

# A JOURNEYS

A full-page photograph serves as the background for the magazine cover. It depicts two hikers from behind, walking away from the viewer through a rustic stone archway. The hiker on the left wears a red shirt and dark pants, carrying a large red and black backpack. The hiker on the right wears a dark shirt and pants, carrying a large black backpack. Both are using trekking poles. The path is made of flat stones and leads into a dense, sun-dappled forest. The stone walls of the archway are dark and textured.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

July – August 2014

Trail Protection Exemplified  
Mountain Crossings | Rockshelters



**On the Cover:**

The breezeway of the historic building that houses Mountain Crossings hostel and outfitter in Georgia is literally a part of the A.T. (page 10). Located at Neels Gap — the Cherokee Indians called the gap Walasi-Yi — Mountain Crossings is a 30-mile hike from Springer Mountain. Photo by Mike McCoy

*A.T. Journeys* (ISSN 1556-2751) is published bimonthly for \$15 a year by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 799 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, (304) 535-6331. Bulk-rate postage paid at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and other offices.

Postmaster: Send change-of-address Form 3575 to *A.T. Journeys*, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

© 2014 Appalachian Trail Conservancy. All rights reserved.

# A JOURNEYS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Volume 10, Number 4  
*July – August 2014*

**Mission**

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.

**Board of Directors**

**Sandra Marra** | *Chair*  
**Clark Wright Jr.** | *Vice Chair*  
**Elizabeth (Betsy) Pierce Thompson** | *Secretary*  
**Arthur Foley** | *Treasurer*  
**Beth Critton**  
**Richard Daileader**  
**Marcia Fairweather**

**Edward R. Guyot**  
**Mary Higley**  
**Robert Hutchinson**  
**Terry Lierman**  
**Carrie Rodriguez-Tweeten**  
**Samuel J. Sarofeen**  
**Nathaniel Stoddard**  
**Greg Winchester**

**ATC Executive Staff**

**Ronald J. Tipton** | *Executive Director/CEO*  
**Stacey J. Marshall** | *Director of Finance & Administration*  
**Royce W. Gibson** | *Director of Membership & Development*  
**Laura Belleville** | *Director of Conservation*  
**Brian B. King** | *Publisher*  
**Javier Folgar** | *Director of Marketing & Communications*

**A.T. Journeys**

**Wendy K. Probst** | *Managing Editor*  
**Traci Anfuso-Young** | *Graphic Designer*

**Contributors**

**Laurie Potteiger** | *Information Services Manager*  
**Brittany Jennings** | *Proofreader*

The staff of *A.T. Journeys* welcomes editorial inquiries, suggestions, and comments.  
E-mail: [editor@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:editor@appalachiantrail.org)

Observations, conclusions, opinions, and product endorsements expressed in *A.T. Journeys* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of members of the board or staff of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

**Advertising**

*A.T. Journeys* is published six times per year. Advertising revenues directly support the publication and production of the magazine, and help meet Appalachian Trail Conservancy objectives. For more information and advertising rates, visit: [appalachiantrail.org/advertising](http://appalachiantrail.org/advertising).

*A.T. Journeys* is published on Sterling Matte paper that is manufactured by NewPage Corporation, responsibly sourced, using allocated chain-of-custody certified fiber. It is printed with SoySeal certified ink in the U.S.A. by Dartmouth Printing Company, Hanover, New Hampshire.



**Membership**

For membership questions or to become a member, call (304) 535-6331, ext. 119, or e-mail [membership@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:membership@appalachiantrail.org).



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |

## Who Values Our Trail?

**THE APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL IS WELL KNOWN BY HIKERS THROUGHOUT** the U.S. and around the world. This past spring I noted a number of very different indications of the popularity of the A.T. and why it is valued by so many different audiences. I want to share some of these experiences with you.

- In May I had the opportunity to once again hike with a group of great friends who have a shared personal interest in the Trail and call themselves the "Old Pros." We did a couple of southbound day hikes between Hot Springs and Roan Mountain, and I talked to at least 40 northbound thru-hikers. I was delighted to hear their stories and see the great enthusiasm they shared for the experience after completing nearly 400 miles. I was especially interested to learn that there are more than 20 Germans headed to Maine who learned about the A.T. by watching a documentary on German television!
- On April 26, I spoke at the dedication of the Greater Waynesboro, Pennsylvania Area as our 34th official A.T. Community. It was a great event and I was proud to have the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) partner with the National Park Service and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in celebrating our new connections with this community. These community connections can expand the base of support for the Trail in southern Pennsylvania and increase the local economic benefits that hikers can provide.
- Our fifth annual Washington, D.C. Leaders in Conservation Awards Gala on May 20 was both a great celebration of the recognition of the value of the A.T. and an opportunity to recognize public figures who have contributed to our nation's conservation and outdoor recreation legacy. We presented Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with our Vanguard Award for her role as a leading advocate for protecting public lands, national parks and trails, and for promoting programs that involve more young people in outdoor recreation. We also honored Sean Gobin for his leadership in establishing the Warrior Hike "Walk Off The War" program with hikes on the A.T. in 2013 and 2014 that serve as a positive experience for veterans of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam.
- During the past several months we have had an important role in the filming of the movie adaptation of Bill Bryson's celebrated book *A Walk in the Woods*, a humorous, irreverent, and yet moving account of his 1996 800-scattered-mile hike on the Trail. Robert Redford is playing Bryson and producing the film, and Nick Nolte stars as his hiking buddy Stephen Katz. The ATC has helped the movie's production staff understand how to best present an authentic version of a long distance A.T. hike. This will be the first feature motion picture about the Appalachian Trail.

All of these events are an indication of the popularity and importance of the Appalachian Trail to our country and the world. While in each case these events highlight those who use the Trail, they also reflect the value of and the interest in the A.T. to a wider audience. And they underscore the importance of expanding Trail protection by strategic land protection efforts exemplified by this issue's article about the Celanese land acquisition and donation between the New River and Pearisburg in central Virginia (page 18).

We have a great Trail that is relevant to many people! ⚡

**Ronald J. Tipton** | *Executive Director/CEO*  
Follow Ron on Twitter at: [twitter.com/Ron\\_Tipton](https://twitter.com/Ron_Tipton)

A.T. — southern Pennsylvania — by Steve Rincavage

10  
Crossing Thru

Mountain Crossings hostel and outfitter sits at the base of Blood Mountain in Georgia — and the Trail runs directly through it.

24  
Native Shelter

Ancient rock formations that once provided shelter for migrating Native Americans can still be found along portions of the A.T. today.

30  
The “Hills” of Home

A native of central Virginia, Tommy Penick’s passion for traveling and storytelling, along with his pursuit of adventure, have synthesized into his exceptional photographic style.

| 18 |  
THE MOUNTAINS AND THE RIVER

The relocation of the A.T. on the north side of the New River in Giles County, Virginia took years of collaboration and determination — and its success creates a now unbroken, protected natural corridor for the area.

