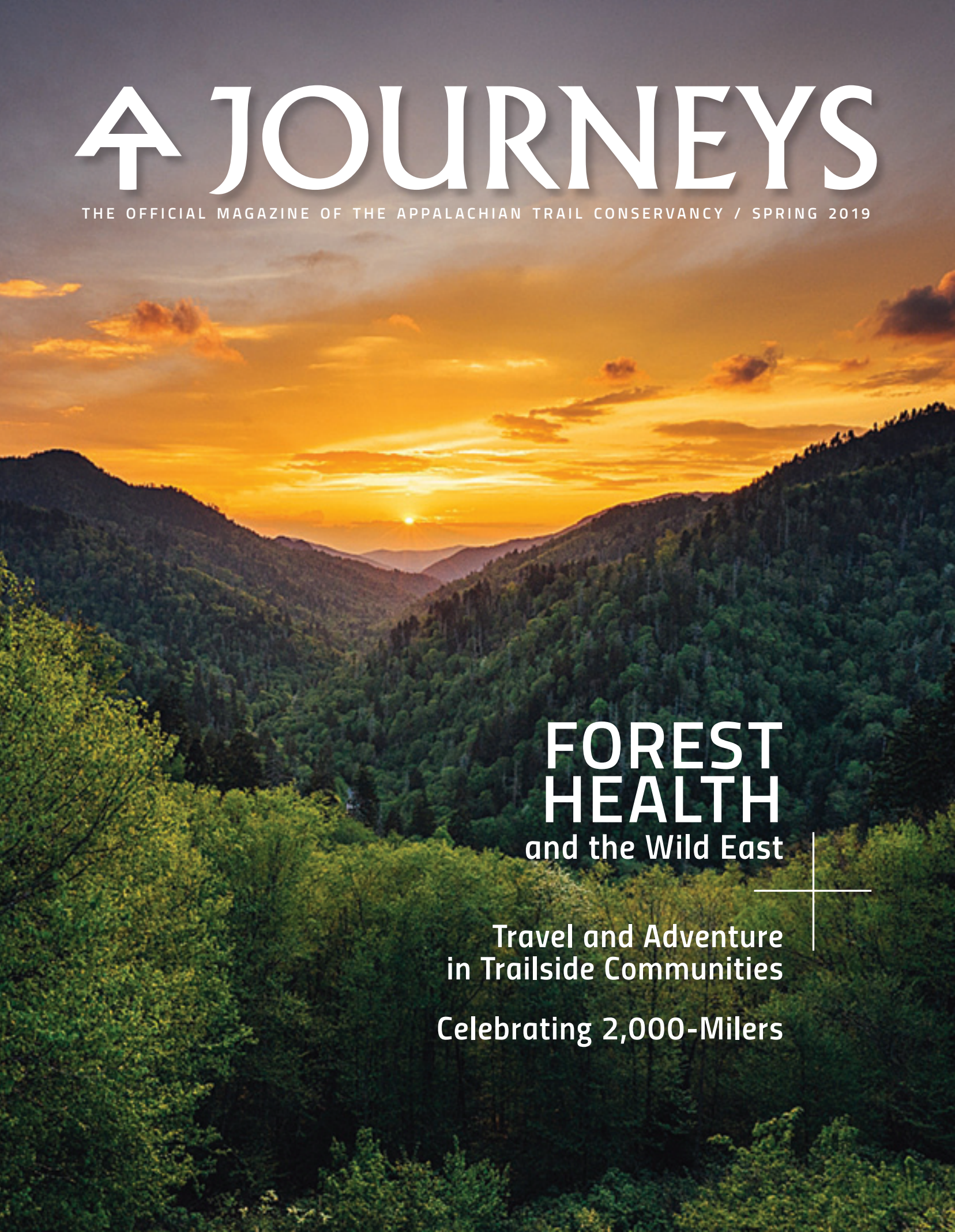
# JOURNEYS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY / SPRING 2019



## FOREST HEALTH
### and the Wild East

Travel and Adventure in Trailside Communities

Celebrating 2,000-Milers

# #optoutside

*2018 2,000-miler Kevin "Hungry Cat" Kelly with fellow hikers in Shenandoah National Park — a beloved destination for both day visitors and long-distance trekkers.*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A.T. sunset near Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. By Aaron Ibey

# JOURNEYS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY / SPRING 2019


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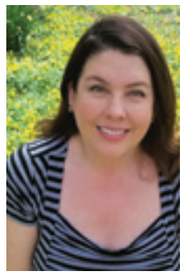
> I'VE LEARNED THAT THE KEY TO ROADTRIP SUCCESS IS TO NOT JUST VISIT THE BIG ATTRACTIONS, BUT TO SEEK OUT AND BE OPEN TO UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCES, FOOD, AND PEOPLE
>
> *Kim O'Connell*

A CHANGE OF SCENERY, NO MATTER WHAT THE SCALE, for me is always a refreshing way to reset my mind. Whether it is my husband and I taking our two dogs for a short walk in a nearby park or packing us all up for a road trip to a new destination. Every one of our contributors in this issue was inspired by an aspect of their lives that deeply influences them and delivers a fresh perspective, creating a collage of stories, voices, and images that is as varied as the landscape of the A.T. From finding solace in forests — and realizing how important it is to protect those shady canopies of escape — to the excitement of planning a new adventure, to simply absorbing the sense of place that comes from a familiar or new environment — these stories encompass the larger story of the Wild East.

*Wendy K. Probst / Editor in Chief*

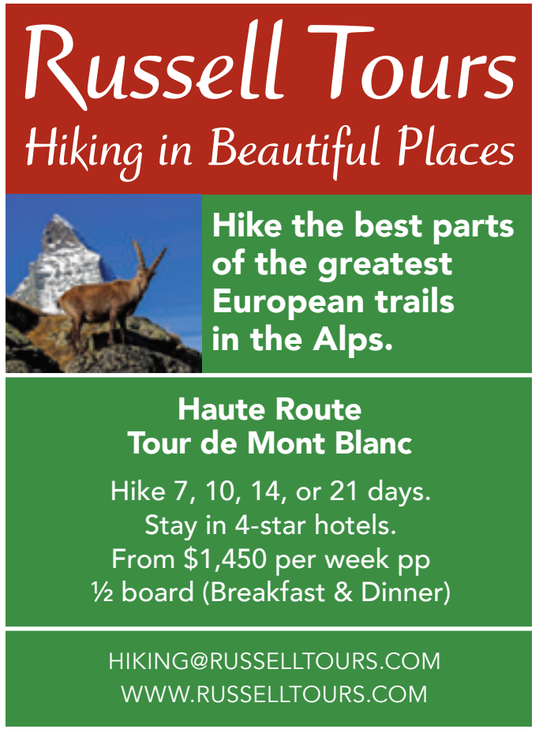
**Katie Eberts**
Inspired by simple outdoor surroundings like flower gardens and song birds, Katie Eberts hopes her illustrations will leave you feeling happy. She graduated from the University of Michigan Stamps School of Art and Design and is currently a freelance artist/illustrator based in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Over the past six years, she has created several feature illustrations as well as artwork for two covers for *A.T. Journeys*. Some of her other clients include: *Bon Appétit* and *Delicious Living*. "Working on an illustration about healthy forests really appealed to me," she says. "Having the opportunity to depict plants, animals, *and* humans in one peaceful setting felt like a sort of shout-out to the Peaceable Kingdom paintings by Edward Hicks. It was such a treat."

**Hannah Fries**
Hannah Fries grew up in New Hampshire, spending many summers hiking and camping in the White Mountains, on and around the A.T. She graduated from Dartmouth College and went on to get an MFA in poetry from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina. She has worked as an editor at *Orion* magazine and at Storey Publishing — and is the author of the poetry collection *Little Terrarium* as well as the book *Forest Bathing Retreat*. She currently lives in western Massachusetts with her husband Adam Brown, and son, Amos. "One of life's greatest joys, I think, is getting to really know a place," she says. "...whether that place is a mountain, a river, a section of trail, a patch of woods in your backyard, or even the teaming ecosystem of a city block."



**Kim O'Connell**
A resident of Arlington, Virginia, Kim O'Connell has written about conservation, science, and history for a range of publications. With her husband and two children, she is on a quest to see all 50 U.S. states (with only three more to go) and is a veteran of several ambitious road trips. "I was drawn to writing the story about Travel and A.T. Communities because I've learned that the key to road-trip success is to not just visit the big attractions, but to seek out and be open to unexpected experiences, food, and people," she says. After a recent trip to Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, Kim has now added visiting a long list of A.T. Communities to her future travel plans with her family.

**Mark Ellison**
Mark Ellison began exploring the southern Appalachian woods as an undergraduate at Western Carolina University. He became fascinated with the beauty and solitude he found there. His doctoral research at NC State focused on the restorative benefits of hiking in wilderness, which opened doors for collaboration with researchers and practitioners from other countries to better understand the connections between nature and human health. "Writing about forests along the Trail was intriguing to me because of its focus on us as the primary stewards of their health," he says. "...not only for our own well-being, but for the other species that share the planet with us.



# SHOW A.T. COMMUNITIES YOUR LOVE

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I WOKE up in an Airbnb in Pawling, New York. Before a full day of meetings, I pulled on my boots, stretched a minute on the deck, and headed up the hill for a quick hike on the Appalachian Trail. How did we find this lovely landing spot? It was advertised as the "A.T. House."

On a recent Pennsylvania trip, I stayed at the Shawnee Inn, a historic property that sits across the Delaware River from the forested hills of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Approximately 25 miles of the Appalachian Trail run through this park. The Shawnee routinely sends guests out on A.T. adventures and offers guided hikes on other trails in the area, along with river trips and meals made with garden-fresh produce.

In Hot Springs, North Carolina, the Smoky Mountain Diner offers a "Hungry Hiker" burger on its lunch menu. Farther south, near Bryson City, the River's End restaurant is sandwiched between the best of land and water recreation — the A.T. and the whitewater of the Nantahala River.

From Georgia to Maine, close to 50 communities and counties are designated Appalachian Trail Communities. These and many other towns, villages, and small cities near the Trail are hospitality centers not only for the A.T., but also for all kinds of other outdoor recreation experiences. These communities are where visitors launch their explorations of the Wild East — the important corridor of open space that consists of and surrounds the Appalachian Trail. Where hikers, walkers, bicyclists, paddlers, birders, and you name it provision, refuel, and rest up.

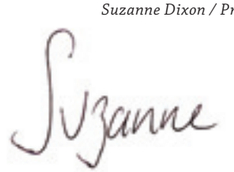
Each one of these communities offers travelers something unique to explore, experience and, learn. They invite visitors to linger — to arrive early, stay longer, or take time off the Trail or the river or the road — and immerse themselves in something new.

These communities are also connecting points for stewardship of the Trail and the wild and rural landscapes that surround it. They are key threads in the fabric that maintains the A.T., protects open space and habitat, and connects residents and visitors to opportunities to learn about wildlife, native plants, natural history, and cultural roots. The volunteer vacations that some Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs offer are an interesting crossover between hospitality and hands-on support, turning Trail maintenance into a revenue-generating, community-building experience.

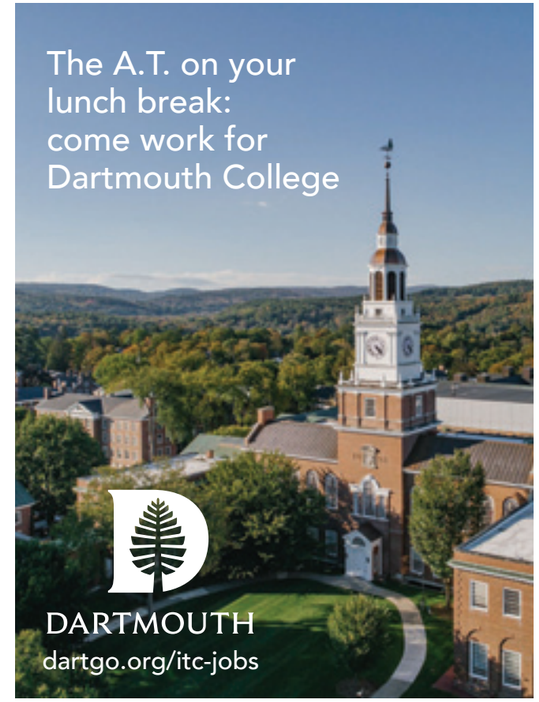
As we have begun to engage A.T. Communities to lay the groundwork for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's new Geotourism initiative, we've found a deep commitment to marrying local business and economic development, tourism promotion, and conservation. In the Harlem Valley — where I woke up last spring to an early morning hike from the doorstep of the "A.T. House"— the collaboration that the Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community is fostering to support its Geotourism work has spawned a new level of cooperation among local, regional, and national conservation groups active in the area. These groups are now exploring how to create a unified voice for conservation in the Harlem Valley and put their collective muscle behind shared priorities.

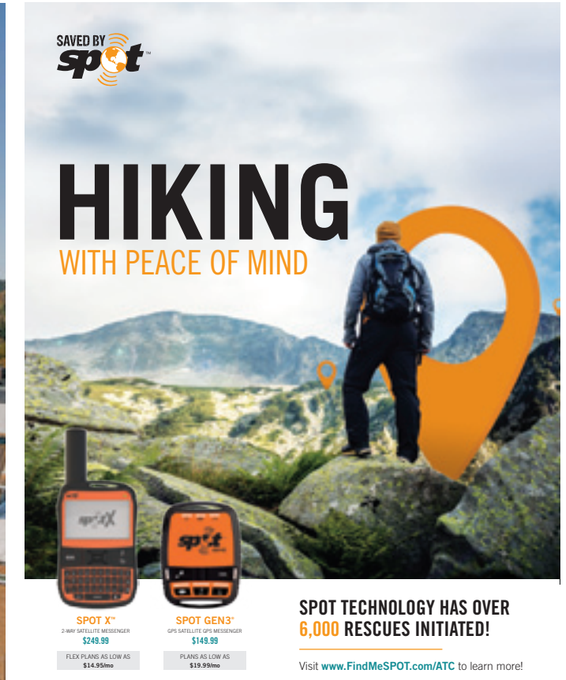
This spring, take some time to explore a community near the Trail. Use it as a base camp for a day or two, take a hike and enjoy a meal, fine companionship, and the hospitality, local culture, and events that these places distinctively offer. Your dollars and commitment to the health of the wild and rural landscapes accessible from these communities will have more ripple effects than you can imagine.

*Suzanne Dixon / President & CEO*







YOU GUYS ROCK! IT TAKES SO much to maintain a trail so long, rugged, and with so much foot traffic. Yet the only time I found myself hopping over downed trees was the day after a hurricane (and Trail maintainers were already out there). I know that your work goes beyond Trail maintenance, but this is just one example of the excellent work you do. Thank you!

Kreg "Carrot Top" Moccia
Peabody, Massachusetts

BEGAN A 30-DAY BACKPACKING trip to escape from everyday life and stress in Carlisle, Pennsylvania last June — heading northbound with no destination in mind. While meeting so many amazing people on the Trail and having such a great time, I wished the trip would go on. I realized I already had everything I needed on my back, so I got permission from my boss to continue hiking. My 30-day trip turned into a six-month adventure. I ended up having the time of my life on the Appalachian Trail. My adventure came to an end when I summited Springer in mid-December. I returned home, constantly wishing I was still on the Trail. Life is better there. Now I wonder what great adventure will come next in my life.

Christopher "Just Dave" Dube
Townsend, Delaware

LOVE THE WINTER ISSUE! IT starts with the fabulous photography that includes the advertisements. And all the articles relate well to the theme of the "Wild East." Good work.

Wendy "Tiger Bomb" Pacek
Altoona, Florida

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO *A.T. Journeys* showing up in my mailbox. It is the one magazine I read cover-to-cover. I do like the new design, although I will miss the "As I See It" column. This was a favorite of mine. I enjoyed the inspirational stories of everyday hikers. One thing that I implore you not to change in the spring issue is the feature dedicated to the previous year's 2,000-milers. I love seeing their pictures and going through the list of finished hikers and their Trail names. I meet a few hikers each year while day hiking near my home in Pennsylvania. I offer treats when I can for awesome Trail conversation. It is really great to see their names and/or their pictures in my favorite magazine.

