

A JOURNEYS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

March — April 2012



CELEBRATING 2,000-MILERS

INSIDE: The Great Girl Scout Hike ■ Hanover, New Hampshire

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Volume 8, Number 2
March — April 2012

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On the Cover: Among the 2,000-milers being celebrated this year is Deborah "Pickle" Lucy, who thru-hiked the A.T. in 2011. "After 350 miles with my dog Guinness, my husband, Brian, and I met at Woods Hole Hostel, outside of Pearisburg, Virginia for a quick visit and 'puppy shuttle service' [to transport Guinness] back home," says Deborah. "It was one of the highlights of my trip, and I met a whole slew of fellow hikers who I would leap frog with for the next 1,500 miles! Here we are sharing chocolate and chai tea on the porch while giving ourselves permission to sit out the chilly rain moving in."

From left: Deborah "Pickle" Lucy, Kristen "Gingersnap" Gregory, Woods Hole proprietors: Neville Harris and her husband, Michael Lasecki (far back), "BookSmarts," "Sailor," "Stretch."
Photo by Brian Lucy

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FROM THE EDITOR |

COMMON GROUND. AS COMMON DENOMINATORS GO, THE A.T. IS AN obvious one among those who love nature and hiking. What makes this so, is not just the tangible footpath, but the diverse and broad reaching community that is as much a part of the Trail as the natural world it contains within its protected borders. That community consists of a multifaceted array of people, places, and educational experiences.

Hikers meet new friends, and reconnect with others at hospitable A.T. hostels, rustic Trail shelters, and in Trail towns — like the designated A.T. Community of Hanover, New Hampshire, where even a lamp post on Maine Street bares a white blaze, and A.T. adventurers are presented with everything from a clean shower and hiker-friendly businesses, to Ivy League museums and libraries (page 36). Highlighting the connection between Hanover's community and the Trail community is a group of volunteers called Friends of the Trail. "[They have] worked hard to reach out to the hikers that come through Hanover," says Hanover town manager Julia Griffin. "By doing so, many of us have had some wonderful connections ... [and] our lives are all the richer for those connections."

Another unifying force of the Trail community is education. Back-woods loving people from all backgrounds and regions of the U.S. are getting a hands-on "wild education" about proper wilderness maintenance at the Wilderness Stewardship Institute in the Smokies (page 24). "I think it's wonderful that we can bring together many different people who are attracted to wilderness. Perhaps people with different views can come together like this ... and form a bond," says Anna Wlodarczyk, who attended the institute in 2011. The Smokies are also home to a more scientific educational community, due to the area's huge diversity of species — both flora and fauna — much of which is not visible to the human eye. The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory is a group effort — by college students, faculty, volunteers, and the local scientific community — to count and study thousands of microscopic creatures — including the otherworldly "water bear." (page 32)

Many of those who celebrate their official 2,000-miler status (page 16) express their gratitude for supportive husbands, wives, parents, and other hikers who have not completed the Trail, but whose presence and support, both on and off Trail, was implicit to their experience. And while some recent 2,000-milers accomplished their hike all at once, others, like Trail Story author Tim Meadows — who took 35 years, hiking with family and friends (page 40), and ATC's new executive director, Mark Wenger — whose eight-year section hike only deepened his already fervent love of nature (page 15) — approached that lofty goal by taking it on one section at a time.

On the A.T., community is the adhesive that bonds an incredibly diverse group of people — from across the U.S. and around the world. So when you see the quintessential photo of the joyous hiker displaying their adoration toward the iconic sign atop Katahdin, you can be assured that the emotion emitted is that of pure love — not only for the Appalachian Trail, but for the community of special friendships forged and the important lessons the Trail inevitably imbues on those who tread its path. 

Wendy K. Probst | *Managing Editor*

A.T. Journeys welcomes your comments, story suggestions and photographs. Queries may be submitted via e-mail to editor@appalachiantrail.org.



2011 2000-miler Emma "Sprout" Hileman, elated on Katahdin.

BY JON BONINI

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KATAHDIN
BAXTER PEAK — ELEVATION — 5267 FT.
NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
A MOUNTAIN FOOTPATH EXTENDING OVER
2000 MILES TO SPRINGER MTN. GEORGIA
← THOREAU SPRING 1-0M.
← KATAHDIN STREAM CAMPGROUND 5-2
← PENNOSCOY WEST BRANCH AT ABOL BRIDGE 15-1
← MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LINE 281-4
← MT. WASHINGTON, N. H. 302-5
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BAXTER STATE PARK

2,000-MILER
John "Flowers" Dent — by Dave Morrison

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CELEBRATING 2,000-MILERS
ATC now celebrates more than 12,626 reports of hikes of the entire A.T. Of those, 500 thru-hikers and 120 section-hikers completed the Trail in 2011.



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ner, and told the story of Walter “Pogo” Rheinheimer of Pogo campsite fame, and several other anecdotes. At the time, we were not aware of Mr. Griggs contributions to the Trail. After our chance meeting he departed whence he came, disappearing into the woods. We thought we’d seen a spirit hanging out in his old surroundings. As you can tell from the photo, this was not the case ... a Trail day we’ll never forget.

Steve “Hiking Viking” and Tim “Big Walker” Farrell — a.k.a. The Brother’s Farrell
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO

calendar. This will be corrected in the 2014 edition. We regret any inconvenience and disappointment this caused. The photographs — all by A.T. hikers — in the 2013 calendar, which will be available this August, are as stunning as always. For 2014, we will return to larger spaces in which to write notes and to more prominent day numbers for easier viewing.

Brian B. King, Publisher

WE READ WITH INTEREST THE Volunteer Profile of Thurston Griggs in the January/February edition of *A.T. Journeys*. During our annual section hike in October 2005, we were staying at the original Rocky Run shelter in Maryland. After dinner we saw a gentlemen approaching from the hollow below. He wasn’t on a trail and was attired in cardigan and loafers. That gentlemen turned out to be Thurston Griggs. Claiming to be 90 years old at the time, he spent about 30 minutes chatting with us about his role as a Maryland Ridge Run-

FACEBOOK COMMENTS

THANKS FOR THE UNBELIEVABLE level of work, Dave Startzell! (“A Distinct Contribution,” *A.T. Journeys* November/December 2011) We’ll miss you. You’ve been an incredible friend of the A.T.

Kerry Snow

A NOTE ABOUT THE ATC CALENDAR design. A number of members have commented about the relatively smaller size of the monthly grids on the 2012 ATC

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

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I WAS FIRST DRAWN TO THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL AT THE 2001 national Boy Scout jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, in Virginia, where there was a display in the conservation area. Various organizations such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) had booths. I realized then that the A.T. was literally in my backyard. I had hiked small sections of the Trail, and here was the organization that was tasked to maintain it — so I joined the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club and the ATC. I found out that the ATC is the catalyst for working with thousands of volunteers who help to manage and maintain the Trail, as well as an official source of detailed information about the Trail, and how to hike it.

In 2003, I started section hiking the Trail, which, soon after, kindled my desire to complete the entire foot path. Last year, like my fellow recent 2,000-milers (page 16), I completed that ambitious goal. So many aspects from those eight years of hiking linger prominently in my mind. I remember my first one-week hike from Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, during the fall of 2003. I was just leaving Boiling Springs heading south. In that pastoral section, I hiked through gentle rolling mountains, crossing a number of small streams, and the vibrant color of the leaves amazed me. Think of this: it was the height of fall in southern Pennsylvania; the air was cool, and the colors were brilliant in the sun, which was reflecting on the oranges, reds, and browns. I had these glorious fall colors just for myself, and I marveled at the light reflecting off of the water in those streams. Looking back on it, I think: here is one of so many, vastly varied seasons and experiences that the Trail offers. There are sections, like Maine, with its huge lakes and its rugged rocks, and then there is southern Pennsylvania, with pastoral terrain, rolling mountains, and deciduous forests. Both of them gave me that same kind of wonderful feeling of peace — and I could only have experienced this by walking in these places. There is no other way to get that same kind of magnificent feeling. In both cases, I tried to take pictures, and when I look at those pictures, they still don't quite capture it. Actually, as I neared the end of my multi-year section hike, I stopped taking pictures of those kinds of moments, because I realized that the only way to really understand the moment is just to experience it — to take it in, and keep it as a memory.

As the ATC's executive director I plan to channel my passion for the outdoors, and the Appalachian Trail particularly, into every aspect of my work. We will continue to focus on volunteers, clubs, and agency partners. We will work on engaging the wider "community" aspect of the A.T. Highlighting this aspect of our work is a direct result of my own volunteer work for the Trail. I think the most appealing aspect of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is the volunteer nature of the organization, especially in terms of how we are set up and how we function. The Trail was envisioned by volunteers, built by volunteers, and, through the cooperative agreement of our agency partners, is maintained, enhanced, preserved, and protected by volunteers. So, as we celebrate the newest group of 2,000-milers, the ATC would like to salute the more than 5,000 volunteers, our 42,000-plus members, our generous corporate partners, and our agency partners in 14 states who make the A.T. journey possible. ⬆

Mark J. Wenger | Executive Director



2011 thru-hikers, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy members, Angela "Chowhound" and Shawn "Chuckwagon" Grenier at ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.



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THE GREAT *Girl Scout Hike*

The year 2012 is the Girl Scouts of the USA's centennial birthday. And what a better way to celebrate our 100th anniversary than with a hike of great proportions. We're marking the occasion by hiking the Appalachian Trail. So far more than 100 Girl Scout troops and groups have signed up to hike a portion of the A.T. Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, teen Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout alumnae are taking up the call to hike the entire length of the Trail by section-hiking it — or like Girl Scout Leader Mary “Mama Boots” Sands likes to say: in “bits and pieces.” We even have our very own Girl Scout thru-hikers: “the Eaglet Express.” Our goal is to have each foot of the 2,100-plus-mile Appalachian Trail hiked upon by a Girl Scout this year. Our “kick-your-hiking-boots-on” date is **March 12, 2012.**

One-hundred-years ago, on March 12, 1912, Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low made her historic telephone call to a friend, saying, “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!” That night, Daisy gathered 18 girls to register the first troop of American Girl Guides. The following year, the name of the organization was changed to Girl Scouts. In developing the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Daisy brought girls of all backgrounds into the outdoors, giving them the opportunity to develop self-reliance and resourcefulness. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

That’s right — the first Girl Scouts hiked that very first year. They were forewarned by local townsmen that a female hiking or camping overnight in the wild could result in their illness or possible death due to a “girl’s constitutional make-up.” The idea of girls surviving

BY JENNIFER PFISTER

Clockwise from top left: Troop leader Barbara Duerk during a 1990 day hike to McAfee’s Knob with her “Virginia Skyline Adventurers”; Virginia Skyline Girl Scout Cadet Troop 2286, from Newport, on a 2008 overnight Mount Rogers A.T. hike; A Girl Scout’s drawing of “Mama Boots”

outside the home in the woods on their own was not considered plausible nor acceptable behavior for that day and age. Daisy knew that was silly nonsense and went about putting together trips for girls to hike and go camping. Those first Girl Scouts hiked in the great outdoors and lived to tell about it. In doing so, they inspired generations of girls to get outside — to hike, to camp, to backpack, to enjoy the world of the great outdoors that was waiting for them.

More than 50 years later, in 1965, Mary Sands was inspired to begin a new Girl Scout chapter of adventure. As a Girl Scout Leader from Louisville, Kentucky, she got swept up into hiking with her daughter's troop. Then one day, while family camping near the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, she discovered the Appalachian Trail, and a spark lit-up inside her. She had never been backpacking before and thought that this could be an exciting new adventure for her Girl Scout troop. As soon as she returned home from vacation, she gathered a group of teen Girl Scouts and they planned their very first backpacking trip for the Appalachian Trail through the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina. Sometime during that first trip, one of the girls bestowed upon her the trail name of "Mama Boots."

One backpacking trip after another was planned and then hiked with Mama Boots' Girl Scouts. After the Smokies came Center Point Knob, then Springer Mountain, and then Katahdin. Of course the challenge of hiking all of Virginia took several trips and several years for these Kentucky Girl Scouts. Mama Boots spent a period of 16 years hiking with 135 different Girl Scouts and completed the entire Appalachian Trail through section-hiking it. With the encouragement of many of her former hiking companions, their parents and other Girl Scout Leaders, Mama Boots compiled her most memorable experiences into an inspiring and humorous book titled *Appalachian Trail in Bits and Pieces*. She explains: "When I look back at my adventure with the Girl Scouts, I know that the Appalachian Trail was our classroom. The friends we made, the lessons we learned, and the experiences we had — both good and bad — will never be forgotten." And they never were.

Thanks to the stories of her great adventures, she inspired another. Barbara Norris Duerk, a volunteer for the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline, was so moved by Mama Boots' stories that she wished to mark the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting by spearheading the Great Girl Scout Hike. Back in 1986, Barbara founded the Virginia Skyline Adventurers, a high-adventure activity group for middle school and high school girls. Girls who wanted a challenge — girls who wanted to try their hands at hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, kayaking, caving and more — joined to learn leadership skills through adventure-based outdoor programming.

