

# A JOURNEYS

A photograph of a winter forest. The trees are covered in snow, and a small cabin is visible in the background. The scene is peaceful and serene.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

January — February 2012

INSIDE: A Call to Action | A.T. Civil War History | Trail Dames



**On the Cover:** Trail Story author Kevin Devereaux took this photo of Hogback Ridge Shelter along the Tennessee-North Carolina border, which was just the first stop on a frigid, solo hike through a harrowing, January 2011 snow storm (“Close Brush,” page 32).

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Volume 8, Number 1  
January — February 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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**FORWARD THINKING. EMBRACING FORWARD MOTION, WHILE NEVER** forgetting our history and experiences — in fact, using those very things to propel our lives positively into the next chapter — has the potential to be a constant source of invigoration. Some specific experiences are only meant to happen once — never to be replicated — and to pack such a powerful punch to our psyches that they shift our life’s direction. It is up to each of us to know when to use this power to improve both inwardly and outwardly. A.T. hikers, and especially thru-hikers, repeat a version of this mantra all the time when speaking of their journeys’ completion. But whether or not they allow their futures to be altered (whether slightly or dramatically) by such unique inspiration, and how, is a distinctly personal decision.

“Completing the Trail marked the end of something; I’m just not sure what yet. Or, maybe it’s not really the end, but just a bend in the road and I cannot yet see around the curve,” explains “As I See It” author Krystal Williams (page 47). Months after her 2011 hike was over, instead of lamenting the end of something grand, Krystal added it to her check list, and allowed it to feed her potential and cleanse her perspective. “I realized that I now have this immense wealth of experience from which I can draw as I move into the future,” she says. “By changing my focus, I also unblocked my energy flow; enthusiasm for post-Trail living returned. I began to brainstorm about things that I wanted to bring to life over the next decade.”

This sort of “mind clearing” potential lies all along the Appalachian Trail — in its rich ties to history, (“A Clear View of History,” page 10), and the sometimes harrowing, learning experiences it offers (“Close Brush,” page 32). It can also be obtained, not only by completions of the entire path, but by any visit to any section, by any man, woman, or child. In the case of Anna Huthmaker, who founded a hiking organization called Trail Dames (page 24), she says: “[20 of us] were climbing Springer Mountain to celebrate the beginning of Trail Dames. If the women were confused as to why we were driving to the middle of nowhere and traversing a long, Forest Service road, only to climb .9 miles, they never said so. I told them that they were standing at the beginning of a 2,000-plus-mile hike, and that a million dreamers had stood in their very steps. I told them that the only people that get to see the view off of Springer Mountain are the ones that did the work to get up there. And then we did the ‘dance of the real woman’ to celebrate.” Today Trail Dames is a 2,000-women-strong organization.

To borrow a very appropriate Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, which Krystal Williams used in a blog post during her hike: “When you have worn out your shoes, the strength of the shoe leather has passed into the fiber of your body.” It is when we consider the more remarkable things we undertake, and those people we undertake them with, that it all becomes part of us, to change our inner structure and allow us to never stop believing — in ourselves and our futures. As we enter 2012, the Appalachian Trail celebrates 75 years of a particularly distinct and motivating *chutzpah*, which continues to win hearts. After 75 years, the A.T. is still the one ... and we’re still having fun. ⚡

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).



Krystal “Bumblebee” Williams nears the end of her thru-hike.

**10**  
A Clear View of History

Hike a piece of Civil War history on Angel's Rest Overlook.

**24**  
Trail Dames

One club creates a place on the Trail for all women.

**26**  
Depths of Winter

Kevin "Paul Bunion" Devereaux documents a close brush with Old Man Winter.

| 18 |

# A VISION FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

As the National Park Service prepares for its 100th anniversary; it has issued *A Call to Action*, asserting that its second century "will be relevant and valued by citizens as a source of discovery, economic vitality, renewed spirit, and deepened understanding of our individual and national identity" — the A.T. fits nicely into that narrative.

FARMER'S FIELD ON THE A.T., NEW YORK-CONNECTICUT STATE LINE, BY VINCE MIER



## departments

**14** | TRAILHEAD

Winter Hiking Tips; Trailside Post Office Closures; Call for 2012 Trail Crews

**32** | TRAIL STORIES

As he set out on the Trail last January, Kevin Devereaux thought he was headed for a clear run; he thought he was ready for whatever would be thrown at him — he was wrong.

**36** | CLUB HOPPING

In 2011 the Green Mountain Club confronted substantial flood damage, accepted the responsibility for the remaining portion of the A.T. in Vermont, and began using 100 percent renewable energy at its headquarters.

**38** | TRAIL DESTINATIONS

The A.T. has many notable side trails, but only one leads to the Montshire Museum - an exciting, interactive world of science, nature, and technology.

**42** | VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Thurston Griggs' years of volunteer work included: helping to secure land easements, establishing official Trail corridor boundaries, serving as an ATC board member, and working as an A.T. ridgerunner.

**47** | AS I SEE IT

Krystal Williams expresses her joy of accomplishing an A.T. thru-hike — and the realization that she now has a wealth of experience to draw from as she moves into the future.



**03** | FROM THE EDITOR

**06** | LETTERS

**08** | OVERLOOK

**44** | TRAIL GIVING

**46** | PUBLIC NOTICES



**AS SOMEONE WHO HELPS** maintain hiking trails, I am very grateful to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the many state and local hiking clubs who work so hard to help maintain the A.T. It has been a wonderful trek on the Appalachian Trail, and I realize that without the hard work of so many volunteers, who work countless hours, my hikes would not have been as enjoyable. ATC gave some well de-

served recognition to these volunteers at its [2011 Biennial Conference] in Emory, Virginia.

Joel McKenzie  
WAYNE, NEW JERSEY

**FACEBOOK COMMENTS**

**MY NOVEMBER/DECEMBER A.T.** Journeys magazine arrived today and features my hometown of Harrisonburg, Virginia ("The Friendly City" was recognized as an official "Trail Town" in June 2011) as well as a Trail Story by *Becoming Odyssea* author Jennifer Pharr Davis, ("Enduring Experience," November/December), who now holds the [unofficial] speed hiking record on the Trail. What a great issue to receive as I make my final preparations for my 2012 A.T. thru-hike!

Ross M. Hayduk

**HAPPY TO RENEW MY ANNUAL** membership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy this morning. Have missed the Trail greatly since hiking the West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey Sections, and enjoying the friendly Trail Towns during a career sabbatical in 2003. Of course I'm plan-

ning to return the very next chance I have, to get off the grid for a season. Keep up the great work! ♡

Andy "Chuck Luck" Fulrath

**CORRECTIONS**

In the July/August feature "A Stewardship Story," we inadvertently omitted the Conservation Alliance as one of our generous funders. The Conservation Alliance provided funding for staff time, travel costs, and pre-acquisition costs for the Tree as a Crop project at the Kellogg Conservation Center. We apologize for the omission.

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)

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**THRU A  
HIKER'S EYES**

Photographs from the Appalachian Trail

[etsy.com/shop/blazega2me](http://etsy.com/shop/blazega2me)

**2,000-milers**

We're getting the 2,000-miler listing to you sooner this year. Look for it in the March/April issue of *A.T. Journeys!*

2011 2,000-MILER KRISTAL "BUMBLEBEE" WILLIAMS BY TARA "EUGENE" HARBERT

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**THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

and we work closely with the Appalachian Trail Park Office to fulfill our mission to manage and protect the Trail. National Park Service (NPS) Director, Jonathan B. Jarvis, has issued *A Call to Action* to prepare for the second century of stewardship for the National Parks. In this issue, Appalachian Trail Park Manager, Pam Underhill, highlights how our programs line up with NPS plans (page 18). The mission to protect the future of public lands is shared by NPS and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and we look forward to supporting this call for action in the next century through our own stewardship efforts and conservation strategies.

Our Trail Community designation program continues to expand under the direction of program manager Julie Judkins. You can see what makes a Trail Commu-

nity special in this issue with a look at the Montshire Museum and Norwich, Vermont (page 38). The A.T. in Vermont was heavily damaged last year by hurricane Irene. The Green Mountain Club is making great progress in making repairs. In this issue catch up with what else they have been doing, including their success in utilizing “100 percent on-site renewable energy” at their Waterbury Center campus (page 36).

On a more somber note, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is saddened by the death of board member Michael L. Marziale. Mike passed away unexpectedly on October 24. Elected to ATC’s board of directors in July of 2011, Mike was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Tree as a Crop project that has led to the planting of more than 1,300 trees at ATC’s Kellogg Conservation Center in partnership with NewPage Corporation and Rodale, Inc. — with support from the Rodale Institute, Echo Power Equipment, and the Conservation Alliance. He was particularly interested in assisting in ATC’s mission to steward the lands we have worked so diligently to

protect. Mike offered a keen intellect, a strategic perspective, and a demonstrated ability to garner support for the Trail.

Seventy-five years ago the last section of the Appalachian Trail was completed, connecting Spaulding and Sugarloaf mountains in Maine. This year will be the 75th anniversary of this event. Former executive director, Dave Startzell, led ATC for 25 of those 75 years before his retirement. Upon announcement of Dave’s intent to retire at the end of 2011, I formed a search committee from the board and engaged a professional firm to conduct a national search for the right individual to take on this leadership role. Working with the firm, the committee narrowed the pool from more than 150 candidates. The board then met in special session in December to interview the finalists and make a selection. Criteria that was considered essential for the position included: extensive non-profit experience and a strong connection to the A.T. and ATC. As the final decision was expected after this issue of *A.T. Journeys* went to press, we invite you to visit our Web site ([www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)) for an announcement and introduction of our new executive director. ⬆

**J. Robert Almand** | *Chair*

Visit [www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org) for an upcoming announcement and introduction of ATC’s new executive director.



