.

**Motion** by Fount Bertram to contribute up to \$300 for TTA to become a member organization of SEFTC. Motion seconded by J. R. Tate. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Motion** by Fount Bertram to request \$100 to pay for food at the SEFTC Leadership Council meeting. Motion seconded by JR Tate. Motion passed.

c. Discussion of Hikers with Social Issues

- a. For people who cannot get along on hikes or cause a disruption due to their personal interactions.
- b. Rosemary will write a letter to each of the parties to state that they need to handle their personal matters in a private manner.

XI. Presentation by Daniel Reese, Chairman SAGA (Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance)

- o Organization started about 10 years ago.
- o Represent hikers and bicyclists.
- o Goal to interconnect trails in Tennessee and Virginia.
- o Present at the meeting in order to partnership with TTA.
- o Currently, have a Rail-to-Trail project in Johnson City.
- o Blue-ways for kayakers.
- o Wants to work with ATV and ORV groups to use public lands appropriately.
- o Appalachian Resource and Development Council is the parent organization. It has a 501 C3 status.
- o Affiliation: they would like to have a representative on our board.
- o Currently developing a website.
- o October 24 – Southern Appalachian and Greenways Alliance meeting in Abingdon, VA.
- o No action was taken regarding a formal relationship between TTA and SAGA.

XII. CTC Report – Ray Garrett.

CTC Board meeting on January 19.

- o Elected new board members:
- o Elected new officers to serve a one year term:
- o TDEC grant extends through June 2009.
- o Have hired a professional grant writer to seek a \$100,000 RTP grant.
- o Will schedule a board retreat with CT State Park staff in April.
- o Personnel committee – reviewed the first six months performance of Tony Hook with input from Bob Fulcher and the CTC staff.
- o Have money that will be used to build several bridges.
- o CTC awards
  - o Tenderfoot Award – Walt Cygan, Memphis Chapter
  - o Bob Brown Award – George Summers
  - o Cumberland Trail Award – Gary and Doris Ruetenik

a. Update on both book deals.

- Russ Manning is interested in writing a trail guide to the open sections of the Cumberland Trail.
- Coffee Table Book – financed by Justin Wilson.

Have a contract with Bill Campbell for the photography with the text to be written by David Brill.

- b. Update on Rock Mining – Ray Garrett.
  - o Appeal of the judge's decision is in progress.
  - o CTC is supporting amicus curiae brief (Friend of the Court)
  - o Two bills have been introduced in this legislative session to include surface rock in the mining laws. Info about the bills is on the CTC website.
- c. CPA Opening for CTC Audit.
  - o Don Dresser is currently interviewing two firms in order to find a replacement CPA for the CTC.

XII. Annual Meeting Report 2008 – Diane Manas

- o Will be able to feed up to 400 people.
- o Dates: October 24 – 26, 2008
- o Indian Creek Camp, Center Hill Lake area.
- o Accommodations: Motel, Dorms, RV, camping.
- o Seven Day Adventist – no meat will be prepared on site, but catered meat dishes will be served.
- o Auction proceeds: Fount Bertram moved to donate the proceeds of the auction to the CTC trail building programs.  
Motion seconded by Ray Garrett. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- o Discussed logo to recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TTA.
  - Use the TTA dot logo.
  - Add TTA website address to back of T-shirt.

XIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller  
TTA Secretary