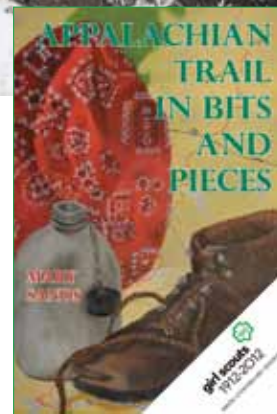
In 1992, the Adventurers backpacked through Europe. The group visited Our Chalet, a Girl Guide World Center, located in Adelboden, Switzerland. Girl Scouts from Kentuckianna Council told them stories about Mama Boots and her Girl

Scout adventures on the Appalachian Trail. Barbara exclaimed, "I live right next to the Appalachian Trail in Roanoke, Virginia. Our girls can hike the A.T. too." When back home in the U.S., Barbara began organizing Girl Scout hikes on the Appalachian Trail with the help from the Roanoke and Natural Bridge A.T. Clubs. She believed that girls learn by doing. She saw the Girl Scouts as a girl-powered outdoor social and leadership "movement." The Adventurers motto: "Challenging You to Challenge Yourself!"

Back in 1912, Juliette "Daisy" Low called Girl Scouting a "Movement" and not an organization. She believed that the Girl Scouts would change and progress as the girls and



Above: Scout teens on a 1990 "Wake Up with the Wild Ponies" overnight hike in Grayson Highlands, Virginia; Right: The famous book by troop leader Mary "Mama Boots" Sands — who spent 16 years, hiking with 135 different Girl Scouts, to complete her hike of the entire Trail. Opposite page: The Skyline Adventurer troop on a 2001 day hike to Burkes, Virginia.



women of America changed and progressed. Daisy understood progression and said: "I realize that each year it has changed and grown [and] I know that a decade from now what I might say of it would seem like an echo of what has been, instead of what is." By 1920, within eight years from her humble beginning with an 18-girl member troop, there were nearly 70,000 Girl Scouts nationwide, including the territory of Hawaii. Today our "movement" is one of actual

motion. We are motivated to move — to get kids off the couch and out from behind the numerous glowing screens. It goes by many names — the Green Hour, Let's Move!, Get Outside, Children and Nature, No Child Left Behind — but in the Girl Scouts, we just call it having fun.

By having fun, girls build self-confidence and are empowered to take the lead. The 100th anniversary Great Girl Scout Hike embraces this fun. Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council was inspired too; we wanted Girl Scouts across the East Coast to join together in continuing the great American Girl Scout tradition of getting outside, by hiking. With the combined educational efforts of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail clubs, the Girl Scouts are able to share advice on family and youth-friendly sections of the A.T. for our youngest members. We have also worked together to share and highlight safety guidelines and tips for backpacking and camping in the backcountry for our teen girls. A strong collaboration has developed through the organization of the Great Girl Scout Hike over the past year.

And the inspiration continues. Our West Coast sister Girl Scouts, enthusiastic about our A.T. hike, started their very own Great Girl Scout Hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. And there are talks underway for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to be part of the Great Girl Scout Hike too. In addition, a small band of Girl Scout adult volunteers and alumnae, led by Sam "the Captain" Loftus, have formed the "Eaglet Express" to hike the entire trail starting on March 12, 2012 at Springer Mountain, Georgia. As experienced thru-hikers, this group wishes to let the rest of the world in on its secret. "Girl Scouting is about belonging, and doing things bigger than ourselves," explains the captain. And to hike the Appalachian Trail is one of those great things that is bigger than any one person. It's an experience of a lifetime just like Girl Scouting.

From those original 18 girls of the first Girl Scout troop in 1912 to today in 2012, Girl Scouting has grown to 3.7 million members nationwide. The Girl Scouts are the largest educational organization for girls in the world. In fact, more than 50 million women in the U.S. today are Girl Scout alumnae. For 100 years, young women have been motivated to make the world a better place. Girl Scout programming continues to value the experiential outdoors classroom. Girl Scout leaders provide training and a safe, supportive environment for girls to learn decision-making, develop self-reliance, engage in teamwork, and practice leadership.

Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council challenges current and alumnae Girl Scouts from all



BY HAVING FUN, GIRLS BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ARE EMPOWERED TO TAKE THE LEAD. THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY GREAT GIRL SCOUT HIKE EMBRACES THIS FUN.

over the East Coast to hike one section or all of the A.T. between March 12, 2012 and October 31, 2012 (our founder Daisy's birthday). The Great Girl Scout Hike combines traditional outdoor activities with today's technology. Scouts can tweet about their experiences on the Trail, and keep up-to-date on the Eaglet Express' thru-hike via blogging and Facebook. Sharing information via multi-media facets enables and empowers girls to reach even higher expectations than ever thought imaginable. Instead of ignoring the great influence of technology in kids' lives today, we are interconnecting it with their outdoors experiences. With our great willingness to share this experience with the next generation of women leaders, may the Great Girl Scout Hike be the start of bringing happy trails to even more girls over the next 100 years. ⬆

Jennifer Pfister is the communications director of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council, a member of the Roanoke A.T. Club, and a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. *Appalachian Trail in Bits and Pieces* is available at the Ultimate A.T. Store: atctrailstore.org.

For more information visit: www.gshike.org

| TRAILHEAD |

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMMEROTA

How to Handle **BLOWDOWNS**

BY TRUDY PHILLIPS

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A TRAIL MAINTAINER IS FINDING the best, safest, and often most expedient solutions to problems encountered on the Trail. Such was the case when the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club (NBATC) found a 42-inch oak across the A.T. just south of the James River Foot Bridge in the James River Face Wilderness. The tree had uprooted just above the Trail and, though dead, was still very solid. NBATC determined that removing such a large blowdown themselves with a crosscut saw would have presented several difficult safety related issues. The large oak tree was well above shoulder level and situated on a steep sidehill. Although only slightly bigger than the largest tree the club had previously bucked with a crosscut saw, it presented the problem of being suspended about two feet off the ground by a major side branch, meaning that it could have rolled either direction when cut. In addition, the crown of the tree was resting in the James River where its strong current could have caused movement at any time.

Using a hand cable winch was considered, but would have required felling numerous nearby large trees. Since hikers were already making an unsafe detour up and down a steep embankment, the club decided that the most sensible and prudent approach would be to construct a short trail relocation around the obstacle. Once the decision was made to construct the relocation, NBATC maintainers completed the task in less than a day. Safety is always a major concern of maintainers, but is just one of several factors addressed when dealing with Trail problems. Areas designated as wilderness have limitations as to the types of equipment that can be used and the size of work crews. Proposed Trail relocations are evaluated by their potential environmental impacts rather than their proposed lengths and thus agency partners need to have the opportunity to address possible NEPA and other issues. Trail maintainers usually have a wide range of factors to be considered before successfully completing most of their projects. ⚡

Trudy Phillips is the president of the NBATC



A.T. Post Offices Will Stay Open Through May

In December, the U.S. Postal Service, in response to a request made by multiple U.S. Senators, agreed to delay the closing of any post office until May 15, 2012. This is good news for this year's northbound thru-hikers. It means all but the latest trekkers starting from Springer can count on the Fontana Dam, North Carolina post office being open. But, because both northbound and southbound thru-hikers will reach Glencliff, New Hampshire and Caratunk, Maine post offices after the date of temporary reprieve, they should check the status of those post offices before sending a package.



A huge blowdown dictated moving the footpath of the A.T. just south of the James River by members of the NBATC, including Bill Bishop (left) and Joe Chavez (right).

PHOTO BY GARY NERO



ABOUT THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAST AUGUST, MARK WENGER JOINED THE LIST OF THIS year's 2,000-milers by completing an eight-year, three-month effort to section hike the entire Appalachian Trail. This year, he joins the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) as its new executive director. Wenger is active in the Trail community as life member of both the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) and the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club. He served as the program chair, vice president, and president of TATC. Wenger also led an extensive number of outdoor trips (backpacking, canoeing, cycling, and whitewater rafting) for the

TATC, earning him the Ray Kernel Jr. Trip Leadership Award. He has volunteered for more than 22 years with the Boy Scouts of America at the local, council, and regional levels, and until recently was the outdoor ethics advisor for his council, providing him a vehicle to champion the cause of Leave No Trace while promoting more — but responsible — use of the outdoors.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

St. Francisville, Louisiana.

WHAT KEEPS YOU INVOLVED IN SO MANY TYPES OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES?

I have a real passion for the outdoors. I grew up in a rural area, and was able to enjoy the hills, and farmlands and the many woods and beautiful places along the Mississippi — all of the activities that outdoor life presents. I have always had that passion, which is why I became a Boy Scout, because I was able to benefit from camping, and outdoor activities. I have always just enjoyed being able to be outdoors, which can be as simple as a walk in a city park or a more involved backpacking trek.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO HIKE THE ENTIRE TRAIL AND WHY?

I started section hiking on May first of 2003, and my goal was to try to hike all of Virginia, because Virginia is such a huge section of the Trail. I thought that would be a fantastic goal, because I had only done a limited amount of backpacking and mostly car camping up until then. I got out on my first couple of sections, and they were beautiful and inspiring. I could just hike all day and enjoy the variety of terrain and the change of vistas along the Blue Ridge. By the beginning of 2004, I had completed Maryland, part of southern Pennsylvania, and started into North Carolina — I realized then that I wanted to do the whole Trail as a section hiker.

DO ANY MOMENTS FROM YOUR MULTI- YEAR HIKE PARTICULARLY STAND OUT IN YOUR MIND?

There were so many favorite sections. But to give you a flavor of my favorite sections, those that inspired that feeling of being one with nature, in a sort of serene, Zen sense — one such moment occurred in 2009, when I hiked Ranglely north to Monson. Toward the end of the hike, there was a series of ponds and lakes that the Trail circles around before it heads to Monson. It was late August, and I went wading out into the water of one of those lakes. I was at least 25 feet off shore, and there wasn't anyone else around. It was quiet, except for the sound of a few birds, and the sky was a beautiful crystal clear blue. Suddenly I noticed this female Moose, who had come out to feed not 50 yards from me. She kind of looked at me briefly, with no fear or trepidation, and I just stood there in the water, and was thinking that the only way you could experience something as amazing as this moment in this place was to hike in. There was no way to drive in, there was no tour bus that could take you into this area; you couldn't fly over and get the same feeling.

WHAT IS NEXT ON YOUR "PERSONAL GOAL" LIST?

To be a successful executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy — that means to make sure that the organization is focussed on its agency partners, clubs, members, and especially its many volunteers. I want it to continue to be a thriving organization for years to come. As far as my next outdoor goal: I want to revisit many sections of the A.T., but this time with agency partners and Trail club volunteers — to experience again the magic of the Trail. ⚡



Peter Woitas | *Twigg*

2,000 MILERS



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy now has more than **12,626** reports of hikes of the entire A.T. posted to its register of 2,000-milers. This includes **684** reports, which were received since last year's listing. Of those, **500** thru-hikers and **120** section-hikers completed the Trail in 2011.

2011

- Adair Joshua | *Bookhawk*
- Adams Dick | *Walking Cowboy*
- Adams Jerry | *Grasshopper*
- Adinolfi Anthony | *Legion*
- Akers Paul R. | *Yak*
- Aldridge Chuck | *Guinness*
- Allen Kaitlin | *Jetpack*
- Anderson Aaron | *Tigger*
- Anderson Gerald | *Rosy Eagle*
- Andrews Allison | *Chickadee*
- Angelini Luke | *Attitude*
- Archambault Justin | *O.B.1*
- Arsenault Steven K. | *Second Shift Steamer*
- Ashwill Madeline | *Sweet Pea*
- Atwood Roxana Mebane | *Morning Star*

- Axman-Hyner Dara Jane | *Art Gypsy*
- Ayers Louis | *Dream Walker*
- Baab Jordan A. | *Green Man*
- Banik Patrick | *Renaissance*
- Barr Kerry | *enzed*
- Barrett Alan B. | *Earl Grey*
- Barron Kevin | *Captain Planet*
- Baum Nick | *Low Expectations*
- Beardsley Samantha | *Peanut!*
- Beasley Vista | *Wisp*
- Beauregard Gregory M. | *Gravity*
- Bechert Nick | *Kodiak*
- Bedard Ken | *K-Dawg*
- Bennett Len | *Trog*
- Bennick David A. | *Old Fat Dad*
- Berlow Matthew
- Beyer Jessie | *Colorado*
- Bidon Tobias | *Mule1*
- Bidwell Scott | *Snaker*
- Bigelow Jay | *Jay Bird*

- Billing Jonathan | *Lego*
- Bishop Deneen | *(s)HeBGB*
- Blair John T. | *Blair Foot*
- Blake Matthew | *Red Oak*
- Blanchet Gabriel | *3Stove*
- Bliss Lauralee | *Blissful*
- Blumenthal Jenni | *DayHikers*
- Blumenthal Ralph | *DayHikers*
- Bobo Warren | *Old Blue*
- Bode James | *Clay*
- Bohac Chad | *Holycow*
- Bohner Lee E. | *Loner Bohner*
- Borkowski Marilyn R. | *Lucky 13*
- Bosh Alex | *Dayhiker*
- Bossier Jr. Bryan | *MarathoN*
- Boswell Eugene Louis | *MEAN Gene*
- Boutin Matthew | *Caveman*
- Bowen Scot | *Ramblin' Man*
- Bowles Nicholas | *WIP*
- Boyce Amy | *Pebbles*

- Boyd William | *Tri-Dub*
- Boyer Chad A. | *Magic Bag*
- Boyes Jason
- Bracken Matthew | *Chainsaw*
- Branch Marcus | *Little Engine*
- Bratter Melissa | *Hollywood*
- Brayley Grace N. | *Stearman*
- Bredehoeft Chris | *Kipper*
- Bresnihan John | *Poncho*
- Brewer Seth | *Doc Boom*
- Briere, Sr. Darrell | *Mickey 'D'*
- Britt Clark | *Boy Howdy*
- Brooke-de Bock Cory | *Moose*
- Brouillette Michael | *Animal*
- Brown Matt | *Sweet Tea*
- Brown Ryan U. | *Brownie*
- Brunner Dan | *Jackrabbit*
- Bubb Rodger | *Bullwinkle*
- Buckley-Gray Shane | *Snake Farm*

■ LIFE MEMBERS / ■ CURRENT MEMBERS / We would like to express our appreciation for those 2,000-milers who have chosen to support the Appalachian Trail as Appalachian Trail Conservancy members.