Board member Mike Marziale (third in from ATC chief operating officer Steve Paradis at far right) assists — along with several other board members, volunteers, and ATC staff — during a day of Tree as a Crop planting at the Kellogg Conservation Center. Mike played a large role in the success of this ongoing program.



## ATC’s 2011 Facebook Photo Contest

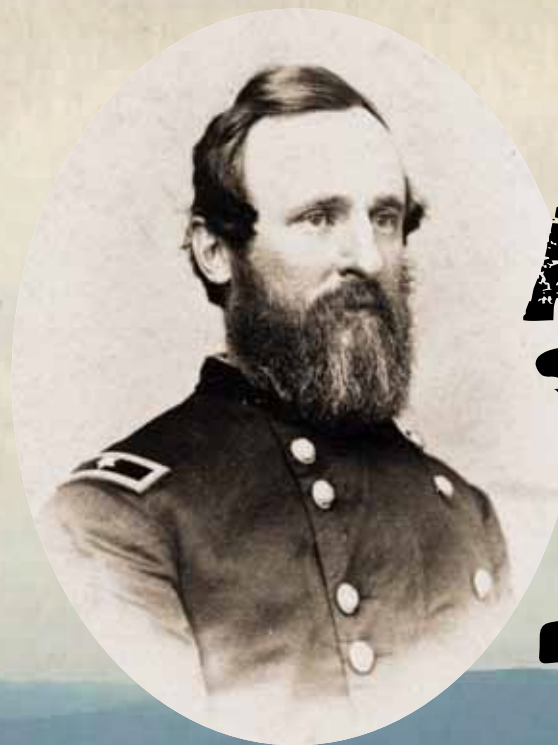
ATC’s 2011 Facebook Photo Contest gave the public a chance to share their idea of a perfect day on the A.T. with us. We received many photos of people enjoying the Trail across all seasons and throughout all 14 states. To see the 15 finalists’ photos visit our photo albums on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ATHike](http://www.facebook.com/ATHike)

**1ST PLACE** goes to Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp of Laura “Barley There” Letton, from Dayton, Ohio, celebrating her first hike on the A.T. on the summit of Hump Mountain, North Carolina/Tennessee border.

**2ND PLACE** by Scott and Cindy Theroux of Spruce Peak Shelter, Vermont

**3RD PLACE** by Lydia Mayfield of Charlies Bunion, Great Smoky Mountains National Park





# A Clear View of HISTORY

By Leanna Joyner

**Angels Rest, an Appalachian Trail overlook, may have had a special role in ousting the Union forces, including two future U.S. Presidents, from their occupation of Pearisburg, Virginia during the Civil War.**

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO, AS THE CIVIL WAR RAGED, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN** forces embarked on the second year of fighting between the states. Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, who would later become the 19th President of the United States, led the 23rd Ohio Regiment. At the beginning of May 1862, Hayes initiated a scouting mission with companies H, I, and K of his regiment from present day West Virginia, to the Narrows, along the banks of the New River in Virginia; the party was investigating reports of unguarded Confederate supplies. They didn't find the supplies they hoped for at the Narrows, so they pushed east another five miles to capture and occupy Giles Court House, known today as Pearisburg. It was in Pearisburg that the soldiers found the supplies they had sought. This was a valuable find for the Union army since the control of enemy supplies would cripple Confederate efforts by leaving their men hungry and without needed ammunition for the constant fight.

When the scouting party, led by Major David C. Comly, Captain James L. Drake, and accompanied by Captain Gilmore's cavalry, reached Pearisburg they sent word back to Lt. Col. Hayes of the capture of prisoners and large stores of supplies, including "two hundred and fifty barrels of flour and everything else." Hayes recorded in his diary that when the first wave of Union forces entered Pearisburg, the residents didn't even

recognize they had been invaded. They were standing on the streets talking, and upon their realization, women scampered home with admonishments, weeping, and begging.

On May 7, Lt. Col. Hayes arrived to unite his regiment and firmly secure the advantageous capture of supplies. Among the spoils now in their custody were corn, corn meal, sugar, salt, ammunition, and tools, with a total value of more than \$5,000. During their stay, troops also foraged additional corn to add to the stores. Holding on to the bounty would prove to be a challenge

Inset: Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes (seen here in his Union uniform) led the 23rd Ohio Regiment and went on to become the 19th President of the United States, photo courtesy the R.B. Hayes Presidential Center; Left: Looking out from Angels Rest with a clear view of Pearisburg, photo by Leanna Joyner

for the Union because of its limited forces and lack of artillery to guard against a Confederate attack.

Hayes set up his temporary headquarters at the Andrew Johnston House in Pearisburg, and, according to the Giles County Historical Society, the nearby Presbyterian church (which no longer exists) was used as the commissary and barracks. Commissary Sergeant William McKinley, like Hayes, went on to become a U.S. President. Hayes assigned soldiers to picket duty to keep watch for advancing forces; he was very wary of an attack because significant Confederate forces were known to be in the vicinity. He sent requests for reinforcements twice a day for several days, but never received artillery or additional troops.

Hayes and his roughly 600 men held Pearisburg from May 6 to the pre-dawn hours of May 10. The early morning attack by Confederates — 2,500 to 3,000



The number of dead and wounded as a result of this battle was fairly small. Union casualties included three killed, six missing, and several wounded, none seriously; and Confederates suffered two dead and four wounded. According to Hayes' diary on May 8, Union Sergeant Edward A. Abbott and his scout on patrol said they spotted a Confederate officer with a large spy glass "examining the village from a very high mountain whose summit, two miles distant, overlooks the whole town." The Confederate assessment of the limited number of the Union soldiers in Pearisburg is what helped shape their decision to invade. If this decision was based in large part on information gathered by the perspective offered at this

high vantage point, then this locale is indeed pivotal to the truncated Union control of Pearisburg. It may be that the officer stood on Angels Rest — a rocky outcropping along the Appalachian Trail that overlooks the mountain hamlet of Pearisburg and the New River as it snakes through Giles County. Standing atop Angels Rest one gains the perfect perspective to see Hayes' lingering thoughts on Pearisburg, captured in these words as: "a neat, pretty village with a most magnificent surrounding country both as regards scenery and cultivation."

Leanna Joyner is the author of *Hiking Through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail*, which will be available later this year through the Ultimate A.T. Store.



strong — sent Hayes and his men in retreat back to the Narrows, and eventually another 23 miles to Princeton, West Virginia. In retreat, they burned the church that held the supplies, though women of the town are said to have put out the fire. The goods seized by the Union four days earlier remained in the town, as did their prisoners. According to a biography of William McKinley by William Howard Armstrong, the loss of supplies had a detrimental impact on the Union troops following their retreat. Within days, McKinley didn't have bread to issue to the troops.



## Hike this Section of History

Two hike options are available to explore the rocks and vistas of Angels Rest on Pearis Mountain. Both hikes are moderately strenuous and require that you retrace your path to return to your vehicle. A hike in the early months of spring offers budding trees and clear views below, while a visit in the fall offers a panorama of colors surrounding this quaint village in the New River Valley.

The hike, originating from the trailhead at Va. Rt. 100/Narrows Road, connects to the A.T. and Pearis Cemetery via a short side trail; this is a 6.2-mile, roundtrip hike. The second option, originating from Cross Avenue is four miles, but parking is limited at this trailhead. To access the trailhead at Va. Rt. 100, drive west on 460 from the town of Pearisburg toward the New River. Turn left on Rt. 100/Narrows Road. The parking area is beyond a curve on the right, in .3 miles. A kiosk is located at the woodland edge near the parking area. Hikers using this access point will follow the side trail .2



Clockwise from far left: Built in 1857, the doctor's office served as headquarters for the 43rd Ohio Regiment; the Giles County Courthouse was used as a hospital during the Civil War (sketch circa 1870); The Andrew Johnston house was central to military activity during the Union occupation and is now open to visitors as a museum, images courtesy the Giles County Historical Society; Angels Rest sits atop a rocky outcropping along the A.T., photo by Leanna Joyner; The Presbyterian church acted as the commissary and barracks for the Union troops, photo courtesy the Giles County Historical Society

mile to a four-way intersection. Turn right on the A.T. to hike south 2.9 miles to reach Angels Rest. Just ahead at this intersection is Pearis Cemetery, the burial site for twelve Civil War veterans as well as the namesake of the town, Captain George Pearis, who fought in the Revolutionary War.

The alternate parking area at Va. 634/Cross Avenue offers a shorter, round-trip hike. To access the small parking area from downtown Pearisburg, follow Main Street north, and turn left on Johnston Avenue. Ascend a short, steep hill, and stay to the right. Here, the road becomes Cross Avenue. Travel one mile and look closely for log steps and an A.T. symbol on your left. Parking is located just beyond the A.T. crossing on the left side of the street. ↗

# | TRAILHEAD |

PHOTO BY COLLEEN CONTRISCIANE

## “Discover the Appalachian Trail” 2011 Fall Membership Drive



**LAST FALL, THE APPALACHIAN** Trail Conservancy (ATC) toured the East Coast to showcase the National Geographic film — *America's Wild Spaces: the Appalachian Trail* during our 2011 Membership Drive. Our goal was simple: increase awareness of the Appalachian Trail in local communities and increase membership support. The program consisted of two main parts: the first section featured guest speakers explaining the A.T., the ATC, and how to volunteer in the local community. The second part showcased the National Geographic film to the audience.