Gerald Mistal
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A GREATLY IMPROVED MAGAZINE. I am a life member and don't get out much anymore on the Trail, and the magazine keeps me in touch with what's been going on. The Winter issue was read cover to cover. Thanks for the new version.

Bill "Macon" Jones
Macon, Georgia

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*A.T. Journeys* welcomes your comments. The editors are committed to providing balanced and objective perspectives. Not all letters received may be published. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807

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@doug.hahn.1313
The Trail should be a historic landmark preserved forever... Take your kids, take your grandchildren for a hike. There is absolutely nothing like the Appalachian Trail. Get to know nature, respect it, not trash it.

@davisfromvegastotrail
The Wild East is so important to protect. Our backyard to nature.

@summitlodgesugarmountain
Sharing the Trail with wildlife is all part of the experience!

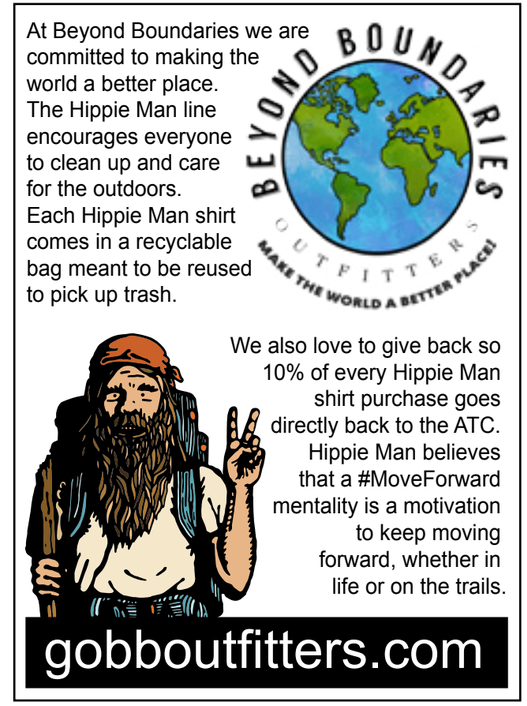
@appalachian_adv
I ordered my Wild East Poster and proudly donated to the keep the A.T. wild for future generations.

@johnny_nature.seed
I passed some Trail workers in Maine, college students weighed a buck 20 using 35 lb spud bars to flip 1,000 pound boulders and using hand tools to chop down trees blocking the path. I admired their effort and really appreciated not having wet feet for a few more days. Thank you all for what you do.

Started my flip-flop from [the Flip-Flop Festival] in 17'! Good times...To say my thru-hike was life-style changing would be an understatement. Hope it is for you too! Enjoy the journey! ~David Pagano

Sent in my reservation for 2 weeks with Konnarock. This will be my 17th time on Trail crew. Real Trail magic. ~Richard Gehring





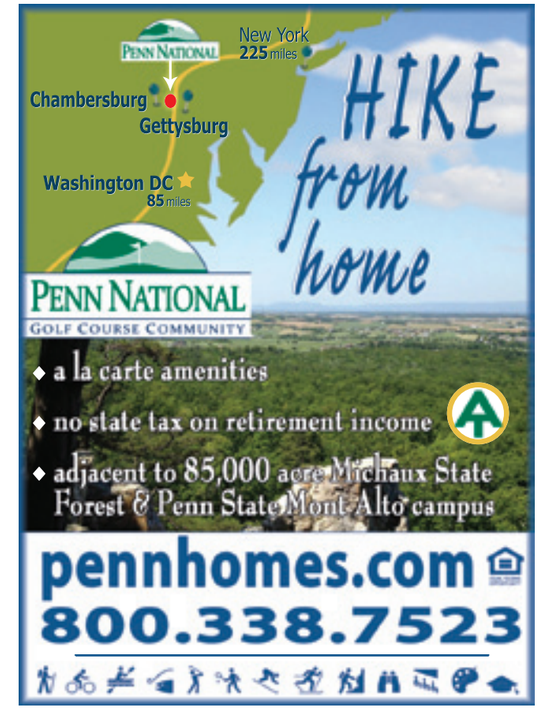



PHOTO BY JORDAN BOWMAN

# THE TRAIL COMMUNITY IN BLOOM

*A.T. - White Mountains National Forest just before Franconia Ridge. By Aaron Ibey*

WITH SPRING COMES NOT ONLY A RETURN OF warmer weather and greenery but also hiking boots and packs. The Teahorse Hostel in my home town, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, opened its doors recently and already our A.T. Community is busy with hikers. Harpers Ferry and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will be hosting its annual Flip Flop Festival at the end of April and hikers, choosing a "flip-flop" thru-hike, will come into town for last minute guidance and workshops before heading out on their adventure. While originally started as just an A.T.-focused event, the Flip Flop Festival has grown into a town-wide activity, involving all types of local businesses and bringing in visitors well beyond A.T. hikers.

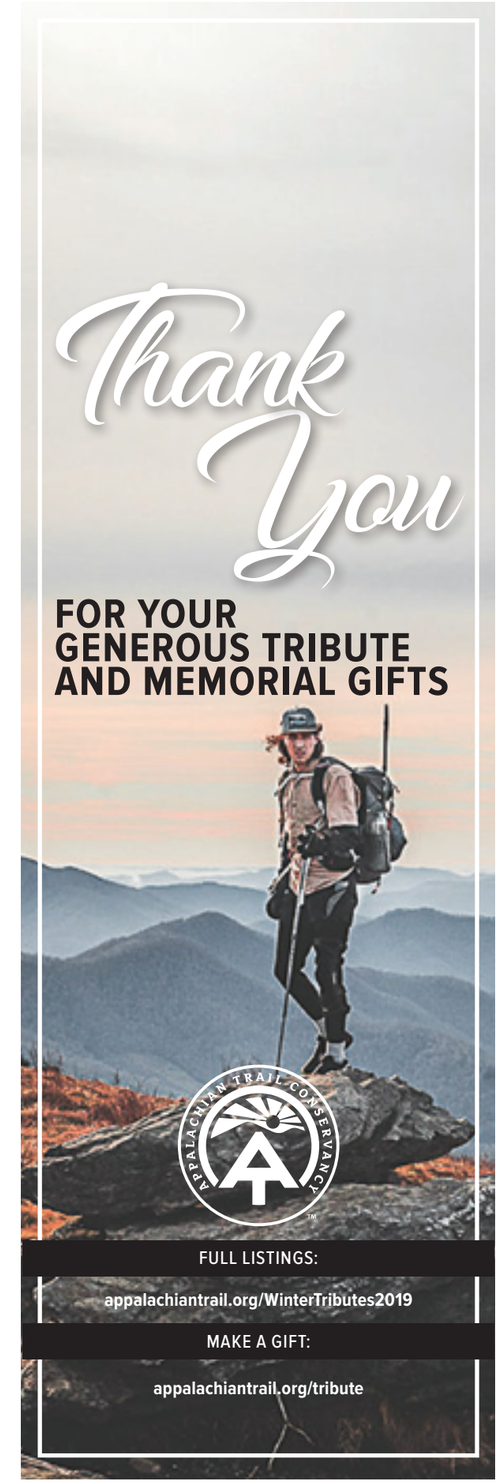
In addition to Harpers Ferry, A.T. Communities up and down the Trail are making similar plans. In my area, our newest town, Round Hill, Virginia is gearing up for its Designation Day Appalachian Trail Festival. Planned for June, the event will coincide with the northbound thru-hiker "bubble" arriving in our area. From the early days of Damascus Trail Days, to now multiple communities along the entire Trail, we are seeing the importance and benefit hikers bring to these small towns.

In addition to hikers, you'll also notice a lot of volunteers out with weed whackers and saws. This past year's late winter storms have really wreaked havoc on the Trail — with miles of sections almost impassible due to multiple downed limbs and trees. In Shenandoah, the central and south districts were completely closed through March. And, naturally, the northern section of the Trail is still under snow cover. Trail conditions will test the mettle of our crews and overseers as they work to ensure the path is open and ready for our visitors. But, as always, they up for the challenge.

Whether you are a hiker, a Trail worker, or a Trail neighbor there is much you can enjoy and appreciate about the Appalachian Trail. There is also much you can do to help protect and preserve it for others. Hikers: remember to practice Leave No Trace and follow guidelines on day and overnight group sizes. Be respectful when you arrive in our Trail communities. Volunteers: you have a great opportunity to act as Trail Ambassadors while out doing your work, so make sure to stop and chat with hikers that you see, sharing both your love for the Trail and ways that they can also give back with their time and membership dollars. And A.T. Communities: continue to work to promote the Trail, not only to outside visitors, but also with your own residents, making sure that everyone knows what a wonderful resource is just outside (or a short drive from) their back door.

See you on the Trail!
*Sandra Marra / Chair*

PAMELA "CHILLY" PARKER, SPRINGER MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA. PHOTO BY BOB PARKER




JANES BALD, NORTH CAROLINA. BY AARON IBEY

# HEALTHY FORESTS

## THE HEALTH OF FORESTS ALONG THE A.T. IS INTEGRAL TO THE VITALITY OF THE WILD EAST

***By Mark Ellison / Illustration By Katie Eberts***

**WE FIND ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL A REPRIEVE FROM MODERN LIFE FULL OF NOISE, LIGHT, AIR POLLUTION, AND CONSTANT CONNECTIVITY.** Exploring the Trail is like going home, or entering a restorative cocoon. Though we have tried to separate ourselves from nature in our urban lives, our health is inseparable from that of the Earth. We are responsible for tending the relationship with the forests of the Wild East now, helping to replenish them similar to how the Cherokee and other indigenous cultures have for centuries.

Since the first section of the Appalachian Trail opened in 1923, millions of people have set foot on it seeking an escape in wild nature that is freeing, awe inspiring, and life changing; using it as an exit ramp from frenetic schedules, invasive noise, and incessant demands on our attention to some of the most splendid landscapes in the country. The U.S. population that year was 111 million, it now eclipses 327 million, bringing with it profound impacts.

Population increases in the eastern U.S. have multiplied our carbon footprint, with the forests of the Appalachians being a crucial carbon absorption

> Forests cradle our well-being... How often do we quiet our mind and listen to the forest to learn what it needs?

area in North America. Climate change has serious implications for endangered species such as moose, the red shouldered hawk, loggerhead shrike, and Virginia big eared bat, as well as plants like the yellow lady's slipper, and pristine sparkling streams. If left intact, the Wild East can become an oasis in a nature desert, home to species fleeing other areas due to climate change and urbanization.

Benton MacKaye envisioned the Appalachian Trail as more than a narrow corridor, but a space to help join humans and nature. The A.T. is a thread tying balds, bogs, meadows, forests, and fauna together in a mutually supportive and resilient ecosystem. The forest enchants us and we learn more each day how it heals us. It offers the gift of escaping the stress and distractions of life.

An abundance of research, from Japan to Finland to the U.S. describes how spending time in nature enhances creativity, increases well-being, mends the immune system, reduces stress, and makes us smarter. The call of the junco, waxwing, or barred owl, the gentle flow of a stream, the radiant red leaves of a maple floating through the air, or the scent of fir trees, are all soft fascinations that help to heal our attention capacities. High quality, natural settings free of noise, human structures, and other distractions offer the most health benefits as do areas with the highest biodiversity. The Appalachians offer some of the most biodiverse areas in North America, including over 158 different tree species. Spanning 11 degrees of latitude and over 6,500 feet in elevation, the diverse habitats of the A.T. likely harbor more rare, threatened, and endangered species than any other national park unit.

*Left: Beech forest and whorled wood aster along the A.T. in the Roan Highlands Tennessee/North Carolina. By Jerry Greer; Right: Barred owl on the A.T. near the southern border of Shenandoah National Park. By Paul Hammond*

Until the early 1800s, Appalachian forests remained relatively unscathed. But the arrival of the Industrial Revolution introduced a period of rapid expansion of logging to fuel the growing U.S. economy. Railroads and steam-generated power made lumber an industrial commodity at a large scale. By the early 1900s, the majority of eastern forests had been cut at least once, leaving a barren, ecologically-degraded landscape resulting in erosion and poor water quality.

Since the Appalachian Trail's inception, the forests it passes through have been in stages of restoration from human and natural incursions. The Weeks Act in the early 1900s helped conserve over 50 national forests in the eastern U.S., eight of which the A.T. crosses through. Deforestation, invasive species, fire suppression, and other human interventions have weakened these ecosystems. Stalwarts of the Appalachians like the mighty American chestnut, graceful eastern hemlock, and aromatic Fraser fir have come under siege.

The American chestnut provided nourishment for bears, turkey, and deer and was an important part of the ecosystem and economy of the eastern United States until the chestnut blight wiped out the tree's population in the early 1900s. Efforts to reintroduce a blight-resistant variety are showing promise. Hemlocks majestically tower over the forest floor, but face destruction by the hemlock woolly adelgid. Without them, the ecology of the forests is impacted as is the diversity of native trout in the mountain streams. Researchers are enlisting the help of laricobius beetles, which consume wooly adelgids, to save the hemlocks. The peaks of the mountain range are kissed with spruce-fir forests bringing a taste of Canada to the southern United States, but these too are under siege. The Fraser fir is in decline due to an infestation by the balsam woolly adelgid. And numerous invasive species like feral hogs, kudzo, and English ivy are decimating native plants.

Forests cradle our well-being. When we look into nature, we gaze into a mirror reflecting our priorities. How often do we quiet our mind and listen to the forest to learn what it needs? Thoreau described tramping eight or ten miles through the snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, yellow birch, or pine. Perhaps we should slow down and do the same, while envisioning the A.T. with the same wonder. Realizing what a gift and responsibility it truly is should fuel our desire to protect it.

Learn more about the Wild East at:
**wildeast.appalachiantrail.org**

Buttermilk Falls, New Jersey. By Raymond Salani III

# TRAILHEAD

ATC DIRT / HIGHLIGHTS / EVENTS / UPDATES

## BUTTERMILK FALLS

There are numerous waterfalls along the A.T. — and nearby side/blue-blazed trails — that make for great viewing and destination hikes. At roughly 200 feet, Buttermilk Falls is the highest waterfall in New Jersey and is accessible via a 1.6-mile hike on a blue-blazed trail just off the A.T., or steps away from a parking area for those who don't want to hike in. The striking waterfall is also part of a loop hike, which includes the Appalachian Trail, glacially-formed Crater Lake, Hemlock Pond, and several vista points with views of the surrounding Kittatinny Mountains.

HIKING BASICS

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Hiking even just a portion of the Appalachian Trail is the adventure of a lifetime, but you'll enjoy that adventure even more if you're prepared. Brush up on all the basics from proper gear and food to health and safety.

**Basics: Footwear / Blisters**

The most important thing is that shoes fit well and are broken-in. Nothing spoils the fun or ends a hike quicker than blistered feet. On a day hike, broken-in tennis shoes can be a better choice than brand-new boots. When carrying a backpack or hiking on rocky terrain, more substantial hiking shoes or boots may be desirable, but some hikers walk the entire A.T. in running shoes or cross-trainers. Remember, the heavier your pack, the more substantial a shoe you will need. Shop for boots in the afternoon as feet swell throughout the day. Thru-hikers can expect their feet to expand over the course of their hike, so if between sizes, choose the larger size. ¶ To help prevent blisters, break in new shoes or boots gradually before you begin your hike. As soon as you feel any discomfort or "hot spot" developing, stop hiking and place moleskin or duct tape over areas developing soreness.

**appalachiantrail.org/hikingbasics**

*A.T. – Bear Mountain, Connecticut By Aaron Ibey*

## *National Trails Day*
## JUNE 1ST

Thousands of Events. One Adventurous Day. Find your own adventure and celebrate National Trails across the U.S.

**americanhiking.org/national-trails-day**

### Protect Yourself

One of the greatest risks to your health while hiking the A.T. is from contracting a tick-borne disease. This most recent map from the CDC illustrates how widespread reported cases of Lyme disease have become on the East Coast. Risk is heightened during spring and summer.

Educate and protect yourself:
**cdc.gov/ticks**
**tickencounter.org**
**appalachiantrail.org/health**

### Congressional Update

Find out what's happening on Capitol Hill — and how it will affect the Trail.

