

Tennessee Trails Association
General Membership Meeting
October 25, 2014 (Approved 2/7/15)
Montgomery Bell State Park

Meeting was called to order at 6:13pm by TTA President, Carolyn Miller.

The Nashville & Sumner Trails chapters were recognized for the work they have done hosting this year's Annual Meeting. Carolyn commended the variety of mini lecture sessions offered through the day as well as to Bob Richards for his trail design and maintenance sessions.

Chapter Officer Reports

Clarksville Chapter – Reported by Suva Bastin on behalf of J.R. Tate

The first hike for the year was combined with a wedding. The chapter had presentations at the Austin Peay Wellness Day; Rivers and Skiers, Spring Fling and at Halloween Happenin'. Dunbar Cave State Park acquired land next to the park recently where Clarksville members have been invited to help build new trails. The chapter has adopted 8 miles of trail in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Two members were recognized for working on the Cumberland Trail each BreakAway for the past five years; they are Ron Hunter and Lionel Senseney.

Columbia/Franklin Chapter – Reported by Marvin Caine

Our chapter schedules two hikes/events per month and meets monthly on the first Tuesday. We planned our hikes etc. for the year at our June and December meetings. At all other meetings we have had very interesting programs. Many have been presentations by our own members. In that regard I would like to thank Rick Lausten, Tommy Haskins, Lou Laretta and Ellen Clark and Fred and Rita Warner for their fine presentations. Some of the notable events we have had during the year have been: a hike on Swan Trust land and a tour of "The Farm" in Summertown, TN in March; a weekend trip and hikes in the Smokies in May; a Canoe trip on the Caney Fork River in June; a weekend trip and hikes in Mississippi in October, and an upcoming Survival Day on Russell Smiths' property in November. We fundraised \$159 for the building of the Cumberland Trail (funds will be mailed soon). We recently purchased a new computer to have on hand for the monthly meetings. I am sad to report the passing of one of our members, John Dillon, we was well-liked and TTA has received several donations in his memory. Marvin thanked Ellen Clark for being Program Coordinator this year, Jane Coffey for being Hiking Coordinator and Laura Barber for being our newsletter editor over the last several years. Unfortunately, we will be losing Laura as she will be moving out of state. Marvin also stated he "would like to thank the member who will become Chapter Chair for next year."

Cove Lake – Not Represented.

Dyer County – Not Represented.

East TN – Reported by Rosemary Marshall

Teamed up with local hiking (& skiing) club for a combined hike each month. Invited by the new REI to promote TTA during a special grand opening event. East TN will be the host for the 2015 TTA Annual Meeting; will be in November; details forthcoming.

Highland Rim – Reported by Joan Hatvigsen for Naullain Kendrick

The Highland Rim Chapter has enjoyed a great year. We have hiked almost every weekend and presented monthly programs. We have camped and hiked in the Smokies and the islands on Tims Ford Lake. We have backpacked on the AT on Roan Mt., in Fall Creek Falls SP and in the Smokies. We have paddled the Elk, Duck, Harpeth and Tennessee Rivers, and Tims Ford Lake. We have held work days at Short Springs State Natural Area and Tims Ford State Park. We have gone on a birding outing at Wheeler WMA, and a caving trip near Sherwood, TN. We supported the Friends of South Cumberland State Park by working at their fund raiser, "Trails & Trillium," and leading hikes for the "Hike All 14" in 2014 program sponsored by Friends of South Cumberland. We get together for dinner before our monthly meetings, our annual Memorial Day and Christmas parties, and for the Poteet's Chilly Chili Hike.

Jackson – Not Represented

Memphis – Reported by Charlie Bright

We resumed our hike schedule in September after the heat wave that we call summer ran its course. We had our quarterly chapter meeting on September 11. On September 21 Derrel Blain and chapter members assisted Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundations lead hikes at their TennGreen Hike-a-thon at Meeman Shelby Park. We also did minor trail maintenance on the Horse Trail prior to the TennGreen hike. On September 27 we hiked at Village Creek State Park on Crowley Ridge in Arkansas. On October 4 we hiked at Meeman-Shelby state park. We hiked Big Hill Pond on October 18.