Once word of this event got out, people from all over the country offered to volunteer their skills, talents, and services. The drive soon evolved into a special and unique experience for each and every location. Our lineup of guest speakers varied — including Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service; Pam Underhill, A.T. park manager; Lucy Gatewood Seeds, the daughter of famed thru-hiker “Grandma” Gatewood; Bob Almand, chair of the board of directors for ATC; David Startzell, executive director of ATC; Jennifer Pharr Davis, Trail to Every Classroom instructor and three-time thru-hiker; and Dave Levey, 2005 thru-hiker and season six winner of Hell’s Kitchen. Trivia games and raffle prizes were also available at all shows. Prizes ranged from hats and water bottles to backpacks (donated by Black Dome Mountain Sports and Diamond Brand), hiking poles (donated by LEKI), and hammocks (donated by ENO).

Some locations even had some special activities planned, such as a photo gallery, paintings, and an afternoon guided hike. In some locations, chocolate bars were provided to all attendees, generously donated by Salazon Chocolate.

All in all, the event was a huge success. People were able to gather together to watch an incredible film and hear some inspirational stories from phenomenal speakers. From this membership drive, we gained more than 800 new members to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and generated more than \$24,000 for the Appalachian Trail. Plans are underway to expand this membership drive to additional locations in late 2012.



A.T.-loving families in Atlanta, Georgia (top) and Times Square in New York City (2nd from top) were among the enthusiastic crowds at theaters along the East Coast for the ATC “Discover the Appalachian Trail Membership Drive.”

## The A.T. Celebrates its 75th Year in 2012

On August 14, 1937, a Civilian Conservation Corps crew opened the last two miles of a continuous Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. Wherever you are this August 14, you can celebrate 75 years of this gift Americans gave themselves.

A.T. PLAQUE, SPRINGER MOUNTAIN BY VINCE MIER



## WINTER hiking tips

BY CLAIRE HOBBS

**MAGNIFICENT SNOWY VISTAS, CRISP CLEAN AIR, AND A FEELING OF** solitude are just a few reasons to hike on the Appalachian Trail during the winter months. Graham Killion, who completed a winter thru-hike in 2009, says it nicely: “Winter hiking is dangerous and exciting, peaceful and lonely, and challenging and rewarding. [It] keeps you on your toes ... even if it freezes them.”

With careful planning and the right gear, winter hiking on the A.T. can be an exhilarating experience. Winter conditions can potentially be encountered almost anywhere on the A.T. from October to April, and obviously later and earlier in New England and the highest elevations of the South. Always check the weather and Trail conditions before you go and be prepared for unexpected changes in weather. Hike with a group, lower your mileage expectations, and plan an alternate route in the case of injury, bad weather, or slower-than-anticipated speed. Also, notify someone of your plans.

In winter, layers are essential to keep you warm and dry. When you sweat and then stop moving, your body temperature cools rapidly and the threat of hypothermia, a potentially life-threatening condition, increases sharply. You can regulate your body temperature by removing or adding layers as your temperature changes and wearing fabrics that wick moisture from your skin. Choose fabrics made of a synthetic, quick-dry material like polypropylene for layers close to your skin; fleece and wool are great insulators for middle layers; and always wear a hat. A waterproof and windproof shell that acts as a barrier between you and the elements is a critical, final layer. Avoid cotton, which holds moisture and can contribute to hypothermia. Clothing with zipper features will allow you to make quick adjustments without stopping. Waterproof boots, roomy enough for two pair of socks, are invaluable for keeping your feet warm and dry. Plastic grocery bags pulled over your socks and tied around your ankles can substitute short-term. Add knee-high gaiters to keep the snow out.

Make sure you know the terrain. Choose an area you’ve hiked before or talk with someone who knows the area intimately. You don’t want to be caught facing a steep, rocky scramble covered with a thin layer of ice, or crossing an open area in a snow-storm with deep drifts that obliterate blazes.

This article is not intended to prepare you for overnight trips. The Appalachian Mountain Club’s *Guide to Winter Camping and Hiking: Everything You Need to Plan Your Next Cold Weather Adventure*, by Lucas St. Clair and Yemaya Maurer, is a great read if you want to explore winter backpacking.

SNOW IN THE SMOKIES, BY KEVIN DEVEREAUX

### Gear Checklist

Your day-pack will be heavier when hiking in winter conditions because your margin of error is smaller. Keep in mind that you should carry plenty of water — staying hydrated helps prevent hypothermia. Pack lots of snacks high in calories. When you are hiking in the cold, especially in snow, you will burn an immense amount of calories and perspire heavily.

### Essential Items

- ❖ Water (minimum two quarts, wrapped in extra clothing to keep from freezing)
- ❖ High-calorie foods (dried meat, cheese, crackers, nuts)
- ❖ LED headlamp with lithium batteries, which last longer than alkaline in the cold
- ❖ Clothing as noted above, with spare socks
- ❖ Map and compass
- ❖ Fire-starter and waterproof matches
- ❖ First-aid kit
- ❖ Sunscreen and sunglasses
- ❖ Whistle
- ❖ Warm hat and scarf or balaclava
- ❖ Mittens
- ❖ Toilet kit (zip-loc or “WAG” bag, toilet paper, and hand sanitizer)
- ❖ Pocket knife
- ❖ Emergency shelter

### Possible Additions in Deep Snow or Extreme Cold

- ❖ Snowshoes (for breaking trail in deep snow)
- ❖ Crampons (the flexible, strap-on kind for steep, icy hikes)
- ❖ Knee-high gaiters
- ❖ Warm drink (hot chocolate is a great way to get extra calories!)







## Call for 2012 Trail Crews

Join us for a week or more on one of the six Appalachian Trail Crews that tackle large-scale projects such as Trail relocations and rehabilitation, and bridge and shelter construction. The all-volunteer crews are active from May through October each year working on projects located from Maine to Georgia. Trail Crew projects — which may last for a week or more — are planned and completed in cooperation with A.T. maintaining clubs and agency partners such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. It's a great opportunity to meet people from all over the country. You'll arrive at one of our base camp locations where trained staff will orient you to the project, safety and tools. Once you arrive at the base camp, shelter, food, transportation to and from project sites, tools, safety equipment, and group camping gear (as available) will be provided. Crew members need to bring work clothing, sturdy boots, and their own basic camping gear.

Trail work is hard, physical labor. It involves working with hand tools; and getting dirty is guaranteed. The crews work eight- or nine-hour days, rain or shine, hot or cold, regardless of black flies, mosquitoes, and other insects. During the course of the crew season, the weather can vary from sweaty, summertime heat to freezing, winter-like cold. Every ounce of hard work and sweat benefits the Trail and its hikers.

For more information, and to apply to a Trail Crew near you visit: [appalachiantrail.org/crews](http://appalachiantrail.org/crews)

# POSSIBLE POST OFFICE CLOSINGS

*Three of the post offices most frequently used by Appalachian Trail hikers are currently in some stage of review by the U.S. Postal Service for possible closure*

**FONTANA DAM, NORTH CAROLINA; GLENCLIFF, NEW HAMPSHIRE; AND Caratunk, Maine.** At the time of this report, the fate of all three was uncertain. The Glencliff Post Office has already appealed a closure decision. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has written letters to the Postal Regulatory Commission and attended a meeting in Glencliff to explain the critical role that post offices play for long-distance A.T. hikers.

Hikers contemplating using any of these post offices should confirm that the post office will be open at the time they anticipate picking up their packages. If the post office has been closed, the package will be re-routed to another post office, ranging from five to more than 20 miles away. As soon as the permanent status of any of these post offices is confirmed, ATC will post this information on the "Companion Updates" page of our Web site, where update services along the A.T. are listed.

If any of these post offices were to close, the impacts to long-distance hikers would be significant. Hikers would have to carry an additional two or three days' of food and supplies on top of whatever they may be carrying already, or make arrangements to get a shuttle, which in some cases would not be a viable option. Alternatively, there may be hostels or motels in the area that accept FedEx or UPS packages or, for a fee, offer a ride to the nearest grocery store. Check the 2012 *A.T. Thru-Hikers' Companion*, edited by the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association and published by ATC, for further information. The closure of hundreds of rural post offices has been proposed as a cost-saving measure for the U.S. Postal Service at a time that it is facing massive budget deficits. ↗

*If any of these post offices were to close, the impacts to long-distance hikers would be significant.*

For more information, and to apply to a Trail Crew near you visit: [appalachiantrail.org/crews](http://appalachiantrail.org/crews)



A.T. JOURNEYS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHOTO ESSAY "NORTHERN COLOR" BY PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN SLONINA

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IMAGE COURTESY MICHAEL PHENNEGER PHOTOGRAPHY



# A Vision for THE NEXT CENTURY

“The direction we have set for ourselves in managing the A.T. into the future is much the same as the direction the National Park Service is setting for the second century of the national park system as a whole.”

*By Pamela Underhill*

“TO ACTIVELY ENSURE CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL PARKS, PUBLIC LANDS, WILDERNESS, AND HISTORIC PLACES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IS A PRICELESS GIFT TO OUR CHILDREN.”

*~ A Call to Action*

2011 thru-hiker Vince “BLAZE” Mier hiking on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail just south of Elk Garden near Grayson Highlands, Virginia, by Vince Mier.



## ON AUGUST 25, 2016,

the National Park Service (NPS) will be 100 years old. Anniversaries offer a good opportunity for both reflection and vision, and so this past August, on the occasion of its 95th birthday, NPS issued *A Call to Action — Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*. This report heralds the accomplishments of the first century wherein the NPS focused on stewardship and enjoyment of the special places entrusted to it, but more importantly it articulates a vision for the next century. That vision includes a

recommitment to exemplary stewardship and public enjoyment, but also boldly asserts that, “a second-century National Park Service will be relevant and valued by citizens as a source of discovery, economic vitality, renewed spirit, and deepened understanding of our individual and national identity .... We will invite new publics into the parks, from recent immigrants to those serving in our Armed Forces to young people .... A second-century National Park Service will manage parks as cornerstones in protecting broader natural and cultural landscapes.” It’s a vision that recognizes the importance of maintaining relevancy as well as the need to collaborate with

partners to succeed, yet also reminds us of the never-ending ability of the national park system to inspire. It envisions an expanded role for the National Park Service in contributing to the overall good of society. It’s a bold and righteous vision — worthy of an organization as revered as the National Park Service.

