

**Tennessee Trails Association  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
July 30, 2016  
REI, Brentwood TN**

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REVIEW COPY w/ revisions in red - rcd as of Oct 5  
Joan Hartvigsen will be TTA's Secretary; subbing for Diane Manas;  
during the Sun, Oct 30 Bd Mtg. Please review the minutes below from  
Sat. July 30 Bd Mtg and send revisions ASAP to both Diane & Joan.  
Revisions not received on or before this Sat, Oct 8 will need to be  
presented during the Sunday, October 30, 2016 Board of Directors'  
meeting at Pickwick Landing State Park at 9:00am; Hospitality Suite.  
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**PRESENT:** Carolyn Miller, Bruce Whitehead, Kathy Woods, Diane Manas, Joan Hartvigsen, Naullain Kendrick, Charlie Bright, Sara Pollard, Doug Burroughs, Cheryl Heckler, Ed and Donna Pyers, Bob Richards

**ABSENT:** Tim Townley, Garnett Rush, Margaret Dixon, Millette Jones, Don Dresser, Ken Johnson, Carolyn Watson, Rosemary Marshall, Vicky Moeller, Sally Ticaric, Bob Crouch, Louise Miniard

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jim Poteet

**Meeting called to order by Carolyn Miller, TTA President, at 1:03 p.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions – Carolyn Miller**  
Brief welcome.

**Approval of 2nd Quarter Minutes – Diane Manas**

A **Motion** to approve the minutes as amended was made by Carolyn Miller, seconded by Donna Pyers. Motion carried. Diane will be absent during the October 28-30, 2016 Annual Meeting; Joan Hartvigsen volunteered to record the minutes of the General Membership Meeting (Saturday evening) and Board of Directors' Meeting (Sunday morning).

**Treasurer's Report – Kathy Woods**

The Treasurer's Report was circulated by email prior to meeting for review. <attached> The Income report shows a large amount of money received in the Memberships category. This is a result of memberships paid through TTA's webpage via PayPal which built up over first quarter and received from PayPal in April (versus our receiving the money from PayPal each month). Clarification was made about the verbiage "allocate the remaining \$50,000 from the Ann Potter Wilson Foundation donation" used in the CTC Update area of the April 30, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes. A **Motion** to direct the Treasurer to pay the balance of \$50,000 to CTC from the Ann Potter Wilson Foundation donation was made by Joan Hartvigsen; seconded by Carolyn Miller. Motion carried. Clarification was also made regarding Life Membership (be it single or family) monies. The principle amount received is to be invested; not touched; however, the interest earned on the investment may be used for operating costs. This is written into TTA's Bylaws.

**Membership Report – Tim Townley (absent)**

The Membership report was circulated by email prior to the meeting for review <attached>. Kathy Woods reported that 45 percent of "memberships in dollars" came through the PayPal portal (note: this does not mean that 45 percent of members pay this way; however, it would be nice if membership renewals would come through PayPal versus a check to our P.O. Box). Discussed the process of membership checks that arrive to TTA via the P.O. Box in Nashville.

**2016 TTA award nominees – Carolyn Miller**

Bill Stutz – Cheryl Heckler (Plateau Chapter). Report of Cheryl's achievements are **attached**.

Tennessee Trails Award – two separate but similar organizations were nominated; both are in Memphis. The joint award is for Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and Wolf River Conservancy. A report of their achievements are **attached**.

Bob Brown Award – Robert "Bob" Richards (Nashville Chapter). A report of Bob's achievements are **attached**.

A **Motion** was made to accept the nominations for Bill Stutz, Tennessee Trails and Bob Brown Awards; seconded by Donna Pyers. Motion carried.

Sara Pollard volunteered to prepare a press release for the Tennessee Trails Award recipients to be forwarded to Charlie Bright so that he may pass along to a reporter(s) at the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

**Officer Nominations – Carolyn Miller**

A nominating committee was created to identify a slate of board officers for 2017 (the slate will be voted on during the Annual Meeting in October). The committee members are Carolyn Miller, Bruce Whitehead plus, Garnett Rush and Don Dresser will be asked to join the committee. Board positions seeking officers are President, Secretary, Membership and one of the three regional representatives (Cheryl Heckler will provide an accounting of term expirations for East, Middle & West <attached>). Cheryl Heckler will volunteer for Membership unless someone else steps forward; and, Jim Poteet has volunteered as an interim for Membership if no one steps forward.

**Website Update – Jim Poteet & Doug Burroughs**

Jim Poteet and Doug Burroughs have been attending WordPress Meet-up gatherings close to their homes to get an understanding of what users and designers are experiencing; plus, for networking opportunities, as WordPress appears to be the preferred software and easiest to manage. Jim is working on a "statement of work" for prospective designers/contractors to bid on costs to transfer the current TTA website over to WordPress, and any additional design work requested. It's too early to forecast; however, once the transfer and design work is completed; the non-technical maintenance (updating text to the website) could be as few as 16 hours per month.

**Annual Meeting Update – Charlie Bright**

July and August's newsletters are promoting the Annual Meeting and included registration information. The Annual Meeting is Friday through Sunday, October 28-30, 2016. August's newsletter contains an article about the hikes. Charlie wanted clarification on whether to have a live auction; and if so, how large or small should it be. After discussion, the decision is left up to the hosting chapter(s). Many board officers like the idea of a few big items for the live auction and lots of mid-priced items for the silent auction. Having a hospitality suite with bake sale and beverage items would be ideal as it would also serve as an area for socializing when planned activities are not occurring.

**Regional-at-large Reports**

East TN – Garnett Rush (absent)  
No report.

Middle TN –Joan Hartvigsen  
No report.

West TN – Margaret Dixon (absent)  
No report.

**Chapter Reports**

Clarksville – Ken Johnson (absent)  
No report.

Columbia / Franklin – Carolyn Watson (absent)  
No report.

East TN – Rosemary Marshall (absent)  
No report.

Highland Rim – Submitted by Joan Hartvigsen (for Naullain Kendrick)

The Highland Rim Chapter has had a lot of fun this third quarter. That's what we do. We have held work days at Tims Ford State Park, Short Springs State Natural Area and South Cumberland State Park helping with the Fiery Gizzard Trail reroute. We have paddled the Tennessee River, Elk River and Duck River. We have hiked at Tims Ford State Park, South Cumberland State Park (three hikes), Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Prentice Cooper State Forest and Franklin State Forest. We enjoyed a camping trip at Cosby Campground, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This GSMNP camping and hiking trip was a joint activity with the Murfreesboro Chapter. Members from several Chapters joined in the fun. The Highland Rim Chapter meets monthly. We enjoy dinner together then have our meeting and a program. The June Program was on backpacking, presented by two Boy Scout Leaders who are TTA members. We have three exciting outings planned. August we are camping at the Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park, kayaking the Hiwassee River, whitewater rafting the Ocoee River, hiking in the Cherokee National Forest, kayaking the lower Ocoee. September we are camping and hiking at Deep Creek Campground in The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and whitewater rafting the Nantahala River. October we are paddling the Ghost River and camping at Chickasaw State Park. As always, all Chapters are welcome!

