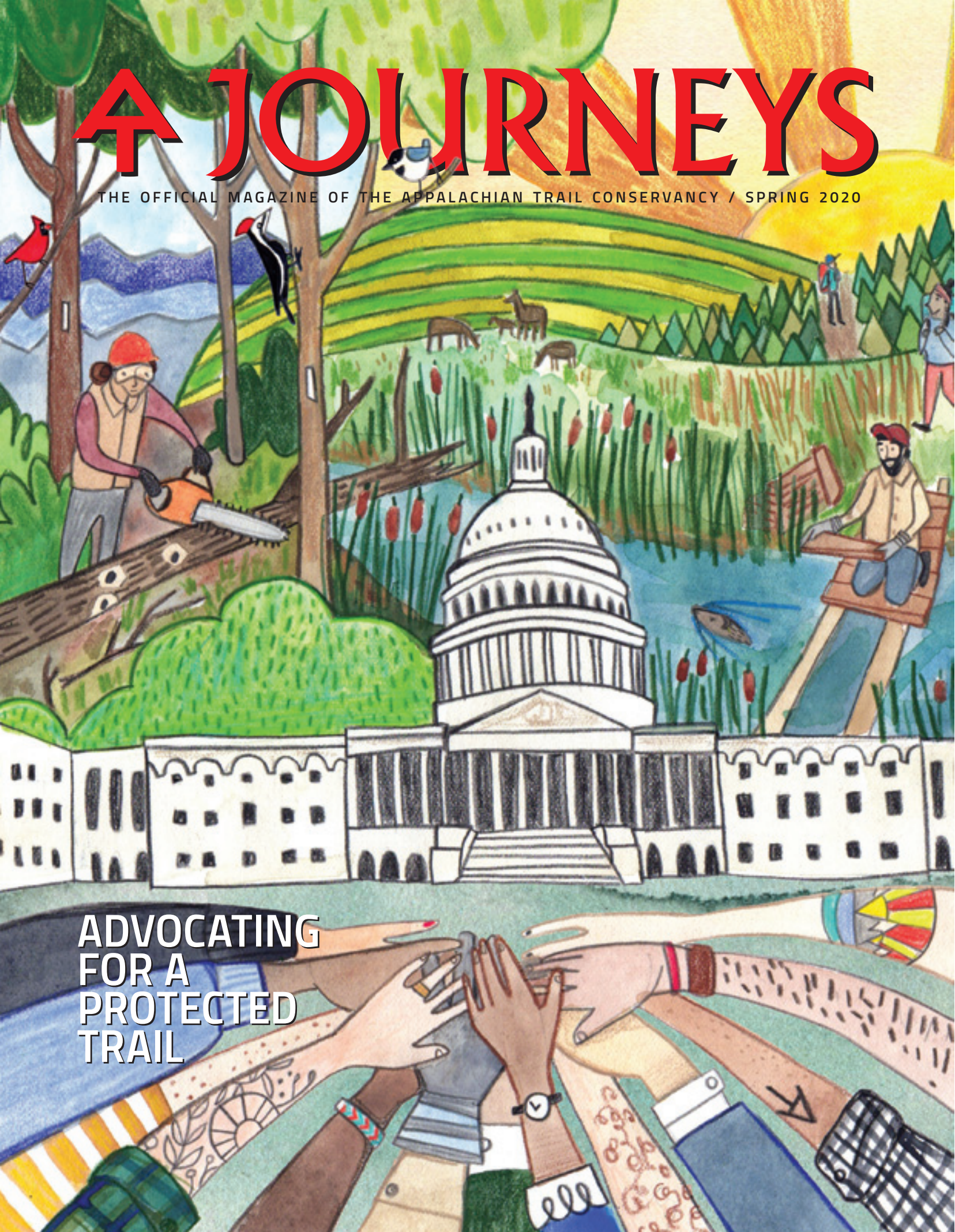
A JOURNEYS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY / SPRING 2020



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JOURNEYS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY / SPRING 2020

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Wendy K. Probst / Editor in Chief
Traci Anfuso-Young / Art Director / Designer

CONTRIBUTORS

Jordan Bowman / Director of Communications
Laurie Potteiger / Information Services Manager
Brittany Jennings / Proofreader

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membership@appalachiantrail.org

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> MY ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO CONVINCE EVERY A.T. HIKER TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR THE TRAIL.
>
> *-Jordan Bowman*

THERE IS AN ART TO ADVOCACY. AND ADVOCACY IS OFTEN expressed through art. Writers, photographers, artists, and scientists all use their work to express what matters most to them. In my case, I advocate for the A.T. and its surrounding land and wildlife through my work on this magazine. In doing so, I collaborate with a passionate and devoted group of colleagues and Trail enthusiasts.

Recently, one such colleague sent me a 1929 Benton MacKaye letter from our archives. In it, MacKaye writes: "Our job is not really to 'create' an environment: It is already created — by nature. The job is to bring it out: do with each wilderness area what the chemical does for the exposed Kodak film — bring out its latent realities. That is what the artist does who paints a beautiful landscape: He brings out its beauty. That is what the dramatist does in developing a folk play — he brings out the inherent rhythm of the ceremony. Just so, we may say, the man of science brings out the mystery of nature and her hidden story through his powers of visualizing evidence: In this way, a terrestrial drama is unfolded to us by the geologist; in this way is revealed the elusive drama of the migratory birds. Each one, indeed, of these activities is the development of a portion of environment: It takes them all — artist, dramatist, man of science — to develop the complete reality."

Even in times when we cannot get out to enjoy the Trail, we can continue to advocate for its preservation and in doing so, find solace in knowing that those miles of forests, mountains, and fields will still be there waiting for us like — to quote another artist, Thoreau — "an infinite expectation of the dawn."

Wendy K. Probst / Editor in Chief



Jordan Bowman

Jordan Bowman spent his childhood exploring the north Georgia mountains and the southern end of the Appalachian Trail before tackling his long-awaited thru-hike in 2014. He now serves as the ATC's director of communications, helping spread the word about work being done to maintain, protect, and celebrate the A.T. "Waking up every day knowing I get to hear and share some of the amazing stories about the Trail and its community of volunteers, conservationists, and hikers really is a gift," he says. "My ultimate goal is to convince every A.T. hiker to become an advocate for the Trail, helping ensure that it is protected so the next generation of hikers can fall in love with America's great outdoors."



Katie Eberts

Katie Eberts graduated from the University of Michigan and is currently a freelance artist/illustrator based in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Some of her clients include *Bon Appetit* and *Delicious Living*. She has been working with *A.T. Journeys* for seven years, and has contributed many feature illustrations as well as the artwork for three covers — including this issue's. "I loved working on this project because it's heartwarming to create an illustration that portrays people from all different backgrounds and walks of life coming together with the same thing in common: a love for the Trail."



Jack Igelman

Jack Igelman reports on the environment, conservation, and public lands for Carolina Public Press based in Asheville, North Carolina and has been a contributor to *A.T. Journeys* since 2011. As a former North Carolina Outward Bound School instructor, he has a deep appreciation for how trails can transform lives and why we should protect them. "It's a great privilege to be able to write about the Trail," he says. "I always learn something new and appreciated the opportunity to help readers better grasp the history of the Trail and its rightful status as an American treasure for all."



Raymond Salani III

Raymond Salani III lives in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. When it comes to photography, he considers himself a "landscape artist." While most of his attention is spent on the A.T., he also loves the western U.S., where a photo he captured in Grand Teton National Park is now slated for *National Geographic's Great Mountains 2021 Calendar.* His work has been featured in numerous issues of *A.T. Journeys* since 2017 and he is also a contributing artist to the Yosemite Conservancy. When on the A.T., his pack is often extra heavy with camera gear earning him the Trail name "Flash." "Planning a hike on the Trail is sometimes a battle between covering more ground versus focusing on a specific area in more detail," he says. "Contributing work to this issue in particular allows me to share the Trail and hopefully inspire others to protect it."

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A SINGULAR CAUSE

WHEN LIVING AT THE BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER as resident caretaker (along with my husband Chris Brunton), I often treated hikers to a home cooked meal. Blackburn is not an official hostel and we do not charge for the stay or refreshments, but I always opened dinner with a short talk — telling folks that listening to me was the cost of the meal. I had a captive audience and did not want to miss the opportunity to share the personal story of my lifetime commitment to the Appalachian Trail. I explained how the Trail was built, managed, and maintained by volunteers. I explained the need for responsible hiker behavior and the importance of Leave No Trace ethics. And I asked everyone there, in gratitude for the meal they were about to enjoy, that they pay it back when they got home — by joining the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and a local Trail club, and by contributing their time and dollars to support Trail maintenance on whatever section of Trail they may find in their backyard.

> "THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF DEDICATED ADVOCATES."

In this issue, we talk about the importance of advocating for the Trail. The verb advocate is defined as "publicly recommend or support." Having spent most of my adult life working on, and for, the Appalachian Trail, I define advocacy as a much broader and richer concept.

In my evening talks with hikers at Blackburn, I advocated for their support and help in the work that is necessary for us to protect and preserve this national treasure. But I've also advocated in quieter ways — by being a lifetime member of both the ATC and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), by contributing annually to both organizations above my membership dues, by taking on volunteer leadership roles in the ATC and PATC, and by joining my husband in personally managing three miles of the Trail. I've visited elected officials and had conversations with current and potential donors. And Chris and I both will share, with whoever sits still long enough to listen, our personal love and commitment to the Trail and the immeasurable joy and meaning it has brought to our lives.

Even with this long history of advocacy, I could not have predicted where I find myself now. Taking on the role of President and CEO is affording me the opportunity to champion the Trail in new and, hopefully, even more impactful ways. But committing to be an advocate does not come without cost. Personal time and dollars have always been necessary, but this new role has also required me to significantly shift my life plans — leaving semi-retirement and travel time with Chris — and to take on a full-time leadership role that is both challenging and rewarding. But it is all necessary.

The Appalachian Trail exists because of the power of dedicated advocates. From Benton MacKaye advocating for its creation, to Myron Avery advocating for its reality, to all the volunteers, members, donors, and dreamers who advocate for its continued existence, the Trail represents the best that people can bring when they commit their lives and loves to a singular cause. Thank you for joining me in this endeavor.

Sandra Marra / President & CEO



Responding to COVID-19 / The health and safety of the Appalachian Trail's visitors, volunteers, communities, and partners will always be our top priority. But, we will also continue to fulfill our mission of managing and protecting the Trail. Advocacy is one critical way we ensure the A.T. will be ready to receive visitors and volunteers once we are past this difficult time. We hope this issue gives you the information and insight to become an advocate for the Trail now and into the future.





THE WINTER 2020 ISSUE OF *A.T. Journeys* is the best one I've seen. I like the way the articles (a) consider the whole corridor and (b) refer positively to other cooperating organizations (and not take all the credit for ATC). Nice work.

Rupert Cutler
Roanoke, Virginia

JUST OPENED THE WINTER 2020 online version of *A.T. Journeys* and it looks great! This should be an enormous help in spreading the word about ATC and its priorities. I am m teaching a class this semester on U.S. Environmental History and Public Policy and we are using *Tangled Roots: The Appalachian Trail and American Environmental Politics* by Sarah Mittlefehldt as major reading — with study of public/private partnerships for land acquisition as a major theme. It will be so great to be able to give the students access to "A Panoramic Purpose" — the article that explains a broader vision for landscape protection along the Trail — and hopefully get more of them involved in this kind of work. Well done.

Diana Christopulos
Salem, Virginia

I TRULY ENJOYED THE "SKY Begins at Your Feet" article in the Fall 2019 issue — and the entire fall publication. If we can at the very least get people to [install] motion sensors in the lighting of their homes and businesses, this would offer security for those of that mind set, but also offer darkness for nature and nature lovers. Keep up the good work.

Dennis Gerhart
Newark, Delaware

THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PART of my thru-hike [besides not experiencing any sickness or injury. Shoot, I didn't even get a blister on my foot], was the countless encounters with wildlife. Most notable was while doing work-for-stay on Lake Onawa in Maine. While out in a canoe, I observed the most beautiful bald eagle courtship I had ever seen. After watching an eagle majestically swoop in and land on a tree top on an island in the lake, I listened as he made the most curious chatter. Not long after, he swooped off again, flying directly towards me. Soon after he took off, another eagle, the female he had been chatting with, followed off into the distance and they disappeared together over the mountains. Stunning!

Timothy "Grok" Lamley
New Haven, Indiana

REFLECTING BACK ON MY hike, my A.T. experience was more about gratitude and thanksgiving, than about accomplishment. So many people and events demonstrated the sheer goodness and kindness of this world as opposed to, often, the general consensus that the world is spinning out of control.

Robert "Highwayman" Gillespie
Kintnersville, Pennsylvania

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.

editor@appalachiantrail.org
Letters to the Editor
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
P.O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807

Trail Talk

sjmaclellan
Thank you! You help to make the Trail the best experience for all of us hikers — appreciate all of the efforts!

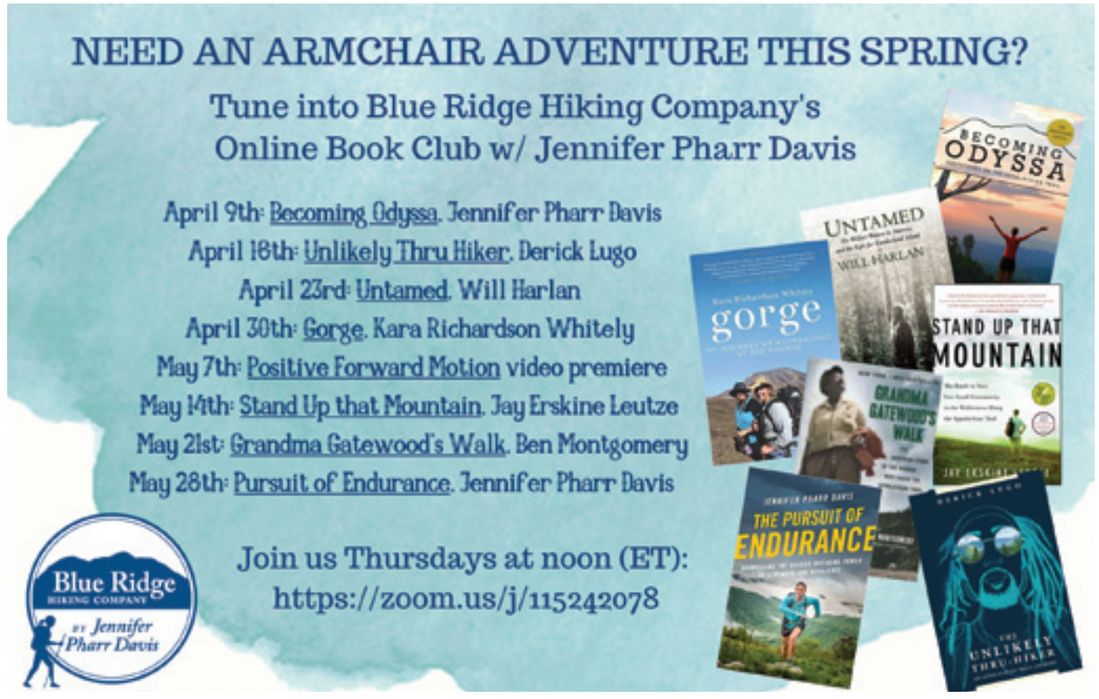
redebrasileiradetrilhas
Volunteer Trail crew! The best kind of people anywhere in the world. Building a world united by trails. Keep up the good work!

My husband and I went to Harpers Ferry on our 1st anniversary in 2016 and visited the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We decided to buy a map and hike out to the Ed Garvey shelter and back. We instantly fell in love with the A.T. We came back to the ATC and bought an A.T. passport & got it stamped. Now we section hike every anniversary & get our passports stamped as a memento. This past anniversary we did Bennington VT to Manchester Center VT!
~ Brandy Polster

I finally convinced my kids that hiking was worth the work after a long hike on the A.T. to Charlies Bunion in the Smokies. They agreed that the views were worth the sore legs! My youngest is now my #1 hiking buddy and especially loves a good overlook!
~ Jackie McFarland

Nothing like the NY Section, particularly Bear Mountain! One of my favorite (and probably the most personally meaningful) stretches of the A.T. for me. You've all done some incredible work there, much appreciated!
~ Joseph Dell'Aquila

Trail maintenance — the best kind of Trail magic. It's keeps on giving. ~ Michelle Moody







The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's experience in building the Trail, tending to it, and our fight to preserve the scenic views and cooperative management system that continue to make the A.T. experience an international attraction is invaluable. The way we share that experience is through advocacy

WHY ADVOCACY?

FEDERAL / STATE / LOCAL / GRASSROOTS

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL COSERVANCY'S (ATC) conservation team and I, joined by several ATC Next Generation Council Advisory members and our friends and colleagues from other trail organizations, ventured to Capitol Hill last month, advocating for national trails, and speaking on behalf of the millions of people who enjoy those trails every year. As a life-long avid hiker, I haven't always appreciated how important these visits are, or how important it is to let my local, state, and federal lawmakers know what is most important to my quality of life and the future my kids will experience both on and off the Trail. I may have even mumbled something about advocates being "talking heads," and far preferred to strap on my hiking boots and escape that world. Not anymore. Especially not in a world where messages get distorted and the only people who can truly represent the best interests for the A.T. are those who care about it the most — those who have worked the hardest for decades to build and protect it. Our voices are authentic and they need to be heard.

Those of you who are members and supporters of the ATC

BY LAURA BELLEVILLE
ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE EBERTS

understand the A.T. is an extraordinary place. From the initial publication of Benton MacKaye's visionary article in 1921, it only took 16 years to complete a blazed Trail from Georgia to Maine. The audacity of that effort, followed by the passage of the 1968 National Trails System Act and decades of committed maintenance from tens of thousands of volunteers, is something that many of us who have climbed to the top of Franconia Ridge or Max Patch and trod along the pastures of the Cumberland and Shenandoah valleys have experienced first-hand.

Advocacy has been an integral aspect of our work since ATC's inception — it's in our DNA. Advancing Benton MacKaye's original vision for a "Realm united by a Trail," coordinating the maintaining clubs, enlisting hundreds of volunteers to construct the Trail, advancing the National Trails System Act in Congress (which took about 20 years), and connecting the Trail parcel by parcel and preserving what we call the Wild East Landscape are all expressions of the imperative to advocate for the Trail. Today, the ATC wants to ensure the hard work, commitment, and dedication of those who came before us is sustained so that millions of people every year can continue to enjoy the Trail.

We are one community, and we work together to make sure, at the end of the day, the Trail is preserved.

Sprawling development, threatened natural resources, and the adjacent, rural communities struggling to sustain local economies has spurred the ATC, and its community of supporters, to become more public and more varied in the ways we approach our engagement with local, state, and federal decision-makers. We have new communication tools to reach growing numbers of people and passionate Trail hikers, opening doors to participation in advocacy that are more dynamic and accessible than ever before. This is critical as the issues that may impact the Trail or Trail management are more complicated and far-reaching in the twenty-first century. In particular, the barrage of proposals from the energy sector (both non-renewable and renewable), new residential development, and mounting complications from climate change require a hard look at federal and state policies.