An unobscured view of wilderness from Wind Rock overlook in Giles County Virginia – by Alison Moody



| 10 |



| 38 |

| 24 |



| 36 |

14 | TRAILHEAD  
African American History Hike; Bird the Ridge Partnership;  
Call for ATC Board Nominations

36 | A.T. COMMUNITIES  
Offering six Trail access points within a few miles, and immersed in history, the Greater Waynesboro Area is ideal for day hikers, long-distance hikers, or a weekend destination.

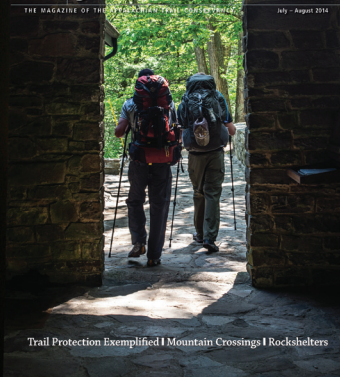
38 | TRAIL STORIES  
A New Hampshire teacher brings her own love for the Trail to her students and finds they are more than willing to get outside and fall in love with the natural world.

47 | AS I SEE IT  
More than a decade after a long distance hike, one brief meeting holds sway above the rest.

03 | FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
06 | LETTERS  
08 | OVERLOOK  
42 | TRAIL GIVING  
46 | PUBLIC NOTICES

# GO PAPERLESS!

## ↑ JOURNEYS



Receive *A.T. Journeys* right in your inbox, while reducing your carbon footprint.



Subscribe today  
[appalachiantrail.org/paperless](http://appalachiantrail.org/paperless)  
Enter your contact information and  
Click "Go Paperless"

## LETTERS

**HANDS DOWN, THE MOST RECENT** issue of *A.T. Journeys* was the best issue ever. I read it cover to cover, word for word.

*Don Owen*  
UNISON, VIRGINIA

**I REALLY ENJOYED THE MAY-JUNE** edition of *A.T. Journeys*. I found the Bill Erwin profile ("Without Exemption") a very suitable tribute. Sitting out here in Montana, I look forward to the arrival of *Journeys*, and [also enjoyed] the wonderful flower photos in the last edition. My walking buddies laughed at me today. I had on my A.T. logo socks, my A.T. T-shirt, and my A.T. hat.

*Douglas Smith*  
MISSOULA, MONTANA

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE** Appalachian Trail Conservancy for a well-organized and enjoyable African American History Hike program. The events were far better than what I imagined. I know that a lot of effort and planning went into the program and I want to commend you for that. I learned so much about African American history in Harpers Ferry and about the National Park Service. I loved everything about the program and cannot offer any suggestions for improvement. It was well worth traveling to West Virginia this past June to participate in this National Trails Day program. I hope that you will continue to have the annual event on National Trails Day.

*Donna J. Johnson*  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

**[IN REFERENCE TO THE MAY/JUNE** "As I See It" column about the use of crosscut saws for Trail maintenance —] I guess it really was the history of an era when hand tools were in regular use that possessed me to buy an old lumber jack crosscut saw at a garage sale many years ago. The person I bought it from said, "What on earth are you going to use that thing for?" I really didn't know — just liked it. The saw sat in the shed for quite a while; and then one day I asked my daughter, who volunteered with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) in Vienna, Virginia, if they could use it for

Trail maintenance. The answer was yes, and I donated it. I was glad that PATC could get some use out of it. Who knows — it might be the saw in the article.

*J.R. McDermott*  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

### FACEBOOK COMMENTS

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy does a superb job with [*A.T. Journeys*]. I have photos from recent editions taped to our kitchen wall next to an A.T. poster. I have an article on Hot Springs ready to go in my pack for my next trip back to the Trail. Thanks, ATC! *Christine Vuskalns*

All I can say is that if it weren't for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and all of the volunteers, there wouldn't be another place to hike, take day walks, or picnic [of this] magnitude. Thank you ATC for all you have done to make this possible. *Robert Caron*

Thanks for making the adventure of my life a reality. *Lou Plummer*

I loved being part of a Trail Crew this past week. I met some incredible people and learned a lot about life on the Trail and how much work goes into every section. I can't wait to be back next year. *Ian Gardner*

I look forward to my small excursions on the A.T., especially Birch Run Shelter where I lend a hand and clean the site and outhouse a couple times a year. Kudos to all who help maintain this great Trail. *Lisa Hall*

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

## DISCOVER YOUR SOLUTION™

**SPOKELIT®**  
LED SPOKE WHEEL LIGHT



To discover more solutions, visit **NITEIZE.COM**

**NITE) IZE®**

**IN 1968, THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT CREATED A SERIES OF NATIONAL** trails “to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation.” The Act authorized three types of trails:

- National Scenic Trails
- National Recreation Trails
- Connecting-and-side trails

The 1968 act also created two national scenic trails: the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail; and requested study of an additional fourteen trail routes for possible designation. In 1978, a fourth category, National Historic Trails, was added to the act. Today, the National Trails System includes 11 national scenic trails, 19 national historic trails, more than 1,200

national recreation trails (NRTs), and six connecting- and- side trails. The combined length of these 30 scenic and historic trails is now almost 54,000 miles.

In May, I attended, on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the National Scenic Trails Workshop in Lake Tahoe, California. Hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System, the workshop allowed National Scenic and Historic Trails associations’ staff and volunteers to meet with National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service staff as well as other nonprofit partners. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to share ideas, concerns, and innovations as well as recognize that we are not alone in our challenges. Building and strengthening these partnerships – in sharing best practices, building coalitions to secure federal and private funding, and looking for new ways to strengthen our overall constituency — will be critical for ensuring the health and wellbeing of all of our trails’ futures.

The following weekend we had a very productive and busy meeting of the ATC’s Stewardship Council and Board of Directors at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. We continued to refine the ATC Strategic Plan and heard a review by the National Park Service on their work in finalizing the Appalachian Trail Foundation Document. We’ve started to develop five-year revenue and five-year expense projections based on the plan. It is through this exercise that the rubber meets the road, so to speak. For those of you who have been closely following the ATC’s strategic plan journey, you may have often heard we tend to do more with less — which places an extreme burden on both our staff and Trail maintaining clubs. It is the board’s goal to set strategic priorities based on projected future cost, revenue, and resource assumptions. One goal addresses ensuring strong financial growth, the plan will also set goals for membership growth, major donor campaigns, and board giving expectations. As we increase revenue we can expand our priorities and do more with more.

The month of May closed with our fifth Annual Leaders in Conservation Awards Gala. Honorees included Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell; Senator Richard Burr, and Representative David Price, both of North Carolina; as well as Sean Gobin, founder and executive director of Warrior Hike’s “Walk Off The War” program. It was a wonderful evening with close to 200 attendees.

