

**Tennessee Trails Association  
First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting  
Nashville, TN  
February 6, 2010**

**Attendees:** Don Dresser, Graydon Swisher, Rosemary Marshall, Libby Francis, Bobby Hardeman, Glen Rogenstad, Janice Agee, Paul Schwab, Margaret Smith, LouAnn Partington, Anne Wesley, Diane Manas, Louise Minnard, Ron Dunn, Jim Stark, Brenda Selman, Millette Jones, Nora Beck, Barbie Taylor, Carolyn Miller, Bob Richards

**Visitors:** JR Tate, Alan Ball, Fount Bertram, Anna Bertram.

Meeting called to order by President, Don Dresser at 1:00 PM CDT.

Introductions were made.

Recognition of Past Presidents: Rosemary Marshall, Anne Wesley, Fount Bertram, and Libby Francis.

Secretary's Report – Carolyn Miller

- Minutes of November 2009 meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes as distributed.

Motion to amend the General Membership minutes as follows.

Chuck Robinson, Outreach Coordinator, REI, Nashville.

Columbia/Franklin – Rick Lausten

Minutes approved as amended for the General Membership meeting and as distributed for the Fourth Quarter Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Janice Agee

- Reviewed 2009 financials for TTA and affiliate organizations
- Budget for 2010.

Questions: Do we have too much cash on hand?

Have approximately \$29,000 in CD and MM accounts. This money is set aside to support the expenses to support the services required for the Life Memberships.

Chapter allotments – formula:

- \$100 minimum and increases based on number of members up to a maximum of \$300.

- Janice needs chapter bank statements and then she can send out checks to each chapter.
- Sharing audit cost with CTC: TTA paid approximately \$800 of the total audit of \$5000.
- Motion by Anne Wesley to accept the financial statements. Motion passed.
- Motion by Ron Dunn to accept the proposed budget. Motion passed.

Membership Report – Ron Dunn

- Status: Individual - 374, Family – 137 , Supporting – 39, Life Members – 53, Family Life Members – 4  
Currently, no Student members.  
Total number = 748 (counting family members as two)  
Each member has one vote, except family members have two votes if both adults are present for an election.
- Poll of prior members  
Survey Monkey - \$19.95 per month  
Will also give information about age and demographics.  
March newsletter will announce the forthcoming survey of members and ex-members.  
**ACTION:** Ron to distribute questions to board members and be prepared to distribute a survey.

Reports by Regional Representatives

- Middle Tennessee – Nora Beck  
Sumner Trails Chapter – thriving.
- West Tennessee – Graydon Swisher  
University of Tennessee at Martin.  
Scott Hunn – chapter chair in-waiting.

Reports by Chapter Chairs

- Clarksville – Paul Schwab  
Seven hikes since annual meeting in November  
Annual New Years Eve Hike and an Annual New Years Day Hike.  
Acquired two new members.
- Jim Stark – Dyer County  
Building a River Park.  
Built a trail and added a sign.  
Kiosk to be installed  
Canoe and Kayak Dock.  
Plans for a 12 mile trail through the Greenway along the flood plain of the Forked Deer River  
Have been hiking with some of the other chapters.
- Memphis - Margaret Smith  
Hike every week on Saturdays.

Had the first meeting to plan the 2010 Annual meeting.

Memphis and Jackson will be co-hosts.

Few social activities to keep people involved.

East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall

December: hiked Rock Creek Gorge.

Annual Christmas Dinner – celebrated hosting of the TTA annual meeting.

Had a goal to build a mile of the CTC (Goal: \$5280)

Presented an \$8000 check to Diane Manas, representing CTC.

\$7212 from fund raising activities.

\$600 rebate from breakfast.

\$188 donated from East Tennessee chapter.

2010 – Participated in New Years Day multi-chapter hike.

Had to cancel both of the January hikes due to the weather.

Upper Cumberland – Louise Minnard

Hike every weekend.

Only cancelled one hike due to the weather (January 30)

Jackson – Glen Rogenstad

Small, but active chapter.

Two hikes per month.