It is increasingly apparent how crucial it is to advance relationships with new partnerships to conserve the A.T. Landscape and communities. In the days before the bedrock environmental and conservation legislation that exist today, the A.T. was at the mercy of development, but development that moved at a slower pace. The local relationships between clubs, maintainers, ATC members, and decision makers provided an opportunity to engage and redirect or, when possible, arrest improper development. Working together to protect the A.T. as much as possible — even when we don't agree with the development that is proposed — continues to be part of the cooperative management system. We are one community, and we work together to make sure, at the end of the day, the Trail is preserved.

In 2019, Brendan Mysliwiec joined the ATC as its first director of federal policy and legislation. He liaises directly with Congressional and agency staff, communicating the amazing work staff and volunteers of the ATC and Trail maintaining clubs do to protect the incredible value of the A.T. His work has been focused on the full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, protecting the ability of states to include local laws and address local concerns in federal infrastructure permitting, and advancing legislation that will increase funding to the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service (and by extension to the ATC and all the Trail clubs). Brendan also works to support the work of the U.S. House Caucus on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, founded by A.T. champions Don Beyer (VA) and Phil Roe (TN). The mission of this bipartisan Caucus is to unite interested members of the U.S. House of Representatives in working together for the sustained protection and conservation of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Members of the Caucus recognize that the A.T. is significant in its entire connectedness with a compelling need for federal, state, and local stakeholders to work together on relevant policies and appropriate funding. The Caucus has doubled in size since the beginning of the 116th Congress last

A.T. – Massachusetts
Photo by Raymond Salani III



Volunteers and hikers are among the most important advocates for the Trail and the ATC wants to ensure that the hard work, commitment, and dedication of those who came before us is sustained so that the Trail continues to inspire another century of volunteers, visitors, and visionaries.

year. We hope Trail enthusiasts across the country will ask their Representatives to join the A.T. Caucus today.

While the ATC will continue to energetically seek diverse partnerships to advance constructive policy decisions and fight bad legislation, all of our policywork and advocacy radiates from our core question: is this good for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail? Whatever our work, and whatever our decision, we will always focus on how the Trail and its landscape are or could be impacted. The ATC aims to ensure that outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and local resources are conserved beyond the protected corridor in partnership with local communities. One of our top priorities is to increase the pace of conservation around the narrow Trail corridor. While the entirety of the lands surrounding the A.T. treadway are owned for the most part by conservation-minded agencies and entities, not all of what we see from the mountain peaks or as we weave through the hollows is safe from development, encroachment, or harm.

For example, many ATC staff hours have been spent the last few years to understand the impacts of new, large-diameter pipelines being developed to move fracked natural gas from Marcellus Shale plays west of the Trail, across the Trail to major distribution lines and ports along the East Coast. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) oversees the development of these new pipelines. Since several pipelines are proposed to cross the A.T., the ATC has reviewed these projects against our trail management guidance and offered comments. In doing so, we also recognized that FERC makes decisions about these proposals under antiquated and inadequate policy direction. The ATC will continue to work with Congressional staff to highlight these problems and vigorously support legislation like the Pipeline Fairness and Transparency Act (led by Senators Kaine and Warner and Representatives Griffith and Riggleman). We have submitted comments on FERC's pipeline siting policy to the commission as well and alerted multiple Congressional committees about the aspects of the current policy that negatively impact the A.T.

Related to pipeline-siting, the ATC also submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court defending the cooperative management system and explaining the development of the A.T. in a recent lawsuit that called into question the division of responsibilities painstakingly negotiated by the ATC, Trail clubs, and the federal and state governments over the past 100 years. While the ATC has strong objections to the current process for evaluating, permitting, and licensing pipelines — for reasons relating to the conservation of public lands, individual property rights, market need, and the growing impacts of climate change — our role in that lawsuit was not to take a position on whether the pipeline was needed. Rather, it was about making sure that the ATC, the clubs, and all of our support retain an active and substantial role in the Trail that, but for our members' and supporters' involvement, wouldn't exist at all.

There are a slew of other advocacy priorities. We also recognize that in order to guarantee the next generation of volunteer maintainers, Trail crew members, and Trail advocates are prepared to grab a saw or head to Capitol Hill, we need to ensure that volunteer programs receive robust support through the A.T. Park Office's annual budgets and the Forest Service's certification system. Volunteers are at the core of the A.T.'s management. The ATC pushes for administrative fixes and advances new legislation to ensure volunteers can focus on the Trail rather than navigating burdensome bureaucratic work or regulations and requirements.



Every one of the volunteers on the A.T. advocates by sharing their experience, setting out with one of our skilled Trail crews, and letting their elected officials know why the Trail is important and how we should be working together to preserve it. Very few units of the National Park Service are bolstered by the dedication and sweat equity of so many committed and activated individuals. A.T. volunteers, approaching 100 years of relevance and expertise, are truly an inspiring model of civic engagement. Volunteers and hikers are among the most important advocates for the Trail and the ATC wants to ensure that the hard work, commitment, and dedication of those who came before us is sustained so that the Trail continues to inspire another century of volunteers, visitors, and visionaries.

I am incredibly fortunate to work with an amazing team that is comfortable in the woods and can just as easily get suited up for a visit to Congress to speak from their hearts about what the Trail needs. ATC senior regional director Andrew Downs sums it up best when he says, "There are a lot of organizations that are focused on many other things and that do excellent work protecting the environment, but there's only one organization in the whole world that's dedicated solely to the Appalachian Trail. And we have to make sure that our decision process reflects that level of focus, because if it's not ATC that speaks for the Trail and only the Trail, then no one else will."

Bald Eagles over Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania – much of the wildlife along the East Coast depends on the protection of the A.T. corridor as habitat – Photo by Bill Moses/ courtesy Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; Volunteers remove invasive species from a section of the A.T. near Fontana Dam, North Carolina. Photo by Leana Joyner

TRAILHEAD

ATC DIRT / HIGHLIGHTS / EVENTS / UPDATES



Shay Amill and Daniel Suber volunteer for National Public Lands Day, painting blazes and digging sidehill on the A.T. in North Carolina during an Everybody's Environmental Emerging Leaders (E3) Summit. Photo by Julie Judkins



Next Generation Advisory Council Hikes the Hill

Every year, trail organizations from across the country descend on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for Hike the Hill, an advocacy day to urge lawmakers and government agencies to protect trails nationwide. For the last four years, members from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) Next Generation Advisory Council (or Next Gen, as we call them) have joined in this critical advocacy effort and shared stories with our Representatives and Senators about why the Appalachian Trail is so important to them specifically. ¶ The Next Gen is a council made up of volunteers from 18-to 30-years-old, who advise the ATC on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. A major focus area for the council is advocacy for the Trail. This past February, three members of Next Gen traveled to D.C. for this year's Hike the Hill. For some, this was their first time participating in advocacy. That time was spent accompanying ATC staff into meetings with members of Congress who represent districts along the length of the Trail. Their role was to explain why the Trail matters to them personally, and to explain issues that are important to the A.T. like full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, funding the deferred maintenance backlog on our public lands, and making transportation to green spaces and public lands more accessible for critically underserved communities. ¶ Congressional appointments were set up with Republican and Democratic offices alike, and both sides came together to support a cause that benefits everyone in the U.S. Outdoor spaces like the Appalachian Trail belong to everyone equally and the voice of the next generation is essential in the need to protect and preserve them.

FUTURE TRAIL ENTHUSIASTS

A TOP PRIORITY OF THE APPALACHIAN Trail Conservancy (ATC) is to connect the human spirit with nature — preserving the balance of the Trail experience as a haven for all to enjoy. Through summits, education workshops, community partnerships, and diverse volunteer opportunities, the ATC hopes to create an ever-expanding community of doers and dreamers who will work to ensure that future generations will develop a desire to protect and preserve the Trail and its surrounding landscape — and in doing so, pass that passion forward.



Next Generation Advisory Council members Sahejveer Bhatia and Brianna Johnson in front of the U.S. Capitol Building during Hike the Hill

Hike the Hill

This past February, eight staff members and three members of Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) Next Generation Advisory Council journeyed to Washington, D.C. for "Hike the Hill" — an event organized by the Partnership for the National Trails System and the American Hiking Society that brings together Trail organizations and advocates from all over the country. Hike the Hill provides ATC staff and volunteers who do not regularly advocate on issues of Trail and conservation the opportunity to speak directly to U.S. Congressional and Executive branch staffers. This year, the ATC's delegation educated lawmakers and their staff members on the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its impact on protecting the viewshed and vital habitat for wildlife along the Trail, pressing deferred maintenance needs, current challenges in natural resource management, and the need for additional Congressional appropriations to our public land management agencies — in particular our unit office within the National Park Service. ¶ Hike the Hill is important because it brings the Trail to Washington. Although the ATC has a federal policy staffer in D.C. full-time, hearing directly from the regional staff and committed volunteers is very important to make sure that Congressional and Executive branch staff understand the incredible work ATC's staff, Trail clubs, and our local partners do all year round to protect the Trail. Keep an eye out for more information on ATC's federal advocacy and how you can share your experience to educate federal decision-makers.

A.T. CAUCUS

The U.S. House Appalachian National Scenic Trail Caucus (A.T. Caucus) is a forum within the U.S. House of Representatives for members and staff to discuss issues of importance to the Trail. Co-founded by A.T. champions Representatives Don Beyer, Jr. (VA) and Phil Roe (TN) in the 115th Congress, the Caucus has seen steady growth over 2019 and early 2020, nearly doubling in size since the beginning of the 116th Congress last January. Membership in a Congressional Caucus indicates interest in a particular topic (here, the A.T.) and caucus members develop reputations for being vocal and active in advancing the core causes of the caucus. Currently, the Caucus includes members from Trail states Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, as well as members from Ohio and Kentucky.

If you'd like to see whether your U.S. Representative is a member of the Caucus visit: **appalachiantrail.org/advocacy**

ATC RESPONDS TO COVID-19

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY (ATC) sends our most heartfelt well wishes to everyone and we hope you are staying safe and healthy during this time. The COVID-19 pandemic has put all of us in uncharted territory. We are making bold decisions and unplanned sacrifices, and leading efforts to help our partners and communities adapt to this ever-evolving environment. As we have done for nearly 100 years, the ATC's primary role has been to step up and lead. Now, more than ever, we are a critical guide. The A.T. is managed collaboratively by 31 Trail maintaining clubs, several federal, state, and local agencies, and the ATC. Among this group and also to our visitors, volunteers, communities, and partners, we are:

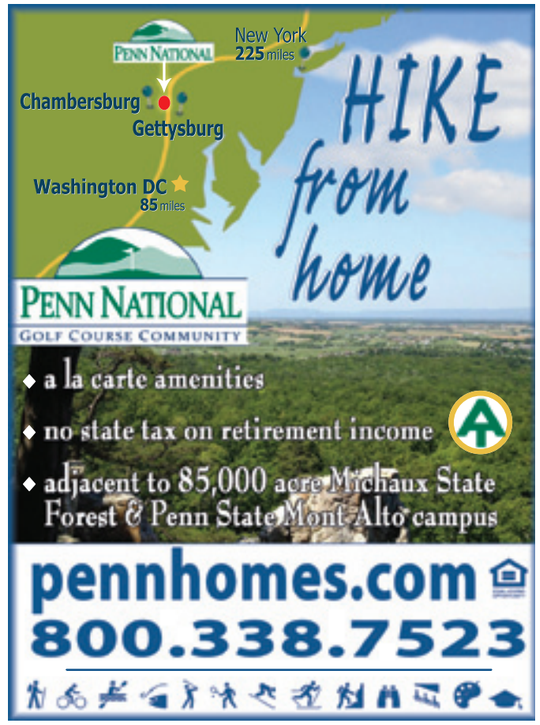
> **Convener:** Over the past few weeks, the ATC convened listening sessions with several groups — Trail maintaining clubs, state and federal agencies, Trail communities, and Trail-related businesses — to understand the impact of COVID-19 and provide guidance and support where possible. We also initiated weekly calls with our peer trail organizations to identify best practices and share critical updates during these difficult times.

> **Advocate:** The ATC lobbies on behalf of the Trail and on behalf of nearby communities whose businesses rely on the Trail and its hikers for revenue. The ATC urged Congress to consider these communities' needs as they developed a stimulus package in response to COVID-19.

> **Vanguard:** The ATC was the first trail organization to recall field staff, to support telecommuting for support staff, and to request that all hikers — whether overnight or day hikers — to stay off Trail, knowing that social distancing was not assured on the A.T. due to increasing visitor use over the past few weeks.

The ATC remains at the forefront not only because it can but because it must. The health and safety of A.T. visitors is a top priority. We firmly believe that unless everyone is safe, no one is safe. We plan to lead the greater Trail community through this time with that as our guiding motto.

For information on ATC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well updated Trail closures visit: **appalachiantrail.org/covid-19**





Nominations Open for ATC Board of Directors

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR POSITIONS ON THE APPALACHIAN Trail Conservancy's (ATC) Board of Directors. Elections and certifications for open director positions will take place during the 2020 annual membership meeting, the time for which will be announced in the Summer issue of *A.T. Journeys*. ¶ Under the ATC's bylaws, membership meetings are held each year, and the elected leadership serves staggered three-year terms, with one third of the 15 board positions becoming open each year. A slate of nominees will be selected by our nominating committee, which is within our governance committee. This slate will then be approved by the full board, and finally voted on by ATC membership at the annual meeting.¶ If you, or someone you know, are interested in serving on the ATC Board, we welcome your nomination. We look at many criteria as we review all nominations for the board. Most importantly, the ATC is a complex, national non-profit, and it is key that you or your nominee can show fiduciary oversight capabilities and experience of a similar scope in the non-profit or for-profit world. We believe a strong candidate must have a passion for the Appalachian Trail and be able to articulate that passion for the A.T. and the ATC's mission. We also are committed to having a wide diversity of experience and thoughts on the board and look to have our leadership accurately reflect the society in which the Trail exists. ¶ The volunteer board requires a commitment of your time, including four meetings per year and additional committee assignments. Board members must be ATC members in good standing. ¶ All nominations, including self-nominations, should include both the nominee's and the nominator's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, with a description of the person's relevant experience, skills, and attributes with emphasis on the criteria above (oversight experience, passion for the A.T., diversity of thought, and time considerations). Please submit a C.V. or resume if available. We take every nomination seriously, and we appreciate the time you put into the nomination and the nomination process. The committee's slate will be announced in an ATC publication/web site between June 14 and July 23, 2020.

Nominations should be sent no later than April 30th, 2020 to: Boardrecommendations@appalachiantrail.org or by mail to Thomas Gregg, Chair, Nominating Committee, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. For more information, visit: **appalachiantrail.org/Leadership**



DO YOU HAVE THAT PERFECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL?

This sneak peek of the 2021 official Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) calendar gives you an idea of what we are seeking for the 2022 calendar — by mid-July 2020. The ATC calendar, co-published since 2012 with Rizzoli International, features a mix of photographers and subjects and has always had a dual purpose: To show the visual allure of the Trail landscape to hikers and nonhikers alike — and to brag a bit about the volunteers who maintain it. You could be a part of that legacy. ¶ **What we need:** High-resolution digital images (TIFFs only) of scenes on the Trail. Send images (limit of 36) on a DVD to: Publisher, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807 (or 799 Washington St.), Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Digital images should be no smaller than 13 inches long and wide, at 300 dpi. Please include: location and month taken for each image — with the photographer's last name and image ID in the file name. Visible blazes are a major bonus; so is sunshine. Candid shots of hikers near blazes are a double bonus; posed shots cannot be considered. Each selected image is worth $200.

For detailed guidelines visit: **appalachiantrail.org/calendar**

APPALACHIAN TRAIL VISTA

HIKE
LEARN & PLAY

THE INAUGURAL A.T. VISTA
4-DAY WEEKEND EVENT

August 6 – 9, 2021

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
(SUNY) AT NEW PALTZ

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENTON MACKAYE'S 1921 ARTICLE:

An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning, and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference centennial, we will honor the creation of this monumental collaborative idea with activities to hike, learn, and play.

If you enjoyed previous Biennial programs, the new A.T. Vista will continue to provide an opportunity for people who cherish the Appalachian Trail to hike, attend workshops on topics of common interest, and connect with other kindred spirits.

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

with creative ideas, planning and leadership skills, and an interest in making this a memorable and ongoing future event.
Email us at: atvistainfo@gmail.com
to join the team!

ATVISTA.ORG

Are you looking for your own piece of paradise close to Great Smoky Mountains National Park?



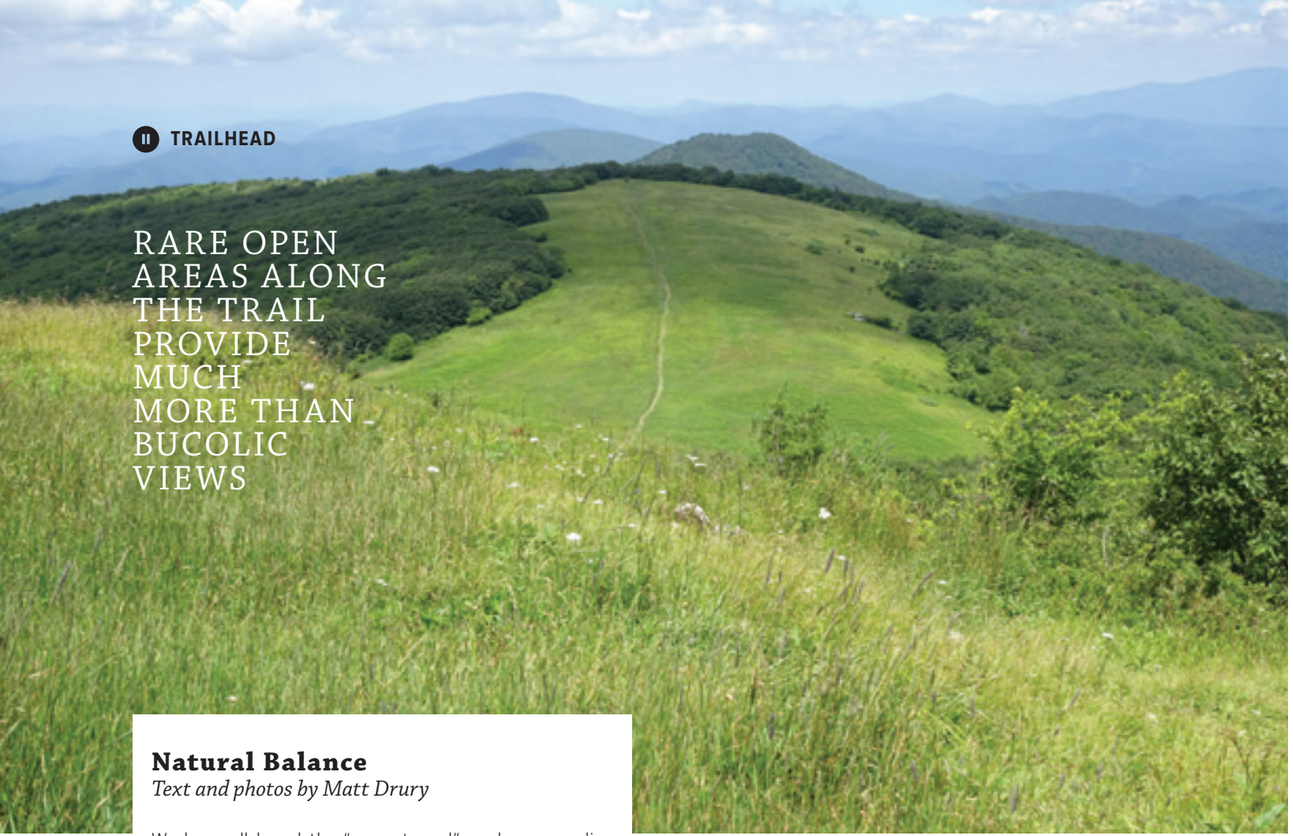




407 Laurel Springs is paradise in so many ways it is difficult to capture in words. The four-acre property is part old homestead, and part ecosystem of the Great Smoky National Park. One feels the cultural connection to our mountain heritage with an apple barn constructed over a century and a half ago plus a chimney from a long-gone cabin standing stoically nearby. The long, freshly graveled drive meanders along a Tennessee fieldstone wall and curves back to access to the clearing allowing for easy access to and from this property. The details of the secluded property are what make this "paradise" a one of a kind on the market today. 407 Laurel Springs has a two-bedroom septic system in a one-acre house seat clearing with a rustic stream-side cabin in the forested back section of the property.

