

Trail Notes

The second organizational meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association was held December 7, 1968, at 10:00 at Cove Lake State Park near Caryville, Tennessee. Several organizations were represented including the following:

Drs. William and Lee Russell, Tod Haydon, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Ridge; Dick Wooten, Bob Brown, and Carl Leathers, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, Nashville; Lou Doney, Tennessee Conservation League, Knoxville; "Red" Salvin, Oak Ridge Conservation Club; Stanley Murray, Appalachian Trail Conference, Kingsport; Evan Means, Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association, Oak Ridge; Carson Brewer, Knoxville News Sentinel, Knoxville; Darrell Lewis, TVA, Knoxville; Don Shedd, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta; Roy Hall, Crossville Chamber of Commerce; Eric Schindler, German Society for the Protection of Birds, Frankfurt, Germany; George Hornel, State Tourist Information Division, Nashville; Mack S. Prichard, Tennessee Conservation Department, Nashville; Hal Smith, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Oak Ridge.

Bob Brown reviewed some possible trail routes across the Cumberland Mountains that were discussed at the previous meeting at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Stanley Murray, President of the Appalachian Trail Conference, gave a very informative report on many aspects of trail location and maintenance as experienced by the A.T.C. over the years.

Don Shedd, recreation specialist for Scenic Rivers and Trails, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta, spoke on the National Trails Act. He mentioned that Tennessee is the first state contemplating a state trails system, and outlined the roles of federal, state, and citizen groups in establishing such a system for the entire state. Mr. Shedd also advised that we proceed slowly and develop a system which would include separate trails for uses other than hiking.

The question was asked if state and federal assistance does not dictate a multiple of the trail which would throw it open to bikes, jeeps, etc. Mr. Murray answered "only the public use that is specified in the trail plan would be allowed. Multiple use should not mean multiple use in the same place at the same time."

Evan Means reported on his original idea for the Cumberland trail located along Cumberland Mountain. TVA staff people and others worked on the details and a proposed route was chosen and fine overlooks like McLean Rock were located.

It was decided at this meeting that the organization would be named the Tennessee Trails Association. Bob Brown was elected President by acclamation. Carl Leathers was appointed secretary, Roy Hall was assigned responsibility for the middle portion, and Evan Means was given the upper portion. It was decided to defer legislation to a later date, to pursue this effort on a private basis without initial state help, and to work together with other trail users like horse riders so as not to alienate anyone. The organization agreed to start out on a Cumberland Crest Hiking Trail and study other alternate routes for jeeps, horses, etc. later on. Roy Hall said, "We hope there is room for everyone in the Cumberlands." The next meeting was selected for January 18, 1969, at 10:00 a.m. CST at Fall Creek Falls State Park office.