

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting of Tennessee Trails Association**

**May 2, 2009 1:00 pm CST**

**REI Community Room**

**Brentwood, Tennessee**

**Attendees:** Rosemary Marshall, Carolyn Miller, Bobby Hardeman, Don Dresser, Mary Jane Ware, Fount Bertram, Anne Wesley, Nora Beck, Libby Francis, Ron Dunn, Paul Schwab, Tony Jones, Tim Takacs, Lynn Takacs, Tom Bentley, Brandy Selman

**Other TTA members present:** Anna Bertram, Janice Agee, Jim Stark (representing the Dyer County area)

**Visitors:** Leslie Price

### **I. Call to Order/Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Rosemary Marshall, TTA President.

Thanks to Chuck Robinson, REI store manager for allowing us to use the Community Room.

### **II. Approval of First Quarter 2009 Meeting Minutes.**

Motion to approve as amended: the meeting time was 1:09 PM and not 1:09 AM. Motion passed.

### **III. Treasurer's Report – Don Dresser**

Three Financial Statements were distributed: TTA Current Net Work; TTA Cash Flow YTD and Cumberland Trail Conference Balance Sheet

- TTA Current Net Worth: assets around \$36,000.
- CTC Balance Sheet - \$1 Million in the bank, but most of this is from pledges, so it has been designated.  
Working with state to purchase some parcels of land
- TTA Cash Flow – membership is the income source and newsletter is the primary expense.
- CTC contract of \$160,000 per year will be terminated as of July 1, 2009. This funded the operating expenses for the CTC. Will need to downsize.

#### **Future of CTC:**

- Go dormant: terminate all employees and keep money in bank to assist with purchase of land.
- Disband – Then TTA would be the steward of the CTC monies designated for land acquisition.
- Prefer- Smaller CTC, but continue some trail building.
- CTC could probably exist on \$80,000 per year.

### **IV. Membership Report – Ron Dunn**

- Electronic Records since 1999: 1999 – 2001 – growth; 2001- Present: organization is shrinking

- Current membership: 566 members. This is down 7% from the February 2009 Board meeting.
- Time to ask: What do new members expect from us?  
What do current members expect from us?  
Wants feedback from members and former members?
- Changed the report to the chapters to highlight the members that have expired membership or about to be expired.
- In the future, the report to the chapter chairs will be sent as a PDF file.
- Dyersburg update – have only received two requests for membership

#### **V. Regional Reps Reports.**

##### **a. West Tennessee Representative – Graydon Swisher not able to attend.**

Jim Stark – representing Dyer County. It will take a while to get the group organized. Expect to have 10 – 15 members and be established by the annual meeting in November 2009.

##### **b. Middle Tennessee Representative – Libby Francis.**

Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 to establish a new Sumner county chapter (Hendersonville). Expect some current TTA members to join the chapter and others in the community. Hope to meet the first Tuesday of each month.

##### **c. East Tennessee Representative – No representative. No report.**

#### **VI Rails to Trails – No Report**

#### **VII. Chapter Reports.**

- **Big South Fork – Tim and Lynn Takacs**  
Hiking every month
- **Clarksville – Paul Schwab.**  
Hike every week and meet monthly.
- **Columbia/Franklin - Bobby Hardeman**  
Meet monthly. Usually have a presentation.  
Plan hikes for every month.  
Have had to cancel several hikes due to the weather.  
March – built new steps at Stillhouse Hollow Falls.
- **Cove Lake – No representative. No report**
- **East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall**  
Hiking today. New hike leader leading the hike today – Mike Bickford.  
They want to include multi-chapter hikes  
Still want Randy Hedgepath to lead a hike for their chapter this year.  
No special event is planned for National Trails Day.  
Hosting the TTA Annual meeting this year – 14 hikes chosen by Keith Mertz.  
Keith is still looking for hike leaders for the annual meeting.  
Look for the annual meeting information in the June newsletter.

Comment from the floor – Hiking Handbook is under the Member Services area of the Website.

New Hike Leaders – the TTA website has the information for New Hike Leaders.

- **Highland Rim – Tom Bentley**  
State Democratic Convention this weekend – Highland Rim chapter is leading hikes for the event this weekend.  
Family hike planned at Tims Ford on May 3.  
Trails and Trillium event – April 18.  
Stone Door trail work – April 25  
Three Joette Carter hikes.  
Internet event approach to hiking gets more participation – “Meet Up hikes”  
However, the TTA chapters offer more than just hiking.  
  