Why this matters to us, of course, and why we are talking about it here, is because the Appalachian Trail — the Appalachian National Scenic Trail — is a unit of our national park system. The longest, skinniest unit, unusual in many ways, but highly prized nonetheless. I am among those who believe that the creation of our national park system was one of our very best ideas as an American people. As beautifully stated in *A Call to Action*, “The National Park System inspires conservation and historic preservation at all levels of American society, creating a collective expression of who we are as a people and where our values were forged. The national parks also deliver a message to future generations about the experiences that have made America a symbol of freedom and opportunity for the rest of the world.” The Appalachian Trail fits nicely into the

WE ARE PART OF THIS NOBLE ENDEAVOR. THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL REPRESENTS ONE OF OUR NATION’S MOST WONDERFUL STORIES, AND IT IS SURELY ONE OF OUR MOST TREASURED PLACES.

From top: ATC’s community program manager, Julie Judkins, shares the Trail with her young son Silas near Firescald Ridge in Tennessee; Boardwalk just south of the A.T. Rail Road Station-Trail intersection in New York, by Vince Mier. “Programs developed by NPS and ATC, such as A Trail to Every Classroom and the A.T. Community Designation program, align with the goals and actions articulated in *A Call to Action*.”



A student from the Summit Charter School takes a water quality sample along the A.T. in North Carolina during a Trail to Every Classroom outing. Photo courtesy the Summit Charter School



national park narrative, and I am proud beyond words that this American icon is a part of our world-renowned national park system.

*A Call to Action* charts a path toward a second-century vision organized around four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. It calls upon NPS employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the mission of the National Park Service. The four themes — connecting people to parks, advancing the education mission, preserving America’s special places, and organizational excellence — include 15 goals and 36 actions. The implementation strategy emphasizes choice, encourages flexibility and creativity, and seeks to stimulate, not limit. The ultimate goal is to “renew our commitment to the fundamental stewardship of our nation’s stories and treasured places with energy, creativity, and passion.” We are part of this noble endeavor. The Appalachian Trail represents one of our nation’s most wonderful stories, and it is surely one of our most treasured places.

The neat thing, upon reading *A Call to Action*, was to realize how many things we are already doing on the Appalachian Trail that align with the goals and actions articulated in that plan. It took no time at all to identify ten actions in the plan where the Appalachian Trail already is contributing or could contribute to the goals identified for a second century of stewardship and engagement. These include core programs developed by NPS and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), such as A Trail to Every Classroom, the A.T. Community Designation program, trail crew programs, and the A.T. MEGA-Transsect. These are programs that have been launched, conducted, and funded jointly by NPS and ATC with the support of the Trail clubs, ATC members, and corporate and foundation supporters. It is reaffirming to realize that the direction we have set for ourselves in managing the Appalachian Trail into the future is much the same as the direction the National Park Service is setting for the second century of the national park system as a whole. It relies heavily on achieving relevancy by reaching out to young people in multiple ways, as well as embracing an increasingly diverse population and making them feel welcome in our national parks and in the out-of-doors. It also recognizes the importance of promoting large landscape conservation to support healthy ecosystems and protect cultural resources, and the critical role that corridors play in achieving this. The Appalachian Trail, with its corridor of protected public land, is ready-made to play a role.

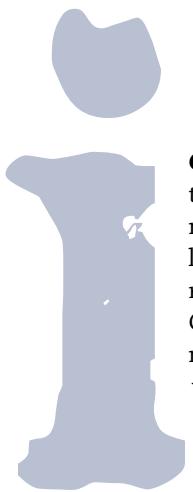
“THE NATIONAL PARKS ALSO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE MADE AMERICA A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.”

Please, take the time to read *A Call to Action*. Be proud of your support for the Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Be inspired by your association with the National Park Service. Be part of the effort to inspire a “more perfect union,” offering renewed hope to succeeding generations of Americans. Take the leap and join the journey. ⬆

Pamela Underhill is the A.T. Park Manager for the National Park Service. For more information and to read *A Call to Action* visit: [www.nps.gov/calltoaction](http://www.nps.gov/calltoaction)



Clockwise from top: Various generations of A.T. visitors enjoy Mary’s Rock in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, by Vince Mier; In 2010, Franklin, North Carolina joined the ranks of a growing list of designated A.T. Communities; Trail to Every Classroom students from the Whitefield School in New Hampshire learn to use a map and compass on the Trail’s Mount Monroe.



**I CAN REMEMBER WHERE I WAS THE FIRST** time I heard the words, "Appalachian Trail." I remember buying my first A.T. book and subsequently reading everything I could get my hands on. I remember being moved to tears by authors such as Cindy Ross, and Bill Erwin and, I remember getting my first *A.T. Journeys* in the mail. More than anything, I wanted to be a part of the magic, beauty, and community of the A.T.

In 2003, I finally had the opportunity to attempt a thru-hike. I knew that I was going to take my place among the 2,000-milers of the world, and that I too would have a journey for the ages — one that would inspire and move others and one that would make me part of the history of this amazing trail. I took six months off from work, hiked 700 miles, broke my foot, and met more amazing people than I ever could have dreamed. I had my Polaroid taken at Mountain Crossings, ate breakfast at Miss Tillie's Hostel, and sat in the wood-fired hot tub under the stars at Rusty's Hard Time Hollow. Oh, and I hiked. Like my fellow dreamers, I hiked through rain and shine, green tunnels and sunny fields. I did not become a 2,000-miler. Injury, lack of fitness, and a hard pull towards every blue blaze in sight changed my hike plan. However, as I hiked along, I found my dreams give way to different thoughts. Like an itch I couldn't scratch, something was bothering me.



Two hundred miles into Virginia, I realized that there were no women like me out there. "Where were all the curvy women?" There were plenty of big guys out there, but where were the ladies? I came home from the A.T. and began asking questions of women everywhere. "Do you hike? Why not? What are you afraid of?" And my favorite: "Do you know what it feels like to stand on top of a mountain?" Slowly but surely, the answers came out. "I am too slow, I don't want my husband to see me struggle up the mountain, I can't keep up," and "I am scared."

The questions and answers swirled around until the idea of a hiking club for women began to grow. In April of 2007, I printed up a few fliers and scheduled a meeting to see if anyone was interested in a hiking club for women. A hiking club for curvy women, to be precise. A club where we could hike slowly, enjoying the beauty around us and the laughter of friends.

My goal was to have three women show up that day; we had nine. Nine of us talked about hiking, clothing, and

*Continued on page 46*

# trail DAMES

*Thanks to the vision of one woman, more than 2,000 women — of all shapes, sizes, and walks of life — are now enjoying the A.T. and other hiking trails across the nation.*

BY ANNA HUTHMAKER



Left to right from top: Trail Dames hike the Georgia great outdoors: at Amicalola Falls State Park; at Laurel Ridge Trail; on the A.T.'s Rocky Mountain loop; on Black Rock Mountain; after a tree climbing expedition in the Smokies; in Victoria Bryant State Park; on top of Stone Mountain; Far left inset: Anna Huthmaker on the A.T. near Hawk Mountain. Photos by Tina "MacGyver" Tasso





## *Depths of Winter*

With half-frozen fingers, 2011 thru-hiker Kevin "Paul Bunion" Devereaux documented his close brush with Old Man Winter during a frosty winter run from Erwin, Tennessee to Deep Gap, North Carolina.

Mountains of snow north of Hot Springs, North Carolina — midway between Hogback Ridge Shelter and Flint Mountain Shelter



Trail marker on Jane Bald, North Carolina-Tennessee border



Waking up to deep snow drifts at Little Laurel Shelter, North Carolina



# Close Brush

**EVER SINCE LATE OCTOBER IT HAD BEEN** variations on the same question “aren’t you kind of late?” I started my thru-hike by hiking all of the A.T. in Georgia in the spring, but, in an attempt to get out of the heat, I flipped up to Katahdin on June 18, 2010.

Originally, the plan was to be home in Atlanta by Thanksgiving. As it was, for a variety of reasons, including an injury that set me back at least a couple of weeks up in Massachusetts, I found myself eating Thanksgiving dinner alone at Wise shelter in Grayson Highlands State Park in southwest Virginia, with the coyotes. I told everyone that “as long as I make it past the Smokies before the first big snow, I’m good,” but I was running badly behind schedule, and by the beginning of the second week of December I was at Mountain Harbor Hostel, north of Roan Mountain, North Carolina, with a foot of snow on the ground. I had lost my race with the snow.

Flash forward to January 3, 2011. December 2010 to January 2011 was one of the worst periods in a generation for snow and cold in the North Carolina-Tennessee mountains, and I had spent almost half of the last three weeks by the fire at Greasy Creek Friendly Hostel, getting fattened up by the wonderful cooking. In the four weeks since the heavy snows started, I’d covered less than a hundred miles (including a jump ahead to the northern half of the Smokies with my friend, “Babe the Blue Fox”), as I tried to avoid the worst snows and gathered knowledge and gear. On January 4, I “relaunched” myself at Iron Mountain gap in North Carolina and headed for Erwin, Tennessee. A bout of warm-ish weather had taken down the snowpack and, with a clear weather forecast, it was time to really get going again. I made the 18 miles to Erwin on trails mostly clear of snow in one day, and I felt like a thru-hiker again. Walking on dirt was wonderful.

