

Meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by TTA President, Millette Jones.

The Plateau, Soddy Daisy and Upper Cumberland chapters were recognized for the work they have done for hosting this year's Annual Meeting.

Reminded chapter officers, in addition to all present, of the Evan Means Grant Fund submission deadline of December 31, 2013. Grants may be used for chapters' local parks and or trail needs; amounts considered usually range \$3-600.00 dollars.

Awards were presented:

Tennessee Trails Award – presented by Millette Jones to Friends of the Smokies

Bill Stutz Award – presented by Don Dresser to Millette Jones, Murfreesboro Chapter

Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award – presented by Carolyn Miller to Martin McCullough and Jim Schroeder. (They received 2 standing ovations)

Cumberland Trail State Park progress report for 2013 activities presented by Mark Stanfill (State Parks Trails Administrator, Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail)

Entire month of March 2013 saw 16th BreakAway program orchestrated by the CTC; 13 colleges; built 13.2 miles of trail in the Graysville Mtn area. CTC is in the process of erecting a large bridge in the Soddy Creek Gorge area; should be completed by the end of the year. Recently, Black Mtn trail relocation by CTC staff, students and dedicated members of TTA. TN State Parks has used its own crews to build trail, and for bridge work in the Campbell County area of the CT from the valley up to the ridge. And, TN State Parks is working with Cumberland Gap National Historical Park to identify relocation and reroutes to better connect to the CT. Volunteers were provided through the National Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation program. The Cove Lake Chapter was recognized for the trail maintenance work in their area.

Chapter Officer Reports

Clarksville – JR Tate

The chapter participated in 5 local events; Riverfest; Spring Fling; NTD; NPLD. Recognized Suva Bastin for communicating with new members and those with memberships nearing or having expired.

Columbia/Franklin – Marvin Caine

Two hikes are planned per month; and, a monthly meeting with interesting guests and topics (New Zealand and Australia by Libby Francis & Elizabeth Gerlock, Wildflowers by Randy Hedgepath, Coast 2 Coast by Rick Lausten). The chapter has a small change collection at each meeting with donations going to the CTC and had collected \$346 dollars. Recognized Rick Pinkleton for designing and coordinating with TN State Natural Areas division of TDEC for obtaining approvals and materials for the 27-foot bridge work in the Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area. Chapter's trail project at Stillhouse Hollow Falls SNA included redoing new steps and trail to the overlook, and labor on the 27-ft bridge over the creek.

Cove Lake – John Redmon

One hike and one trail project are planned per month. Adopted an 11.4-mile segment of the CT. Has 7 members.

Dyer County – Not Represented.

East TN – Garnett Rush for Rosemary Marshall

Two hikes are planned per month; had a picnic recently at Ft Loudon State Park.

Highland Rim – Linda Hudson

Recognized Joan Hartvigsen for well-received meeting programs and leading lots of outings. Programs are promoted via local newspaper and newsletters are posted at the local rec center. Membership is growing due to meeting new people on the outings and at the meetings. Fundraised and made a donation to Old Stone Fort State Park for them to expand the greenway, which will take hikers off of a busy road.

Jackson – Vicky Moeller

Up to 25 members now. Favorite hiking areas are west of Nashville; east of the Mississippi River; and, northwest Alabama. Adopted Natchez Trace State Park for maintaining the trails.

Memphis – Francis Ruffin (Co-Chair)

Twenty-nine hikes so far. Hikes are planned from January, with a New Year's hike, through May and September through Dec 7; ending the year out with a Holiday Party. Adopted Meeman-Shelby State Park for trail and general park maintenance. Favorite areas for hiking – TN, AR, MS.

Murfreesboro – Sara Pollard

Longtime member Winston Bowling passed away recently. Fundraising for the chapter is through an annual yard sale at a local doctor's parking lot. Our NTD event was at Barfield Crescent Park. Participated in a combined outing with Highland Rim chapter to Mt LeConte. Recognized Valerie Galan for bringing in interesting and educational programs to the chapter meetings, and to Craig McBride for maintaining the chapter blog.

Nashville – Doug Burroughs

REI has been very supportive of TTA and Nashville Chapter. They publish our chapter's hikes on their online events calendar. Had been awarded an Evan Means Grant to install a special bench in memory of Bob Brown. Nashville will be hosting the next Annual Meeting; October 24-26, 2014.

Northwest – Not Represented.

Plateau – Cheryl Heckler

Membership is up to 71. The chapter hikes every Wednesday and two Saturdays each month. Have had several joint chapter outings; Soddy Daisy, East TN and Upper Cumberland. Adopted Black and Brady Mtn segments of the CT. Was awarded an Evan Means Grant to buy materials for building steps and for a re-route on Black Mtn. NTD event took place on Black Mtn. A calendar featuring photos of our chapter's favorite hiking places was turned into a fundraiser, and well received. Chapter members were commended for volunteering over the past several months for organizing and executing this year's Annual Meeting.

Soddy Daisy – John Politte

Two hikes are planned per week; one short; one long. Tuesday's hike has seen an increase in attendees. George and Sarah Bonneau have consistently been getting our outings posted in the Chattanooga paper. Members have been volunteering for the Big Soddy Creek bridge work currently going on. Members were recognized for assisting with the planning and execution of this year's Annual Meeting.

Sumner Trails – Jane Hamm & Gayle Livingston

Our chapter is creating a niche by offering history oriented hikes and gaining membership this way. The history hikes are posted to the local newspaper. We have been encouraging members to get involved through social interaction and activities at the co-chair's homes.

Upper Cumberland – Louise Minniard

Hikers on the Virgin Falls hike today completed it in 5 hours! Marnell Cothran has completed a 120th hike to Virgin Falls. Produced a slide show for advertising to prospective members. Hikes are offered every Saturday.

Election of Board Officers for 2014

President: Carolyn Miller
Vice President: Levonn Hubbard
Treasurer: Kathy Woods
Membership Director: Tim Townley
Secretary: Diane Manas

"Pokey" Pete Broehl made a motion to accept the slate of candidates. Motion was seconded by Joan Hartvigsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Submitted by:

Diane Manas

Secretary, Tennessee Trails Association