Could we employ the technology that Meet Up uses?  
Facebook, Blogs: The chapter blogs are closed to the public.  
Comment from floor: we have had this debate in the past about how to keep members and how to recruit members. This may mean that we actually have to focus our mission to sell membership. We are not just hikes.
- **Jackson – Don Dresser**  
Hike three times per month, except the summer.  
Membership is stable.  
Very few members under the age of 40.
- **Murfreesboro – Tony Jones**  
Meetings are getting more attendance than in the past.  
Hikes: Adventure hikes hosted by Fount and Anna Bertram.  
To date: average two hikes a week.  
Once summer comes, will do fewer hikes and add float trips.  
National Trails Day – Murfreesboro  
    Stones River National Park is still closed.  
    Will probably do a service project.  
Joint hikes with Highland Rim  
Chapter Picnic – June 9 at Barfield Crescent. Please pre-register
- **Memphis – No report. Not able to attend due to the weather.**
- **Nashville – Nora Beck**  
Soon the chapter chair will be Libby Francis.  
Have membership concerns.  
Attendance at meeting has declined.  
Programs have been good.  
New hike leader.  
One new life member  
Long Hunter event and Earth Day events – Nashville chapter in attendance.  
Cordless PA system with a mike belongs to TTA – Nora Beck has it.  
Nora Beck also has the TTA display.  
Will now be meeting at the Community Room at REI.  
State is preparing to buy 65 acres next to the Mound Bottom area.  
    Plan for visitor center.  
    Want to build a hiking trail with volunteer help.
- **Plateau – Carolyn Miller**  
Meetings every month, except summer.

Usually meet for dinner prior to the meeting.

Focusing on a presentation with dessert.

Average two hikes a month, except during the summer.

Still hike every Wednesday.

- **Soddy Daisy – Brandy Selman**

Meet quarterly: would rather hike than meet.

Hike every Saturday.

Planning short hikes for Wednesday evenings.

Outdoor Expo in Chattanooga – set up a display.

North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy work day – weekend of April 25.

Outdoor Chattanooga – Chattanooga Parks Department newsletter has been publishing the Soddy Daisy chapter hikes.

Chattanooga Times Free Press is also promoting their hikes.

They have a chapter blog.

They give out business cards when meeting hikers in the woods.

Trying to get a Rail to Trail built on the Sequoyah spur.

National Trails Day Event partnering with CTC.

**Hike Release forms – can you sign one form and use it for the future?**

**Answer:** Not in the present format.

**Idea from the floor:** small chapters could have a form with the names already on a form that each member could initial their name.

Ron Dunn would like to have the name and contact info for non-members that join a hike.

- **Upper Cumberland – Mary Jane Ware**

Hike almost every weekend.

Summer activities: Lost Creek Cave hike and float trips.

Randy Hedgepath led a naturalist hike at Edgar Evins State park.

Booth at a Cookeville event.

Pokey Pete – places a TTA sign on his van to advertise the chapter.

Have business cards for their chapter.

Meet three times a year to plan hikes.

No shortage of hike leaders.

## **VIII. New Business.**

### **a. 2009 Evan Means Small Grants Application – Tom Bentley**

#### **1) Two additional grants to consider**

- Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation – Request for \$1000 to apply to the Gateway to Mound Bottom land acquisition.
- CTC request for \$1000 – Little Possum Bridge Project.

**Motion** by Fount Bertram to approve funding for both projects for \$1000 each. Motion seconded by Bobby Hardeman.

- Question from floor: How much have we already granted for Evan Means projects in 2009? Have already spent \$1700 for Evan Means Grants this year.

- For 2009, we budgeted \$3000 for Evan Means Grants.  
Some discussion – about how we should support CTC.
- Don Dresser suggests that we stay within the \$3000 budget for Evan Means Grant.
- Voting was done by a raise of hands. The motion did not pass.

**Motion** by Libby Francis to fund the Evan Means Grants to CTC for \$1000 and to fund the Mound Bottom Project for \$300. Seconded by Anne Wesley.

- Voting by hand vote. Motion passed with one abstention due to a possible conflict of interest.