The stretch from Erwin to Hot Springs is about 70 miles with no resupply. So I set out with my full set of gear that I had accumulated over the last snowy month and enough food for a four-to five-day run to Hot Springs. My “leaving town” pack weight had swelled from about 30 pounds in the summer to more

than 60 pounds. The extra weight was made up of extra food, clothing, bedding, snowshoes, and a plethora of miscellaneous items necessary for my survival in the deep snow and cold. The one thing I had some concerns about was my shelter. My beloved Six Moon Designs Lunar Duo had been with me nearly the whole time since Katahdin, but it wasn’t



From far left: Near Flint Mountain Shelter on the North Carolina-Tennessee border; A self portrait of the author, as he “began to realize that the snow wasn’t stopping;” Snow shoeing north of Tricorner Knob shelter in the Smokies, by Sarah “Babe the Blue Fox” Guild

a free-standing tent, and I had some level of concern over how I would be able to set it up if I got into any really deep snow. But, when I left Erwin the forecast was for about seven days of pretty clear weather with just a little bit of precipitation. I thought I was headed for a clear run; I thought I was ready for whatever would be thrown at me. I was wrong.

On my second day out of Erwin, it started to snow. After a little while, I realized it wasn’t just a dusting, and by Thursday morning there were three or four



*The rhododendrons were dumping buckets of snow on me every single time I brushed past them. The Trail became a series of tunnels and gauntlets that I was frequently forced into crawling through.*

inches on the ground. I got another forecast that afternoon, for up to another three inches tapering off early Friday. No big deal. I crossed the last road I'd see for a while (I-26) and made it to Hogback Ridge shelter just as it was getting dark. It was a pleasant surprise to run into the first two hikers I'd seen on the Trail for weeks — “Momma Bear” and “Poppa Bear” were welcome company. I was tired and had company, so I decided on sleeping in a bit and having a short day on Thursday. The snow wasn't bad and the forecast was good, so I felt okay doing so.

I was trying to stay at shelters every night even though they sometimes filled with snow. I did about nine miles Thursday to get to the next shelter (Flint Mountain). It was a short day,

because honestly, I didn't wake up early enough to do it. The snow was getting up to more than five inches when I arrived at the shelter with drifts beginning to form. Friday, I awoke to ... more snow. I was expecting it to snow a little bit in the morning. It was going to taper off, right? With less than six inches on the ground by that point, I decided I'd just take off. My two options were to backtrack about 12 miles to route 26 or to go forward about 16 to make it to Hemlock Hollow Hostel. Hemlock Hollow was well short of Hot Springs (about 18 miles), but my pace had been much slower than expected and I only had enough food after breakfast for a single, light dinner. Being a thru-hiker, of course I chose the 16 miles forward versus the 12 miles back.

I set out, and, while the landscape was gorgeous, I began to realize that the snow wasn't stopping. It kept snowing, and it kept snowing. A couple times in the morning it started lightening up, like it was getting ready to stop, giving me hope that the forecasts were right. But instead, it actually just started getting darker, and the snow started getting heavier as I went along through the day. In the afternoon, I had a choice to take a Blue Blaze around Big Firescald Knob. Thinking that it was just a bypass meant for lightning precautions, and that I wasn't about to start blue blazing so close to Georgia, I proceeded up to the ridge. What I found myself getting into afterwards was some of the most intense boulder scrambling I've done in a long time in snow that was well over a foot.

I had my snowshoes on by this point and the crampons on the bottoms helped give me traction on the ice that was under the snow in many places. Even with them on, I started stumbling and falling a lot. I had a few falls that were pretty wicked, right onto rock, essentially with my knees and elbows. As the afternoon wore on, the snow loads on the trees got heavier and heavier, weighing them down as the surface of the Trail rose with the snow pack. The rhododendrons were dumping buckets of snow on me every single time I brushed past them. The Trail became a series of tunnels and gauntlets that I was frequently forced into crawling through. The ridgeline and snow tunnels were quickly sapping my strength, and I realized I was past my point of no return to the last shelter I passed, so I decided to go to my plan B, which was to make for Little Laurel Shelter. It would only be a 13-mile day. Once I made that decision I started to relax a little bit, but the snow kept falling and the light was beginning to dim. By now, my gloves were wet, I had had to repeatedly mess with my gaiters, which were not working right in the deep snow, my fingers were starting to freeze, and I had already had frost nip on a few of my fingers. The sensation wasn't quite right. I was getting colder, and more tired.

As the late afternoon wore on, I started to feel like I was getting into a very bad situation with maybe a couple more hours of light left. I finally started thinking about stopping two or three miles short of the shelter and just camping, but my tent wasn't free standing. At this point, I was looking out at more than 14 inches of snow. I couldn't see a good campsite if it was right in front of me. The area, near Blackstack Cliffs, was densely wooded and rocky. I needed to find a spot that not only was big enough for my tent, but also provided ground that I could get my tent stakes into. I didn't have time to try to make camp more than once. Night was coming fast, and it was starting to get a little scary. If I took a half hour to stop and try to carve out a tent spot, I might have gotten halfway through and realized that the spot was no good. Then I'd have to pack up again and skedaddle.

I was in a box, but I felt the best bet was



A “hobo stove” helps to dry out icy footwear; Relieved at the site of the Deep Gap sign.

for me to keep going. There was just no reliable place to stop. I'd been pushing myself all day, breathing heavily, essentially at my maximum aerobic output — ten hours with my only break being a quick snack at Jerry Cabin Shelter. By the time I was getting close to the shelter area at Little Laurel, I was at the point where I just wasn't sure if I was going to physically be able to continue moving. I started having thoughts that I had read about people who have come close to dying or died in these kinds of situations. I just wanted to sit down and stop for a second. But I knew that I couldn't. So I kept pushing.

I made it to Little Laurel Shelter, but I was so tired and out of it at that point that I was stumbling around, and couldn't do many of the normal things. I couldn't get water, and only had a liter with me for the night, plus a little bit of snow I melted with my emergency fuel tabs. There was no decent wood for my hobo stove anywhere near the shelter, and it was all I could do to lay out my sleep system, take off my wet clothes, put on my dry ones, and get in. My one lucky break of the day — and it was a big one: the shelter was snow-free. Before I knew it, I passed out. When I woke up, it was 10 p.m., and I was feeling pretty good and safe, knowing that I had dodged a bullet. There were 3.3 miles left to Hemlock Hollow, so my plan was to sleep in the next morning. When I woke up, the temperature was in the single digits, the snow had piled up to more than 18 inches (with much deeper drifts), and was blowing into the shelter.

All my hiking clothes were hanging, frozen solid, and covered in snow. But, more importantly, my sleeping bag was starting to get snow on it. I was also completely out of food. I had planned to be in Hot Springs the day before. I put on what few dry clothes I had in reserve and packed up. Then, I put on my snowshoes and got moving. With the snowshoes on,

the going wasn't bad, but I was still crawling through tunnels of snow-laden rhododendrons. And after about 45 minutes, I had burnt up what little energy I had from resting up the night before. I started to really feel bad again, to the point where I thought I was ill. I was wondering when the gray tunnel was going to start closing in. It wasn't until I hit the road and saw my first actual human that I knew I had made it.

I almost quit after that run from Erwin. But I had learned a lot from the experience, and I was able to borrow a proper, free-standing tent from my friends, Carl and Jenna. When I went back out a week later I felt like a real winter thru-hiker. I eventually made it through the Smokies in snow depths that could only be measured in feet, and finally made it to Deep Gap, North Carolina (where I had left off the previous spring before I flipped) on February 6, 2011. It was cold, dark, and snowy, and I was alone — as I had been most of the last three months; but I had made it. I was a thru-hiker. I was “Paul Bunion.”



# A Storied Past — A VIBRANT FUTURE

*Vermont's Green Mountain Club*

BY WILL WIQUIST

**IT HAS BEEN 102 YEARS, AND THE GREEN Mountain Club (GMC) continues to grow, relying heavily on volunteer efforts and leadership to fulfill its role in protecting Vermont's hiking trails.**

Established in 1910 to build and maintain the Long Trail from the Massachusetts to the Canadian border along the rugged spine of the Green Mountains, the club continues to evolve while remaining focused on its trails. It's all about the trail for GMC, and 2011 saw a number of significant accomplishments for the club. In addition to the first transition in the executive director's office in more than a decade, the club accepted the responsibility for the rest of the Appalachian Trail in Vermont, went 100 percent



From left: GMC's Visitor Center, between Waterbury and Stowe, Vermont, has a rooftop solar array, which, among other "green" facility management, allows the club to produce more energy than it consumes.; The club is tackling some heavy trail repair work in Vermont after profound damage in 2011 by tropical storm Irene.

renewable at its Waterbury Center headquarters, confronted flood damage from tropical storm Irene, and moved closer to building a long-desired Long Trail footbridge across the Winooski River.

## *The A.T. from Woodstock to Norwich*

On November 4, 2011 in Woodstock, GMC officially accepted management responsibility for an additional 22 miles of the Appalachian Trail. The club already managed the A.T. where it coincides with the Long Trail as well as east from Killington to Route 12 in Woodstock. With this transfer, the club will also lead management efforts from Route 12 to the Connecticut River. This stretch of trail, running through Woodstock, Pomfret, Hartford, and Norwich, is highlighted by rolling hills and open areas affording hikers spectacular views.