2,000

FROM LEFT:

Michael Stratton | Pace | Christi Holmes | Deva | Matt LaClair | Porter



Buckwalter Julie | Dragonfly
 Burger Gerald | Muncher
 Burnett Ben | Neathawk
 ■ Buschmeier Michael | Shutter
 Bush Jr. Robert B. | Spartan
 Butler Bret | Indy
 ■ Buzzell Dan | Sixes
 Cabaniss Elizabeth | Warbler
 Cahill William A. | Berky
 Campbell John | Fulltime
 Capps Jonathan | Professor
 Carlson Bree | Lady Pants
 Carlson Elaine M. | Pilot
 Carpenter John | Maniac
 ■ Carte Thomas | Uncle Tom
 Caskey Grant | Tex
 ■ Casseday Adam | Gobbler
 Chance Logan | Teddy
 Chandler Charles V. | Cheese
 Chappell Jason | Bolt
 Chiaroni Vincent | The Corsican
 ■ Chisom Brian T. | Bear
 Christensen Erik | Hospital Guy
 ■ Gilladi Josiah | Me Hap
 Clark James | Six String
 Cleijne Erik | Oompa
 Clelland Douglas Monroe
 Cline Tom | Tom A. Hawk

Cobb Marie | Bobwhite
 Cocanour Josh | Coaster
 Cohen David | Super Dave
 Cole Matthew L. | Buscemi
 Cole Rachel | Lush
 Coleman Daniel F. | Griswald
 ■ Coleman Michele | Loon
 Conant III Richard D. | Walking Home
 Conly Thomas | Little Knee
 Conway Brian | Squirrel
 Cooke Brock | Loop
 ■ Cooperdock Sol | Whiskey
 Corrado Frank | MoJo
 Cowan Matt | Ass Trumpet
 Cramer Daniel | Mile Hi
 Crawford Edward D. | "Eddie"
 Culver Ben | Shaka
 Curran Stephanie | Sparkplug
 Dahlstrom Jonas | Leprechaun
 Daily Glenn | Turn Around
 Daniels Jeff | Moondoggie
 Davis Jennifer Pharr | Odyssea
 Davis Zach | Badger
 ■ Davison Mary E. | Medicare Pastor
 ■ Dax Michael | Stretch
 ■ de Nobriga Frank | denob
 Deal Grayson | Tin Man
 ■ Deckert Bob | Uncle Bob

DeJaegher Lewis | Witticism
 DeLand Frank S. | Rambler
 Delinski Brock
 ■ DeLucas Rachel | Catalyst
 ■ DeMillo Cody | Coyote
 Denny Craig | Sky Pilot
 ■ Dent Jonathan A. | Flowers
 Derin Colleen Ann | Derin Duo
 Derin Rex P. | Derin Duo
 ■ Devereaux Kevin | Paul Bunion
 deWolfe Julie | Honeybee
 Dickey Dylan | AYCE
 Diederich Kelsey
 Dillingham Josh | Black Foot
 ■ Douglass Heyward | Peregrine
 ■ Downing Michael | Dash
 Downs Alan | LEMUR
 Dragoon Michael | Chase
 Dragoon Stephanie | Pace
 ■ Drapeau Brendan | Breeze
 Duggan Aburee | Cayenne
 ■ Dunaway Alan | Pops
 Dunham Philip | Grad School
 Dussault David | Bum Knee
 Dyke Richard | Hot Drinks
 Dykes Sam | C-Spike
 Dylan | Oatmeal
 ■ Eagleton Jim | Rambler

Edwards Dorsey | Tennessee Two
 Edwards Richard | Shark
 Ellis Robert | Checklist
 ■ Englert Mary | Yinz
 Enser Timothy | Whistler
 Erdman Charlie | Truckin'
 Evanko John J. | Musher
 Ezor Zachary | Square
 Fagerer Werner | Sofarsogood
 ■ Faulhaber William | Zhivago
 ■ Finney Zack | Blueyes
 Fleming Michael | The Colonel
 ■ Forbes Avery | 3Hats
 Forbes Scotland | So Far
 ■ Ford Andy | SASH
 Ford Joel Spencer | Stroller
 Fordon Joseph | Stretch
 Foss Gardner | Switchback
 ■ Foster Daniel L. | Bald Eagle
 Fraysier Jeff
 Freitas Jamie M. | Styx
 Frenette Elaine | Pacemaker
 ■ Friedrich Carl | Rewind
 ■ Friedrichs Karen | Whisper
 Frost Andrew | Llama Legs
 Funada Yasuaki | V8
 ■ Fynan Barbara | Putz
 ■ Gabrielson Erin | Fern Toe
 Gansborg Blake | Squash
 ■ Garver Julia M. | Domino
 Gazvoda Gary | Turkey Feather
 Gerhardt Renny | Stroller
 Gersitz William | Billygoat
 Gietkowski Jasper | Right-Click
 ■ Gipaya Robert | Red Fred
 Girard David J. | Woodchuck
 ■ Gleason Kelli | Molehill
 Gleason Ryan | Stinkbug
 ■ Goglin Eric | Pound Cake
 Goldstein Emily Hernandez | J Tree
 ■ Goodrich Lara | Veggie
 Goodwin Melissa | Click!
 ■ Goodwin Michael R. | LongTime
 Gorey Roger | Trolley Stop
 Gower James G. | Hospital Hiker # 1
 ■ Gram Ed | Sundowner
 Grau Robert C. | Buckeye Flash
 ■ Graybill John | Happy Jack
 Gregory Kristen Paige | Gingersnap
 Greiner Angela M. | Chowhound
 ■ Grenier Shawn | Chuckwagon
 ■ Griffith, Jr. Thomas B. | Sno
 Grimes Alexander | Engineer
 ■ Grissom Chad | Moosehead
 Grosner Cole | Crazy Goose
 Grounds Phill | Mingo
 ■ Guetersloh Tim | Oops
 ■ Guiney John | Whoop!
 Haber Alix | Buzz Lightyear
 ■ Haggerty Jack | Justjack
 ■ Haker Jeri | Tippy Toes
 Hamann Lejon | Humpty Dumpty
 ■ Hamilton Kristi | Happy Little Tree
 Hammond Will | Chimp
 Handrich Kristin | Sunday
 ■ Handville Ray | Sliver
 Haradon Jared "Rick" | Fish Hook
 ■ Harbert Tara | Eugene
 Harbin Justin | Chevy
 Hardcastle Lewis
 | The Lewis & Mark Experience
 Harder Abram | Poncho Verde
 Harder Liz | Vinca
 ■ Harris Derek C. | D-Wreck
 Harrison Holly | Cargo



MILEERS

MILERS

- Harvey Dustin | *Tree Frog*
- Hasenmyer Elizabeth | *Muggle*
- Hasenmyer John | *Survivor Man*
- Hassinger Candace | *Zippers*
- Hatcher Shayna | *P.C.*
- Haywood Adam | *Red Moose*
- Heinrich Matthias | *Mammoth*
- Helgesen Timothy | *9 Lives*
- Hennessy Mary | *Moss*
- Herrick Bradley | *Woody*
- Hewett Chuck | *Kayak*
- Hewlett Dane | *WalkAbout*
- High Bonnie | *"Bonnie"*
- High Clarence | *"Clyde"*
- Hileman Emma | *Sprout*
- Hill Craig A. | *Phoenix*
- Hill Lindsay | *Shuffle*
- Hillberry Jesse
- Hillier Chris | *Wolverine*
- Hinckley Philip J. | *Smooth*
- Hinkle Josh | *RainGear*
- Hodge Bill | *Hodgepodge*
- Hoffed Ray**
- Hoffmann Robert "Jake" | *Samwise*
- Holland William | *Wobegon*
- Hollar Logan | *Solitaire*
- Holmes Christi | *Deva*
- Hong Shin | *Raisins*
- Hood Anthony Drew | *Robin Hood*
- Hood Thomas G. | *Airbelt*
- Hooper Chris Ryan | *Hoop*
- Houge Claude | *Pilgrim*
- Howard Andrew | *Pink Floyd*
- Howard Chris | *Steps*
- Howard Don | *Chainsaw*
- Hughes Margaret | *Mouse*
- Hull Daryl | *Sticks*
- Humphries Erma | *Flame*
- Hunter Derek | *Panda Bear*
- Hunter John | *Snifur*
- Hurd Josh | *Goldie*
- Hurdle Douglas | *Tin Man*
- Hyatt Ashley | *Ducky*
- Hyder Kelly | *Goatman*
- Hyman David Matthew | *Pepper*
- Iker Ryan | *Spork*
- Illausky Bruce | *Firehawk*
- Innerebner Buck | *49er*
- Irvine David | *Scotch*
- Irwin Andrew | *Spaceman*
- Irwin Taylor | *Rocket*
- Jackson Seth G. | *Bear Bag*
- Jahn Martin | *Navigator*
- Jochen Nathan D.
- Johnson Carrie | *Flying Squirrel*
- Johnson Doug | *Dogbreath*
- Johnson Norman | *Slo Jo*
- Joiner Zach | *Face Jacket*
- Jordan Jonathan | *Apostle Jon*
- Kachikis Gregory | *Shotgun*
- Kampmann Eric M. | *Pilgrim 67*
- Karst Lisa | *Peru*
- Kasko Laura | *Freethinker*
- Kaufman Fletcher | *Arrowmaker*
- Kelly Mary E. | *Valderie*
- Kendall James | *Hickory*
- Kielian John | *Radio*
- Kierych David J. | *Delaware Dave*
- King Abby | *A-GAME*
- King Kyle | *Zippo*
- Kish Stephen | *Where in the Blazes*
- Klippel, III Bernhardt W. | *jusplainbernie*
- Kneeland Herb | Eveready**
- Knight Elizabeth V. | *ShortFuse*
- Kremer Allard | *Seven*
- Krohn Joanna H. | *Baby Ruth*

- Kronenberger John A. | *Water Bear*
- Kurtz Tom | *The 49ers*
- Kuzmins Paul | *Bootlegger*
- La Vigne Justin | *Deal*
- La Vigne Patrice | *Steadee*
- Lacey Melissa | *Metric*
- LaClair Matt | *Porter*
- Lake Johanna | *Ruffles*
- LaMance Preston | *Coach*
- LaMarca Ryan | *Captain U.S.A.*
- Landon James | *Brown Cow*
- Landry Bryan | *BC*
- Landsman Elias | *Ewok*
- Laube Steffen | *Calf*
- Laurenson Tanya | *gipcgirl*
- Lawrence Calvin | *Torch*
- Lawrence Elsa | *Ladybug*
- Lawrence Tom | *Rambler*
- Lawton Charles | *NightTrain*
- Lazier Meghan | *Red Sox*
- Leibold Sara | *Tide Walker*
- Leitner Sherry | *Turtle Feet*
- Leonard Christine | *Little Bird*
- Hoffmann Robert "Jake" | *Samwise*
- Limbach Mareike | *Daydreamer*
- Limone Matthew | *Moses*
- Lindquist James | *T'smyg'ss*
- Little Stephen T. | *Nighthawk*
- Loeckle Lea | *Shiver*
- Long Ashley | *4-Beard*
- Long Michael | *Manks*
- Lont Christopher | *Dutch*
- Looney Chris | *Kermit*
- Loufek Steven | *Still Steve*
- Love Johnny Dagwood | *Streaker*
- Lovedahl Gerald | *Jerryatric*
- Lowe David J. | *El Flaco*
- Lowe Gail P. | *One of the Chosen Wheeww*
- Lucy Deborah | *Pickle*
- Lund Danielle | *Lady Sherpa*
- Machles Matthew | *Red Stripe*
- MacKenzie Sandra | *Girl with 4 Dogs*
- Mahrt Dustin | *Dust*
- Maloney Patrick | *Sage*
- Mandala Paul | *Littlefoot*
- Mannella Ernest | *Onegreywolf*
- Marble Jeremy | *Qball*
- Margavage David | *Diamond Dave*
- Martello John T. | T-Mello**
- Martin Meachele | *Mothership*
- Martin Michael | *Upstate*
- Martin Seth | *Woolie*
- Martinez Danny | *Tramp*
- Mason Bob | Tattoo**
- Matheny Judy**
- Matthen Peter
- Maun Jay L.
- Maus Ulrich | *U-Lee*
- Mayeux Wesley | *Bearbait*
- McAnulty Jim | *Bigfoot*
- McCabe Adrian Thomas | *Foot-z*
- McCarthy Danielle | *Just the Tip*
- McClenon Jim | *Buddha Jim*
- McClure James Michael | *Hand Me Down*
- McCullum James Charles | *Mango*
- McDermott Andrew | *Coach*
- McFadden Jonathan | *Road Dog*
- McGhee Mike | *Photon*
- McIntyre George L. | *Fire Marshall*
- McKenna Patrick | *Muldoon*
- McKenzie Joel B. | *McJeep*
- McKnight Jeff | *Next*
- McLean John M. | *Die Hard*
- McMeekin Laura | *Squeaks*
- McNier Robert M. | *Gut*
- McNulty Will | *Happy Feet*