For more information visit:
**appalachiantrail.org/takeaction**

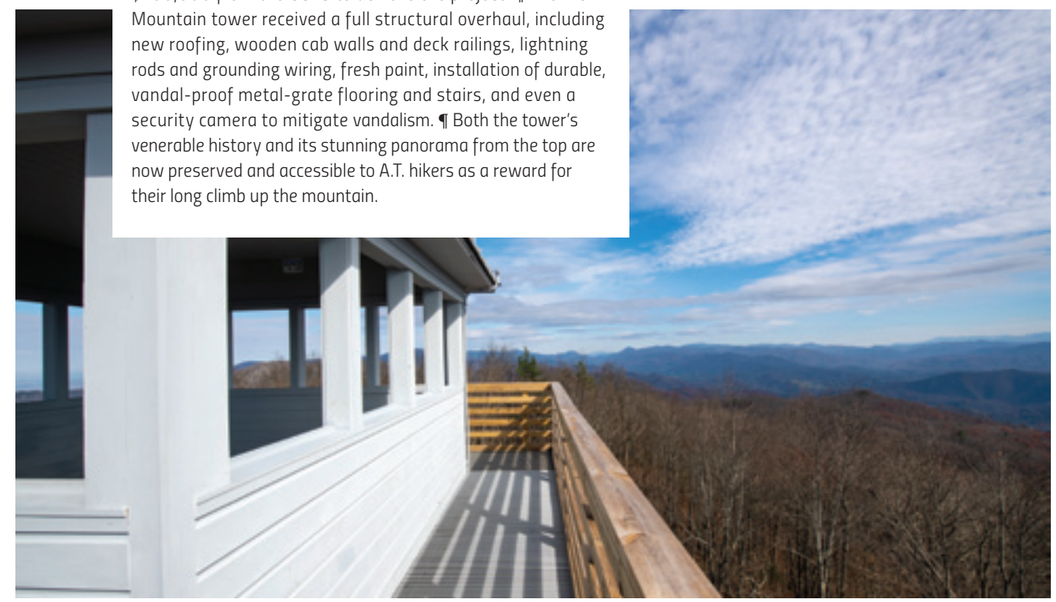


## A View Worth Saving

*By Peter J. Barr*

Condition of the historic fire lookout tower atop the A.T.'s Rich Mountain — overlooking Hot Springs, North Carolina — became so unsafe by 2017 that it was closed indefinitely to hikers seeking to enjoy its 360-degree vantage point. Falling into disrepair in recent years, it suffered mightily from sustained vandalism and the stresses of weather extremes at its 3,670-foot elevation. ¶ The Rich Mountain tower straddles the state line and boundaries of North Carolina's Pisgah National Forest and Tennessee s Cherokee National Forest. The 31-foot lookout was erected by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 1932 and utilized for fire detection for the next six decades. It has since remained a beloved scenic viewpoint along the A.T. for visiting hikers, and a historic structure that portrayed a bygone era of natural resource protection methodology. ¶ Too treasured of a landmark to lose, a partnership comprised of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA), the USFS, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and Carolina Mountain Club joined forces to complete restoration of the tower in 2018. ¶ The restoration was made possible by funding from the ATC's License Plate Grant Programs in North Carolina and Tennessee. Grants made to the North Carolina FFLA — a non-profit that seeks to preserve, restore, and interpret historic fire lookout towers — leveraged an additional $100,000 from the USFS to achieve the project. ¶ The Rich Mountain tower received a full structural overhaul, including new roofing, wooden cab walls and deck railings, lightning rods and grounding wiring, fresh paint, installation of durable, vandal-proof metal-grate flooring and stairs, and even a security camera to mitigate vandalism. ¶ Both the tower's venerable history and its stunning panorama from the top are now preserved and accessible to A.T. hikers as a reward for their long climb up the mountain.

The Rich Mountain Tower is just one of six fire towers that have been restored along the Trail in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. They include: Albert Mountain, NC; Wayah Bald, NC; Wesser Bald, NC; Mount Cammerer, NC/TN; and Camp Creek Bald, NC/TN. The Blood Mountain, GA, and Roan High Knob, NC/TN, fire warden cabins are used as A.T. shelters.



*The newly restored tower offers 360-degree views from Rich Mountain. By Shannon Millsaps \ NC Forest Fire Lookout Association*

*Sunrise on Mount Washington. By Adam Richardson*

# 2000 MILERS

NORTHBOUND° 778
SOUTHBOUND° 135
FLIP-FLOP° 139
SECTION HIKER° 198

## Our list of determined individuals

includes those who reported hike completions of the entire Trail (thru-hikes or section-hikes) to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy since last spring.

## Congratulations to all 1,197

determined hikers who reported their completion of the entire Appalachian Trail in 2018.

For the third year in a row, the number of thru-hikers who reported completing a flip-flop itinerary was greater than the number of those reporting a southbound thru-hike, although northbounders are the largest category by far again. We received applications from hikers as far away as Bulgaria and New Zealand.

Starting later this year, 2,000-milers will be able to connect, view and upload photos, and share their accomplishments with each other through social media. Find out more at:
appalachiantrail.org/2000milers

## 2018

ABATE JULIAN / MAYDAY
ABELL JARED / WALMART SPECIAL
ABERNETHY HEATHER / SCOUT
ABRAMS LYNSEY / STUBBS
ADAMS JAKE / SANDALS
ADAMS RACHEL / NINJA SNAIL
AFFRONTI JOHN / TENTCENTS
AGGARWAL AMIT / GUMP
AGUILAR MONICA / MOSS
AKERS NANCY / BLUEGRASS
AMBROZEWICZ STEWART / RIP VAN WINKLE
ANDERSON GERRY / OZZIE
ANDERSON HARVEY / COMMANDER
ANDERSON HEATHER / ANISH
ANDERSON TED / MILES
ANDRADE JEFFREY / SURE WIN
ANDREWS WILLIAM / CAPCAP
APPLEBY BILL / 55 SOG
ARCHILA SAUL / RED HAWK
ARCHULETA JOHN / PING (MOUNTAIN)
ARETZ BONNIE / BURDOCK
ARMOUR ERIK / NIX
ARMOUR SCOTT / POTHOS
ARMSTRONG MAXIMILIAN / BLOODHOUND
ASCHENBACH BRENDA / TOOTSIE
ASMAN CONNOR / BRAND NEW
AUBIN ERIC / PROFESSOR
AUWAERTER CAROLYN / INCUBATOR
AWAD LUKE / METRIC
AZMAT SAAREM / TRAINWRECK
BABCOCK TESSA / BIG MONEY
BABIARZ CRAIG / ORANGE
BACASTOW RICHARD / HIGHWAY
BAGGE DAVID / 13
BAILEY JERRY / BEAR SNACK
BAKER BRETT / WIZARD
BAKER JIM / SHIVERS' DAD
BAKER LARRY / FOX
BALABAN KAREN / SECOND WIND
BALDING KENNY / KENYA
BALDREE RHIANNA / NEEDLES
BANG-LARSEN EVA-CHARLENE / NOVEGAN
BARBASH EDDIE / STEADY
BARBER JESSICA / SUMMIT
BARDOUL JORDANE / RENOIR
BARLOW PHIL / BALD EAGLE
BARRETT ALAN / EARL GREY
BARRETT MARY / PURPLE HAZE
BARRON AIFRIC / FIZZY
BARRON IAN / SWEEPS
BARRON OWEN / BEAR
BARROW JESS / BLUEGRASS
BARTELL JARED / MUSH
BARWIN REBECCA / FLIP-FLOP
BASILE JOSEPH / SIR JUICE
BASS REBEKAH
BATES, JR. ROBERT / BOBKAT
BATSON JASON / TICKLE ME ELMO
BAUHART MILENA / DOG
BAXTER ROBERT / NO NAME
BEADLES GARY / GARY
BEALE ANYA / ONION
BEAVER JACOB / FLOSS
BEHRENS GREG / GBOLT
BELLAVANCE ERIC / PONCHO
BELLER RON / RONRICO
BENNETT JEFF / SWITCH
BENSON JOSH / BROKEN SEAL
BERGHOLZ IZZY / BUTTER
BERHEIDE DANIEL / CHUG
BERMAN DAVE / ION
BERMAN SARAH / EARTH HEART
BERMUDEZ NICK / RED EYE
BERNABÉ CÉCILIA / SPROUT
BERNHARD TODD / P.C.
BERNLOEHR MATTHIAS / BERNIE
BERRY MATTHEW / BLUEBERRY
BESS AMANDA / PEWEE
BEYARD SEAN / YO-YOGI
BIEBER TOM / DETAIL
BIRT RON / BUCKEYE
BISHOP JENNIFER / LOON
BLACK MICKEY / MARATHON
BLAINE JEREMY / RAMBO
BLANCHARD AMANDA / V
BLANCO MANUEL / FIX GEAR
BLUE DAWANNA / SALLY FORTH
BLUM DAVID / JUST DAVE
BOECKEL BEN / STINGER
BOEGNER JOSHUA / OLLI
BOHNER LEE / LONER-BOHNER
BOLEY KRYSTAL
BOLING KYLE / PEACH
BOLTON MARY-ANN / CROW
BOMAR ANN / SPINELLI
BOOKOUT SCOTT / SPOT
BOTBYL GLENN
BÖTTGER MANUEL / MOOSE(POOP)
BOULAMATSIS GEORGE / PACE
BOWDEN BRIAN
BOWDON BILLY / THE SKID
BOWIE CAROLYN / JACKALOPE
BOWKER TOM / GRANITE MAN
BOWLING DEREK / BEAR MAGNET
BOWMAN TERRY / BAR-KILLER
BRADFORD KELSEY / DUCKY
BRADLEY JOSHUA / DINE N' DASH
BRADLEY SARAH / TERN
BRIMBERRY DARRELL / NEXT STEP
BRITTON COLLIN / WILD TURKEY
BROMEN PETE / EASY PETE
BRONY SEBASTIAN / FORAGER
BROOKS JIM / POPPA J
BROTHERS RICHARD / ULYSSES
BROWN DENNIS / INCLINE
BROWN HALEY / HALES-A-BLAZIN
BROWN SAMANTHA / POSTCARD
BROWN SIBLEY / POSSIBLY
BROWNING CHRISTY / KOOPA
BROWNING JONATHAN / BIG-OOH

CHAD "RELENTLESS" SKINNER
RACHAEL "HONEY BEAR" PASZKO
& DAVID "HOOT" GIBSON

JOHN "KUZZY" KUSMITS & BILL "CRABBY" LOVELL

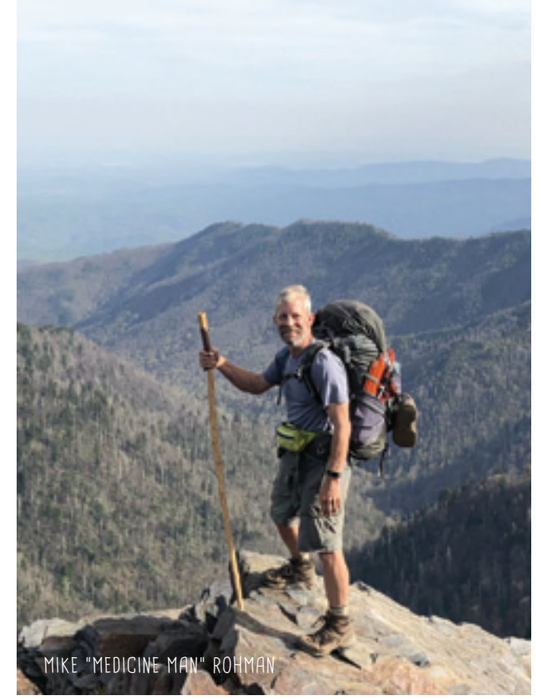
BRUHN ANJA / DIRTYGIRL
BRUHN NADINE / VALKYRIE
BUCHAN MATT / 2/3
BUCKLEY DAVID
BUCKLIN ASHA / SINCERITY
BULL ALLIE / THUNDER
BULLARD LEVON / HARD HAT
BULMAN ASHLEY / INFINITY
BURD ANDREW / SNUGGS
BURGER TREY / THUMPER
BURGHOUWT ESTHER / SNOW ANGEL
BURKE DYLAN / PICKLE
BURKE KATHRYN / BLUEBERRY
BURT JIM / SANDALS
BUTLER JOSHUA / HAZMAT
BUTTNER JANE / FROM CANADA
BYCHOWSKI MARK / PEPPER JACK
BYER DENNIS / DOCTOR WHO
BYERLEY MICHAEL / TROOP LEADER
CALLISON DAVID / GIGGLES
CANHAM DYLAN / G.D.
CAPELLO NATHAN / DAY HIKER
CARDUCCI DOUG / EPIC
CARLIN NICHOLAS / DRACULA
CARNEY CHRISTOPHER / CRUISE
CARNEY TRACY / HOPE TO...
CAROTHERS GREG / BONES
CARROLL BEN / SQUIRVERT
CARSWELL BRUCE / Q-TIP
CARTER SAM / PONY EXPRESS
CASANOVA JOVITO / BUNGEE
CASH SAMANTHA / CRUZ
CASON MADISON / TOOTS
CASON TREY / PAW-PAW
CASTIGNOLI JAMES / O.G. LOST & FOUND
CEDENO ZELZIN / QUETZAL
CENKER GABRIEL / DEEP WATERS
CENKER JENNIFER / MOO BEAR
CERIO ALEXANDER / GOOD PUSH
CHAE HOON / PATCHES
CHALMERS NICÓLE / PACECAR
CHANCEY NICHOLAS / FABLE
CHANDLER REECE / WIGGLES
CHARETTE MERRILL / CAPTAIN AHAB
CHARLES KEN / COCOA
CHASE BRANDON / MOXIE
CHASE STEVE / CHACO
CHASTAIN ZACHARY / HALF -FULL
CHATHAM MEG / ME
CHILDRE ELLIOTT / RIVER DANCE
CHIPKA JAMIE / SUNSHINE
CHOLEWA JR. DAN / THE MACHINE
CHRISTIANSON CHARLES / WILLI
CHURCH BOBBY / SLOWER
CHURCH VICKIE / SLOW
CIMINI TESS / REBOUND
CLARK REGINA / QUEEN
CLERK AARYN / BARB ROSS
CLERKIN SAMANTHA / FIREFLY
CLEVENGER CHRIS / TURN AROUND
CLOUD KATE / FEATHERS
COCHRAN CYNTHIA / OLIVE BRANCH
CODY PHILIP / WOLFEY BIZZERK
COFER KELLI / SAVAGE
COFER KELLI / SAVAGE
COHEN JON / JETSON
COLEMAN MICHAELA / PRONATOR
COLLINS JESSICA / CLOSE CALL
COLO MICHAEL / NORUSH
CONROY MICHAEL / DOWNEAST
COOK CODY / WILD HOG
COOLEY TYLER / PUDDLE
COONS RANDY / BILBO
CORMIER LOUIS

CHRISTINE "NEMOPHILIST" TODD

CORNMAN CONLAN / E-STREET
COSGROVE THOMAS / COSMO
COSTELLO MEGHAN / SEND IT
COULON RICK / COOLIO
COUVREUR DANIEL / THE GENERAL
CRAIG TAYLOR / FIREPINK
CRAWFORD JEREMY / HAPPY
CROMARTIE JR. JOHN / PASTOR JOHN
CROME JAKE / CULLIGAN
CRONIN CRAIG / NEW YORK
CROSS CHUCK / WANDERINGDAD
CROSS JOSH / ALADDIN
CULLINAN PATRICK / T5000
CUNNINGHAM TERRY / MIDWEST MAMA
CURROTTO CAROL / TURNIP
CURTIS CATLIN / PIKA
CURTIS COLIN / CRAZY BRIT
CURTIS JASON / HIGHLANDER
DAHINDEN NICHOLAS / NICKY DYNAMITE
DAKE BILL / COMFORTABLY NUMB
D'ANDREA ELIZABETH / SWEET TREATS
DAUBERT CHRISTOPHER / TR/TRAIL RUNNER
DAVID ASHLEY / STRONG
DAVID JULES / JUST
DAVIS JONATHAN
DAVIS MICHAEL / NAVSTER
DAVIS SHAWN / JÉSUS
DECAROLIS MIKE / DOC
DEHONDT KIKI
DEL MOLINO SAM / S"AMWISE"
DEL NEGRO MARCUS / WISECRACK
DEMPSEY MATTHEW / MICHIGAN
DENTON JOHN / JOHNNIE WALKER
DEOM ADAM
DERRISO BRYCE / OATS
DETERDING KRISTEN / ELMO
DETWEILER RODNEY / HANDSTAND
DEUBERT CHUCK / NO DOUBT
DEVLIN PAT / PIRATE
DILLON BENJAMIN / GLOW WORM
DISHMON TYLER / HUCK
DISMUKES CATHERINE / BAGS
DIVERDE ALEX / QUICKFIX
DIVERDE ALLISON / FLOWER POWER
DIXON HANNAH / SONIC
DOBSEVAGE RUTH / TIPTOE
DOCKINS MARTY / BAMADOG
DOLMAN MEGAN / GIGGLES
DOMBY ART / VINEGAR
DOMINGO, JR. A.J. / CHARIZARD
DOMINGUS JEFFREY / CAMO
DONALDSON NATHAN / TRAIL MAGIC
DONOVAN ART / CRAFTE
DOUGHTY DYLAN / PONYBOY
DOUGLAS SIAN / ROBIN
DOUWES FRANK