If you would like more information contact us at 1.877.678.2121
www.jasonwhiteteam.com | info@jasonwhiteteam.com
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Four Seasons Realty



RARE OPEN AREAS ALONG THE TRAIL PROVIDE MUCH MORE THAN BUCOLIC VIEWS

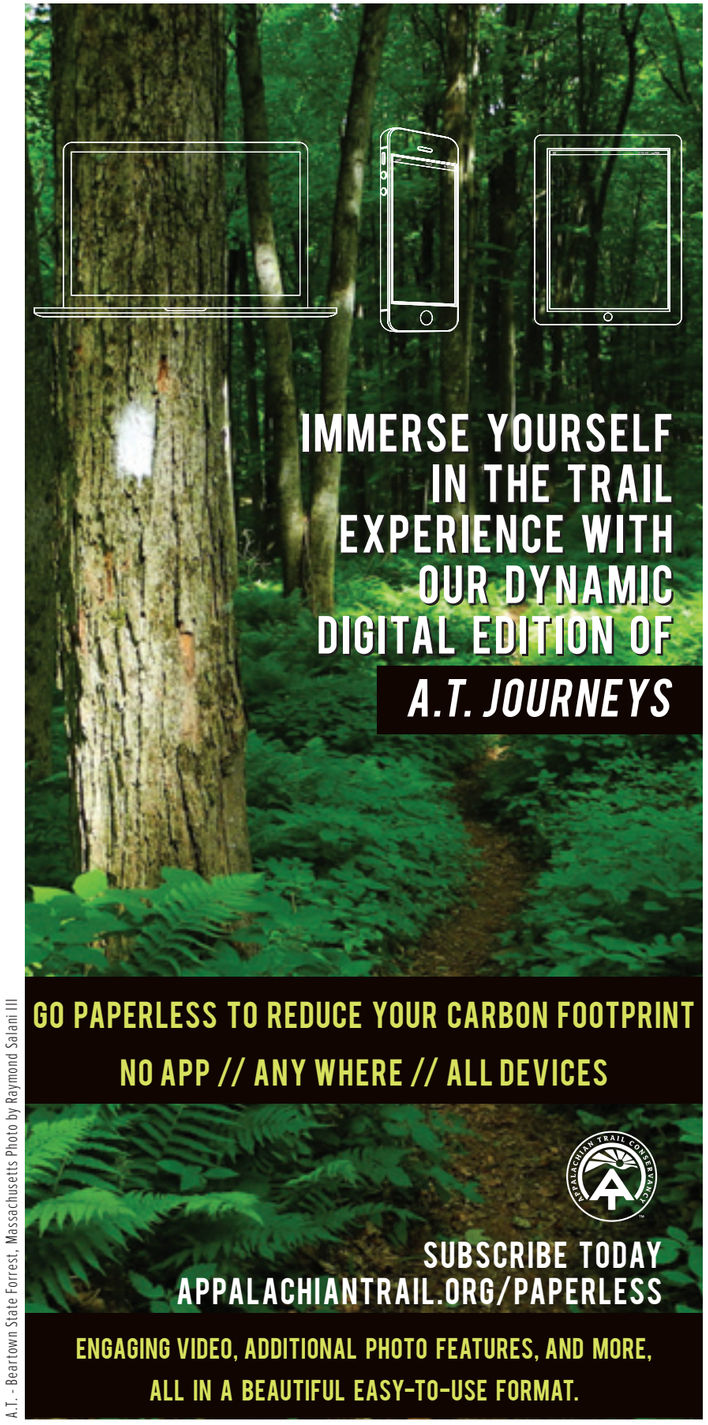
Natural Balance

Text and photos by Matt Drury

We have all heard the "green tunnel" analogy regarding the A.T., and it is accurate, most of the time. However, approximately two-to-three-percent of the Trail passes through open areas along its course. Examples of open areas include Hudson Farm, New Hampshire; Chestnut Ridge, Virginia; and Big Bald on the North Carolina/Tennessee border. Open areas take many forms and serve a variety of functions along the Trail, most notably for their iconic vistas, but also preserving historic cultural landscapes and providing critical habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species like Gray's lily, the rusty-patched bumblebee, and the golden-winged warbler. ¶ There are two main origins of open areas along the A.T.: cultural and ecological. Most cultural open areas are relicts of an agricultural past, such as the open areas in the bucolic landscape surrounding Tyringham, Massachusetts. This part of the Berkshires was first settled in 1735 as an agricultural community and contains some of the largest open meadows within the A.T. corridor. These open areas are managed as priority habitat for grassland bird species like the bobolink and for pollinators, but also for grazing livestock to maintain the historical context of the area. ¶ One of the most notable ecological open area types along the A.T. are the extremely rare and critically imperiled Southern Appalachian Grassy Balds. These grassy balds are relicts of the last ice age and exist only in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. The most commonly accepted theory on the origin of these balds is: as the earth warmed, the climatic treeline disappeared in the Southern Appalachians and woody vegetative growth began. Many of the prehistoric large grazers went extinct due to factors related to the warming climate, others like elk were hunted to regional extinctions. As these events played out, many of these balds slowly disappeared. However, some of the best remaining examples still exist along the A.T. While some of these sites may have more recently been maintained by Native Americans with fire, many were subsequently or additionally grazed with livestock. The most well-known occurrences of Southern Appalachian Grassy Balds exist along the Roan Mountain Massif. According to U.S. Forest Service botanist Gary Kauffman, the grassy balds of the Roan Highlands have lost about three quarters of their former range due to the encroachment of trees, shrubs, and invasive plants. Today, these balds are being maintained and restored with machinery by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Trail clubs, partner agencies and organizations, and volunteers. ¶ Max Patch is an iconic example of an open area that is cultural in origin, but today management is more ecologically focused. This former cow pasture has experienced adverse impacts from increasing visitor use; in response, the ATC, Carolina Mountain Club, and U.S. Forest Service have teamed up to address these impacts, while increasing the ecological value for wildlife. Specifically, improved signage, native plant installations for birds and pollinators, and planting shrubs that wildlife depend on helps to protect the areas and deter hikers from accidentally harming them. ¶ The open areas programming along the A.T. is continuing to evolve and grow through ongoing scientific research, expanding partnerships, robust support from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail office, and the work of Trail clubs and volunteers. The ATC will continue to manage these open areas to reclaim and preserve the iconic views along the A.T., while considering their ecological role in the greater landscape.



From top: View from Big Bald looking north on the Trail — this critical migratory bird stopover habitat is part of the Southern Blue Ridge Important Bird Area; ATC staff and members of the Carolina Mountain Club plant native perennial wildflowers at Max Patch while stabilizing a closed, unsustainable social trail and benefiting pollinators, hikers, and birds.



A.T. - Beartown State Forrest, Massachusetts Photo by Raymond Salani III

FOR THE LOVE OF THE TRAIL

A HISTORY OF PERSUADING PEOPLE THAT THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL MATTERS

BY JACK IGELMAN

A.T. - Shenandoah National Park, Virginia
Photo by Raymond Salani III

AFTER BEING USHERED into the local office of an Atlanta-based member of Congress, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) southern regional director Morgan Sommerville and a Georgia Appalachian Trail Club volunteer were seated at his desk. On display was a meter. Its swiftly spinning digits flickered in a blur. "That," boasted the fiscally conservative congressman while pointing at the gadget, "is the national debt."

Not exactly words you want to hear when your pitch is to steer funds from the U.S. Treasury to protect the Appalachian Trail. For the next quarter of an hour, Sommerville and the volunteer politely listened to a lecture on government overreach. When his commentary concluded, the congressman looked at them and proclaimed that, despite the escalating value on his meter, he would pledge his support because, of course, everyone loves the Trail.

Sommerville has met with hundreds of lawmakers from across the ideological spectrum and, like this meeting, they often end well. The evidence is not only the decades-long bipartisan support of the footpath, but the thousands of acres of protected land that buffers the Trail, creating one of the most unique and iconic national parks in the U.S. And, don't forget the creation of the National Trails System Act of 1968 that has now protected trails in every state of our Union. That systematic level of protection and support for the Trail wasn't inevitable. Rather, it's the product of decades of work of staff and volunteers persuading people in power that the Appalachian Trail matters.

ORGANIZE & ENGAGE

The ATC's publisher Brian King says that Trail leaders and volunteers have a long history of educating, informing, and building relationships with Congress, partner organizations, and public agencies. "For Congress to continue to protect the A.T., we have to explain to them what the Trail means and what we stand for," he says. "Gaining new ground is important, but not losing ground is important, too." That's why the ATC has bolstered its effort to advocate to members of Congress and federal agencies. While the treadway has been almost entirely on public land since 2015, threats still loom, such as harmful legislation, pipelines, and encroaching development. And, though the organization's approach to protect the Trail on Capitol Hill may appear different, the creation and protection of the Trail would not have been accomplished without the work of savvy volunteers and staff who understood how to build coalitions and sway lawmakers.

Among them is Sommerville. When he began his tenure at the ATC in 1983 as the only employee in the southern regional office, his job description included land planning, volunteer training, and duties that directly involved the maintenance and protection of the Trail. Eventually, Sommerville was encouraged to meet with local congressional delegations.

"It was new to us as regional employees," he says. "I was a one-person office, so we were generalists; we did everything to make it work." At the time, recalls Sommerville, the visits to congressional offices included updates on current projects with volunteers from local clubs. Soon enough, the visits focused on supporting efforts to protect and acquire tracts of land to protect the Trail experience and its original vision to connect the human spirit with nature.

VITAL CONNECTIONS

While the efforts to organize and send a clear message to congressional delegates have evolved, persuading the federal government to support the Appalachian Trail traces back to its visionary, Benton MacKaye. Trained as part of the U.S. Forest Service's first cadre of foresters in 1908, he saw that competently trained technocrats from public agencies were vital to the implementation of his grand vision to organize land use aro nd the Trail. He also believed that the federal government could be effective at generating funds to promote a public good with as much potential social value as the A.T.

Sarah Mittlefehldt, author of *Tangled Roots: The Appalachian Trail and American Environmental Politics*, says that MacKaye was poetic in describing his vision for the Trail. "He often used the metaphor that the head and brain of the project are technocratic government experts, but the heart and soul are the citizens of all stripes building it," she says. "He really presaged that eventually there would be a connection between the federal government and a decentralized grassroots initiative." According to Mittlefehldt, MacKaye's biggest impact on policy was through his writing and public speaking and his connection with federal agency leaders to leverage support for the Trail.

Though MacKaye was criticized for neglecting details, it was the first ATC chairman Myron Avery's strategic thinking, says King, who sharpened the A.T. vision and played a vital role in completing the Trail in 1937 by focusing its mission on the footpath and its corridor. As the first president and cofounder of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) in 1927, he served as ATC chair from 1931 to 1952 and developed meaningful relationships with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. In addition, Avery campaigned for the Trailway Agreement of 1938, which gave the Trail official status among the federal network of public lands and was one precursor to the National Trails System Act of 1968.

But, once the Trail was completed in 1937 and the nation mobilized for World War II, the footpath slipped into disrepair



MYRON AVERY

1921
Regional planner and A.T. Visionary Benton MacKaye went public with his proposal for "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." He then spent years working his network of trail and government contacts from Washington to Boston.

1937
ATC chairman Myron Avery's strategic thinking played a vital role in completing the Trail by focusing its mission on the footpath and its corridor. Avery campaigned for the Trailway Agreement of 1938, which gave the Trail official status among the federal network of public lands and was one precursor to the National Trails System Act of 1968.

1945
ATC board member Daniel Hoch proposes a national trail system as an amendment to a highway aid act, which cemented the idea of the Trail as a federal public good.

1961
Stan Murray became the ATC's chair and focused on expanding the organization's membership from a few hundred to thousands to demonstrate that there was political justification to back the Trail and, in 1963, commissioned the Potomac A.T. Club (PATC) to spearhead a lobbying campaign in D.C.

1965
The "Conservation Congress" passes the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), which funded land acquisition for public lands from off-shore oil leases. More than $200 million from the LWCF has been appropriated so far to conserve the A.T. landscape and viewshed.

1968
With help from Lady Bird Johnson, President Johnson signed the National Trails System Act into law, 47 years after MacKaye's original proposal for the Trail was published.

1978
After ATC members testified at hearings and committees on Capitol Hill, and wrote hundreds of letters to lawmakers, the Appalachian Trail bill was signed by President Carter cementing the ATC as a leader in the national trails and conservation movement.

2008
Senator Alexander and Representative Price helped secure the funds to purchase a precious 10,000-acre tract of land on the Tennessee-North Carolina border that is a crucial enhancement of the A.T. treadway and viewshed. Of that, 2,076 acres now make up Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park 10 miles from Erwin, Tennessee.

2020
ATC staff, volunteers, and members continue to advocate for the Trail with a voice on Capitol Hill and supporters from Georgia to Maine and beyond to ensure the A.T.'s protection for future generations.

RAY HUNT AND STAN MURRAY



from a lack of volunteers and maintenance, creeping vegetation, civilization, and natural disasters, including a 1938 hurricane that pummeled the Northeast and ravaged the Trail, closing hundreds of miles of the footpath. Not only was development encroaching on the path, but hundreds of miles of the route still followed roadways. Those forces and the state of the treadway were enough for advocates to realize that they couldn't rebuild and protect its future by themselves. They needed politicians to help them.

Daniel Hoch was among the first to propose a national trail system in 1945 as an amendment to a highway aid act. The one-term representative from Pennsylvania — an avid hiker, Trail-club president, and ATC board member — proposed an amendment calling for an authorized "national system of foot trails" that would have provided $50,000 annually for land acquisition. Avery testified at the hearing and argued that the A.T. was a national project, "rather than 14 separate projects, which might have 14 different and varying policies." It failed, along with another similar bill in 1948 that Hoch had a friend introduce, but cemented the idea of the Trail as a federal public good.

King said that, while not much happened in the 1950s, support for federal involvement in conservation whipped up in the 1960s. Stan Murray became the ATC's chair in 1961 and focused on expanding the organization's membership from a few hundred to thousands to demonstrate that there was political justification to back the Trail. The organization also became more savvy in its lobbying and public relations efforts. Following a day of hiking in Maine in the late summer of 1963, Murray formulated an effort to garner federal support for the Trail and commissioned the PATC to spearhead a lobbying campaign in D.C. since Murray lived in Tennessee. A committee was formed and chaired by Walter Boardman of the Nature Conservancy and supported by volunteers of the PATC, including Ed Garvey and Jean Stephenson, who lived within striking distance of congressional offices. According to a forthcoming history of putting the Trail in place, by Tom Johnson, the legislation might not have succeeded without Murray's "troops on the ground" in Washington, who visited congressional offices, attended hearings, and presented facts about how the Trail would benefit elected officials' constituents. "They were educated, dogged, and concerned citizens," says King. "They were skilled at knowing what they were talking about and presented the information in a way that resonated."

Their timing was right. The lawmakers they met in 1964 were members of the "Conservation Congress" that passed landmark rules to protect the environment, such as the Wilderness Act and Clean Air Act. Murray's committee drafted legislation in 1964 that established the A.T. as a federal interest. In 1965, hearings were held about their proposal in September that focused on ATC-led testimony from volunteers. Over the next few years, several bills to create a national scenic trail system were introduced. Thanks to help from Lady Bird Johnson, who convinced her husband's administration to embrace it enthusiastically, Republican Representative Roy Taylor of North Carolina's 1967 bill eventually made its way to President Johnson's desk, where he signed, on October 2, 1968, the National Trails System Act into law, 47 years after MacKaye's original proposal for the Trail was published. The act designated the A.T. and the Pacific Crest Trail as the first national scenic trails. While the Pacific Crest Trail was mostly on public land (but not fully blazed), only one-third of the A.T. was on public land.

There's no doubt that the 1968 act was monumental, but King says that the act's 1978 amendment — known as the Appalachian Trail bill — was more consequential. Driven by ATC discontent with the pace of land purchases to protect the corridor, its membership activated to light a fire under Congress and its public agencies. Members testified at hearings and committees on Capitol Hill, and wrote hundreds of letters to lawmakers. In March 1978, President Carter signed the bill directing the National Park Service to proactively buy lands and provided a budget to do it. "It would not have happened without the congressional pressure to get it done," says King. "There wouldn't be much of a corridor without it." Not only that, it cemented the ATC as a leader in the national trails and conservation movement.

A VOICE ON THE HILL

Another historic law of the Conservation Congress was the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) of 1965, which funded land acquisition for public lands from off-shore oil leases. In all, more than $200 million from the LWCF has been appropriated to conserve the A.T. landscape and viewshed. Much of that charge to appropriate funds from the LWCF to the Trail was led by the ATC's longest serving CEO, Dave Startzell. He joined the ATC in 1978 and directed the organization from 1986 to early 2012. Throughout his career at the ATC, Startzell led a group of volunteers each spring to Washington, D.C., to brief members of Congress and channel funds to support it.

Among the slices of tracts conserved through the LWCF is Rocky Fork in Tennessee that was acquired over a seven-year period and completed in 2015 with the support of several legislators, including Tennessee Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker (retired), Representative David Price of North Carolina, and Representative Phil Roe of Tennessee. Price, a member of the A.T. Caucus (whose bipartisan mission is to unite members of the U.S. House of Representatives in working together to sustain and protect the Trail), grew up in the Appalachian Trail Community of Erwin, Tennessee, not far from the iconic balds of the Roan Highlands. (The caucus was cofounded by A.T. enthusiasts, Representatives Don Beyer of Virginia and Phil Roe of Tennessee and previously included new White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.)