- McPherson W. Brian | *Nimble*
- Meadows Tim | *Meadowlark*
- Mendrala Christopher | *Danger*
- Michael Jonathan | *Do What?*
- Michael Rickey D. | *Doc*
- Michel Joseph Edward | *Yogi*
- Michelsen-Correa Stephani | *Newt*
- Micklo Steve | *ManCub*
- Mier Vince | *Blaze*
- Miller Chris | *Cleanshave*
- Mills-Romines Clara | *Country Mouse*
- Molyneaux Paul | *Tecolote*
- Moore Brandon A. | *El Perro*
- Moore Michael A. | *Yankee*
- Moore Peter | *Floater*
- Morris Michael | *Yekke*
- Moser Kathryn | *Guinness*
- Munch Bryan | *Hot Sauce*
- Munsell Daniel | *Chopsticks*
- Murphy Robert | *Junzi*
- Murray Caroline | *Caro*
- Murray Eva "Lotta" | *Firefly*
- Murter Forrester | *Speedy Gonzales*
- Liechty Jacob | *Chevron*
- Myers Michael J. | *Y-Knot*
- Nassiff Netta | *Spins*
- Nesbit Steven | *Geo*
- Netzer Harry | *Shorts*
- Newcomer Jason | *Arrow*
- Noble Kenneth | *Meander*
- Nohowec Amanda | *Schmoopy*
- Nonis George G. | *Zeus*
- Nooft Rick | *Slider*
- Norris Eric | *Yoga Boy*
- Nussbaum Matt | *Twoper*
- O'Brien Daniel | *Sinister Pope*
- O'Brien Terrance | *Dead Man*
- Olsen Spencer | *Poppins*
- Olson Arden O. | *Black Cat*
- Olson James W. | *Polé Polé*
- Olson Travis | *Duck*
- Osborn Dave | *freebird*
- Owen John M. | *Lost and Found*
- Owen Philip | *Fiber*
- Pace Ashton | *Still Water*
- Padgett Mike | *Towns*
- Palermo Robert J. | *Sparky*
- Paradeis Shayla | *Kiddo*
- Paugh Meghan | *Freight Train*
- Peeler Chase | *Sensei*
- Pelletier Jim | *Wanderer*
- Pelton Sabine | *Foureyes*
- Pengelly Jan | *Purple*
- Pengelly Mike | *Carnivore*
- Pernsteiner Travis | *Frodo*
- Perschel Mark | *Mark Trail*
- Pierce Katy | *Roadie*
- Pipenberg Nathan | *Bean*
- Pitts Steven Wyatt | *Hiccup*
- Platz Jim | Pilot**
- Pollock Thomas | *Toto*
- Popescu Eliza | *Inchworm*
- Porter Jacob I. | *Napalm*
- Posey David | *Kenyan*
- Potter Tim | *Barnacle*
- Pounds Alexander | *Foon*
- Powell Lamar | *Hopeful*
- Presley Josh | *Snowy River*
- Prill Derek R. | *Journeymen*
- Quakenbush Peter | *Leaf*
- Quinn Kasi | *Sun Spirit*
- Quirk Mike | *Iron Mike*
- Ragsdale Wayne | *Rags*
- Reed David | *"Dave"*
- Reeve Barbara A. | *Stitch*
- Renault Lance M. | *Pilgrim*

- Rhoades David | *Manparty*
- Richard Jamie | *Victus*
- Riese Eric | *Mountain Dew*
- Riggins Brandon | *Rolling Stone*
- Ristola Allison | *Sweet Pea*
- Ristola Brian | *Beardoh*
- Rittenhouse Benjamin | *Indiana Jones*
- Roach Dan | *Eats*
- Rodney Lindsey | *Swinglow*
- Roland Richard A. | *High Rider*
- Romines B.J. | *Shadow*
- Rooney Tim | *Curmudgeon*
- Rothwell John | *Jake*
- Runfola Tim | *Just Tim*
- Russell Bryan | *Half Tongue*
- Russell Chris | *Boomer*
- Russell Ward
- Rutt Zachary A. | *Hop*
- Sabin Katherine | *Firefly*
- Sampson Logan | *Chief*
- Sargeant Kate | *True Grit*
- Schafflein Clarence | *Ontime*
- Scheck David F. | *Redwood*
- Scheller Russ | *Special Delivery*
- Schlenker Jarrod | *Hansel*
- Schlenker Rebecca | *Gretel*
- Schoenbachler Nicholas | *Dr. Bundy*
- Schollmann Brett | *Bud Heavy*
- Schreiber Rebecca | *Shoofly*
- Schultz Tyler | *Tin Man*
- Schwalm Bryan | *Space Cowboy*
- Schwantes Amanda | *Oak*
- Schwantes Rebecca | *Maple*
- Schwartz Rachel | *City Slickah*
- Sealey David | *The Sundance Kid*
- Seifried-Myers Bonnie | *Balance*
- Serritella Nick | *Half Fast*
- Settle Raymond | *Ray-Pan*
- Sharp Anne | *Fig*
- Shea Patrick
- Sheets Joshua | *Soulslosher*
- Sheftall IV William L. | *Sawyer*
- Sheill Martin | *Glide*
- Shell Joshua A. | *Gumby*
- Shelton Worley C. | *Tenn Two*
- Sherman Christopher | *Down Hill*
- Singh Tony Romero | *Little Trekter 88*
- Skiles Mel | *reuben2*
- Skinner Dylan | *Tiger*
- Slabach Esther | *RawIndy*
- Smith Bruce | *Little Bruce*
- Smith C.J. | *Baboon*
- Smith Daniel William | *Indy*
- Smith Jason
- Smith Matt | *Phishnets*
- Smithson Daniel T. | *Periwinkle*
- Smithwick Kerry | *Scribbles*
- Snow Alan | *Shenanigans*
- Snyder Brian | *Calculator*
- Snyder Kirk | *The Captain*
- Staats Charles "Peter" | *Tanglefoot*
- Stanze Alex John | *Silver Fox*
- Starr Don | Shadow**
- Starr Linda P. | Yellow Rose**
- Steele John | *Columbus*
- Stephenson Ben | *White Fang*
- Stine Justin Daniel | *Whiskey*
- Stoffel Nicholas | *Spike*
- Storey Wally | *One of the "Carolina Boys"*
- Strange Stephanie | *DVD*
- Stratton Michael K. | *Pace*
- Stroh Michael | *Vegan*
- Stuart Donald R. | *Wakarusa*
- Stylos Jeffrey | *Portrait*
- Suber Matthew | *Cottonmouth*
- Summers Colby | *Framework*

Martin Jahn | *Navigator* | from Westdorf, Germany



INTERNATIONAL

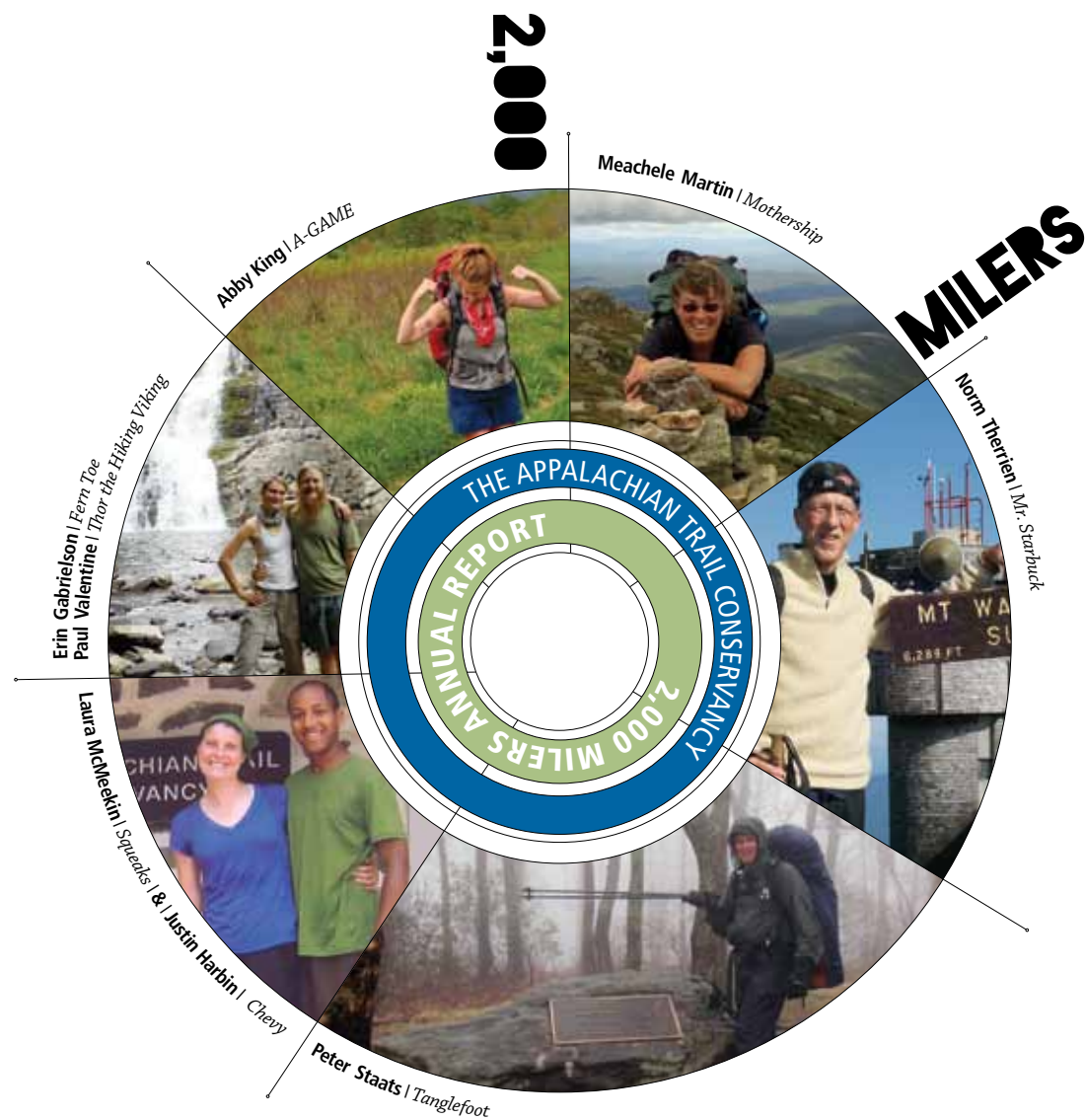
In 2011, Germany had the highest number of hikers of any foreign country. Inspired by a recent German-language two-part TV series about the A.T., *Durch die Wildnis Amerikas: 3000 Kilometer zu Fuß* (Through the Wilderness of America: 3,000 Kilometers), dozens of Germans headed for Springer Mountain last March and April. Ten completed the entire Trail; they ranged in age from the 22-year-old "German Shepherd" to the 62-year-old "Sofarsogood." Other countries represented were Canada (8), Australia (4), The Netherlands (3), and one each from France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

2,000



SOUTHBOUND THRU-HIKERS
Cameron Bynum | *Nevada Bandana*
and Nathan Jochen on McAffees Knob – photo by
fellow southbound thru-hiker Brad Herrick

MILERS



- Swartz Deborah | *Moxie*
- Swislow Lee | *Glad Gal*
- Talbert Denise | *PB*
- Talbert R. Stuart | *J*
- Taylor Cody | *Sprocket*
- Taylor David B. | *Super Bubba*
- Taylor Max E. | *Capt. Max*
- Therrien Norman A. | *Mr. Starbuck*
- Thomas Elizabeth | *Snorkel*
- Thompson Harold | *About Time*
- Thornton Andrew M. | *Boy Scout*
- Thornton Brad | *Wolfpack*
- Tice Andrew | *Nero*
- Timberlake Charlie | *Bo Knows*
- Tomaskovic Bob | *Cog*
- Tompkins Randy | *Hawk*
- Trickel Tim | *Grasshopper*
- Trope Betsy | *Nachita*
- Trope Eric | *Pancho*
- Tschinkel James P. | *Popeye*
- Turner Ron | *Unc*
- Tyler David M. | *Solo*
- Tyler Don | *Crankdaddy*
- Urbanski Julie | *Stopwatch*
- Urbanski Matthew | *Optimist*
- v.d. Berg Marnix | *Dutch*
- Van Drunen Ethan | *The Red Team*
- Varela Amanda
- Vayansky Laura Spatz | *Thimble*

- Vinson Jamie | *The Red Team*
- Wagner Jill | *Smiley*
- Walden Daniel | *dWal*
- Waldhauser Mark
- | *The Lewis & Mark Experience*
- Walter Helmut W. | *Kisimba*
- Walther Tobias | *German Shepherd*
- Warner Scott | *Stride*
- Watkins David W. | *Katmandu*
- Weaver John | *No Worries*
- Webb Donald E. | *Happy Pappy*
- Weil John B. | *Beer Hunter*
- Welborn Charlie | *Charter*
- Wells Harmony
- Welsh Jessica | *Cotton*
- Wenger Mark J. | *Animal*
- Werderman Heather | *Steady*
- West Eric | *Lumiere*
- West Michael | *Crop Duster*
- Wheeler Karen | *Clutch*
- Whitehead Michael Austin | *Mismatch*
- Whitney Ken | *Slim*
- Wigington John T. | *H3*
- Wiles Ashley | *Stretch*
- Wilk Chris | *White Wolf*
- Will Travis | *Cog*
- Williams Andrew H. | *Black Eagle*
- Williams Chuck | *Kerosene Charlie*
- Williams Krystal | *Bumblebee*