DUBE CHRISTOPHER / JUST DAVE
DUDA GRAHAM / GRAMPS
DUFF SARAH / SUNSET
DUGGAN BRIAN / SUBLYME
DUNCAN ANDREW / WALLACE
DUNN CAITLYN / DIRT DEVIL
DUNN RACHAEL / BATTLE LION
DWIGHT ART / MONK
DYE JASON / CHOO CHOO
ECKHART JONATHAN / SPARKY
EGAN M. DEAN / MACHINE
EGAN MARY / SQUEAKY
EICHHORN CLEMENS / SQUIRREL
EKSTRÖM C. / THE ROCK
ELENS KEVIN / GUMP
ELINSKI EMILY / WIKI
ELLINGSWORTH ANDREW / BLOODBEARD
ELLIOTT CHELSEA / PEANUT
ELLWANGER KERRY / VALK
ENGLANDER JEFF / PENGUIN
EPSTEIN GASPAR / LA COPA
ESPIE HANNA / FRENCH TOAST
EUSTANCE ZACHERY / BIG TOE
EVANS BOBBY / BATMAN (& ROBIN)
EVERETT DEVIN / JUKEBOX
EYRE JANE / PURPLE RAIN
FACHET STEFAN / BLESSINGS
FAIRES JACK / COL JACK
FALLIN DON / DJ
FALLIS LAUREN / MAKIN'-IT
FARIES SHERRIE / BLUE BUTTERFLY
FATOR GRANT / SANI
FAWCETT-DAVIS DEVON / MOUNTIE
FELLAND DANIEL / DIRTY DAN
FENG LIU / LITTLE HORSE
FERGUSON SARAH / HONEY BADGER
FESS JAMES / NO EXCUSE
FIBICH MICHAEL / PEBBLES
FICK KYLE / SOUL TRAIN
FIELD NOEL / MAINER
FIK JONATHON / MITTENS
FINDLEY LUKE
FINKLE JAY / JAY
FISBECK LISA / SUNSHINE
FITZGERALD JACK / JAMS
FITZPATRICK BRANDON / SMALLS TOO
FLAGLER SEAN / JACK RABBIT
FLETCHER CHAD / RANCHER
FLINN JR. LAWRENCE / WEBUSTER
FLORAC BILL / ONE BOOT
FLOYD JOHN / ONYX
FORREST RANDY / PROBATION TERMINATION
FOURNIER WILLIAM / WIT
FOWLER LEE / PRINCESS
FOWLER MAGGIE / LEGACY
FOX DECLAN / PHOTON

JIM "POPPA J" BROOKS & GRANDSON


MIKE "MEDICINE MAN" ROHMAN

FOX MATTHEW / GRAY
FRIARS COLIN / WHIP
FRIEDMAN KATIE / BEAR BOX
FRUEHBEIS FLORIAN / MONK
FULLER MICHAEL / FARMALL
FULLERTON-SMITH QUENTIN / NEW ZEALAND
FUQUA RANDY / FLASH
GALLANT ROBERT / NO BREAKS
GALLAWAY KAVIN / TARZAN
GAMBLIN BRYAN / 50/50
GARBETT MEGAN / GHOST FOOT
GARDINEER WILLIAM / BLACK DOG
GARON FELIX / BEERO
GAULIN DAYZE / QUESADILLA
GEARY NICK / MULE
GEERTZ CLARA / AVALON
GHELLI FEDERICO / HUSTLER
GIACOMELLI, JR. JOSEPH / A$$HOLE
GIBB KEKE / FRANK
GIBSON DAVID / HOOT
GIBSON DOUG / TWOFER
GIESEN JOHN / NO PROB-LLAMA
GILBERT CLAYTON / TORTOISE
GILL HARRISON / HILLS
GIUFFRE JACQUELINE / EMERGENCY TUNA AKA E.T.
GIVEN KAT / MUSE
GODBOUT NICOLAS / BABY BIRD
GOLDING RODERICK / REBOOT
GOLDMAN JEFF / GARDENER
GOLDREICH STAAV / CRIBBAGE
GOODRUM GEOFFREY / HAPPY HERMIT
GOODWILL GORDON / SENECA
GORDON JAKE / BEAGLE
GOSCHKA MD ANDREW / ANDY AND BRANDY
GRAHAM ANDREW / PEANUT
GRANT RUSSELL / SAVAGE
GRAY KENNETH / ZEPPELIN
GREEN SCOTT
GRICE AUTUMN / G. WHEEZY
GROLEAU TINA / LUCERO
GROVER KAREN / SOULSHINE
GROVER SCOTT / THE KID
GUENTER ERIC / HD
HADLEY BRUCE / CRAZY DIAMOND
HAGEN ROBERT / CHINCOOK
HAGER HERBERT / COFFEE-MAKER
HALDEMAN JONATHON / BOLT
HALDEMAN KOLEEN / HOMMUS
HALL JOHN / THE GENERAL
HALLOWELL TIM / MISSION
HAMMOND RON / DONUT
HANCK PHILIPPE / TERMINATOR
HAND WILLIAM / MUMBLES
HANES MIKE / FORAGER
HANSEN EVAN / SWEET
HANZLIK KELSEY / PIXIE
HARMAN ANDREW / FEDEX
HARRIS COLTON / ZOLTAN
HARRIS DANIEL / SCARS
HARRIS NATALIE / STRIPES
HASELBAUER GRETCHEN / FRENCH FRY
HASKELL ERIC / RUNNING GRIZ
HAYES EVAN / BALOO
HAYES WILLIAM / GOODWILLHIKING
HAYWOOD GRIFFIN /
HAZLIP JOHN /
HEARD STEVEN / NUBS
HECKER LAUREL / DURACELL
HECSKO RADEK / CZECH MIX
HEILMANN BOB / BOBAGANOOSH
HELLER-BAIR ILAH / MAREEKIE
HÉMOND ALEXANDRA / PRODUCE
HENDERSON CAROLYN / HARRY & THE HENDERSONS
HERR DANIEL / LT. DAN
HESLEITNER MICHAEL / DOUBLE STACK
HESS JAMES /
HESS LORRIE / EASY BAKE
HICKERSON ROB / FURNACE
HILEMAN, JR. BOB / ROADRUNNER
HIMSTEDT CURTIS / EASILY FORGOTTEN
HIMSTEDT PAM / BUNNY TRACKS
HODGSON JOSIAH / SHEPHERD
HODLIN KEVIN / NODOZ
HOERSTING BOBO / 47
HOFFMAN ALEXANDER / LOST BOY
HOFFMAN JOE / MR. ZIP
HOFFMAN MICAH / HOT-ROCKS
HOFFMAN ROBERT / KNEE DEEP
HOFFMANN MICHÈLE / PEPPERMINT
HOLCOMB AUSTIN / NOODLE
HOLDEN TREY / BUFFALO
HOLLINGSWORTH MATT / RAINBOW
HOLMAN JESSICA / PEPPERETTE
HOLMES IZZY / HAPPY FEET
HOLSTED ADAM / JET
HOOPER WILLIAM / CROCKETT
HOPSON GENE / JEANS
HOPSON JR. TOM / BUGS
HOPWOOD AUTUMN / OOPS
HOPWOOD SEAN / FOXY
HOSTETLER CLIFTON / MEATLOAF
HOSTETLER JESSE / FLIP
HOSTETLER LANCE / ASTRO
HOSTETLER MARLISA / GOURMET
HOWARD JACKIE / SPROUT
HROZENCIK BOB / MAG-LEV
HUDNELL RON / TAR HEEL
HUGENTOBLER CARLA / MISS
HUGENTOBLER PIUS / SWISS
HUGHES SCOTT / HELL-YA JESUS
HUMAN NICO / LUX
HUNSUCKER AMY / SLIDER
HUNT KAYT / TACO
HURLBURT JOSH / SPARK
HUSS BRANDY / ANDY AND BRANDY
IBARGÜEN SAOIRSE / STORY
ICENOGLE MARIA / GROCERIES
INGMIRE BRYCE / REX
INGRAM SCOTT / GLIDER
IRWIN CATHERINE / FEATHERS
ISAACSON JEFFREY / HALF FULL
JACKSON MORGAN / COSMIC
JACKSON ROBIN / LONG LEGS
JACOBI WYATT / BACKTRACKER
JAKUBONIS ARTURAS / MOUSE TRAP
JARRELL BRYAN / IRON FOOT
JEFFERS ANNA / DR. J
JEFFERS JACKSON / BUTCHER
JENSEN MIKA / SNICKER BEAR
JENSSEN GREG / BABA GANOUSH
JOHNSON AMANDA / MANDAR
JOHNSON RYAN / CANDY
JOHNSON SUZANN / WHEEZIE
JOHNSTON-CARTER WILLIAM / NOT YET
JOLLY FREDERICK / SANTIAGO
JONES ANNA / SWEET TEA
JONES BRANDEN / MOOSE
JONES CHELSEA / ROAST
JONES DUSTIN / MR. JONES
JONES MICHAEL / SWISH
JONES ZACHARY / CHEDDAR
JORDAN MICHAEL / GUNSLINGER
JOURDEN BENJAMIN / BIG BEN
JÜRGENS KAY / WANDERER
JUSTIS GLENN / SCOUTMASTER
KACZMAREK JOSEPH / HAZNOHORSE
KAHN PRESTON / GANDOLPHIN
KARL KHALIL / FRIEND
KARNER SARAH
KAZMIERCZAK MATTHEW / BUCKEYE
KEARNEY TOM / BUDDHA
KEATTS CORRINNA / MIGHTY MOUSE
KECKLEY GARY / DARTH VADER
KEITH CLARK / BIG SKY
KELLOGG RICHARD / SEEKER
KELLY JANE / PINTO
KELLY KEVIN / HUNGRY CAT
KELLY TIM / CHESHIRE CAT
KEMMERY PATRICK / HACK
KEPNER MARY / WANDER WOMAN
KERN DAVID / RC KINGLET
KERSCHNER KELLY / THROWDOWN
KERSTING LYDON / ROCKET
KIDDER LIZ / HANDSTAND
KIEC MICHELLE / PANTHER
KIERSPE GEORGE / PRIVY INSPECTOR
KILLIAN BOB / TRAILDOG
KIM HEESOOK / MOJAVE
KIM TAE / CRUNCHY
KIM-BIGGS JACK / RIPLEY
KING JAY / SHAGGY
KING MARGARET / MAGGIE
KIRK REBECCA / MOONBEAM
KISH HANNAH / MAMA KISH/GREMLIN
KLOS KATHLEEN / SQUEAKS
KLUCHINSKI CAROL / MAPS
KNAUTZ DALE / JAWZ
KNOBLOCH ALYSSA / SILVERBACK
KOCHER MARK / BRASS RAT
KOELLNER CONNOR / WHO
KOENIGSBERG AVA / STARK
KOEPPE HOLGER / THE FLYING SNAIL

