

Approved
no revisions

**Tennessee Trails Association
2nd Quarter Board Meeting
REI, Nashville
May 5, 2012**

PRESENT: Millette Jones, Carolyn Miller, Diane Manas, Ann Jacobs, Ron Dunn, Levonn Hubbard, Nora Beck, Don Dresser, Marvin Caine, Jim Poteet, Charlie Bright, Sara Pollard, Cheryl Heckler, David & Shirley Primeau, Robert Richards.

ABSENT: Graydon Swisher, Rosemary Marshall, J.R. Tate, John Redmon, Rita Norvell, Vicky Moeller, Libby Francis, Scott Pun, Bob McGavock, Louise Minnard.

Meeting was called to order by President, Millette Jones at 1:00pm.

Welcome and introductions were made.

Testing a new format of emailing a "zipped" folder containing various reports for pre-reviewing and referenced as topics on the meeting's agenda. And, a recess activity to identify personal contributions to successful innovations teams for brainstorming TTA's focus for the coming year.

Levonn Hubbard commended Millette for the pre-review/zip folder packet received prior to the Board meeting which was quickly followed by several positive verbal affirmations from others present.

Secretary's Report – Diane Manas

Motion by Carolyn Miller to amend the February 4, 2012 minutes: page 5 under Cove Lake: "Sand Cranes" should read "Sand Hill Cranes." Seconded by Cheryl Heckler. Motion passed to amend the minutes.

Membership Report – Ron Dunn

Membership report circulated in pre-review/zip folder <attached>. Increase of 44 members; possibly due to time of year. Historically cannot conclude that the increase is due TTA's visibility at recent Earth Day events.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Jacobs

Treasurer's cash flow and net worth reports circulated in pre-review/zip folder <attached>. No discussion recorded.

Reports by Regional Reps

East TN – Levonn Hubbard

Although Levonn was present, a report was circulated in the pre-review/zip folder <attached>. The report: "Doing some planning for a First Aid/Safety course for hikers. Otherwise, still working on hikers attaining the 50 miler award/patch, a patch for the 100 miler, chapters hiking together, spreading the word about hiking, and recruiting members for TTA and CTC."

Middle TN – Nora Beck

Investigating the opportunity of placing an announcement in the Lawrenceburg-Lewisburg area to invite hikers to meet; hike; and, explore the opportunity to form a chapter.

Reports by Chapter Officers

Clarksville – reported by J.R. Tate via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

We have gained three new memberships since the last quarterly meeting.

We continue to hike each Saturday and attendance has been good. Six of our members (myself included) hiked 75 miles on the Appalachian Trail the week of 14-22 April from Erwin, TN, to Hampton, TN. Spectacular country over Roan Mountain and Big and Little Hump Mountains.

Additionally, we participated in Clarksville's Rivers and Spires Festival 20-21 April and had excellent coverage and lots of interest.

We continue to work closely with our county Parks and Recreation to assist in trail maintenance and other improvements in our local Rotary Park.

Columbia/Franklin - reported by Marvin Caine via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Scheduled 6 hikes for this quarter. One in February was cancelled due to cold and windy weather.

Two hikes were joint hikes with Murfreesboro Chapter led by Bob Goodwin, Monte Santo Park, Huntsville, AL and David Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, TN.

Three interesting presentations were given at Feb, March and April meetings. Rick Lausten gave a slide presentation on a camping and hiking trip to Yosemite National Park made by five of our members. Rita Venable spoke on 'Butterflies of Tennessee' and Bob Goodwin on a trip to New Mexico.

In conjunction with Allan Trently of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation volunteers from our chapter put in much needed steps along the trail at Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area. Thanks to all who helped, especially Rick Pinkleton. Allan stated in an e-mail to me that "Of all my partners with the west/middle TN state natural area, your chapter of TTA is the most reliable and the best volunteers".

Jackson - reported by Vicky Moeller via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Had two hikes per month in the Months of Feb, March and April.

Average 12 hikers per hike.

Monthly meeting on the first Monday of the Month.

We are planning our hiking schedule for the fall.