My month of May started with seeing how the seed of the idea of the Appalachian Trail has grown into more than 54,000 miles of scenic and historic trails for the American public to enjoy. It ended with an opportunity to celebrate this icon of all trails. It was a very good month! ♡

**Sandra Marra** | *Chair*



From left: ATC board members Betsy Thompson, Rich Daileader, Mary Higley, Greg Winchester, Sandra Marra, Nate Stoddard, ATC executive director/ CEO Ron Tipton, and ATC board member Ed Guyot at the 2014 Leaders in Conservation Awards Gala in Washington, D.C. — photo by Matthew Barney





**ALL I CAN REMEMBER ABOUT THOSE** first days on the Appalachian Trail are a few highlights. As I continued on with my thru-hike, it became normal life and those mundane parts in the beginning were blacked out, or maybe they never existed because it was all so new and jarring. There is, though, one very visceral memory that I know I will hold in my mind in crystal clear form for many years to come. It is the memory of March 6, 2013.

# CROSSING THRU

BY CARLIE “RAINBOW BRAID” GENTRY

I awoke to a few inches of snow. My water was frozen. My stove wouldn't light. I was from Georgia, just north of Atlanta, and I had only seen snow like this about three times in my entire life. At least, in the suburbs, that is. I started a slow ascent up Blood Mountain in the wicked wind and stinging snow with no water, no breakfast, and no idea about how bad that was. It was the first of many hard lessons the Trail taught me over the time I traversed its contour.

After much slipping, much pack sliding, and more effort than I had ever put into a day's worth of hiking in my life, I came to a road crossing. As the plowed road grew closer, a building emerged in the haze of the snow. Despite the fact that I was long since running off of reserve energy, I whooped and hollered in an uncharacteristic vocal expression of my glee. I had made it to the place I had fixated on all day, Mountain Crossings.

Mountain Crossings, the first hostel and outfitter a northbound hiker passes along the A.T., is a unique establishment that wears its history on its sleeve. It is located at Neels Gap, mile 31.7 on the Appalachian Trail. The gap was named after W. R. Neel, who was the chief engineer surveying for the American Scenic Highway. This would be US 19, the winding little two-lane road that you cross over as you approach Mountain Crossings. But long before white men came through and renamed things, the Native Americans had their own titles for them. The Cherokee Indians called the gap Walasi-Yi, meaning “the place of Walasi, the Great Frog.” To this day, as you drive down US 19 towards Mountain Crossings, you pass through the Frogtown Voting Precinct — Frogtown being a white man rendition of the Native American name.

A hiker passes through the breezeway at Mountain Crossings — the only place on the entire A.T. where the Trail goes through a building. — photo by Jess Daddio

The two acres of land at the base of Blood Mountain that makes up Neels Gap was donated by the Vogels of Vogel State Park, which is just a short drive down US 19 from Mountain Crossings. They were in the leather and tanning business up in Wisconsin and when a synthetic tanning acid came about after World War I, they no longer needed the oak and hemlock trees for the family business. When the family donated the land there was, at the time, a wooden structure standing that the Vogels called the Tea Room, which was used for entertaining. The iconic stone building we see standing today wasn't built until 1937.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program set up a Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in the area during the Great Depression and one of the projects assigned to the camp was the building of the current stone structure at Neels Gap. The existing wooden Tea Room structure was surrounded in stone to match the new part of the building. Hikers were already in mind when the CCC built the stone structure due to the newly completed Appalachian Trail, which was finished the same year.

The building was used as a restaurant, dancehall, and inn throughout the forties and fifties up until 1965. As you stand in the outfitter, it is interesting to think back to fancy folks of yester year fox trotting after a three-course meal right where you're trying on a new pair of hiking boots. For a few years in the late '60s an artist transformed it into a live-in studio. To this day you can still purchase his pottery in the gift shop. When he left, the building sat abandoned for many years and

Clockwise from right: Hikers relax on the porch of the historical stone building; After their first 30 miles on the Trail, some hikers retire their poorly chosen, painful boots in a tree outside the hostel and replace them with better options – photos by Mike McCoy; Energetic owners Georganna and Logan Seamon – photo courtesy 5 Petal Productions

only narrowly escaped demolition. Thanks to the efforts of local conservation-minded people, the entire area was put on the list of National Registered Historical Places in 1977.

Finally, in 1983, Mountain Crossings, the outfitter and hostel as we know it today, was created by Jeff and Dorothy Hansen. They owned and operated it until 2001 when Winton Porter took over for the next 12 years. Currently, Georganna and Logan Seamon are the owners. These 2009 A.T. thru-hikers took possession of Mountain Crossings in November of 2013.

In December of 2013, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Blairsville-Union County A.T. Community Advisory Committee celebrated and recognized three locally owned Union County businesses for their support of the Appalachian Trail. The ATC, through the A.T. Community program, seeks to highlight businesses and other organizations that provide support to members of the hiking community by recognizing them as "A.T. Community Supporters." Mountain Crossings, along with Sunrise Grocery and Blairsville Bikes & Hikes, was one of three businesses that received this designation. The A.T. Supporters provide special services for hikers, information, and advice.



As a full service hiking and backpacking outfitter — for the casual day hiker to the serious A.T. backpacker — Mountain Crossings offers friendly advice, pack "shake downs" to help lighten pack loads, internet access, meals, hot showers, and beds, as well as a ten-percent discount to ATC members and members of local A.T. hiking clubs on hiking gear, food, clothing, books, and gift products. Organizations and businesses that help build public awareness about the significant resources and economic opportunities the A.T. brings to A.T. Communities, help leverage and strengthen ATC's ability to protect it.

The establishment has seen a continually rolling tide of change in its time and much like the hikers that rely so heavily on their services, it has been able to roll with the punches doled out by the ever shifting environment. In recent years, this has expanded to include new ways of reaching out to the hiking and outdoor community in our increasingly technological driven society. In order to do this, Mountain Crossings has wonderfully assimilated into the world of social media and expertly uses it as a means to inform, educate, encourage and celebrate their community, whether it be with the yearly influx of hikers or local citizens in the nearby city — and official A.T. Community — of Blairsville and Union County.

### Technology and Community

For several years now, Georganna has been in the habit of snapping a photo of every thru-hiker she can as they pass through the walls of Mountain Crossings. All of these photos, as well as many others and several videos, make it onto the Mountain Crossings Instagram account. This photo sharing phone app makes it easy to broadcast photographs to other social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as its own platform. Many are accompanied by hashtags, which turns any term preceded by a numerical symbol (#) into a searchable category. This creates an easy way for viewers to see loads of photos, videos and other posts pertaining to the outfitter and hostel. For the hikers, these photos, and the short blurbs that follow, go far in encouraging them as they journey towards Maine. This also celebrates their hike thus far and

unites hikers in a fun way. After my own hike, I went back into the past photo albums on the Mountain Crossings Facebook page and saw many familiar faces of the people I had come to love during the duration of my thru-hike. As a former A.T. hiker who must now live vicariously through current A.T. hikers, it ignites me with joy to see all the new faces embarking on their own personal, life changing adventures.