MAGGIE "LEGACY" FOWLER

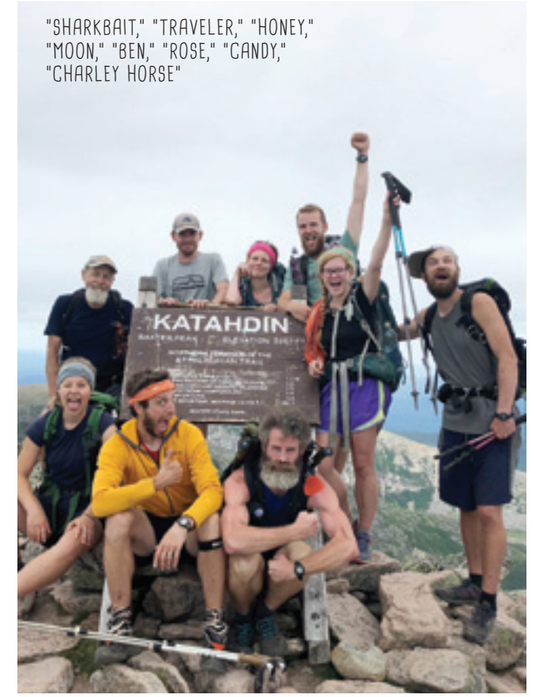
MEGAN "GIGGLES" DOLMAN &
MARK "PEPPERJACK" BYCHOWSKI

KOLAR KAETLIN / STOIC
KOLB CICELY / COUGAR
KONZ CORY / DITCH V.I.V.
KOPPENHAVER RANDALL / DIAMOND BLUE
KOTULA, DFM BR. / BEAR
KREITZ ASHLEY / NOODLE
KRENTZ PETER / PROPHET
KRETSCHMER KYLE / VAN GOGH
KRISH NATHANIEL / ROGUE CARTOGRAPHER
KROHN ANGELIQUE / PERKY
KUBIN FRANK / BODIESEL
KUHLMANN KAREN / BLUEJAY
KUNKLEMAN JEFFREY / TRAVELINMAN
KUSMITS JOHN / KUZZY
LABARR BENJAMIN / BEN
LABARR ROSEMARY / ROSE
LACOSS MELONY / STRETCH
LACOSS TRAVIS / RAMBOJUICE
LAFOND BEN / RAINFIRE
LAMB CATHY / ATTACULLACULLA
LANFRANK LEXIE / CURLS
LANGE PARKER / THING 1
LANGSTON ZACHARY / PATTON
LANNING MIKE / BRAVEHEART
LANSER ANDREW / BACON
LANTZ THOMAS / STRETCH
LAU TYLER / THE PRODIGY
LAVERONI BRYANA / FLIP
LAVERONI JAY / COACH
LAW WILL / LANDFILL
LEAVEY CHRISTOPHER / ACHILLES
LEE THOMAS / MANTIS
LEEBOLT SPENCER / PIT BOSS
LEESON JEFF / DUCKY
LEIBY KATHERINE / BITTER END
LEIBY TOM / BRICK
LEISENRING DON / TURBO
LEIVA JANE / CRAYOLA
LEOPARD DUSTIN / JEDI
LEPAGE JIM / GREY GHOST
LERMAN DAVID / MR. PEANUT BUTTER
LESTOURGEON PETER / GUPPY
LIEBLEIN MIRANDA / NOT DEAD
LIFGREN DEMITRI / CHAIRMAN
LILJA OSCAR / RISKY BUSINESS
LIN LIWEN
LINK JAKE / HOT SAUCE
LIPPWE KEITH / IRONMAN
LOBER HELEN / SWEETS
LOEW LORI / LUCKY PENNY
LONZELLO GARRETT / MURPHY (SWEET-HEAT)
LOOMIS JEFFREY / LAST SPOT
LORD BRYCE
LORENZE STEPHANIE / SUNSHINE
LOSAPIO GREGORY / FISH EARS
LOVELL, JR. WILLIAM / CRABBY
LOWES CATLIN / SKYWATER
LUEDTKE PAUL / THE ARCHER
LUERS MANDEE / TOMTOM
LUNA DANIELLE / STUMBLES MCGIGGLES
LYNOTT JACKIE / HUMPTY-DUMPTY
MACHIN BRITTANY / GIGGLES
MAGGIOLA ANTHONY / FAT TONY
MAGUIRE PAUL / IRISH
MAINS CRAIG / HAWK
MANTOS ALEX / FIRECRACKER
MARFILIUS KELSEY / TWO STEP
MARTENS JAMES / TOO LAZY
MARTIN BRANDON / TERAPIN
MARTIN GARRETT / PRICE POINT
MARTIN JASON / HANK HILL
MARTIN KRIS / MIGHTY DUCK
MARTIN MICHELLE / EDWARD SHITTERHANDS
MARTIN NEAL / GENTLEMAN
MARTIN SCOTT / BOMBER
MARTIN SHIRLEY / QUIET ONE
MASON ALEX / PUFF PUFF
MASTERSON REINU / BEAR CLAW
MATHERS JOHN / GYPSY
MATSON BRUCE / RTK
MATTHEWS JONATHAN / TRAINWRECK
MAULDIN SCOTT / DADDY LONGLEGS
MAZUR EAMONN / IRISH AF
MCADAMS TREY / KING ARTHUR
MCCARTY MORGAN / MAGPIE
MCCLAFFERTY MICHAEL / MOOSE (AZ)
MCCONAGHY CHARLOTTE / STRING CHEESE
MCCORMICK SHANE / BEAST
MCDONALD ANDY / OLE
MCDOWELL DOUGLAS / OLD STYLE
MCELWEE BRIAN / FICTION
MCGLOTHLIN ASHER / A.M. FOG
MCGRATH DILLER / TOM BRADY
MCGUIRE JAMES / CHIEF
MCGUIRE KATIE / INSIDE OUT
MCINTIRE JOHN / CRAWDADDY
MCINTIRE KATHRYN / SMILES
MCKECHNIE KELLY / WHITEWALKER
MCKENZIE SCOTT / CAVEMAN
MCLAIN AUTUMN / FALL FOR SHORT
MCLAUGHLIN BROOKE / MOLASSES
MCLENIGAN THOMAS / HOKIE POKIE
MCLENNON KELSEY / SILVER BULLET
MCMENEMY MANDY / M&M
MCNIELLY NATHAN / BISCOTTI
MCQUISTON BRIAN / ZIA FOX
MCREYNOLDS JOSHUA / BUCKEYE
MCSHANE KELLY / STRIKER
MCVICKER DENNIS / BLUELINER
MEEKINS JON / TURTLEMAN!
MELGER CRAIG / HODAG
MELTZER RACHEL / LIFE ALERT
MELVIN MARIA / BAGUETTE
MERCIER LESLIE / BUBBLES
MERRILL DAVID / KINGSMAN
MÉTHOT JUSTINE / SAUCY FEET
METTEY ERIC / ORLANDO
MEYER CORNELIUS / METRIC
MEYER LUCINDE / MOO-T
MEYERS NIKA / EARLY BIRD
MICHEL DAVE / PITCHIT
MILLAN ERIC
MILLARD VICTORIA / BUDDHAPEST
MILLER CHRIS / WALLY
MILLER RILEY / HUCKLEBERRY
MILLS KRISTEN / MAGIC PANTS
MINARIK BILL / HOPS
MINNICK ELIZABETH /
MISKELLY DARBY / BLISS
MOCCIA KREG / CARROT TOP
MOE RUD / NO CHILL
MOEHRLE GEORGE / MUD
MOHN RON / CAPTAIN BLACK
MONTELONGO YOLANDA / HOUDINI
MOODY SHAUNA / LIMINAL
MOORE JEREMY / ACHILLES
MOORE LORINDA / CAJUNFIRE
MORAN JASON / PACE CAR
MORGAN GREG / CHEESY
MORISAKO BEVERLY / PRINCESS
MORTON KRISTEN / DAENERYS
MORTON LEVITICUS / BEDHEAD
MOSKOWITZ IRENE / ASTRO
MOSS AMANDA / BLOODROOT
MUELLER KATE / SASSAFRAS
MULHOLLAND KATIE / AMAZONIAN
MUNKEL CHUCK / STUBBORN PERSISTENCE
MURPHY BRIAN / FOX
MURRAY JOSEPH / GUINNESS
MUSTY TYLER / TRADEMARK
MUTTART STEPHANIE / SNAPPER
MYERS DANIEL / PUDDIN KEG
MYERS MATTHEW / MILO
NAGY NICHOLAS / THIGHCLOPS
NAPIER RANDY / GOOD DOCTOR
NASON NOEL / RICK JAMES
NEAS MARK / ZIP
NEEDHAM JEFF / BIRDDOG
NEIMAN MICHAEL / SHARKBAIT
NELSON RICK / SPAMTOWN
NELSON WILLIAM / WILLIN'
NEWBY ALEXIS / HEATWAVE
NIGHSWANDER EMILY / SPIDER
NIX CHARLES / PATHFINDER
NOBLE AMY / ZIPPY
NORRIS JOANNE / PEACEFUL WALKER
NOVACK JOHN / SIR BAGZY
NUTTING CHRISTINA / EARLY BIRD
NYPAVER ABBIE / KIDSKA
OBENOUR BRENT / LUCKY BOY
OCCIANO SUE / MOVIN' MOO
O'CONNELL JOHN / BEACH BUM
O'DONNELL III ROBERT / HANDY MAN
OESTERLE DIRK / EARTH
OGUSHWITZ JESSE / ZIPPER
OLIVER JEFF / IBTAT
OLSEN TRENT / HOT SAUCE
OLSON SETH / THOR
O'NEIL SHAWN / CAESAR
ORANGE JACKIE / PEACHES

TOM "DETAIL" BIEBER



ORANGE-ALVAREZ ALEXANDER / WILDFIRE
OSGOOD SHAWN / TWISTER
OUILLETTE KYLE / LUCKY
OWINGS MALA / MRS. T
PACHECO ELLIOT / BEATS
PALMER DARREN / BIG BUNNY
PAPADATOS MICHAEL / KICKSTAND
PAPE JENNY / SQUEEZE
PARADIS DOUG / IHAVGON/ROCKET TURTLE
PARKER GREGORY / QUICKTOEZ
PARKER NATALIE / IBEX
PARKER SCOTT / EL DIABLO
PARKMAN ADAM / GECO
PASZKO RACHAEL / HONEY BEAR
PAUMEN DAVID / CBISCUIT
PAYNE AUDREY / GLOWSTICK
PECK BENJAMIN / BIG BEN
PEREIRA ADAM / ROSEY
PERNICE VINCENT / MAD MILES
PERROTTI VICTOR / HIPCAT
PERRY QUINN / SOY SAUCE
PETERKA MICHAEL / WEATHERMAN
PETERS WILSON / GROWLER
PETERSEN JENNA / SLACKRACK
PETERSON HEATHER / SPRINKLES
PETTINGER JULIANNA / SOUR PATCH
PETTINGILL LEE / G.U.S.
PEXA MICAH / IMUA
PEYLA BRENNAN / OPTIMISM PRIME
PHELPS CRAIG / HOT DOG
PHELPS DWIGHT / C-4
PHILLIPS BRYCE / OOLONG
PIATT MALINA / JUICE BOX
PIDDINGTON SCOTT / VOYAGEUR
PIERCE DALTON / PRIME MINISTER
PINE LINDSEY / ZOOM ZOOM
PIOTROWSKI MATTHEW / FLASH
PITTS PAUL / GREY SQUIRREL
PLEW DANIEL / BEAVERPELT
PLUMLEY STEPHEN / SONIC SUPERNOVA
POLASEK SHELBY / TINY BYTES
POLCRACK CLAIRE / OSPREY
POLLARD JR. WILLIAM / WILL IN MOTION
POOLE RACHEL / MOUSE MAMA
POPE ALEXIS / NAMELESS
POREDA JASON / COMPASS
PORTER GINA / SASSY
PORTER JORDAN / GHOST
PORTER RON / BEAR
POST THOMAS / JONDI
POSTAL MICHAEL / SAMARITAN
POSUNIAK TONY / ED KEMPER
SHELTER SHAKER ESQ.
PRESSMAN REBECCA / ROADRUNNER
PRESTAGE MARTIN / JOHNNY 5
PRESTO MAXINE / SHORT STIX
PRINTZ KATHERINE / MURPH
PRINTZ MARC
PRITCHARD BOB / PRITCH
PROHASZKA CHRIS / FIJI
PROPST JR. BENNY / CRUISE CONTROL
PROTO MARIA / PINK
PUGELY ALYSSA / TRASH PANDA
PUZO JIM / JIMBO
QUINN KATIE / RAINBOW
QUYLE JIM / VEGAS
RABORN CHRISTOPHER / THE GEORGIA PEACH
RAMOS DAVID / CAVEMAN
RAMSEY SCOTT / CLIPPER
RAY LOYE
RAY SARA
REACH TIM / TI-84
REARDEN COLLEEN
REDPATH MANDY / VEGGIE
REID CAYLEE / RAMBLIN' ROSE




"SHARKBAIT," "TRAVELER," "HONEY,"
"MOON," "BEN," "ROSE," "CANDY,"
"CHARLEY HORSE"

REILLY FRANCIS / CHUMBAWAMBA
REINER ALEX / KRINKLES
REISS AIMEE / STRIX
REITMAN LIBBY / BUMBLEBEE
RENNER ANDREAS / BREEZY
RETTER BRYONY / POPPINS
REYNOLDS EIRYN / RAY
REYNOLDS MARK / TUMBLE
RICARD ROB / 007
RICHARD JEROME / RATTLER
RICHARDSON ADAM / GUMMY BEAR
RINGO JR. CHARLES
RIOS FEMANDO / CONCRETE COWBOY
RITCHICK JOE / SPEEDY
RITCHIE ADELE / SMILEY
ROACH CHARLES / IRONMAN
ROBBINS ELOISE / FUN SIZE
ROBERTS ANNIE
ROBERTS PAUL / DREAD PIRATE
ROBERTSON RACHAEL / BLADE
ROBICHAUD WILLIAM / SCIENCE GUY
ROBINSON ANDREA / BANDAID
ROBINSON ANGIE / ODIE
ROBINSON BLAKE / DELUXE
ROBINSON J.D. / PRETTY FEET
ROBINSON KIRK / SOLO
ROBINSON ROGER / SNAILTRAINER
ROECKER MAXIMILIAN / MAD MAX
ROESSLER DAVID / CAVE-DAVE
ROGERS ERIC / RED BASS
ROHMAN MICHAEL / MEDICINE MAN
ROLLINGS ASHTON / HEDWIG
ROLS MARIE-LÉA / MADEMOISELLE
ROMA CHRISTOPHER / RAFIKI

ALLISON "FLOWER POWER" DIVERDE

ROMANO CHRISTIAN / SNOT ROCKET
ROMESSER ANDREA / FAY
RORIE DANIEL / PREACH
RORIE STACEY / DOC
ROSENFIELD EMMA / WILDLIFE
ROSNER STEPHANIE / TWINKLE
ROSS IAN / CINCO
ROSS MARY / NEMO
ROSSER ANDREW / GRUMPY
ROWE LUKE / CANDYMAN
ROWSE CHLOE / ZELLOW
ROYALS ZACHARY / THE REVENANT
RUBINOFF JASON / BEANWOLF
RUELLE LEE / SNICKERS
RUNDE LINDSEY / HEART EYES
RUSSELL KEITH / COUNTRY
RUSTON DAVID / RABBIT
RUTKOWSKI EMILY / BUGZ
RYAN ADAM / GRIZ
RYAN RACHEL / STONEHENGE
SAADAWI DANYA / LOINS OF ARABIA
SABBE KAREL / DEERFOOT
SACCARDI MICHAEL / DEEP
SALAR NANCY / RAG TAG SISTER
SALAS EDWIN / THE BARD
SALMON TRACI / CLOVER
SANDERS JAKE / DOZER
SANDOVAL JESSICA / DONUT
SAPP KOTY / TRASH PANDA
SAPP TYLER / SPORK
SASINA AMANDA / SPOONS
SATOH YUKIKO / LOST & FOUND
SAVAGE JESSICA / SAVAGE BEAST
SAVAGE KEVIN / KARMA
SCAIFE RILY / MUMBLE
SCHAEFFER JUSTIN / SCRATCH
SCHAEFFER T. / E-WOLF
SCHAUF SHANE / TWOFLOWER
SCHILLAWSKI BENJAMIN / COFFEEBREAK
SCHIMINSKE LINDSAY / OVERDRIVE
SCHLEGEL MATTHEW / BO
SCHOENBERG MONIKA / FLOMO
SCHOU LIZ / AQUAMIRA SNOTROCKET (MIRA)
SCHULTHEIS JADE / ELLY
SCHULTZ STEVE / RUFIO
SCHWARTZ JAMES / CINO
SCOTT LEE / SARUMAN
SEIBERT GREGORY / BALDEAGLE
SELLERS SCOTT / PACER
SELLERS VICTOR / BLUE MOON
SEVIER CARL / PROFESSOR
SHAEFFER, JR. J.D. / GIANT
SHANLEY JACK / WOODY
SHARBER LEWIS / BIPED
SHARP DYLAN / DUKE
SHARPE MARC-ANDRÉ / PAPA SMURF
SHEAHAN DALE / DINGO
SHEDRON RICH / B.S.
SHEEHY PHILIP / HOMEBOUND
SHEETS ERIK / OKLAHOMA
SHIN SUKHYUNG / TRACKS
SHIVELY TIMOTHY / STRETCH
SHOCKEY JOSHUA / "F" BOMB!
SHOEMAKER DAVID
SHOEMAKER HANNAH / SHIVER
SHOUSE KRISTEN / KEEPER
SHULTZ PETER / SPONGE
SHUTIKA JAMES / MR. BREEZE
SIDDIQI REBEKAH / HAPPY FEET
SIDONIS JOHN / GEARDO
SILVERNALE KEVIN / SUNSHINE
SILVESTRI JON / TWIGS
SIPPEL NATALIE / ZUZU
SIX RUSSELL / RAMBLE
SKAGGS KEITH / MUSTACHIO

