

Tennessee Trails Association (TTA)
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
October 24, 2021
Montgomery Bell State Park Lodge
Burns, TN

The TTA Annual Meeting of the Membership was convened at 6:48 pm by Libby Francis, TTA President.

2021 Annual Conference Report

Norm Brinsley (Plateau Chapter), spoke in recognition of Stan Zuercher, whose home building company gifted \$500 to the 2021 Annual Conference proceeds for funding of TTA's Evans Means Grant Program. Stan's son and business partner, Isaac, presented the check to Libby Francis.

Libby Francis reported 124 registrations for the 2021 TTA Annual Conference.

New Business/ Board of Directors Elections

Duane Frichtl (Sumner Trails Chapter), Chairman of the Board of Director's Nominating Committee, presented a slate of 4 TTA members for election to the 2022 Board of Directors. Nominees of the slate were Libby Francis, Duane Frichtl, June Callahan, and Patricia Appleton. Duane Frichtl made a motion, and Michelle Kelley (Memphis Chapter) seconded, to accept the slate of officers. Motion carried.

2021 Board Member Reports

President Libby Francis recognized some of many accomplishments, and their leadership, that have strengthen the Association in 2021. She highlighted Membership (Cheryl Heckler), Website (Doug Burroughs), TTA Facebook (Mark Hubbard), and TTA Newsletter (LouAnn Partington). No increase in membership dues is currently contemplated, said Libby.

Chapter Representative Board Members, or their appointees, from the following chapters gave brief updates for the year on their chapter activities and achievements:

Clarksville	Murfreesboro
Columbia-Franklin	Nashville
East	Plateau
Highland Rim (Attachment 1)	Soddy Daisy
Jackson	Sumner Trails

Treasurer David Bowling reported the 2021 annual budget is on course to end the year in the black, with revenues for the year exceeding expenses (excluding capital expenditure for website design). Libby Francis thanked David, who is retiring as TTA Treasurer this year, for his hard work in the office for 3 years.

Membership Chairman Cheryl Heckler reported pronounced membership increase in the past 12 months. She presented a report of chapters having 12 month membership gains, and the number of new members for each of those chapters. (Attachment 2)

Evan Means Grant Program/Committee chairman, Joan Hartvigsen, reported the 2021 Evan Means Grant recipients and the amounts awarded to each one.

Awards Committee Chairman, Duane Frichtl, announced the committee decision to have double awards this year. Awards presented and their recipients were:

Bill Stutz Award Winners

Deb Westervelt (Plateau Chapter)
Pete Broehl (Upper Cumberland Chapter)
Ron & Judy Jenkins (Sumner Trails Chapter)

Tennessee Trails Award Winners

Doug Burroughs
Rosemary Marshall

Bob Brown Award Winners

Paul Schwab
Bob McGavock

Libby Francis closed the meeting thanking the Conference host chapters, and all those who helped run the 2021 TTA Conference.

Minutes submitted by Melinda Pearson, TTA Secretary, 11-15-21

Highland Rim Chapter Annual Report—October 2021

Since the last TTA Annual Meeting in 2019, the Highland Rim Chapter has been very active with day hikes, multi-day camping trips, kayak outings and monthly meetings.

Day hikes were offered several times per month and included various days, lengths, and difficulty to appeal to a wide range of member interests. Short hikes included a geology hike at Russell Cave National Monument and a wildflower hike at May Prairie State Natural Area led by wildflower book editor Dennis Horn. Long hikes included the Sewanee Perimeter Trail and the North Chickamauga Creek segment of the Cumberland Trail. We went on kayak trips through the Tennessee River Gorge, to Fancher Falls, Normandy and Tims Ford Lakes, the Elk and Barren Fork Rivers.

Multi-day camping trips were offered most months. Several other TTA Chapters, including Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Jackson Chapters co-sponsored most of these outings, and members of many Chapters have attended. A Chapter favorite was in September 2020, when we spent 3 days camping in Devils Fork State Park and Jocassee Lake in South Carolina. We enjoyed lakeside camping, a naturalist-guided boat tour, kayaking and hiking to nearby lower Whitewater Falls and Rainbow and Turtleback Falls in Gorges State Park, NC. In October we camped along the Tennessee River at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park; activities included kayaking and hiking led by Susan Woods of the Jackson TTA Chapter. Fall colors were at their peak for our November trip where we camped at Big South Fork and hiked in Pogue Creek Canyon, Angel Falls Overlook and Rock Creek Loop.

Spring camping started in March 2021 when we camped at Indian Boundary and hiked several days along the Cherohala Skyway, including Flats Mountain Trail and Bald River Falls Trail. Spring wildflowers were a highlight of camping and hiking at Frozen Head State Park in April. In May we camped at Cades Cove and hiked to Rocky Top on the Appalachian Trail as well as Abrams Falls and Middle Prong Trail to the cascades. In late June we camped along Kentucky Lake at Mousetail Landing State Park, kayaked the Tennessee River, and hiked the Eagle Point Trail and nearby Lady Bluff Trail, all with great overlooks of the Tennessee River. In July we camped and hiked at Big Hill Pond State Park and had a fun adventure kayaking the Ghost River. In October we camped, hiked, and cycled at Mammoth Cave National Park; a highlight was the spectacular four-mile Grand Avenue Cave Tour.

Monthly chapter meetings were held in outdoor venues including picnic shelters at Tims Ford SP and Old Stone Fort SP. Several meetings were preceded by a short hike. Programs were given by local ranger staff or invited experts including Dennis Horn who spoke about wildflowers and Dr. Frank Hale who spoke about insects. As of September 2021, monthly meetings have resumed at DW Wilson Community Center; members meet at a local restaurant before the meetings.

The Highland Rim Chapter continues to support Short Springs Natural Area in Tullahoma, including trail maintenance events held four times per year. Our Chapter also makes an annual donation to the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance for their annual run/walk.

I want to thank Joan Hartvigsen who continues as the Highland Rim Chapter Hike Coordinator for organizing the wide variety of hikes and activities for our members, as well as maintaining contacts with several local organizations that help to make our Chapter a strong presence in our region and community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Deen, Highland Rim Chapter Chair

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Here is the report I gave Saturday night

Total current membership:	553	
Growth in 12 months:	65	(488 to 553)
Growth over 6 years:	74	(479 to 553)
Chapters who have increased the # of members in 12 months		
Memphis		28
Clarksville		8
Plateau		8
East Tennessee		7
Sumner Trails		7
Columbia/Franklin		6
Murfreesboro		5
Jackson		1