

## TENNESSEE TRAILS

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The annual meeting of Tennessee Trails Association was held at Cumberland Mountain State Park Dec. 2. Treas. Donald Todd, Jr. reported that membership at the end of 1972 included 91 regular members, 11 supporting, 17 students, and one life member.

Pres. Donald Todd, Sr. asked for an amendment to the TTA Constitution, making it easier to amend. This calls for a two-thirds vote of the membership by mail ballot. The proposed new amendment will be included in this issue of TENNESSEE TRAILS. When two-thirds of the enclosed postcard ballots have been returned, the amendment will take effect.

Bill Stutz, reporting for the new South Cumberland Trail Committee, said that Chattanooga Boy Scouts are ready to go to work in that area. A loop trail around Sequatchie Valley is under consideration.

Gordon Newland reported that the Tennessee Eastman Recreation and Hiking Club is mapping 35 miles of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine from Highway U.S. 25E to Virginia. Ray Payne of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club is in charge of the 25 miles from 25E to Corryton. Gordon says the trail can be complete in a year of landowners consent.

Ed Oliver reported that the Trail of Tears may be extended from Red Clay to Rattlesnake Springs in Bradley Co. He asked for help in mapping the trail from the Hiwassee River to McMinn County. The reports of committees were interrupted to hold the election before a reporter from a Crossville Paper had to leave.

David Rhyme was elected president to succeed Donald Todd, Sr. Re-elected were Robert D. Brown, vice-pres.; Robbie Hassler, recording secretary; Donald Todd, Jr., recording sec.-treasurer, and E. W. Means, director. Holdover directors are Roy Hall and Dick Wooten. The members voted to submit another amendment to make the outgoing president a member of the Board during the term of his successor. E. W. Means said this was an oversight by the committee which drew up the Constitution.

The date for the 1973 State Trails Seminar was set for March 16-18 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Bob Brown and Joe Gaines were appointed co-chairman. The editor had to leave to speak at a Scout leaders meeting and we don't have the rest of the news of the annual meeting.

Bob Brown reports that he and Joe Gaines will meet early in January with Ed Casey and Donald Todd, Sr. to plan the Trails Seminar. In the meantime he has two January activities for TTA members.

The first will be a backpack hike, jointly with the Sierra Club, from Renegade Resort to Brady Mountain, Jan. 6 and 7. For those who can't stay overnight, there will be a day-hike on Saturday. The hike will start from Renegade Ski Lodge at 9 a.m. EST. The overnight stop will be at a cabin on the Cumberland Trail. Car shuttles will be arranged. The hike leader will be Howard Stockard. He needs to know how many will be going. Call him at his office, 259-3801, or at home, 889-2610.

The second activity recommended by Bob will be a conservation workshop sponsored by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness

Planning at Cumberland Mountain State Park Jan. 26-28. Conservation groups are invited to take part, to plan priorities for legislative programs, both State and National, for 1973.

Tentative for February is a meeting to discuss the Trail of Tears. The planning session for the Seminar will include an activities program for the rest of the year.

Proposed amendments:

Article V. Board of Directors. Change the first sentence to read: "The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, a minimum number of three directors, and the immediate past President."

Article X. Amendments. Change to read: "This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any annual meeting, or at any special meeting called for the purpose of considering amendments. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which said amendment is to be considered."

Please mark the enclosed postcard ballot and return as soon as possible. It is particularly important that we keep our outgoing president on the Board.

President elect David Rhyne writes:

"Thank you for your confidence in selecting me as your fearless leader for 1973. Hiking, camping, and most outdoor activities have appealed to me most of my life. The nearby Smokies offered many outdoor experiences to my family, and we were accompanied frequently by my grandfather, Burl Whitehead, who related many bear-hunting stories and tales of the logging railroads and men who worked to harvest the forest in the early 1900's in East Tennessee.

"One night after I had told him of my experiences working on the trail at the Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness, he related to me how he had once laid out a trail along Abram's Creek in Happy Valley for John Lambert, his logging boss at the time. This took place around 1920. Bridging this 50-year span of time between myself and my grandfather brought a great deal of pride to both of us, and the realization to me that trails and trail-blazing have been around for a long time.

"These Tennessee Trails which we are blazing and building will be around for a long time to come. We must do the best job possible in selecting the most scenic and interesting routes for them. This is my challenge to all of you for 1973.

We have a brief biography of David, but space is running short, so we'll carry it over to the February issue. For now, we'll tell you that he is a research forester for Hiwassee Land Company, land management subsidiary for Bowaters Southern Paper Corp. He is in charge of the maintenance and development of pocket wilderness areas, recreation facilities and trails for Bowaters.