Sunbeams after a storm in Rocky Fork State Park, Tennessee Photo by Jerry Greer



A.T. – Roan Mountain, Tennessee/ North Carolina – courtesy of the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association

For his part, Price isn't looking for political points; after all, his constituents in central North Carolina have plenty of other concerns besides the A.T. But he has a deep affection for the Trail, so much so, that when Price thinks back to a three-day hike up the south face of Roan Mountain with his college-bound son in 1991, he tears up. "I grew up on the Trail," Price told me. He also fondly recalls time spent with high school pals wandering the Trail as teenagers and then reconnecting during college. While some may hike the A.T. to escape, for Price the The Trail remains a footpath to his history and home.

So, it's not surprising that Democratic Representative Price shares a tight connection with Senator Alexander, a Republican who also loves the Trail. The two legislators have been champions for the A.T. in their decades-long attention to the ATC's advocacy in D.C. Together, the pair helped secure the funds to purchase a precious 10,000-acre tract of land on the Tennessee-North Carolina border that is a crucial enhancement of the A.T. treadway and viewshed, and allowed a four-mile relocation of the Trail to a much-improved route. Two-thousand-and-seventy-six acres now make up Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park 10 miles from Erwin; the rest was added to Cherokee National Forest. Price believes that its protection was because of a strong partnership among a range of organizations with both sides of Congress. "The A.T. is a unique resource for the nation and one that isn't going to be automatically protected," says Price. "No matter how much you love the Trail, sometimes you have to organize to protect it to make sure the resource is secure."

While Price and Alexander are easy to convince of the value of the A.T. and why it should be protected — like such others as Senators Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Richard Burr of North Carolina, and Tim Kaine of Virginia (an A.T. hiker for decades) — some lawmakers are not so easily swayed. That's why the ATC has for nearly two decades participated in the annual "Hike the Hill" in February, when national scenic trail advocates from across the nation converge on Washington and knock on congressional doors to continually remind them why they should support the A.T. and other trails around the country. The ATC's goal in the nation's capitol as well as back home in the states is to broaden and deepen relationships with more potential federal champions as well as craft stronger coalitions to protect the Trail.

And while Sommerville and other ATC staff have become pros at educating legislators of the A.T.'s value, they're not in D.C. That's the reason the ATC has established an advocacy office in D.C. "We have been doing this since day one. It was a radical act of advocacy to get this trail done," says the ATC's director of federal policy and legislation, Brendan Mysliwiec. "We created this system. We wrote this act. But we have to be physically present to send our message. Our relevance depends on us being here."

What the A.T. community has had in droves for years, Mysliwiec points out, is "everyday activism," whether that's repairing stairs on the treadway or speaking with local officials. His job, he explains, is to "be loud, proud, and clear and concise in our messaging to make sure that every inch of the Trail and surrounding landscape is protected for all and forever." After all, no one volunteer has the time to visit multiple congressional offices, federal agencies, and partner organizations. His job is to make sure that federal decision-makers are aware of the Trail's needs and that meeting them also helps meet other community needs within their states and districts. He's continuing a decades-long tradition of synthesizing the Trail's grassroots engagement and activism — fueled by volunteerism — into professional advocacy for broad federal policy.

Currently, Mysliwiec is working on congressional appropriations, including getting a much-needed boost for the A.T. National Park office; promoting the importance of public participation and the necessity of state involvement in federal decision-making via the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act; and securing passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, addressing critical deferred maintenance needs and permanently releasing the congressionally-authorized level of money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

King points out that having boots on the ground in the capitol helps the leadership of the ATC focus on other vital tasks, such as maintaining sound finances or implementing landscape conservation projects. It also continues a long tradition between the ATC and the federal government, which he says, have "always been joined at the hip." The ATC will continue to pave the way for the vast network of volunteers that have been the bedrock of the Appalachian Trail for decades and to ensure a forceful and tenacious voice for the future.



■ ILLUSTRATION BY ART LIEN

U.S. FOREST SERVICE VS COWPASTURE

ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020 THE U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *United States Forest Service, et al. v. Cowpasture River Preservation Association*. The focus of the litigation is the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline that would bring fracked natural gas from West Virginia into Virginia and North Carolina. While much of the news coverage around the case has centered on potential injury to the A.T., due to the hard work of Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), we do not believe either the A.T. or its viewshed will be significantly impacted by the construction of the pipeline. The real threat posed by the litigation is to the Cooperative Management System, sketched out in 1925, enabled in 1968 by the National Trails System Act, and painstakingly negotiated by the ATC, A.T. maintaining clubs, and the federal and state governments over the past 100 years.

The A.T. is a unit of the National Park Service, meaning that it is as much a national park as Glacier or Yosemite. It is, however, a "linear park," not a "square park," because it was designed to pass through other federal, state, and private lands. The beauty and intent of the National Trails System Act is that, by enabling national trails to traverse other federal units, it would enhance their recreational value without diminishing or confusing their management responsibilities or authorities. In the 52 years since the Trails Act became law, the participants in the system have successfully adhered to this idea, without encountering significant internal or external conflict.

"Cowpasture" has unexpectedly called into question the division of responsibilities and authorities held by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, and, by extension, all the day-to-day managers and maintainers of the A.T. In the case, on one side, non-maintaining environmental organizations argue that three statutes, including the Trails Act, interlock to transfer all authority over the Trail in the George Washington National Forest to the National Park Service; on the other side, the U.S. government says if the Act had been meant to do that, it would explicitly say so. The ATC has submitted a brief to the Supreme Court imploring it to keep the Cooperative Management System in place as it existed before the litigation started. When the case is decided later this year, the ATC will explain what the decision says and how the Cooperative Management System will be impacted.

Art Lien has been going where cameras cannot since 1977. His main beat is sketching the U.S. Supreme Court for NBC News and SCOTUSblog. He also posts to his personal blog at: **courtartist.com**



View of of Mount Garfield from the A.T. – New Hampshire
Photo by Raymond Salani III

IN THE REALM OF THE A.T., YOUR VOICE AND YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

■ BY LEANNA JOYNER

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL FOSTERS A SENSE OF FREEDOM. FREEDOM TO ROAM AND TO WANDER, AND TO BREATHE DEEP IN THE OPEN, FRESH WIND. IT'S THE COUNTERBALANCE, WHERE YOU FEEL SMALL AMONG THE TREES BUT FULLY EMBODIED IN THE WILD SPACES HELD WITHIN THE REALM OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL. Like so many other freedoms we enjoy in the United States, this one exists because of civic engagement. The Trail itself was born on the backs of visionaries who could first believe in and then build a Trail over great distance. Like all great movements, the work of the people must be continued in order to be effective.

While this work happens through the essential tasks of routine maintenance, it also occurs through less tactile actions. Things like working with people who may share different perspectives on A.T. management (we call that partnership), or keeping big-picture goals at the top of our minds, allowing us to collectively realize the dream of this continuously protected footpath. From advocating for the full funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or working on legislation to address backlogged maintenance needs for National Parks and Forest Service lands, these large-scale priorities are stock in the future of the A.T.

CIVIC ACTION

Just like a steady friendship or a successful marriage, if taken for granted, the work of caring for the Trail — and keeping it protected forever, for all — is at stake. The passion for the Appalachian Trail runs deep, so it's essential that there be an equal emphasis in action, which can take shape in a number of ways, for individuals or groups:

❶ **Apply the energy felt for the Trail to give back in some way.** Respond to an Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) action alert, sign your organization on to an ATC letter to a member of Congress, explore ways to make an impact to support the A.T., just like one would plan a hike.

❷ **Teach someone — bring someone along.** Share the Appalachian Trail. If you're an experienced hiker or maintainer, invite someone new — maybe even someone you don't already count as a friend — to join in this activity.

❸ **Be intentional about having conversations with A.T. protection as the centerpiece.** Whether it's sharing information about the Trail and landscape and how to protect it, discussing the best ways to develop local economies, or actively responding to planning efforts of local, state, or federal decision makers, being willing to engage is central to supporting all that the A.T. stands for. It is these kinds of discussions, sometimes focused on a discrete goal, and sometimes held to foster understanding of perspectives and impacts felt throughout the A.T. network that are a hallmark of the Trail.

In the realm of the A.T., your voice matters. Like the democracy of this nation, your action is linked to something bigger. For many of us, the first time we cast our ballot was pivotal moment in actualizing our part of the fabric and function of local, state, and federal decisions. Similarly, we hope that anyone's first introduction to the A.T. inspires that sense of belonging and purpose. Like a hike, advocacy isn't always easy; there may be rain, mud, hunger, and exhaustion, which requires us to reset our sights on that which is onward and upward. Care is a commodity for the Trail, whether it's your voice, your dollars, or your time. We hope you'll join us — on the next summit — as we approach 100 years of this idea of the Appalachian Trail.

Make a plan to support the Trail at:
volunteer.appalachiantrail.org

Leanna Joyner is the ATC's program director of Volunteer Relations

2000 MILERS

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 (ATC) since last spring. ¶ Congratulations to all 1,159 determined hikers who reported their completion of the entire Appalachian Trail in 2019. ¶ For the fourth 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 Slovakia and China. ¶ 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

NORTHBOUND° 739
FLIP FLOP° 146
SOUTHBOUND° 102
SECTION HIKER° 172



2019

Abramovitz Sarah / *Sonic the Hedgehog*
Accetta Tom / *Handstand*
Adams Steve / *Mighty Blue*
Adamski Sara / *Sugar*
Adcock Cody / *Sweet Life*
Adkinson Gralyn / *Wait-up*
Adkinson Mae / *Catch-up*
Allega Charles / *Canoe*
Allega Samuel / *Leaf Picker*
Allen Kam / *Aladdin*
Allen Valerie / *Tinkertoy*
Alvarez Joanne and Rusty / *Dorothy & Toto*
Alves Elena / *Black Widow*
Amphlett Katy / *Ms. Frizzle*
Anderson Garrett / *Lucky Penny*
Anderson Jennifer / *Valkyrie*
Anderson Richard / *Captain*
Anderson Savannah / *Snake Eyes*
Andreano Christopher / *Gringo Loco*
Appaneal Sandee / *In A Day*
Apperson Pat / *App*
Artman Allison /
Arzigian Jim / *Catnapper*
Atkins Philip / *Mr. T*
Aug Audrey / *Rooster*
Axmith Max / *Salty*
Azzolina Christina / *Burrito*
Babcock Ryan / *Scooby*
Baczek Pete / *Sneaks*
Baden Hal / *Recall*
Bailey Steve / *Urgent Cathole*
Baird Ben / *Whistler*
Baker Shad / *Shadrach*
Baker William / *Hound*
Baker Bill /
Bakke Olivia / *MamaLion*
Bakkum Eric / *Faircaster*
Baldwin Andrew / *Shanty*
Balla Parker / *Crunchy*
Ballard Debra / *Chilly Bin*
Banuelos Amy / *Mouser*
Bardsley Brian / *Smiley*
Bare CJ / *Kickstand*
Baron Scott / *Double Check*
Barr David / *Classik Rock*
Barry Michaeleen / *Sleeves*
Bartholomew Ben / *White Bread*
Bassett Meagan / *Tater*
Baudisch Susanne / *Flowers*
Bauer Michael / *White Cloud*
Becker Dominik / *Twice*
Begg Charlie / *Aloha*
Bela Sasha / *Touch Up*
Bell Mike / *Roadrunner*
Benerofe Scott / *Aquaman*
Berger Andy / *Stump*
Berry Shane / *Speedy G*
Berryhill Jim / *Colorado*
Billingsley Charles / *Popeye*
Birchall Lucy / *Hermione*
Blake Olivier / *Fastball*
Blanchard Christian / *Fresh Legs*
Blatch Joe / *Professor*
Blevins John / *Sweetwater*
Blouin Mank Christy / *Puddles*
Bodtorf Dr. Karl / *Yet2b*
Bogart Christine / *ButtShot*
Boggs Adam / *Storm Chaser*
Boice Rachel / *Nav*
Boixel-Streiff Claire / *Fake Canadian*
Bolek Ben / *Crusher*
B Sara / *Safety Chute*
Boster Roger / *Red*
Bosworth James / *Morph*
Bosworth Jenny / *Womble*
Bourke Eliza / *Jellybean*
Bouvier Martin / *Energizer Turtle*
Boyce Denny / *Zoomie*
Boyle Logan / *Crotchadile*
Boysen Drew / *Scooby*
Braaten Christine / *Squeegie*
Bradley Catherine / *SoFarSoGood*
Bradley Jonathan / *Compass*
Brandon James / *Walden*
Brashler Suzie / *Buckles*
Brauer Ian / *Daredevil*
Braun Logan / *Spici Boi*
Braunlich David / *Seventy*
Bredthauer Ella / *Orange Pig*
Bregg Donovan / *Moss*
Breslin Jacob / *Scrubadub*
Brewer Brian / *Gray*
Brewer Lauren / *Wren*
Briley Brittany / *Mooney*
Brinkman Donna / *Fern*
Brock Tyler / *Yukon*
Brooks Brantley /
Brooks Ronald / *Statler*
Brower Jack / *Smudge*
Brown Chad / *Balto*
Brown Doug / *Spiderman*
Brown James / *Theory*
Brown Kaylin / *Moxie*
Brown Kevin / *Spoons*
Brown Matthew / *Tales*
Brown Steven / *Gucci Bear*
Brownmiller Candice / *Montana*
Brundage Randall / *Moss Man*
Bryant David / *Nametag*
Bryant Nolen Belle / *Froggy*
Bučány Miloš / *Shania*
Buehler Steven / *Shpillow*
Burkholder Leonard / *Scooter*
Burnell Joey / *Hot Toddy*
Burns Kristy / *Wander Women*
Burton Craig / *Good News*
Bush Jamie / *Captain Obvious*
Byers Sarah / *Popsicle*
Caldwell Keith / *McDouble*
Caldwell Kristi / *Pace Car*





Callahan Ralph / *Doormat*
Callahan Will / *iron will*
Campbell Susan / *stray cat*
Cangelosi Frank / *Silver Lining*
Cangelosi Michaelanne / *Willow*
Cann Taylor / *Lifesaver*
Canning Rachel / *Top Knot*
Capes Connor / *Neo*
Carangelo Kelly / *Butter Bear*
Carley Jason /
Carlson John / *Old Man River*
Carlson Wayne / *RALI - Retired And Lovin' It*
Carper Matthew / *Herby*
Carrese Chris / *Darth Duck*
Carros Andrew / *Prometheus*
Carter Gregory / *Casanova Slim*
Carter Timothy David /
Caruso Pamela / *Starcrunch*
Cassidy Matthew / *Snowbird*
Casteen Jeffrey / *Spoons*
Cathcart Kimberly / *Shortcake*
Cathcart Matthew / *Slerner*
Cawley Stephane / *Swiss Miss*
Cebryk Caitie / *Gossip Girl*
Ceccon Christian / *Drover*
Celmer Kurt / *Brave Little Toaster*
Chandler Savannah / *Spacejam*
Chapman John / *Johnny Appleseed*
Cheung Ben / *Mission*
Cheung Lilian / *Noon Noodle*
Chlad Matthew / *Old Canadian*
Christensen Devin / *Twinkle Toes*
Church Maggie / *Bahama Mama*
Cipriano Jonathan / *2 Dinners*
Clark Anthony / *Semi*
Clark Gary / *True*
Clawson Perry / *DoubleShot*
Clements Katie / *Peanut*
Cleveland Amelia / *Patches!*
Cline Christopher / *Cottonwood*
Cline Jim / *Just Jim*
Clodfelter Bryson / *SHAGGY Cobweb*
Cohen Timothy / *Goose*
Colantonio Jonathan / *VoxNoctem*
Colburn Mike / *Bassman*
Colquhoun Alice / *Leaves*
Colvin Jeff / *Jabez*
Colynuck Michael / *Great Scot!*
Comins Brittany / *Flickertail*
Comte Alexander / *Compton*
Coners Jeffrey / *Jstroke*
Connors Mike / *Motley Crew*
Connors Nancy / *Motley Crew*
Cooney Jr. Edward M. / *SpEd*
Corbit Blake / *Apollo*
Corkran Ed / *Cayenne*
Corliss Avery / *GoGurl*
Corliss Braden / *Blue Skies*
Cornett Nicholas / *The Wandering Kiltsman*
Cotts Chris / *Otter*
Cox Jon / *Butt Puppet*
Crawford Jessie / *Supergirl*
Cressey John / *Camelback Santa*
Cromie Kristin / *Spice*
Cross John / *Shambler*
Crowe David / *Elf*
Csutka István / *Camino Steve*
Curran Robert / *Trigger*
Currier Alex / *Knick Knack*
Currin Grayson / *Gunner*
Currin Tina / *Cash Money*
Curtis Wayne / *Nightingale*
Cutshall Samuel / *Resident Daddy*
Dale Shannon / *Airborne*
Dalrymple Debbie / *Sea Eagle*
Daly Linda / *Karma*
Dando Roy / *Sherpa*
Danko James / *Houdini*
Danyew John / *ABENAKI*
D'Arezzo Mark / *M & M*
Dassoulas Joe / *Flapjack*
Davidson Marla / *Fancy Feast*
Davini Nicholas / *Lord Hobo*
Davis David / *ADD*
Davis Joshua / *Trashcan*
Davis Toney / *Willey Long Shadow*
Dawson Aubrey / *Rabbit Foot*
de Boer Karen / *Treecycler*
de Boer Sipke / *Kikker*
De Guzman Alexander / *Cosmos*
De Paz James / *Glow Worm*
Deal Nathan / *Whoosh*
Dearinger Jeremiah / *Cave Man*
Debusschere Benjamin / *Buttons*
DeClercq Mark / *Slip 'n Slide*
Defer Chuck / *Early*
DeFrancesc Mike / *Capone*
Delude Mark / *AG*
Demeku-Ousman Amar / *Bolt*
Demel Annette / *Wander Women*
DeMeule Dave / *Wanderer*
Deutsch Jessica / *Turbo Snail*
Devine Patrick / *Beer*
Devine Tarah / *Burgers*
Devlin Nick / *Boom*
Diemler Kyle / *Cake*
Diggs Thomas / *Tennessee*
Dimitroff Lucy / *Plumorchard*
Dobbie Scott / *Target*
Docka Jamie / *Gourmet*
Dodge David / *Maverick*
Dollard Deborah / *SunDial*
Domotor Alec / *NASH*
Donnan Ben / *Ozy*
Dooling TJ / *Tijuana*
Douthat Dale / *Navigator*
Dow Elaine / *Which/*Witch-Way
Dowdle Ryan / *Pineapple*
Drake Christopher / *Duck*
Drees Bruce / *Badass*
Driskill Catherine / *Midnight*
Drury Thornton / *Redline*
Dugan Barry /
Dugan Nami /
Duink Scott / *Sarasota Scott*
Duncanson William / *Summit*
Dunford Michael / *Honey Bun*
Dupont Richard / *Goat*
Dupras John / *Trigger*
Duprow Chris / *Polar Bear*
Dyer Alex / *Red Wiggler*
Dziewiatkowska Agnes / *Timon*
Eanes Samuel / *TreeBreaker*
Eastman Will / *Flipper*
Edgett Yvonne / *Chef Cocoa*
Edmiston Lynn / *Wander Women*
Egan Daniel / *Wicked*
Eggleston Nate / *Rabid Raccoon*
Elswick Dawn / *Stormtrooper/*Stormy
Emmet II Christopher / *JR*
Enders Ashley / *Boomer*
Erkes Gary / *Hopscotch*
Erkes Mary / *déjà vu*
Ernenwein Amy Jo / *Which Way*
Esbin Allison / *Forrest*
Estee Stephen / *Skip*
Estrada John / *Papa John*
Evans Will / *Jeopardy*
Ewing Lincoln / *Hat Trick*
Farmer Cameron / *LaF*
Farnsworth Neil / *7th Rocket*
Fattorini Peter / *Space Rock*
Fellers Andrew / *Mange*
Fellers Katerina / *The Wizard*
Ferda Bradley / *Twenty*
Fernandez Gelasio / *Halo*
Ferrara Chris / *Workshop*
Fiedler Kristen / *Sidewinder*
Filor Glenn / *No Keys*
Finney William / *Locks*
Fischer Alex / *Whiskey Peach*
Fisher Bradford / *Spacey*
FitzGerald Evan / *Peach Fuzz*
Fitzgerald Justina / *Unicorn*
Fitzgerald Ted / *J-Rock*