KATIE "AMAZONIAN" MULHOLLAND

SKINNER CHAD / RELENTLESS
SLOAT JACOB / MACGYVER
SLUITER MATTHEW / THUNDER FLUFF
SMALL ROBERT / STARBUCKS
SMIDDY AUDREY / KNOTZ
SMITH DEENA / BAYGULL
SMITH JOE / SMALFURYANIMAL
SMITH JOSH / PEREGRINE
SMITH KIRK / CAPTAIN KIRK
SMITH MELISSA / SWAMP ANGEL
SMYTH DON / SAWDUST
SNOW LAUREL / SPACEJAM
SNYDER CHAD / CHADTHEDAD
SORENSEN JEREMY / ONSTEP
SOUTHARD SARAH / FROGGY
SPENCER LUKE / PROFESSOR
SPIRES TREVOR / FUZZY-WUZZY
SPRADLIN JR. LEE / GRATEFUL
STAGGS TRAVIS / SQUIRREL-WVA-
STAHL CHRISTIANE / TEEYORE
STALLINGS CATHIE / KINDER
STANFIELD CARL / PROFESSOR
STAPLES LESLIE / APPALACHIAN SNAILS
STEPHAN DAVID / IT COWBOY
STEVENS MATTHEW / LEGS
STEWART CASSANDRA / CLOONEY
STEWART JIM / FREIGHTTRAIN
STEWART KEVIN / BEAR MEAT
STIER STACEY / DUCK
STITT BOBBY / SCOOTER
STOCKWELL DAVID / BUCK
STONE JAMIE / FRESHFEET
STOTT THOMAS / DISCO
STOVALL ERNIE / HOPALONG
STRAYER DANNY / CRAZY HORSE
STRONG MICHELLE / BLEEP
STUMP SAMUEL / SANTA CLAUSE
SU JASON / STRAWBERRY
SUMRELL WES / SHORTCUTZ
SUYDAM WAYNE / STILL LOOKIN'
SWANK PETER / LIGHTISGREEN
SWEENEY JOSH / PANO
SYPHARD ROBERT / MAPS
SYSTER ELIZABETH / GOLDEN GIRL
TAEGTMEIER NICHOLAS
TATRO PHIL / UNCLE MALTY
TAYLOR DAVID / TOO TALL
TAYLOR DEVIN / VENUS
TEMPEL ALAN / AT SQUARED
TEMPLE MIKE / GARMIN
TEMPLE TERRY / TORTOISE
TERPSTRA LEE / BISCUITS
TERRY JUNI / SPOONS
THIELEN CANDICE / MINNESAURUS
THOMAS AARON / KTOM
THOMAS ALAN / ATLAS
THOMAS ANDREW / RIDGE
THOMAS DERECK / SEND IT
THOMAS EDD
THOMAS ELAINE
THOMAS MARTHA / LEAD DOG
THOMPSON BRIAN / BADHAT
THOMPSON DYLAN / PINKY
THOMPSON LESLIE / FEARLESS!
THOMPSON PAUL / TOMATO
TILLSON CHIP / GOOD CHIP NORRIS
TIMPY CASSIE / GOLDILOCKS
TIMPY JORDAN / CANON
TINGEN COLTON / REDLINE
TITUS COLIN / FREEBIRD
TODD CHRISTINE / NEMOPHILIST
TRAMMELL CHRISTOPHER / FINGER FOOD
TREBOUR IAN / HAPPY
TRENDA DALE / EASYROLL
TRENDA WILLIAM / MAYBE
TRESADERN JOE / HONEYBUN
TRESCHUK TANNER / VETO
TRULOVE PAUL / HAZMAT
TRURAN KATHY / WILLOW
TWEETEN CARRIE / NOT FAR
ULSETH JOSEPH / STELLAR
UNITT MARK / SUPER ENGLISH
UTMAN MARK / THE INVISIBLE MAN
VAN DAM BAS / SEBASTIAN
VAN DOKKUM DAVID / HELP DESK
VAN HORN KELSEY / JOAN OF ARC
VAN HORN LOGAN / RAINMAN
VAN METER MICHAEL / BUSHBABY
VANDEPERRE GARRETT / PAPA BEAR
VANEV PETAR / MOONSHINE
VARGA KEVIN / SMILES
VARRICHIONE BENNET / ONE-T
VIGLIOTTI MARC / THE KISCO KID
VITALE BLAISE / TRAIL BLAZER
VITO TARA / LITTLE RED
VONDERHEIDE SETH / PLAYER1
VOWELL DENISE / DIS (F1>)
WAAS JOSEPH / RIP VAN WINKLE
WAISANEN ROBIN / REDWOOD
WALKER ADELE / SHIELD MAIDEN
WALKER CAROLYN / LUCKY 59
WALKER JULIE / HUMMINGBIRD
WALKER KAT / RUMI
WALTERS TAYLOR / MOXIE
WANG YU / BIGCAT
WARD DALTON / D1
WARD STEVEN / FIREMAN
WARDRUP JASON / BIG TENT
WARDRUP JOCELYN / HOOTY HOO
WARREN AUGUST / 4MILE
WASHBURN JAMES / SHELTER DOG
WEBSTER SCOTT / VAN GOGH
WEED JASON / MONGREL
WEEKLY ASHLEY / G-PACK
WEEKS EMILY / NO SHOES
WEISMAN DAN / PACMAN
WEITZ MATHEW
WELD LIVVY / STUMBLES
WELTY BARB / THE RAG TAG SISTERS
WENGER JASON / MUMBLES
WENNERSTROM HENRIK / SIR MIX A LOT
WENTZELL TIMOTHY / YOTI
WERT LEONARD / WIND RIDER
WEST GABRIEL / PAY IT FORWARD
WESTPHAL NORMAN / WINGMAN
WETTER DANIEL / SCOUT
WHEAT ALEXANDER / ESPRESSO
WHEELER DAVID / MASON
WHITMAN KAITLIN / FOX SQUIRREL
WHITTAKER MICHAEL / SWIMMER
WHYTE DUSTIN / LOGS
WIDENER AMY / HONEY
WIDENER JUSTIN / MOON
WIEDER MACKENZIE / WILT
WILCOX ERIC / MAV"ERIC"K
WILCOX JOHN / LOW GEAR
WILDRICK JOHN / ZEBRA
WILKINSON PAUL / P-DUBB
WILL STEVEN / UNDERTOE
WILLIAMS CAITLIN / DIMPLES
WILLIAMS COURT / PIZZA HUT
WILLIAMS RICHARD / STEALTH
WILLIAMS STEVEN / CANDID
WILLIAMSON MICHAEL / TRAIN
WILSON ALAN / MR. BLISTER
WILSON CAROL / KIWILEGS
WILSON-FREEMAN JULIE / STRIPPER
WILT CELINA / SPARKY
WINANS MICHAEL / NOMAD
WINGFIELD LAURA / BABY GAP
WINTERS ROGER / LITTLE SPOON
WISEMAN COLLIER / MONDAMIN
WOJCIK-TREMBLAY KASSI / KOTN
WOOLFOLK JOSEPH / 44
WOOTEN LOGAN / JACKRABBIT
WOOTTEN JIM / JIMECRICKET
WRIGHT MATTHEW / SUN CHASER
WRIGHT REBEKAH / HONEYBEAR!
WROTEN DEBBIE / GOOGLE
WURMAN MICHAEL / SKETCH
WUSSLING WILFRIED / TRACKMAKE
WYETH AMY / JUKEBOX
YATES RICK / WILEY
YEARY RAYMOND / MAP
YHAP GORDON / PEPPERPOT
YOUNGS RYAN / 2-CLICKS
ZEPP JAMIE / PLAYMAKER
ZUMBRO STEVE / BLUEJAY

## 2017

ALVERSON ALEXANDRA / BOUNDARY
ANDERSON GARRETT / YAK
ARSCOTT JEFF / SCOUT
BAKER JR. JOSEPH / RAGNAR
BANNING MICHAEL / ENOCH THE NAVIGATOR
BARKALOW CASSIDY / PHOENIX
BELL JACKSON / ACTION JACKSON
BLOMQUIST STEVEN / GREENSOXES
BONISCAVAGE MICHAEL / QUICK START
BOUC ROGER / RABBIT
BURKE-MORAN ADRIENNE / IZZY
BURKE-MORAN ERIN / DETOUR
BYARD SANDY / MAMA BEAR
CAFFEE GARRETT / WINNEBAGO

ELIZABETH "MTN ST8" KLECKNER &
SARAH KLECKNER

AVIV "JAWS" MOKADY, OFER "PAPA JAWS"
MOKADY, NURIT "MAMA JAWS" MOKADY

CALGIE JUDE / JUDE
CARRIER YATES / WOUNDED KNEE
CLARK MICHELLE / SEQUOIA
COLEMAN ANDREW / KIT KAT
COLPOYS MICHAEL / DOOGIE HOWSER, TRAIL N.B.
COMEAU JENYFER / BLUEBERRY
COMSTRA SKYE / HYBRID
CORRIGAN THOMAS / TOGA
COVEY CHRISTOPHER / DIRTY DUCK
CRAWFORD ABIGAIL / BB KING
CROW ROBERT / BOSTON ROB
DERIAN CHRISTOPHER / RIPPLE
DURRWACHTER CODY / BIRDIE
DURRWACHTER DONNA / TOAD
ELGUEZABAL JON / BASAJAUN
EMRY STEWART / BAD SANTA
EPPINGER MATTHEW / GHETTO
FABRIZIO CLARE / SUNFLOWER
FERNEDING HENNING / KARAOKE
FERRIGNO JAKE / FLEET
FIELD DANNY / BOBO
FOCHTMANN BRETT / THE CHICKFILA ROOSTER
FOX ROBIN / NAILS
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS CONDIMENTS)
GEORGE ALEXIS / OG
GERMANN KELLY / TRILLIUM
GILLMAN GEOFF / SHEPHERD
GIRARD MIKE / PINEAPPLE
GOSSARD JEANMARIE / POOTER SCOOTER
GRAZIANO AUSTIN / DIRTY HARRY
HABEL KECKELEY / SCRUNCHIE
HABIG DAVID / SUPE
HALLIGAN TODD / MOONSHINE
HALLOWELL PAUL / JUST PAUL
HARPER DYLAN / GURU
HARSHA DIANE / STICKS
HARTMAN IAN / SPACE JAM
HEADRICK TOBY
HEIN ROBERT / CAPTAIN BOB
HENDRIX WILLIAM / LUNCHBOX
HOBBS ROBIN / MISS AMERICA
HODSON C.J. / CALICO JACK
HOLWECK TONY / PARKOUR
HORTON CHRIS / AUSSIE
ILZHÖFER CLAUS / SUNNY HEDGEHOG
ITEN RUTH / CHUCKLES
JOHNSON AMY / YARDSALE
JONES JERRY / JOKER
KASSLER RACHEL / CRICKET
KELLOGG TASIA / STINKYCHEEZ
KELLY PATRICK / SPENCH
KERR BARBIE / LADY BLING
KING COLIN / SPONGE
KLECKNER ELIZABETH / MTN ST8
KOEHLER JOACHIM / HIPPO
KOHLER HENRY / HAMBONE
KOLODZIE MEG / FREE SPIRIT
KOSTRUBIAK MIKAELA / SOGGY BOTTOMS
KUMNICK CHRIS / PENGUIN
TIGER-LARSON WENDY / FROG
LEVERT TOM / TOTILLIA TOSSER
LINDSEY JOSH / MG
LOCKE KELLY / LIL DIPPER
LUCA SARAH / QUEEN PEE
MADDUX THOMAS / EZT
MANN BARNEY
MARTZ MIKE / GRAPENUT
MATTIMORE DAN / BUSHMEAT
MATTIMORE JOHN / SPEARCHUCKER
MCCLURE TERRI / HYLO
MCCULLICK COLLIN / TRIUMPHANT
MCGRAPTH ADAMA-MALKIA / WILD CHILD
MICHAEL ASHLEY / MAMA FIREFLY
MOKADY AVIV / JAWS
MONTGOMERY JEFF / NINJA
MOODY RICK / MIX
MOORE CLAY / BIG TIME
MORRISSETTE STEVEN / DOWNHILL
MOUNT RAY / MOUNTAIN MUSIC
MYERS MICHAEL / HALLOWEEN
NEEDHAM JASON / GRAPES
NEWCOMB BRENT / DEUCE
O'CONNELL TIMOTHY / MINUTES
POLING CHRISTEN / WILD CARD
PORTZ SIMON / JUST
SIMON SIMON FROM GERMANY
RANZI MARCO / DR. GOMO
RAPHAEL DAN / BAYWATCH
REDMOND BARRETT / SAUCE
RISTOW WILLIAM / STAX
ROGERS JOSH / GADGET
RUBELING TIMOTHY / PILGRIM
RUBIN FRANCY / ZORRA
SANTANA FRANK / STRIDER
SARINE WILLIAM / BULLDOG
SAUNDERS TODD / KITERUNNER
SAVARD G RICK / SOUL ASYLUM
SCHNEIDER MOLLY / CHIMES
SCHWEIZERHOF IAN / CHOCOLATE RAIN
SCOTT RACHAEL / FERRARI
SELLERS MARY / PERFECT STORM
SKELLY JAMES / BUCKSHOT
SMITH AUSTIN / FIRST AID
SMITH CHRISTOPHER / SOLO
SMITH IVEY / KALEIDOSCOPE
SPENCE JEPPE / NATURE BOY
STICKNEY SMITH / HOPPY
STORTZ ROBERT
STUNTZ RYAN / JELLYBEAN
SWEENEY KENDAL
SWING GARY / BOILING FROG
TALCOTT RYDER / REDFISH
THOBABEN ZEBULON / MR. WHISKERS
TRACY JOHN / CAPTAIN JACK
UGEDAL SANDER / SWEET TOOTH
VALLE MAGGIE / MANTIS
VAN CHRIS / CHAINSAW
VAN KOOTEN BENJAMIN / MAMMOTH
VEASEY CHRISTOPHER / IDAHO BONES
VERBECK / PETER PAN
WALTER LYDIA / NOODLE
WANTHAL BRANDON / DOUBLE WIDE
WARMKER KAYLI ANNE / BUBBLES
WEAVER JASON / BISQUICK
WEYLAND KATRINA / FIREKAT
WHITE DANIEL / THE BLACKALACHIAN
WILSON ANNE / SMELLER
WYLIE TREY / MACGYVER
ZUMWALT NATHAN / BONAFIDE

## 2016

ACKERMAN ERIC / WEBB
ARADI JENNIFER / PROV
BANTA JACOB / WOLVERINE
BARD MICHAEL / SHAKESPEARE
CASEY TIM / CASPER
COFFEY JOHN
DALEY LOUISE / LOU
HANLEY ALLI / HAHA
HOWES HEIDI / OMEGA
HU XIAOHUI / OLD FOX
KING REBECCA / FIRESTARTER
LI YONG SHUO / LI
MUSSELMAN RUSS / CENTAUR
TOOTHAKER KASEY / CUFFZ
WALTER TIM / PATCH
WELLING CHORA BELLE / FLYING PIGLET
WELLING SOLSTICE / THE DIVA

## 2015

BARRETT JACOB / TERRAPIN
2015 KIRBY KENETH / K-2
2015 LAMB CAMERON / SMILEY
2015 POWELL KELLY / WHITE HAWK
2015 RICHARDSON MATTHEW / RABBITFOOT
2015 RODUTA PETER / TWIGGS
2015 VALLE GREG / GOURMET
2015 WILLIAMSON JARED / PICASSO

## 2014-1986

2014 PIERSE MARGARET / DELAWARE
2014 BYRNE MICHAEL / SENATOR
2013 FINCH KATHY / K-FOX
2011 SEVY KIMBERLY / SKETCHER
2011 CHASE STEVE / CHACO
2010 BARTOLOMUCCI JEFFREY / PONY
2006 TOMPKINS MATT / CORNBREAD
2002 BRANNIFF MARCELLA / SEATTLE
1990 ANDERSON SCOTT / VOLUNTEER
1986 GESNER DARRYL

CAROLINE "INCUBATOR" AUWAERTER

–

The ATC wants to thank all of those hikers who are also ATC members and encourage others to give back to the Trail they love at: **appalachiantrail.org/give**

Thanks to volunteer Sandra Ragsdale and other volunteers in the Harpers Ferry Visitor Center as well as ATC's visitor services representative Dave Tarasevich for maintaining, editing, and compiling this year's listing.

# Step Out

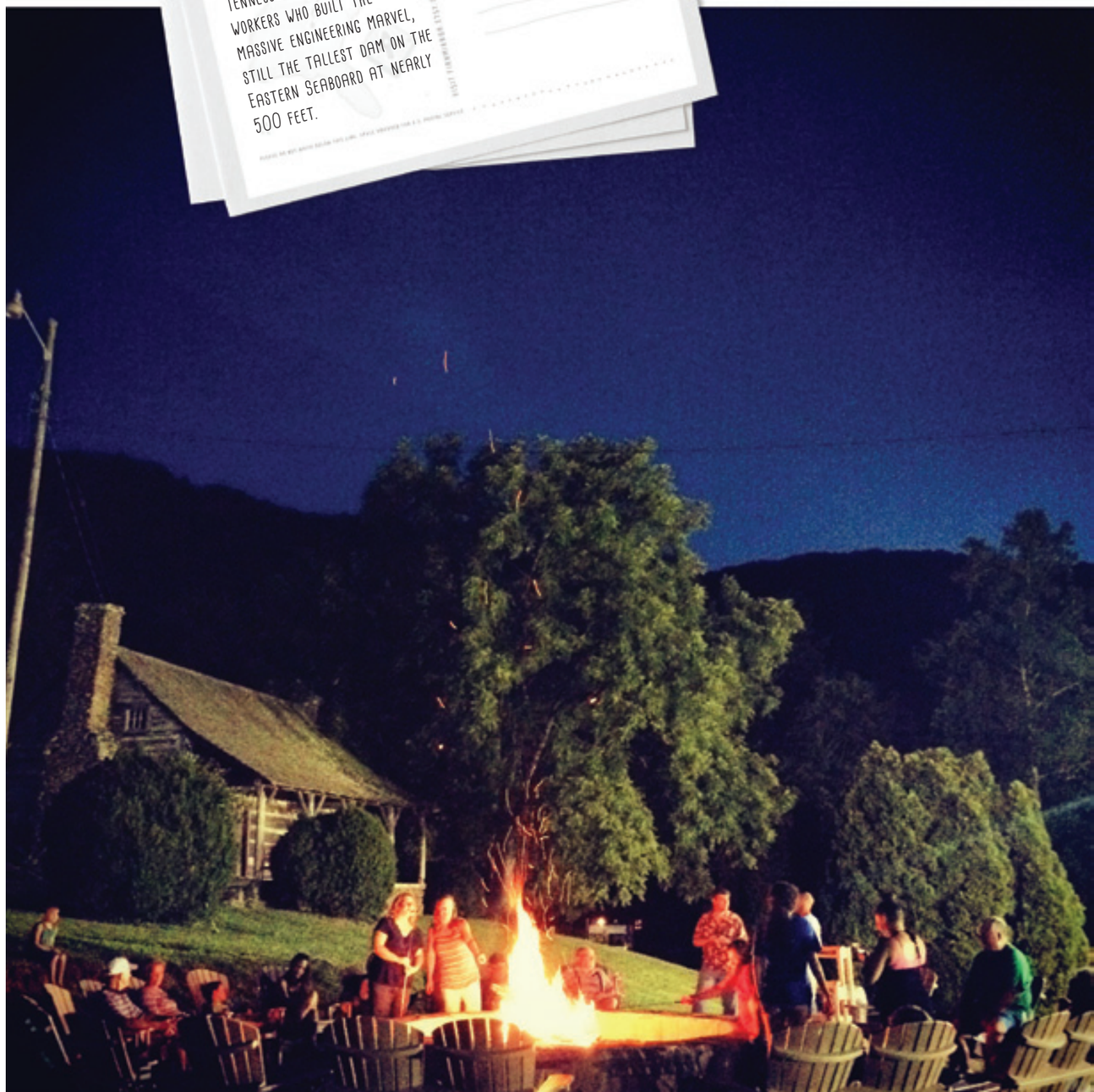
EASY **TRAVEL** AND **ADVENTURE AWAIT** IN AN ECLECTIC MIX OF COMMUNITIES THAT RUN THE LENGTH OF THE TRAIL

***By Kim O'Connell / Illustrations By Rebecca Harnish***

One recent Sunday morning, my husband and I were visiting my in-laws in south-central Pennsylvania when we decided to take a drive and do a short, day hike. I love the countryside there, with its apple orchards and farm markets peppering the rolling hills in all directions, and neighborly towns with cozy pubs and family restaurants. With my brother-in-law along for the ride, the three of us headed for Boiling Springs, a picturesque town in Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley.