But Mountain Crossings has a broader view of the world around them than just the three-foot wide A.T. footpath that passes directly through the archway connecting the outfitter and the hostel. They often use their influence to support and bring together their immediate, local community. Georganna uses Facebook and Twitter to spread the word about community events hosted my Mountain Crossings. For example, this past March, they hosted a kick off party for the 2014 thru-hiking season that showcased local food and bands in the area. Despite their importance in the expansive A.T. community that stretches nearly the entire East Coast, Mountain Crossings has not forgotten about their neighbors.

Although the culture in which Mountain Crossings exists is in many ways deterred from technology, they have found a balanced place for it in their lives. You won't find them burying their faces in a laptop or glued to a cell phone when there is so much life and adventure around them waiting to be experienced. But you will find them smartly adapting to a new way of living within our society and always looking ahead to tomorrow. Thank goodness for it, so we can all be kept in the loop and not miss out on the good times being had there. For any outdoor enthusiast looking for an intriguing destination where they can reconnect with nature, Mountain Crossings lies embedded in the Blue Ridge Mountains and steeped in Georgia history. ⬆

For more information visit: [www.mountaincrossings.com](http://www.mountaincrossings.com)  
Keep up with social media sites at:  
[facebook.com/MountainCrossings](https://www.facebook.com/MountainCrossings)  
[twitter.com/mountaincrossin](https://twitter.com/mountaincrossin)  
Instagram: @mountaincrossings

# | TRAILHEAD |

SLIPPERY ELM, A.T., NEW YORK – BY MIKE ADAMOVIC

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY HIKE 2014

### THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY (ATC) CELEBRATED NATIONAL

Trails Day on June 7 with our annual African American History Hike, a one-mile guided hike along the Appalachian Trail that took participants back in time as they learned about the rich African American history in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. As an Appalachian Trail Community and home to both the ATC's Headquarters and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Harpers Ferry area is full of hiking opportunities with a historical twist. The ATC's African American History Hike, now in its third year, gave participants a chance to fully embrace that concept of hiking through history.

"One of the best walking towns in America also has some of the most diverse, engaging history in America," said David Fox, National Park Service ranger, who provided the interpretation for the hike. Before a northbound hiker reaches Harpers Ferry's Lower Town, he or she will walk along a portion of the A.T. that runs parallel to the grounds of Storer College, one of the nation's first institutions of higher learning open to African Americans. Following the Civil War, Reverend Nathan Brackett, a Freewill Baptist, realized how important education was to the 30,000 newly freed slaves in the Shenandoah Valley. A primary school was founded in 1865 in what used to be the U.S. Army Paymaster's home; a few years later, a donation from Maine

philanthropist John Storer enabled the school to become a degree-granting college open to all people, regardless of race or gender. The institution continued to expand when the federal government provided four buildings, including the Lockwood House, to the school's trustees in 1869.

In the early twentieth century, the Storer College campus was also home to the first public meeting of the Niagara Movement, considered to be the cornerstone of the modern civil rights era and the forerunner to the NAACP (the meeting location was symbolic because of its connection to John Brown — whose raid in 1859 was an attempt to start an armed revolt with the intention of ending slavery). When legal segregation ended in 1954, federal and state funding for Storer College diminished, and the institution closed after 88 years. Yet the National Park Service now uses part of the campus as a training facility, continuing its original educational mission.

The African American History Hike gave participants a chance to learn about landmarks that played a pivotal role in our nation's history while also enjoying the beauty of the Trail. Some who came to this year's event had never stepped on the A.T. before, while some had hiked hundreds of miles. Regardless, what brought everyone to town on that day in June was a chance to remember, and honor, what can be accomplished when people are committed to what they believe. Hiking the A.T. through Harpers Ferry offers a strong opportunity to reflect on the past and consider our future.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy would like to thank the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and the NAACP Jefferson County, West Virginia Branch for partnering with us to make this event a success.



National Park Service ranger David Fox explains the area's rich history to attendees during the African American History Hike — photo by Kirslyn Schell-Smith; A young hike attendee enjoys a break at Jefferson Rock overlooking the Shenandoah River — photo by Terri McLellan

## BIRD THE RIDGE PARTNERSHIP



### THE KITTATINNY COALITION, LED BY AUDUBON PENNSYLVANIA, THE

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and in partnership with A.T. maintaining clubs and the Lehigh Gap Nature Center, was pleased to participate in the second annual "Bird the Ridge" hikes this past spring. Participants in each Bird the Ridge hike are able to experience the beauty of the Kittatinny Ridge in Pennsylvania and learn about how their bird observations can further the coalition's knowledge of the ridge's bird life. During one such hike in late May, Gary LaBelle and Lorrie Preston of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Audubon Society led a group of seven other hikers from Second Mountain Hawk Watch to Swatara Gap. "Immediately upon arrival at the top of the mountain, we were surprised to see six double-crested cormorants flying over like arrows in high speed," explains Lorrie enthusiastically. "That was the most unexpected sighting of the day."

"Bird the Ridge hikes are a great way to learn more about the unique bird life on the Appalachian Trail along the Kittatinny Ridge," says Karen Lutz, the ATC's Mid-Atlantic regional director. "The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is happy to offer these events in cooperation with our partners." This year's Bird the Ridge series featured six hikes over the course of a week beginning in May and continuing through early June. Each hike was able to spotlight a different portion of the Kittatinny Ridge spanning Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, Schuylkill, Berks, and Monroe counties. Funding for the Kittatinny Ridge project is provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through a Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant.

For more information visit: [kittatinnyridge.org](http://kittatinnyridge.org)



Participants at the May 2014 Bird the Ridge hike — photo by Lorrie Preston

### Nominations Open for 2015 to 2017 ATC Board of Directors

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is soliciting nominations for the 2015-2017 Board of Directors. We are seeking individuals with a strong commitment to the Trail and the ability to invest significant time and resources in the organization. Experience in strategic governance, fundraising, environmental law or environmental sciences, finance, and education and outreach are just some of the skills needed to support the board's ongoing efforts. Knowledge of issues related to the protection and management of the Appalachian Trail is a great asset.

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.

Nominations can be emailed to the Chair of the Governance Committee, Ed Guyot at: [eguyot@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:eguyot@appalachiantrail.org) or mailed to his attention to: Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

# 2013

## THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

# ANNUAL REPORT



The 2013 financial statements were audited by Yount, Hyde, and Barbour, P.C. (YHB) of Winchester, Virginia. In the opinion of YHB, the ATC's 2013 financial statements present fairly the financial position of the ATC in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

For more information or copies of the full 2013 ATC Annual Report with audited financials visit: [appalachiantrail.org/financials](http://appalachiantrail.org/financials).

