

# A JOURNEYS



THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

November – December 2012

INSIDE: Grace Under Pressure | Greenagers | A.T. Ambassadors





### On the Cover:

Rare clubmoss, just off the A.T. in Rocky Fork, Tennessee.

"I love the quietness of the forest during the peak of the snowfall. Sometimes, when the wind is lifeless, you can hear the snowflakes as they land softly on the forest floor," explains cover photographer Jerry Greer. "As a photographer that spends most of the time looking for that grand, scenic, or intimate landscape, looking down and exploring the 'small world' can be so rewarding. This day, when I photographed the snow covered *Lycopodium obscurum*, better known as ground pine or rare clubmoss, was one of those great rewards. I give all the accolades to the snow, for it offered this scene to me. It was just heavy enough to cover the very low ground cover, helping me make sense out of the normal chaos that would visually swallow up this beautiful little plant. Old Man Winter was on my side this day."

"A Protective Eye" (page 30)

[www.jerrygreerphotography.com](http://www.jerrygreerphotography.com)

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# A JOURNEYS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Volume 8, Number 6

November – December 2012

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail — ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come.

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FROM THE EDITOR |

**GRACE UNDER PRESSURE. AMONG THE ATTRIBUTES I ADMIRE ABOVE ALL** others are the ability to be calm in the face of adversity, collected in the face of, well, anything that comes along, and focused when the situation calls for it. I am not there yet; but quite a few people who work to preserve and protect the A.T. (many of whom have done so for quite a long time) have those exact qualities.

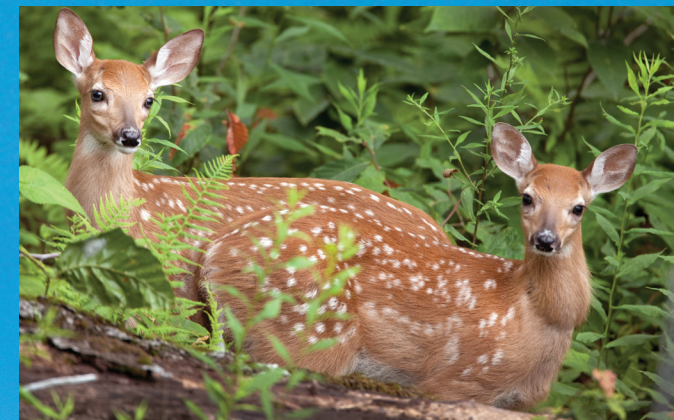
Across the eastern United States (and beyond) there exists an intricate tapestry of passionate partners who work diligently toward "a capacious greenway for the Trail," as author Jay Leutz puts it (page 18). For these individuals, this is, and has been for more than seven decades, a goal requiring ambition, finesse, and patience. In the specific case of the path of the A.T. through the Roan Highlands of North Carolina and Tennessee, Judy Murray of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) explains, "we have focused on the dreams of the visionaries who saw what was possible. It's a challenge, but it's also an honor." Or, as SAHC board member Joe Deloach says, "... you have an unparalleled roster of dedicated professionals and volunteers who have shared the same aspirations ... tract by tract the puzzle has come together, and these partners created the Trail you see today." By sticking together, and holding a strong line, these partners have ensured a pristine experience. "From its inception, the Trail in the Roan has been more than a park, more than a linear unit. It is the sum of the opportunities one has while using it, unimpeded by the sights and sounds of civilization," says the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) deep south regional director Morgan Sommerville.

To this roster of professionals and volunteers, the Appalachian Trail is not only an indispensable footpath and greenway, it is a family member, a child, a mentor, and a friend. I have heard A.T. Park Office manager Pam Underhill express this sentiment — with sincere conviction — on many an occasion. This personification is one that takes root when endless energy is required to preserve the experience of a 14-state-long national park and natural haven. This conviction is also palpable in individual hikers — like ATC volunteer and Trail maintainer Wendy Pacek, who, during her section-hike, took note of the constant work that is necessary to keep the Trail "hikeable." "I was most appreciative of well-maintained trails ... and I was aware that the Trail was maintained by local clubs," she says. "When I finished my A.T. hike, my husband [and I] wanted to do our part to keep the Trail in shape for others to enjoy." (page 40)

The work of the ATC, its volunteers, and its partner organizations involves vigilance, devotion, and calm determination. All of this amounts to the very definition of "grace under pressure" — an apt description of those people who protect, maintain, and promote the A.T. and its precious greenway. It is also a fitting depiction of the Trail itself — stoic and unaware of any encroaching threat; and gracefully offering the gifts of reprieve and peace to all. ♡

**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](mailto:editor@appalachiantrail.org).



Inset: Twin fawns, Roan Highlands; Snow on Little Hump and Hump Mountain. Photos by Witt Langstaff





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Engaging local students in work that is tied to the environment is integral to the formation of the next generation of conservation stewards.

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Jerry Greer's ardor for his native mountains fuels his environmental and photographic endeavors.

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# GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

Perseverance, partnership, and a fierce passion serve to protect the scenic balds of the Roan Highlands — and the unique A.T. experience that exists within them.

Roan Mountain goldenrod on Round Bald at Carvers Gap, North Carolina  
— photo by Jerry Greer.



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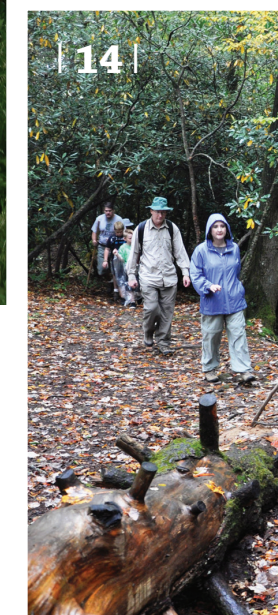
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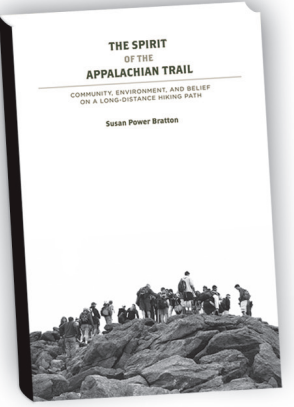
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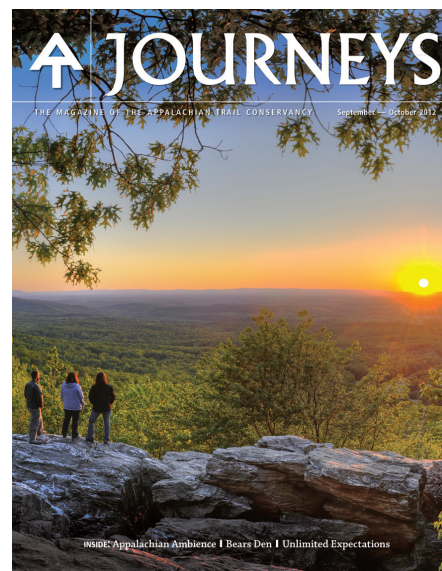


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## I LETTERS



**I HAVE JUST READ THROUGH THE** most recent *A.T. Journeys* and could not resist writing — tis great! The pictures, the articles [are] outstanding!

I am 86 years “maturing” and not very [physically active] but I love reviewing my hikes in my mind and seeing great photos of things I’ve seen and not seen. I grew up in Georgia and hiked a bit in North Carolina as a youngster, then went to Maine as a counselor at [a camp where we took short hikes, then worked our way to] eventually hike the White Mountains — a three-day trip with stops at two huts — great people, great challenges, and great memories. Keep up the good work. And keep inspiring young people to get outside.

*Dr. Lee Morrison*  
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK** you do. The best decision I’ve ever made was the decision to hike the Appalachian Trail. The second best decision I’ve made was becoming a member of the ATC and supporting the wonderful natural resource that is the Trail.

*Bree “Lady Pants” Carlson*  
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE** recently completed our 2012 thru-hike of the A.T. and become members of the ATC. Your work is not in vain, the establishment and maintenance of this Trail has provided us with the opportunity

for unparalleled recreation and personal growth.

*Jacob Stickle and Nina Ruiz-Holmes*  
“Secrets and Shenanigans”  
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

### FACEBOOK COMMENTS

...woohoo! ...just got my new issue of *A.T. Journeys*! (all my friends are in there!)  
*Deb “maw-ee” Tucker*

I just received my latest issue of *A.T. Journeys*. As usual, you continue to outdo yourselves. You Rock!

*Mike Yeatts*

Thanks, guys, for doing all you do! I became a first-time member yesterday at your location in Harpers Ferry!

*Edwin Neelley*

Thank you folks and volunteers for caring for the [Trail]...I hiked parts of it with my grandfather, father, friends, children, and now my grandchildren...your work has given me memories for a lifetime.

*Nadine Walther*

### CORRECTIONS

The caption for the rattlesnake photo on page 37 of the September/October issue of *A.T. Journeys* (“Trail Personalities”) incorrectly identified the snakes as diamondback rattlesnakes; they were actually timber rattlesnakes.

*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.

Please send them to:  
E-mail: [editor@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:editor@appalachiantrail.org)

Letters to the Editor  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
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## 2013 ATC Biennial Photo Contest

Help to display and archive the beauty, diversity, meaning, and fun of the Appalachian Trail and its users through your photographs.



For complete rules visit:  
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A.T. Ambassador Kayah Gaydish worked with a crew of Carolina Mountain Club volunteers to improve a popular section of the A.T. in Hot Springs, North Carolina.



**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE** volunteers in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) programs. One group we worked with this year is Greenagers, a youth environmental organization based in Massachusetts. The mission of Greenagers is simply stated: youth working to strengthen the environment and community. Greenagers is a program built on service and stewardship. They build work skills through community improvement projects. This year was the first season for the Greenagers Appalachian Trail Crew.

Getting youth involved in environmental stewardship will help build future volunteers. You can hear more about the crew and Greenagers in this issue of *A.T. Journeys* (page 10).

The success of our Appalachian Trail Community Program has given us another volunteer opportunity. The A.T. Community program is designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the Trail, this program assists communities with local initiatives such as sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation. In 2012 we started our Appalachian Trail Community Ambassador program as part of the Trail Community effort. A.T. Ambassadors serve as community liaisons to the ATC and the local volunteer club to bolster volunteerism and stewardship of the Trail at the local level. These important volunteers facilitate outreach to community members and youth groups for Trail-related volunteer stewardship projects. They are not only helping to bring a greater awareness of the Trail in their communities, but also to strengthen partnerships to inspire community-driven conservation for the A.T. The A.T. Community Ambassador opportunity is the first of its kind within the A.T. cooperative management partnership (page 26).

Family Hiking Day is another volunteer opportunity to introduce families to the A.T. and all the benefits that come with being active and spending time outdoors. Held on National Public Lands Day in September, Family Hiking Day is an initiative to get people of all ages and experience levels outside and active. Hiking on the A.T. is a great resource for physical exercise that provides a connection to local natural resources and the opportunity to create lasting memories. We developed a guide for planning a family hike that includes a list of family-friendly hikes, a list of guided hikes, guidelines for planning a family hike, and games and activities that you can take with you while you're out on the Trail.