Want to print some local brochures to advertise the chapter.

Columbia/Franklin – Bobby Hardeman

Hike two times per month: one challenging and one easy.

Speakers at most meetings.

Members planning to work on the Cumberland Trail during scheduled trail programs.

Have a National Trails Day program

Stillhouse Hollow trail work planned.

Sumner Trails – Anne Wesley

Numerous hikers, but not a lot of leaders.

Want to sponsor a National Trails Day event to promote the chapter and work on the greenway.

Nashville – Libby Francis.

Now meeting at the REI meeting room in Brentwood.

This has increased the attendance at meetings.

connectwithtn.gov – website with natural areas and outdoor areas.

State Natural Areas: Waterfall tour.

Nashville chapter will join this planned hike.

Will be involved with Earth Day in Nashville.

Planning a National Trails Day event.

Search: Tennessee land forms – list of all land forms in the state. There is not necessarily a trail to each land form.

Plateau – Carolyn Miller

New chapter chair – Cheryl Heckler

Hike every Wednesday.

Plan for two hikes every month.

Newspaper articles monthly to highlight the hikes.

Will sponsor a National Trails Day event.

Soddy Daisy – Brandy Selman

Membership up to 43.

Times Free-Press newspaper publishes the hike information.

GPS, compass and map reading exercises, especially at Prentice Cooper.

Have registered a National Trails Day event: will partner with CTC to hike the Possum Creek section of the CT.

American Trails.org.- November 14 – 17, 2010 meeting in Chattanooga

Soddy Daisy Chapter has been asked to lead a hike for this meeting.

Contact info: Allison Bullock

Due to the blizzard in the past week, there are many downed trees. The chapter will start removing downed trees beginning Monday, February 8.

Northwest Chapter – Graydon Swisher

Hiked Grant Lake – last weekend.

Highland Rim – Barbie Taylor

Seven new members since last year.

Meetings – focusing on membership and getting people to renew at the meetings.

Flashlights or hand warmers as gifts for renewals.

Advertising meetings in the local newspapers.

Hike every weekend with last weekend of month reserved for trail maintenance.

Trails and Trilliums – event in April.

Joint hikes with Murfreesboro Chapter.

Murfreesboro – Millette Jones

Hike every week.

Beginning hike series: two per month on Saturdays and Sundays.

Membership is flat.

National Trails Day – Barfield Park.

90th

Reports by Associate Organizations

CTC – Diane Manas

Kinzalow property has been purchased.

Added 3200 acres and approximately 10 miles to the Cumberland Trail.

Connection between Sale Creek and Dayton.

CTC is paying for approximately \$300,000 of the purchase.

Next CTC board meeting – February 27, 2010 at Cumberland Mountain State Park.

Volunteer Appreciation Hike, Dinner and Slumber Party – January 23.

- Tenderfoot Award – Janice Agee  
Amount of time spent working with CTC.
- 1000 Hour Awards  
Pete  
Larry
- Bob Brown Award
  - Don Deakins

Recent Trail Activities

Signal Mountain

Rock Creek Gorge

North Chickamauga – December college students spent a week working on the trail.

New Promotion:

Making the Connection: Connect Frozen Head to Cove Lake

March trail building with college students

Wartburg area.

April 8 – 25 trail building – Wartburg area

May 16 – May 22: AHS vacation

Presentations to groups and organizations:

Tony was in Pigeon Forge for the Wilderness Wildlife Week.

Had a booth and made a presentation.

Fund Raisers in Fall 2009

Stump Jump

50K in the New River Section of the trail.

BRAT

Gift wrapping at REI.

Rails to Trails (TRAC) – Bob Richards.

Rails to trails conversion.

- Clarksville – 2.5 mile section just opened.
- Sequoyah rail – Soddy Daisy.  
Seven mile section from Soddy Daisy to Sequoyah nuclear power plant.
- Rail with Trail: 19 miles from Cookeville to Monterey.

Waiting for authorization.