Memphis- reported by Charlie Bright; also present, via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Weekly hikes: 18 hikes

Hikers on the trail: average 17 hikers per hike.

Potluck: 2 separate events - TTA members served chili and soup at their homes for after the hike lunch. The hikers brought salad, desserts, and drinks.

Joint hikes with Jackson Chapter: 2.

Trail Maintenance – Meeman-Shelby Forest: three events.

2012 Green Up Festival Table Display: April 28 – festival celebrating things citizens can do to make Memphis more eco-friendly and a more attractive place to live.

Annual Picnic - Francis Ruffin is organizing the annual picnic.

Chapter membership increase: 7 new members this quarter; 63 total memberships.

Murfreesboro- reported by Sara Pollard; also present, via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Our chapter has participated in several outings in the past few months. We hiked Mossy Ridge, Montgomery Bell State Park and had two joint hikes with the Columbia/Franklin chapter and one with Highland Rim. Several members attended the Edgar Evins State Park Waterfall Tour and the Celebration of Spring event. We had our annual Wildflower Walk and Potluck at the Bowling Farm in Monterey and participated in two Earth Day activities.

Our hike planning meeting is next month and we want to plan more family hikes and other activities. Our annual picnic is in June at Barfield Crescent Park and we plan to do trail maintenance there on National Trails Day.

As chapter chair I've been sending out weekly emails highlighting our upcoming hike and reminding individual members about renewing their TTA membership.

Nashville- reported by Libby Francis, via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Due to a prior commitment Libby will be unable to attend the May board meeting. Doug Burroughs has agreed to be the new chair and will take over the position effective July 1. The Nashville Chapter had a booth at the Outdoor Vendors Day at Bells Bend Park and a booth at Earth Day at Centennial Park, both were well attended.

Diane Manas added: Hiking each week – some better attended than others. No fund-raising activities this qtr. Had volunteer support at CTC's BreakAway in March. Monthly meetings are attended by 20-25 people each month. The past two months, our speakers have taken us "under," one in the caves of Belize, the other to the land down under; New Zealand & Australia. Most recently, our guest spoke of the Native American Indian Mounds. Promoted TTA at the recent Earth Day program at Centennial Park. And, Bells Bend Outdoor Center Vendor Show.

Plateau - reported by Cheryl Heckler; also present, via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Our chapter membership has increased to 61.

We have enjoyed some beautiful spring flowers and weather on our regular weekly Wednesday hikes and two Saturday hikes per month.

We continue to monitor the Cumberland Mt State Park trails.

Our chapter meeting programs have been: "Alaska" by Sharon & Gary Moore, "Building the Cumberland Trail" by Mark Richie, "Choosing the right poles, backpack & boots" by Plateau Outdoors, and "Critters that hike where you hike" by Don Hazel.

We scheduled a joint hike with Cove Lake Chapter in February.
We are planning our National Trail's Day event "Hike the Trails at Cumberland Mt State Park."

Soddy Daisy - reported by Bob McGavock via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Chapter has increased enrollment by 4 since beginning of 2012

Plans underway to co-host a National Trails Day(RegTM) event with North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy at Greenway City Park in Chattanooga on June 2nd.

Chapter members continue to distribute business cards and brochures to prospective members. Hikes are advertised in major newspaper a week prior to each hike.

An unsolicited newspaper article featured activities of our chapter, including interviews of some members.

Member participation with CTC trail construction along Roaring Creek in section near Graysville, Tn.

Sumner Trails- reported by David & Shirley Primeau; also present, via circulated pre-review/zip folder <attached>.

Our chapter membership remains stable, with non-renewals being generally members who were not active in attendance at meetings or hiking events. Chapter info on the City of Hendersonville Web site and in the local free newspaper are main sources of new members.

We have had chapter meeting programs on "Air Quality 101" by the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, "Exercises for Hikers" by the Sumner County YMCA, and "A Walking Holiday in Great Britain" by Chapter member Anne Wesley.