- Wilson Daniel J. | *Hammer*
- Wilson John L. | *MoFo*
- Wingett Zachary | *Jeremiah Johnson*
- Winings Jennifer | *Brown Chicken*
- Woitarski Peter L. | *Twigg*
- Wolentarski Kevin | *Waterbug*
- Wood Andrew | *Buddha*
- Wood Hart | *Jukebox*
- Wyant Nathan A. | *Gimli*
- Wynne Jonathan | *Trapper*
- Xiques, Sr. Michael J. | *Sprawl*
- Yelton George Nicholas | *Tarzan*
- Young David | *Double-check*
- Young Joshua | *Nocello*
- Zaldivar Mario Alejandro
- | *The Cape Crusader*
- Zanarini Dominick | *Safety Officer*
- Zelenka Cory G. | *Mr. Z*
- Zonta Andreino | *Iron Sergeant*

2010

- Baker Michael | *Fynious*
- Beane Kelly | *Tootsie Pop*
- Bigler Alexandra | *She-Ra*
- Biron Brenna | *Journey*
- Bitner John | *Churchill*
- Boyd David | *Gravy*
- Boyle Kevin | *Slo Go*

- Bradley Danielle W. | *Macguyver*
- Brandt Stephen G. | *Timon*
- Burkhart Larry L. | *Gray Wanderer*
- Dickey Gregg | *Boy Wonder*
- Dieschbourg Matthew | *Fun Dip*
- Goldcamp Frank | *Road Runner*
- Greim Adam | *Hobbles*
- Grooms Jeremy | *Man Dog*
- Herm Hazel M. | *Hazelnut*
- Herpfer Christine | *Buttons*
- Hollister Robbie | *Mello Yello*
- Hollister Ryan | *Turtle*
- Johnson Tim | *Tunes*
- Kaib Nathan | *Beefstick*
- King Archie L. | *Moonlight*
- Lamberth Andrew | *Rock N' Roll*
- Marshall David J. | *Red*
- McCarthy Chris James | *ETCHASKETCH*
- McCullum Thomas | *Hedgehog*
- Moody Samuel Dawson | *The Kid*
- Nikitas Amy M. | *Flying Colors*
- O'Keefe Christopher | *Knee-deep*
- Parks John | *6-Course*
- Petrakovich Joseph | *Earthbound*
- Quist Alfred | *Trashman*
- Ross Jimmy | *Stickman*
- Sims Daniel | *Obi-Wan*
- Stephenson Juliet B. | *Just Blue Skies*
- Stouter Larry | *Butterflyman*
- Tobey Andrew | *Apple Juice*
- Valentine Paul | *Thor the Hiking Viking*
- Verstrat Ray | *Shovel*
- Wallace Jennifer | *Sweet Cheeks*
- Wright Clark | *Thru-Thinker*

2009

- Flowers Pam | *SixFeet*
- Gardner Timothy | *Ziggy*
- Gudger Joseph A. | *Trudger*
- Jones Ralph G. | *Tiger*
- Otterness Phillip | *Hungry Creepster*
- Quinn Dennis | *Flex*
- Reguero Layven | *Oblivious*
- Sheldon Angie | *Sunbeam*
- Sheldon Shane | *Half Moon*
- Smith Douglas | *Ft. Defiance*
- Thompson John | *Stickman OTN*

2008-1979

- Davis Jennifer Pharr | *Odyssey* | 2008
- Cooper John | *Coop* | 2007
- Johnston Craig | *High Life* | 2007
- Sealey David | *The Sundance Kid* | 2007
- DeLapp Jacob | *Hobbit* | 2006
- Koontz Jessica | *Two Step* | 2006
- Koontz Joel | *Lumps* | 2006
- Barr Brandon | *Easy* | 2005
- Davis Jennifer Pharr | *Odyssey* | 2005
- Maxwell Laura | *Sanguine* | 2005
- Seals Kenneth | *Traction* | 2005
- Ealy Jan S. | *Ranger Jan* | 2004
- Jones Able | *Pied Piper* | 2001
- O'Brien Richard
- | *Conrad the Caterpillar* | 1996
- Dederick Doug | *Bigfoot* | 1992
- Sorah Michael | *Mountain Mike* | 1980
- Gifford Ian | 1979 🏆

View the 2,000-Miler listing on-line at:
appalachiantrail.org/2000milers.



WILD EDUCATION



TEXT BY BRYAN ALPER

ILLUSTRATION BY RICK SEALOCK

At the Parksville Lake Campground in the Ocoee Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest, there remains no trace of a crew of folks who have united, from as far away as Alaska and as close as the Ocoee River's nearby bank. Participants of the 2011 Wilderness Trails Stewardship Conference have packed up and parted ways for Memorial Day Weekend and will regroup on Tuesday afternoon at Big Creek Ranger Station, located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

This unique and memorable educational experience has been made possible by Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Camping is provided by the USDA Forest Service (USFS). Women and men eat together, work together, and share close quarters while in the classroom, in the field, and at base camp. Bill Hodge, SAWS director, explains, "We made sure that this

conference was free. We don't want to burden people who are willing to give up one or two weeks of their life to come out here just to pick up these skills. The Forest Service played a big role in making this happen. I know we are all leaving here with certifications and some technical skills, but the people who are here are one of the highlights."

Group training includes Trail Leadership, Leave No Trace, and Incident Management. In 2011, a fun and unforgettable first week included two days of Wilderness First Aid training and certification, a one-day session on Wilderness History and Legislation, and two days of Cross-cut Saw training and certification. During week two, conference attendees headed into ATC Base Camp, the headquarters of the Smokies Wilderness Elite Appalachian Trail Crew (SWEAT), which plays a vital role in managing the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 2011, SWEAT crew leaders led eight consecutive crews, overseeing volunteers who came from all over the country to maintain the Appalachian Trail corridor. Certifications and skill sets acquired here will play key roles in the summer's A.T. maintenance.

Class training starts with the vital component of trip planning and preparation. "Our work is very physically demanding, perhaps some of the hardest labor you will ever perform," explains Andrew Downs, the ATC Trail resource manager for Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. "Being in good physical shape will certainly help you maintain a good attitude. You also need social skills that will enable you to get along with fellow volunteers in often trying times." Driving to the Trail head is a fun road trip in the ATC passenger van — driven in 2011 by Jameson Demiglio, an A.T. thru-hiker and 2011 SWEAT crew leader. After passing through the Pisgah National Forest, we arrived at the trail head, hiked to our first work location, and discussed trail assessment, maintenance, repair and reconstruction. We then continued our Leave-No-Trace discussion while completing some basic trail work tasks. "You know what, it all happened so fast that I didn't have a lot of time to think about it," said 2011 volunteer Aaron Sanford. "I had never been to the Appalachian Mountains and I expected [an] adventure, and it's definitely been that. The best thing is the people for sure." He continues: "I've used a cross-cut saw a lot and this gives me a chance to actually get it written down on a piece of paper that I'm certified to use these skills. They are actually going to mean something to somebody."

The primary purpose of the Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid course is to provide individuals a foundation of first aid knowledge and skills to be able to respond to emergencies and give care in areas that do not have immedi-

ate emergency medical services (EMS) response, such as wilderness and remote environments. In this course, participants will also develop leadership skills and learn how to prevent, plan for, and respond to emergencies. "Wilderness volunteers are unique in that they work far from any type of medical assistance," instructor Jim Holland explains. "Cell phone access is seldom available, nor are radios at times, so it's important that they become self-sufficient. [Wilderness First Aid] teaches them about the natural hazards, about using tools safely, and that prevention is one of the most important things you can do." Holland is a National Registry First Responder, a Wilderness First Responder, a National Association of Search and Rescue SARTECH II, and teaches CPR, AED and Wilderness First Aid for the American Red Cross.

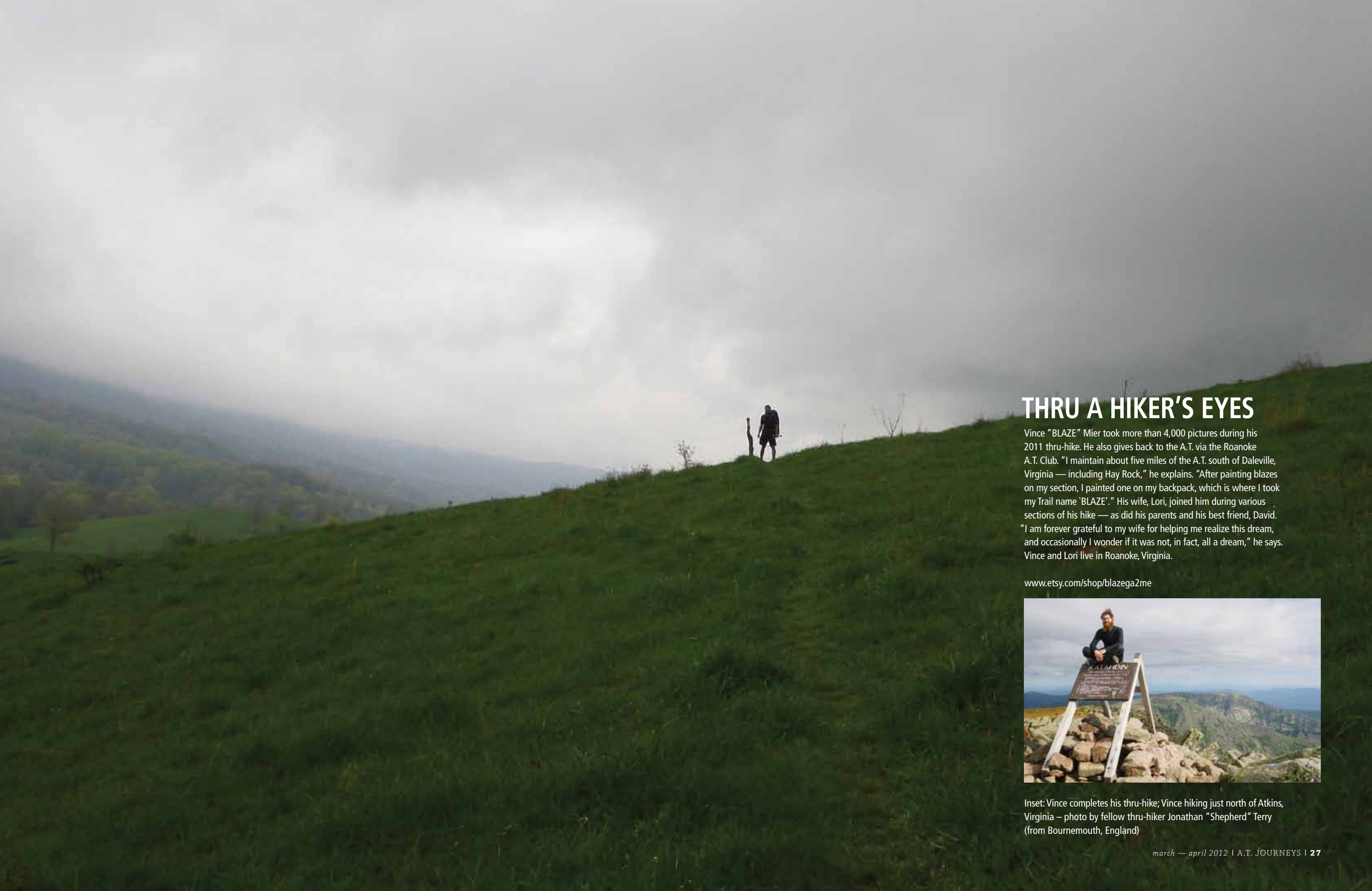
After Wilderness First Aid class, base campers wind down around home-cooked meals and random story sharing. As base camp's fire continues to burn within its contained rock ring, and campers have mostly all gone to bed, Bill Hodge speaks from the heart: "We should be willing to step up and be good stewards of specially designated wilderness. To me, that's sort of the core of what this conference is about, and what SAWS as an organization is about." It's to allow people to continue to expand their knowledge

base, so they might keep coming back year after year to take training opportunities to the next level. The next day is dedicated to Wilderness 101. The Wilderness Act, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System, now comprises more than 105 million acres and contains wild places from all regions of the country. Relevant dates and events in America's national forest history are presented in class by Ocoee Ranger District forest rangers.

Davin Hattaway attended the 2011 conference with his wife, Anna Wlodarczyk. "I think it's wonderful that we can bring together many different people who are attracted to wilderness," says Anna. "People with different views can come together like this and enjoy it together and learn about it together and form a bond, in that way, it makes wilderness a sort of a unifying force for people who perhaps would not meet otherwise." Davin Hattaway agrees, and adds: "I think it's great to see the entire wilderness ecosystem sort of be together on one camp site. You've got the folks who are from the national headquarters, and the folks who are enthusiasts, like myself. You have all different ages, all the way down to the 22-year-old, just graduated, forestry student that's going to be out there leading the SAWS team. It's great to see all of

"IT MAKES WILDERNESS A SORT OF A UNIFYING FORCE FOR PEOPLE WHO PERHAPS WOULD NOT MEET OTHERWISE."

Continued on page 44



THRU A HIKER'S EYES

Vince "BLAZE" Mier took more than 4,000 pictures during his 2011 thru-hike. He also gives back to the A.T. via the Roanoke A.T. Club. "I maintain about five miles of the A.T. south of Daleville, Virginia — including Hay Rock," he explains. "After painting blazes on my section, I painted one on my backpack, which is where I took my Trail name 'BLAZE'." His wife, Lori, joined him during various sections of his hike — as did his parents and his best friend, David. "I am forever grateful to my wife for helping me realize this dream, and occasionally I wonder if it was not, in fact, all a dream," he says. Vince and Lori live in Roanoke, Virginia.