The ATC and the Trail maintaining clubs always welcome new volunteers. We are sure you can find a rewarding volunteer opportunity with us. And thanks to all of you who already volunteer — you make all of our programs successful. 📌

**J. Robert Almand** | Chair

**Mark J. Wenger** | Executive Director/CEO



*The ATC and the Trail maintaining clubs always welcome new volunteers.*



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We are in need of several pieces of equipment to aid with maintenance and operation of the ATC's 95 acres of farmland at the Kellogg Conservation Center in South Egremont, Massachusetts. **Your generous donation will be used to further the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) mission related to the A.T., land conservation, and stewardship in New England – and is tax deductible.**

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**GO PAPERLESS!**



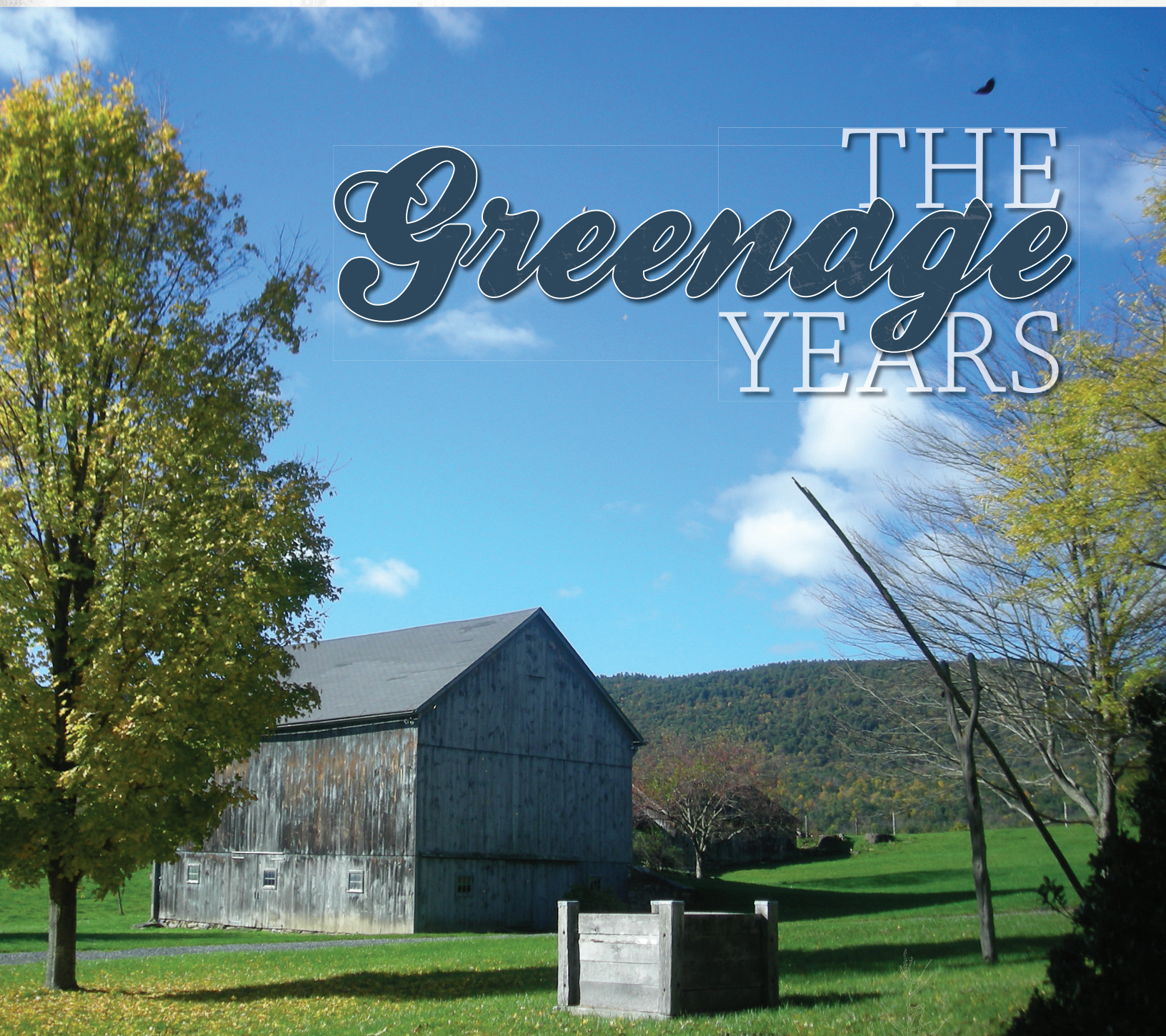
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# THE Greenage YEARS



*What exactly does it mean to live graciously? For some it could mean deliberate generosity through their actions while for others it might mean simply being thankful for what blessings they have and acknowledging the positive effects of those blessings on their lives. Many would subscribe to some combination of the two and, for those who actively pursue a gracious existence, the rewards often far outstrip any effort invested.*

**FOR THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY (ATC) IN SOUTHERN NEW** England, those rewards are manifested by being part of the local fabric of like-minded organizations working to integrate community members into the culture of volunteerism through conservation outreach and education. The obvious venue for this to occur is at our 95-acre Kellogg Conservation Center in South Egremont, Massachusetts, which houses the ATC's New England regional office as well as the regional office of our partner organization the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and serves as the ATC's primary hub in the area. For those who live and work near a natural national treasure such as the Appalachian Trail, the opportunity to pursue a gracious existence presents itself on a regular basis in the form of volunteer opportunities focused on community-based conservation efforts. Here in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, there is even a college preparatory school that holds an annual Gracious Living Day, which all of its students participate in. The Berkshire School of Sheffield, Massachusetts has been setting aside one day annually in which its students, faculty, and staff venture out into the surrounding communities to volunteer their labor to local non-profit organizations, small businesses, municipalities, as well as a variety of other entities. This tradition was enacted to reflect the spirit and philosophy of former head of school Larry Piatelli who encouraged community members to live graciously through kindness and action.

This past spring the Appalachian Trail Conservancy signed up to be one of the organizations to benefit from the school's Gracious Living Day, enlisting a group of

Left: The grounds of the 95-acre Kellogg Conservation Center (KCC) are part of the local fabric – photo by Adam Brown. Right: Students help plant native shrubs as part of the Tree as a Crop program at KCC during the Berkshire School's Gracious Living Day – photos by Lissa McGovern.

students to help plant native shrubs as part of our Tree as a Crop program at the Kellogg Conservation Center. Students and teachers from the Berkshire School had previously come to our volunteer workdays in 2011 to help us plant 1,300 native hardwood saplings in an area recently harvested for timber as well as a protective evergreen shelter belt of 25 six- to eight-foot hemlock and spruce trees to minimize the effect of prevailing winds and snow on the grounds and historic 1744 facility. The native shrub mix was the final touch to this phase of the Tree as a Crop project which, along with other efforts on the property, has been funded through a EQUIP grant in

BY ADAM BROWN







partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and through the ATC's partnership with Rodale, Inc. and NewPage Corporation.

The level of passion for and commitment to community involvement, conservation, and trails held by its students, teachers, and leadership make Berkshire School a perfect match for the ATC's ongoing outreach efforts focused on modeling sustainable, community-oriented conservation efforts on the Kellogg Conservation Center property. Lissa McGovern, a recent graduate of the ATC's Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program and a teacher at the Berkshire School, accompanied the students on their visit and noted that "working with the ATC at the Kellogg Conservation Center is a natural fit for Berkshire School community members because of our connection to a number of Appalachian Trail activities as well as the many practical learning opportunities, including learning about Tree as a Crop and current conservation practices." The school directly abuts Appalachian Trail lands on the east side of the Berkshire-Taconic Plateau (the ridge along which the A.T. runs from Connecticut to Massachusetts) and the students maintain a network of trails that include a blue blaze, the Elbow Trail, which connects to the A.T. Lissa commented that, even though she lives down the road from the Kellogg Center, she did not have more than a vague understanding of the breadth of work that happens here until she joined in with some of the service projects through the Berkshire School. "It is exciting to know that the connection between the Berkshire School and the Kellogg Conservation Center will continue. There is now a growing number of students at our school who have the opportunity to ride or walk by and say, 'I put in blueberry bushes there', 'I helped plant the green belt' or even, 'that's where I learned that trees can be planted as a short term crop' and of course, 'here is one of the many places the Appalachian Trail crosses our lives'," she said.

As spring gave way to early summer and ushered in the hiking season, the annual event of National Trails Day came around in early June. As a general rule every day is "national trails day" for those



of us in full-time A.T. management, but when the ATC's New England regional director Hawk Metheny and I were approached by the Egremont, Massachusetts Board of Health director Juliette Haas about opportunities for hosting a community wellness hike from the Kellogg Conservation Center, we leapt at the chance to engage a broader audience and introduce them to the ATC's efforts in the region. To expand our potential resources we sought out the Berkshire Medical Reserve Corps — an organization tied to the local hospitals that is a division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps and exists to improve the health and safety of the community — as a partner. One of the ways they enact their mission is through participation in service and outreach events promoting community health, emergency preparedness, and resiliency. The planning committee decided to register the hike with Michelle Obama's Let's Move! program, which is aimed at significantly reducing childhood obesity rates, and gave it the name "Let's Move! Along the Appalachian Trail." After several weeks of planning we held our hike (replete with ample healthy living information, give-a-ways, healthy snacks, and a raffle) in a downpour that was, to use a phrase from one of our A.T. volunteers, "a real frog choker." For a town the size of Egremont (population, approximately 1,200), a decent cross-section was represented, including A.T. volunteers, local community members, and tourists/weekenders hoping to learn more about the A.T. I came away from the hike with a sense that there is a section of the population here that is interested in the ATC's efforts in their community, willing to get more than a little damp to hear about them, and eager to get out and take a walk on the piece of the Trail that passes through their town.

Yet another successful example of how community members in the area are engaging in gracious living related to the Appalachian Trail is found in a local non-profit youth environmental organization called "Greenagers." Based out of Great Barrington, the goal of the organization is to increase youth community engagement and raise awareness of environmental issues through productive labor in local agricultural and conservation work. In 2008, I was approached by their director, Will Conklin, about the possibilities of having the Greenagers work on the A.T. under a National Park Service (NPS) contract. At the time, the ATC and NPS had a long-standing contract with a nationally-known youth conservation group, utilizing federal Public Land Corp (PLC) funding to host a four-week volunteer Trail crew each summer in Massachusetts and Connecticut to tackle the backlog of Trail reconstruction projects that local A.T. maintaining clubs lack the resources (either in time or volunteers) to complete.

After several conversations with Greenagers, it became evident that the



ATC and NPS were in a unique position to offer local youth a chance at paid work on the A.T. in their own backyard. Following some persistent lobbying by the ATC and subsequent pursuit of a five-year contract through the federal process by the NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office, the switch to Greenagers was complete. For the 2012 season — some four years after the initial conversation — Greenagers hired an A.T. Crew (apart from various other local crews they ran at the same time that focused on other community endeavors) this summer with the PLC funds solely to handle the four weeks of heavy Trail reconstruction work on the A.T. in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The crew, comprised of eight youths and one adult leader, worked from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, with several of the kids leaving from the muddy, tiring work of rolling large rocks through the woods each day to go to work at a second job in the evening washing dishes at one of the many local establishments. One might surmise that attempting to maintain that sort of schedule would cause the Trail work to suffer but that was not the case and both the volume and quality of work met and even exceeded expectations.