At the annual meeting of GMC's Ottauquechee Section, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy officially re-delegated responsibility from the Dart-



mouth Outing Club (DOC) to the Green Mountain Club. Hawk Metheny, New England regional director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), said, "ATC is confident in GMC's ability to manage this section of the A.T. to a high standard; the club's 102-year history as stewards of the Long Trail assures that." Rory Gawler, staff advisor to the Dartmouth Outing Club, said, "The DOC is very excited to refocus its energies in its own backyard in New Hampshire — our historical connection to the A.T. has always been a chain of cabins and trails connecting Hanover to Moosilauke, and it will be great to focus more intently on that. We have many new facilities and trails to keep us busy and we know that the beautiful trail between Route 12 and the Connecticut River will be in good hands with the GMC — they've been great to work with through this whole process. Our relationship as Trail maintaining colleagues is better than ever and we're looking forward to future collaboration with our friends in Vermont."

The GMC welcomes this new responsibility. The transfer continues our efforts to support hiking trails throughout Vermont, now including the full stretch of Appalachian Trail. Given the club's long record of high quality volunteer and professional trail work, we feel well equipped to take on this task to ensure that the Appalachian Trail through Vermont continues to be an American treasure.

## *Embracing Green Energy*

As Trail stewards, it is important that the Green Mountain Club "walks the walk" in promoting efficiency, conservation, and small-scale renewable energy. We must take responsibility for our impacts on the environment in order to promote protection for trail values in Vermont's forests and mountains. To that end, the club recently brought



online four new solar trackers — bringing its total to seven — and two clean wood-burning heat and hot water systems. These installations bring us to 100 percent on-site renewable energy for our Waterbury Center campus.

The club's visitor center, located at a high-profile location between Waterbury and Stowe, Vermont, not only features the seven solar trackers, but also a rooftop solar array as well. Combined, these systems, along with numerous energy efficiency decisions incorporated into the building itself, allow GMC to produce more energy than we consume. Additionally, with support from U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, a recently constructed, unique feature is an innovative exterior structure to house a wood gasification boiler at our seasonal staff building. This prefabricated system provides clean and renewable heat and hot water for a facility that is not large enough to house an interior wood boiler system. To fuel its two gasification boilers, the club primarily relies upon sustainably-harvested wood from club-owned land at the base of Belvidere Mountain in Lowell, Vermont. Another notable feature of the GMC campus is its interior composting toilets. Use of this technology in an office building and the visitor center embodies in a workplace the same "Leave No Trace" ethic that the club highlights on the Long Trail and the A.T.

## *Irene*

Communities in southern and central Vermont truly suffered from the flooding caused by tropical storm Irene in late August 2011. The storm damaged roads, shuttered businesses, displaced families, and left a lasting scar on our beloved state. Immediately after the storm, the club collected data about storm damage to our trails and the roads leading to them. Relying heavily on social media, the club compiled a comprehensive and understandable online list of damage. Meanwhile, the club redirected its trail crews — both volunteer and staff — away from trail work and toward helping communities dig out and clean up. During the critical first week of recovery, summit caretakers and crew helped homes and busi-

nesses down the road from our headquarters where massive damage occurred in downtown Waterbury. In southern Vermont, with the closure of the Green Mountain National Forest — and consequently more than 100 miles of both the A.T. and Long Trail — our trail crews spent weeks doing what they could for towns like Jamaica and West Wardsboro.

As some of the clouds lifted from the storm, it became clear that there was major damage to the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. We worked with the forest service to reopen the trails with detours around washed away bridges in Woodstock and a large stretch of trail in Shrewsbury, which was completely washed away. Even the beautiful, new Thundering Falls boardwalk was thrown from its pylons and will take significant effort — and money — to fix. There can be no doubt that the next field season — and possibly two — for the Green Mountain Club and ATC in Vermont, will largely focus on Irene-related damage. That said, just as with every other natural disaster that has befallen the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail over the last century, we will fix this damage and return the trail to health.

## *Looking Forward*

The Green Mountain Club is confident that its future is as bright as its past. For the first time, we broke the 10,000 member threshold. I myself focused my efforts on continuing to build upon the laudable accomplishments of my predecessor, Ben Rose. Most notably, we continue to work to connect Vermont's two most storied mountains — Camels Hump and Mount Mansfield — with a footbridge in the Winooski River Valley between them. This Long Trail relocation and footbridge project was a project Ben Rose worked hard on for more than a decade, and is part of what inspired me to seek the position of GMC's executive director. Today, just as we did 101 years ago, the Green Mountain Club steadfastly focuses on Vermont's hiking trails. Relying heavily on volunteer labor and ideas, the club remains strong and vibrant. Looking forward to our new A.T. management responsibilities and Irene-related challenges, as well as our Long Trail projects, we know there will be no shortage of hard work — and great times — on Vermont's trails for the Green Mountain Club. ⚡



From top left: The club recently brought in four new solar trackers — bringing its total to seven — and two clean wood-burning heat and hot water systems. These installations bring their campus to 100 percent on-site renewable energy; GMC field staff volunteers work to repair an Irene-damaged shelter. All photos courtesy of GMC.

Will Wiquist is the new executive director of the Green Mountain Club. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org)

# A Side-trail Ed-venture



*The Montshire Museum of Science is nestled between two newly-designated Appalachian Trail Communities — one of which is Norwich, Vermont.*

BY JULIE JUDKINS

**T**HE APPALACHIAN TRAIL HAS MANY NOTABLE side trails, but only one leads to an interactive science museum. When you enter the Montshire Museum, you cross the threshold into an exciting, interactive world of science, nature, and technology. Positioned prominently above the Connecticut River, separating Vermont from New Hampshire, the Montshire Museum of Science is nestled in between two new Appalachian Trail Communities- Hanover, New Hampshire and Norwich, Vermont. The museum provides an intriguing, fun, and educational adventure to visitors of all ages.

Inside the spacious and light-filled building, there are more than 125 permanent and visiting exhibitions. This kind of experiential museum allows adults as well as kids to enjoy the discovery of how our world, and special places like the A.T., work. Exhib-

its at the Montshire feature topics such as native plants and the environment, water and how it moves, creatures, air, and weather. Montshire can transport you into a microscopic universe of art and science with such things as the heart of a mosquito — or take you on a sensory trip to see the beauty of Earth’s surface from a space satellite.

One exhibit, the “North Woods,” reveals the unique natural history of New England, including its geology, plant/animal interactions, insect life, decomposition, and historical land-use patterns. Another allows you to spin a Dust Devil propeller to create a vortex of sand, and watch as the sand

drifts and settles revealing patterns of air movement on a landscape level. Or you could watch the magnified ant colony transport leaf cuttings to a fungus garden and, if you’re lucky, maybe see the queen ant in one of her rare public appearances.

The exploration continues outside in Science Park, considered to be the most intelligent water park in New England. The museum’s trail system connects to the A.T. as well as a local greenway trail that extends south of the Museum to Wilder, Vermont. The A.T. crosses the river on the Ledyard Bridge, which is visible from the museum’s observation deck. Six different trails on the property, gentle enough for all ages and fitness levels, have trail-side exhibits that offer the opportunity to stop, learn, and explore along the way.

Fox kits, grouse, bear, moose, and deer are but a few of the many animals you may be able to spot. The “Planet Walk” will take you on a scale-model journey



Clockwise from bottom right: the Montshire Museum’s “Science Park” is considered to be the most intelligent water park in New England; One exhibit allows visitors to watch a magnified ant colony transport leaf cuttings to a fungus garden, photos courtesy of the Montshire Museum; Inside the museum there are more than 125 permanent and visiting exhibitions, by Andrew Wellman



from the Sun all the way out to dwarf planet Pluto. And “Andy’s Place,” a special area scaled to size for kids under five, offers unique sound, visual, and tactile exhibits, including its own aquarium.

Emily O’Hara, former exhibits assistant, explains “we have miles of trails to explore with exhibit offshoots, like secret treasures, to discover. My favorites include listening to the frog calls at the Wood Frog Pool in the early spring and standing at the Bluff on the River Loop in the winter, watching the calm, cold Connecticut River flow by.” The River Loop Trail is a pleasant trail along the Connecticut River offering views from several lovely overlooks and a stop at the Migration Station. This path is surfaced with a hard-packed material that allows the passage of wheelchairs and strollers.



Whether you are experiencing the Museum for the first time or the 50th, every visit is a new adventure. To date, the museum has attracted nearly a million visitors, young and old, from all 50 states and around the world to its campus. When you visit, you’ll understand why.

**The Trail Town of Norwich**

The town of Norwich, in Windsor County, Vermont has a population of about 3,800. The town was established in 1761,

and offers a wide variety of services for hikers, including: Dan and Whit’s General Store, whose motto is “If We Don’t Have it You Don’t Need it.” The Norwich Inn has a 30 percent discount rate for hikers, plus your first house-brewed Jasper Murdock Ale is on the house. The Norwich Public Library provides a pleasant environment with free use of computers/internet access, free paperback book exchange, air conditioning,

Clockwise from top left: Norwich residents take an A.T. hike during the town’s Trail Community designation celebration; ATC New England regional director, Hawk Metheny, presents A.T. Community signage during the official ceremony, photos by John Taylor; Families enjoy the A.T. as part of Norwich’s designation; Six different trails at the Monthshire Museum contain exhibits that offer the opportunity to stop, learn, and explore along the way, by Andrew Wellman

and indoor bathrooms for all hikers.

Norwich is the last town you pass through as you leave Vermont hiking northbound, and was recently designated an A.T. Community. The community is working cooperatively with Hanover, New Hampshire, to provide increased services for hikers, and educate residents and visitors about the Trail. This past September, people had the opportunity to explore the Monthshire Museum immediately following the Norwich A.T. designation ceremony. The town and the Museum helped to celebrate by offering up a barbeque dinner for all Norwich residents along with free admission. ⬆

For more information and upcoming events visit: [www.monthshire.org](http://www.monthshire.org) and [www.norwich.vt.us](http://www.norwich.vt.us)

# contest winners

In 2011, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Earth Creations — an Alabama firm focused on clay-dyed, organic apparel — sponsored an on-line contest for new A.T. T-shirt designs. More than 1,200 people voted from more than 70 submissions. Find these winning designs as well as official A.T. guide books, maps, and other great ATC swag at [atctrailstore.org](http://atctrailstore.org).