Murfreesboro – Submitted by Sara Pollard

The Murfreesboro chapter has 52 members and the monthly meetings are well attended. We had good presentations on Nepal, Foothills Trail and an informal discussion at our September meeting on the essentials of what to carry when hiking. We had a joint kayaking and camping weekend at Tims Ford Lake in September with the Highland Rim chapter and participants were from four chapters: Highland Rim, Memphis, Murfreesboro and Soddy Daisy. Chapter Member Craig McBride continues to keep our chapter blog up to date and does a great job. He encourages hike leaders to submit hike reports and pictures. Members receive a weekly email to remind them of upcoming hikes. Included is a link to the blog to see past hikes. We are having our hike planning meeting in November to plan hikes for January-June 2015.

Nashville – Reported by Doug Burroughs

Another good year for Nashville TTA. Chapter membership is 89 as of October 2014 (versus 91-93 this time last year). We continue to meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at the REI store in Brentwood TN. Chapter Officers are Chair: Doug Burroughs; Treasurer: Amy Sutton; Hike Coordinator: Nancy Juodenas; Programs Coordinator: Nora Beck; and Chapter Chair Emerita: Libby Francis. Thirty-three hikes were scheduled and published in the TTA Newsletter. We hiked east (Honey Creek, Piney River, etc.) and west (Pinson Mounds, Johnsonville State Park). We hiked close to home in Nashville area parks (Warner Park, Bells Bend, Downtown Nashville, etc.). Several of our hikes were to scout trails and areas to explore for the 2014 Annual Meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park. Nora Beck has continued her focus on hikes in Tennessee State Natural Areas. Ten monthly meetings were held at REI. The other two monthly events were our annual picnic at Warner Park in May and our holiday party in December. Many of our monthly meetings were presentations of hiking and/or overseas trips by members of our chapter or other TTA chapters which included: Patagonia, Scandinavia, Nepal, Isle Royale and Apostle Islands. In July, Bob Brandt discussed his new book on Nashville parks and trails. The Nashville Chapter wrapped gifts at REI in December and raised \$521.28 for CTC Breakaway meals. The Nashville Chapter continues to collate, label, fold, tab, stamp and mail out the printed copies of the TTA Newsletter each month. This process has been coordinated by Diane Manas. For 2014, the Nashville Chapter, along with the Sumner Trails Chapter, is organizing and hosting the TTA Annual Meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park October 24-26, 2014.

Northwest – Not Represented.**Plateau – Reported by Cheryl Heckler**

Our membership is 58. We hike every Wednesday and at least two Saturdays per month. Our annual overnight trip was a waterfall extravaganza in NW Georgia. We did joint hikes with East TN, Upper Cumberland and Highland Rim Chapters. We have a chapter picnic in September, Christmas Party in December and a pot luck cookout in May. The Soddy Daisy & Plateau Chapters are working with Cumberland Mountain State Park rangers to improve 3 water crossings with the 2013 TTA Annual meeting proceeds. We completed improvement of the steps down through the rocks on the Black Mountain for the Evans Means Grant (made the cover of the November newsletter). We worked on our adopted Cumberland Trail segments, Black Mt and Brady. We support a new hiking club, Crossville Trails, who are trying to build more trails in Crossville area. The current project is a new trail being built at Meadow Lake. Our National Trails Day project was a hike on Lilly Bridge Overlook and Point Trail, Obed Wild & Scenic River. We had 13 hikers including 4 new ones. Our chapter calendar brought \$204. In addition to the calendars, we are selling Chapter T-shirts to members.

Soddy Daisy – Reported by Ed Pyers

Chapter membership is 29 individuals (down from 32). During this quarter the chapter conducted 20 hikes. We hike on Tuesdays and Saturdays. For the year our chapter will have hiked 650 miles. A few members conducted some over-night hikes. During the October meeting Ed Pyers was elected chairperson and Donna Pyers was elected co-chairperson. Bob McGavock and George Bonneau were elected Treasurer and hike coordinator, respectively.