The collaboration between the ATC, NPS, and the Greenagers this past summer has already opened up more opportunities to engage local citizens on the Trail. During the fall the Greenagers led a group of students from the local Simon's Rock College of Bard in a bog bridging project on the A.T., supervised by local club members, and they also milled and constructed a kiosk out of local lumber that will be used to welcome visitors to the Kellogg Conservation Center and highlight our conservation efforts on the property. The idea of engaging youth in simple and effective work that is meaningful and tied to the environment is one that is integral to the formation of the next generation of

Clockwise from above: Juliette Haas (front) sets out across the KCC yard toward the A.T. during a wellness hike; A.T. volunteers, local community members, and tourists took part in the very rainy hike; Greenagers lead other local college students in a bog bridging project on the A.T. - photo by Lee Rogers; The ATC staff, NewPage staff, and Berkshire School students work together - photo by Adam Brown.

*Maybe living graciously is a learned behavior instead of inherent one. It is likely that many of the members of that Trail crew will look back on their work with pride, recognizing that the Appalachian Trail was the place where they learned to become conscientious stewards of the natural world.*



conservation stewards. Maybe living graciously is a learned behavior instead of inherent one. It is likely that many of the members of that Trail crew will look back on their work with pride, recognizing that the Appalachian Trail was the place where they learned to become conscientious stewards of the natural world.

As we move into the winter season, the pace of life inevitably slows on the Trail. The flow of hikers through the summer has slowed to an occasional hearty and intrepid few and I start checking the weather for signs of snow, eyeing my skis instead of my hiking boots. Winter is a time to pause and reflect on the projects completed during the season, the highs and lows, and what could be improved upon in the future. Of course, this typically does not last long, and then it is on to planning for next year and trying to anticipate the unforeseen needs and challenges that will arise. A crucial part of that dialogue will be an examination of how the ATC will continue to engage the groups mentioned above and foster new relationships within communities the Trail passes through, while at the same time continuing to pursue our land stewardship and conservation efforts in the region. The A.T. is little more than a small dirt path through the woods without the communities that anchor it and provide regional flavor. In all of these communities there lies significant potential for the pursuit of a compassionate lifestyle: through dedicated volunteerism, monetary contributions, or myriad other actions that celebrate and support the Appalachian Trail. As the ATC executive director Mark Wenger frequently states, "We can't do it without you folks." 🌱





# I TRAILHEAD I

PHOTO BY MARINA SINYARD



From left: Nantahala Hiking Club members at Standing Indian Campground – photo by Bob Scott; Jack Gaulden touches his first white blaze with the help of his mom, Kelly.



## A.T. and the Family

**MOST OF US REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME WE SAW AND SPENT TIME ON THE A.T.** Although toddler Jack Gaulden may be too young to remember, his first A.T. hike was this past September. Jack’s parents — former A.T. thru-hikers — participated in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s (ATC) second annual Family Hiking Day in conjunction with National Public Lands Day, which brought many brave families out on the A.T. on September 29, despite dreary fog and rain in some states.

The ATC created the event and many supporting resources — including a list of hikes to choose from, information on activities and fun tips, and a list of guided hikes for those who prefer a group setting — to provide opportunities for families to feel prepared and excited about a hike on the Trail. A.T. club volunteers, the ATC staff, and A.T. friends led more than a dozen different guided hikes for families. The Nantahala Hiking Club in Franklin, North Carolina, provided several guided, short hike excursions and a cookout at Standing Indian Campground, bringing close to 25 people out on the Trail — with activities including a Discovery Table set up by A.T. Ambassador Mary Bennett, and hiking and Leave No Trace overviews.

Carol Broderson, of Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club, led two hikes through the pouring rain, and still was able to get a new recruit for the club and see some wildflowers in bloom. Many, however, chose to venture out on their own, like Ellen Tobler with her husband and two sons. Ellen chose to celebrate her birthday on the Trail in Shenandoah National Park. While living in Chicago, Ellen’s family has made four trips to hike on the A.T., and with every trip she sees her children become more competent and comfortable in the outdoors. “In our lives,” wrote Ellen, “as with most, we spend the majority of our days sitting at desks and running to and from afterschool activities. Hiking together enables us to ditch the mundane and enjoy the moment. My favorite part is getting to spend [so many uninterrupted hours] with my boys. What better way to experience our beautiful country than [via foot] on the Appalachian Trail!”

Family hiking with young ones may not always get us to our planned destinations, and may happen at a slower pace than we are accustomed to, but the adventure of doing so together creates lasting, unique memories. We all know why we love the Trail, and the ATC wants to make sure we give the next generation a chance to fall in love too. Celebrate our public lands next Family Hiking Day (Sept 28, 2013) on the A.T. — and share your stories with us.



Hector Reyes Miller in his winning video.

## ATC Video Contest WINNING SUBMISSIONS

**TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE** Appalachian Trail, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) hosted a video contest to find out what people love the most about the A.T. The contest, entitled “Why Do You Love the Appalachian Trail?”, accepted submissions this past summer and left it in the public’s hands to vote for their favorite.

Entries came in from all over the world. Each displayed their own personal thoughts and feeling as to why they love the Trail. The submission with the most votes came in from Hector Reyes Miller of Dorado, Puerto Rico. Hector decided to take a trip to the United States to hike on this legendary Trail and, though he was only able to hike a small section, the experience he shared will last a lifetime. Mark Griffin from Suwanee, Georgia received the second highest amount of votes, and Chris Heald from Waldorf, Maryland received the third highest.

**Congratulations to all the entries!**

To view the winning video and other top contenders visit: [www.youtube.com/ATConservancy](http://www.youtube.com/ATConservancy)

## ATC OPEN HOUSE HOLIDAY PARTY & A.T. BOOK SIGNING

**Saturday, December 1**

**MINGLE WITH OTHER A.T. ENTHUSIASTS AND GET SOME HOLIDAY** shopping done at the ATC’s Visitor’s Center and the quaint shops of downtown Harpers Ferry. Hot coffee, cider, and homemade cookies will be served from 9 to 5.

**Appalachian Trail Conservancy Visitor’s Center**  
799 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

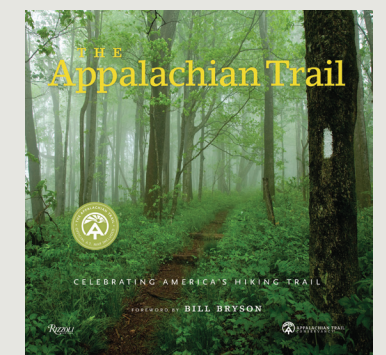
For more information visit: [appalachiantrail.org/events](http://appalachiantrail.org/events) or to order *The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America’s Hiking Trail* visit the Ultimate A.T. Store at: [atctrailstore.org](http://atctrailstore.org).

## Call for 2,000-Miler Applications

Section-hikers and thru-hikers who complete the A.T. are encouraged to report their journey to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) by filling out an Appalachian Trail 2,000-Miler Application.

Hikers who report their hike of the entire Trail will be added to the ATC’s roster of 2,000-milers, have their names posted in the 2,000-Miler List in the March/April issue of *A.T. Journeys*, and will receive a certificate of recognition and a 2,000-miler rocker and A.T. patch.

To fill out an application visit:  
[appalachiantrail.org/ATcompletion](http://appalachiantrail.org/ATcompletion)



### ◀ BOOK SIGNING

**Staff member Brian King, longtime editor of all ATC-published books and one the foremost experts on the A.T., will sign his new book, *The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America’s Hiking Trail*.** Honoring the A.T.’s 75th anniversary, this book documents the history, beauty, and significance of America’s most iconic hiking trail, features a foreword by Bill Bryson, and is filled with more than 300 spectacular images — including newly published historical photos, documents, and maps from the ATC archives.



**NOMINATIONS  
SHOULD BE SENT BY  
DECEMBER 15, 2012 TO:**  
**Boardrecommendations@**  
**appalachiantrail.org** or by mail  
to Clark Wright, Chair, Nominating  
Committee, Appalachian Trail  
Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers  
Ferry, WV 25425.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

### 2013 – 2015 ATC Board of Directors

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE POSITIONS OF FOUR OFFICERS AND 11** directors who would serve as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) governing body until July 2015 after elections by members attending the July 2013 Biennial Conference at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

A slate of nominees will be selected by a committee chaired by Clark Wright, an attorney from New Bern, North Carolina — who currently is serving his third consecutive term on the ATC's board — and an avid hiker who has completed a section hike of the A.T. Also on the committee are: Charles Maynard, an ATC board member who currently is serving his third consecutive term on the ATC's board; Trudy Phillips, chair of Virginia Regional Partnership Committee and president of Natural Bridge A.T. Club; Bob Lee, executive director of Virginia Outdoors Foundation and current Stewardship Council member; Bill Van Horn, Stewardship Council member and former president of the Nantahala A.T. Club; Ken Honick, a CPA in Sarasota, Florida, a 2,000-miler (and then some), and former ATC treasurer; and Bill O'Brien, two-time thru-hiker, Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association board member, and former ATC Board of Managers member.

A diverse range of skills and experiences suitable for national nonprofit governance is being sought among nominees, and the ATC's members are invited to engage in the process. Desirable qualifications include a passion for the A.T. and commitment to its partnership network, as well as various skill sets. The board, representing all of the ATC members, focuses on strategic directions for the ATC, financial stability, and operations in a broad sense. All nominations should include both the nominee's and the nominator's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, with a description of the person's relevant experience, skills, and attributes. Additional materials, such as a résumé, are welcome. The committee's slate will be announced in *A.T. Journeys* in May.

For more information visit: [www.appalachiantrail.org/Leadership](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/Leadership) and [www.appalachiantrail.org/bodnoms2013](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/bodnoms2013).

## HOT SPRINGS

### Wins “Best Mountain Towns” Contest

**BLUE RIDGE OUTDOORS MAGAZINE RECENTLY RAN A CONTEST FOR INTERNET** users to vote for the “Best Mountain Towns.” A total of 38 towns and cities were nominated in three different categories (“Small Mountain Towns,” “Mid Size Towns” and “Outdoor Cities”), and Hot Springs, North Carolina was voted the winner as Best Small Mountain Town. Eight of the nominated towns are Appalachian Trail Communities, a testament to the enthusiasm our Trailside neighbors have for providing adventure and unique experiences to residents and visitors in the great outdoors.

More than 85,000 people voted for their favorite towns in the BRO contest, clicking to demonstrate that their special place in the Blue Ridge is simply the best. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) supported the A.T. Community nominees by using social media and electronic newsletters to spread awareness of the contest. When a business owner from Hot Springs, North Carolina contacted the ATC for additional support, the ATC did not hesitate to help out with some further promotion. As one of our first A.T. Communities to demonstrate their support to the A.T., Hot Springs has highlighted the Trail in their school curriculum, the town's comprehensive plan, and through events and stewardship along the A.T. and the French Broad River. In large part due to the ATC's 50,000 Facebook followers, the small North Carolina town soon took the lead. Pick up a copy of the November issue of *Blue Ridge Outdoors* to read more.

In today's world, an on-line presence for organizations is vital. It is comforting to know that the ATC is not only keeping up with the digital age, it is using the weight of its digital friends and viewers to support the partnerships that help sustain the Trail experience.