We parked at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mid-Atlantic regional office and Visitor Center, located in the heart of the town, and were immediately struck by how postcard-perfect Children's Lake was. Reflecting the scudding clouds overhead, the lake was dotted with ducks and ringed by a historic red-roofed grist mill, charming houses, and the >>

*Cabin at Fontana Village Resort & Marina. Courtesy Fontana Village Resort*



*Mountain Crossings at Walasi Yi. By Mike McCoy*

town's war memorial. We stepped onto a portion of the Appalachian Trail where it borders the lake and walked towards the forest beyond the town. Our hike took us along a rocky stream, through some woods, and across an open farm field, which was studded with posts painted with white blazes so we wouldn't lose our way. Later, on our way back to town, we stopped at the Boiling Springs Tavern, a stone structure dating to the mid-1800s, and the famous artesian spring behind it, with bubbling water that gives the town its name.

After we returned to our home in Arlington, Virginia, I couldn't get Boiling Springs' quiet charm out of my mind, and I felt sorry that our children had opted to stay back to visit with their grandfather. Even at their young ages of 9 and 12, my kids are veterans of many national park road trips, and they love hiking, camping, and traveling. Thinking about this, I pulled out a map of the A.T., tracing my finger along the route in search of other towns that we might visit together that would give us a range of things to do, along with easy access to the Trail. Almost 50 towns and counties have been named official Appalachian Trail Communities, meaning that they have signed on to be stewards and supporters of the Trail and its hikers. I knew that perusing that list would be a good place to start my trip planning.

Towards the southern terminus of the Trail, the town of Blairsville, Georgia, immediately caught my eye. There is something about the southern Appalachians that makes me want to connect with my Celtic roots. I think about how the Scotch-Irish settled many of these areas and brought their music and their craftsmanship into the mountains, along with other ethnic groups, and it's a rich heritage worthy of celebration. Researching the town, I was drawn to all the ways it honors this rich natural and cultural heritage, including an annual Scottish Festival, with bagpipes, tartans, and gathered clans; the Sorghum Festival, which celebrates the tradition of cooking sweet syrup from sorghum cane; and the Mountain Heritage Festival, where

*Virginia Creeper National Recreational Trail*

many artisans showcase their crafts.

Surrounded by the high peaks of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains, Blairsville is also the home of the legendary Mountain Crossings at Walasi-Yi, the circa-1937 stone building constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps that now houses one of the most beloved outfitters along the Trail. The A.T. even passes through a portion of the building, the only part of the entire path that's covered. Not far from town is Vogel State Park, whose centerpiece is the stunning Lake Trahlyta. The lake is situated perfectly like a gemstone in a piece of jewelry, nestled among the surrounding mountains, and its smooth, calm surface makes it a popular destination for boating and fishing. The park offers many great trails on its own, as well as connectors to the A.T. where hikers can summit Blood Mountain, which, at 4,459 feet, is the A.T.'s highest-elevation ascent in Georgia.

Across the border into North Carolina, I was intrigued to read about the A.T. Community of Fontana Dam. This town was expressly built in the 1940s to house the Tennessee Valley Authority workers who built the massive engineering marvel, still the tallest dam on the Eastern Seaboard at nearly 500 feet. The Trail follows the curving top of the dam, offering hikers terrific views of the Great Smoky Mountains just beyond. The dam-created Fontana Lake also offers some 240 miles of shoreline and ample recreational opportunities. The centerpiece of the town, however, is the famous Fontana Village Resort and Marina, which features a lodge, cabins, dining, golf, and other activities — making it a relaxing stop for both thru-hikers and section hikers. The resort hosts the annual Hiker Haze weekend in March — with food and other activities that kick off the spring hiking season.

Located just a half-hour away from Fontana Dam, about midway to Bryson City, is the Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center. I once drove miles out of my way to buy my musician husband a cookie-tin banjo from the Blue Ridge Music Center in southern Virginia, and so the Stecoah Center seemed right up our alley. Housed in a historic stone structure that dates to the 1930s, the center was once the site of a school but is now a community and cultural center that offers classes and programming in music, cooking, and crafts all year long. The center is famous for its "An Appalachian Evening" summer concert series, with bluegrass, folk, and old-time mountain music offered weekly. Looking at photos of past concerts, I could easily imagine my husband, after a day of hiking on the A.T. and a night of music at Stecoah, sitting around a campfire and plucking his own Appalachian banjo under the stars.

Living in Virginia, my family and I get out to Shenandoah National Park fairly regularly, and we've hiked on several portions of the A.T. as it spans the 100-mile length of the park. I never get tired of the stunning views from the ridgetops across the wide expanse of the Shenandoah Valley, quilted with farms and ribboned by the Shenandoah River. We often stop in the many homey towns near the park, such as Front Royal and Luray, for some pie or apple cider donuts to take home. One place I've never visited, however, is the A.T. Community of Abingdon, Virginia. One of currently 15 A.T. communities in the state, Abingdon is located near the southern tip of Virginia's long Appalachian spine, and it offers terrific Trail access as well as many dining and lodging options.

Just 12 miles from the Appalachian Trail, Abingdon is a hub of outdoor recreation. The town is an ideal place to hop on the 35-mile Virginia Creeper National Recreational Trail, a multi-use recreational trail built on a former railbed that dates to the 1880s. Hikers and cyclists can stop on one of the Creeper Trail's high wooden trestles or take in views of the surrounding forests, farms, and fields. I particularly like the idea of a post-Trail visit to the Creeper Trail Café, which boasts of having "world famous chocolate cake." (It's hard to prove this claim, but I'm willing to investigate.)

I also am fascinated by the fact that Abingdon offers access to Virginia's little-known slot canyons. When I think of slot canyons, I usually picture the orange-hued sandstone canyons of the desert West. But Virginia's slot canyons are tucked away in the Great Channels Natural Area Preserve. Here, ice-age freezing and melting have split cracks in the relatively soft Blue Ridge sandstone, allowing narrow, winding canyons to form. These canyons have only been open to the public for about a decade, the result of a land donation from the Nature Conser-

*Parker Lake from the A.T. in Wawayanda State Park. By Raymond Salani III*

vancy. Getting to and from the slot canyon requires a 6.6 mile-hike with some elevation change, but from certain overlooks, hikers have an almost 360-degree view of the surrounding Blue Ridge.

As I daydreamed about places to visit along the Trail, my eyes drifted north on my A.T. map to a community that seemed very different from the Blue Ridge towns of the south and mid-Atlantic. Located right on the New York-New Jersey line, the town of Warwick, New York, is significant in Appalachian Trail history as the location where the first section of trail opened in 1931, six years before the rest of the Trail was officially inaugurated. Although Warwick still retains its slower pace and rural character, with historic brick buildings lining the streets, the town is only 55 miles from New York City and therefore relatively easy for urban hikers and families to get to. Lodging and dining options abound, along with a range of outdoor activities.

Warwick offers a special wildlife viewing experience for hikers, too. Connected via a spur to the A.T., the Mount Peter Hawk Watch Trailway leads to a scenic overlook for raptor viewing and birdwatching, and binoculars are a must. One of the oldest hawk watch locations in the country, the overlook offers both casual and seasoned birdwatchers glimpses of up to 16 species, including goshawks, kestrels, and golden and bald eagles, during their fall migrations. But even if you don't spot any big birds, the mountain views from the overlook are worth the look on their own.

Wawayanda State Park in New Jersey is another popular destination not far from Warwick. The park contains some 60 miles of trails, including 20 miles of the A.T. Here hikers can walk on the A.T. before taking a spur trail that leads to the "Stairway to Heaven," a series of rock steps up to the Pinwheel Vista, an outcropping with rewarding views. I've hiked a similar kind of rocky climb called Pole Steeple near the A.T. in central Pennsylvania, so this hike sounded like a fun challenge. Back on flat ground in Warwick, any itinerary would have to



## 48 A.T. COMMUNITIES
## 14 STATES
## 2,192 MILES

## FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Explore the Trail by state to find out more about the towns and areas you want to visit — and even locate parking — with the A.T. Interactive Map at: **appalachiantrail.org/explore**

Learn more about A.T. Communities at: **appalachiantrail.org/ATcommunities**

*A.T. from the Grafton Notch area of the High Peaks region in Maine. By Greg Morgan*

include the Pennings Farm Market, which offers not just farm-fresh and locally sourced produce, meats, and cheeses, but also a pub, garden center, and ice cream stand.

Heading towards the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail lies the A.T. Community of Kingfield, Maine, located about two hours north of Portland by car. Although I've visited the central coast of Maine several times, I haven't spent much time in Maine's interior, especially its High Peaks region, which contains many of the state's 4,000-foot mountains. Although it's a modest town of less than 1,000 people, Kingfield is perfectly situated as a gateway to the scenic riches of the region and is a welcoming place for A.T. hikers. Located less than a mile from the Appalachian Trail, for instance, is the Sugarloaf Ski Resort, the second-largest skiable area on the Eastern Seaboard next to Killington, Vermont, and the second-highest peak in Maine next to Katahdin, the A.T.'s northern endpoint. Kingfield is also the headquarters for Maine Hut and Trails, which provides bunkhouses and lodges where A.T. hikers may exchange work for room and board (or pay a nightly rate that either includes meals or a rate without meals).

At last, I folded up my map, my mind full of possibilities, and thinking of all the other communities along the Trail with historic character, natural features, and fun activities for people who want to take just a few steps off the path. It was time to start packing and get out there.



TAKE THE NEXT STEPS WITH US

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Our Annual Fund helps us fulfill our mission to preserve and protect the Appalachian Trail.

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Join our Leadership Circle!
For more information, contact:
Elizabeth Borg at 304·885·0473 or
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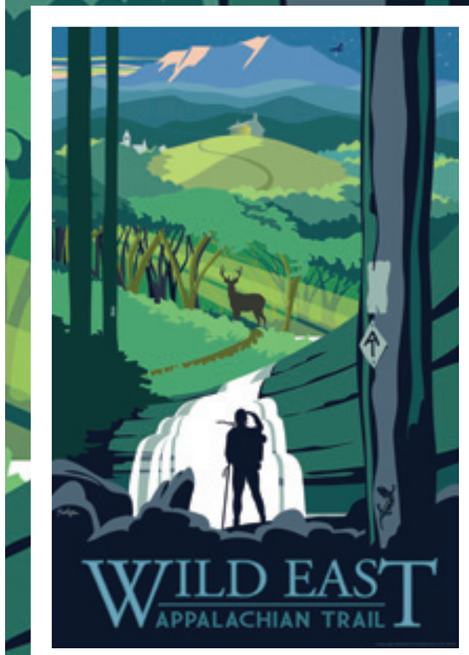


A limited number of striking and colorful Wild East posters, designed by Tyler Nordgren, are available for ATC members who contribute $100 or more.*

TO DONATE VISIT:
appalachiantrail.org/SupportWildEast

* Available only through new donations of $100 or more, made after January 22, 2019.

# HIKING WITH DOGS

MY HUSBAND AND I WERE ON A SHORT overnight hike with our two terriers, from the Trail just north of Damascus, headed for our campsite at Saunders Shelter. As we approached the Trail junction to Taylors Valley, our older dog, Tali, alerted to something ahead. Hackles raised, she slowly backed away growling and barking, and refused to go forward. It was a sunny day and we could see the way ahead just as well as Tali, but neither my husband nor I saw any sign of danger. We tried to coax her forward, but she would have none of it and continued barking and balking. At this point I could feel my own adrenaline rising as I was certain my dog had spotted a danger that I could not see. Eventually, we realized she was alerting to a burned and blackened tree stump beside the Trail, which she may have thought was a bear. My husband ultimately had to carry her past the "bear" so we could continue our hike.

For a dog-lover, one of the best things about the Appalachian Trail is being able to take your dog with you when you go hiking. Our dogs clearly love being outdoors and they love being with us. Over the past four decades we've shared many memorable Trail moments with our dogs and our lives have been enriched through those shared hiking experiences. >>

***By Luann Mack-Drinkard***

*From left: A.T. hiker Erin Derham enjoys a relaxing moment along the Trail with her dog Sage in the Roan Highlands. By Steven Yocom; Luann with her husband and their dogs on the A.T. on Whitetop Mountain in Virgina. By Laurie Potteiger*

# DOGGY ETIQUETTE

## The Basics

What's the most important thing you should do to make sure you have a good hiking experience with your dog? Training. Dogs need to know or learn basic manners: sit, down, stay, not jumping up on fellow hikers, not stealing food. Taking a dog training class is a good place to start preparing for hikes with your dog.

On the Trail, you are responsible for your dog. This includes maintaining control. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy pet policy recommends that dogs be leashed at all times. Keeping your dog on leash is a small price to pay for being able to share hiking adventures with them.

Your responsibility for your dog includes making sure he or she remains healthy and comfortable when hiking. Flea and tick control are a must, and there are many options to choose from. Vaccinations, including rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and adenovirus-2 are also essential. (It's also a good idea to carry proof of your dog's current vaccinations with you when you travel.) Remember to offer your dog water anytime you stop for a drink. If you are thirsty, your dog will be, too. Just like us, dogs are burning more calories when hiking, so they need more food. We bring lunch for our dogs even on day hikes, especially if they are carrying a pack. Town or Trail, remember food and water for your companion.

## Good Behavior on the Trail

In my opinion, it is better to use a harness than a collar when hiking with your dog. A harness is easier on a dog's body. A sturdy six-foot leash is a good choice. If you chose to use a retractable leash, use the belt version instead of the cord. Know that some areas require a dog's leash to be no longer than six feet (Shenandoah National Park is one of these) so you'll have to lock your retractable leash at six feet while hiking in these areas.

Remember, not everyone you meet on the Trail will love your dog as much as you do. One thing we've learned to do is to move our dogs to the side of the Trail when another hiker approaches. We tell our dogs to sit and wait as the hiker passes. Some hikers thank us, and most stop to chat and to greet our dogs.

Finally, we must talk about poop. Because your dog is not a natural inhabitant of the area, carry poop bags, pick up the poop, and carry it out. If you're backpacking, take your trowel and bury your dog's waste just as you would your own. Hikers who follow will thank you.

