

3rd Quarter Board Meeting of Tennessee Trails Association

August 1, 2009 1:00 PM CST

Edgar Evins State Park

Silver Point, 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, Tom Bentley, Brandy Selman, Graydon Swisher, Carla Hilling, Candy Higgs, Ray Garrett

Other TTA members present: Anna Bertram, Joan Hartvigen, Leslie el-Sayad, Gil el-Sayad

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Rosemary Marshall, TTA President.

II. Approval of Second Quarter 2009 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve as amended: the meeting time was 1:01 PM. Motion seconded and passed.

III. Treasurer's Report – Don Dresser

Two Financial Statements were distributed: TTA Cash Flow and TTA Current Net Worth.

- Audit has been completed. Don received it yesterday.
- State contract with CTC was not funded due to State budget constraints.
- CTC has cut its budget.
 - Cut two staff positions.
 - Have enough funds to operate through next year.
 - Plan to become a membership organization.

IV. Membership Report – Ron Dunn

- Increase to 592 members – primarily due to growth in the Soddy Daisy chapter and the new Dyer County chapter.
- Annual membership directory is ready to send.
- Can change your address through the website.

V. West Tennessee Regional Representative – Graydon Swisher.

- Dyer County chapter is continuing with the organization steps. Expect to be ready to become a chapter during the Annual meeting.
- Jim Stark, representative for Dyer County – currently out of town.
- Exploring chapter options in Camden and Munsford.
- Northwest chapter – end of August UT-Martin school resumes. Some faculty members have been contacted and expect to have the chapter become more active.
- Memphis chapter – no representative in attendance.
- Jackson Chapter – Tammy
 - Primarily doing water activities in the summer.
 - Schedule of hikes planned through the end of December.
 - Plan to participate in the Pumpkin Festival in Allardt.

VI. Rails to Trails – No Report at meeting.

See attached document.

VII. Middle Tennessee Representative – Libby Francis.

○ **Clarksville Chapter – Paul Schwab.**

- Monthly meetings with good attendance.
- NTD – trail building at LBL.
- Trail building at Dunbar Cave
- Dunbar Cave – assisted with Spring Fling event
- Interpretive hike with Randy Hedgepath to Suwannee.

Columbia/Franklin Chapter – Bobby Hardeman

- Meet monthly.
- Too hot to hike.
- Burgess Falls hike schedule in August.
- NTD – Hike in Dover.
- Membership steady: 30 – 35

Highland Rim Chapter – Tom Bentley

- Summer water sports: float trips.
- August 15 – Float on Duck River.
- Monthly programs: introductions, review of previous month hikes and announce next month hike
- Now meeting at location with wi-fi, so can view maps during the meeting.

Murfreesboro Chapter – Millette Jones.

- One page chapter newsletter being distributed to promote and advertise chapter hikes at businesses, churches, etc.

Nashville Chapter – Nora Beck

- Switched meeting location from TWRA office at Ellington Agricultural Center to REI in Brentwood. Has doubled attendance at the meetings.
- Asking attendees to suggest new locations to hike.
- Hike every week.

Upper Cumberland Chapter – Mary Jane Ware

- No reports.
- Fewer hikes due to the heat.

New potential chapter in Sumner County – Libby Francis

- NTD – hiked a Greenway in Sumner County.
- Cruise on a river.
- Do not have a potential chapter chair. Libby is still the contact person.
- Meeting planned for Tuesday night with speaker.