*Eight of the nominated  
towns are Appalachian  
Trail Communities*



BY ANGIE SHELTON

## Outdoor Curriculum Awarded

**THE TRAIL TO EVERY CLASSROOM (TTEC) PROGRAM IS A PROFESSIONAL** development program for Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, providing educators with the tools and training for place-based education and service-learning on the Appalachian Trail. Since its launch in 2006, TTEC has seen wild success from Georgia to Maine. Nearly 300 educators have participated in the cumulative workshops, developing their own experiential learning curriculum based on state educational standards that integrate a hands-on study of the A.T. Recently, three of the program's alumni from Virginia were honored with 2012 Teacher of the Year awards, because of the curriculum and projects they created after completing the TTEC program.

Shenandoah University presented its Teacher of the Year Award to Shannon Allen, a keyboarding teacher at Blue Ridge Middle School, for her commitment to her students and to the local community. At every opportunity, the Appalachian Trail is part of the learning in Shannon's class, and she often takes students outside of the classroom to show them how keyboarding and word processing are relevant in real life. Shannon said that winning this award “brings attention to the Appalachian Trail and shows educators that they can incorporate something this important into their curriculum, despite the many demands on a classroom teacher's time. It is not hard; it just takes some creativity to engage these future stewards of our environment.” Her class can often be found hiking on the A.T. in Loudoun County, and then following up those hikes with in-class writing assignments on what they experienced.

Roanoke County Public Schools' Education Foundation awarded the 2012 Golden Apple Award to Chip Donahue, a third grade teacher at Glen Cove Elementary School. The Golden Apple Award is the highest education honor presented by the Education Foundation, recognizing the county's Teacher of the Year. Students in Chip's classes go out into the environment to experience nature first hand while they're learning about it. He hopes students come back to school each day excited to learn more about science and social studies. Chip was also recognized as the Leave No Trace Teacher of the Year in 2011 and has been a passionate force in connecting youth to the outdoors. Chip and his wife, Ashley, started KIVA, a free family nature club in the Roanoke valley, encouraging families to get outside and volunteer.

The Virginia Department of Education named Abingdon High school science teacher Steve Ahn the Regional Teacher of the Year. After going through the TTEC program, Steve teamed up with Mountain Alliance to start Appalachian Teen Trekkers (AT<sup>2</sup>), a service learning and adventure organization with an environmental science emphasis that is committed to getting kids outside and connected to nature and their local community. When the club's not out hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, kayaking, or caving, they can be found building trails, volunteering at Feeding America or helping in local gardens. When asked about the success of his club, Steve said, “Well, I pretty much blame TTEC for most of the good things that have happened to my teaching in the last few years. I went to TTEC the first year I was in Virginia and it changed me and solidified what I believed about education into one complete whole. Community, pushing perceived limits, helping others, doing real work, making real connections ... I believe that these are the paths to learning.” In the three years since Ahn and his coworkers started AT<sup>2</sup>, it has grown from 30 students to more than 300.


The Trail to Every Classroom program is designed to engage youth in volunteer activities, promote healthy lifestyles and create a conservation ethic, and that's exactly what these three stellar teachers have been doing in their schools and communities. ▲

Learn more about the Trail to Every Classroom program at: [appalachiantrail.org/ttec](http://appalachiantrail.org/ttec).



Trail to Every Classroom teachers integrate a hands-on study of the A.T. into their curriculum, and this year three of the program's alumni from Virginia were honored with 2012 Teacher of the Year awards. Clockwise from top (in their “outdoor” classrooms): Third grade Glen Cove Elementary School teacher Chip Donahue; Abington High School science teacher Steve Ahn; Blue Ridge Middle School teacher Shannon Allen.





# GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

BY JAY LEITZ

*Pam Underhill was our star and champion, and our secret weapon. She was our cavalry and our nuclear option all rolled into one. She stood tall and lean, the spirit of the Trail itself. She possessed a silky voice and used the language like a poet. She was, she said, here to deliver the official position of the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.*

*The room grew silent. Mouths literally fell open and Charles appeared jolted to a new level of attention as she made to speak.*

*—Excerpt from Stand Up That Mountain*

Yellow Mountain in the Roan Highlands — photo by Witt Langstaff

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Clockwise from top left: Chestnut-sided warbler in Fraser fir by Jerry Greer; Toad on shelf fungus by Witt Langstaff; A hiker heads north toward Belview Mountain on the Trail after crossing Hump Mountain by Witt Langstaff; Endangered Gray's lily in the Roan Highlands by Jerry Greer; Self portrait: sunrise looking toward Belview Mountain by Witt Langstaff.



## THE SCENE WAS A

public hearing held in the old courthouse in Avery County, North Carolina, in 2001. That year I had formed a plaintiff group in order to sue the state of North Carolina, seeking to compel a state agency to revoke a permit that would otherwise dismantle 151 acres of Belview Mountain, a lovely summit near the A.T. where it snakes down the grass-tufted ridge of Hump Mountain. We were losing that fight, but now we had a new breath of life. Dave Startzell and Morgan Sommerville of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and Don Barger from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), had joined the fray and they brought with them the federal government. And suddenly everything changed.

How had we gotten to this point? I am an outdoorsman, quite happy in the woods, or wading trout streams, but from 2000 to 2004 I spent an inordinate — and unhealthy — amount of time hunched over statutes, buried in language, knocking around courthouses looking for a way to protect the Appalachian Trail experience at Hump Mountain.

In a way, the fight over the Putnam Mine started in 1967, when Stan Murray, the founder of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), and longtime ATC board chair, paid a visit to the Kentucky home of Oscar Julian, who at that time owned the vast summit of Hump Mountain. Murray, an avid proponent of a capacious greenway for the Trail, understood that the long-sought relocation of sixty miles of treadway over the scenic balds of the Roan would never be complete without laying the Trail across the easternmost open area in the chain. Murray later admitted it would have been far easier “if we had avoided Hump Mountain, but we *had* to include it.” It took 14 years of tough negotiating by Murray, SAHC, and the U.S. Forest Service to purchase the Julian tract so that the Trail might be moved to its current location, but since that time many thousands of hikers have become in-

vested in the remote mountain, and in the experience of using the Trail laid out across it.

As SAHC executive director Carl Silverstein points out, “when we buy land for conservation, we buy a suite of responsibilities to protect it in perpetuity. That can mean managing it so that invasive species do not establish themselves on it, for example, and, in some very important locations, it means we also assume responsibility for the intangible experience people have when they visit it.” The land trust founded by Stan Murray remains at the center of the ongoing land acquisition and protection efforts in the Highlands of Roan. In the last three years SAHC and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) have purchased more than 1,350 acres on Little Yellow Mountain alone. Each acre added comes with that responsibility Silverstein notes.

With the creation of the Roan Stewardship Committee, Judy Murray, SAHC’s Roan stewardship director, carries forward the partnerships forged by Stan that have built and managed the landscape, including the stunning open balds.

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**It took 14 years of tough negotiating so that the Trail might be moved to its current location, but since that time many thousands of hikers have become invested in the remote mountain, and in the experience of using the Trail laid out across it.**

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Her committee includes SAHC, TNC, Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club (TEHCC), Cherokee National Forest, Pisgah National Forest, Friends of the Roan, and staff from State Natural Areas and State Parks in North Carolina and Tennessee. The work is rarely easy, but Judy Murray, for one, has never tired of the challenge. “We have focused on the dreams



of the visionaries who saw what was possible. It's a challenge, but it's also an honor. Stan saw a bright future for the Trail where it would be part of a vibrant and broad community, including the wilderness walk set in a sustainable countryside," she says. "We're still working toward that." Her Tennessee neighbor Joe Deloach, a longtime SAHC board member who also chaired TEHCC's A.T. Committee for eight years, agrees. He looks back in wonder at the passion and talent of the generation that moved the Trail to its optimal location, reeling off names familiar to all who work in the Roan. "Between Stan Murray, Dave Sherman, Ray Hunt, Ed Oliver, Darrol Nichols, and guys like Gordon Small, and the team at SAHC, you have an unparalleled roster of dedicated professionals and volunteers who have shared the same aspirations for this section of the Trail. We've been blessed to have great Forest Supervisors on the Pisgah and the Cherokee who understood what was at stake if we failed. Tract by tract the puzzle has come together, and these partners created the Trail you see today."

"We have always had a successful collaborative relationship with SAHC and the Forest Service," adds Morgan Sommerville, regional director of the ATC. "From the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract to the 14-acre Buck Mountain parcel, we have had great success purchasing priority tracts in the corridor between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Roan Mountain that protect the integrity of the Trail. That spirit of cooperation and a shared vision since SAHC was founded has secured nearly every important high-elevation tract in the Roan." Sommerville pauses before elaborating: "Not all, because they haven't all been available, but nearly all. There are a few more tracts we *have* to do."

## THE EXPERIENCE

From its inception, the Trail in the Roan has been more than a park, more than a linear unit. "It is the sum of the opportunities one has while using it, unimpeded by the sights and sounds of civilization," Sommerville says, paraphrasing the statement of purpose adopted by the Board of Managers in an earlier era. He's right. For some it is frost on the boots at the Overmountain Shelter and a clear view down the Roaring Creek Valley. For others it's a foggy trek through a sea of trembling grass, or the pulse of silence that catches up to you after cresting the peak of Little Hump while you stand perfectly still to behold what lies ahead. For land protection staff at SAHC, and the other land trusts that work on their sections of the Trail, the acquisition and stewardship effort is fed by what it feels like to be in the landscape. "In some places we're buffering from acoustic impacts that can encroach on the experience of using the Trail," says Carl Silverstein. "In other cases, the viewshed is paramount because there are places along the Trail that invite the user to stop and take in a beloved vista. How far out, though, must the public ownership reach in each location to protect this value, this experience? We struggle with that. Personally I'd like to

... it is a clear view down the Roaring Creek Valley ... a foggy trek through a sea of trembling grass, or the pulse of silence that catches up to you after cresting the peak of Little Hump while you stand perfectly still to behold what lies ahead.

acquire a wider corridor in the Roan, and everybody on our staff and board agrees. Federal money is extremely tight right now, but when the critical lands we're focused on become available, we will not hesitate to act."

With the Putnam Mine case, the question of the Appalachian Trail experience was litigated. "How far out does this experience extend?" asked an attorney for the mining company, echoing the rhetorical musing of Silverstein. "Do you need to protect everything for six miles? Thirty miles?" In the end we did not have to make a claim as to how far out "protection" should extend. We had only to demonstrate that 1.5 miles next to this section of this beloved National Park unit was too close for this surface mine. It was too prominent in the viewshed "given the lay of the Trail in this location," we asserted, and it was too damn loud. No one should have to be subjected to the sounds of drilling and back-up beepers while drinking in the views of Virginia and Tennessee, the long line of the Blue Ridge and the mighty Blacks.