Jackson – Vicky Moeller (absent)  
No report.

Memphis – Charlie Bright  
No report.

Murfreesboro – Submitted by Sara Pollard

Our hike planning meeting was May 10 for hikes July-December 2016. We'll have backpacking trips to Savage Gulf, Hidden Passage and Frozen Head State Park. As well as hikes to Virgin Falls, Montgomery Bell State Park, Fall Creek Falls and the Cumberland Trail. Our next planning meeting is in November for hikes January-June 2017. We celebrated National Trails Day with a hike at Barfield Crescent Park. We had our 4th annual Smokies camping/hiking trip with the Highland Rim chapter in June. We had 14 participants and camped at the Cosby group campground. The traditional Good Friday hike was to Frozen Head State Park and we had hikers from other chapters to attend. The annual chapter picnic was in June and Joan Hartvigsen, Middle Tennessee At-Large Director attended as our special guest. Chapter meetings are well attended and presentations were Rick Lausten's trip to Wales and Jackie Kelley's travels on the Natchez Trace.

Nashville – Submitted by Doug Burroughs

Chapter membership is 87 as of July 2016. This is a decrease of 1 since the last quarterly report. Chapter Officers: Chair: Doug Burroughs; Treasurer: June Callahan; Hike Coordinator: Nancy Juodenas; Programs Coordinator: Nora Beck; Amy Sutton continues to collect the statewide TTA mail from the Melrose Post Office mailbox and process as needed. Membership applications/renewals are forwarded to the Membership Director, etc. Ten hikes were scheduled and published in the TTA Newsletter; they are: Short Springs State Natural Area; Hidden Lakes; Stillhouse Hollow Falls and David Crockett State Park; Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest; Bells Bend Park; Pinson Mounds State Archeological Park; Grundy Lakes and Grundy Forest Day Loop; Cumberland Mountain State Park; Beaman Park; Old Stone Fort State Park; Wildlife Refuges in West Tennessee; and two Nashville Urban Hikes. The Nashville Chapter

continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at the REI store in Brentwood TN, except for May (Annual Picnic at Warner Park) and December (Annual Holiday Party). The three monthly meeting topics were: in April: Margie Hunter discussed ferns and mosses; in May: Chapter Picnic at Warner Park; and in June: Pew Charitable Trust. The Nashville Chapter continues to collate, label, fold, tab, stamp and mail out the printed copies of the TTA Newsletter each month. This process is coordinated by Diane Manas.

Plateau – Submitted by Cheryl Heckler

Our membership is staying steady at 60. We hiked every Wednesday and at least two Saturdays per month with hikes in Big South Fork NP, Cumberland Trail SP, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Bald River Falls, Cumberland Trail, Picket State Park, Standing Stone SP, Savage Gulp SP, Virgin Falls SNA, Cloudland Canyon SP, Old Stone Fort, Short Springs, Fiery Gizzard, and Sewanee University of the South. This year's spring overnight trip was a 3 day hike adventure in April staying in Maggie Valley, NC hiking 3 North Carolina Smokie hikes. We are planning a fall overnight trip in Waynesville, NC to do 3 NC Smokie hikes. The Programs at our Chapter meetings were Polar Bears in Alaska. Our May chapter meeting was a cookout at Meadow Park Lake. We do not have chapter meetings in June & July. We had a National Trails Day hike on the Cumberland Trail new Hebbitsburg section and a cookout with Cumberland Trail workers afterwards.

Soddy Daisy – Submitted by Ed & Donna Pyers

The chapter membership is at 30. During the third quarter our chapter conducted over 20 hikes (Tues&Sat). Our chapter hikes rain or shine. Our Annual BBQ On The Water will be held July 26. Our next chapter meeting will be Aug 9. In the month of August we reduce the number of hikes due to the heat.

Sumner Trails – Sally Ticaric (absent)  
No report.

Upper Cumberland – Louise Miniard (absent)  
No report.

## New Business

### 2017 Annual Meeting – Joan Hartvigsen & Sara Pollard

Hosting Chapters for the 2017 TTA Annual Meeting are Highland Rim, Murfreesboro and Columbia/Franklin. Joan proposed three dates that the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle TN currently has available. Rather than selecting the early October and late November dates, it was decided to reserve the October 13-15, 2017 weekend. Bruce Whitehead made a Motion for TTA to pay \$1,000 to DuBose Conference Center as a deposit to reserve the weekend of October 13-15, 2017 for TTA's Annual Meeting; seconded by Kathy Woods. Motion carried.

TTA's Board of Directors' will meet during the Annual Meeting weekend at Pickwick Landing State Park; Sunday, October 30 (time & location tbd); while, TTA's General Membership Meeting will take place on Saturday evening, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion to adjourn the TTA Board of Directors' meeting was made by Carolyn Miller; seconded by Kathy Woods. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Diane Manas; TTA Secretary

Tennessee Trails Association  
Net Worth  
As Of June 30, 2016

<b>Assets:</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts:	
Regions Checking	103,445.88
Regions Money Market	61,231.72
CDxxxxxx3362	9,066.52
CDxxxxxx3612	10,403.61
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>184,147.73</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
	0.00
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>184,147.73</b>

**Notes:**

CD 3362 matures 9/2/16  
 CD 3612 matures 11/8/16  
 The donation from the Klabunde Trust is in the checking account.  
 The remaining 50K in the money market account from the Anne Potter Wilson Foundation has been allocated to CTC per 4/30/16 board action.