Fitzpatrick Benjamin / *Blacksmith*
FitzPatrick Joanne / *Birkie*
Fitzpatrick John / *Spark Notes*
Fleetwood Cheryl / *Tigerlily*
Fleming Laura / *Moxie*
Fleming Tony / *Big Chief*
Flippo Kyle / *Snap*
Flores Mariesa / *Skeetr*
Floyd John / *Survivor*
Forster Günter / *Reset*
Forster Kristin / *Ding Dong*
Foster Shane / *5-Plate*
Foster Stephen / *Endgame*
Fournier Marianne / *Frenchy*
Fowler Allison / *Belly*
Fowler Jessica / *1st Gear*
Fowler Lewis / *Doc*
Fox Jacob / *Scribbles*
Fox Nicole / *Oats*
Franks Kyle / *Wildcard*
Freeman Andrea / *Letters*
Freeman Laurie / *Lady Dundee*
Fricchione Michael / *McFly*
Fritz Terrance / *Flip Switch*
Fugere Zack / *Little Bear*
Fuller Garner / *Survivor*
Funt Devon / *Wildlife*
Gannon Amanda / *Ax(olotl)*
Garcia Rafael / *Two Tone*
Gardner Alex / *Bushman*
Gardner Maggie / *Skittles*
Garrett Justin / *Oatmeal*
Garrigus Allison / *ONWARD*
Gates Dennis / *TURKish*
Geffert C. Darren / *DeeDawg*
Geidel Michael / *Polar Bear*
Geidel Sharon / *Super Squirrel*
Gertz Marie / *Wonder Twin*
Giannini MW / *Walle*
Gilchrist Heather / *Strong Lap*
Giles Averie / *Peep Show*
Gillespie Robert / *Highwayman*
Gilliland Ali / *Blue Jay*
Girard Jean-Pierre / *2 Speeds*
Gladstein Julia / *Puma*
Glenn Helen / *Rocket*
2019 / */ Pineapple*
Godbey Garrett / *Terminator*
Goff Slater / *Ahab*
Golden Erin / *Pipes*
Golden Tom / *Sweat Lodge*
Gonda Princess Rebekah /
Gonda Susan Katherine /
Goodman Becca / *Rattles*
Goodman Tyler / *Nomad*
Goodrich Lydia / *Trash Panda*
Gordon Julian / *Hemingway*
Gordon Kevin / *Artisan*
Gorges Andreas / *FlowerMan*
Goudreault James / *Stretch*
Gould Collette / *Goldie*
Graf Jon / *Spaghetti Monkey Arms*
Graf Liam S /
Graf Stephen C /
Gramlick Jeff / *Farmer*
Grant Rebecca / *Zen Dragon*
Graves Greg / *Hawkeye*
Greway Darren / *Valley Forge*
Grissom Lindsey / *Birthday Girl*
Groves Andrea / *Triple Knot*
Gsellmeier Reinhard / *Opa*
Guertler Josh / *D-Day*
Guilfoyle Kevin / *Tri Man*
Gunning Bruce / *Papa*
Guyette Alex / *Gandy*
Hagan Lauren / *Tadpole*
Haggard David / *Tortoise*
Hahn Elizabeth / *Sauce*
Haigh Nicole / *Orange*
Halasz III Stephen / *Mr. President*
Hale Jeffrey / *Lightning Bolt*
Haley Tracy / *Candyman*
Halfpenny MC / *Ponce de Leon*
Hall Stephen / *Cold Brew*
Halu Josh / *Ranger*
2019 / *Turtle and Pup /*
Hanlon Kevin / *OTB*
Hansen Kevin / *Freight Train*
Hardin Kylie / *Sprinkles*
Hardy Jeff / *Blackbeard*
Harness James / *Doc*
Harris Jamie / *Saucy*
Harris Jessi / *Mercury*
Harris Margaret / *Nana*
Harris Scott / *Scotch*
Harrison Jeff / *Smoochie*
Harsant Stewart / *Decade*
Hashey Edward / *Hashinator*
Hathcock Weda / *WhyNot*
Hauser Anne / *Driftwood*
Haymaker Holley / *S. Otter*
Healy Dan / *Tar*
Heck Sarah / *Kaleidoscope*
Hecker Brian / *Triple A*
Heffington Leslie / *Jaywalk*
Herbert Jordan / *Yogi*
Hernandez Brandi / *Sparky*
Hernandez Juan / *Trash Panda*
Hernandez Marco / *Marco Polo*
Hernandez Megan / *Morning Star*





Herzich Christina / *Squirrel*
Hetterly Mark / *Sky Bird*
Hetzner Zach / *Red Owl*
Hexter Linda / *Tiny*
Hill Lynn / *Cold Chill*
Hines Linda / *G-PAC*
Hitchcock Preston / *Falcon*
Hite Kevin / *Indiana Jones*
Hockensmith Ben / *THE BEN*
Hoden Roger / *Grumper*
Hoffman Samuel A. / *Blaze of Glory*
Holland Patrick / *Basic*
Hollis Carin / *Yarrow*
Holmes Ria / *Jozi*
Holmes Michelle / *Northstar*
Holmes Trevor / *Howzit*
Holston Ann / *Mama Raven*
Holston Joon / *Whisper*
Holston Will / *Bling*
Hood Doug / *Mustard*
Horn Ryne / *Pusher*
Hoskins Mary Anne / *No Commitments*
Hosterman Sophia / *Jazz Hands*
Howard Kevin / *Martha Stewart*
Howard Thomas / *One Arm*
Howbert Brady / *Fridge*
Howell Cody / *Raiden*
Humphrey Tim / *Second Wind*
Huskey Lewis / *Balls Out!*
Hutchinson Rob / *Mo*
Huxley Zachary / *Fruit Basket*
Hwang JaeHong / *Gallant*
Iacopino Dominic / *Poet*
Isenhour Gregory / *Changin'*
Isfort Chris / *Woodford*
Jackson Diana / *Little Debbie*
Jacoby Tina / *Webby*
Janson Melody / *Gingerbread*
Janvrin Brice / *Keys*
Jones Iain / *Long Legs*
Jones Molly
Jones Rusty / *Pinky*
Jones Sam / *Scarecrow*
Jones Fred / *Slumgum*
Jordan Miles / *Angsty Cricket*
Judd Andy / *Snowman*
Julia / *Roo*
Kahn Ana / *Hufflepuff*
Kaminer Anton / *Brooklyn*
Kampf Bret / *Deadpool*
Kane Erin / *Buttercup*
Kannel Alex / *Gumby*
Kapp Mary / *River*
Kater April / *Big Bear*
Kaufman Conrad / *Coca Cola Jones*
Keckley Adam / *Dog Whisperer*
Kegan Ross / *Mufasa*
Kellerman David / *Kilroy*
Kellogg Sandy / *BAMA - Bad Ass Mama*
Kennedy Melody / *Brother*
Kenyon Tom / *Why Not*
Kessel Rachel / *Torch*
Key Greg / *The Traveler*
Khalsa Dev Amrit K. / *Henrietta*
Kidd Anthony / *K-Town*
Kincade Patrice / *Coach Ten Bear*
Kinkley Jarrod / *Spreadsheet*
Kirk John / *Lighthouse*
Kjartansdóttir Arnifiður / *Viking*
Klein Michael / *Campfinder*
Klinowski Carl / *Mammoth*
Knickrehm Ron / *Good Samaritan*
Koch Dan / *Deathmarch*
Kochinke Katharina / *Trail Chef*
Kohler Stefan / *Kodachrome*
Kokko Venla / *Sneaky Pockets*
Konopka Ken / *Freebird*
Koogler Jeremy / *Flow*
Kralik Tate / *Flannel*
Kranzusch Jason / *Villain*
Kroebl Ray / *Sparky*
Kryszczuk Kara / *Crosscut*
Kulisz Michał / *Shakespeare*
Kusper Matthew / *Green Bean*
Kutyna Josh / *Huggs*
LaChance Taylor / *Trillium*
Lacman Louis / *Diggs*
LaGaisse Curtis / *IcePack*
Laib Andy / *Hot Knife*
Lamley Timothy / *Grok*
Lang Michael / *Pumpkin*
Lashley Brent / *Flamingo*
Latimer Steven C. / *River*
Latona John / *Broadway*
Lécolier Anne-Florence / *Sticks*
Lehman Alisa / *Barking Dog*
Lehman Scott / *Bad Frodo*
Lemke Anthony / *Skilit*
Lesage Christian / *Bamboo*
Lesmerises William / *Crash*
Levy Jonathan / *Wildcard*
Lightner Gary / *Downhill*
Livingstone Timothy / *Frogga*
Lloyddaly John / *J.J.*
Logan Tom
Long Anthony / *Bodyparts*
Looper Scott / *Jimmy Trail*
Lowery Evelyn / *Dreamcatcher*
Lucas Michael / *Gandalf*
Luce Brett / *Pooh Bear*
Lumkes Rebekah / *Rev*
Luna Ricardo / *Airbud*
Luton Daniel / *Flash*
Luty Jessica / *Petra*
Lyons Matthew / *Schmutz*
Mack Erin / *TACO Money*
Macklin Lorin / *Trivia*
MacPhail Douglas / *Captain Ahab*
Magaha James / *Rush*
Mahalak Sunney / *SWAN DIVE*
Mallett Rachael / *Honey Bee*
Malone Chris / *Papa Bear*
Malone Harper / *The Sparkle Machine*
Malone Jamie / *Sunshine*
Malone John / *Near Miss*
Malone Josie / *Wild Jay*
Malone Maya / *HORSEPOWER*
Malone Sabina / *Sister Bunny*
Mancos Mike / *Hermes*
Manzhukh Ary / *Buster*
Markiewicz Rich / *41*
Marks Gary / *Principal*
Marshall Craig / *Buttahz*
Marshall Dustin / *Pukey*
Marshall Reid / *Wombat*
Martin Joel / *Lazarus*
Mason Wade / *Phaedrus*
Massey Ronda / *Jada*
Mathias Garrett / *Gollum*
Matiskella Paty / *Sisu*

Matosky Steve / *Trail Bear*
May Ken / *Phase II*
Mayberry John / *Caboose*
Maynard Lea / *27-Mile*
Mazerolle Brooks / *Booster*
Mazzochette Luke / *Mountain Calf*
McAuley Mary-Joy / *Happy Hour*
McCann James / *Duckhole*
McClyment Lauren / *Thumper*
McCrary Chase / *Oracle*
McDade Jason / *Silver Fox*
McDermott Kellan / *Nitro*
McDonald Charlotte / *Hawkbait*
McDonald Daniel / *Spider*
McDonald David / *MACK*
McDonald Liberty /
McDonald Ryan / *Shake*
McGowan Joshua / *Gravy*
McHenry Andrea / *Marble*
McKee Matthew / *Plank*
McKenna Zachary / *Wango Tango*
McKenzie Yvette / *Detour*
McKibbin James / *Wheels*
McLaughlin David / *Raven*
McMillan Pat / *Hummer*
McPeak William / *Billy Goat From Philly*
McQuagge Audrey / *CoPilot*
McQuagge Sean / *Chef*
McVeigh Chad
McWhorter Joseph / *Coco*
Meeks Curt / *The Colonel*
Meneses Ralph / *Pumbaa*
Messina Stephanie / *Seven*
Messmer Coulter / *Dr. Thunder*
Meusz Christine / *Siren*
Miceli Tim / *Timber*
Michaud Brian / *Polly*
Michel Keith / *Paris*
Mickelson Roy / *Big Heart*
Midkiff Steven / *Tabasco*
Milde Michael / *Smash Burger*
Miller Chad / *Pacemaker*
Miller David / *Baloo*
Miller Eli / *Ewok*
Miller Frederick / *Chef Boyardee*
Miller Jon / *Storm Buzzard*
Miller Kyle / *Physio*
Miller Michael / *Groove*
Miller Steve / *Jockey*
Mills Matthew / *ANCHOR*
Minor Elizabeth / *Catch-Up*
Mire Jennifer / *Moana*
Mizelle David / *P.Y.T.*
Mock Danny / *Nature Boy*
Moe Arthur Thaddeus / *SharpShin*
Molkentin Ryan / *Rastus*
Monahan Michael / *Grizzly Smurf*
Montaño Oscar / *Count*
Montgomery Jim / *Old Blue*
Moore Roger / *MacGyver*
Moore Savanna / *5 Leaf*
Morris Emma / *Kiwi / PeeWee*
Morris Heather / *Hatchet*
Morris Madeline / *Zucchini*
Mossengren Jamey / *Big Red*
Mosser Neil / *UNICEF*
Mount Shane / *Sir Mead*
Muellner Lisa / *Salamander*
Müller-Schwenty Frauke / *Skipper*
Mulvaney Greg / *Quest*
Murphy Austin / *Tex*
Murphy Chris / *Tag*
Murray Alice / *Princess March Fourth*
Murray Ken / *30+*
Murray Michael / *Go Forth*
Myers-Brown Carter / *Cold Stone*
Nabholz Aubrey / *Bumblebee*
Nagel Nathan / *Nagel from South Dakota (more)*
Nastali Brian / *Badass Butterfly*
Nelson Mark / *Nobros #1*
Nelson Michael / *NoBros #2*
Newel Madeline / *Photon*
Newton Ian / *Low-Fat*
Ngarotata and Blue Dean / *Sherpa*
Niederhofer Jamin
Niedermier Stephen / *Cowboy*
Noakes Aaron / *Eeyore*
Norman Charles / *Fix It*



Novick Emily / *Hawk*
Nyoro Kyle / *Chimney*
O'Boyle Kaitlin / *Sponge*
O'Brien Patrick / *FRÜT LOOPS*
O'Connell Shane / *Spicy*
Odvody Kathleen / *Kaleidoscope*
Ogden Erin / *Cricket*
O'Hara Frank / *Papa Roja*
Olin Jessica / *Nugget*
Oliver Daniel / *Sweet Feet*
O'Malley John / *Craft Beer*
O'Neil Wyatt / *Giggles*
Oneill Alexia / *Papercut*
Oppenheim Jerome / *The Other Guy*
Orzel Vince / *Odysseus*
Ostrouch Mike / *Diesel*
Overby Nicholes / *Scout Master*
Pace Paul / *Bart*
Palmer Stephanie / *Chuck Norris*
Pararo Kenneth / *Moron*
Park Sanders / *DK*
Parks Lucy / *Buffy*
Parrish Jordan / *Cheese Curd*
Patterson Lisa / *Cocoa*
Patton Lexi / *Tomatillo*
Peerson Caitlin / *Seed*
Pekarskiy Steve / *Baskets*
Pelletier Joseph / *Joe Cool*
Peng Stephen / *Scuba Steve*
Penn Ronald / *Curley*
Perkins Andrew / *Perk*
Pernsteiner Christine / *Cookie*
Pernsteiner Kris / *Sol*
Persson Marcus / *Not Swiss*
Peterson Will / *Sisyphus*
Phillips Anthony / *Super*
Philmlee Daniel / *Everview*
Pierce William / *Good Will*
Pike Chris / *Crash Bandicock*
Pilgrim Kristine / *ShockTop*
Pirnik Nik / *Ponykeg*
Pope Scott / *Steady*
Post James / *Cold Soak*
Potter Benjamin / *Puddles*
Potts Deserrae / *Early Bird*
Powell Randy / *McAfee*
Powell Smith / *T*
Pronovost Mathieu / *T-Rex*
Prowatzke Michael / *Boo Boo*
Pungirum John / *Leakz*
Pusey Kathryn / *Raven*
Putnam Lance / *Sage*
Quilis Isabelle / *Ninja*
Rail Brandon / *Sandpig*
Ramberg Shawn / *(Krazy) Glue*
Ramsey Cheryl / *Mystical*
Randall Jodi / *SocKNinja*
Rasmussen Stephanie / *Cherry*
Raynor Katie / *Poker Face*
Read Kate / *Bruiser*
Reichert Sydney / *Rocket*
Reilly Jeffry / *Thirstyboots*
Rex Tom / *T. Rex*
Rhoads Molly / *Sharktooth*
Ribi Wayne / *The Cricket*
Ricard Alan / *Ice-Fire*
Rice Robert / *OG Bob*
Richard Caroline / *Sweet*
Richards Andrew / *Speed Racer*
Richardson Kate / *Lavender*
Riley Rod / *Jack*
Roark Logan / *Toodles*
Robert Edward / *Jarhead*
Roberts Mackenzie / *Needle*
Roberts Tyler / *Gearz*
Robinson Charlie / *Mulligan*
Robinson Jessie / *Shine*
Rogers Charles / *Pilgrim*
Rohwer Michael / *Rebel*
Romako Philip / *Levi*
Rosati Cynthia / *Brave Heart*
Rosenbaum Emmett / *Keys*
Rucker Dustin / *Honest Abe*
Rudinsky Theodore / *Orange Crush*
Rudzitis Katharine / *Manhattan*
Rueckeis Cathleen / *Starfish Frubble*
Ruether Joshua / *Maple*
Runa
Ruggles Albert / *Ruggs*
Ruschak Laura / *Mountain Laurel*
Rushton John / *Noodle*
Russell Frank / *Loon Seeker*
Russell Melissa / *Phoenix Rising*
Rutherford Matthew / *Ghost*
Sabath Melanie / *Wildflower*
Sadler Dennis / *Woody*
Sadler Lisa / *Lil Bit*
Santiago Marina / *Brown Eyed Girl*
Sawyer Cody / *Dynamite*
Saylor Garrett / *Dog Treat*
Schafer Steve / *Holiday Inn Express*
Scherer Morgan / *Mojo*
Schexnayder Duane / *Tank*
Schimke Cedar
Schmidt Hunter / *Shin Splints*
Schoenle Elizabeth / *Pretzel*
Schools Ed / *Steady Eddie*
Schrameyer Robert / *Homebrew*
Schrimpl Carly / *The Trail Diva*
Schuring Savannah / *Chip*
Scribner Keenan / *Shaggy*
Seaver Brady / *TOP*
Sebastian Cole / *Captain Krispy*
Sedelbauer Harrison / *IcyHot*
Seger Dianne / *Lady Di*
Seiflein Dan / *Hiker Dan*
Semei Matthew / *Buckaroo*
Semrod Kelsey / *Jukebox*
Septor Jacob / *Pacquiao*
Sgorbati Ken / *Up & Over*
Shaban Alexander / *Dead Cat*
Shapiro Adam / *Captain Insano*
Sharfstein Howard / *Trail Musick*
Sharp Britta / *Better Together*
Sharp James / *Better Together*
Shawler Marcia / *Red Squirrel*
Sheehan Julia / *Rocket*
Shell Madeleine / *Torch*
Shen Mei / *Click*
Shepherd James / *Smash*
Shook Eddie / *Hawk*
Shuler Stephen / *Poppins*
Silva Francisco / *Xisco*
Silver Eli / *LightFoot*
Simms Daniel / *Point Break*
Simon Joseph / *The Jesus*
Simonds Kenneth / *Wayward*
Simonetti John / *Dead-pool*
Simpson Mike / *Q*
Singer Alexander / *Toto Frodo*
Sisk Gordon / *Grizzly*
Slocum Allan / *Storytime*
Slocum Kathy / *Rocket*
Smith Justin / *Storm Trooper*
Smith Katherine / *Up Dawg*
Smith Mat / *Cosmo*
Smith Richard / *RG*
Smith Travis / *Footloose*
Smithwood Kevin / *Crypter*
Smolinski Arthur / *Tic Toc*
Smyth Jesse / *Double Stuff/Fumbles*
Snider Charles /
Snyder Steven / *Resupply*
Sokol Zach / *Wobbles*
Solowes Daniel / *Solo*
Sowell Caleb / *Skinny Kid*
Specht-Bird Sarahmarie / *Passport*
Speckin Sean / *Orange Blaze*
Spittel Sara / *Cushy Life*
Spoon Ed / *Lost & Found*
Staley Mike / *Mad Tree*
Stam Claire / *Grit*
Stein Benjamin / *Snakes*
Steller Barbara / *Hansel*
Steller Ginny / *Gretel*
Stepanian Chloe / *Chai*
Still Greg
Stockton Nathan / *Turd Furgeson*