**b. Nominating Committee report for 2010 officers – Rosemary Marshall**

President: Don Dresser

Vice – President: Millette Jones

Secretary: Carolyn Miller

Treasurer: No nominee at present.

Membership Director: Ron Dunn

East Tennessee Rep: Joe Matlock

Middle Tennessee Rep: Libby Francis

West Tennessee Rep: Graydon Swisher

Past President: Rosemary Marshall

Past Past President: Anne Wesley

Expect to have a final slate to present at the August Board meet.

**c. Third Quarter Board meeting – August 1 at Edgar Evins State Park (Hospitality Building)**

**d. HB 9308 Harmon – Bobby Hardeman.**

**Hiking trails and horses.** More trails at Fall Creek Falls and Savage Gulf would be multi-use trails for both horses and hikers.

Tennessee Conservation Voters – this was tacked onto another bill.

Representative Tom Harmon.

Bill went to committee. It is inactive at the present.

Comment from floor: what should we do?

Have TTA members contact the committee members.

We do not want to share the trail with horses.

Jackson Chapter – when meet horses on the trail, they report to the park ranger.

Bobby Hardeman will write a “Position paper” for TTA. It will require board approval. Might get some good information from the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

Question from the floor: Could we vote on this paper electronically?

**IX. Old Business.**

**a. Revisit paper vs. email newsletter – Don Dresser.**



- Two of our largest expenses are for postage and the newsletter.
  - This uses a large part of our membership dues.
  - E-mail might allow for more contact with our members.
  - What services do we now provide and how could we do this if we went to an electronic version of the newsletter?
  - Current newsletter is sent first class in order to get it delivered quickly.
- Comment from Jim Stark: Lions Club District 12 went to an electronic membership a couple of years ago. Almost 92% of the group requested an electronic version. The other 8% were sent newsletters that were printed from the electronic version.
- If we save money by going to an electronic version of the newsletter, then what would be do with this money?
- Diane Manas – has investigated this issue.
  - May 11 – postage goes up by 2 cents.
  - Post office issues: requiring more electronic interaction for sending the newsletters.

**b. SEFTC Conference (South East Foot Trails Coalition) – Fount Bertram**

- 2009 Biennial Conference is May 7 – 10 at Cumberland Gap National Park and Pine Mountain State Park in Pineville, KY.
- More information at Southeastfoottrails.org
- Educational sessions, hikes, Hensley Settlement at Cumberland Gap National Park.
- Major event: connection of the Pine Mountain Trail and the Cumberland Trail Conference at Tri-State Knob at 10:00 AM on Friday, May 8.
- SEFTC will elect officers and establish a board.

**c. Northwest Chapter Status – business tabled from October 2008 and February 2009 Board Meeting. - Written report from Graydon Swisher.**

- Jim Clark has asked to step down from position as Chapter Chair.
- Graydon has found some faculty members willing to take over as Chapter Chair.
- Has a membership drive scheduled for the week that students return to campus in August.
- May need to go through a re-organization process as with the Soddy Daisy Chapter.

**d. Golden Squirrel Award – business tabled from the February 2009 Board Meeting – Rosemary Marshall**

No motion to be made.  
The recipient needs to be made aware of the situation.  
Perhaps a better procedure for the selection would solve this situation.

**X. CTC Reports – Written report submitted by Ray Garrett.**

- A copy of the report was distributed.

- A copy of an e-mail from Tony Hook to the CTC Executive Committee was distributed. The topic was a summary of the funding options.
- Discussion by Don Dresser:
  - Interest from money in the bank will produce approximately \$20,000 per year.
  - Other funding sources: CTC is in the process of contacting its larger donors.
- Tom Bentley thinks that we may be able to tap the Boy Scouts for additional volunteer assistance.

**XI. Annual Meeting Report for 2009 – Rosemary Marshall.**

- Valley View Lodge and Convention Center in Townsend, TN
- Weekend of November 6 – 8, 2009.
- Call lodge directly to reserve rooms - \$60 per night for a double room.  
(Phone number 800-292-4844)
- Upgraded rooms are available for \$10 off the suite rate.
- RV – several nearby campgrounds. (tents also)
- Some tent camping available at the lodge (room available for only 10 single tents and 5 double tents).
- Solicitation Packets for the auction were distributed to Chapter Chairs.
- Leslie el-Sayed is the Auction Coordinator.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller  
TTA Secretary