Joy, of Santa Monica, California, was the winner in the adult category. **“Human Spirit”** (item T052)



Six-year-old Lily Grace Howard, from North Carolina, stamped her own footprint in pink. Winner in the youth category. **“Tread on Me”** (item T053)



## ULTIMATE APPALACHIAN TRAIL STORE

One dollar from each shirt sold is being contributed to ATC by Earth Creations, which has been producing A.T.-related T-shirts for more than a decade.

# Thurston Griggs

INTRO TEXT BY PIERCE GRIGGS



Clockwise from above: Thurston receives official commendation from the State Department for his Trail work; Working as a ridgerunner on the Maryland section of the A.T.; Looking out from a rocky outcrop of the Trail in Maryland

**THURSTON SKATED ON MOUNT RAINIER** as a boy in the footsteps of his Rainier guide, his brother Joe. As a pre-teen he attended the Wonderland Camp for Boys, a summer camp on Rainier. There is a photo taken in the 1920s of his camp being visited by the head of the park service Stephen Mather. He graduated from the University of Washington, and by 1939 he had attended graduate programs for Chinese studies at Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University.

During WWII he began to serve in the Civilian Public Service — first for forestry projects in California, and later in a hospital that served the mentally ill. After the war he worked for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and was then appointed to lead Chinese language instruction at the U.S. State Department's Chinese language school in Beijing. He later returned to Harvard University to complete his Ph.D. in Chinese history.

Thurston was a man on a mission, a man channeling all his productive energies in many directions. He eventually began to increase his time in volunteer work, which included work with the Appalachian Trail community. He was the founding editor of *The Register*, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) newsletter for maintainers and volunteers. The majority of his work, and the most challenging, was securing land easements for the Appalachian Trail. For this work, he received two citations from the National Park Service, and an Honorary Membership with ATC. There is also a side trail along the A.T. in Maryland that is named the Thurston Griggs Trail in honor of his contributions.

**In an excerpt from Thurston's book, *One Man's Window on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, he wrote about how he came to his volunteer work on the A.T.:** *When searching for a place in Maryland to spend weekends with sons Stephen and David, I looked for a spot near or adjacent to a park or preserve, close to the woods. It took the shape of a house that had been built at the time George Washington had just been born — a*

*three-story stone house with walls 18 inches thick ... The owners of this old house beside America's earliest railroad, were the Bruns family, descended from a Hessian deserter who had built this edifice. Larry Bruns was a part-time naturalist for Maryland State Parks, living only across the tracks from Patapsco State Park. He and Miriam had two daughters close to the ages of Stephen and David. They had two canoes in their back yard, and they were very much outdoors people. They were also very active as long-time members of the Mountain Club of Maryland, to which they introduced me and my boys.*

*The Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) was one of the clubs of nature enthusiasts and outdoorsmen that had been founded to take responsibility for maintaining a section of the Appalachian Trail in 1934. Actually, MCM was an offshoot of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club based in Washington, D.C. (PATC); MCM had been formed by resident Baltimoreans who wearied of traveling back and forth to Washington to leave for their work trips and outings. Each weekend they scheduled at least one hike or outing, year around. For me and my boys that was ideal. And it allowed us to explore opportunities for adventure that nature provided within a radius of 150 miles of Baltimore. Expenses were kept to a minimum and were shared; and the families and other environmentalists usually included some experts — and always dedicated conservationists. A more congenial and genteel set of companions would be hard to find.*

*As heritage from my scout days and western experience, this was an activity that I relished: adventure in nature, in particular building or repairing trails. My boys, for their part, liked overnight camping and backpacking. In time I took responsibility for maintaining the "poison—ivy" stretch of the Appalachian Trail that was in the middle of the 45-mile stretch of the A.T. that the Mountain Club maintained. Then I started work on the Tuscarora Trail in Maryland and Pennsylvania. With that kind of beginning, I became supervisor of trails and subsequent to that, president of MCM. Eventually within the next twenty years, bit by bit, as sections of the Appalachian Trail were removed from roadways onto newly protected tracts of land, I took part in relocating 26 miles of the A.T. itself.*

*One thing leads to another — ... In 1972 I was elected to [the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC)] Board of Managers and remained there until 1984,*

*... serving four years as its vice chair for the middle states, two years as its secretary, and two more years as its corresponding secretary, for a total of 12 years. For about three years after retirement, I went to Harpers Ferry [ATC] headquarters weekly to write letters in answer to inquiries from persons who planned to hike either the whole Trail or parts of it.*

*In 1978 the National Scenic Trails Act of 1968 was updated and given funding by the Congress in response to an aggressive program of education and persistence on the part of the Trail clubs. At that point the existence of a continuous, uninterrupted through-route for the Trail was seriously threatened, and the National Park Service (NPS) was authorized to secure lands to protect it in perpetuity by creating a corridor from Maine to Georgia, for it. By 1980 the National Park Service had geared up to meet this responsibility, and one of its first steps toward land acquisition was to try to handle it smoothly and with a minimum of conflict. Since the original A.T. route had been established through good relations with local landowners who respected conservationist hiking enthusiasts, NPS wanted to start with that approach pattern, using local and regional persons for initial contacts, rather than NPS's land-acquisition staff.*

*In the middle states, the largest block of privately-owned lands were those across the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania. It lay within the section that our MCM had charge of. My one mile of poison ivy (to which I am not reactive) was the only piece of Trail in that stretch that was not on a highway, because adjacent farm and residential properties always had precluded use of any actual trail. The NPS staff, having prepared detailed maps, had consulted us trail-workers as to the most feasible alternate routes in places where their land-acquisitions would afford permanent protection and a desirable route for a national scenic trail. As part of that process for the Cumberland Valley, Jack Mowll (a charter member of MCM) and I scouted out a route across the valley that took advantage of a geological upthrust and hence was wooded and slightly elevated above surrounding farms and settlements. It coincided closely with where the Trail now has been placed ... The next step was for me to talk with landowners along the proposed route, alerting them to the national (and state) legislation that authorized and would pay the costs for this relocation of the Trail.*

*Then in 1986 came a somewhat related new adventure ... NPS's detailed "segment" maps of the A.T. were available to me, [and] having just been given a set of these maps for Maryland, I went to the ranger-manager of the South Mountain Recreational Area where the A.T. lay, to ask a point of clarification. Jim Preston (JP) was delighted when I said I would leave the maps with him ... [he] was a great friend of Trail hikers and of the A.T.,*

*known and renowned by most end-to-end hikers ... JP told me he had hired a young man to patrol Maryland's 40 miles of the A.T. the preceding summer, and would I be interested in doing that job, becoming a "Trailrunner"? ... I said yes, and that began eleven years of trailrunning, soon to be called ridgerunning. It initiated a subsequent program promoted by ATC for application to sections of the Trail that were most heavily used.*

*At the time my duties began, there were about ten miles of the Trail in Maryland lying on portions — even tiny tracts — of private land ... My knowledge of these tracts and their boundaries, from the maps, was the thing that interested JP particularly. It also afforded knowledge of access points in case of emergencies ... My responsibilities were to answer questions, ... educate regarding proper use of the Trail and woods, to dish out comfortable public relations, [and] to report to the rangers situations that they would respond to — such as trespass or vandalism. Beginning in 1988 ATC and the Trail clubs sought to take over part of the responsibility for training and financing the Ridgerunner program in Maryland; and in 1992 the program was expanded to certain sections of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia.*

*... There is nothing of particular note regarding adventures such as are common for others who also backpack, hike, or work in the midst of our world's natural wonders — our national parks and national forests, or in the Alps or the Rockies. Each such adventure can be a story in itself. ▲*