Stoffer Chris / *B-PAC*
Stopper Marco / *Whistler*
Strong Jared / *Ollie*
Stuart Joseph / *Free*
Stutzman Ben / *Emu*
SUN YOUDE / *Iphone*
Sundstrand Jesper / *Stumbler*
Sutherland Drew / *Smirk*
Sutton James / *Sgt Maj*
Swain Ikaika / *5'0'Clock*
Swain Whitney / *Fireball*
Swanson Mark / *Double T*
Swierkowski Matt / *Berserker*
Swift Gareth / *Tumbledore*
Sylvester Jason / *Frozen*
Szarpa Darryl / *Grumpy*
Taft Amy / *Muffit*
Taft Rob / *Johnnie Walker*
Talcott Courtney / *Lonebear*
Taylor Alan / *Fireplug*
Taylor Jon / *Chestnut*
Temple Tatum / *Puppet*
Terry Marcia / *Tumbler*
Terry Winston / *Ratman*
Thompson Ryan / *Goku*
Thornton Kathryn / *Shark Bait*
Thorpe Michael / *Hugs*
Thorson Zoë / *Mosey*
Tidwell John / *Jack Shepherd*
Tierney Aidan / *Showstopper*
Tironi Michael / *Tie*
Topken Randy / *deliriousNomad*
Torraca David / *Highlander*
Townley Aaron / *Snack Pack*
Trapp Peter / *Wotan*
Trimmer Patrick / *Roadrunner*
Trotter Dedra / *TROTTER*
Troughton Jeremy / *Thunder*
Troughton Julie / *Lightning*
Trout Heidi / *Firefly*
Trummer Madelyn / *Meatloaf*
Turner Rose / *Comics*
Uhler Craig / *Eight*
Umstead Tim / *Papa Raven*
Updegrave Dave / *The Governor*
Vachon Adam / *Chipmunk*
Van Etten JC / *Catmando*
VanBenthuysen Howard / *Jackrabbitt*
Vance Connor / *Tic Tac*
Vance Patrick / *Avatar*
Vancouver Kate / *Patches*
VanderPlate Zach / *Hurculeas*
Vartiainen Ilona / *Finnish Line*
Veal Andrew / *Ember*
Velasquez Julie / *Garden State*
Vickery Bill / *Water Hog*
Vickery Caleb / *Sweet Pea*
Vickery Ethan / *Weird beard*
Vickery Joshua / *Stinky feet*
Vieregge Tobias / *Goodun*
Vincent Crews / *Caboose*
Virjee Cameron / *Bob*
Vo Quang / *Moonshine*
Volz William / *Attrition*
Voorhorst Domenique / *Cheerleader*
Waddill Brandon / *Lung'r*
Walaszek Sheila / *Timex*
Walker Chris / *Dundee*
Walker Peri / *Mouse*
Walton Clio / *Happy*
Walton Jenna / *Baby Bear*
Walton Nicholas / *Peregrine*
Ward Larry / *Denali*
Ward Mark / *Mayor*
Washburn Abby / *Oreo*
Watt Brian / *Tartan*
Webb Caitlin / *Cricket*
Weber Christopher / *Tailgate*
Weill Alan / *PopRocks*
Werries Madison / *Sneak Attack*
Weston Rick / *Stiff Upper Lip*
Whatley Will / *Porcupine*
Whigham Kyle / *K2*
Whitacre Lori / *Strider*
Whitcomb Devin / *Yoshi*
White Larry / *Mohawk*
White Dudley / *DoRight*
White Bo / *BBQ*
Wicklund Russell / *Orange Blaze*
Wicklund Russell / *Wagon Hammer*
Widrick Laurissa / *Data*
Wilkins Melissa / *BeanJar*
Williams Eliza / *2 Blade*



Williams Heather / *Applejack*
Williams Jake / *Earth Shaker*
Williams Steven / *Count*
Willingham Mackintosh / *Spanky*
Wills Jeff / *In-Tow*
Wills Molli / *Keepin On*
Willson-Kerns Cory / *Bacon*
Wilmarth Megan / *Rascal*
Wilson Elizabeth / *Navigator*
Wilson Lisa / *Willow*
Windmueller Daniel / *Radar*
Windmueller Katie / *Nibbles*
Winters Susan / *Strider*
Wise Curtis
Wiseth Ash / *No One*
Withrow Todd / *Wolverine*
Woodward Jeff / *Vermont*
Wyckoff Jeffrey / *Papa Smurf*
Wyman Austin / *Cliff Hanger*
Yang Jerry / *FUJ*
Yarczower Maria / *Reboot*
Yeh Yuyang / *MTN GoAT*
Yoder Perry / *Bud*
Yohey Nathan / *Classic*
York Hillary / *Harmony*
Young Eric / *Pond Bear*
Zakelj Ian / *Legolas*
Zanca Joseph / *Deep V*
Zinger Aleksey / *Bigfoot*
Zingg Elizabeth / *Amayzing*
Zingre Jeffrey / *Bubs*
Zink Jason / *Triceratops*
Zinnikas Patrice / *Drop Sticks*
Zippel Jack / *Close Call*
Zym Matt / *Zig from Bushkill*

2018

Agne Elysha / *Sea Legs*
Allen Braeden / *Walker*
Anderson Crystal / *Shebeast*
Arnold Jeff / *Longhaul*
Bailey Carol / *Snacks*
Barrett Jacqueline / *Cinnabun*
Bean Richard / *Jelly Bean*
Beute Edward / *No Regrets*
Blais Michael / *Flower Boy*
Bloir Adam / *Headbanger*
Botts Tyler / *Timezone*
Bruns Leona / *Pinecone*
Byron Sarah / *Maple Leaf*
Callaghan Jane / *Calamity*
Carbaugh Arnie / *Foghorn*



Castillo Amber / *Double Tap*
Chiverton Nicole / *Millie©s Mom*
Cicero Joe / *Joe Kool*
Connolly Jonathan / *Rooster*
Cooper Zak / *Service*
Copenhaver Frank / *Manimal*
Corwin Emma / *Lupine*
Coyle Kimberly / *Lost & Found*
Coyle Matthew / *Search & Rescue*
Cross Ancel / *Cub*
Crowninshield Kevin / *Workhorse*
Crownover Blake / *Smiles*
Davis Christian
Delap Robert / *Bob*
Dennison Chip / *Amazon Prime*
Derryberry Joseph / *Awesome*
DiMauro Scott / *Spidy*
Dove Bruce / *2-Mile*
Dunn Steve / *Scuba*
Eastman Brian / *The Turtle*
Fabian Fynn / *Spoon*
Falls Joy / *Killjoy*
Fike Kristen / *Somewhere*
Floro Kelly / *Ibex*
Fornili Anna / *Soups*
Frain Timothy / *BearFoot*
Gallagher Mark / *Skipper*
Gardner Pam / *Pambi*
Gardner Tom / *Mad Tom*
Geist Anna / *SKweeKs*
GimÈnezde los Galanes Cavallo Alberto / *Pollywog*
Gingerich Zachary / *Mousehouse*
Glagola John / *Soothsayer*
Grubb Alan / *Buddy*/Caveman
Gurnett Jan / *Outlaw*
Hammer Brad / *MIA*
Hammer Janelle / *Tuffy*
Hanson Olivia / *Fozzie*
Harpole Doug / *Wheat*
Hatcher Clara / *Pulitzer*
Hayden Avery / *Bubbles*
Heifner Brian / *Hobbit*
Hendrix Mariah / *Buttercup*
Holcombe Sam / *Sammertime Holiday*
Holland Dave / *Much Obliged*
Horne Evan / *Red Panda*
Howard Harvey / *Lotus*
Huddleston Danny / *Maverick*
Hughes Randy / *K-Bar*
Huls Tanner / *Tank*
Jefimov Vladen / *Nutter Butter*
Johnson Meredith / *Eleven*
Kaminsky Ekaterina / *Sugar Rush*
Kenyon Sydney / *Austin*
Key Greg / *The Traveler*
Kimbrough Phillip / *Jams*
LaBarthe Aaron / *Hook*
Lockhart Zan / *Flyballz*
Lockhart Zack / *Franklinstein*
Long Madison / *Jalapeno*
Longfellow Sandy / *Compass*
Loram Sam / *Sour Patch*
Mackie-Malcolm Currenn / *Alpine*
Manas Diane / *D-tour*
Manas Zvi / *tagalong*
Markley Lee Ellen / *Bonnie*
Martin Shelly / *Research*
Martinez Michelle / *Poca*
Mauger Greg / *Koolaid*
McDavid Jacob / *Iceman*
McDonald Andrew / *Shaggy*
McLaughlin Lindsey / *Red Stripe*
McLean Samuel / *127*
McMahon Maura / *Pippen*
Miles Frank / *Beerger*
Morse Kimberly / *Cat Woman*
Myzie David / *Z*
Napier Garrett / *Frack*
Napier Landen / *Frick*
Nase Christopher / *Big Chicken*
Nolin Christopher / *River*
Nolt Melvin / *Blackbeard*
O'Reilly Liam / *Pegasus*
Ou Dumitru / *Dingo*
Patino Alexander / *Golden Girl*
Pfeiffer Tim / *Sour Kraut*
Porter Zachary / *Achilles*
Ramon Dustin / *Jinx*
Renninger Warren / *Lakeland Nidhatak*
Reupert Cheryl / *3 Socks*
Robinson Jr. Willie L.
Ross Johnny / *Midnight*
Rowe Benjamin / *Moses*
Salmons Lindsay / *Starburst*
Sandoval Joseph / *Roadkill*
Scott David / *Tippy Top*
Seelye Wilber / *Bourbon Fueled BIG TOE*
Shrum Spencer / *SlowRide*
Small Nathan / *Red Bird*
Smith Richard / *Old Scout*
Smucker Lauren
Spieles Cale / *Doc*
Stanton Wilson / *REBEL YELL*
Stark Molly / *Cheeto*
Sweeney Randall / *Treehugger*
Swiontek Mark / *Sleep in Bear*
Talley Connie / *Smurf*
Taylor Cole / *Mountain Goat*
Taylor Sheila / *Still Sheila*
Thibodeaux Brock / *Gandalf*
Thomas Jonathan / *Billy Goat*
Thurn Jonathan / *Dreamcatcher*
Titton Matthew / *Odd Job*
Tomczak Lila / *Snorts*
Tuck Beth / *Wildflower and May*
Utley Chris / *Haribo*
Vinyard Ryan / *Stretch WalkItOff*
Wallace Elise / *Blueberry*
Werlich John / *Ripper*
White Tyler / *Clyde*
Wilson Danielle / *Ctrl+Z*
Wilson G. Alex / *Cmdr. Smitten Shepard*
Wilson Ian / *Bob Gnarley*
Woodrum Blayde / *Half Bear*
Worcester Jamie / *Jukebox*
Wright Jorin / *O.P.*
Zoodsma Harold / *Stylo*

2017

Cate Trey / *Lost*
Esposito Ivy / *Butterfly*
Hess Tylor / *Theory*
Hester David / *Volunteer*
McLean Byron / *Bourne*
Mullins Douglas / *Happy*
Parker Andrew / *Lazer Snake*
Roemer John / *Roaming John*
Shamy Ryan / *Buzz*
Wages Mike / *Just Mike*

2016

2016 Kincade Patrice / *Ten Bear*
2016 Meeks Roy / *Rammer Jammer*
2016 Oaks Stacie / *Grouse Whisperer*
2016 Roed Melanie / *Nemo*
2016 Thibodeaux Brock / *Gandalf*

2015 -1963

2015 Del Roy Jason / *Bald Eagle*
2015 Limongelli Jerold / *Stink Jacket*
2014 Hurst Allen / *Kamikaze*
2014 Johnston Travis / *Yukon*
2014 Karaman Michael / *Kerosene*
2013 Dickey Scott / *Artimus*
2012 Hubay Matthew / *Cut Eye*
2009 Barton Elisabeth / *Moe*
2009 Gabel-Frank Isaac / *Achilles*
2009 Maggard Cory / *C-Bass*
2007 Huse Greg / *Ronin*
2006 Bowler Matthew / *Sleepy the Arab*
2005 Muhly Katie / *Guideless*
2004 Fleischman Scot / *Flash*
2002 Jacobs Michael / *Fish out of water*
1995 Daniels Robert / *Silverfoot*
1995 Dunn Ryan / *Early Riser*
1995 Olsen Michael / *Mainiac*
1993 Carter Matt / *MC Bama*
1985 Wansor Richard / *the rockhopper*
1979 Altherr Al / *Yankee Hiker*
1975 King Gordon
1975 McConville Garry / *Hob*
1975 Sharman Lewis
1974 Roy Michael
1963 Fox James F.

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

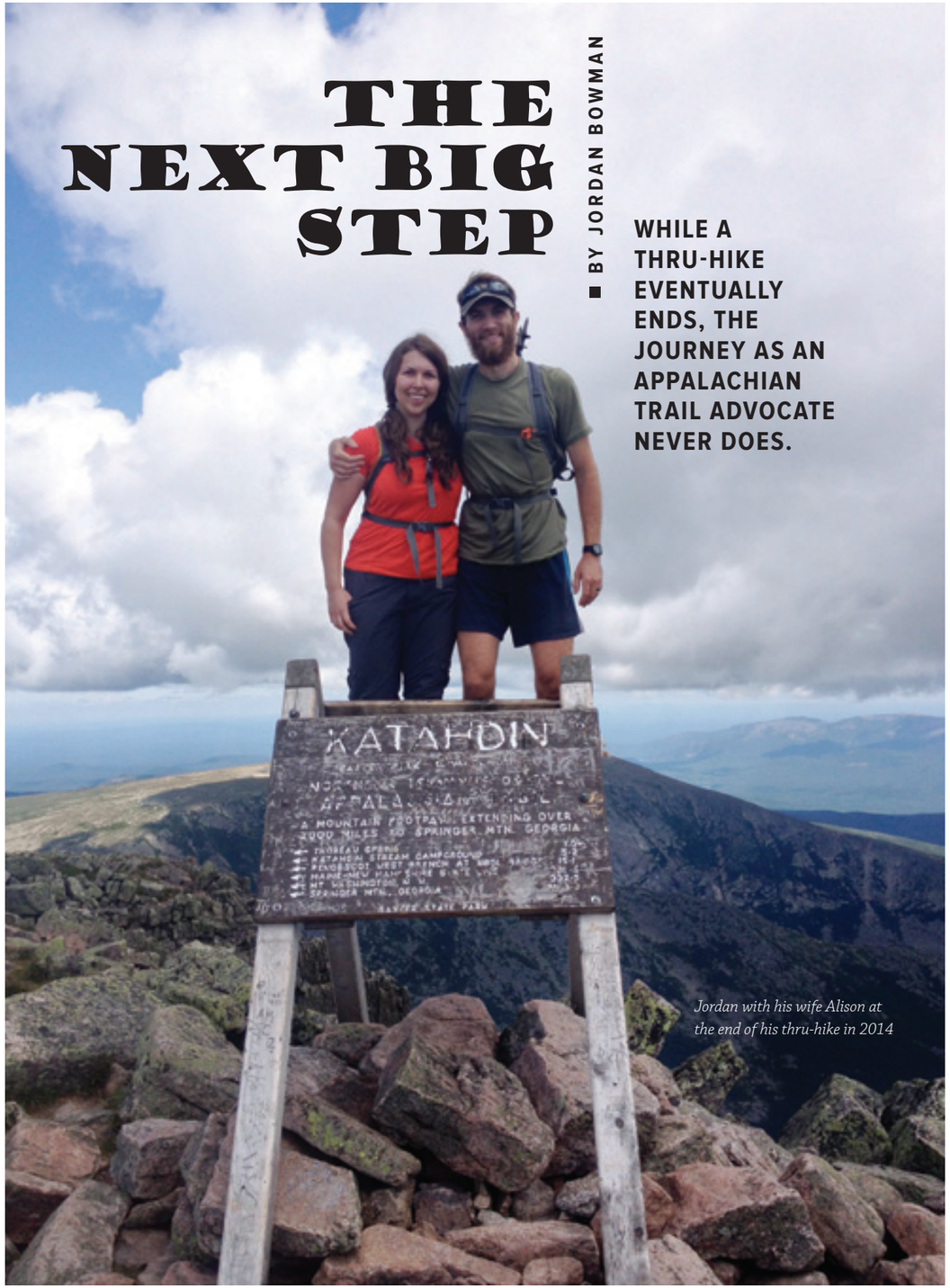




THE NEXT BIG STEP

■ BY JORDAN BOWMAN

WHILE A THRU-HIKE EVENTUALLY ENDS, THE JOURNEY AS AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL ADVOCATE NEVER DOES.