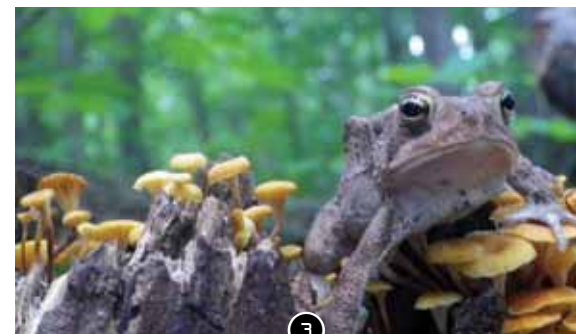
www.etsy.com/shop/blazega2me



Inset: Vince completes his thru-hike; Vince hiking just north of Atkins, Virginia — photo by fellow thru-hiker Jonathan "Shepherd" Terry (from Bournemouth, England)



Fox in the White Mountains Presidential Range, New Hampshire



1. Fiddlehead fern / south of Chestnut Knob Shelter, Virginia 2. Red eft / near the Knife Edge, Pennsylvania 3. Toad / north of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 4. Beetle / south of the Keffer Oak in Virginia 5. Snail shell / near Chestnut Knob Shelter, Virginia 6. Tortoise / north of High Point State Park, New Jersey 7. "Happy Frog" / south of Palisades Interstate Parkway, New York 8. Caterpillar / near Lehigh Gap just north of Palmerton, Pennsylvania ↗

REVEALING MICROSCOPIC WILDERNESS

IF SPIDERS AND OTHER TINY CRAWLERS

unnerve you, take heed: experts have accounted for more than 500 varieties of spiders, and more than 100 types of millipedes and centipedes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Add to that 900 species of flies, 2,500 kinds of beetles, and hundreds of other strange beings and you get a sense of just how expansive the web of life is inside one of the most diverse ecosystems in North America. In fact, the exact number and scope of living species in the park is not so easy to peg. Not just because of the sheer number, which is estimated to be in excess of 100,000 species of living organisms, but because so many of them — such as the 460 types of bacteria — are invisible to the naked eye. And, of course, the fact that many of them have yet to be discovered.

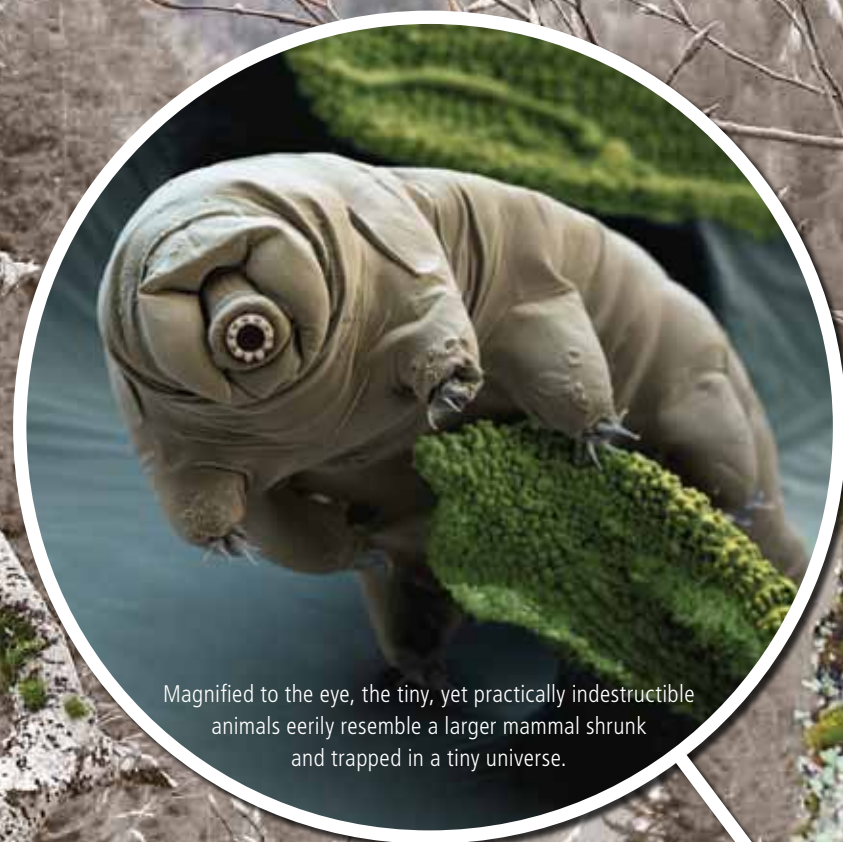
Despite the evident challenges, scientists, the National Park Service, and amateur naturalists are hoping to count them anyway. One slug, slime mold, and stonefly at a time. Their effort to catalog all that lives in the park is known as the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). Launched on Earth Day in 1998, the ATBI is a co-project of the GSMNP and Discover Life in America (DLIA), a non-profit, based at the park's Gatlinburg, Tennessee headquarters, that is dedicated to the project's management.

While this may seem as ludicrous as counting blades of grass in your front yard, experts say it's well worth it. From their vantage point, tallying the number of obscure beings may have implications — such as revealing methods to safeguard threatened habitats to managing the Appalachian Trail to protecting endangered species in the nation's most visited national park. Aside from the question of its significance is a more practical one: how to do it. "That's a question I hear pretty often," admits DLIA executive director Todd Witcher. To answer this, the DLIA is relying on people such as Laura Meiss, a student at Warren Wilson College (WWC)

in Asheville, North Carolina. Her undergraduate research project is to collect and catalog bear species in the park. To find them, she'll climb trees, gather lichen, and examine them under a microscope. Of course, these bears aren't the noble and furry ones that are the signature of the park. These are the specimens you've probably never heard of — microscopic and other worldly. She's looking for tardigrades — minute water dwelling animals — which are affectionately known as "water bears." Magnified to the eye, the tiny, yet practically indestructible animals eerily resemble a larger mammal shrunk and trapped in a tiny universe. With four pairs of stubby legs and a rounded back, their lumbering locomotion and ability to move their head independent from their bodies makes them look like, well, bears. And though they may not be so cute and cuddly, Meiss adores them.

She's collaborating with tardigrade expert and WWC Biologist Paul Bartels, and together they are

Laura Meiss, a student at Warren Wilson College, climbs trees in the Smokies to gather lichen that can contain tardigrades — minute water dwelling animals, affectionately known as "water bears."



Magnified to the eye, the tiny, yet practically indestructible animals eerily resemble a larger mammal shrunk and trapped in a tiny universe.



contributing to the ATBI. Over the course of a decade, Bartels and his students have identified dozens of tardigrades previously unknown in the park — and some new to science. Meiss may not discover a new species, but she'll be the first to catalog the ones that live in the canopy of the forest by zeroing in on lichen samples in an American beech tree stand. And not only is her collaboration with Bartels a bona fide learning experience, producing useful science, but it's serving as a model approach to help accomplish one of the most comprehensive biological inventories ever attempted.

Thus far, the ATBI has cataloged more than 17,000 species: from the mega flora and fauna of the park such as tulip poplars and elk on down to the tiny and obscure such as tardigrades and other micro-organisms. In all, the DLIA has identified more than 7,000 species that were unknown to the park and more than 900 organisms that are new to science. That leaves roughly 80,000 species yet to be counted. Considering that Bartels and his students have spent countless hours and

Team" to count what lives in threatened forest types. While the DLIA hopes to expand the program to a variety of trees and habitats, they've initially focused on high elevation American beech stands — the same trees Meiss has explored — found along numerous sections of the A.T. throughout the park. While the tree is common in the Northeast, the American beech is an anomaly in the South and isolated to its extreme elevations. During the last

Warren Wilson College student Sheree Ferrell searches for water bears in a lichen sample.



THE TREES ARE STIRRING WITH LIFE; A FABULOUS HABITAT FOR ALL SORTS OF ORGANISMS. MITES AND SPIDERS IN THE FISSURES OF THE BARK, WOOD BORING BEETLES, LEAF FEEDERS, AND "WATER BEARS" IN THE LICHEN.

funds to gather enough tardigrades to fit in a drop of water, at the current pace, it could take decades to count the rest. While a few dozen years is just a wee fraction of the eons it took to establish the species themselves, there is now a sense of urgency as plants and animals are vanishing at a rate that is perhaps faster than scientists can count them.

And with a combined staff of just three at the DLIA - they could use a bit of help. The answer, in part, believes Witcher, is to engage more citizen scientists like Meiss in the Himalayan task. So in June 2010, the DLIA piloted a program known as the "Tree

ice age the tree's habitat expanded south, but, once the climate warmed, it was stranded among the highest ranges.

Fast forward a few thousand years and the American beech may complete its retreat from the South. A century ago, men with saws were the greatest threat to the park's hallmark of bio-diversity. Now the menace is microscopic and can take down trees with the competence of a thousand lumberjacks. "Foreign pests are a concern," says GSMNP entomologist Becky Nichols. She's referring, in part, to a European scale insect that attacks the American beech and leaves it prone to a fungal disease that

was first noticed in the mid '80s. Nevertheless, she says, the trees are stirring with life; a fabulous habitat for all sorts of organisms. Mites and spiders in the fissures of the bark, wood boring beetles, leaf feeders, and "water bears" in the lichen.

Which is why it's important to catalog what lives in the trees should they follow the same fate as other trees in the Southern Appalachians, such as the American chestnut. "The goal is to see if there is anything specific to the beech," explains Nichols. "We want to know if there's something we need to watch out for." Hence, the Tree Team. To get a handle on how it works, think Henry Ford in a lab coat — a scientific assembly line where each group specializes in a task. Trained volunteers — students, hikers, etc., using nets and a variety of other collection methods, gather an array of creatures that live in the beech canopy. In 2012 the DLIA has planned four collecting dates in the park and Nichols helps keep track of the species coming in. Each month, a sorting gathering is held at locations in Asheville and Gatlinburg where volunteers sort through and identify the tiny creatures underneath a microscope. While sorting them takes time and is no simple task, the next step is to pass the known samples on to researchers or find someone who can actually put a name to the species. Although, taxonomists that

can do the science are in short supply.

Bartels is one of those rare experts. When Bartels heard about the ATBI more than a decade ago he approached the park and asked how he and his Warren Wilson students could contribute to the project. Trained as a zoologist, Bartels admits he has always been drawn to odd and unusual creatures, not necessarily the warm and fuzzy ones. So water bears — additionally known as "moss piglets" — are right up his alley. "Tardigrades get mentioned, but they're seldom investigated. I just remember thinking as a student that they are such cool animals," says Bartels.

As it turns out, the park had already connected with Diane Nelson, a tardigrade expert at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City. While she understood the taxonomy and collection techniques, Nelson and the ATBI needed the bodies to collect the samples.

"It was a match made in heaven," says Bartels who now considers Nelson a mentor. The two have co-authored several papers together and continue to share knowledge about water bears. The only previous research on tardigrades in the park was a single published study that had identified three species. At the time, Nelson reckoned there may be up to 70 species of water bears in the Smokies — as of July 2011 there are 82. "We know all about big species; we pay attention to them. Microorganisms are a group we know very little about," explains Bartels. "It is really a wide open field. Every species is another entity to learn about."

In addition to training a new generation of scientists, the success of Bartels and his students has been a great leap forward in grasping how to execute the pioneering project. "I consider the work

of Paul and his students on the ATBI to be a model. One that we would really like to mimic," says Witcher. "They've really accomplished some great science and answered an unknown about how to do this." He envisions that other schools will follow their lead to help inventory some of the more obscure groups of organisms identified as high priority research targets — for instance, odonates (dragon and damselflies), which may not yet be on the radar of researchers to study in the park. Matching an expert, such as ETSU's Nelson, with an enthusiastic faculty and high achieving students may be the ticket to overcome the challenge of collecting and cataloging species in one of the most bio-diverse places on Earth.

Bartels points out that his decade-long work on tardigrades may not have a direct human benefit, that is, his research won't likely yield a life saving drug. Rather, the output of his research has added to the basic understanding of the ecology of the park and provided a more thorough grasp


on the abundance and distribution patterns of living things at the microscopic level. That knowledge may shed light on various threats to the park — invasive species, habitat loss, human impact, pollution — and help managers develop more effective stewardship efforts, education programs, and ultimately help preserve and protect the most visited national park in the nation from present and future threats.