In lieu of a chapter meeting in April, we met for "Tuesday Trivia" at a local restaurant. This is always a popular social event for the chapter, as we divide into teams to play trivia with other customers at the restaurant.

We have 2-3 hiking events each month, of various lengths and intensity. A local historian guided us through the Nashville City Cemetery in February. It has been our experience that these "history hikes" attract some chapter members who do not usually participate in the more traditional hiking activities.

We are planning a hike of the Hendersonville Greenway/Drakes Creek Trail for National Trails Day, with the goal to have participation by some city leaders and members of the community in the hike.

Reports by Associate Organizations

Rails-to-Trails - Bob Richards

Ravenwood Park recently obtained by Williamson County Parks & Recreation, and currently undeveloped but once completed will have 10 miles of hiking trails. Their challenge will be the building of a bridge over the CXS railway.

Cumberland Trail Conference – Diane Manas (reading from Ray Garrett's emailed report)

Completion of the New River section of the CT. This now provides a completed, uninterrupted trail from Tank Springs in LaFollette to Ross Gap on the western side of Frozen Head State Park.

We have been informed that the state contract for Black Mt. trail construction has been signed but not yet actually issued from the Comptrollers office??

TTA/CTC Committee Report – Jim Poteet

Report of the March 20, 2012 TTA/CTC Committee meeting, and proposed changes to TTA's by-laws; section 10; were circulated in pre-review/zip folder <attached>, and discussed.

The March 20 meeting notes circulated do not include Ray Garrett as being present during the meeting – he was, and the notes will need to be corrected. Changes to TTA (&CTC) by-laws; section 10; will be minor, however, the most significant: rather than TTA delegating authority "from time to time" (for CTC to make personal decisions, to enter contracts, to open bank accounts, to settle claims, authorizing on an annual basis, etc.), TTA gives authority to CTC "deemed prudent by the Board."

Another change clarifies who oversees the annual audit process, citing that Associate organizations "participate" in the annual audit based on TTA's directives.

Also discussed:

In TTA's by-laws there is mention that Associate organizations are required to visibly promote that they are an organization of the Tennessee Trails Association. TTA has not been proactive in enforcing this. CTC will be asked to restore this reference, more specifically on their webpage.

Understandable clarification to the dissolution clause.

Ray Garrett circulated an email to the CTC Board about the by-law changes; no one on TTA's Board has heard of any opposition to Ray's email.

Regarding bylaw changes, a formal presentation to the TTA Board will occur at the August Board mtg, followed by notification to the TTA membership via the monthly newsletter to announce the proposed changes and voting will take place during the October annual meeting.

MOTION by Levonn Hubbard to accept the changes proposed during the March 20 TTA/CTC mtg <attached>, and to recommend these by-law changes to the TTA membership.
Seconded by Don Dresser. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Membership growth idea – Jim Poteet (was circulated via pre-review/zip folder <attached>).

Discussed that each chapter may consider reaching out to their local parks "Friends of" to establish a relationship of cross promoting special events; maybe offer a special membership price to members (such as a "new" member membership/discount on a one time one-year membership). To be further investigated. Too early for TTA to establish contact with TN State's "Friends" coordinator to pursue this idea. For now, will leave it up to the local TTA chapters to develop relationships with the "Friends of" locally. Will investigate asking Fount Bertram for guidance/logistics on rolling something out statewide was mentioned.

Questions:

Is TTA getting too big? Is having more chapters better? Having more chapters may serve the smaller communities. Then, combining the efforts of other TTA chapters for joint outings to create unity.

Evan Means Grant Review – Bob Richards (waiver circulated via pre-review/zip folder <attached>).

Although WATeR's grant awarded in February was approved for wooden signs to be made, the signs made were actually metal (going against TTA's philosophy of having wooden signs on trails); because the signs were used for directing hikers to trails from a roadway. Bob Richards recommended that the waiver requested by WATeR be approved.

MOTION by Don Dresser to approve the metal signs.

Seconded by Jim Poteet. A vote of hands – 15 yes; 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Bob Richards will send WATeR an approval letter.