7/26/2016

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**Income/Expense by Category - Last quarter**  
4/1/2016 through 6/30/2016

Category Description	4/1/2016- 4/30/2016	5/1/2016- 5/31/2016	6/1/2016- 6/30/2016	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
Amazon Income	33.94	30.61	19.04	83.59
Memberships	3,333.86	700.00	2,077.03	6,110.89
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,367.80</b>	<b>730.61</b>	<b>2,096.07</b>	<b>6,194.48</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Evan Means Grant	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Newsletter Stipend	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
POB and Mailing Supplies	0.00	51.00	0.00	51.00
Printing and Reproduction	325.00	325.00	1,150.00	1,800.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>625.00</b>	<b>2,876.00</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>	<b>4,651.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>2,742.80</b>	<b>-2,145.39</b>	<b>946.07</b>	<b>1,543.48</b>



# TTA Membership Report

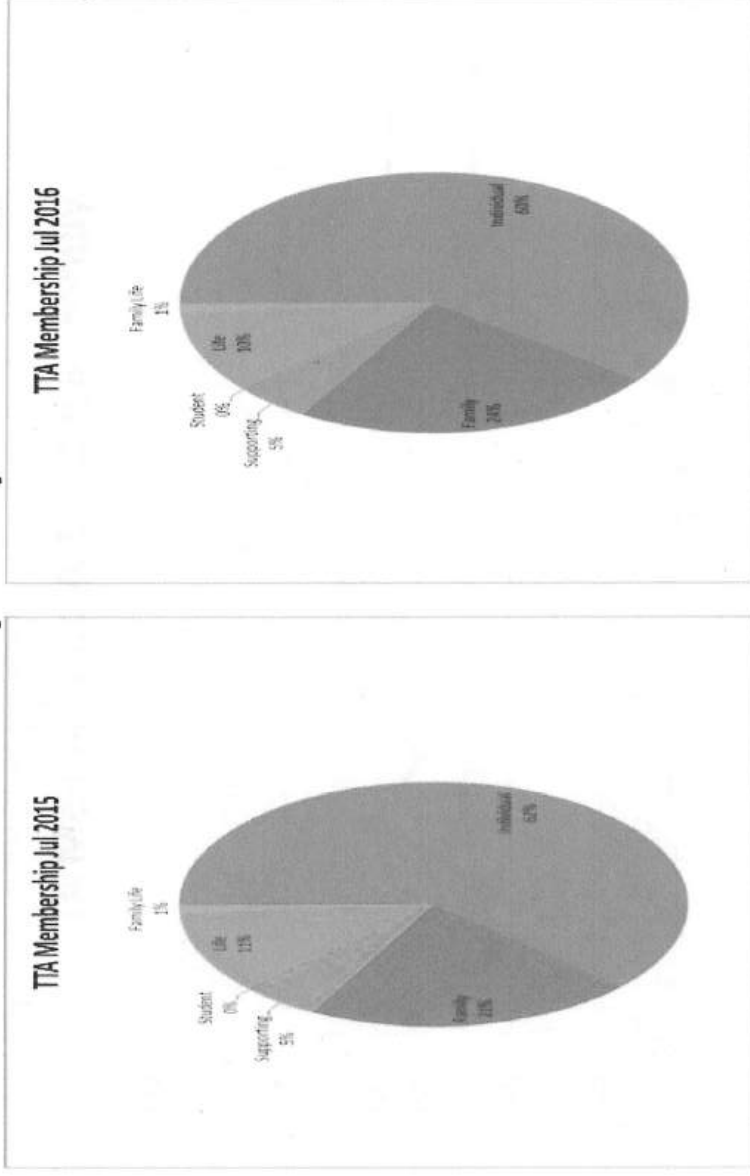
3rd Quarter 2016

Tim Townley – Membership Dir.

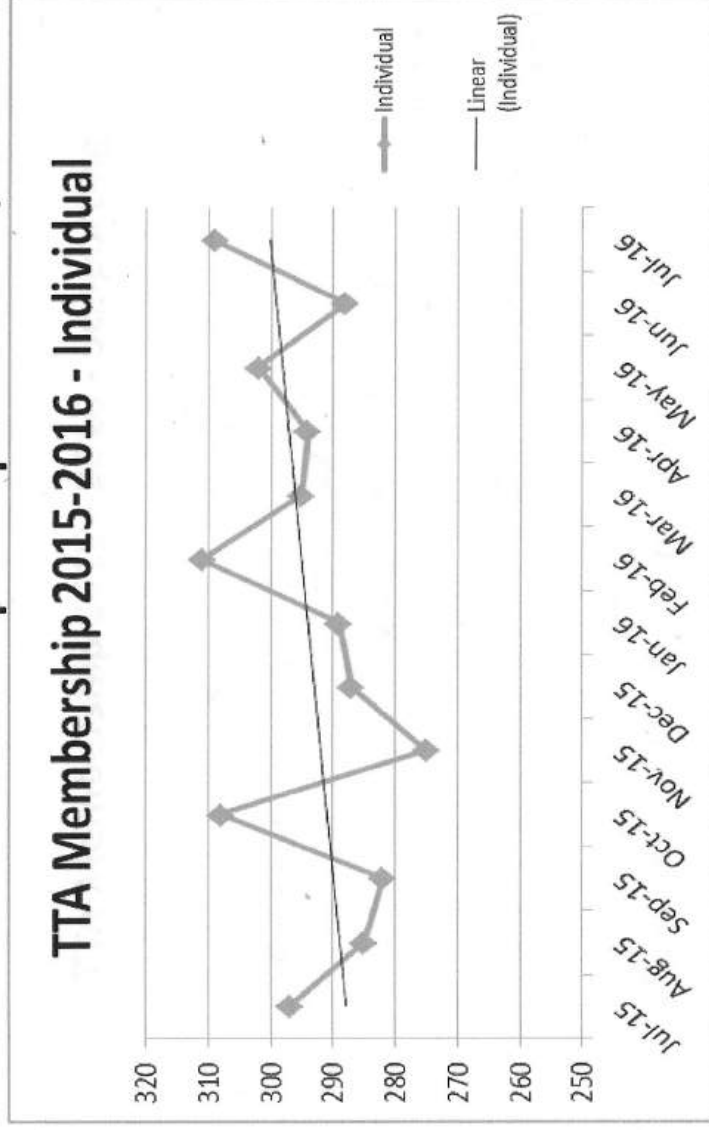
## TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016

Date	Total	Individual	Family	Supporting	Student	Life	Family Life
Jul-15	480	297	101	23	1	53	5
Aug-15	460	285	92	24	1	53	5
Sep-15	458	282	93	24	0	54	5
Oct-15	496	308	105	24	0	54	5
Nov-15	459	275	100	25	0	54	5
Dec-15	478	287	106	26	0	54	5
Jan-16	472	289	102	21	0	54	6
Feb-16	504	311	112	21	1	53	6
Mar-16	488	295	112	21	1	53	6
Apr-16	496	294	118	24	1	53	6
May-16	509	302	124	23	1	53	6
Jun-16	481	288	113	20	1	53	6
Jul-16	514	309	121	24	1	53	6