VIII. New Business

- a. Slate of Officers for 2010 (Nominees) – Rosemary Marshall
President – Don Dresser
Vice President – Millette Jones

Membership – Ron Dunn
Secretary – Carolyn Miller

- Treasurer: still no nominee for Treasurer. Need to be able to use Quicken software.
 - Estimated time commitment: 1 – 2 hours per week, plus 4 TTA Board meetings and 2 CTC Board meetings.
 - The list of nominees will be printed in the October newsletter. The deadline for the newsletter is September 10.
- b. Conservation Land for Sale – info from Diane Naff, TN Parks and Greenways Foundation.
- Land for sale in the Big South area for sale – info distributed.
 - Sent a thank you for the funds that were granted to assist with the purchase of the land for the Mound Bottom Project on the Harpeth.
 - Land adjacent to Stilhouse Hollow is for sale.
- c. SEFTC – Fount Bertram
- TTA is one of the founding members of the SEFTC.
 - Currently working on obtaining 501 C3 status
 - Carla Hilling and Fount Bertram are on the board.
 - Last meeting was in May 2009 at Cumberland Gap/Pineville State Park, KY
 - Another conference to be scheduled for 2010 – probably at Dubose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN
- d. New State Recreation Plan – Nora Beck
- TDEC Regional Hearings have been completed.
 - Entire plan will be on TDEC website by mid-August.
 - Nature education and outdoor activities will be emphasized.
 - Central website to catalog all trails.
- e. Sharing trails in South Cumberland Recreation Area and Fall Creek Falls – Bobby Hardeman - Position paper is attached.
- Wrote a position letter regarding the reason that hikers do not want to share hiking trails with horses.
- f. Allardt Pumpkin Festival – Multi-chapter event the first weekend of October. See details in the newsletter or contact Anne Wesley.

IX. East Tennessee Regional Representative Report – No report..

- Big South Fork Chapter – no report.
- Cove Lake Chapter – no report.
- East Tennessee Chapter – no report.
- Plateau Chapter – no report.
- Soddy Daisy – Brandy Selman
 - Have 31 members with 11 potential members.

- NTD - short hike on CTC with 40 people in attendance.
- Working to get a Rails to Trails on the Sequoyah spur.
- August 22 – hike to local swimming holes as a practice backpack
- Planning a one-year chapter anniversary party.
- Trying to plan short hikes to encourage new members.

X. 2009 Annual Meeting

a. Auction – Leslie el-Sayad.

- Need to have more income.
- On-line auctions: two weeks prior to the event.
 - Ready, Set, Auction: you grant access to those who you want to have access.
 - See, Market: manages the auction, but more cost. Auction open to anyone.
 - Both sites allow for purchase of trips, airline tickets, etc. If you don't sell these items, you don't pay for them.
- Suggestions: no live auction, but have a silent auction and white elephant.
- CTC has a Pay Pal account.
- Suggestion from the floor: first online auction – do a small auction through E-Bay.
- For online sale, plan to sell 10 - 20 items: will need a picture, a description and recognize the donor. Leslie will need information about these items by August 31.
- **Motion** by Nora Beck to authorize Leslie el-Sayad and the auction committee to explore an online auction. Seconded by Ray Garrett. Motion passed.
- Other suggestion from the floor: host a swap meet of items with some of the proceeds to go to Tennessee Trails Association.

b. Nomination for awards.

Tennessee Trails Award.

Nomination: Chuck Robinson, REI, Brentwood.

Motion made, seconded and passed.

Bill Stutz Award.

Nomination: Gary Kimbrell

Rosemary Marshall

Paper ballots were used for voting.

Rosemary Marshall was nominated.

Golden Squirrel.

Nomination: Cindy Johnson

Motion made, seconded and passed.

c. Registrations. 52 persons registered to date.

XI. CTC Report. Ray Garrett – see attached report

- CTC board met on July 18.
- Offer for purchase of the Kinzalow property has closed.
 - CTC has allocated \$300,000 towards the purchase of this property.