Outdoor Encounters - requesting \$600 to buy trail tools (fire rakes, Macleod, etc) to construct the 3-mile "Alexander" Trail connecting Thompson Station park to Heritage Park.

MOTION by Jim Poteet to approve \$600 for trail building tools.

Seconded by Marvin Caine. Motion passed.

Bob Richards will send an approval letter.

Old Business

Update on Annual Meeting – J.R. Tate

A contract has been signed with the US Forest Service (Land Between the Lakes Division) for use of Brandon Springs Group Camp for the weekend of October 26-28. Also, a "confirmation" \$200.00 deposit. The Clarksville Chapter Committee will be meeting with the Brandon Springs Group Camp Director (the same director as was at the 2006 meeting) in May to semi-finalize details. J.R. Tate has sales tax questions regarding services that will be provided by Brandon Springs Group Center. Specific questions had not been identified, and since J.R. was not present at the Board meeting, Don Dresser will contact J.R. and advise.

Update on National Trails Day- Bob Richards

Currently there are 27 registered events for Tennessee National Trails Day with three specifically defined TTA hikes. Ideally, there will be a NTD event in every TN state* park.

<Side note regarding June 2 and National Trails Day – Cumberland Trail State Park manager, Bobby Fulcher, has planned a "CT Trail Builders Reunion" at Cove Lake State* Park. Invitations were sent to CTC Board members, and it isn't clear if any trail building volunteers were invited.>

Fran Wallas 36 Great Hikes Patch – Nora Beck.

Nora circulated 2 patch designs for voting/deciding on the preferred design. A 2-combo patch design was suggested by Jim Poteet. The top patch would be round, while a separate bottom patch, called a "rocker," would say something like "hiked 'em all." Nora to circulate a new design before or at the next Board meeting. Once completed, Nora will write a promotional announcement for TTA's monthly newsletter in addition to writing the text to appear on TDEC's webpage, and will be working out the logistics for cross promoting the patch with/through TDEC. TTA's Merchandise Coordinator will

maintain inventory and sell the patches - TDEC will help promote the 36 Great Walks and the patch (ideally, with a link directing people to TTA's webpage with information for ordering the patch). Nora (with Candy Higgs and Marietta Poteet) will investigate minimum purchase requirements and costs to produce patches.

Discussed whether an application/questionnaire should be submitted by person completing all 36 hikes. Decision undetermined.

Nora and Bob Richards will coordinate securing the last of the "Fran Wallas' 36 Great Hikes" booklets for TTA to have to sell via TTA's Merchandise Coordinator.

Recess

Everyone participated in a teamwork exercise "Understanding and valuing your contribution to successful innovation teams." The purpose was to step out of our comfort zone by identifying personal strengths, which precipitated further communication for brainstorming ideas/committees for developing/advancing ideas in the coming year; such as:

Membership – could comprise of 2-people; 1 for data entry; 1 for public relations/media director. Ron Dunn is currently seeking a replacement.

People taking ownership/involvement.

Building a relationship with CTC.

Trail building projects.

Annual meetings – "share the work" where the same several people assist each hosting chapter. It was suggested that we expand offerings/programs at the meetings (for the non-hikers).

Webmaster. It was suggested the website have an online hike sign-up area. Jim Poteet is currently seeing a replacement.

Hiking Tennessee Trails – update book; create a new one.

Have a "How-To" guide with steps in starting a new chapter.

Developing relationships with other groups; such as Boy Scouts.

Revamp the monthly newsletter (to mirror the Appalachian Mountain Club's quarterly journal).

Partnering with "Friend of" groups.

Communications manager (networking with other orgs to gain publicity).

Need man power and talent. And, prioritize activities.

Conclusion: Millette will categorize the listing and distribute to chapter officers for promoting member involvement.

Concluding Action Plan

Nora Beck will buy the remaining "Fran Wallas 36 Great Hikes" booklets.

Bob Richards will send approval letter to WATeR.

Millette will compile the "visionary" listing.

Dates for future TTA meetings

August 4, 2012

October 28, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Submitted by:

Diane Manas; Secretary, Tennessee Trails Association



Attachments