- McMinn County  
6.4 mile abandonment – City of Athens trying to obtain.
- Elizabethton and Johnson City.
- Memphis – Greater Memphis green line  
Downtown Memphis towards Cordova

National Trails Day – Robert Richards.

2009 – 27 events with over 1500 people participating.

2010 – Please register your event.

If register early, one of the first 500 to register, you get free promotional items.

Requesting that all chapters host a National Trails Day Event: June 5, 2010.

Annual Meeting Report – Rosemary Marshall

November 2009.

Pre-registrations: 200. Total registrations: 208

Donation to CTC: \$8000

Gift from Garnett Rush

- Status of brokerage account at Charles Schwab - Brokerage account is still active.
- Stock was sold for approximately \$1061.00. At the request of Garnett Rush, the proceeds have been donated to CTC. CTC will acknowledge the gift.
- To make a donation of stock to CTC, it would be best to donate the money to TTA which has the ability to accept the stock as per our non-profit organizational status.

Evan Means and Other Grants – Bob Richards

- Three Grant applications:
  - CTC – Spring Breakaway 2010
  - Friends of Bledsoe Creek State Park
  - Memorial Bench for Bob Brown.

Recommendation by Bob Richards – fund \$1700.

\$1000 to CTC

Bledsoe Creek State Park - \$100 for gloves and trash bags.

Memorial Bench for Bob Brown - \$600 for one bench.

Motion to accept as recommended by Bob Richards. Motion passed.

Southeast Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) – Fount Bertram

- May 20 – 23, 2010 at the Dubose Center in Monteagle.
- Will have workshops, hikes and speakers.
- Three days of hikes – need hike leaders.

Motion by Bob Richards to provide \$300 to SEFTC to support the meeting.

Seconded by Ron Dunn.

Discussion: Could this be funded by Evan Means Grant Money?

Answer: Yes.

Motion passed.

**Real Estate Transfer Tax – Nora Beck.**

Real Estate Transfer Tax – small fee added to every real estate transaction with monies earmarked for conservation: wetlands, land acquisition, local parks and recreation.

Governor has included this in his budget.

Your legislator needs to be contacted to make sure that the money remains in the budget.

**Delegation of authority to CTC – Don Dresser.**

MOTION That TTA delegates to the Board of Directors of CTC, effective from this date through the first regularly scheduled meeting of the TTA Board of Directors in 2011, the authority to conduct business as an associate organization of TTA, including the power and authority to enter contracts in furtherance of its mission, including contracts with governmental entities, to open and maintain bank and other financial accounts, to make decisions regarding hiring and retention of personnel and to settle claims up to a maximum of \$5000 without further approval of TTA.

Motion by Bob Richards. Seconded by Anne Wesley. Motion carried.

**Cumberland Odyssey – Don Dresser**

Book about the Cumberland Trail by David Brill and Bill Campbell.

Available through Amazon – probably in May 2010.

You can pre-order through Amazon.

**Sales Tax Holiday Windows – Tennessee law**

Non-profits can purchase items without having to pay sales tax.

If we sell items throughout the year, then we would need to pay sales tax on all items sold during the year.

No sales tax needs to be paid if we confine sales to two 30-day periods each year.

Suggestion: one period during the month of the annual meeting.

For 2010, should choose another month, at which time, we could sell the book and other TTA items.

**General Discussion**

- Channels of communication among members.
- Email or online versions of TTA's newsletter
  - Could we allow the newsletter to be accessed by password?
  - Printing costs will not change much if we decrease the number printed.
  - A large part of the savings will be for postage.
  - Currently, print 800 newsletters per month.
- TTA's Facebook page

Jackson and Memphis have been using the TTA Facebook page to post their hikes.

Any chapter can be added as an Administrator which will allow you to add your events. If interested, contact Don Dresser or Millette Jones.