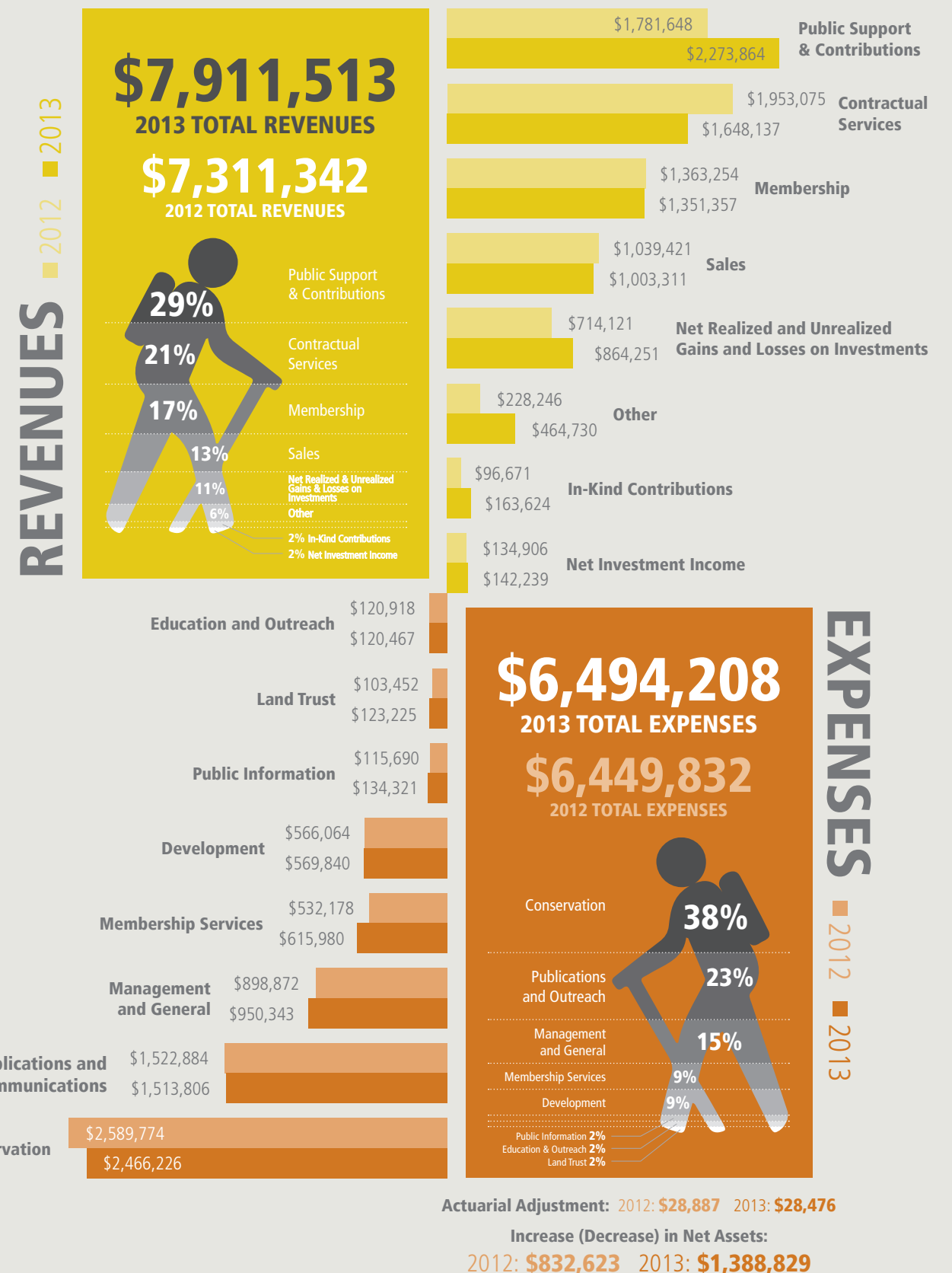
### THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY (ATC) IS WIDELY RESPECTED

and recognized for its historic role in building, maintaining and protecting the Appalachian Trail for the enjoyment of present and future generations. When we celebrate our 90th anniversary in 2015, we will proudly acknowledge that our long-standing partnership with the federal government, Trail clubs and many thousands of volunteers has achieved the grand vision of Benton MacKaye, Myron Avery, and many others for a hiking Trail that provides high quality opportunities for both short day hikes and long treks.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege for us to represent our members, donors, and a volunteer force of more than 6,000 people who last year donated nearly 250,000 hours of their time to managing and protecting the A.T. It is especially rewarding to collaborate with the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and 14 Trail states in one of the most successful public/private partnerships in our nation's history.

2013 was a year of pleasant surprises for the ATC. Under the leadership of Ron Tipton, our new executive director, and Sandra Marra, our new Board chair, along with the continued dedication of the ATC staff, our financials closed the year with an increase in net assets of \$1,388,829 across all funds. Given the changes experienced in 2013, we expected that the General fund would end the year in a deficit. However, with rigid expense controls, the ATC was able to end the year with a General fund increase in net assets of \$182,635.

Sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned the ATC a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the second consecutive year that the ATC has earned this top distinction. ⬆



# THE MOUNTAINS and the RIVER

BY LAURA BELLEVILLE

The overlook from the War Spur Loop Trail — connected to the A.T. — offers views of the Mountain Lake Wilderness, Johns Creek Mountain, and the valley below — all of which are part of a now continuously protected corridor in Giles County, Virginia. Photo by Alisa Moody

NEW TRAIL ROUTE

PREVIOUS TRAIL ROUTE

A.T. NEW RIVER CROSSING

I ARRIVED IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA IN 2005 AND WAS REVIEWING all of the active A.T. projects when Cindy Schiffer, the local U.S. Forest Service (USFS) district ranger, said, "Here's the file for the New River relocation." She handed it to me. It weighed at least five pounds and was almost three feet thick. She noted that she was told that relocating the A.T. to its permanent location on the north side of the New River in Giles County, Virginia was her highest priority when she joined the staff of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests five years earlier. Now it was mine.

I dug into that file and was amazed by the history of the project, which dated back more than 30 years. It was the 1955 relocation of the Trail from its former location along the eastern Blue Ridge Mountain range westward roughly 50 miles into the Allegheny Mountains that was the start of the challenge to permanently locate the Trail on the north side of the New River. This significant move created the dilemma of crossing the New River. There were two choices, traversing the river on the bridge near Pearisburg, Virginia or the bridge in Narrows. The 1955 route took the bridge near Pearisburg then meandered upwards over Hemlock Ridge on unprotected private lands owned by Celanese, also known as the Celco plant, to Peters Mountain.



Trail Crews work to create the new route — this page clockwise from above: The Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech; Roanoke A.T. Club; The ATC's Konnarock Crew. Opposite page clockwise from top: The A.T. was moved away from the Celanese plant to a more scenic area, connecting it to Peters Mountain, which towers behind the plant; New Trail signs direct hikers in Giles County — photos by Alisa Moody; Members of the Konnarock Crew at work on the relocation.