Thurston Griggs passed away on October 14, 2011

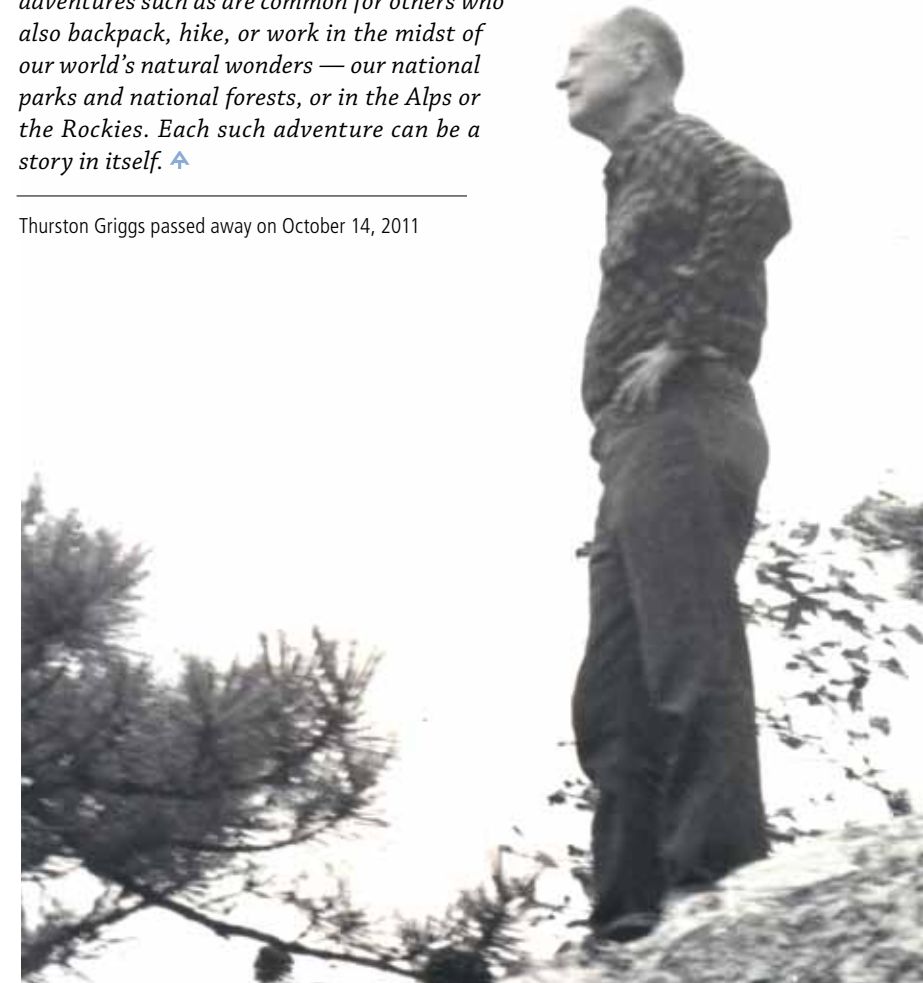




PHOTO BY MARIANNE PAGE

To Learn more about the Trail Guardian program or become a Trail Guardian, contact us at 304.535.6331 x120 or visit [appalachiantrail.org/donate](http://appalachiantrail.org/donate) and click on the "Monthly Giving" option. Our goal is to have one guardian for every mile of the Trail.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! IN 2012 WE CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF A COMPLETED Appalachian Trail** and to start I'd like to salute our Trail Guardians. Trail Guardians are members who make a monthly donation to ATC to help preserve and protect our beautiful Trail.

*Thank You!*

**Royce W. Gibson** | *Director of Membership & Development*

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SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 2011

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whether or not to use poles. Two weeks later, our ranks had swelled to 20 and we were climbing Springer Mountain to celebrate the beginning of Trail Dames. If the women were confused as to why we were driving to the middle of nowhere and traversing a long, Forest Service road, only to climb .9 miles, they never said so. I talked about Springer Mountain and its place in the heart of A.T. people everywhere. I told them that they were standing at the beginning of a 2,000-plus-mile hike, and that a million dreamers had stood in their very steps. I told them that the only people

*Our true goal is to make a place on the trail for all women. And while we love all trails, you have to forgive us if we have a special love for the A.T.*

that get to see the view from Springer Mountain are the ones that did the work to get up there. And then we did the “dance of the real woman” to celebrate the birth of Trail Dames.

Trail Dames began to grow faster than I had dreamed and, as time went by, I noticed something. While I had created the group with curvy women in mind, women of all kinds were joining. Curvy and thin, old and young, novice and experienced. It turns out that we all shared the same fears, and that we all experienced the same sense of joy when climbing a mountain. Now, we have marathon runners hiking alongside complete beginners, and 2,000-milers sharing backpacking trips with first-timers. Trail Dames will always be a “hiking club for women of a curvy nature,” but it has become a place where all

women are welcome. All they need is a sense of fun and the desire to put one foot in front of the other. Seven of our chapters are within a two hour drive of the A.T., and one thing that permeates the entire Trail Dames family is the love of this path. Many of our Head Dames, (Chapter presidents), share that love. Myself, Lori “Limo” LaVella Shields, Fabs “Sweetpea” Mullins, Linda “Mrs. Baggins” Turner, Debbi “Pippi” Dunkle, and Judy “Gray Jay” Young are all either 2,000-milers or section hikers with a combined total of 6,000 A.T. miles. You could say that we are all a bit in love with the Trail.

As of now, Trail Dames now has more than 2,000 members in 12 chapters across the U.S. We are growing quickly and we joke that we are going to take over the world one trail at a time. But our true goal is to make a place on the trail for all women. And while we love all trails, you have to forgive us if we have a special love for the A.T. It was where my dreams began; and when we climb Springer Mountain every April to celebrate Trail Dames’ birthday, I can see the love of the A.T. take root in more and more women.

With this sense of adventure, the Dames are breaking ground once again. Both the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association have wonderful conferences centered on hiking and backpacking, but we realized that there wasn’t anything just for women. So, the Trail Dames Summit was born. Last summer, 63 women convened in Harrisonburg, Virginia to attend the first ever summit. Workshops, classes, gear demonstrations, and guest speakers made up the event and it was successful beyond our wildest dreams. Plans are underway for next year’s summit in Durango, Colorado where we will be coming together again to share laughter, camaraderie, and the love of the trail. ♡

For more information visit [www.traildames.com](http://www.traildames.com) and [www.traildamesummit.com](http://www.traildamesummit.com).

Anna “Mud Butt” Huthmaker is the founder and “Grand Dame” of the Trail Dames.

## I PUBLIC NOTICES

### For Sale

Large **home and cabin rental business less than ¼ mile from the A.T.** in Neels Gap, Georgia; 5,000-mile square-foot home/office/store, and 14 two-bedroom cabins at 3,000-foot elevation, less than two hours from Atlanta. Can easily convert to a B&B. Visit [www.bloodmountain.com](http://www.bloodmountain.com) or contact: Mike Horton at (828) 329-5543 or [mike@innspiredinns.com](mailto:mike@innspiredinns.com).

### Hiking Partners

New England hiking. I am a middle-aged hiker who will be section **hiking the Vermont section of the A.T. this spring** (starting in June/July) and will continue on to complete a few sections on the Long Trail in the fall (September). I generally hike every other weekend and average about two miles per hour. Looking for partner(s) to help with car shuttle/logistics. If interested contact: [pnm01@fastmail.fm](mailto:pnm01@fastmail.fm).

The **Appalachian Trail Visitor center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia has announced their 2012 schedule of events.** All events are free and open to the public. To review a list of upcoming events visit [www.appalachiantrail.org/events](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/events).

**In celebration of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s (ATC) 87th birthday, ATC will hold a cake-baking contest** on Saturday, March 3 in their Harpers Ferry Visitor Center. Submissions are due by 11:00 a.m. and must have an A.T.-related appearance. Judging will begin a 1:00 p.m.; awards will be given in three categories: best tasting, best A.T. -related design, and best junior entry (under 18). Cake eating will begin at 1:30. ♡

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

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**AT TRAIL DAYS 2011, I MET A 2010 THRU-HIKER** who encouraged me to descend Katahdin by going over the Knife’s Edge as opposed to retracing my steps down the Appalachian Trail. He reasoned that such a route would symbolize the forward nature of this journey we call life and would continue the spirit of the Trail. I will admit, the idea was one that appealed to my love of symbolism and novelty. After hearing more about the difficulty of the Knife’s Edge, however, I realized that what I really wanted was to live long enough to celebrate completing my thru-hike. Fortunately, that trail was closed on the day that I finished the A.T. so, I reasoned, the choice was taken away from me. And I’m glad that it was.

When I ascended the Trail from Katahdin Springs Campground that morning, I was still a hiker who had traveled from Georgia with a dream of making it to the Katahdin summit. Granted, at that point, less than six miles from the summit, my chances of fulfilling the dream were pretty high. But I will be honest, I was two miles from the summit when I asked myself, “I wonder if anyone has gotten two miles from the summit and turned around?” With iffy terrain and relatively high winds, I thought it was a valid question to ask. No one was around me to push me to continue, so I could have turned around if I really wanted to. However, I knew that I would regret it for the rest of my life and I wouldn’t be able to face my sister Tracie at Thanksgiving. She would be the first to tell me that I punked out. When I made my descent from the summit later that day, however, I did so as a full-fledged thru-hiker. I had done it. I had walked all the way from Georgia to Maine. I mean, who does that?! I traveled the same path that I took that morning, yet it was different — it felt different. I was both the 19 year old who dreamed the dream and the 38 year old who lived it.

I felt as T.S. Eliot said: “We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.” I couldn’t stop crying and had to make jokes to keep myself from just sitting down in a pool of tears. Although I had many people along the way who offered me encouragement, friendship, and practical support when things got rough, no one could walk for me; no one could move my body from place to place, mile after mile. Only I could do that. And, having done that for 2,181 miles, no one can take that accomplishment and sense of confidence away from me.

It’s now been about three months since I summited Katahdin. The Trail and many precious moments on it are becoming memories confined to a few megabytes of space of my computer. Last night, I lay in bed missing the Trail and the vibrancy of being that I experienced while on it. In some ways, I feel that I waited until now to truly live. That thought made me feel a bit depressed and anxious. But then I reflected on my life and can now fully appreciate the prestige of the academic communities in which



I’ve had the great fortune to participate, the wonder of living and working in another country as a Peace Corps Volunteer and, then again, as a business professional, and now, the joy of accomplishing an A.T. thru-hike. I realized that I now have this immense wealth of experience from which I can draw as I move into the future.

By changing my focus, I also unblocked my energy flow; enthusiasm for post-Trail living returned. I began to brainstorm about things that I wanted to bring to life over the next decade. I have already begun to work out a post-Trail plan and look forward to returning to work, moving forward with my life, and staying close to all of the amazing, wacky people I’ve met in the course of my life. Hiking the A.T. was the last of my youthful dreams that depended only on my volition to fulfill. In a way, I feel that completing the Trail marked the end of something; I’m just not sure what yet. Or, maybe it’s not really the end, but just a bend in the road and I cannot yet see around the curve. It doesn’t matter. Having faced and made peace with many of my fears, I am fully facing forward. I am finally ready. I am ready to move full steam ahead; living life at the speed of my feet. ♡

*Krystal “Bumblebee” Williams*  
LIVES IN MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

From top: The author on Webster Cliff in the White Mountain Range, by Tara Harbert; Krystal and fellow thru-hiker Tara “Eugene” Harbert in Dalton, Massachusetts, by Brian Landry



“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.





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