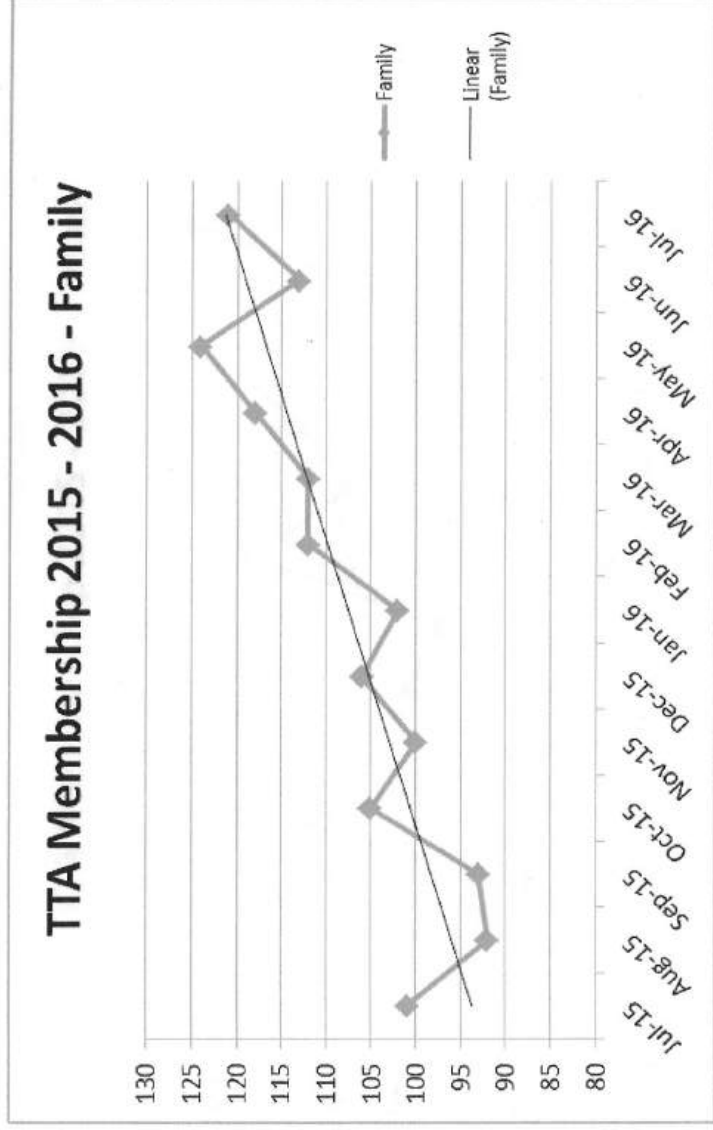
# TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016



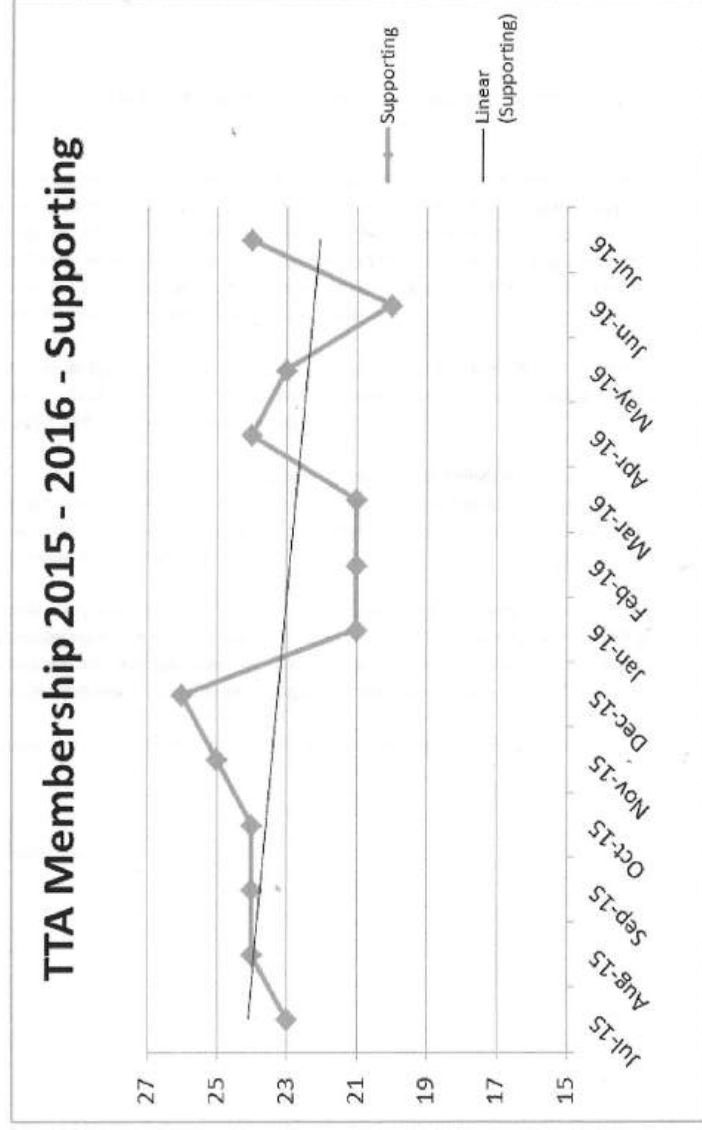
# TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016



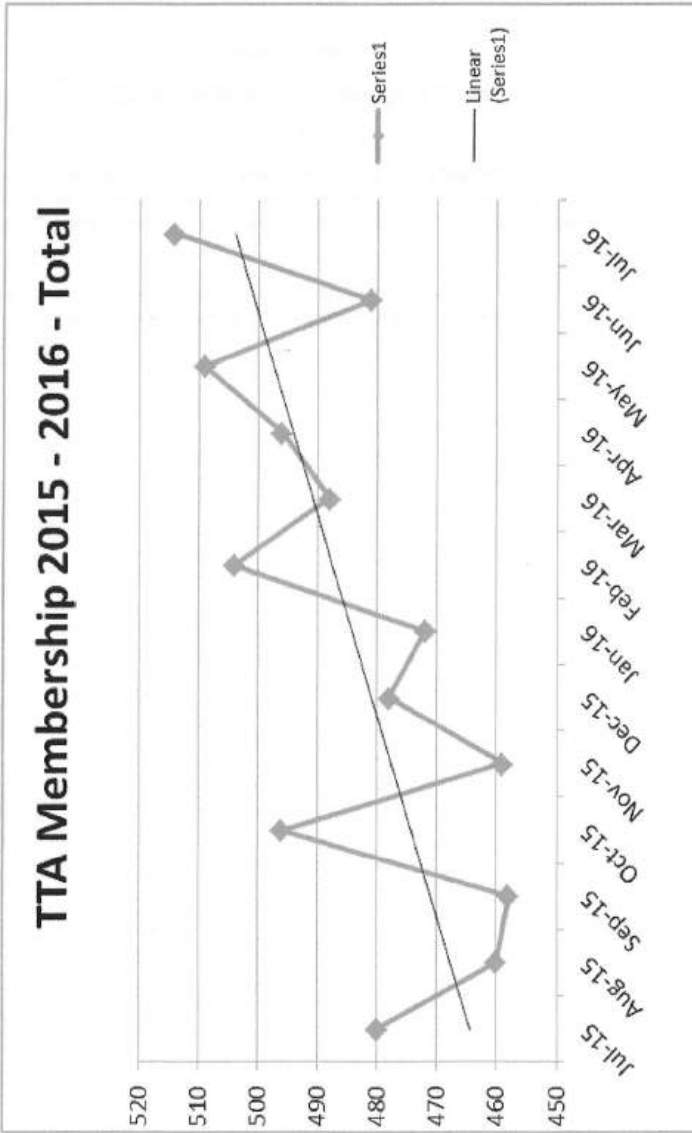
# TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016



# TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016



# TTA Membership Report – Q3 2016



Nomination for Cheryl Heckler, Plateau Chapter Chair, as the recipient of the 2016 TTA Bill Stutz Award.