## When and Where to Hike

Most Trail sections are suitable for hiking with your dog, but some restrictions and common-sense exceptions do exist. Three A.T. areas are off-limits: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Bear Mountain State Park Trailside Museum and Zoo, and Baxter State Park. The White Mountains of New Hampshire and parts of Maine are rocky and steep, and could be uncomfortable for your dog. And the notorious rocks of Pennsylvania could be just as painful for your dog as they are for you. Think about the physical shape your dog is in before asking your pet to do too much. Check the weather before deciding to take your dog for a hike. Summer heat may be too much for a heavily coated breed, while winter's cold could be harmful for a smooth coated breed.

## Overnight Stays

Finding pet-friendly lodging along the Trail is not nearly as difficult as it used to be. Many hotels and motels advertise as pet-friendly, often charging a small fee for allowing you to keep you dog in your room. And being prepared to tent camp instead of stay in a shelter is good etiquette while overnighting on the Trail with your dog.

*Long-distance hikers and their companion take a much-needed break in Damascus, Virginia. By Willie Johnson*

Luann Mack-Drinkard, LVT, is the "Sketch" part of "Sketch & Snorebaby" (2,000 milers) and the "Trail'dales."

Learn more about hiking with dogs on the A.T. at: **appalachiantrail.org/dogs**

# APPALACHIAN TRAIL INDULGENCE

THRU-HIKERS REVEL IN OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP IN TRAIL TOWNS — NOT JUST FOR A SHOWER, LAUNDRY, AND RESUPPLY, BUT ALSO TO SPLURGE ON LODGING, MEALS, OR OTHER SPECIAL EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES NEAR THE TRAIL.

Many long-distance hikers enjoy the simplicity of a basic camp meal and sleeping bag surrounded by nature — but those same hikers sometimes find a wonderful balance in taking a brief break to enjoy the culture and cozy hospitality of nearby Trail communities. ¶ Thru-hiker Bruce "RTK" Mattson and Michael "Sharkbait" Neiman offer up their recommendations for finding creature comforts and downright gourmet meals along the Trail. The two — who met before their 2018 thru-hikes through each other's blogs — put their heads together to publish *Platinum Blazing the Appalachian Trail: "How to Thru-Hike in ½ 3-Star Luxury*, a 150-page hard-copy or downloadable guide to comfy beds and soft sheets, hearty homecooked meals, yoga classes, massages, theater, concerts, and other great cultural events in towns and communities along the A.T. ¶ While "RTK" and "Sharkbait" envisioned this book for long-distance hikers, as a guide of indulgences that can soothe a weary hiker's soul and honor the challenge of hiking one of the longest continuous footpaths in the world, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy finds this book to be generous in spotlighting exceptional, unique and charming places to experience the A.T. and helpful to all types of hikers and travelers.

*Bruce and Michael on the Trail during their thru-hikes*

Bruce Matson dreamed about attempting a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail more than 40 years ago. In the summer of 1974, he attended a presentation by Warren Doyle, who had not only backpacked from Springer Mountain to Katahdin. Having done some hiking and backpacking at the time, Bruce was completely captivated by the presentation and decided, "I'm going to do that someday."¶ After guiding canoe trips in the north Maine Woods for two summers and summitting Katahdin several times, Bruce turned his attention to law school, marriage, and family – all the while holding on to his dream of completing a thru-hike. In 2018, he made good on his personal aspiration. ¶ As part of his hike, Bruce generously donated more than $100,000 to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) through the "Returning to Katahdin Challenge" — one of the largest individual donations to ATC to date. In addition to co-authoring *Platinum Blazing the Appalachian Trail*, Bruce is also the author of *The Race Before Us: A Journey of Running & Faith* and *The Road to Find Out: A Modern Pilgrim* and the *Camino de Santiago*.¶ Bruce "RTK" Mattson and Michael "Sharkbait" Neiman are donating all net proceeds from their book to the ATC. The book is available at the Ultimate A.T. Store and Amazon*

*Personalized or signed copies are available from the authors at **admin@platinum-blazing.com**

## SOME TIPS FROM THE AUTHORS ON SPLURGING ALONG THE A.T.

**RESERVE** a cozy private cabin in the woods at the Misty Mountain Inn at Neels Gap in Blairsville, Georgia

**ATTEND** a theatrical play onsite while enjoying the exceptional accommodations at Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

**ENJOY** an elegant dinner — with local and seasonal options like roasted half duck flambé or wild mushroom ravioli — and private room at the Fife 'n Drum Inn of Kent, Connecticut

**ORDER** an a la carte steak dinner when the restaurant has an all-you-can-eat buffet, like at Daniel's Restaurant in Hiawassee, Georgia

**SCHEDULE** a natural hot springs whirlpool appointment in Hot Springs, North Carolina

**GET** a full body massage at the Woods Hole Hostel in Pearisburg, Virginia

**SLACKPACK** (hike unencumbered by a full backpack) from Hot Springs, North Carolina to Damascus, Virginia while enjoying private accommodations at Cantarroso Farm each night

**RENT** out the Airstream private trailer at the Hikers Inn in Damascus, Virginia

**SCHEDULE** an Uber to pick you up at the Dover Oak and take you to the train Station Inn at Pawling, New York — where you can travel directly into New York City

**TAKE** a guided fly-fishing excursion during a day off the Trail in North Woodstock, New Hampshire

**ENJOY** an invigorating whitewater rafting trip down the Kennebec River outside Caratunk, Maine

## WOODS HOLE HOSTEL

PHOTOGRAPHER ***Ben Benvie***

"WOODS HOLE HOSTEL IS A MAGICAL PLACE found just a short distance off the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia. It's home to the owners Neville and Michael (pictured in front) but also feels like home to every hiker and traveler who is lucky enough to visit. ¶ Stay at Woods Hole and you might find yourself in the kitchen helping to prepare one of their famous communal meals or maybe you'll be outside tending to the gardens that fill your plate with delicious organic food. You'll quickly learn that this is not a place to simply rest your head, it's a place to learn, laugh and share. Whether you're doing group yoga, eating homemade ice cream, or exchanging stories in the front yard, a day spent here will be a memorable one. Neville and Michael have created a space where you don't simply feel like a hiker or guest, you feel like a member of the family. ¶ At the end of my stay, I decided that we needed a 'family photo' and like most family portraits, this self-timed attempt didn't quite go according to plan. It did however, result in what I consider to be a perfectly imperfect image. Just like life on the Trail and my time at Woods Hole Hostel. It's full of smiles, laughter, and a little bit of chaos." ~ *Ben Benvie*

# CONTAIN YOURSELF

**Human-bear conflicts are increasing along the A.T. triggering temporary and permanent campsite, shelter, and A.T. section closures, and euthanized bears.**

These drastic results can only be prevented by A.T. campers doing an excellent job of storing all smellable items and keeping a clean camp.

Bears have the keenest sense of smell in the animal kingdom, smelling food from several miles away including toothpaste, sunscreen, trash, etc. (burning food/trash doesn't help.)

Always use a bear-resistant food storage container (BFC) to store food and smellables while camping. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee website lists approved hard and soft BFCs; most are also rodent proof.

Using a bear-resistant container not only helps to protect you and the bears, it also makes your experience more fun and comfortable overall by keeping other wildlife — like mice, raccoons, skunks, or squirrels — from pilfering your pack.

## HOW TO USE BFCS:

- NEVER sleep with your food, smellables, or BFC while camping.
- Always close and lock BFCs per their instructions.
- At campsites with a food locker or cable system, put your BFC in/on those.
- At campsites without a supplied food storage locker, place hard and soft BFCs 100 feet from your sleeping area; tie soft BFCs to immovable objects.

For more helpful information and to report bear incidents visit: **appalachiantrail.org/bears**

# INDIGENOUS

HABITAT / LEPIDOPTERA / CONSERVATION

**Pitch Pine** (Pinus rigida) — is a small to medium sized hard pine species.

Often with an irregular growth that is twisted and gnarled in appearance, this shade-intolerant species can inhabit low nutrient areas with harsh conditions.

Pitch Pine is found in the eastern United States from southern Maine to northern Georgia.

Total life span of a pitch pine is approximately 200 years.

**Scrub Oak** (Quercus ilicifolia) — sometimes called bear oak, grows as a small gnarled tree or shrub.

The species is restricted mostly to the northeastern U.S.

Scrub oak ranges from 3-30 ft. in height and generally has a life span of only 20-30 years.

## PITCH PINE SCRUB OAK BARRENS

*By Marian Orlousky*

THE PITCH PINE — scrub oak barren habitat is characteristic of ridgetop areas in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and south through the Appalachian Highlands and Blue Ridge Province. These barrens are found in areas where weather conditions are variable and often extreme, and where soils are thin, well drained, sandy, acidic and nutrient poor. This habitat is sometimes referred to as "ridgetop dwarf-tree forests" because of the tendency for the tree growth to be stunted under the harsh conditions.

While this environment is not suitable for many Appalachian tree species, hardier species like pitch pine, are able to thrive here.

An example of this unique community type exists along the Appalachian Trail, on Big Flat Ridge, along the South Mountain in Pennsylvania. "A hike on the Appalachian Trail though this area, carries hikers deep into dense shrublands dotted with stands of rugged pitch pines. Openings in the shrub thickets are lush with lowbush blueberries that offer sweet snacks to human visitors passing through in late summer, as well as to resident wildlife," explains Betsy Leppo, an Invertebrate Zoologist with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) specializing in moth and butterfly (Lepidoptera) studies.

These ridge-top barren communities offer diverse and complex habitat. The scrubby understory structure provides both forage and cover to a variety of rare and declining plant and animal species, some of which are found exclusively in this area. In Pennsylvania alone, the pitch pine - scrub oak habitat contains 31 plant associates. According to Leppo, surveys at Big Flat Ridge have thus far documented the presence of 48 state rare moth species and one globally rare species. The Pennsylvania Game Commission highlights the moister areas of these barrens as being utilized by American woodcock and ruffed grouse, two "species of greatest conservation need" listed in the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan; and protected species like the Allegheny woodrat or timber rattlesnake may be found in barren areas with rocky outcroppings.

It's no coincidence that the species associated with these barren habitats are often considered rare. While historically these pine-oak environments existed as a mosaic of constantly changing barren communities across the ridge landscape, on our modern landscape, this unique community type is also becoming less common.

*From top: Recovering pitch pine/scrub oak barren along the A.T. on the South Mountain after a prescribed burn and forestry mowing; Brown elfin butterfly (Callophrys augustinu) — This rare butterfly species is just one conservation target for the Michaux Pine Barrens. Photos by Betsy Leppo*

Pine-oak barrens are fire-dependent with fire-adapted regeneration strategies that had been sustained for thousands of years by lightning strikes and Native American fire starts. Today these communities are on the decline in great part due to long-standing fire suppression practices, forest succession, and introduced pine plantations.

**PINE BARREN RESTORATION**

In 2012, Michaux State Forest (under the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) and partners such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the WPC and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, began management and restoration of the Big Flat Pine Barrens. Various management techniques, including forestry mowing, selective thinning and controlled burns, have been utilized to recover and sustain this critical habitat. In 2018, a nearly 1,400-acre burn was completed along the ridge — one of the largest prescribed burns ever conducted by the state. The burn served to encourage desirable habitat, improve oak regeneration, and reduce dangerous fuel loads that have the potential to lead to catastrophic wildfires. As monitoring of this community continues, forest managers and conservationist alike are optimistic that imperiled wildlife species will be able to rebound and thrive in this unique environment of the Appalachian Mountains.

# Postcards from Paradise

## AN ARTISTIC TAKE ON TRAVELING THE A.T.

*By Rebecca Harnish*

*From top: Sink laundry postcard; A rare moment to paint directly from the landscape atop McAfee Knob; Inset:The author's art kit: a lightweight metal palette, a waterbrush, pencil, and three ink pens. More of Rebecca's postcards are featured in our travel article: "Step Out" (page 30)*

WHILE PLANNING MY MINI ART kit — debating over the colors for my palette, deciding on tools, cutting watercolor paper to fit in my backpack's shoulder pocket — I daydreamed about plucking it out whenever a mountainous view or interesting plant struck me with inspiration. I saw myself painting on top of peaks, sketching ferns from a comfy rock on the side of the Trail, capturing the big milestones as I passed them with swift brushstrokes.

The first of many surprises on my hike was that northern Georgia can be freezing in April. The winter lingered hard, and I had to hike to stay warm, and cocoon as soon as the nightly chores were complete. The reality from day one was quick and tired sketches in my sleeping bag, after dinner of course. The times and places I found to paint varied depending on the weather and temperature, my level of exhaustion (very or completely), and ranged from some of the golden vistas I had initially envisioned — such as on top of Max Patch in North Carolina, and McAfee Knob in Virginia — to shelter tables, to in my tent while it rained, and, most frequently, grungy hotel rooms with dim artificial light and that special funk that five or six hikers and their gear exude.

While most of it was not ideal for creating art, all of it was perfect in the context of the Trail. For all of its natural splendor, it tests every kind of endurance; it's dirty, sweaty, painful, full of imperfect moments of despair, but also full of wonderful people to laugh about them with. As an anxious perfectionist, both my hike and attempt to paint along the whole Trail was a lesson in embracing the imperfect.

My motivation for the particular type of artwork I wanted to create stemmed from disappointment in the photos I took of sights that overwhelmed me with beauty and emotion. Painting allowed me to express what I saw, not what the phone camera saw. And there was so much to see. Watching the first shoots of spring greenery sneaking over the mountains, undulating layers of mountains receding into the distance, vibrant sunsets, lots of wildlife, and the vast range of different cultures and communities along the way. But there were also days of slogging through mud

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dawn to dusk, putting on wet, smelly socks, traversing rocky ridges in storms, and chafe that could bring you to tears. There was the bliss of unexpected Trail magic, cute little towns we spent way too much time in, doing laundry with whatever means we had while charging and being glued to our phones after a service dry spell.

I really wanted to capture it all. The beautiful, the ugly, the fun, and silliness of Trail culture, because we remember most of it fondly in the end. Because of this, postcards seemed like a perfect way to spread the joy of as many aspects of hiking as possible. The result was a series of artwork I created in postcard format. After all, sending someone a postcard about sink laundry says a lot about your life on the Trail.


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*A.T. near Great Barrington. By Raymond Salani III*

THE CLEAN SOUND OF ICE SKATES SKIMMING across an indoor skating rink is nothing like the sound of those blades on a frozen pond or lake. Outside on the lake, there are bumps and cracks and ripples; there are frozen-over bubbles with thin layers of surface ice that crackle like paper. And then there's the slightly frightening booommm! that echoes now and then across even the thickest-frozen waters as the ice expands or contracts, and cracks. The face of the lake is like the membrane of a drum, sending the sound reverberating from shore to shore.

In western Massachusetts, the A.T. meanders around the edge of Benedict Pond in Beartown State Forest, which includes a popular campground and picnic area in the summer, complete with a small beach. During the warmer months, smoke rises from campfires and kids splash in the water. In July, A.T. volunteers, staff, thru-hikers, and members of the local trails community get together to celebrate Great Barrington A.T. Community Day, serenaded by the Berkshires' own ukulele band. But in winter it's a different world, gleaming and still.

On one of those lucky days when the pond had frozen solid but hadn't yet been covered in snow, I went ice skating with a young friend only about three years old. He was just learning, pushing an old folding chair across the slippery pond, and he was justifiably frustrated. "I don't want to learn, I want to know!" he declared, pouting where he sat after falling again. I laughed, not so much at him but us, because haven't we all felt that way at some point, not wanting to go through the pain and humiliation of learning something new?

But, of course, we often have to learn even the simplest things over and over — like the value of community and what it means to have and know a place. Or, for that matter, learn a place. Learn it in the lush summertime and the stark, wind-whipped winter. Learn each root and rock on a familiar piece of trail. Learn the plants and animals who make that place home. Learn the people who make it home. Learn how a forest community can have both human and nonhuman members. Learn how to care for it. Then, finally, somewhere within the infinite process of learning, we can begin to know it.

There on the ice, I prop up my disgruntled friend. "Watch this!" I say. I close my eyes, spread out my arms, and let the wind push me, bumpity bumpity, across the gleaming pond. Here, winter is long and summer is sudden. Pay attention, or you'll miss what comes in between. Warm days and soaking rains will quickly turn ice to water. Spring peepers and red-winged blackbirds will raise a racket, and the humans will follow. We'll be learning this familiar place all over again, as it shudders into spring.

*by Hanna Fries*

VIRGINIA CRAFT, A.T. PENNSYLVANIA – PHOTO BY DAVID HALTERMAN

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