

TTA General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2016
Pickwick Landing State Park

REVIEW COPY

Joan Hartvigsen was TTA's Secretary, subbing for Diane Manas; during the Sat, Oct 29 General Membership Mtg. Please review the minutes below from and send revisions ASAP to Jackie (new Secretary as of Jan 1, 2017). Carolyn Miller & Joan Hartvigsen. Revisions not received on or before this Sat, Feb 4, 2017 will need to be presented during the this Sat, Feb 4, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting at REI - Brentwood

TTA's 2016 Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by TTA President, Carolyn Miller. The Memphis and Jackson Chapters were recognized for the work they have done hosting this year's Annual Meeting. Everyone was welcomed.

Awards

Bill Stutz Award

The Bill Stutz Award recognizes a TTA member for her outstanding individual contributions to the TTA or to one of its Chapters. Cheryl Heckler, Plateau Chapter, is the recipient of the 2016 Bill Stutz Award.

Tennessee Trails Award

The Tennessee Trails Award is presented for outstanding contributions to the Association or to the furtherance of trails and natural resource programs and opportunities within Tennessee. Shelby Farms Conservancy and Wolf River Conservancy are recipients of the 2016 Tennessee Trails Award.

John Morrison gave a presentation of Shelby Farms Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States.

Bob Brown Award

The Board of Directors of the Association established this award to honor the extraordinary lifetime leadership and personal contributions of Bob Brown to hiking and conservation in the State of Tennessee. The Board may give a Bob Brown Award from time to time to others for lifetime leadership and contributions that it finds equally extraordinary. Bob Richards is the recipient of the 2016 Bob Brown Award. Bob Richards is TDEC Rails to Trails Coordinator and Greenways and Trails Coordinator.

Election of Board Officers for 2016 – presented by Carolyn Miller. Bob Richards moved to close nominations with a motion to accept the slate of officers. Seconded by Garnett Rush. The membership unanimously voted in favor of the officers for 2017:

President: Carolyn Miller (Plateau Chapter)

Vice President: Bruce Whitehead (Plateau Chapter)

Treasurer: Kathy Woods (Nashville Chapter)

Membership Director: Cheryl Heckler (Plateau Chapter)

Secretary: Jackie York (Nashville Chapter)

Middle Tennessee Regional Director: Joan Hartvigsen (Highland Rim Chapter), three year term.

Chapter Officer Reports

Clarksville Chapter – reported by Ken Johnson. Chapter Chair

Ken reported on the hikes and overnight outings. He told us about the elk herd near La Follette, TN, Campbell County.

Columbia/Franklin Chapter – Carolyn Watson, absent. No report.

East Tennessee Chapter – Garnett Rush reported on the East Tennessee Chapter activities. They hike a lot in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They also participate in joint activities with the Knoxville Ski Club.

Highland Rim Chapter – reported by Mary Etta Ward, Chairperson-Elect.

The Highland Rim Chapter has hiked, camped, backpacked, done trail work and gathered for parties and monthly meetings and programs. We have hiked almost every weekend, year round, and held joint hikes with the Nashville, Murfreesboro, Plateau and Sumner Trail Chapters. We have led three mile hikes and twenty mile hikes as well as the typical seven to ten mile hikes. We have backpacked at Big South Fork and Walls of Jericho. We have camped in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park twice while hiking in the Smokies. We have camped at Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park, Ragland Bottom Campground on Center Hill Lake (U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers), Chickasaw State Park, Devils Step Island on Tims Ford Lake. We have paddled the Tennessee River, Elk River, Duck River, Ghost River, Caney Fork River, Hiwassee River, Tims Ford Lake and Center Hill Lake. We have whitewater rafted the Nantahala and Ocoee Rivers. We have done trail work on the Fiery Gizzard Trail in South Cumberland State Park, Tims Ford State Park and Short Springs State Natural Area. We enjoyed the beauty of our great State of Tennessee and North Carolina and the friendships of hikers and paddlers from many TTA Chapters.