This award recognizes a TTA member for his or her outstanding individual contributions to the TTA or to one of its chapters. Cheryl is the heart and soul of the Plateau Chapter. Since joining the Plateau chapter, Cheryl has been an active participant in all chapter activities, including the Wednesday hikes, organizing and leading Saturday hikes, planning overnight trips, and serving as the coordinator of the 2014 annual meeting. She introduced overnight chapter trips to North Georgia, North Carolina, and North Alabama.

In 2016, she has arranged and coordinated hikes in both the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Big South Fork. This has enabled TTA members the opportunity to earn the 100 mile patches for both of these National Park facilities.

In order to develop leadership and share the work of managing the chapter, Cheryl has recruited chapter members to serve as program coordinator, social coordinator, newsletter, Saturday hike coordinator, Wednesday hike coordinator, newspaper contributor, Blogmaster, and trail maintenance coordinator.

Cheryl spends many tireless hours coordinating hikes and outings and sending countless emails informing chapter members of hiking opportunities in the area. She promotes TTA as well as CTC activities and the hikes sponsored by Fairfield Glade. Under her leadership, the Plateau chapter membership has grown from an average of 39 members to 66 members.

Her leadership and contributions to this chapter are valuable beyond measure.

Thanks,  
Carolyn Miller  
Plateau Chapter member

**Application For  
Tennessee Trails Association Trails Award**

Shelby County, Tennessee, has made unrepresentative progress in providing additional trails for pedestrians and non-motorized transportation in the past ten years. Much of the progress is due to the vision and hard work by several local non-profits and the Memphis and Shelby County governments.

Two of the most effective organizations are Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and the Wolf River Conservancy. The following is a short history of the organizations and their remarkable accomplishments.

**Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and the Shelby Farms Greenline Trail**

1. History of SFPC.

From 1929-1964, the land that currently comprises Shelby Farm Park was the site of the Shelby County Penal Farm – an operation that became one of the most visited penal farms in the world and was renowned for its success in soil conservation, award winning cattle and a nationally important model for inmate rehabilitation. By 1964, Shelby County Government concluded that there were better uses for the property, and sought recommendations.

A 1975 concept for a new town called Shelby Farms provoked widespread, visceral opposition, and resulted in a coalition of citizens (Friends of Shelby Farms) who banded together to fight for the land's preservation for public use. County government yielded and endorsed a proposal for the land to be held for public use.

By 1975, County government had adopted and endorsed nationally known landscape architect Garrett Eckbo's "Shelby Farms Public Use Program," more commonly known as the Eckbo Plan." In 1982, 1000 acres south of Walnut Grove Road were turned over to Agricenter International for the purpose of creating a center for cutting edge research, advanced technology, major seminars and demonstrations. In 1991, Agricenter and County government gave land to Ducks Unlimited to build its international headquarters. In the same year, the public opposed County Mayor William N. Norris Jr.'s concept for a proposed wildlife preserve, golf course and conference center on the land north of Walnut Grove Road, leading to the 1994 creation of the Shelby Farms Board – a advisory body intended to be the public's voice in the park's future, whose members were appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

The idea for a nonprofit conservancy had surfaced in 2001, but was voted down by the board of commissioners in 2002. With a new county mayor and board of commissioners, interest in the concept was revived. In 2003, the commissioners named a 21-member advisory board to research and recommend action on the park's future. In 2005, the board of commissioners approved the advisory board's report, which called for treating the entire 4,500 acres as a single park; endorsed the call for a master plan for the entire park footprint; approved restrictions to prohibit changes or developments until the completion of a master plan; and recommended the creation of a public/private partnership to develop and manage the park.

In late 2006 the board of commissioners endorsed and passed a conservation easement that preserved the land exclusively for a park. A few months later, the newly created Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and Shelby County Government signed a 10-year management agreement with automatic extensions that gave the nonprofit group control over park operations of 3100 acres. The agreement calls for conservancy management of the land; county funding to remain at current levels; fees to be set by the Conservancy; and annual reports by the Conservancy to county government. In 2009, the management agreement was amended to include Conservancy management of the 6.5 mile Shelby Farms Greenline as an extension of parkland.



## 2. Management

Shelby Farms Park Conservancy (SFPC or the Conservancy) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that manages and operates Shelby Farms Park + Shelby Farms Greenline through a public-private partnership with Shelby County Government. That means the land that comprises Shelby Farms Park + Shelby Farms Greenline remains publicly owned, and that the Conservancy is responsible for daily management, fundraising to meet operations budget needs, setting the vision for the Park's future and stewarding its natural resources.

This year, in Fiscal Year 2017, we will raise more than \$4 million (more than 75 percent of our operating budget) to manage and operate Shelby Farms Park + Shelby Farms Greenline. Jen Andrews was recently appointed Executive Director of the Conservancy, replacing Laura Morris who had served as ED since 2008. Jen was the first employee hired at the conservancy, then called the Shelby Farms Park Alliance, in 2006.

## 3. Trails built.

Since 2007, when Shelby Farms Park Conservancy (SFPC) has undertaken several trails improvements within the 4,500 acres that improve visitor experience and safer bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. However, the most notable trail that SFPC has built to date is outside the Park gates: the Shelby Farms Greenline. The Greenline was the first capital improvement project SFPC prioritized in order to start fulfilling its mission. In order to build a park that shapes a city, the citizens must be able to reach it and in 2007 the only way to visit Shelby Farms Park was by car. Facing heavy skepticism, SFPC pursued this urban rails-to-trails project to connect the entire community to Shelby Farms Park.

Funded by private citizens and completed in partnership with Shelby County, SFPC unveiled a trail unlike any other in Shelby County in 2010. Before the Greenline opened, citizens thought that a trail in their backyards would be unsafe and neglected but these proved to be false predictions. Even before the Greenline opened neighborhoods were requesting official access points be built from their neighborhoods to the 6.5-mile trail for easier access. The trail has proved safe, vibrant and has become a place for people to gather regardless of income, race, class or interest. Like public parks, this trail is a true equalizer.