The Celco plant near Narrows, Virginia has been a locally important industry since the plant opened on Christmas Day in 1939. It has been an economic driver in a relatively poor county, and essentially replaced significant logging in the region before the U.S. Forest Service began acquiring logged out lands and ridge tops beginning in 1936. As the Celco plant grew, the unprotected A.T. shifted from the 1955 location that meandered through the back portion of the Celanese lands to a wooded strip closer to Route 460, skirting past the plant operations. For years, Celco had offered the Trail an informal right-of-way with a hand shake agreement. But Trail managers knew that it was only a matter of time before the Trail would need to be relocated yet again.

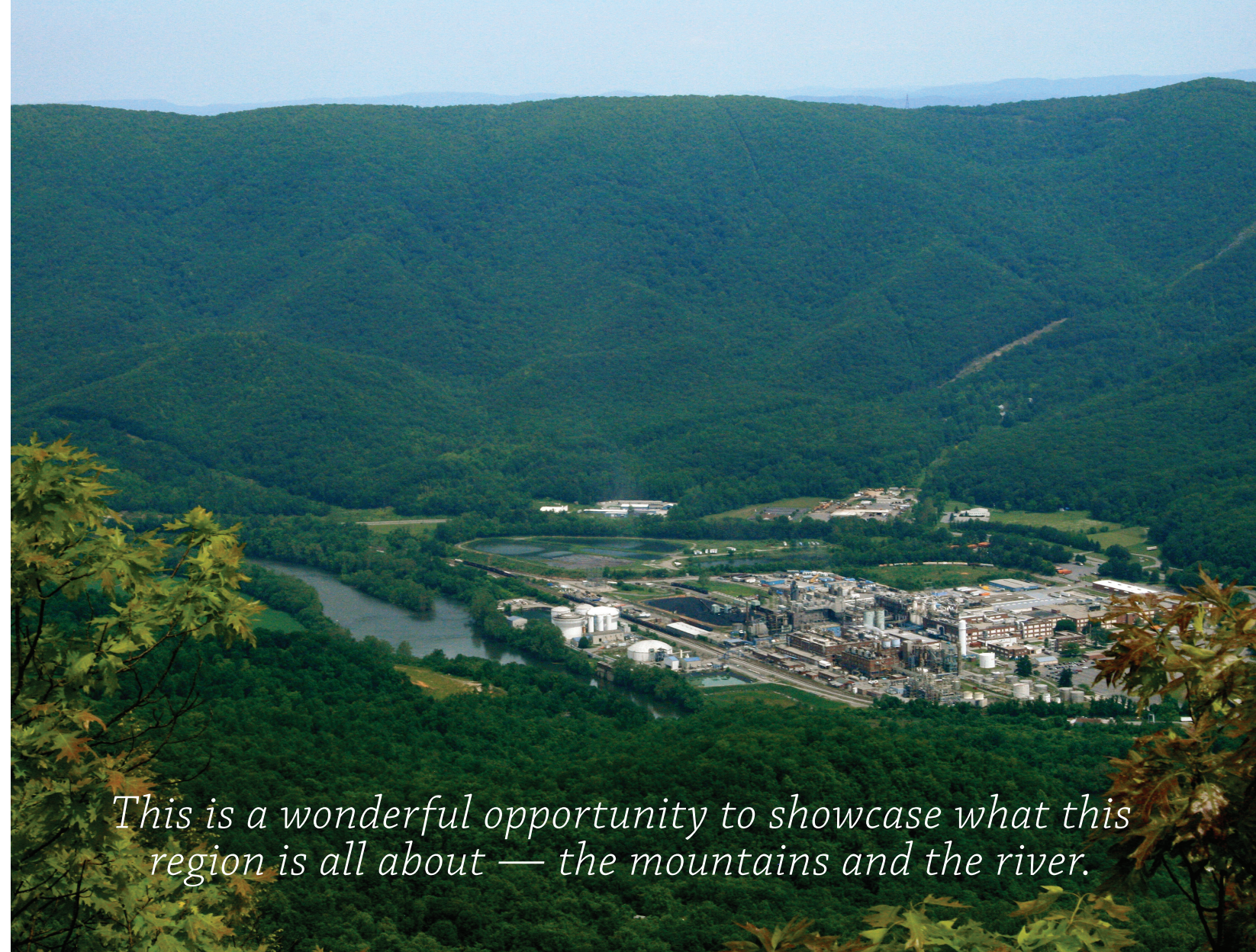
In the late 1970s, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers with the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, and eventually the newly formed Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech, began the long process of determining an optimum location for the Trail using the optimum location review (OLR). The OLR is an analytical process critical to ensuring that the Trail is located in the setting that best meets the congressional intent for location, outstanding recreation opportunities, and scenic resources. This process was pioneered by the U.S. Forest Service on the Appalachian Trail and is now used on other national scenic trails. The OLR analyses land ownership, scenic resource values, natural and cultural resource concerns, and trail location and determines the optimal location for the Trail. Actual trail relocations require an environmental analysis.

After years of discussion about the OLR for the area north of the New River, several alternatives were selected and presented for consideration. For a variety of reasons — a baptismal site, railroad crossing, private homes — only one

route emerged as a real option for the permanent siting of the Trail. In the early 2000s, Cindy Schiffer and former ATC regional representative Teresa Martinez worked collaboratively with representatives at Celanese to explore the potential of routing the Trail through the back portion of their property, squeezing through a narrow corridor between Celanese ownership and other private lands and up and over Hemlock Ridge. Interestingly, the chosen route was similar to the one initially developed for the major 1955 relocation. The relocated Trail arrives at the top of Peters Mountain near Peters Mountain Shelter.

Once it became clear in 2005 that everyone, Trail managers and the local community, agreed on the proposed route, we set to work on securing the necessary funding to acquire land from Celanese. The ATC lobbied Congress for three years. In 2009, largely supported by Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner, the A.T. was allocated an appropriation of \$1.7 million dollars to acquire lands necessary for the relocation as well as to protect the Trail corridor in Smyth County, Virginia. A private donation was also secured to help with pre-acquisition costs.

In the meantime, ATC's Virginia regional staff worked on the ground with Celanese staff to put the finishing touches on the route. We met often with Celco plant manager Richard Mitchell and "Boomer" Brown. On more than one occasion Boomer joined the Trail design team to ensure the final route was compatible with the plant operations. Both Richard and Boomer provided invaluable assistance. Yet, I never sensed that they had any awareness of the real impact they were having on A.T. history. As Ron Tipton, executive director and CEO



*This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what this region is all about — the mountains and the river.*





*This was the first time in this region that nearby communities had been so actively engaged in Trail management.*

director, was organizing the ATC's longstanding volunteers and new community volunteers to assist with the route as soon as the easement was recorded. The ATC received a generous \$40,000 donation from Columbia Gas and Columbia Gas Transmission to help with construction to complete the relocation by this summer. "The opportunity to make the final protected section of the Appalachian Trail a reality is consistent with our sustainability strategy and philosophy to be good stewards of the environment," said Carl Levander, president of Columbia Gas of Virginia. While the ATC's largest Trail Crew, the Konnarock Crew, had nearly completed the 2.5 miles of Trail construction on the northern half of the relocation, there was still almost another three miles to complete on the new right of way.