Jackson Chapter – Vicky Moeller. Absent. No report.

Memphis Chapter – Charlie Bright. Charlie welcomed everyone and reported on his Chapter's activities.

Murfreesboro Chapter – Sara Pollard.

Our chapter participated in National Trails Day by doing trail work at Barfield Crescent Park in Murfreesboro. We hiked at Rock Island State and had a joint kayaking and camping trip with the Highland Rim chapter at Tims Ford State Park. Also a backpacking trip to Hidden Passage near Pickett State Park.

Longtime TTA and CTC member Martin McCullough passed away September 8 at the age of 84. He was retired from the Department of Education and Leadership at Middle Tennessee State University. He loved teaching and sharing his knowledge with others. Marty was the recipient of two TTA awards: Bill Stutz Award in 2003 and the Bob Brown Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. Our chapter gave a memorial donation to the First Baptist Church Building Fund. Quoting friend and fellow hiker of 15 years Jim Schroeder – "But there is no doubt that my life is so much richer for having had Marty as a friend!"

Chapter meetings are well attended and Valerie Galan, our program coordinator does a good job contacting speakers. Dr. Stephen Wright of the MTSU Biology gave an informative presentation on the Zika virus. Susan and Donnie Welchance shared their knowledge of beekeeping and brought a beehive to our meeting to explain the components. Chapter member Edie McFarlin was our guest speaker for October and shared her experience on a Road Scholar 15 day bicycle trip to the Netherlands and Belgium.

Chapter members voted to donate \$100 to the TTA Annual Meeting.

Nashville Chapter – Doug Burroughs

October 2015 – September 2016

- Another good year for Nashville TTA. Chapter **membership** is 94 as of October 2016 (versus 85 this time last year and 89 the year before).
- **Chapter Officers**
 - Chair: Doug Burroughs
 - Treasurer: June Callahan
 - Hike Coordinator: Nancy Juodenas
 - Programs Coordinator: Nora Beck
- The Nashville Chapter continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of each month (except for May and December) at the REI store in Brentwood TN. We have a picnic at Warner Park every May and a holiday party every December.
- We offered **38 hikes** in the TTA Newsletter
 - We hiked close to home in Nashville area parks (Warner Park, Bells Bend, Downtown Nashville, etc.)
 - We also hiked further afield
 - Joyce Kilmer NC, Cane Creek Canyon Preserve AL, Big South Fork, Bridgestone/Firestone,
 - Nora Beck has continued her hikes in Tennessee State Natural Areas and added hikes in Wildlife Refuges in Tennessee.
- 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 other trips by members of our chapter or other TTA chapters.

- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore backpack - Michigan
- Naturalist presentations on rare plants (Roger McCoy), Ferns & Mosses (Margie Hunter), and Tennessee Geology (Ron Zurawski, State Geologist)
- El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in Spain – REI's Daniel Garmon
- Taking the Marine Highway (ferry) to Alaska
- Hiking in Wales – Rick Lausten
- The Nashville Chapter **wrapped gifts** at REI in December again. We raised close to \$600 for CTC Breakaway.
- 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.
- Amy Sutton **collects mail** from the State TTA PO Box and forwards contents to the Membership Director.

Plateau Chapter – Cheryl Heckler.