Nearly as soon as the Hump Mountain tract was purchased in 1981 and the Trail was relocated to give the hiker the experience of walking it, threats to the sense of wilderness remove arose. In 1982 Avery County issued a building permit for the reviled Sugar Top condominium tower. Seven miles to the east of Hump Mountain, Sugar Top stood out as the only significant blemish on the otherwise unbroken range of forested ridges. "My eye tries not to see it," says Witt Langstaff, an ATC life-member, past board-chair at SAHC, and veteran of the Putnam Mine fight. In subsequent years, developers carved roads into some of the ridges facing the Trail. And then, of course, came the Belview Mountain mining permit. Pent up frustration over the changes to the landscape, the changes to the treasured viewshed, finally boiled over. A moment had arrived, and all the partners who had created the Roan success story were called upon to defend the gains. The ATC conducted viewshed analysis, led several site visits, and joined the case as a co-plaintiff. The TEHCC sent armies of passionate Trail defenders to public meetings and participated in a letter-writing campaign. The U.S. Forest Service deployed Kathy Ludlow to see if the quarry openings could be subordinated to the forest canopy, but she determined that the quarry would be the "dominant landscape feature should development of the site continue." Trail specialists and landscape design firms were engaged by the state to propose mitigation measures and even a possible relocation of the A.T. And finally, the United States Department of the Interior weighed in. True-believers in the experience came in num-



From top: The A.T. on Little Hump looking toward Hump Mountain; Jay Leutz and Trip Van Noppen (who provided legal representation) speak to a group of supporters in a meadow overlooking Belview Mountain — photos by Witt Langstaff

bers that overwhelmed the agency charged with making the decision to either modify or revoke the mining permit.

I often get asked how we won the Putnam Mine case. Less often do I get asked why we fought. Maybe that is because it seems self-evident. At least it does after the fact. Who wouldn't fight when presented with a threat to hallowed ground? But many didn't. Many have missions that make it hard to fight, and some walked away because they saw no chance that we could out-lawyer a powerful mining company. So why did we, the



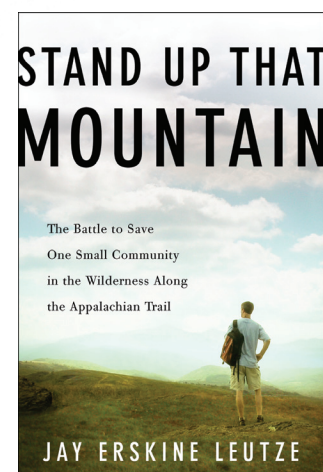




Beech Gap in the Roan Highlands by Jerry Greer

SAHC family, ATC and NPCA, and all the others fight? Why did the Department of the Interior send Pam Underhill — A.T. Park Office manager — into a crowded courthouse on an icy night in 2001? Because it is our mountain. On the night Underhill addressed the assembly, people literally came out of the woods to defend the Trail, and the thrill of using it. Hikers and birders and neighbors, owner/investors all, came to fight for what was ours, for what we had bought. And the rafters shook.

Partners stick together and it is not all popping champagne corks when we close on strategic tracts of land. Even now, private tracts quite close to the Trail are blooming with houses that affront users who round the broad shoulder of Grassy Ridge. Two are under construction as I write. Both are being built by decent couples who are friends of the land trust, and fans of the Appalachian Trail, but neither couple could be convinced to subordinate their own desire to be close to the Trail to the desire of hikers to be free from the sights and sounds of residential development. Those who envisioned a greenway wider than a stout man's shoulders, those who sat in the living room with Oscar Julian and his wife, and in the living rooms of dozens of other landowners whose land now belongs to all of us, and those



volunteers who laid the Trail gently across the balds with bent backs and raw hands, compel those in our generation to fight against these encroachments, to work to protect the experience, even when we lose. Do we have authority or funding to stop all in our view as far as our gaze travels? No. But we toil in the shadows of giants, and we cannot bear the thought of giving up. And sometimes, against great odds, we win. 🌲

*Pam Underhill asked, graciously, but firmly, for Charles to consider her wish “on behalf of the people of the United States” that the [Putnam Mine] permit be revoked to protect the values of the Appalachian Trail: “I would ask that you have the courage and the grace to rescind the permit, to renew the process, and to let it properly unfold,” she said. Our side was propelled into an ecstatic thrall of affirmation, but we did not stomp the floor and we did not rise to our feet. I was reminded of wise words*

*Witt once spoke to me: “once you’ve made the sale, stop selling.”*

*—Excerpt from Stand Up That Mountain*

Jay Leutz is the author of *Stand Up That Mountain* and a board member of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Witt Langstaff is a professional photographer and also a board member of the SAHC. *Stand Up That Mountain* is available at the Ultimate A.T. Store: [atctrailstore.org](http://atctrailstore.org).

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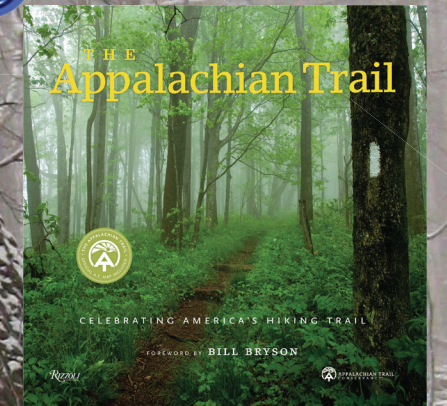
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A.T. Ambassadors

# THE POWER OF VOICE



BY LEANNA JOYNER



**ANNA SHERRILL STOOD IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF IT PROFESSIONALS** with their sandwiches and leftovers spread out before them, and she offered them an escape. She didn't literally hold the door open, but she presented activities in their community for daily getaways. She proposed hikes on the A.T., bike riding the Virginia Creeper Trail, and float trips on the Clinch River, among other ideas that are available any time for recreation and renewal in southwest Virginia.

She was invited to the brown bag lunch by a manager from CGI (an international IT company with offices around the world) in Lebanon, Virginia whose interest is in retaining staff and helping talented interns decide this area has the quality of life they seek over competing employers elsewhere. "This is another component of economic development. It's not just tourism. It has to do with local businesses attracting employees because of outdoor recreation opportunities and the promotion of physical health," said Sherrill.

Sherrill made the presentation as part of her role as an A.T. Community Ambassador to Damascus, Virginia. She is one of 11 elite A.T. volunteers selected to serve as an A.T. Ambassador in 2012. Each served as a liaison to a designated A.T. Community, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and the local A.T. club; and provided unique services based on the identified needs of the community, hikers, and club. REI generously supported all 11 of the 2012 A.T. Community Ambassadors.

From far left: Union County Ambassador Donnie Kelley paints a white blaze with local students; Hot Springs Ambassador Kayah Gaydish volunteers at the Visitor Center and coordinates Trail work; Harpers Ferry Ambassador Kweli Kitwana organized an educational and invigorating African American History Hike; New York Ambassador Michael Fraatz addresses a crowd at the ribbon-cutting event for the Pawling, New York boardwalk.





In Sherrill's case, she created the curriculum for a six-week Trail Happenings class at the College for Older Adults in Abingdon, Virginia, helped organize that town's designation ceremony, worked to recruit volunteers through Emory & Henry College's Appalachian Center for Community Service, and served on the Damascus Trail Days committee. While she's done a lot of work already, she says she still wants to do more to advance volunteer participation for the Mount Roger's A.T. Club. "Both the Mount Roger's A.T. Club and the Virginia Creeper Trail Club are in need of people to volunteer despite having large membership rolls," said Sherrill.

In North Carolina, the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) added more volunteers to their rosters in 2012 thanks to the work of Hot Springs, Virginia Ambassador Kayah Gaydish. Kayah led a work trip of Boy Scouts to install check steps and coordinated the work of 46 volunteers from Missouri to put a major dent in the invasive exotic plants along the river in Hot Springs as well as near Max Patch. The time and talent she harnessed to benefit the Trail and Hot Springs also came from the ranks of existing CMC volunteers to repair a dangerous section of the Trail below the guardrail on the popular A.T. loop hike to Lover's Leap. Before the project, she described this section as "completely washed out with lots of big rocks." "It didn't even look like a trail; it looked like a ditch," said Gaydish. "I encouraged the town to apply for a North Carolina A.T. License Plate Grant, and we matched the grant with volunteer hours from CMC. We finished it just in time for Trailfest."

This project ranked as a high priority among community members in her initial meetings with them, and her initiative to see the project through built a lot of confidence in her within the community. "They trust me to be available to hear their concerns and to try to make things better, whether it's a tree down [on the Trail], or if it needs to be marked better,"



said Gaydish. "We talk about how the Trail can be an asset to [Hot Springs] and how they can be an asset to the Trail."

Currently Gaydish is working on developing a local hiking guide that people can use to discover nearby trails. She started the project after working in the tourism office each Thursday; while she was there she realized that most people come in wanting to talk about the A.T. and other trails in the area. She thinks the guide will be useful for tourists as well as locals. "It's cool to get people outside and hiking, discovering trails. A lot of people who live here don't know how to take advantage of the Trail, so it makes me more excited to share this information," she said.

Donnie Kelley in Union County, Georgia has similar passions about sharing the outdoors with people where he lives. "I'm a really big fan of the Appalachian Trail, but when we surveyed people who live in our county, which has 35 miles of the Trail, only 47 percent had even heard about it. A lot of people who grew up here haven't taken advantage of the Trail for whatever reason," said Kelley. As the principal of Union County Middle School and advocate of the place-based, service-learning principles of Trail to Every Classroom, he has encouraged and facilitated students' hikes on the Trail and volunteer maintenance work trips.

Similarly, Ambassadors in four other communities helped locals get out on sections of the A.T. near Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania; Franklin, North Carolina; Harpers Ferry, West



Virginia; and Bland County, Virginia for organized hikes and work trips. In Boiling Springs, Christine Lauriello led family hikes, youth work trips, and a hike celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Trail. Mary Bennett in Franklin worked extensively with schools to present environmental education programs and lead hikes. Kweli Kitwana organized an African American History Hike in Harpers Ferry that drew people from throughout the region.

In Bland County, Diana Billips has been leading monthly hikes for Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers (PATH) for three years, a service she continued as an Ambassador this year. She said that people from the community have increasingly attended these hikes. "As they've become more familiar about what's in their backyard, they're more willing to come out. The more people come out, the more they bring friends too. It's a word-of-mouth kind of thing," said Billips.

While Billips chalks up this kind of volunteerism to work she would have done anyway, her role as Ambassador is paying off for the club and the community in significant ways. She says that three-quarters of new members to PATH this year are from southwest Virginia, while the club's membership traditionally lives in North Carolina. She is helping businesses in Bland, Virginia determine how they can better serve A.T. 2,000-milers, and promotes stopping for food or ice cream following hikes she leads to support the county's commerce.

Beyond businesses, she's optimistic that the partnership between the community, the ATC, and the club may result in additional walking trails on land recently acquired to protect the A.T., offering greater opportunities for healthy lifestyles and recreation to area residents, especially as they hike more. She says that her greatest accomplishment to date has been the designation ceremony in May that inaugurated the county as an A.T. Community with a Festival of Trails celebration, vendors, live music, two A.T. hikes, and the Tour de Bland charity bike ride.

Organizing A.T. Community designation ceremonies has been a significant task for several other A.T. Ambassadors, too. Michael Fraatz supported the event in Warwick, New York while Paul Smith helped organize the Duncannon, Pennsylvania festivities. Designation ceremonies tend to be the tip of the iceberg for A.T. Communities. Other Trail-related or community events draw greater participation from A.T. clubs and Ambassadors, including the Franklin April Fool's Appalachian Trail Day, Super Saturday in Boiling Springs, Earth Day celebrations, Mayfair in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and short A.T. film festivals in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and Erwin, Tennessee. Through these events and other special presentations, Ambassadors are raising awareness for the Trail and drawing more volunteers to the ATC and clubs.