- Currently, downsized office staff and only have a General Manager and a half time office manager.
- CTC coffee table picture book is scheduled to be published by December 31, 2009. CTC has purchased 2000 copies. Bill Campbell took the photos and David Brill is writing the text. Request from floor to have a proof available for the annual meeting.
- CTC website has been updated.
- A committee has been established to explore making CTC a membership organization. This would be a source of operating funds. If you are a TTA member, you would automatically become a CTC member.
- Projected 2009 budget:
 - Assets on hand: \$149,000
 - Allocations: \$58,000
 - Carry over: \$92,000
- Projected 2010 budget:
 - Assets: \$180,000
 - Allocations: \$113,000
 - Carry over: \$67,000
- Letter of Agreement has been prepared to define the relationship between CTC and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. It will be submitted to Mike Carlton.
- Tony Hook is requesting that chapters adopt a section of the Cumberland Trail to assist with trail maintenance.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller
TTA Secretary

attachments

CTC Report TTA
Board Meeting
August 1, 2009 Edgar
Evins State Park

- 1.) The CTC Board of Directors met on July 18, 2009. Significant items were:
 - a. The offer to purchase the Kinzalow tract of 3040 acres has been accepted. Final stages are underway. CTC has allocated \$300,000 of capital money toward the purchase (Total \$1,200,000).
 - b. The TDEC contract has expired. CTC General Manager Tony Hook had reduced staff by two persons. Current staff consists of the General Manager and half-time administrative assistant/secretary.
 - c. CTbook is now on schedule for publication before Dec 31, 2009. CTC will purchase 2000 copies.
 - d. The CTC web page has been revised and greatly improved.
 - e. The question of possible CTC membership will be considered by a special membership committee - to report back to the general manager. Proposal: \$30 membership. Members of TTA would automatically be members of CTC. Could CTC members be included in TTA with \$5 shared fee.?
- 2.) Projected budgets (assets and expenditures) for July 1-Dec 31, 2009 and Jan 1-Dec 31, 2010 were presented by Tony Hook.

Summaries (All operational dollars)

a. Assets on hand as of June 30, 2009	\$149,701
b. Funds allocated for Jul 1-Dec 31 2009	\$ <u>57,516</u>
c. Carry over to 2010 (difference of a. and b.)	\$ 92,185
 d. Projected assets 2010	 \$180,768
e. Projected expenditures 2010	\$ <u>113,018</u>
f. Projected surplus 2010	\$ 67,750

- 3.) A letter of agreement between TDEC and CTC has been prepared for submission to Mike Carlton, TDEC Assistant Commissioner.
- 4.) E-Mail from Tony Hook soliciting chapters to volunteer for trail maintenance

Respectfully submitted

Ray Garrett
CTC representative
TTA Board of Directors

Earlier this year, legislation was introduced to allow equestrian use of trails in certain state parks and natural areas that were previously approved for foot traffic only. The Tennessee Trails Association would request that these trails remain for hiking only and horses not be allowed their use.

Studies show that horses have a far greater impact on the trail and sharing the trail is a great disadvantage to the hiker. I would refer you to an article on the National Trail Partnership web site about trail maintenance and management by Woody Keen, a professional trail builder based in North Carolina:

A trail impact study from the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute comparing hiking impacts to horses noted: "Horse traffic resulted in statistically significant higher sediment yields (the primary indicator of trail deterioration) than either hiker or llama traffic. The low level (250 passes) horse treatment caused more impact than the high level (1000 passes) hiker treatments, suggesting that horses can cause at least four times as much impact to trails under the conditions simulated in this experiment. In addition, under dry trail conditions horse traffic caused significant reductions in soil bulk density (a measure of how compacted the soil is) compared to hiker traffic. Horse traffic also caused significant increases in soil roughness compared with the other users. This suggests that the greater impacts of horses on trails are a result of soil loosening of trail surfaces that are otherwise compacted, thereby increasing the detachability of soil particles and increasing sediment yield and erosion." (*Llamas, Horses, and Hikers: Do They Cause Different Amounts of Impact?* - Thomas Deluca (University of Montana) and David Cole (USFS - Wilderness Research Institute) 1998 study)

Tennessee Trails Association does not ask that horses not be allowed usage of state parks or natural areas—just that they not be allowed to use trails that were designed for hikers. Many of these trails were built by volunteers, such as Tennessee Trails, who gave their time, energy, and money. We feel we have “sweat equity” in these trails and should have a large voice in the way they are used.