The Greenline has become a place for people to commute, exercise and learn how to bike on a trail separated from traffic. In 2015, more than 200,000 people enjoyed the Greenline. In 2012, Memphis was voted the most improved city for cycling, after topping the list of worst cities in the U.S. for cycling only in 2008. This transformation is in part due to the Greenline's role in changing the community's perception of urban trails, getting more people comfortable on bike or making it more convenient to get out on foot.

This initial 6.5-mile section connecting Midtown Memphis to Shelby Farms Park was groundbreaking. Businesses started using the Greenline as a recruitment tool and property values adjacent to the Greenline collectively rose by \$30,706,000 since the Greenline was built. With this success, the rest of the vision for the Greenline was easier to accomplish. In June 2016, SFPC opened up a 4.3-mile Greenline extension to the east connecting the Park to Cordova, TN. This recent extension has opened a commuting route and alternate route for accessing Shelby Farms Park to thousands of Shelby County residents.

## 4. Plans for the future.

The future of Shelby Farms Park is as bright as the diverse ideas from all our citizens on how to improve this beloved space. In the immediate future (September 2016), SFPC is opening the gates to the biggest capital improvement project that will likely ever take place on Park soil: the Heart of the Park Project. The \$52 Million renovation project revolves around an expanded and ecologically restored lake with new amenities dotting the landscape around the lake next to the more than 1,000 new trees and native plantings. The new built amenities include a new visitor's center, picnic pavilions, an events stage, boat house, restaurant, geothermal heating system, two new trails and an event center.

SFPC will be adjusting to the increased budget to manage these new amenities and landscapes while turning attention on various other, but smaller, improvement projects.

Plans to make the Shelby Farms Greenline even bigger and better are in the works. SFPC Operations Staff partners with the City and County police departments to keep the trail safe and the Rangers work to clear the trails after storms, battle the encroaching weeds and keep the visitors safe and happy.

There are two small expansion projects planned and funded for the Greenline, one to the east and one to the west. The Shelby Farms Greenline Bridge will expand the trail west to Tobey Park, completing the connection from one green space to another and circumventing two major city thoroughfares, Union Avenue and Poplar Avenue. The Bridge is not expected to open for several years. The final expansion to the west is funded but the timeline has not yet been set.

As for the rest of the trails in the Park, SFPC is focusing on pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility. Anything new SFPC builds is built to ADA standards, and SFPC is working to make sure what was inherited in 2007 is upgraded to meet those standards as well. SFPC is identifying gaps in connectivity around the 4,500-acre park and making plans to raise the funds to build safe connections or new trails.

SFPC is participating in a regional effort to implement emergency 911 signage on all trails, focusing on unpaved trails first. With these signs in place, emergency personnel will be able to more quickly and accurately react to emergencies throughout this large park.

This focus on pedestrian safety and connectivity is one of the angles we're taking to improve visitor experience. As our community changes and as needs change, so do our plans. We look forward to evolving with Memphis and Shelby County to become the next great park of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that defines and shapes a great city.

## The Wolf River Conservancy and the Wolf River Greenway Trail

### Organizational History

The Wolf River Conservancy (WRC) was founded in 1985 when a group of volunteers came together to successfully oppose a new gravel mine along the Wolf River near Summer Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee. These volunteers chartered the Wolf River Conservancy as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Wolf River lands for outdoor recreation, environmental education and watershed protection, with the vision of a greenway trail through the City of Memphis. Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, the WRC's mission remains the same and is advanced by advocacy, education, outreach and stewardship. The WRC works to protect wilderness, connect people to the outdoors and engage the community with conservation, education and recreation programs.

In 1995, the Wolf River Conservancy led the charge when a developer purchased a plantation that included 5 miles of the rural Wolf River, with plans to strip the timber and auction off parcels. To purchase the property, \$4 million was raised in 4 months (right before a looming deadline) and this significant part of the watershed was saved. Now under State ownership, the 2,220-acre Ghost River State Natural Area and the adjoining Wolf River Wildlife Management area comprise a total of 7,000 acres. The Ghost River section of the Wolf River is the most popular and well-known section and is often the location of the WRC's monthly guided paddling trips.

The Wolf River is a multifaceted resource that provides a spectacular setting to touch the land and water, watch wildlife or paddle a canoe. Over 1,000,000 people live near the Wolf River, linking the region in a unique way. Its presence in the community provides great potential for outdoor recreation and environmental education, especially as a way to engage young people.

Through land conservation, the WRC works to protect and conserve the floodplains and associated uplands of the Wolf River watershed. The WRC has been directly involved in protecting more than 15,000 of the 42,000 acres of the Wolf River's 100-year floodplain, preventing them from being developed or converted to non-natural and destructive land uses.

Environmental education has always been at the core of the WRC's work, with an emphasis on reaching out to disadvantaged urban youth and creating outdoor classroom opportunities. Educational programming provided by the WRC currently serves about 2,700 youth and 1,000 adult participants each year with service projects, classroom presentations, field trips, workshops and lectures.

### Organizational Management

The Wolf River Conservancy has a volunteer Board of Directors with 26 members that govern the organization. Some Board members contribute substantial services such as legal representation and accounting expertise. Paid staff of the WRC currently consists of an Executive Director (Keith Cole), Director of Development (Barbara Kabakoff), Associate Director of Development (Kelsey Hamilton), Director of Education (Cathy Justis), Director of Outreach (Dale Sanders), Communications Coordinator (Emma Smith), Land Conservation Associate (Ryan Hall) and Office Manager (Kimberly Thomas). The WRC also retains its Grant Writer/Special Project Coordinator (Marie Branch) and the Chief Financial Officer (Bob Wenner) on a contractual basis.

In August 2015, after an arduous, 27-month process, the Wolf River Conservancy achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. LTA accreditation is important to a land trust like the WRC because it signifies achievement of a rigorous set of standards and requirements. It increases the organization's credibility and provides public recognition of its work. During the process, the WRC engaged in activities such as educating its Board of Directors and strengthening its financial accountability. Very few land trusts have achieved accreditation and it shows the commitment of the WRC to fulfill its promise of long-term conservation of the vital resources of the Wolf River watershed.

### Existing Trails

The vision of a protected corridor with a pedestrian/bicycle trail meandering along the banks of the Wolf River has been a part of the Wolf River Conservancy since it was founded in 1985. In 2009, the WRC began its partnership with the City of Memphis to develop this 25-mile Wolf River Greenway Trail. The first segment (1.6 miles) was completed in December 2010 and was designated a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service in 2012. Another 1-mile segment opened later that year. Out of the 15 segments remaining to complete the Trail, there are now 10 segments in the design phase, with construction beginning on 4-5 segments in 2016. All of the remaining segments are in the pipeline for completion by 2021.