For his part Donnie Kelly attended several festivals, including the Green Bean Festival in Blairsville, Georgia. He said during that event people were lined up to talk about the



Trail. They kept him busy for four straight hours distributing maps, talking about hiking, and the A.T. It's these kinds of conversations at events, club meetings, community advisory committee meetings, and with individuals along the way that spark the incredible action achieved in 2012 by A.T. Ambassadors — because it's delicate work to bridge the realms of conservation and commerce, available volunteers and work to be done, and the needs of multiple entities working cooperatively to help the Trail. Donnie Kelley said it's a face-to-face presence that makes the most difference. "Rather than mailing or emailing, it requires seeing, talking, and asking," said Kelley. "It's the power of voice."▲

Clockwise from above: Bland County, Virginia Festival of Trails celebration Tour de Bland charity bike ride; The A.T. Community designation ceremony in Warwick, New York; Celebrating the A.T. Community designation of Damascus, Virginia at Trail Days; Carolina Mountain Club members at work on the A.T. in Hot Springs, North Carolina; Attendees of the African American History Hike in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Interested in becoming a 2013 A.T. Ambassador? Contact: Julie Judkins at [jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org) or 828-254-3708. The ATC would like to thank REI for generously supporting the A.T. Ambassador program in 2012.





## *A Protective Eye*

Photographer Jerry D. Greer was introduced to the wonders of the wilderness at an early age while growing up in the Blue Ridge, which bestowed in him “a desire to protect and conserve their ever vanishing ecosystems.” He works almost exclusively in the southern Appalachian region and his love for his native mountains fuels his environmental and photographic endeavors — where he applies his personal connections with wild places, together with a very contemplative eye, to create his beautiful and evocative imagery. Jerry lives in Johnson City, Tennessee with his wife, Abbey and their daughter, Serén.

[www.jerrygreerphotography.com](http://www.jerrygreerphotography.com)

September sunrise over Jane Bald, Roan Highlands, North Carolina/Tennessee





"Hoarfrost and Autumn Color, Roan Highlands," North Carolina/Tennessee





"Hoarfrost and Sunstar on Round Bald,"  
North Carolina/Tennessee



# Blue Ridge Harmony

*Mountains, music, and elevated easiness.*

BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA



**FOUNDED IN 1892, THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA IS NESTLED** on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the southwestern corner of Rockbridge County, Virginia, with an unspoiled setting as spectacular as any. It is bounded by the Maury River on the west, a major tributary of the James River, and partially surrounded by the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests.

ing campers and share in the music, food, and camaraderie.

Born from the vision of one man, the city has become an industrious town and center of business with diversity weathering all challenges. The main industry is manufacturing, and has been since the community was founded. Being located on a river and at the base of the mountains has certainly presented obstacles to the small community in the past. Several major floods have left their mark on the downtown but, in 1993, construction of a floodwall was begun and today the Levee Walk not only provides protection, but also a beautiful walking trail along the Maury River. Benches are interspersed along the two-plus-mile trail, encouraging many to stop and “sit a spell” alongside the river.

Buena Vista is home to Southern Virginia University, a small liberal arts college that offers a rich program of cultural activities, many of which are open to

This friendly community of 6,300 citizens located just four miles west of the Blue Ridge Parkway and nine miles west of the Appalachian Trail crossing at U.S. Route 60, welcomes A.T. hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts who come to take advantage of the many recreational opportunities that abound there. The city’s own 315-acre jewel, Glen Maury Park, offers camping, swimming, fishing,

golf, tubing and kayaking, mountain biking, and a heavily discounted camping fee and free showers to A.T. hikers. It is also the home of numerous music festivals, ranging from blues to bluegrass and beach music. The annual Maury River Fiddlers Convention, which takes place in mid-June, often provides free camping and admission to A.T. hikers. Many a hiker has been invited to dine with participat-

Clockwise from bottom far right: Buena Vista is nestled on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains – photo by Sharon Williams; The town’s designation as an A.T. Community has lifted spirits and created enthusiasm – photo by Patte Wood; The large “Welcome to Buena Vista” sign hangs proudly on the Visitor Center; The overlook of the aptly named town – photos by Cathy Shiflett.





the general public. The main hall of the school occupies a former historic resort, the Buena Vista Hotel, and is perched on a tree-shaded hill overlooking the town. Additionally, a small regional satellite campus of Dabney S. Lancaster Community College has recently been built across from the city's public golf course, the Vista Links, and offers a variety of credit and continuing education classes.

In the spring of 2010, Celebrate Buena Vista, a volunteer grassroots organization working to revitalize the commu-

advisory committee was formed to provide support to both Buena Vista and the neighboring community of Glasgow as each worked to submit applications to become designated Appalachian Trail Communities. The committee consisted of members of both communities and representatives from each local government, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, Rockbridge Regional Tourism, the NBATC, the regional library system and Buena Vista public school system. The partnership and cooperation created

found in many businesses, where owners and local residents are anxious to engage hikers in conversation and listen to their stories.

A Hiker Services brochure that encourages hikers to "Discover our Downtown" was created as a result of a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The brochure lists a variety of services available to hikers, with phone numbers and addresses, as well as a calendar of major events that take place in the community, and a large walking map of Buena Vista. Grant funds will also be used to help erect an informational kiosk, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, at the trailhead at Long Mount Wayside, where the Appalachian Trail crosses U.S. Route 60.

Buena Vista hopes to expand its offering of hiker services by engaging those who are not currently involved – local churches, organizations, residents, businesses, and others – thereby providing more opportunities to accommodate and support hikers, making them feel welcome and encouraging them to make themselves at home in our community. The local Senior Center is considering offering a seasonal shuttle service and several groups have discussed the possibility of establishing a hostel.

As a community plagued by floods, closing factories, and hard economic times, the positive energy generated by this program has helped to lift spirits and create enthusiasm as well as provide numerous benefits to the community. The designation as an A.T. Community has certainly created more positive awareness of Buena Vista, not only for hikers and others who support the A.T., but also for other outdoor enthusiasts. The large "Welcome to Buena Vista, an Appalachian Trail Community" sign that is hung on the nearby Visitor Center has prompted many visitors to stop and find out more about the community as they are driving to or from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Buena Vista is fortunate to have this remarkable asset in our backyard and looks forward to a long and happy relationship. ⬆



From top: Local musicians offer entertainment during an Open Mic night – photo by Patte Wood; The A.T. runs through on nearby Cold Mountain – photo by Cathy Shiflett.



nity, asked to meet with the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club (NBATC) to discuss how Buena Vista could become a more hiker-friendly community. Several downtown businesses and individuals were already striving to do so, but wanted input from the NBATC on ways that they may not have considered. A successful meeting ensued, with helpful suggestions being offered and acted upon. In the spring of 2011, a regional

among this regional group was instrumental in Buena Vista being selected as an official designated Appalachian Trail Community in October 2011. The official ceremony took place in April 2012 with many dignitaries and supporters on hand to participate in the festivities.

Southern hospitality is alive and well in Buena Vista. A nod or wave of the hand to a complete stranger is common here, and as an expression of a traditional warm greeting, it is just one of the ways to make a visitor feel as comfortable as possible in an unfamiliar setting. The town's hospitality certainly extends to hikers, as well. The community is excited about the potential economic development opportunities supported by the A.T. Community designation, and is also happy to be sharing their hospitality and beautiful views with hikers who come into town to resupply or rest. Hiker logs can be

## Volunteer Now to Make a Difference at the ATC Cullowhee 2013 Biennial

The power of people built the Trail, and they have kept it thriving for 75 years. In this tradition of service, we seek volunteers to make the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Cullowhee 2013 Biennial a rewarding experience for everyone, just like the Trail itself.



Visit: [appalachiantrail.org/2013Biennial](http://appalachiantrail.org/2013Biennial) for the most up-to-date information on Cullowhee 2013, and look for registration to open in April 2013.

Volunteers are needed throughout the week of the event. The greatest need for volunteers is from Friday, July 19 through Monday, July 22, but volunteers will also be especially valuable as the event draws to a close. Volunteer shifts range from full-day commitments to four-hour stints, or longer. Potential volunteers are encouraged to sign up now at [appalachiantrail.org/2013Biennial](http://appalachiantrail.org/2013Biennial).

For your volunteer contribution, you will receive a specially designed T-shirt, an invitation to the volunteer reception, and the satisfaction of helping the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and organizing clubs to host a fun, informative, and entertaining Biennial Conference.

Organizers expect 1,000 A.T. enthusiasts of all ages for the event aimed at celebrating and conserving the Trail with organized hikes, workshops on hiking, ATC programs, volunteer coordination, Trail management, and opportunities to meet new people people who are passionate about the Trail and its maintenance.

### Scheduled for July 19-26 at Western Carolina University, event organizers need people to:

- Lead hikes
- Greet, orient, and register guests
- Serve as dining room hosts
- Provide audio-visual support and room set-up for workshops
- Dispense information on local activities and self-guided hikes
- Take tickets at events
- Manage logistics, like parking, housing, signs, camping, evening programs, and receptions



# Wendy Pacek



Wendy, with her husband, Denny, summited Katahdin in 2008 during an attempted “flip-flop” thru-hike.

**What or who first drew you to want to hike on the A.T.?**

As a new divorcée with a teenage son I joined a local hiking club and the local Trail club, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), and discovered that the famous A.T. was very close to where I lived in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The leader of the local hiking club was a neighbor, a section hiker, an A.T. enthusiast, and an Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) board member. Once I learned the location of the trailheads of the A.T. I often went for a picnic lunch to the closest shelter, enjoying the walk in the woods over any other form of exercise.

**I understand that at some point you “took the plunge” to start overnight hiking; what made you decide to do this and how did you find it different from day hiking?**

Some of the members of our hiking club had hiked in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and described hiking

from hut to hut. I was intrigued, thinking it was an easy way for me to get started backpacking. The huts offer breakfast and dinner, and rooms with bunks, blankets, and pillows. I was approaching 50 years old and seeking challenges as a way to feel young. A year or two earlier I had successfully climbed Mount Washington with my son (on my second try) so I knew what the hiking would be like. I recruited a friend of mine to hike a section in the White Mountains that included Mount Washington again, and two huts along the A.T. as my first backpacking trip. I enjoyed the aggressive climbing and the above-tree-line experience so, two years later, I hiked another A.T. section with three more huts. I found those trips so enjoyable that I then went on to backpack other areas of the A.T., usually one long weekend a year for about the next 10 years. During this time I became acquainted with backpacking gear and techniques such as Leave No Trace and “bear bag-

ging.” A good friend who was an experienced A.T. hiker showed me special areas with wildflowers in their prime, wild ponies, beautiful vistas and amazing mountain top balds. Getting away overnight allowed me to hear the owls at night and the birds in the early morning.

**What tactics do you use to overcome your fear of heights when on an area of the Trail that obviously presents a challenge?**

I knew from previous hikes that being on mountain trails with sheer drop offs was terrifying. So I figured I would take on the “escalator challenge” to help me prepare for the Trail. I researched the tallest escalators in Washington, D.C. and took three trips consisting of going up and down two of the tallest escalators each time. By the third trip I had developed a method for preventing the fear, which was to look straight ahead while the escalator went down. On the A.T., and in the Grand Canyon, looking straight ahead when walking near the edges of a drop off helped me navigate scary places. The year before I set out on my thru-hike I decided to practice hiking on some “scary” places as day hikes. Two of them were Lehigh Gap in Pennsylvania and Dragon’s Tooth in Virginia. At Lehigh Gap I climbed the scary part making sure I did not look down and avoiding peripheral views of the road far below. I found the climbing at Dragon’s Tooth fun. When I had heard about rebar on that part of the Trail I had imagined some type of ladder hanging out in space. When I got to the top I was not sure I had actually gone through the scary part and called back to my friend to be sure I had actually “hiked” Dragon’s Tooth.