Sumner Trails – Reported by Jane Hamm & Gayle Livingston

Food, fun, fellowship, history and hiking describe our chapters' activities. Our hikes have had a historical emphasis with a food destination. We have traveled to hikes and stayed at local B&Bs. Our goal is 3 hikes per month and an occasional mid-week hike. We will change our monthly meeting format to include a meal at a restaurant. We have really enjoyed getting to know the Nashville chapter members while planning and executing the activities for the Annual Meeting.

Upper Cumberland – Reported by Louise Minniard

As of today, Mamell Cothran has hiked Virgin Falls 120 times. We have plans to hike with the Pickett State Park ranger on their new trail in the Pogue Creek Gorge. We have joined with Outdoor Experience to do presentations of our chapter members' hiking trips. Many of our members have been on hiking trips. Colleen and Louise to Tasmania; Pokey Pete on the A.T.; Gary and Cindy on the AT. And trips to Georgia, Arkansas and Newfoundland. Louise in the Wind River Range on a 9 day backpacking trip. This past summer we have experienced outings that have included bicycling, caving and kayaking. Kathleen has done a good job as our hike coordinator and we appreciate this.

CTC Update – presented by Carolyn Miller

CTC's Chair is Gary Grametbauer. Gary has been a volunteer for several years on the CT; flagging trail, building trail, etc. Gary is also a signatory along with Carolyn on many of CTC's business documents. An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been secured from TDEC's Brock Hill giving CTC approval to host BreakAway in the Spring 2015. Plus, trail work projects identified by Bobby Fulcher (Ranger, Cumberland Trail State Park). Soon there will be the opportunity for volunteers to assist in the rerouting of the Black Mountain Trail; getting it off of TDOT property. Watch the Friends of Cumberland Trail webpage for postings for volunteers, especially for Black Mountain Trail as this will need to be completed asap. BreakAway will be in the Graysville area; lodging will be at Fort Bluff Camp and very close to the trail. Fort Bluff Camp has a full kitchen and staff on-site to make all of our meals. BreakAway is schedule for March 8 through April 4. Even if you don't have a desire to build trail, you can still help doing little chores around Fort Bluff Camp. Regarding the CTC office; Carolyn has been the office person, returning calls, filing, paying bills, etc. Carolyn is looking to hire an office person and will review applications/applicants before forwarding them for a formal interview by the CTC Personnel Committee. Also CTC's Nomination Committee (Linda Dixon & Gary Grametbauer) are in the process of identifying future CTC board members. If you are interested, please let them or Carolyn know of your interest. The next CTC Board of Directors meeting is Saturday December 6 – all are invited to attend. Location to be determined. Lastly, the Big Soddy Bridge was not completed by the Grant's deadline; therefore, TN State Parks will be taking over the completion of this project. Rumor has it that TN State Parks will be hiring climbers to rig the bridge supports together.

Election of Board Officers for 2015 - presented by Cheryl Heckler.

The slate of Board Officers for 2015 was presented by Cheryl Heckler. Bob Richards moved to close nominations. A motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Charlie Bright. Seconded by Buford Hatcher. The membership unanimously voted in favor of the officers for 2015:

President: Carolyn Miller

Vice President: Levonn Hubbard

Treasurer: Kathy Woods

Membership Director: Tim Townley

Secretary: Diane Manas

West TN Regional Director: Graydon Swisher

Middle TN Regional Director: Kathie Tange-duPre

East TN Regional Director: Bruce Whitehead

National Trails Day 2014 – presented by Bob Richards

In 2013 TN was 5th in the Nation for the most number of NTD events. In 2014 TN was 4th. Bob commended the hike leaders and chapters for participating and to mark your calendars for NTD in 2015; the first Saturday in June (June 6).

Annual Awards

Tennessee Trails Award – presented by Carolyn Miller to Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. For for protecting many special places in TN over the years, and then making these special spaces open to the public for future generations to enjoy.

Bill Stutz Award – presented by Jane Hamm and Gayle Livingston to Al Ballenger. For his many years of volunteer service to the hiking community. He joined TTA 1968 as an At-Large member and since has led hikes, formed Sumner Trails Chapter and continues to volunteer at all capacities within and outside of TTA..

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm. Motion seconded and passed.

Respectfully Recorded,
Diane Manas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Manas".

Secretary, Tennessee Trails Association