Dates for TTA Meetings This Year

- May 8, 2010 board of directors meeting – Shelby Bottoms, Nashville, TN
- August 7, 2010 board of directors meeting
- November 12-14, 2010 annual meeting – Pickwick State Park

Announcement:

Bob Barnett passed away approximately a week ago. He served two terms as TTA President. Fount Bertram is collecting stories and anecdotes to pass onto his family. A request was made to submit an article to the TTA newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller  
TTA Secretary



CTC Report  
Feb 6, 2010  
TTA Board Mtg

Kinzalow Property closing now adds 3200 acres to Cumberland Trail, and 10 additional miles to expand between Dayton and Sale Creek. CTC's commitment of \$300,000 was sent however, was returned because the CTC's real commitment for now is to pay only the property taxes of \$10,000 to Rhea county and \$5,000 to Hamilton county. This purchase was made possible through the assistance of the Heritage Conservation fund and federal grants.

A formal announcement was circulated through the TTA List-serve around Jan 12.

The CTC's Board of Officers meeting on Jan 30 was cancelled due to snow and has been rescheduled for Sat, Feb 27 at 9:00am CT at Cumberland Mtn SP in the meeting room directly below the park's restaurant. Anyone interested in attending are asked to rsvp to the CTC office; Marleya Pendelton.

Even though the CTC Board hasn't met, I can report:

Volunteer Appreciation Hike. Dinner, CT Update Report and Slumber Party. 30 came to hike Black Mountain and a photo-op at Windlass Cave.

About 60 attended the dinner, where annual awards were presented:

- Tenderfoot Award – Jan Agee (Soddy) for the amount of time (trail building, getting folks out on the trail) and enthusiasm (promoting the trail, volunteering) she has provided.
  - 100 hour patch – 3 recipients
  - 1,000 hour of volunteer service – Pete and Larry
  - Bob Brown Award – Don Deakins (Soddy)
  - CTC Award - Benic M. Clark (President, Treasurer of the Lyrndhurst Foundation) – for at least 10 years of support to the CT and CTC.
  - Trail Master of the Year – Tony Hook
- 6 stayed in private cabins  
8 stayed in the beautiful Mill House where socializing continued after the dinner.

Recent trail building activities:

Fall – Signal Point – general maintenance and replace rotted steps.  
Rock Creek Gorge area - through a \$2000 grant awarded by REI, 3 rotted bridges were replaced.

Winter – North Chickamauga - last month 10 students from Grand Valley State University (Michigan) and 6 from Kansas State Univ came and repaired trail tread, built stone steps, corrected trail erosion.

Upcoming events:

- BreakAway – students will start arriving at the end of this month and change out each week through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March - with a "fresh" enthusiastic group of new college/university students. The goal for this BreakAway is the "making the connection, Frozen Head to Cove Lake" campaign and will be based out of Wartburg.
- "Making the connection, Frozen Head to Cove Lake" campaign once completed will be a 38-mile segment and connect Frozen Head SP to Cove Lake SP. And, many of the upcoming trail building events will focus in this area.
- April 8 – 25 trail building event follows BreakAway and remains focused on the "making the connection" campaign in the Wartburg area. ("Making the Connection" 4-color flyer created by CTC was circulated to each chapter chair for posting in a local library, fitness facility, etc. And if they need additional copies, contact CTC office)
- May 16 – 22 American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation will be working on the "making the connection" campaign.
- Oct 17 – 23 American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation will be working on the "making the connection" campaign.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Recent promotions and presentations:

- Most recent – Summer Trails Chapter
- Wilderness Week in Pigeon Forge – many attendees at this free conference were very interested to learn about CT

Fundraising:

- BRAT in September
- Run, Stump, Jump, in Oct – Mullen Cove Loop and Pot Point Loop, Tennessee River Gorge area.
- Cumberland Trail 50K at the end of October – New River Segment, Cove Lake area. First time event with the Knoxville Track Club. 20 runners.
- Annual Meeting – thanks to all of TTA's Board and Members
- Gift Wrapping – 8<sup>th</sup> time for the Nashville Chapter at REI

Of course, fund raising for CT's future remains Tony's top priority. And the CT Board would like to see everyone in TTA make some kind of financial commitment; especially since the State is no longer providing financial support. For the 2010 budget period, the CTC operations are financially sound; however, it's the future we need to support.