

**SPRUCE CREEK TRAILS ASSOC.**

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*"Come For The Trails - Stay For The Lifestyle"*

**March 2024 ANNUAL MEMBER UPDATE: A REVIEW OF 2023 - A LOOK FORWARD TO A FANTASTIC 2024**

**It is again time to ask for your support. Our Not for Profit, volunteer organization depends on your annual dues and donations to maintain our trails and fund our activities.** Our primary purpose is to maintain the 15 miles of horse/hiking trails in our care. We are truly blessed to have 4 direct entry points into the Big South Fork for all to enjoy. Our pavilion is our social hub – you are invited to our famous Potlucks, Holiday Celebrations and Special Events. As a Not for Profit 501 C (4) Organization, we also provide programs to benefit our members, the BSFNRRRA, as well as the surrounding community. A 2024 Membership form is attached. We also now offer an on-line membership form and the ability to submit your dues/donations via PayPal. See our website or Face Book page for these forms, as well as additional helpful information.

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR A BOARD POSITION? Let us know via our e-mail address above. As always, we have 3 open positions for the May election.**

**2023** was historic in many ways. We celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association; broke all records for membership @ 323; and reached a 70% membership rate for Spruce Creek property owners. In addition to our summer potlucks, we held a neighborhood and 297 “clean up day”, a Yard Sale, and finished out the year with a fun filled Christmas Parade.



We had a wonderful **training session** in May. We but proud that this device is now the community and surrounding



turnout for the **AED** hope it is never needed, available for everyone in area.

The 2023 year-end bank balance remains quite healthy @ \$11,655.25. Our trail maintenance expenditures for the year were \$15,000 (higher than average) as we gave special attention to areas in need of improved drainage, water bars, grading, and rock. Our Trail Maintenance Committee, led by Daniel Johnson, Terry Stedman and Theresa Reynolds were joined by many volunteers who accomplished an amazing number of repairs/improvements. We also opened a short trail off Trail Head Lane to connect with the SCTA trail into Cumberland Valley Trail Head via a land license with the Helms family.....and added a deed for a ¼ mile trail along Spruce Creek Dr., donated by developer, Robert Livingston. We are also grateful for the consultation of Walley Linder (retired BSF Trail Superintendent) for his advice and support. **See the Trail Maintenance Log on our website to fully appreciate the 48 maintenance items completed in 2023: [www.sprucecreektrailsassoc.com](http://www.sprucecreektrailsassoc.com)**

**2024 BY-LAW COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

A by-laws committee was formed in September 2023 and continues to work hard into 2024 with many hours devoted to reviewing our by-laws, charter, mission statement, founding documents, policies, 200 TN Not For Profit laws, TN NFP “What Every Board Member Should Know” publications, and 501 C (4) compliance requirements. We solicited input from our SCTA members, resulting in a list of 50+ suggestions. As a result, three by-law amendments have been put in place as well as a Policy Change.

**12-29-2023 NEW: A Grace Period extends the expiration date to March 30<sup>th</sup>** for all members to submit their dues/maintain their membership. (was Dec. 31) Historically, we have few memberships submitted in the early months of the year (We still have only 40 at the end of Feb.) If a membership vote were to be needed, we would not have reasonable representation to decide the matter.

**12-29-2023 CHANGE: Implemented a cutoff date of April 15<sup>th</sup> for membership dues to be eligible to vote in the May Board elections.** (was 10 days prior to the meeting date). This will mitigate the last-minute submission of 100's of memberships which have to be processed to create the list of those eligible to vote/and or do a mail out ballot. (was submission required 10 days prior to the election date.) All other voting matters remain at 10 days prior to the meeting or ballot date.

**2-26-2024 CHANGE:** The date for the annual membership meeting/board elections was changed from the Saturday prior to Memorial Day to Memorial Day Weekend. This allows flexibility to pick the day with the best opportunity for everyone to attend. Historically, Sunday of a 3-day holiday has less conflict with other area activities. NOTE: ***This year's meeting/election is on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.***

**BALLOT-CLASS C & D NON-PROPERTY OWNERS:** Some suggestions submitted to the by-law committee involve removing voting/membership rights for Non-Property owner SCTA memberships. Due to TN NFP law 48-60-205, the members of these class(es) exclusively must vote on a change to their membership rights BEFORE such a by-law change can be entertained. Ballots were mailed to the 86 members affected to determine if they would/would not approve this change with a required return date of March 16, 2024. Classes A, B, and E are not eligible to vote on this matter; therefore, they were not included in the ballot process. We will keep you up to date on the results of this vote, and other changes via e-blast communication to members. Our thanks to the committee members who have given much time and effort to this process: Chris Davidson, Laurie LeRoy, Marcey Norwood, Karen Wappelhorst, Karen Whitehead.

**You will find these by-law amendments, policies, profit and loss statements, board meeting minutes, and other important information on our SCTA WEBSITE: [www.sprucecreektrails.com](http://www.sprucecreektrails.com)**

**NEW TRAIL SIGNS: THANK YOU To: Jay Light, Rick Chapman: the new signs are awesome!**

**2024 CALENDAR** (We will be adding events as the year progresses)



WED. April 10 <sup>th</sup>	First regular Board Meeting
SAT. April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Potluck-Welcome new residents
SUN. May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day/Membership Meeting/Board Elections/Potluck
SAT. June 1 <sup>st</sup>	National Park Volunteer Day (Partner Project with BSF)
SAT. July 6 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration/Potluck
SUN. Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	Labor Day/Potluck
SUN. Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Day/Potluck
SAT. Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Parade-decorate your vehicle (rain date Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> )