Jordan with his wife Alison at the end of his thru-hike in 2014

THE DAY I SUMMITED KATAHDIN was perfect. Almost. It was the middle of July, yet I could see my breath in the crisp Maine morning air. My wife, Alison, was able to fly in and join me for the final climb alongside hikers I had shared over 2,000 miles of bumps, bruises, sweat, tears, and laughter with. Partly cloudy skies allowed for 100-mile views without the heat and glare of the sun beating us down as we traversed Katahdin's barren mountainside. As I approached the Baxter Peak sign marking the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, I was cheered on by Trail friends old and new, including two fellow thru-hikers I met all the way back in Georgia.

I touched my cheek to the Baxter Peak sign, worn smooth by harsh Maine winters and hundreds of hands preceding mine. And then, I experienced two powerful emotions familiar to so many thru-hikers: an overwhelming joy of having accomplished a months-long journey through some of America's most beautiful (and challenging) countryside; and a sense of loss now that it was all over.

Those conflicting emotions lasted for weeks after leaving the A.T. behind and returning to the "real world." Every question I received about the Trail brought back a flood of wonderful memories from my journey but was also like tearing off a bandage before the wound beneath had time to heal. What I could not see then through the haze caused by these emotions was that, by experiencing such a full picture of the Trail's beauty — not just its gorgeous landscapes and ever-growing family of hikers, but also the support of trailside communities and, of course, the unstoppable corps of volunteers and nature lovers that keep the Trail's one-of-a-kind experience intact — I had not taken my last step as a thru-hiker. Instead, all these experiences had prepared me for the next step on my journey: becoming an advocate for the Trail and everything it stands for.

By being a voice for the Trail, I was able to quiet the voice reminding me daily that I was not living on the A.T. and, instead, replace it with a passion to ensure the Trail experience would be protected — or even improved — for those who followed in my footsteps through the Appalachians. Even more importantly, I understood that after experiencing a journey that so many yearn for year after year, one of the most selfish things I could do would be to move on from the Trail without giving back. I owed every volunteer who happily sacrificed a piece of their life to ensure the Trail is ready for others to enjoy, whether for a thru-hike or that first, hours-long adventure that sparks a lifelong passion.

I have had the great fortune of being able to make conserving the A.T. my career, but being an advocate for the Trail doesn't require you to make a career commitment. Here are just a few ways that thru-hikers —and anyone who loves the Trail — can channel their passion from their experience into its protection.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Very little is more satisfying than maintaining a section of the A.T., helping ensure that the footpath and other Trail infrastructure is repaired and protected against erosion and visitor impacts. For millions of people who are near the A.T., it's easy to find monthly (or sometimes weekly) opportunities by joining one of the 31 Trail maintaining clubs or finding an opportunity near you at: **appalachiantrail.org/volunteer***. For those who live farther away, consider joining one of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) six volunteer Trail Crews for a week rehabilitating a section of the Trail — learn more at: **appalachian trail.org/crews***

BECOME AN ATC MEMBER OR DONATE

Becoming a member or donating to the ATC helps us with all our work to maintain and conserve the Trail. From paying for new equipment for Trail Crews to developing educational materials that help A.T. visitors hike more sustainably, your donation goes a long way to helping us fulfill our mission of protecting the A.T. forever, for all. Become a member or donate at: **appalachiantrail.org/give**

SPEAK OUT ABOUT LEGISLATION THAT WILL AFFECT THE TRAIL

Every year, there are important decisions made at local, state, and federal levels that could help (or hurt) the ATC's ability to protect the A.T. experience, including the Trail's surrounding landscapes and communities. When these issues arise, contact your elected officials to let them know what the Trail means to you and why they should make its protection a priority. You can also voice your opinions by submitting op-eds or letters to the editors of local and nationwide media.

USE YOUR STORY TO SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE TRAIL

Having experienced the Trail in a way that many others have not, thru-hikers can relay the importance of protecting the aspects that make the A.T.'s continuous journey unique. Thousands, if not millions of people follow the adventures of thru-hikers every year as they strive to complete the full Trail. As you share your stories with others, use this opportunity to show the importance of giving back to the A.T., recruiting others to help protect the Trail and helping ensure the next generation can have a life-changing A.T. adventure.

These are just a few ways you can take the next step on your path as an A.T. thru-hiker, one that will continue beyond the physical limits of the footpath itself. By being a Trail advocate, you can proudly say that you not only walked the entire Trail — you helped every future A.T. hiker experience the magic of a walk in the woods.

Jordan Bowman is the ATC's director of communications

*Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all volunteer work on the Trail has be temporarily suspended. Visit: **appalachiantrail.org/covid19** for updates and information, and to find out when volunteer opportunities will re-open.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION TO BE A VOICE FOR THE TRAIL

ADVOCATES FOR THE TRAIL

"THIS IS OURS!" THIS IS WHAT WE WANT

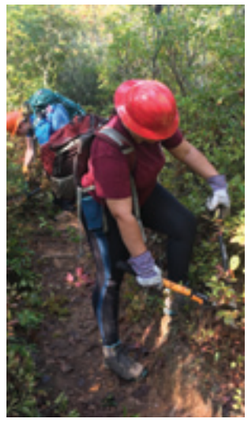
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JULIE JUDKINS

ringing in young people's ears and then carried into their communities after they leave one of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) regional NextGen Summits. The ATC leads these summits in partnership with regional coalitions of youth-serving organizations and land-managing partners. Young people like Greta, Malala, and Jazz are leading movements for change — all rising up for justice and equitable, resilient communities. Young people are rewriting narratives — giving us advice on how to treat one another and how to treat the Earth. Our future depends on the next generation and for them to think, feel, and know that Public Lands are theirs. The Appalachian Trail is theirs. And they need to fight for it, speak for it, understand it, get curious about the management of it, and steward it.

NextGen Summits strengthen community connection to the landscape and create conservation networks to expand employment and stewardship opportunities for young people. This year, the ATC hopes to lead summits in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Maine. Each summit has a unique agenda, based on community and partner needs, but all summits provide space for outdoor leadership and skills development, connections with Trail club and community partners, and dialogue around barriers and opportunities. Participants leave with plans of action to make change and be advocates in their communities.

Summits also provide discussion on what problems are seen in participants' communities, and what the underlying historical and social root causes are. Participants then discuss opportunities, ideas, possibilities, and solutions for change. They collectively talk about what it means to be a steward and what it might look like to share those experiences with family, friends, schools, and community.





Summits provide meaningful Trail experiences and inspiration for how to bring supportive action and advocacy back to participants' own communities.

ONGOING IMPACT

Upon departure, participants leave inspired to share. After Georgia's NextGen Forest Ambassador Summit, De'Ja, 16, said: "This program has made such a big difference in my life. I went back and petitioned my school for more time outdoors. And now we have our gym periods outside. At first, I was like, who is this random group of strangers? Now they are close friends and the outdoors are so much more comfortable for me." De'Ja is returning this year as a mentor for new participants coming to the summit.

In western North Carolina, the ATC works with a coalition, Everybody's Environment, to share ideas, learn new skills, and work and learn together how to effect institutional change through racially-equitable leadership. The inaugural North Carolina summit, Everybody's Environment Emerging Leaders (E3 Summit), provided people in their 20s the opportunity to paint blazes and do service during National Public Lands Day, and to dive deep into discussions around barriers like systemic discrimination and about what we can do together to remove these barriers. The group continues to blaze ahead by initiating an E3 Advisory Council to support the coalition partners and to plan ongoing summits.

Last year's Massachusetts Youth (MY) Trails Summit brought together participants from all over Berkshire County. After a weekend of campfire chats, hiking, learning about mechanical advantage, Leave No Trace, tools, and how to use creative expression through "Artdoors," students left inspired with a mission to share stewardship experiences. Two participants sent in reports describing their plans and efforts to build a trail on their school campus that includes mapping, trail profiles, and descriptions and app development. Another participant sent in the score of an original musical composition she wrote using material from the weekend program as inspiration. The piece was performed by professional musicians and, additionally, she is putting together a collection of acrylic paintings her little sister created using the Trail as inspiration. These creative, artistic expressions help to spread new narratives about public lands and are a powerful method of inviting future stewardship leaders.

By inspiring young people through an experience of public lands, we extend the influence and opportunity of new voices for support. The time is here for us to learn from our young people, lift them up, and activate their voices as we advocate for perpetual protection of our lands. Moving forward, our goal is to partner with a wide variety of communities to ensure we provide as many young people as possible opportunities to experience and learn from natural refuges like the Appalachian Trail.

NOTES FROM A NEXTGEN SUMMIT

BY STEVEN REINHOLD

IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD A BRIDGE ACROSS THE "adventure gap," Everybody's Environment and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) came together to host the inaugural E3 Emerging Leaders Summit. The E3 Summit brought together a wildly diverse group of individuals for a weekend full of camaraderie, conservation, and tough conversations. ¶ This wildly diverse group met up in an equally wild setting — Camp Watia. Camp Watia is just a few steps from Wright Gap on the A.T. and it is fully outfitted, passionately staffed, and was the perfect venue for the first E3 Summit. Camp life was so much fun and it was the first "camp" experience for most of us there, myself included. During the course of the E3 Summit we were guided through a carefully-crafted itinerary focused on education, exploration, and open-dialogue. There were also campfires, cookouts, swim sessions, and a star gazing seminar. For National Public Lands Day, we invested our sweat equity into the Appalachian Trail by building steps and water breaks, clearing the hiking corridor, and rehabilitating multiple campsites and fire pits. My absolute favorite part of the experience was getting to paint an iconic A.T. blaze on a unique rock trail marker. The rest of our group updated the six-inch white blazes on trees spaced roughly 1,000 feet apart. I cannot think of a more symbolic display of stewardship than blazing a trail — it was an honor I will never forget. ¶ I am a proud public land owner. I own acreage across the country — majestic mountains, towering volcanoes, crystalline lakes, open prairies, arid deserts, and miles upon miles of coastline. Not to brag, but I also own thousands of miles of trails — my favorite of which stretches all the way from Georgia to Maine. The best part about my property? Regardless of your — insert every adjective on Earth here — you are welcome to visit anytime. After all, this land is your land just as much as it is mine.

NORTHERN SPRING

PHOTOGRAPHER ***RAYMOND SALANI III***

SPRINGTIME ON THE TRAIL ARRIVES LIKE A rushing stream. It hits the south and then moves north. The mountains have to wait for its arrival, but winter does eventually fade and spring shows up with a bang like a waterfall. In the north, spring almost seems like a second fall with all the different shades of green instead of varied colors. This particular year, spring arrived perfectly late in Beartown State Forest, Massachusetts because I was there just in time with my camera ready to capture it. The forest was established with the state's purchase of 5,000 acres in 1921 and surrounding roads were created by workers with the Civilian Conservation Corps beginning in 1933. Beartown State Forest has two distinctly different worlds between the summer and winter. During the warm months the pristine 35-acre Benedict Pond attracts swimmers, boaters, and fishermen. An extensive network of trails on over 12,000 acres offers visitors a chance to glimpse deer, bear, bobcat, fisher, and other wildlife, including the park's namesake, the black bear. Brooks, beaver ponds, rich deciduous forest, flowering shrubs, and wildflowers are plentiful. The Appalachian Trail passes near Benedict Pond and offers spectacular wooded views. In this particular section, the Trail opens up to grassy fields and a glimpse of local farmland, which has been part of the area for decades, is part of the pastoral landscape. Any photographer who loves hiking is always torn between spending more time enjoying a specific location and getting to see more of the Trail. My photography work allows me to enjoy the Trail when I am not on it and to share its beauty with others. The A.T. definitely inspires both the artist and the hiker in me.

~Raymond "Flash" Salani III



WAYNESBORO PENNSYLVANIA

A Sense of Space and Place

STUDENTS LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES SURROUNDING THEIR COMMUNITY.

Text and photos by Tawnya Finney



LOOKING DOWN FROM A SUMMIT along the Appalachian Trail, nearby towns often look neatly laid out in the valleys below. But have you ever wondered what it takes to design and build a town? What are the physical and cultural characteristics that make a town unique? Nestled along the South Mountain landscape and in the Cumberland Valley is the town of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. This growing rural area was designated as the Greater Waynesboro Area A.T. Community in 2014. As part of this designation, Waynesboro committed to educating the community and its youth about the importance of this landscape and the Trail.

I am a seventh-grade Social Studies teacher at Waynesboro Area Middle School. In 2008, I had the opportunity to take part in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC) course. The broad concept behind Trail To Every Classroom is place-based, service learning. I consider it to be one of the most valuable professional development courses that I've taken over the past 20-plus years. It empowered me to educate our younger generations about this valuable resource called the Appalachian Trail. My experiences with TTEC, as well as training from National Geographic and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation helped me develop an elective called "Town." Through "Town," students became immersed in how decisions are made locally and demonstrated how they are important advocates of the environment and green spaces that are assets to our community.



Clockwise from above: The students' final town layout; View of the Waynesboro area from High Rock – a spur off of the A.T.; Local water and sewer plant manager, Larson Wenger, explains water quality to the class

We have been busy exploring this concept of the physical and cultural characteristics that define a town in depth. Our goal was to explore our local town through cultural, political, economic, and ecological perspectives and then create our own town using those perspectives. The culminating project was to build a town and name it. Students became town planners and tackled the large questions of resources, waste, recreation, housing, and management. They assumed roles within our town: mayor, town council, business owners, law enforcement, homeowners, recreational planners, and environmentalists.

Prior to actually building our town, students conducted inquiry-based research around the subject of water resources. They focused on the effects of various activities on our watershed and methods to protect it. Students also interacted with guest speakers who helped explain infrastructure, water resources, zoning, town council responsibilities, and marketing. They practiced writing campaign speeches and voting for our mayor and town council. All decisions about our town were made through public comment and town council meetings. Once votes were cast about our town location and our town name, construction began.

The scale for our town's model was: one inch equated to five feet. Students worked together to create various zones, infrastructure, streets, and commercial and residential buildings. They collaborated on decisions for green spaces, statues, and street signs. They collected all of the town parts, brought them together, and created the final layout and design. After our town, Maineport, was built, students produced a video to market it to potential businesses, residents, and tourists. They incorporated the cultural characteristics and natural beauty of the town to promote visitation: cranberry industry, seafood industry, beautiful coastlines, and leaf-peeping in the fall.

The class also takes a deep dive into the inner workings of a town. Students gained an understanding that there is a great deal of planning, collaborating, negotiating, and forethought that goes into designing and maintaining a town. "Our environment plays a huge role in how our town functions and is built," says one student. Another student noted that they "learned about zoning and about how to place buildings in the right area." The class allowed students to explore their own community and to interact with community leaders, which informed the shape and substance of Maineport. This gave them first-hand experience on how towns lay on the landscape. They also focused on the idea that environmentally forward-thinking strategies can be implemented by towns to reduce their impact on resources, such as incorporating green space. They were able to gain an understanding of the importance and function of towns as commercial and cultural centers and were able to identify physical and cultural characteristics that make a town unique.

The ATC's Education Workshop program sparked an idea to develop a meaningful elective unit for students to investigate their surrounding landscape and region and to analyze the various perspectives that influence town decisions. Through this process, students learned what makes their own community special. Just as the people in their mock town of Maineport benefit from the beauty and resources of their coastline, the citizens of Waynesboro benefit from their proximity to the A.T. — and they have the power to help protect it. My students gained a sense of space and place, and will, hopefully, remember the lessons that the education workshop generated as they become contributing citizens in towns throughout the Appalachian region and beyond.

In the Footsteps of the Ancestors

By Michelle "Northstar" Holmes
Photos by Derrick Z. Jackson

"Your trail name is very pretty, Northstar," a hiker complimented me, "what does it mean?"

"The North Star — it shows us the way to go," I said simply. Later, I lay in the dark, anxious about my journey. I was visited by a waking dream from a woman I call 'The Ancestor.' She was a fugitive from slavery, traveling north.

Like me, she was worried about her physical capability, injury, bears, and rattlesnakes. But the similarities end about there. I lay in a simple but sturdy shelter. She lay in a cellar. If lucky, she had a "sleeping pad" of straw. I wait for daylight to make my journey easy. She waits for nightfall to obscure captors. I mourn sending my dog companion home because she could not handle the cold. My Ancestor fears dogs that track her. I put on my wool socks in the cold and lace up my sturdy boots. Does she even have socks and shoes? I long for my family members. But I can reach them with a cell signal. She does too, but it will be months before she knows if they are dead, alive, or captured. I eat some beef jerky that I prepared. When I'm running low, I can call my family for mail drops. Surely my Ancestor prepared food for her journey too. But she does not know where her next supply of food will come from.

Oh Ancestor, I realize I am only a shadow and a whisper of who you are. I wish that I could have an ounce of your strength and a pound of your fortitude.

THESE WORDS WERE ADAPTED from my journal in March 2007, five rough days after starting the Appalachian Trail at Springer Mountain, Georgia. Not only had I sent my too-stressed dog home to Massachusetts, I had completely (and expensively) revamped my pack contents and fallen and gashed my arm. Not for the last time, I questioned the sanity of my quest.

What business did a middle-aged black woman with bad knees have hiking the A.T.? The image of The Ancestor kept me moving forward, along with Psalm 121 that a friend shared with me at my going away party for the Trail:

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
where is my help to come from?
My help comes from Yahweh

That and my dream reminded me that nothing is impossible and that I belonged here. In fact, my real ancestors told me I was meant to be here. The most notable ancestor was my late mother, Mary Holmes. My journey to the A.T. began with her belief in the value of the outdoors for children. She enrolled me in sleep-away camp at the age of six, and in Scouting.



I continued those traditions with my own children. I became a Scout volunteer. One of my sons became an Eagle Scout. I engineered co-ed Scouting in our local Boy Scout troop 15 years before the B.S.A. made it official. I'm so proud of my Scout "nieces." Two are now climate resilience directors in Boston and New Orleans. Another is in the Peace Corps in Togo and another still was a 2019 volunteer of the year at Yosemite National Park. One is herself an A.T. thru-hiker.

In 2007, at age 52, I embarked on the A.T. looking for answers in life. My science career was stagnating. I felt like a poster child for the National Institute of Health's own findings that an African American woman had a 50 percent less chance of winning research grants than white males. I was weary from parenting adolescents. My supportive husband told me that since my creaky knees weren't getting any better, this was the right time to take a break, a very long break.

The "break" turned out to be a 13-year quest. I began as a thru-hiker. But six weeks in, despite many pleasant evening conversations at shelters, I was lonely in the daytime, as I never found someone walking as slow as me. I switched to section hiking, which allowed me to share many miles with friends and family. Much of it was done by my husband dropping me off at a road crossing and picking me up at the next road. Even my knees "got better." At 1,100 miles, I had two knee replacements. I only missed one season in a miracle of modern medicine.