The deed was recorded on April 2, 2014. Immediately, Andrew and his Virginia team's engaging spirit organized volunteers from several Virginia A.T. clubs, including Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, and the Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech. The first step was to clear trees from the new route. Several certified sawyers joined the efforts and in no time the route was ready for the U.S. Forest Service to use a trail dozer to rough in the new trail. Bill Gorge of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and the Pathfinder crew were particularly helpful during the route clearing. Other volunteers followed up to put the finishing touches on the new Trail.

This ambitious project offered a perfect opportunity for residents from Pearisburg, and Narrows, Virginia, communities that are part of the official Appalachian Trail Community network, to get their hands dirty. Several volunteers, including the town manager of Pearisburg, Ken Vittum, joined the efforts. Others helped the cause by hosting dinners for the Konnarock Crew as they continued their hard work. This was the first time in this region that nearby communities had been so actively engaged in Trail management.

On May 23, the ATC hosted a dedication and ribbon cutting. Many community representatives joined the celebration as we hiked up to a scenic area overlooking the New River. This new route is the only Trail section where, hiking along a ridge, the hiker has a close, unimpaired view of the river. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what this region is all about — the mountains and the river.

As we stood at this scenic spot we heard from several rep-

resentatives about the value of this project and the importance of the partnerships. As Tom Speaks noted, "this is a great example of what can be accomplished when corporations, federal agencies, non-profits, communities, and volunteers work together." Celanese representative, Kristina Geelmuyden Karlsson, reflected on her passion for hiking and excitement for Celanese to be part of A.T. history. I am certain that her enthusiasm is contagious and many community members will



be inspired to explore the Trail. Rob Innes from Columbia Gas leaned over to me at the end of the ceremony and said, "You know, our contribution to this project was a no-brainer. We were all so excited to help." He added, "As we discussed the project internally I learned that one of our Columbus-based employees is a relative of 'Grandma Gatewood' [the first woman to thru-hike the A.T.]"

It's truly amazing how the A.T. inspires collaboration and how its history weaves together people in unique ways. We painted the first white blaze. We cut the ribbon, shook hands, and promised an annual hike. It was a very good day on the Trail. 📌

Laura Belleville is the ATC's director of conservation.



Clockwise from left: A family takes in the unobscured view of several area mountain ranges, including Peters Mountain, at Wind Rock Overlook; A hiker on the Trail in Pearisburg near the New River — photos by Alisa Moody; Laura Belleville (center), along with other ATC employees, community partners, and the Forest Service's David Ferguson (far right) stand near a brand new white blaze at the dedication ceremony.

most experienced land acquisition specialists from the Cherokee National Forest, Dave Ferguson.

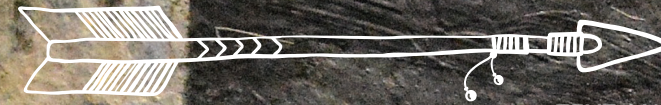
Dave is wonderfully patient and has a keen ability to listen. He worked diligently with Celanese attorneys to navigate their concerns while meeting federal land acquisition standards. It was another five years until the acquisition was finalized with Celanese ultimately donating the lands necessary for the new route (the appropriated funds will be used on another priority A.T. acquisition in Virginia). Adding to the delays, before the easement could be recorded it required a review by the Department of Justice.

During the cold winter months of December and January, the Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech hosted six work days to help complete the portion of the Trail relocation on USFS lands. This was a feat of dedication given how cold and miserable the winter in Giles County was.

Waiting on the sidelines to complete the relocation, Andrew Downs, the ATC's new Southwest and Central Virginia regional

# NATIVE SHELTER

ANCIENT ROCK FORMATIONS ALONG THE A.T. IN BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK TELL THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO FOUND SHELTER AS THEY TRAVERSED THE VALLEYS AND PEAKS OF THE APPALACHIANS HUNDREDS TO THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.



TEXT AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ADAMOVIC

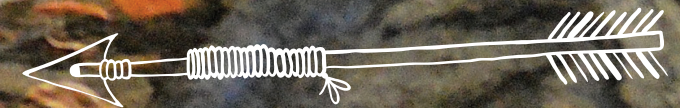
**APPROXIMATELY 12,000 YEARS AGO, AS THE LAST OF THE GLACIERS MADE THEIR** final retreat northward as the weather warmed, the ancestors of the Lenape tribe made their way into the land that now comprises New Jersey, New York, and parts of Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The first landscape was barren tundra, resembling those now found in the northern reaches of Canada and Alaska. Caribou, mastodon, and even the occasional mammoth roamed the land, serving as prey for the newly arrived people. Few trees existed. Large boulders strewn across the landscape, known as glacial erratics, and overhanging rock ledges on the sides of mountains were all that existed to shelter the Lenape from the frigid, arctic-like weather. As the climate improved over the millennia, tundra gave way to spruce and birch forests, and from there, to a forest similar to the one we know today comprised of oaks, hickories, maples, and other well-known species.

The bare and gray background developed into a lush, forested landscape. Trees towered over the once all important “rockshelters.” Though wigwams and longhouses were now being constructed from the ubiquitous vegetation, these simple, craggy structures were still being utilized by Native Americans. A lone hunter deep in the woods tracking his quarry for miles might spend a night beneath an overhang afforded by a massive boulder to avoid the wind of a cool fall night or perhaps to escape the drenching rain of a summer thunderstorm. Additionally, these places were also frequented by larger groups as they migrated. These people moved seasonally from site to site to be in a better position to collect newly ripening plants or to make it to a certain spot in time to find arriving game or spawning fish. They might move to a grove of mast producing species to collect the nuts of oaks, hickories, or chestnuts, of which they were especially fond. And in the spring they might traverse the land to encamp near a stream or tributary of the Delaware or Hudson rivers to trap the herring that swim up them to spawn. Their lives were variable and subject to the capricious whims of the environment, but the rockshelters were the one solid constant that could always be relied upon when they needed protection from the elements.

Many of these once-occupied rockshelters can still be seen along portions of the A.T. today, even in some of the highest and most seemingly inaccessible locations. As such, thru-hikers and Indians of the past seem to share a few similarities. Apart from visiting these remote spots, both have known the pain of lugging a tremendous amount of weight around for lengthy distances — the hiker, a 30 pound pack on his back; a Lenape native, a recently shot deer carcass that had to be dragged back to camp, or maybe a pack-like bundle that contained the camp itself and needed transportation to a seasonal locale that could only be accessed by crossing over a steep mountain range or two. Each has also witnessed the beauty of the forest, of nature itself, and has held reverence for the mysteries that are contained within. Though separated by centuries, they share a common uniting force — the rocky land of the Appalachians.