**What sparked your interest in attempting a thru-hike?**

When I got close to retirement I talked about doing a section hike of the Trail. I already had a love for backpacking and the Trail but I figured that I would not be able to do a thru-hike on my own and should complete the A.T. by sections. A friend told me, “a thru hike is like a day hike every day.” So, when I retired from nursing in 2007, I started planning my thru-hike for 2008.

**I’m told you met your husband during your thru-hike training. Can you tell me that story?**

I did not like the idea of hiking alone. I knew that I would meet up with people on the way but I wanted someone to hike with and to know that I could count on them to be with me for moral support. Since I was a member of the ATC I was able to put a “hiking partner wanted” Public Notice ad in *A.T. Journeys*. As a result I received 12 responses [and we] started an email group to discuss gear, plans, and conditioning. Several weeks later, a friend of my now husband was reading *A.T. Journeys* and said to him, “Denny! There is a 63-year-old woman in Shepherdstown who wants to connect with other hikers for a thru- hike.” His response: “Sounds like ‘E-Harmony.” Denny then joined the email group and wowed us with his gear knowledge since he worked part-time for L.L. Bean after he retired from the government. He lived nearby, which made it easy for us to meet. We then started conditioning and love blossomed. He later proposed on Maryland Heights, one of my favorite conditioning hikes. We were married after the first year of our hike at the Quarry Gap Shelter on the A.T. in Michaux State Forest, Pennsylvania.

**When did you complete the Trail? Did you hike alone or with a hiking partner(s)?**

I completed the Trail on Sept 2, 2009. I had a hiking partner, one of the group of 12 who answered my ad. We started in April 2008 with the intentions of it being a thru-hike, but for various reasons I ended up needing more time so was able to enjoy several more months of hiking in 2009. Denny and I were together most of the time but due to some injuries he was off the Trail for about 800 miles. During that time I either met folks at the end of the day or actually paired up with someone for several days.

**When did you begin your volunteer work with the ATC and why?**

I started in October of 2009, as soon as Denny and I returned from the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association

## VOLUNTEERING KEEPS ME CONNECTED TO THE TRAIL COMMUNITY. I CAN’T IMAGINE BEING ANY OTHER PLACE. I AM WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DEVOTED TO THE TRAIL ON A DAILY BASIS.

“Gathering.” Volunteering keeps me connected to the Trail community. I can’t imagine being any other place. I am working with people who are devoted to the Trail on a daily basis.

**What does your volunteer work involve?**

I am a volunteer at the ATC’s Visitor Center. I greet visitors, show them around the center, and help them learn about the A.T. Many visitors are interested in hiking in the local area and I show them the various local hike options. A.T. hikers stop in on their way doing thru-hike or a section hike – I take their picture if they are planning on completing the whole Trail. I help long distance hikers and others with what services are available in Harpers Ferry in the way of lodging and restaurants. Many hikers call in or walk in needing information or maps for a planned hike on the A.T. Each year I attend Trail Days in Damascus, Virginia. Preparing for that event requires extra time as well as volunteering while at Trail Days.

**What inspired you and your husband to adopt a section of the Trail and where is that section?**

I volunteered for the ATC’s mid-Atlantic Trail Crew for two summers; each for a one-week Trail maintaining project. While hiking the A.T., I was most appreciative of well-maintained paths, and because of this Trail Crew experience I was aware that the Trail was maintained by local clubs. During my hike I would email into the ATC to compliment on the great Trail conditions. When I finished the A.T. hike my husband and I kept our eyes on the PATC newsletter looking for an opportunity to have our own piece of

Trail to maintain. We wanted to do our part to keep the Trail in shape for others to enjoy. We were so excited when a section nearby became available last year. The portion of Trail we maintain is from Buzzard Rocks to the South Blackburn Trail entrance on the A.T. in northern Virginia. It is 2.8 miles. Since then, we have had the “Cadillac Crew” of the PATC build a boardwalk on a swampy section and we have had the ATC mid-Atlantic Trail Crew spend two weeks building 69 stone steps up the hill near Buzzard Rocks. We are so fortunate to have that much help with “our” section of the Trail.

**As the two volunteers in charge of compiling the ATC’s 2012 2,000-miler Report, what have you and your husband noticed is the biggest challenge and what is most rewarding about it?**

When we agreed to take on the task of processing 2,000-miler applications and sending out their certificate packages, we encountered a very large back log waiting to be processed. Initially, the challenge was the learning curve – getting up to speed fast enough before we drowned in papers. This year has been a record year for thru-hikers, so it was necessary to get the process streamlined for efficiency very quickly. It has been rewarding to participate in this effort and to see the successful results. The other main challenge is deciphering handwriting. It is rewarding to learn new things at our age and we know we are making hikers happy when they get their certificates. It is enjoyable reading their applications and seeing the various Trail names, and as they describe their experiences we can certainly relate. 🍷





# MONUMENTAL DISCOVERY

*After more than seven decades of mystery  
an A.T. icon is rediscovered and a central  
monument on the Trail restored.*

**BACK IN THE EARLY 1930S, WHILE** the “dreamed of” footpath along the crests of the Appalachian Mountains was being constructed, the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) — out of Baltimore — was still a part of the larger Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). It was a time when Myron Avery was rolling his measuring wheel along the path being built. And it was the time when Raymond Creekmore, a member of MCM, designed and commissioned a bronze plaque that showed a hiker cresting a hilltop, a memorial intended to identify the half-way point of the path stretching in either direction toward Springer and Katahdin.

According to the archived PATC newsletter of January 1936, on the preceding December 8th, two groups of hikers, led by the first MCM president, Orville Crowder, and first chair of the Appalachian Trail Conference, Myron Avery, climbed to Center Point Knob to celebrate

the placement of the bronze marker on a large boulder marking the half-way point of the footpath. And there it remained, witnessed by the many who tramped the Pennsylvania portion of the Appalachian Trail — until it disappeared. Before the heist of the bronze, hikers often stopped to take pictures by the plaque as witness to their hiking progress and prowess. Center Point Knob became a destination for day hikes, a *raison d’être* by itself. However, sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s, the plaque disappeared from the boulder, the stark face of which was the only witness to the theft. And the marker was gone a long time.

Sometime later in the 1960s, Wilmer Harris, a local farmer, was digging in his fields to install fence posts when he struck something hard. This led to the excavation of the famous plaque, but because Mr. Harris was unaware of the importance and history of this lovely



bronze piece, he placed it on his mantel where it stayed for many years until an A.T. thru-hiker, and an active member of the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club, Bruce Dunlavy, recognized it while working on Wilmer’s house. Bruce, along with Bob Wise, a friend of Wilmer’s and president of the PATC North Chapter, explained the story of the plaque and its disappearance. After learning where the plaque came from, Mr. Harris was eager to return it to the Trail community.

In due course, the A.T. Museum celebrated its opening at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, Pennsylvania, on June 5, 2010 — the culminating work of A.T. Museum president, Larry Luxenberg, the A.T. Museum Society, and many volunteers. The initial exhibits, which had been viewed for several years at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, were now displayed in a venue even more fitting for such important, historic artifacts. Adding to the excitement of opening day and the festival event were rumors that the Center Point Knob plaque was reappearing. And it did.

The plaque passed briefly that day through the hands of a delighted Rosie Suit, then president of MCM and supporter of the museum. But for temporary safe-keeping and correct disposition of the plaque, it was then relinquished to Steve Paradis, the ATC’s chief operating officer, who was also present at the Museum’s opening. It would eventually go from Harpers Ferry to the ATC’s mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania as the proper source to clarify any question regarding



MCM’S original ownership of the bronze.

That summer of 2010, the news of the plaque’s reappearance was celebrated by the MCM Council by officially donating the artifact to the A.T. Museum, provided that it could be borrowed to make a mold for a replica. Original ownership established, donation to the museum accomplished, there remained only getting a mold made in order to place a replica back on the boulder. Subsequently, the ATC’s mid-Atlantic regional director, Karen Lutz, delivered the plaque to Larry Luxenberg, with the blessing of all, as a prime item for display in the Trail’s history.

Authorized by the MCM Council in the summer of 2011 to pursue making the replica, Rosie asked for and received permission from A.T. Park Office manager Pam Underhill and Karen Lutz to place such an item back on the original site. After all, in the intervening years, the Appalachian Trail had become a designated National Scenic Trail and a National Park. There were protocols to follow. Rosie briefly borrowed the plaque from the Museum to have a rubber mold made. Luckily, her next-door neighbor was Ben Lock, a sculptor then instructing at the metal shop/foundry of the Maryland Institute College of Arts (MICA) in Baltimore. In over-the-backyard-fence conversations with Rosie, Ben jumped at the chance to make a mold of the bronze (the kind of artifact that he was teaching others to make). He explained that a urethane rubber mold of the original could be used to make replicas from many different materials, including, if wanted, a replica bronze. But it would be more expensive than more common materials.

It did not feel seemly to consider a plastic or poly-everything replica remounted on the Center Point Knob boulder face — this was the A.T. and a National Park. Only a bronze would be right. A replica should be a replica. To accomplish this, an application for a grant from the MCM Miles Fund was made in early 2011, accepted and awarded, and plans made for casting a bronze, steps that took a number of months. Lock made the rubber mold in early summer 2011 and made a plaster of Paris copy. He then used that mold to make a ceramic mold that would withstand the heat of a poured molten metal. It was now summer of 2012, and only the installation on the boulder remained.

Under immediate constraints because Lock was moving to teach elsewhere, there was no time to plan a grand event for the installation with representatives from all those entities that played a part in its restoration — but that could be done at any time. On July 8, 2012 a small group of hikers arrived at Center Point Knob with the bronze and necessary tools to put the replica in place.

Once the recessed niche and deeply drilled holes were cleaned, Lock installed the plaque with long bolts and special epoxy. As the adhesive set and hardened, A.T. ridgerunner Wayne Bailey stopped by to witness the final steps. Though several thru-hikers came by, none inquired into what work was being done; but hopefully, in retrospect, they will know that they had briefly witnessed a moment of A.T. history.

The original artifact is now on display at the A.T. Museum as the centerpiece of the museum’s sign exhibit, which also features

Clockwise from below: The bronze plaque was replicated with great care and reinstalled by sculptor Ben Lock; Ben and Rosie Suit take in the moment at Center Point Knob; The original plaque was ceremoniously donated to the A.T. Museum (Karen Lutz and Larry Luxenberg display the historic piece); The replication process: from rubber mold to new bronze plaque.

an original Katahdin sign, one from Springer Mountain, and a 1950s sign from Wallace Gap that has the distance to Mount Oglethorpe (the original southern terminus of the A.T. before a necessary reroute moved the terminus to its current location on Springer Mountain). In June 2011 Wilmer Harris was honored for his donation at the first A.T. Hall of Fame banquet at the nearby Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. “The Center Point Knob plaque is steeped in mystery and is a significant artifact from



the early days of the A.T.,” explains Larry Luxenberg. “The plaque is a highlight of the Museum’s sign exhibit and one of the emotional highlights of a visit to the Museum.” The replica can be viewed by hiking up to Center Point Knob, just south of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. The Mountain Club of Maryland would like to thank sculptor Ben Lock for a beautifully done replica, and also thank Craig Dunn of the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club for leading the installers to the shortest possible route to Center Point Knob. It was a hot July day well spent. ⚡





From top: Michael Howell with his mother Dorothy in 1968; The ATC’s Kellogg Conservation Center in Massachusetts will benefit from Dorothy Howell’s gift; Donna Lawson with her brother Michael in 1974.