Section hiking allowed me to slow down and enjoy the splendor of the A.T., from slopes of trillium in the south to moose crashing through the woods in the north and vistas I could linger longer at. When people ask me what my favorite part of the Trail was, I tell them about the day I heard a raucous drone in the forested distance that became louder with every step. I wondered with chagrin if I would find workers harvesting trees. Instead, my jaw dropped upon reaching a vernal pool from which the sound emanated. At the sound of my footstep, the roar went to dead silence. I saw hundreds of little heads dropping below the surface. They were wood frogs making mating calls. The pond was on a part of the A.T. only 30 miles from New York City, symbolic of Benton MacKaye's dream of a green respite within a day's reach of the urban masses of the Eastern Seaboard.

The biggest lesson I learned in switching from thru-hiker to section hiker is to focus on the process and the journey, rather than rush to the finish. Most of my last sections were in the South. As we drove for two days along I-81, paralleling the Appalachian chain, my husband would say, "You've walked ALLLLLLL that!" All that, at 64, with two artificial knees, from putting one foot in front of the other.

I saved one flattish seven-mile final section of Maine's 100 Mile Wilderness to share my official finish with friends who hiked with me over the years. On August 24, 2019, 14 friends came up and for the last 20 feet, created an arch of trekking poles for me to walk under. At base camp, my dog, now 15 and frail, awaited as a final feeling of closure. I picked the nickname "Northstar" in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, who liberated hundreds of enslaved black people on the Underground Railroad and as a spy for the Union in the Civil War. At Trail's end, surrounded by friends and family on a remote pond in Maine where moose grazed and loons wailed, liberation was exactly what I was feeling.







Far left and above: Michelle's completion party in August 2019; Right: With her husband Derrick Jackson, and son Tano Holmes on the Katahdin summit; Below: Michelle with her mom, Mary Holmes in their Scout volunteer uniforms

PASSION IN LEADERSHIP

Appalachian Trail Conservancy leaders and staff are uniquely dedicated and passionate in their service to the Trail. Each has their own connection and story. From the Board of Directors and the President's Leadership Circle, to the Stewardship Council and the Next Generation Advisory Council — to dedicated full time and seasonal staff members — in the office or in the field, on the clock and off — we want you to get to know the people who work hard to promote and preserve the A.T. experience we all cherish.



LISA KOTEEN GERCHICK

Lisa Koteen Gerchick lives in Fauquier County, Virginia, close by the A.T. and has enjoyed both urban and rural life for the past 25 years. As a member of the President's Leadership Circle (PLC), Lisa works on fundraising events and activities, drawing on 40 years of experience. She considers it a privilege to support the ATC in preserving and enhancing such a treasured eastern wilderness for all. Lisa practiced international trade law, primarily as a trade negotiator for the U.S. government. She has engaged in volunteer nonprofit leadership for decades, first in her hometown, Washington, D.C., and subsequently in Virginia. She now devotes much of her time to election security and administration issues on behalf of the League of Women Voters. She was recently appointed as chair of a workgroup that advises the Virginia State Board of Elections. "My husband introduced me to hiking over thirty years ago," she explains. "I was smitten. We shared our love of the Trail with our children, both of whom spent weeks hiking the A.T. when they were teenagers. They summited Katahdin, not me," she adds. "For me, the beauty and essential nature of the Trail provide balance, and both a mental and a physical respite from our complex world."



COLIN BEASLEY

Residing in New London, New Hampshire, Colin Beasley is the current Chair of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Board of Directors. His previous work as a member of the ATC President's Leadership Circle (PLC) introduced him to what he refers to as "the extraordinary effort of so many people that enable such a complex ecosystem." "Meeting and working with ATC employees, volunteers, Trail clubs, various agencies' personnel, the board and other PLC members proved to be infectious," he says. "I was humbled by the commitment and passion of so many people, past and present, who, for generations, have dedicated their time and energy to such a common 'cause.' And, I use that word deliberately. The A.T. is more than a footpath; it serves as the cornerstone for so much that is important to our lives today and in the future." Colin believes the A.T., broadly defined, is important to any discussions addressing climate change, conservation, migratory patterns, and — in its natural state — our need for a respite from the stresses of our daily burdens. "Stewardship is taking on a whole new meaning," he says. "We all have a role in paying it forward to ensure we leave to our children, grandchildren, and future generations a sense of the world that we have enjoyed. I think our mission is that important and I feel very fortunate to be part of such a legacy."



A.T. CONNECTICUT — PHOTO BY ALLISON DIVERDE

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APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY®



ARCHITECTURAL HOMAGE

A PHOTOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC EXPLORATION OF MAN-MADE SHELTER ON THE A.T.

A nostalgic desire to get out and experience the Trail again, led new mother and former thru-hiker Sarah Jones Decker to begin a richly informative examination of the varied and unique structures that offer shelter to hikers on the Appalachian Trail. In *The Appalachian Trail: Backcountry Shelters, Lean-Tos, and Huts* Decker explores the more than 250 backcountry structures that exist along the 2,193-mile footpath.

"I thru-hiked the A.T. in 2008 right after grad school," she says. "After my daughter was born in 2017, I decided to celebrate my ten-year 'Trailsversary,' by hiking sections of the A.T. more often near our home." (Sarah and her husband own an organic farm outside of the Trail town of Hot Springs, North Carolina.) "I wanted to get back in shape and decided to set the goal of hiking every month of 2018," she says. "Since the A.T. runs some 70 miles right through and near Madison County from Max Patch to Big Bald, it was easy to get out every week. I revisited my journals from my thru-hike and saw that I had doodled about the idea of documenting all of the shelters on the Trail. I took pictures of some shelters in 2008, but definitely not all, so I had to go back to almost every shelter again."

Decker then reached out to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) for help with what was becoming a huge documentary project that had many questioning why it had not been done before. What started as a simple idea turned into a two-year in-depth project that took her back to all 14 states along the Trail. "I did not know at the time that my commitment to hike every month would eventually turn into a book project," she says. "I got to hike with family and friends in every type of weather imaginable, 24 months in a row. It was an awesome experience to share."

As she re-hiked sections of the Trail, Sarah often had a special hiking partner in tow. "I carried my young daughter, beginning when she was just nine months old, on day hikes for over 350 miles in eight states," she says. "She even took her first steps on the A.T. in Pennsylvania. Spending time with her in the woods is a memory that I will treasure forever."

While creating the book, Sarah was inspired by two of her art heroes, German photographers, Bernd and Hilla Becher. The conceptual duo's extensive body of work documented industrial buildings in Germany and organized them in grids, known as typologies, to compare the subtle differences. As a result of over 200 section hikes and countless hours of collaboration with the ATC, hikers, historians, photographers, writers, and maintaining clubs in the Trail community — Sarah has produced a first-of-its-kind resource packed with Trail and shelter photos, history, information, and detailed maps.

The book highlights how their forms and nuances vary — from elaborate shelters and huts that have sleeping lofts, multiple stories, wooden bunks, or large front porches (a rare few even have solar showers) – to rudimentary lean-tos that serve the sole purpose of allowing hikers to just barely escape the elements. As the Trail continues to grow, change, and evolve, so does the need for the conservation and stewardship of each of these unique structures. More than just a dry roof over weary travelers, the shelters along the Trail provide a gathering place and a sense of community.

Even if you don't stay at a shelter, it is still part of the Trail experience. It would be impossible to hike the entire A.T. and not have at least walked by a shelter. "Most hikers, even hikers who hike the Trail in its entirety, probably won't see every shelter," she says "because all of the side trails would add another 65-plus miles to the already 2,193-mile journey. It was an honor to put all this information together in one place. I hope this collection of images rekindles hikers' own stories and inspires others to get out and to create new ones."



Sarah with her daughter Josephine on the A.T. in Pennsylvania



Ethan Pond by Amanda Wheelock

IN HONOR OF

Lisa Alfred by Erin Hillier
Bob Almand by Greg Winchester
William Appleby by Sara Baker
Jim Arrington by Sarah Petty
Matt Bader by Erin DeLaTorre
Danny Bagwell by Nanci McMaken
John Ball by Barbara Ball
Peter Barker by Mom & Dad
Louise & Bill Bazemore by Donna Torreyson
Greg "Mr. Burns" Beckham by Jon Beckham
Laura Belleville by Rubén A. Rosales
Ben & Pam Bensen by Katherine Porter
Laura Birchler by The Willans
Benjamin Michael Blais by John Anderson
Gerald & Joanie Blaney by Elizabeth Sass
Franklin Bloomer by Marilyn Geninatti
Gabriela Bogdan by Stephanie Gillett
Paul Brame by Jeremy Brame
Renee & Randy Brooks by Christina McPhillips
Lucas Brown by Bradley Brown
Ruby Brown by Thea Brown
Bill & Margaret Bryant by Jennifer Bryant
Stacey "Stylez" Bucklin by Janelle Libertone
Mitch Buntemeyer by Lauren Buntemeyer
Mark Burch by Emily Burch
Juli & Philip Burgess by Gabrielle Delzer
Adam Campbell by Rebecca Fisk
Randy Carlson by Mom & Neil
Frank Condron by Angela Svoboda
Erica Coughlin by Reliable Staffing Services, LLC
Lee Alison Crawford by Anne Brown
Kiernan Deangelis by Dr. Joseph Campbell
Amanda Donovan & Zachery Tewey by Karen Duivenvoorden
Sam Duchame by Abigail Maddox
William Duncan by Graham Duncan
Michael Eldredge by Sarah Eldredge
Laura Engelmann by Trish Henrich
Ruth Ference & Frank George by Heather Hoechst
James Fielder by Stephen Casey, Priscilla Connolly
Christopher "Chris" Fisher by Rich & Dyane Miles, Ronda Pecaric, Lisa Reynolds
Gabriella Fonger by Shannon Fonger
Dennis "Mountain Man" Foster by David Champe, Pamela Pinwith, William Ulich
Lisa & John Godfrey by Renee Gruel
Andrea Greenberg by John & Madeline Wood
Tom Griffin & Family in memory: "Teese" wife by Donna Torreyson
Diane & Don Groff by Susan Merritt
April Guenzler by Wendy Galloway
Neil Hacker by Claire Hacker
James Hajduk by Jonathan Carter
Martha Harper by Dr. & Mrs. Bazemore, Jr., Donna Torreyson
Kelly Harrington by Kim Rally
Trish Harris by Sarah Parrish
Stewart "Decade" Harsant by Dave & Pam Harsant
Carl Hayden by Jean Ripple
Dr. Hal Hemme by Sara Caldwell
Rita Hennessy by Julie Judkins
Ed Higginbotham by Curt Bassett
Patrick Hilaire by Kyle Katchur
Julia Howard by Wilbur Clark
Steve Howell & Sarah McClennen by Robbin MacVittie
Doug Hubbard by Nancy Andrews
Larry & Doris Jelley by Joan Jelley Surles
Emma May & John by Dori Weigel
Carl Johnson by Bruce Johnson
Michael Johnson by Therese Dunn
Austin Kane by Rebecca Barilovits
Rick & Carolyn Kanoy by Jeanna Darby
E.R. Karalius by Mary McKinley, John Stefanovich
Darl & Joline Kolb by Susan Merritt
Alex Krispin by Tara Gordon
Zack Labadie by Alvin Ohlenbusch
Jessica Lang-Wright by David Goldsmith
Ann & Steve Larrick by Mary McKinley, John Stefanovich
Mary Lou Lee by Dr. & Mrs. Cyrus Bazemore, Jr., Donna Torreyson
Michael Leever by Debbie Westheimer
Nan Leininger by Michael & Lucy Fribourg
Edward Linke by Michele Ladd
Mark Lowry by Rebecca Lowry
Derick "Mr. Fabulous" Lugo by City of Roanoke, Roanoke Outside Foundation, Roanoke Regional Partnership
Joanna Lundberg by Thomas Baldwin
Karen Lutz by Jim Haggett
Dick & Linda Mackay by Mari-Joan Lucey
Macs Adventure Travelers by Mary Zonca
Mike Maher by Mary & Paul Scagliarini
Mark Mahoney by Barbara Baethke
Marsha Marion by Donna Torreyson
Sandi Marra by Arthur & Denise Foley
Marsha Thrift Martin by Dr. & Mrs. Cyrus Bazemore, Jr.
Frank "Sunset" Masters by William Mayes, Jr.
Trevor Mathes by Blakeleigh Mathes
Craig Mathews by Virginia Murphy
John & Linda Matticks by Craig Matticks
H. Carlton McKee by Joe Fountain
Jeff Metzger by Lyn Widmyer
Daniel Miranda by Barbara Tabak
Timothy Moore by Philip Moore
Dana Morino by Mario Morino
Howard Moss, II by Carol Moss
Katie & Dave Oppenheimer by Joan Culkin
Diane Orban by Mary Loeffler
Robert Orrand by Brandy Blake
Dr. John Owen by Carolyn Hutchens
Jerry Parker by Jennifer Parker
Laurie Potteiger by Lyn Widmyer
Dan Power by Steve Power
Donald Pratt by Katherine Pratt
Karen Kent-Pyle & Stephen Pyle by Ella Pyle
Judith Lynn Ratcliffe by Judith Ratcliffe
Steve Robb by Catherine Bevier
Kenneth Robbins by Karen Foye
Steed Robinson by James Robinson
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Mr. & Mrs. Roger Sharp by Joan Jelley Surles
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Bennie Simmons by Bradley Simmons
Noah Smentkowski by Quinn Mckenzie
Jesse "Fumbles" Smyth by Halo Fernandez
Leigh & Mike Sneed by Anne Brown
Joel Storrow by Mike Dowd
Dave Tarasevich by Lyn Widmyer
Stewart Taylor by David Taylor
The Breadless Horseman by Mary Jane Carmichael
The Campbell-Morrisssy Clan by Campbell Williamson
The Forrester Family by Amy Formica
The Higgins Family by Sarah & Dan Schuerch
The Turner Family by Sarah Brown
Elizabeth & Robert Thompson by Eunice Thompson
Donna Torreyson by Dr. & Mrs. Cyrus Bazemore, Jr.
James & Beverly Upson by Edward Upson
Kenneth Wadness by Will Corrdin
Bradford Ward by Sarah Neusius
Terri & Randy Welfare by Dr. & Mrs. Cyrus Bazemore, Jr., Donna Torreyson
Charles White by Traci Browne
Jeff Zalatoris by Anthony Brandy-Zalatoris

IN MEMORY OF

Ralph Aguirre Amy Bailey
Robert Aydelotte by Kay, Peggy & Joyce Chandler, Katherine Owens
Elna Bachman by Vance Bachman
Walter Lee Baihly by Lisa Brien, Deborah Hammond, Donna Howard, Bill & Barbara Kaplin, Mountain Spirit Yoga, Don Peterson, River Riders

TRAIL GIVING

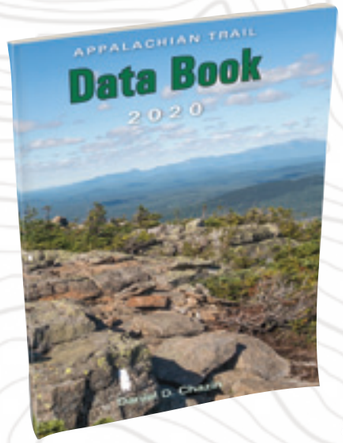
Will "Q-Tip" Beard by Anne Allen-Beard, Amanda Beard-Murphy
Benny by Amoeba
Franklin Bloomer by Marilyn Wiles-Kettenmann
James Boddorf by Julie Boddorf
Lynn "Brad Bradford by Linda Dunlap, Cynthia & Ken Gwynn, Nancy Lahey
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Col. Richard Broyles by Bridgett Martin
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For 35 years, the *Data Book* (item #141-20) — still $6.26 for ATC members — has been edited by New Jersey volunteer Daniel D. Chazin, drawing on updates from other guidebook editors, other volunteers in the 31 Trail-maintaining clubs, and staff members in ATC offices. The *Companion* (item #202-20, still $13.46) likewise draws on more than three dozen Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association volunteers, led since 2010 by Robert "Sly" Sylvester, and ATC field experts.

2020 UPDATES HERE

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A.T. near Ceres, Virginia by Andrew Veal

ALMOST ONE CENTURY AFTER ITS PUBLICATION, Benton MacKaye's *An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning* continues to be both relevant and prophetic. Take, for example, one of the reasons MacKaye identified the Trail as essential to mental health: "But living has been considerably complicated of late in various ways — by questions of personal liberty, and by 'menaces' of one kind or another. There have been created bitter antagonisms." In an election year like 2020, few quotes from MacKaye's article ring truer today. More to the point: never has an apolitical space like the Appalachian Trail been more necessary to escape the factionalism which, as of April 2020, will only become deeper as we head toward Election Day in November.

One of the privileges of being the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) chief fundraiser is learning the various affinities the ATC's donors have to both the conservancy and the Trail. A few months ago, a large check appeared on my desk. I did not recognize the name. Only a phone number and address were listed. Nagged by curiosity and a sense of deep gratitude, I called the number and, on the second ring, spoke to "Yekke" (the donor's Trail name, which is Yiddish). I learned, through the course of the conversation not only his relationship to the Trail (a former thru-hiker who, like most who have touched it, fell in love with the A.T.) but also the reason for the generous donation. One of the primary reasons was the ATC's apolitical nature. We will work with anyone — regardless of affiliation — as long as they support the Trail and support our mission. We are blind to partisanship. And, in a world where this trait is exceedingly rare, Yekke wanted to support an organization whose only devotion is to the Appalachian Trail. The triggering moment, for him, was when he received an advocacy letter from ATC. When we identify any of the lawmakers in these letters, we do not identify whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. Only that they care — as our members and donors do — about the Trail.

This is an accurate reflection of the ATC's distinction between politics and advocacy. The former muddies up the water while the latter strengthens our work. Anyone who is affiliated with the ATC — whether it's our staff, our volunteers, our donors, or A.T. hikers — is, more than anything, driven by a clear love of the Trail and a mission to maintain and protect it. In light of this, we do not make assumptions about the ecosystem of Trail users and Trail supporters we engage. We do not assume your political leanings are to the left. We do not assume your political leanings are to the right. We only assume, as we do with anyone who sets foot onto the Trail, that you come to us because you believe in advancing our mission and work. When we recruit members of Congress to the House of Representatives Appalachian National Scenic Trail Caucus, we are agnostic to party membership. We are, however, deeply interested in our caucus members' interest in supporting the Trail.

Which brings me back to Benton. His vision was, in some ways, a remedy to the vagaries of "civilized" life. In contrast to the stress, competition, and lack of oxygen in the industrializing cities of the 1920s, the Trail was meant to offer a refreshing contrast. The Trail offered oxygen (which led to optimism), it offered perspective, and it offered opportunities for "employment on the land" (which, in 2020, manifests itself as Trail stewardship). As Yekke so rightly said: those intended opportunities and advantages found on the Appalachian Trail are not subject to political debate or partisanship. They are inherent values found on the footpath, the adjacent landscape, and in the stewards who care for and protect the Trail. That is precisely why the ATC and the Trail have been, for decades, an invaluable and apolitical space.

By Shalin Desai

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