Once it is completely built, the Trail is expected to generate an estimated \$44,987,000, one-time economic impact of construction and capital investment related to the project, with 419 temporary jobs supported by the construction spending. Once completed, there will be 1,126,000 more bicycle trips and 4,650,000 more pedestrian trips per year. The Memphis region is projected to gain significant benefits as a result of the Wolf River Greenway Trail, including an estimated \$1,467,000 in annual health care savings, \$2,842,000 in annual transportation benefits, \$7,185,000 in annual savings from reduced vehicle emissions and \$2,920,000 in annual economic benefits for a total of \$14,000,000 per year.

According to *Memphis Gets Moving: Health & Economic Benefits of Building the Wolf River Greenway* (prepared by ALTA Planning & Design in 2014), 99,550 people live within a ten-minute walk from the Wolf River Greenway corridor and 238,000 live within a twenty-minute walk. This number represents

25% of the current population of Shelby County. User counts revealed over 100,000 bicyclists and pedestrians on the existing sections of the Wolf River Greenway Trail, with a 100% increase when the Memphis sections of the Greenway were connected to the Germantown sections. As construction continues and more connections are made, the potential exists for 1,000,000 users per year on the completed trail.

#### Plans for the future

The Wolf River Greenway Trail project is moving forward in the context of an aggressive, but achievable plan to complete the 25 miles of trail in the City of Memphis by 2021. Every phase of design and construction is closely monitored to keep the project on schedule and within budget. It is a high priority to have the Wolf River Greenway Trail built now, when the timing is right and the opportunity is so close at hand. The Trail will be a joy for many generations to come and is very close to becoming a reality.

Financial contributions to the Wolf River Greenway Trail from foundations, government agencies, corporations and individuals have raised 80% of the \$40,000,000 funding goal and indicate widespread support for the many benefits of a completed Trail. A recent matching challenge by a local corporation yielded 180 individual donations, with 22% from first-time donors.

A completed Wolf River Greenway Trail will bring numerous benefits to the Memphis area, including an alternative transportation route, increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and improved access for canoeing and kayaking. Protecting the Wolf River watershed in perpetuity also plays a vital role in ensuring flood control and a pure water supply. Creating a major recreational resource like the Wolf River Greenway Trail provides increased access to businesses and jobs, contributes to a sense of place for locals, attracts tourists and visitors and makes the community more attractive to young talent. Amenities like the Wolf River Greenway Trail are appealing to residents looking to buy new homes or open new business and people considering a move to the area.

With this project, the urban Wolf River will finally enjoy the renewal that the founders of the WRC envisioned from the very beginning. Completion of the Greenway Trail will create a "corridor of opportunity" that will give Memphians and Mid-Southerners a quality of life and access to nature that will be unparalleled in this region. The Wolf River Greenway Trail will be the gift and legacy from this generation to the future. It will connect people to nature and build their environmental awareness. It will be a meeting place and a safe route for a journey to work, shop or school, regardless of age, ethnic background, income, or education. The Wolf River Greenway Trail will be for everyone.

#### Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Tennessee Trails Association June 29, 2015

Nominee: Bob Richards

**Justification:** Bob developed his passion for nature and trails early in his childhood where the "woods" were only 6 houses up the street. He continues to develop the passion for trails in the Boy Scouts and received his 200 miller patch which included hiking the 70 miles of the Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He graduated with a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus and today he is the Greenway and Trails Coordinator for the State of Tennessee.

Bob is certified as a Master Trail Builder. Since 1996 he has been a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP). He works with local, state and federal agencies, as well as non-profit groups, on greenway and trail design; trail development, operations, management and maintenance; along with parks and recreation facilities and natural resource management. He has managed federal and state projects with over \$20 million in grant funds awarded, contracted, executed along with projects either completed or under way.

Bob has very creative ideas when developing partnerships in order to find funding for park and trail projects.

Bob has made significant contributions to trails in Tennessee over the years and is a worthy candidate for the Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Robert (Bob) Richards, CPRP, CMTB**  
**Tennessee Greenways and Trails Program Coordinator**

97 White Bridge Road, Apt. D-4,  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
(615)-210-1932 (cell)  
[Richfam2013@comcast.net](mailto:Richfam2013@comcast.net)

**Skills Summary:**

- ♦ **Influential Greenways and Trails Professional** with a proven record for strategically promoting sustainable trails and economic development to a broad spectrum of communities;
- ♦ **Trainer of volunteers** for trail construction and trail maintenance projects for state and local parks;
- ♦ **Expert public speaker** and Keynote speakers on Greenways and Trails for state and national conferences;
- ♦ **Builder of strong, productive relationships** with national, regional, state and local agencies representing the government, nonprofit and business sectors;
- ♦ **Driven project manager** with professional experience directing over 60 park and recreation and greenways and trails grant projects;
- ♦ **Practiced writer and editor** of natural and hard surfaced trail technical resources for use by private organizations, state agencies and local communities in Tennessee;
- ♦ **Knowledgeable grant consultant**, sought after for funding of over \$12.0 million in federal grant funds.

**Select Achievements**

- ♦ **Builder of successful team projects** as a proven leader with the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation
- ♦ **Directed the trail design, construction, operations and maintenance of over 300 miles** of hard and natural surfaced greenway trail systems for state parks and Metro Nashville parks
- ♦ **Lead Management team member** for federal Recreational Trails Program with \$1.6 million annually in grant funding.
- ♦ **Directed the Tennessee National Trails Day event** in partnership with the American Hiking Society, Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Trails Association. 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2014 with 96 events.
- ♦ **Director of Property and Facilities for Mid-TN Girl Scout Council** managing 10 girl scout camps with 1,000 acres of land and 100 structures;
- ♦ **Project team leader for 5 state and one national greenways and trails conferences** securing Sponsors, venue, speakers, transportation and agendas; a
- ♦ **State of Tennessee team leader for the [www.connectwithtn.com](http://www.connectwithtn.com)** with 962 trails in all 95 counties, managed team to add 31 blueways to the website.