- We started 2016 with a celebration of the 20th year anniversary of the Plateau Chapter. Sixty-two past and present Plateau Chapter hikers celebrated with a catered BBQ dinner, photo slideshow of chapter hikes through the years, recognition of the 20 year leadership, a group photo and social time.
- Our chapter hikes every Wednesday and two Saturdays per month all 12 months of the year. With several of our chapter members working on the National Parks 100 mile Centennial Challenge many of our hikes were in Big South Fork and Great Smoky Mountain National parks. In addition to those, hikes were also in Rugby, Cumberland Trail, Old Stone Fort, Frozen Head, Virgin Falls, Savage Gulf, Obed Wild & Scenic River, Pickett, Standing Stone, Cloudland Canyon, Fiery Gizzard, Rock Island, Colditz Cove, and Big Ridge. One hike was combined with Highland Rim Chapter on the University of the South Campus.
- The month of September the Chapter hiked the local hikes to earn the 2nd Cumberland County Hiking Marathon with several members completing a full marathon of 26 miles within 30 days on the designated local county trails. The half and full marathon hikers were awarded a t-shirt and patch at the Hit the Trails Festival in Fairfield Glade on October 1. Plateau Chapter represented TTA at a booth near the Cumberland Trail booth and Tennessee State Park Scenic Cumberland Trail Park booth.
- This year in addition to the annual spring overnight hiking trip where hikers enjoyed 3 days of hiking on the Smoky North Carolina side staying in Maggie Valley they enjoyed 3 days of fall hiking in Cataloochee area experiencing the elk bugling and staying in Waynesville.
- In place of one Saturday hike in August we did a whitewater rafting trip down the Nantahala River.
- Programs at our Chapter meetings were: Frogs and Toads by Dennis Gregg, Hiking Gear by Plateau Outdoors, The Hiking Trails of Cumberland County - past, present and future with John Conrad, Polar Bears in Alaska by Sharon & Gary Moore, and Machu Picchu hike by Steve & Cheryl Luhrs.
- Three of our chapter meetings replaced a program and business meeting with a social event enjoying a Christmas Party and a picnic at Meadow Park Lake in May and September.
- We registered a National Trails Day event hiking the new Daddy's Creek Hebbertsburg section of the Cumberland Trail with 11 hikers enjoying the newly built trail. After the hike we joined a cookout for the Cumberland Trail volunteers.

- The Plateau Chapter adopted the Cumberland Trail Black Mountain Trailhead committing to a 3 year annual contribution of \$330 per year and assisting the CT Rangers maintain the Black Mountain section.
- Elections will be held in November. The nominations for 2017 officers for Plateau Chapter will be: Chair & Membership – Cheryl Heckler; Co-Chair – Bob Oboboski; Treasurer – Bill Quattrociocchi; Asst Treasurer – Gena Whitehead; Wednesday Hike Coordinator – Bruce Whitehead; Hike Advisory – Bill Harris; Saturday Hike Coordinator – Sigrun Brickle; TTA Newsletter – Carolyn Miller; Local Newspaper – Jim McCullough; Blogmaster – Bill Quattrociocchi; Trail Maintenance Coordinator – Marcy Tucker; Social Events – Carol Quattrociocchi; Program Coordinator – Nancy Brainard.

We are sad to announce the passing of another valued member of the Plateau Chapter of the TTA. Jim Lamb passed on August 10, 2016. Jim was an active member of our chapter. He helped with planning hikes, leading hikes, and was available to the Chapter any time. Besides hiking, Jim loved sports (especially golf), dancing with his wife Jenny, and telling stories and jokes. His friendship and his presence will be missed by all who knew him.

Soddy Daisy Chapter. Ed and Donna Pyers. Absent. No report.

Sumner Trails Chapter. Sally Ticaric and Bob Couch. Absent. No report.

Upper Cumberland Chapter. Louise Miniard. Louise reported on her Chapter's hikes and activities. Jennifer Carroll is Chapter Co-Chair.

Other Business

Carolyn Miller announced that the 2017 TTA Annual Meeting is October 13-15, 2017, DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN. Murfreesboro, Highland Rim and Columbia/Franklin are the Hosts Chapters.

Bob Richards informed us of the Evan Means Grants and the deadline of December 31, 2016. Bob also encouraged the Chapters to participate in National Trails Day.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully recorded,

Joan Hartvigsen for Diane Manas
Secretary, Tennessee Trails Association