The ATBI may be a novel way to engage the public and help channel the support and resources experts like Nichols need to do their jobs. While bears, elk, and salamanders have been the poster species for promoting the protection of the park, creatures like water bears may have a promotional role too. After all, it's hard to protect things you don't know about. "If people are engaged in something they put a higher value on it," explains Witcher. "And, if nothing else," he says, "we've taught people to look at the small things." ▲


Jack Igelman lives in Asheville, North Carolina and blogs on resource issues at www.homagetoappalachia.wordpress.com. For more information about ATBI visit: www.dlia.org


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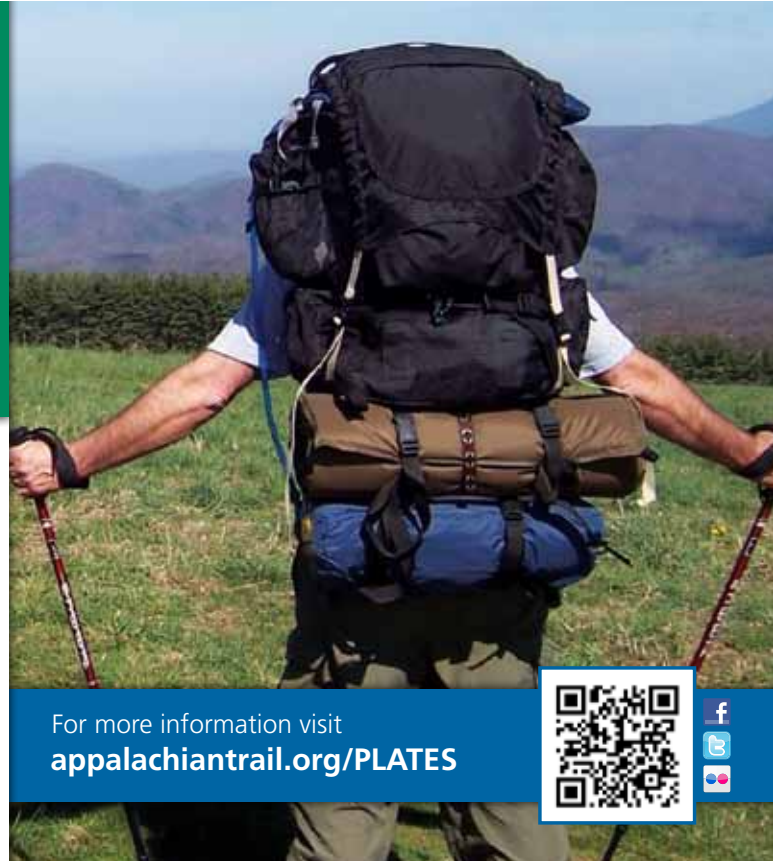


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A FRIEND OF THE TRAIL

HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHICH CELEBRATED ITS 250TH birthday in 2011, lies at the intersection of two historic transportation routes — the 2,000-plus-mile Appalachian Trail and New England's longest river, the 407 mile Connecticut. The Trail runs down Wheelock, Main, and Lebanon streets; the river, which the A.T. crosses on the Ledyard Bridge, flows below a ridge on the west side of town. This officially designated A.T. Community is a bustling hub of the Upper Valley, a section of the Connecticut River that is nestled between the rolling Green Mountains of Vermont and the soaring White Mountains of New Hampshire. Hiking, cycling, and boating opportunities abound in the area, as do all manner of winter recreational activities.

Hanover is the home of Dartmouth College, an Ivy League university founded in 1769 with a grant from the royal governor to educate both colonists and Native Americans. Dartmouth's distinctive year-round calendar creates a rich program of cultural activities that are centered in its theater complex and museum — music, theater, films, art exhibits, lectures — that also runs year round. All events are open to the public. One of America's most important murals, painted in the 1930s by the Mexican artist José Clemente Orozco, is in the main library.

Top: Hikers gather in front of the Richard Black Community Center, which is located right on the Trail and offers shower and laundry facilities — photo by Hank Tenney; A white blaze on a Main Street lamp post marks where the A.T. meanders directly through Hanover — photo by Larry Litten

In 1929, the Appalachian Trail incorporated trails and cabins created by the 20-year-old Dartmouth Outing Club (some of the faded black and orange blazes that guided skiers over these trails can still be seen along the Trail). Each fall a group of Dartmouth students undertakes a non-stop hike on the A.T. from campus to Mount Moosilauke, 50 miles to the north. (In a spring tradition, another group paddles from Dartmouth to the sea on the Connecticut in the wake of the colonial explorer, John Ledyard, who paddled down the river to his grandfather's farm after dropping out of Dartmouth in

1773.) The D.O.C. maintains this historical chain of cabins, which connect Hanover to Moosilauke, and the college provides free parking for A.T. section hikers.

The Howe Library, which is open seven days a week, welcomes A.T. hikers with information brochures, a hiker log, and 15 free computers. Visitors to town should check out the 13-foot map of the A.T. above one bank of computers, to which postcards from hikers who have spent time in the library are affixed. Most nights of the week there are free lectures, films, and club meetings that are open to the public.

In 2009, a "Friends of the A.T." group formed to assure that Hanover provides a warm welcome to hikers and provides for their needs. The group also seeks to educate residents and visitors about the A.T. One of the first initiatives of the group was the creation of a shower and laundry facilities at the Richard Black Community Center, which is located right on the Trail. (When Hurricane Irene shut down the White Mountain National Forest, the community center hosted 20-35 hikers for three days.) Other Friends' initiatives include a brochure produced by the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce that lists services for hikers and a kiosk in front of town hall that provides both information for hikers and information about the history and nature of the A.T. "An energetic group of volunteers has worked hard over the past two years to come up with lots of ways to reach out to the 400 or so hikers that come through Hanover each summer and fall and, by doing so, many of us have had some wonderful connections with our hiker visitors," says Hanover town manager Julia Griffin. "Our lives are all the richer for those connections."

Hikers can reprovision at the Hanover Food Coop, which is also located right on the Trail. The Coop is the second oldest food cooperative in the nation, and with four stores, the second largest. The Coop has created a store guide specifically oriented to the needs of hikers and a member number for hikers to use; the patronage refund from purchases credited to this member number goes to support A.T. Friends initiatives. More than 20 restaurants are located within a block of the Trail — ranging from pizza places and pubs to gourmet establishments. In addition to American fare, dining options include Thai, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, and Indian. There are two hotels in the center of town and several motels a short drive away (two of which offer shuttle service to hikers).

A wide variety of shops along Main Street and adjacent streets offer a wide variety of goods. Two outfitters and a hardware store in town meet the



equipment needs of hikers. There are always at least four movies playing at either the Nugget Theater (owned by the

Hanover Improvement Society, the profits of which are dedicated exclusively to town improvement initiatives, both recreational and aesthetic) and at Dartmouth. The largest regional hospital in upper New England moved from Hanover in 1991 to a hilltop location just south of town. It can be reached via a free week-day bus system that connects Hanover with Lebanon, New Hampshire, and White River Junction (with train and bus stations) and Norwich, Vermont.

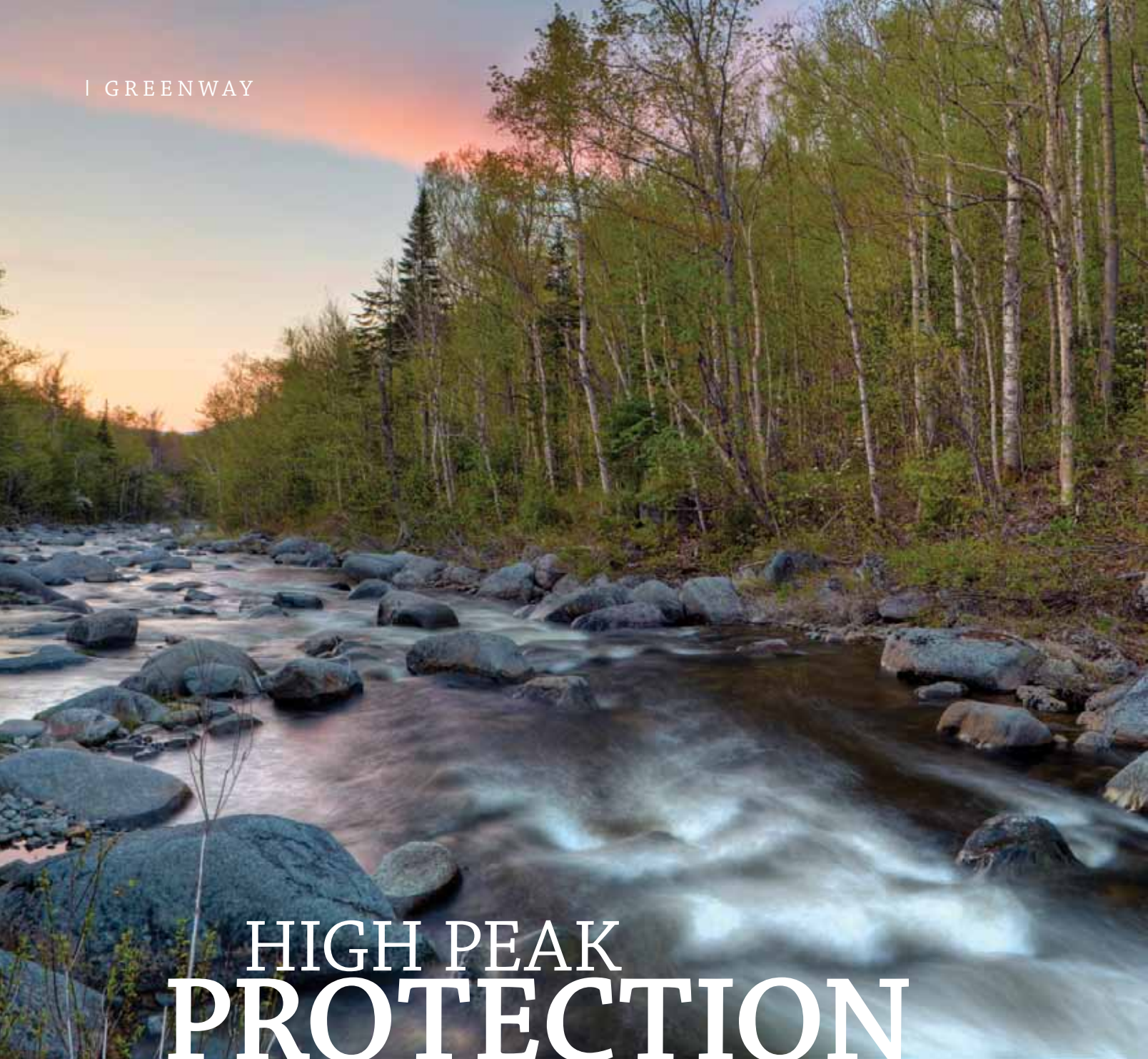


Visitors to Hanover in the summer enjoy the weekly Farmers' Market on the Green in the center of town, the fourth of July parade, and other public events. In the fall, Dartmouth's homecoming celebration includes a massive bonfire on the Green. Within a short drive from Hanover are numerous rewarding places to visit including the Montshire Museum of Science; the home of Augustus St. Gauden — the sculptor (a national park in Cornish); the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller home (a national park in Woodstock, Vermont); the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont; the Fells near New London; the homes of Justin Morrill (The Morrill Act) and Joseph Smith (the Mormon prophet), and the Quechee Gorge in Vermont.

Hanover is a terrific place to spend a few days, to start or end a section hike, or to pass through on a thru-hike. It is a quintessential New England town that offers a distinctive combination of shops — including an exceptional general store — cultural opportunities, and a warm welcome to visitors. ⚡



Top: The Hood Museum at Dartmouth College is one of many cultural venues open to the public — photo by Timothy Hursley; A 1930s mural, by Mexican artist José Clemente Orozco, is displayed at Dartmouth's Baker Library.



HIGH PEAK PROTECTION

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND (TPL) AND the Maine Department of Conservation announced in January that they had been awarded \$8.7 million for two land conservation projects adjacent to the Appalachian Trail in the High Peaks region of western Maine. The funding comes from the Forest Legacy Program, a USDA Forest Service program that is for the protection of working forestland. The 11,798-acre Crocker Mountain Project was ranked number three in the nation and the 5,808-acre Orbeton Stream project was ranked 12th in the nation on the final Forest Legacy list. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy

and TPL's local partner, the Maine A.T. Land Trust, supported the projects in the congressional appropriations process and at the Hike the Hill lobbying week sponsored by the American Hiking Society. Representatives of the Trust for Public Land indicated that they need an additional \$800,000 to be able to complete the projects.

The larger grant — \$ 7 million of an estimated \$8.8 million project — is for the Crocker Mountain Project, which will conserve 11,798 acres in Carrabassett Valley and Mount Abram Townships via a fee purchase by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL). This property completely surrounds

the A.T. corridor as it traverses a 10-mile segment of trail across Crocker Cirque, North Crocker and South Crocker. Under state management there will be a 4,000 acre ecological reserve created in the upper elevations of the parcel and the rest will stay open to sustainable timber harvesting. The ecological reserve will protect a number of rare plants and exemplary natural communities found in the subalpine forest and rocky outcrops of the higher elevations. Maine BPL and the Town of Carrabassett Valley also are interested in creating new hiking and mountain biking trails on the property to help draw more tourism to the western mountains outside of the busy winter ski season (Carrabassett Valley is home to Sugarloaf Ski Area). Existing snowmobile trails and ATV trails will be maintained under state ownership.

“We are really excited to have the \$7 million commitment from Forest Legacy and are now ramping up our fundraising to secure the remaining funds needed to purchase the property and to conduct the due diligence process,” said J.T. Horn, TPL's project manager for the Crocker Mountain project. Horn, a former New England regional director for ATC, said, “In addition to the great natural resource and wildlife values of this parcel, it is really exciting to be able to increase the protection for such a significant section of the A.T. in Maine.” The Crocker Mountain property shares a common boundary with the National Park Service (NPS) for more than 19 miles, which makes it one of the most significant acquisitions of Appalachian Trail buffer lands in recent history. Horn also added a personal note: “It's also been fun to be back working closely with ATC, NPS, the Maine A.T. Club, and the Maine A.T. Land Trust on designing the project and developing a funding strategy. TPL would not have been able to secure the Forest Legacy funds without the strong support from the A.T. community.”