**IN THE LAST MONTH I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO WORK WITH** two families who are looking for ways to give back to the Appalachian Trail and honor the memory of a brother who had a passion for hiking. Having lost my youngest brother at an early age, I know the pain of that grief as well as the desire to ensure his life is not forgotten with time.

One group of siblings who lost their brother, Frank “John Wayne” Maderios, in the last year put together a golf tournament to honor him and raise money for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Now, they want to make volunteering on the A.T an annual family event in memory of their brother.

The second family story is of a sister, who is acting as the executrix for her mother’s estate. Donna Lawson has been an ATC member for more than 10 years. In telling me about her mother’s bequest to the ATC she explained, “I believe the most important of my duties, as executor, is to ensure that mother’s final wish regarding an appropriate memorial for my brother is realized, ... [and to] ensure that my mother’s gift will perpetuate the ATC’s mission to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail, so that present and future generations can continue to experience its natural beauty, the physical challenge, and the sense of wonder and peacefulness that Michael found there.”

Donna’s brother, Michael Howell, died in 1975 at the age of 26. In the last year of his life Michael spent most of his weekends either caving or hiking the A.T. in north Georgia and North Carolina. He would have someone drop him at an access point after work and then pick him up two days later. In her letter to me Donna wrote:

*“Michael hiked alone. Because my husband and dog hike faster than I do, I also have spent countless hours essentially hiking alone in the woods, and I have come to greatly value that experience and the sound of silence, except for the wind blowing through the trees, leaves falling, bird calls, snow gently touching the ground, and the sound of my heart beating after an uphill climb. These are the same sounds that my brother would have heard as he contemplated the peace and beauty around him. I am very pleased that my mother’s bequest will enable future A.T. hikers to have the same experience.”*

This time of year our thoughts turn to family, friends, Thanksgiving, the holidays and year end gift giving. Why not consider a gift to the ATC in memory of a loved one or an honorary gift in lieu of a present? Honorary and memorial gifts will be highlighted on these pages in coming issues and they will help perpetuate the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s mission.

Thank you for all the ways you help to fulfill the mission of the ATC and to protect the Trail. 🌲

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



JULY – AUGUST 2012

A.T. SNOWBIRD MOUNTAIN BY BOB VISINTAINER

**Individual Gifts**  
**Leadership Circle**  
**\$10,000 & Above**  
Leonard S. Bernstein  
Terry L. Lierman  
Elizabeth & Robert Thompson

**Myron Avery Society**  
**\$5,000 to \$9,999**  
Mary Higley & Kyran Kennedy  
Sandra Marra & Chris Brunton  
Linda & Mark Wenger  
Clark Wright

**Trail Explorer’s Society**  
**\$2,500 to \$4,999**  
Richard J. Daileader  
Arthur & Denise Foley  
Dan & Deanna Lentz

**Arthur Perkins Society**  
**\$1,000 to \$2,499**  
Marilynn Borkowski  
Ron & Cathy Butler  
Brian T. Fitzgerald & Brenda Clarkson  
Lee Larson  
Claude L. Leitzsey  
George Perkinson  
William L. Plouffe  
Candace Sinclair  
Kathryn L. Weaver  
J. Greg Winchester

**Benton MacKaye Society**  
**\$500 to \$999**

Henry & Sue Bass  
Mark Boguski  
Robert Cameron  
George Danis  
Constance I. Duhamel  
& Carolyn B. Handler  
Lamar Frizzell  
Christopher & Nancy Gibbs  
Scott Goldthwaite  
Elizabeth Graham  
Timothy Kenney Gray  
& Mary Ellen Carter  
Nicholas & Pamela Herceg  
Lance Herning  
Sanford & Gail Lipstein  
Mr. & Mrs. George Ohrstrom  
Catherine Pepe  
Paul & Cindy Shumpert  
Elinor Beidler Siklossy

**In Honor Of**  
**Clifford Andrew** by Luke Walsh  
**Peggy Combs** by Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens  
**Beverly Byron Walsh** by Beverly Curtiss  
**Ben Johnston** by Kay Johnston  
**Stephen Paradis** by Anne & Andre Paradis  
**Jeff Weathersbee** by Summit Group Associates, Inc.

**In Memory of**  
**Celeste Alvarez** by Francis Alvarez  
**Mrs. Barbour** by Robie Gould

**David Baskin** by George & Dianne Baskin  
**Charles Bauman** by William & Beth Beyer, Ethel Rounsaville, Stanley & Irene Janiszewski  
**Richard Buchholz** by Peggy Buchholz  
**Gary “Chill” Childress** by Stuart Smith  
**Barbara Davison** by Yvonne Blades  
**Chris Deffler** by Margaret Deffler, Mrs. & Mrs. John Wolff  
**Peter Desrochers** by James Close, Four Winds Saratoga, Carol Jones, Robert & Catherine Silwinski  
**Sandi Eucks** by Amy Heikkila  
**Becky Finch** by Christine Weigand  
**Kyle Forrey** by Barbara Thomas  
**Helen Glynn Walsh** by Robert Glyhn  
**Frederic “Mailman” Hoekstra** by Beverly Hoekstra  
**Pearce Jenkins** by Ann Galliher  
**Lars Johansson** by Linda Meyer  
**Mats Johansson** by Linda Meyer  
**Carlette Lewis** by Carl Morrison  
**Christopher Mariotti** by Elettra Mariotti  
**Michael Marziale** by Steve Paradis  
**Edward Music** by Stacy Coontz  
**Dennis Peg** by David Mertens  
**Steve Reed** by Gary & Carol

Ashworth, Jean Austin, Marty Bell-Knell, James Borawa, Chris & Ginger Brown, Mr. & Mrs. James Canterbury, Catawba-

Wateree Relicensing Coalition, Inc., Brock & Tom Fransen, Mike Gantt, Cathy Hofknecht, Jim Mead, George Parker, Joy & J. Charles Pittard, Jeanne Robbins, Ruby Toomey, Margaret Turner  
**Jim Staltz** by Jeanette Russell  
**Marj Tyndall** by Raymond Brandes

**Corporate & Foundation Gifts**  
**Director ‘s Circle:**  
**\$50,000-\$99,000**  
Quimby Family Foundation

**Ambassador: \$1,000-\$2499**  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens  
Martin, Hopkins, Lemon, P.C.

**Partners: \$500-\$999**  
River Riders  
The Summit Group 🏔️

Membership dues and additional donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. The ATC is a Section 501(c)(3) educational organization. To make a contribution or renew your membership, call (304) 535-6331 ext 119, or visit: [appalachiantrail.org/donate](http://appalachiantrail.org/donate)



Hiking Partners

71-year-old male section hiker looking for partners for mid-November 2012 to hike sections where hunting is not permitted. Prefer day hiking using two-car system of between 10 to 12 miles depending on parking. Also looking for partners for Spring 2013 for A.T. Neels Gap, Georgia and north, Bears Den, Virginia; and south along with New York and Connecticut in early summer. Contact Harvey: harveylefty@yahoo.com.

54-year-old male A.T. thru-hiker looking for companions for 2013 Pacific Crest Trail thru-hike. Contact: chris@jimschrock.com.

For Sale

For sale: women's 6.5 (for all of the following hiking footwear), medium Scarpa, backpacking boot,

Nangpa-LA, SCR, moderate use; \$90. Montrail Hardrock Mid GTX, acceptable, \$30. Montrail Sabino Trail GTX, mid, acceptable; \$45. Montrail Mountain Masochist GTX trail running shoe, moderate use; \$50. North Face Hedgehog sandal; acceptable, size 6; \$15. Offers considered. Contact: olgapader@frontier.com.

Log home for sale close to A.T. just north of Luray, Virginia. Move-in ready! Flexible floor plan yields four or five bedrooms, three baths. Ideal for home-based business or mother-in-law suite. Many upgrades including kitchen, five porches, A.T.-style shelter rear of property. Three partially wooded acres. Views from porches of Blue Ridge, Shenandoah National Park, Skyline Drive, Massanutten. Low taxes, HOA fee. Recently remodeled,

priced to sell. See photos: www.ShenandoahDreamHome.com or to tour home contact: Jim at (866) 893-1490.

For Your Information  
Hunting Season Safety on the

A.T. Firearm season runs through January 2013: Hunting is permitted along approximately 1,250 miles of the A.T. Both hikers and hunters are advised to "know before you go." Know local hunting seasons. Wear blaze-orange. Avoid deer firearm season from October through January by hiking in one of these national parks: C & O Canal National Historical Park, Maryland; Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia; Shenandoah National Park; Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia; Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

and North Carolina For more information and to see ATC's "2012 – 2013 Hunting Season Guide by State" visit: appalachiantrail.org/hunting.

Lightweight Backpacking

Class, January 12. Learn how to safely and responsibly lighten your pack. This free, two-hour class will be held at the ATC Headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Details at: appalachiantrail.org/events. ⬆

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

editor@appalachiantrail.org

Public Notices  
P.O. Box 807  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807



BIG BALD, NORTH CAROLINA BY JOE MORRIS

Share your love for the A.T.  
with a gift membership



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appalachiantrail.org/giftmembership

THRU-HIKER "FROST" NEAR ALBERT MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA – BY JEFF "KING" EWING

ASA SECTION HIKER, IT TOOK ME FROM 1973

to 1985 to complete the A.T., but, looking back, I can see how it has helped through my life — I'm 82 now and still enjoy it. In addition to the health benefits, I believe there is much to be gained from long-distance hiking that is sometimes overlooked, especially on a solo hike. The tasks may be more specific, but the situations encountered have similarities useful in coping with life. Here, I list what comes to mind:

Earl L. High

LIVES IN CARY, NORTH CAROLINA.

- 1 Learn to accept the bad days along with the good ones.
- 2 The same applies to the people you meet, the meals that you eat, and the places you sleep.
- 3 Just like the A.T., life has its ups and downs — get over them.
- 4 Don't bring along a lot of excess baggage; it hinders the trip — whether it be a week or a lifetime — and we don't need a lot of "things" for contentment.
- 5 Try to recognize the pitfalls before you fall into them.
- 6 You make the decisions — right or wrong — learn to accept the results.
- 7 Learn to set priorities to realize what's most important.
- 8 Learn to set goals, and know when to change them if needed, but always with the final objective in mind.
- 9 The longer you're at it, the more you appreciate what you used to take for granted.
- 10 Getting lost is not so bad, as long as you find your way back before it's too late. The most significant difference between the two is: with hiking you get to pick the start and finish dates! ⬆

"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](mailto:journeys@appalachiantrail.org) or write to Editor/As I See It, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.





**APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY®**

[www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)

P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807



# **Help to preserve and protect the A.T.**

**Become a part of the A.T. community. Volunteer with a Trail Club or Trail Crew. Encourage your family and friends to get involved by giving them a gift membership.**

**[appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org)**

A.T. IN VIRGINIA NORTH OF THE PAUL WOLF  
SHELTER - BY MARINA SINYARD