**Certifications**

**Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)**, 1996 -2017 through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)  
**Certified Master Trail Builder (CMTB)**, 2012-2017 through Trail Design Specialists, Mike Riter Owner, <http://www.traildesign.com/trail-classes/>  
**Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI)**, 1996-99, 2010-2013 through the NRPA  
**Aquatic Facilities Operator (AFO)**, 1997 – 2006 through NRPA

**Technical Skills**

- ♦ **Social Media:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- ♦ **Computer Proficiencies:** PC, Microsoft Office, ESRI-ArcGIS,

**Select Professional Experience**

- ♦ **Greenways and Trails Program Coordinator, State of Tennessee** 2005 – Present
- ♦ **Bob's Trees, Trails and Gardens, Nashville, TN** 1987 – Present
- ♦ **Director of Property and Facilities, Mid-TN Girl Scout Council** 1996 – 2004
- ♦ **Recreation Specialist, State of Tennessee** 1993 – 1996
- ♦ **TN State Park Planner, State of Tennessee** 1988 – 1993
- ♦ **Tennessee Trails Program, (multiple positions), State of Tennessee** 1975 – 1987

**Publications and Major Projects**

- ♦ **2014 Greenways 101**, General Advice for Development of Hard Surfaced Greenways, <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/greenways-101.pdf>
- ♦ **2013 Trails/Tracks Resource Guide**, Tennessee Department of Health Task Force Group, <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/trails-tracks-resource-guide.pdf>
- ♦ **2010 Reprint of the Pathways to Trail Building**,
- ♦ **2008 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan**, Co-Author, Editor, [http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/gt\\_plan2008.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/gt_plan2008.pdf)
- ♦ **2007 Beaman Park Trail Bridge**, <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/BeamanParkTrailBridge.pdf>
- ♦ **2007 Pathways to Trail Building**, Editor of 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Tennessee Recreation Trails Manual, <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/environment/attachments/pathways.pdf>

**Social Media Outlets**

- ♦ **Facebook.com/Tennessee Greenways and Trails**, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tennessee-Greenways-and-Trails-www.connectwithtn.com/180797268662894>
- ♦ **Linkedin.com/Bob Richards, Nashville, TN**,

**Education**

- ♦ **Bachelor of Science**, May, 1975, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- ♦ **Forestry Major**, 213 quarter hours

**HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- 2013 Accessible Trails Award, Friends of Beaman Park**, Winner, Coalition for Recreational Trails <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRT3awards/Beaman-Park-Accessible-Trail-CRT-award-2013.html>
- 2012 Tennessee, Best State Trails Program**, Winner, Coalition for Recreational Trails
- 2010 Tennessee, Best RTP Advisory Committee**, Winner, Coalition for Recreational Trails
- 2010 State of Tennessee Trail Advocacy Award**, Winner, American Trails National Symposium
- 2008 State of Tennessee Trails Worker Award**, Winner, American Trails National Symposium
- 2007 Award of Excellence**, TN Recreation and Parks Association, Resource Management Branch
- 2000 Pathfinder Award**, James E. West District, Middle Tennessee Boy Scouts of America
- 1986 TTA Award (statewide)**, Tennessee Trails Association,

TTA Board Officers - Historical Data

YEAR	West TN	Middle TN	East TN	President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary	Membership	Comments
1998	Margaret Dixon	Libby Francis	(Vacant)	Jim Poliet	Aileen Barnett	James Lehniger	Patti Shaw	Ninez Giles	
1999	Margaret Dixon	Libby Francis	Aileen Barnett Scheller	Jim Poliet	Aileen Barnett Scheller	James Lehniger	Patti Shaw	Ninez Giles	Nov 1999 newsletter before 1999 annual meeting
2000	Jerry Lenski			Libby Francis	Leigh Jones	James Lehniger	Patti Shaw	Ninez Giles	per Dec 1999 newsletter Annual meeting report
2001	Jerry Lenski	Barbara Claude	Aileen Scheller	Libby Francis	Leigh Jones	Barbara Matheson	Patti Shaw	Anne Wesley	per Jan 2001 thru Dec 2001 newsletters
2002	Jerry Lenski	Dec 2001 Mark Stewart / Feb Brent Morris	Aileen Scheller Sept	Leigh Jones	Faunt Britram	Carol Haley	Anna Clark	Anne Wesley	per Dec 2001 newsletter in annual meeting report, Jan 2002 newsletter shows MOTTN rep report, Jan 2002 newsletter shows MOTTN rep report, Jan 2002 newsletter shows MOTTN rep, Sept shows ETN rep vacant
2003	Jeffy Lenski	Brent Morris	(Vacant)	Leigh Jones	Faunt Britram	June Parker	Anna Clark	Anne Wesley	Per Dec 2002 newsletter in annual meeting report, Jan 2003 shows ETN vacant
2004	Jerry Lenski	Brent Morris	Aileen Dickler	Faunt Britram	Anne Wesley	June Parker	Nancy Juddenz	Toni Reeves	per Dec 2003 newsletter annual meeting article
2005	Jerry Lenski	Brent Morris	(Vacant)	Faunt Britram	Anne Wesley	LouAnn Partington	Carolyn Miller	Garnett Rush	per Mar 2005 newsletter
2006	Vacant/Big Apr Don Dresser	Brent Morris	Charles Jones till May then vacant	Anne Wesley	Rosemary Marshall	LouAnn Partington	Carolyn Miller	Garnett Rush	per Dec 2005 newsletter annual meeting article
2007	Don Dresser	Brent Morris	Vacant/Big June Joe Matlock	Anne Wesley	Rosemary Marshall	LouAnn Partington	Carolyn Miller	Garnett Rush	per Jan 2007 newsletter
2008	Vacant/Mar thru Nov D Jack Smith	Libby Francis	Joe Matlock	Rosemary Marshall	LouAnn Partington	Don Dresser	Carolyn Miller	Garnett Rush	per Jan 2008 newsletter
2009	Vacant/Big Apr Graydon Swisher	Libby Francis	Joe Matlock	Rosemary Marshall	LouAnn Partington	Don Dresser	Carolyn Miller	Ron Dunn	per Dec 2008 newsletter annual meeting article
2010	Graydon Swisher	Nora Beck	Joe Matlock, big Apr Levern Hubbard	Don Dresser	Millie Jones	Jan Agee	Carolyn Miller	Ron Dunn	Per Dec 2009 newsletter in annual meeting report
2011	Graydon Swisher	Nora Beck		Don Dresser	Millie Jones	Jan Agee	Carolyn Miller	Ron Dunn	per Jan 2011 newsletter
2012	Graydon Swisher	Nora Beck	Levern Hubbard	Millie Jones	Carolyn Miller	Vacant/Ann Jacobs	Diane Manas	Ron Dunn	per Jan 2012 newsletter annual meeting article
2013	Graydon Swisher	Nora Beck	Levern Hubbard	Millie Jones	Carolyn Miller	Ann Jacobs	Diane Manas	Tim Townley	per Jan 2013 newsletter
2014	Graydon Swisher	Nora Beck	Levern Hubbard	Carolyn Miller	Levern Hubbard	Kathy Woods	Diane Manas	Tim Townley	Per Dec 2013 newsletter annual meeting article
2015	Graydon Swisher	Kathie Tange-duPrie beg Feb Joan Hathinson	Bruce Whitehead	Carolyn Miller	Levern Hubbard	Kathy Woods	Diane Manas	Tim Townley	Per Dec 2014 newsletter annual meeting article
2016	Margaret Dixon		Garnett Rush	Carolyn Miller	Bruce Whitehead	Kathy Woods	Diane Manas	Tim Townley	per Jan 2016 newsletter