The Orbeton Stream Project received a \$1.73 million commitment from the Forest Legacy program. This project will secure a conservation easement on approximately 5, 800 acres of land on the southeast side of the A.T. corridor near Saddleback Mountain. This property is owned by Linkletter Timber Company, a family owned business that owns a mill that makes wood pellets for home heating, and a significant amount of timberland to feed the mill. In

addition, the property contains an important section of the Orbeton Stream, a cold-water fishery that supports a spawning area for the federally endangered Atlantic salmon. The conservation easement will be held by the state of Maine and will prevent development of houses or subdivision of the property, while allowing for continued timber harvest on a sustainable basis and with appropriate buffers for the stream corridors. The

“IN ADDITION TO THE GREAT NATURAL RESOURCE AND WILDLIFE VALUES OF THIS PARCEL, IT IS REALLY EXCITING TO BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE PROTECTION FOR SUCH A SIGNIFICANT SECTION OF THE A.T. IN MAINE.”

easement will also guarantee a permanent location for a snowmobile trail that crosses the A.T. near Eddy Pond. This easement is part of a long term strategy that helps align motorized trails with the existing NPS-sanctioned crossings of the A.T. corridor in the High Peaks.

“We've been pushing for more conservation in the High Peaks for more than 15 years — ever since ATC helped facilitate the protection of Mount Abraham — as this region has one of the most spectacular sections of the Appalachian Trail,” said Laura Bellville, director of conservation for ATC. “We are really excited to learn about the Trust for Public Land's success in getting Forest Legacy funds for the Crocker Mountain and Orbeton Stream projects.”

Horn emphasized that while the Forest Legacy grants are critical first steps, the Trust for Public Land and the Maine A.T. Land Trust still has to raise \$800,000 to match the federal funds for the two acquisitions as well as conduct a thorough real estate due diligence process. If the fundraising is successful, the project could close in the summer of 2012. ⬆

South Branch of the Carrabassett River just upstream from the A.T. crossing. The Crocker Mountain Project will protect the headwaters of this branch of the river.

ATC members interested in the project can get more information or can donate by contacting J.T. Horn at TPL's Northern New England Field Office at: jt.horn@tplorg or 802-223-1373 x11. Article courtesy of the Trust for Public Land / Photo courtesy of Jerry Monkman



EVER PRESENT OPPORTUNITY



Clockwise from top left: The author hikes his final section of the A.T. in New Hampshire last year — photo by Vince Mier; Tim's son, Brian, during a 1998 hike near Jerry Cabin Shelter; A 17-year-old Tim (right) begins his A.T. odyssey — with his father and a friend — in 1976 at Dicks Creek Gap; Traversing Max Patch with his sister, Lynn, in 1985; In Damascus, Virginia with his friend, Ted, in 1990.

ON JULY 29, 2011, I COMPLETED A 35-year section hike of the Appalachian Trail, a journey that began at age 17 in 1976 at Dicks Creek Gap, Georgia. But I want to start with where it really began. In 1969, at age 10, at my home in Auburn, Alabama, I read a book by Jean George

as I took my first steps into the forest, I was Sam Gribbley, stepping into the Catskills. Unlike Sam, who lived for several months in the forest as he had planned, we ended our hike early at Deep Gap the next day due to painful blisters. But the adventure enchanted me, and I knew I would return to the Trail.

Later that summer, my father and I indeed returned to complete the hike to Rock Gap. During the next few summers, we hiked the Trail together in Georgia and in parts of North Carolina and Tennessee. After college graduation, I lived for three years during the 1980s in the Trail town of Hot Springs, North Carolina, due to employment there as a forester with Pisgah National Forest. During these years and through 1993, I completed the Trail in North Carolina and Tennessee up to Fox Creek, Virginia (just north of Mount Rogers) as well as from Gorham, New Hampshire to Katahdin. Since 2001, I've hiked the Trail in sections from Fox Creek to Gorham. This past summer of 2011, at age 52, I hiked my last and longest section, from New York's Hudson River 490 miles north to Gorham, finishing on July 29.

As a child, I never ran away to the Catskills as did the fictional Sam Gribbley. Instead, the Appalachian Trail has provided for me, over the past 35 years, what Sam found in the Catskills — an ever-present opportunity for exploration and adventure, a connection with the natural world, self-reliance, humility, perseverance, self-confidence, and a place for reflection on life and its priorities. For Sam, one of those priorities became his family, to whom he returned. For me, a similar priority is reflected in what I remember most from my hikes: cherished times with my father, sister, son, cousin and friends with whom I shared the Trail, as well as the many hikers and Trail angels whom I met along the way. ⚡

entitled *My Side of the Mountain*. It's a story about a fictional 12-year-old boy who runs away from his New York City home to live alone in the forests of New York's Catskill Mountains. At the time, I was an eager explorer of neighborhood wood patches. I had recently built — along with two friends — a crude tree house. This book affirmed my interests in nature and outdoor adventure, and this imaginary boy, Sam Gribbley, suddenly became one of my heroes.

Seven years later, in June, 1976, my father, one of my "tree house friends" and I were at Dicks Creek Gap, the northernmost road crossing of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. We had planned to hike north for three days to Rock Gap, in the Nantahala Mountains of North Carolina. It was our first backpacking trip, and we were prepared, with our brand new backpacks, tube tents, sleeping bags, and not-yet-broken-in hiking boots. In my mind,

TRAIL STORIES I
BY TIM "MEADOWLARK" MEADOWS



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I'D LIKE TO START BY SAYING "THANK

You" to all of our members, club partners, corporate sponsors, and foundation donors. Thanks to your generosity the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) ended the 2011 year much better than expected. At this point (prior to finishing our audit) we expect to have a final budget in the black for 2011.

We ended 2011 with more than 42,000 members and our goal for 2012 is to exceed 50,000 members. Please share your enthusiasm for the Trail and ATC with your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to join you in supporting the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Congratulations to all the members who became 2000-milers in 2011 and good luck to those of you heading out to start, get a few more miles in, or complete your hike in 2012.

Spring is a time of refreshment and renewal, and to begin new things. We have a few new things for our members this spring. I hope you enjoy the changes.

To begin, we have redesigned our renewal cards and members will begin receiving those in the mail very soon. And when you renew your membership we have a new member decal to send along with your acknowledgement letter. Life members also have a new decal. Members whose memberships expire starting with May 2012 will begin getting the new cards and decals until we finish up the series in April of 2013.

Next, you might be receiving this magazine for the first time in an electronic format instead of the traditional paper version. While we are very proud of the print edition of this magazine, many of our members have requested to have an electronic version. If you would like to make the switch to the "paperless" version of the magazine, you may do so by visiting: appalachiantrail.org/paperless.

Finally, we welcome Mark Wenger as ATC's executive director. Mark is eager to get out and meet as many of our members and partners as he can. I hope we are able to see and hear from you this year. ⚡

All the best,
Royce W. Gibson | Director of Membership & Development



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NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2011

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Mickey Byrd by Richard Kropfl
Gary Childress by Stuart Smith

WILD EDUCATION

Continued from page 25

these people and talk to them all at once and see, as a whole, how it all comes together.”

David Cohen, a recent University of Georgia graduate says, “I’ve gained a lot of insight into the issues at hand and definitely a lot of tools to explain those issues and get people to better understand them and to hopefully encourage stewardship in the average person that might not have considered those issues beforehand. It feels really good to know that you’re not the only person that feels a certain way about the world and our place in it and what we should be doing to protect it.” So, why do we volunteer our time for these wilderness projects? Is it for a good time? Is it to keep the trails open to hikers? Is it for the friendships that are established? Is it for the skill sets and certifications? Wilderness First Aid instructor Jim Holland explains, “I feel that it’s important that everyone give something back to their community, to their state, to their country, to the environment that [they] live in. If you enjoy doing something, you should give something back to it. I have always tried to do that most of my life.”

Re-branded for 2012 as the “Wilderness Stewardship Institute,” this ATC, USFS and Wilderness Society partnership is growing in scope for volunteers and agency partners interested in protecting wilderness. Like the 2011 opportunity, the 2012 WSI will offer Cross-cut, Wilderness First Aid CPR, and Trail Construction. It will also include a week-long advanced course in Cross-cut for Instructors, as well as instruction concerning the technical aspects of managing a federally designated wilderness area. ▲

For more information, contact Andrew Downs at: adowns@appalachiantrail.org. Online registration will be available early spring 2012 at www.trailcrews.org.

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FEBRUARY 8, 2012 MARKED THE FIRST anniversary of the passing of Mr. Fred Morgan Kirby II, president of the F.M. Kirby Foundation. The foundation has funded the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) through general operating support for more than a decade. According to the foundation, “Mr. Kirby carried forth the conservative values of his grandfather and father in both his personal life and through his philanthropic mission of the F.M. Kirby Foundation.” It is also well known that F.M. Kirby was at the forefront of providing “winners” with consistent operating support over the long term. Some called it capacity building. Mr. Kirby deemed it practical. We find it fitting that F.M. Kirby’s support this year falls within our “Visionary” giving circle. We thank the F.M. Kirby Foundation and Mr. Kirby for considering ATC a “winner.” Mr. Kirby’s spirit will continue to exist all along the Appalachian Trail. ▲

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To make a contribution or renew your membership, call (304) 535-6331 ext 119, or visit: www.appalachiantrail.org



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For Your Information

Franklin's April Fools Trail Days and Hiker Bash. Franklin, North Carolina, a designated Appalachian Trail Community since March 2010, will host its fourth annual April Fools Trail Days to include the eighth Annual Hiker Bash Friday and Saturday March 30 & 31. The events will include food, music, and entertainment. For more information visit: www.aprilfoolstraildays.com.

Trail Days, Damascus, Virginia, May 18-20. Don't miss the fun, including the annual hiker parade, music, reunions, talent show, and great food! Visit the Appalachian Trail Conservancy booth to show your ATC pride and take part in quizzes, get your temporary ATC tattoo, and win prizes. For more information visit: www.traildays.us.

A.T. Community Designation Ceremonies. Don't miss these opportunities to celebrate! April 19: Buena Vista and Glasgow, Virginia; April 21: Front Royal, Virginia; May 26: Bland, Virginia; June 2: Duncannon, Pennsylvania. For more information visit: appalachiantrail.org/events.

Appalachian Trail **Community Event:** April 7, Bolivar Community Center, 60 Panama Street, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Residents of Harpers Ferry, Bolivar and surrounding areas are invited to come meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts and fans of the A.T. in their own community. Find out why people come from around the world to walk on the A.T. in our backyard and what it has to offer those who live near the A.T.'s "psychological half-way point."

Other upcoming A.T. events at ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry include: **Hiking Season Kick-Off** — May 5; **African American History Hike** on National Trails Day — June 2; **A.T. 75th Anniversary Celebration** — August 11—12. For more information visit: appalachiantrail.org/events.

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For detailed information about individual opportunities, and to apply visit: appalachiantrail.org/jobs.

Public Notices may be edited for clarity and length. Please send them to:

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HE WAS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PERSON THAT ONE HOPED TO HOOK UP WITH; SOMEBODY WITH A ZEST FOR LIVING WHO WAS FULL OF POSITIVE ENERGY — HIS WAS A WORLD OF ALWAYS SEEING THE GLASS HALF-FULL.

Robert "Buffalo Bobby" Yerike in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, during his 2011 thru-hike.

I MET "BUFFALO BOBBY" on Fontana Dam on April 18, 2003. My journal for that day contains this note — "Buffalo Bobby (nice man from New Jersey)." By that evening we had made it to Russell Field Shelter where we pitched our tents next to each other. We had become life-long friends; not that unusual on a typical day on the Appalachian Trail.

But, Buffalo Bobby (known "off-Trail" as Robert Yerike) was anything but typical. And, as I grew accustomed to his name, I almost expected to see Clarabelle and Mr. Green Jeans joining us on this frolic that we referred to as a thru-hike of the A.T. (or attempt at that stage of the game). He was a ray of sunshine, all about hope and meeting expectations in this impossible venture. He was exactly the kind of person that one hoped to hook up with; somebody with a zest for living who was always full of positive energy — his was a world of always seeing the glass half-full. And, there was that smile. Everybody loved Buffalo Bobby. Had we taken a vote, he would have been Mister Congeniality of Georgia-to-Maine 2003. He was a wonderful listener; his attention was truly undivided as one spoke — his enthusiasm for your world was sincere, and his enthusiasm for your interests was truly genuine.

When we roomed together in various motels on our journey north, a few times I took the liberty to listen to what he said when talking to his daughter on the phone. The kindness and gentle love and

understanding that were manifest in his voice lent insight into the nature of this man. I usually had tears in my eyes. What a wonderful privilege to call him friend. And, when other hikers began to associate us as hiking together, it was a nice feeling — even if we struggled, as many older hikers do, with the concept of maintaining equal energy levels and stamina. And, those variations did eventually find us separating — I saw Buffalo Bobby in Delaware Water Gap for the last time. However, we talked on the phone in 2009 and he told me all about his 2008 (his second) thru-hike. With his same enthusiasm, he painted the picture that soon had my hiker-juices and hiker-aspirations again flowing freely.

There were no "if-onlys" in Buffalo Bobby's life. He was the spirit of the Appalachian Trail — the challenges that it afforded were merely clay to be molded in his life of questing to try to satiate that huge appetite for experiencing what was out there. Last year — during his third thru-hike — when he was found on the A.T. in his final hours, exactly where he wanted to be, an example was set for all of us. Life is about today; tomorrow will only mean something if we strive to make it mean something. His was a life that ended too soon, but that is not the true tragedy here — that would have occurred had we not ever known him. For that we can always be thankful. ⤴

George "Ole Smoky Lonesome" Sandul
LIVES IN WAUSAU, WISCONSIN.

"As I See It" is a monthly column from guest contributors representing the full range of ATC partners, members, and volunteers. To submit a column for consideration, please email journeys@appalachiantrail.org or write to Editor/As I See It, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

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TARA HARBERT TAKES IN THE VIEW OF KATAHDIN FROM
NAHMAKANTA LAKE, NESUNTABUNT MOUNTAIN, MAINE.
PHOTO BY BRYAN LANDRY