When hikers make their way through the Mid-Atlantic states, they pass by a multitude of sites used by the Lenape, although few recognize them. Many see stone, but nothing more. The cultural aspects of the land are just as important as its ecology or natural history. Many rockshelters appear as though they would be the perfect spot to camp; others are smaller or more covert and their tales are only told by the archaeological record. The occasional open air campsite can also be found on flat terraces near streams and lakes, as are larger village sites.

Right around the creation of the Appalachian Trail in the 1920s, archaeologists began seriously



investigating the land that exists within the bounds of Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks in New York. It was a boon time for excavations and for the documentation of new sites. Many of the artifacts pulled from these digs made their way into the historical museum at Trailside Museums and Zoo, located directly adjacent to the Bear Mountain Bridge. The Trailside Museum was envisioned by Benton MacKaye, who wanted a nature center such as this placed at regular intervals along the A.T. This is only one that actually came to fruition.

Apart from the remains of Fort Clinton from the Revolutionary War, there are numerous archaeological sites located within the museum relating to Native Americans. The largest is an open air campsite overlooking the Hudson River atop an airy bluff. This is the lowest spot along the entire A.T., at only 120 feet above sea level. The site is directly opposite the Bear Den and is identified by a small sign that briefly discusses the history. Follow the “Geology Trail” east and you will pass through part of the campsite that is bounded by a small stream on the left. A sunny promontory at the trail’s end was probably used by the Natives to fashion stone tools via a process known as flint knapping. Recent invasive species removal has restored the site to its former glory and probably closely matches what it would have looked like several millennia ago when the first Native Americans occupied it.

Over the years, four or five excavations have taken place near the Bear Den campsite, the most recent being in the fall of 2013. A water pipe that is buried through part of the campsite needed repairs, and the surrounding area had to be dug up. A six-by-three-by-three-foot plot uncovered two chert knife tips, two hammer stones, various chert and jasper cobbles, and slightly more than 100 stone waste flakes, known as debitage. This rich spread of artifacts in such a small area is somewhat unusual, especially considering that previous excavations have been done here in the past. However, in the early days of the Trailside Museum’s history archaeologists on staff were mostly concerned with preserving museum quality specimens (usually arrowheads) that were coming out of the ground and paid little attention to the raw material or tools required to make them. Contemporary archaeologists now tend to focus just as much of their attention on the seemingly most insignificant of artifacts as they do on the most prestigious and well-made. They realize that much can still be learned from broken artifacts and purposely discarded waste pieces.

Despite what many people might think, Native Americans, in most cases, actually ate quite well. We can tell this was true by examining the bones, shells, and to a lesser extent, carbonized remains of organic material left behind in rockshelters. Due to the acidic nature of northeastern soil, many faunal remains will not generally survive more than a few centuries. If sequestered within a rockshelter these artifacts may remain in better shape and survive longer than they would in an open-air campsite. A majority of surviving organic items pulled from these structures in New Jersey and southern New York date back to the Late Woodland period (1,000 to 400 years ago). These people consumed

a wide array of animals, many of which are now extinct or extirpated from the region, such as passenger pigeons, Alleghany woodrats, mountain lions, and even bison (their historical range extended to the western side of the Hudson River). They further supplemented their diet with deer, turkey, beaver, bear, and shellfish, which used to exist in copious quantities in the upper reaches of the Hudson and Delaware rivers and were routinely as large as an outstretched hand. The Natives certainly appear to have eaten better than some hikers do today.



Previous page: A mural image in the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain State Park depicts a Lenape woman utilizing a rockshelter. From top: The author crouches under a small rockshelter; Over the years several excavations have taken place near the Bear Den campsite uncovering a valuable range of artifacts.

Next time you’re on the Trail in this area I would definitely recommend taking a few minutes to examine a rockshelter or two, especially the larger ones. It’s no secret that the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference purposely routes numerous trails so that they pass by the most interesting rock formations. Usually a rockshelter is among them. While many look shabby today and are infested with myriad insects and have a dense leaf-strewn floor, in prehistoric times, if these sites were used for more than a few days at a time, the appearance would be significantly different.

Let’s say for example, two people, a man and a woman, are occupying a shelter for several days 1,000 years ago. If we were to look inside we would find that the ground is swept of leaves and a fur garment is covering the dirt floor to ensure a warm and congenial feel; the man is just outside butchering an animal. When his task is complete he hands a clump of meat over to the woman who promptly begins cooking it over the fire that’s constructed under the rock eave. By her side in the rockshelter, sitting on the ground, stand a couple of small, decorated clay pots filled

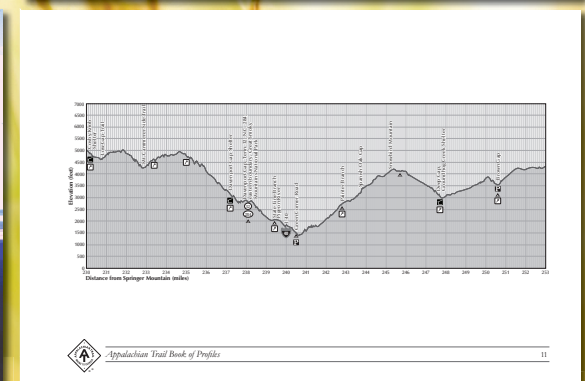
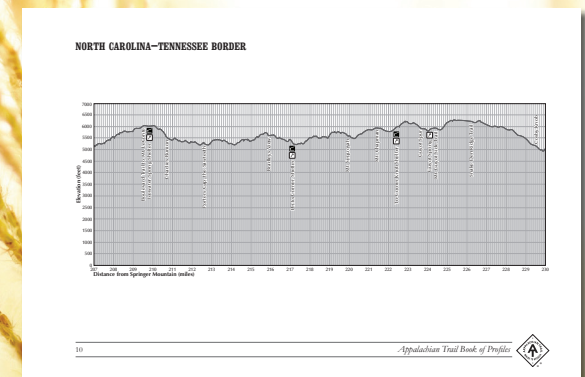
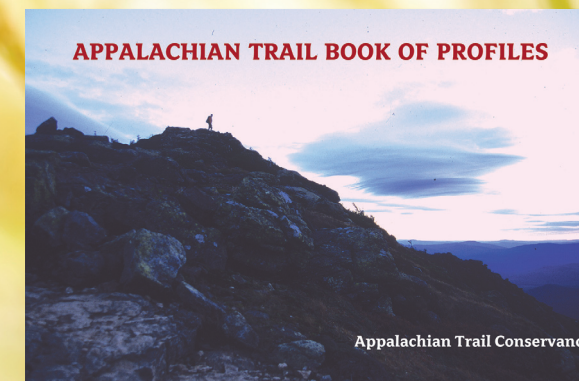


# Know Your Terrain

Order online or drop by one of our Visitors Centers in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania.

With the *A.T. Book of Profiles* hikers can plan ahead for the type of terrain they will be taking on — and plan their hiking day accordingly. And arm chair hikers can peruse the profiles to find out what their friends and family are tackling in each section of the Trail.

*A.T. Profiles* is new this year, published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and available 24/7 at the A.T. Trail Store — along with 450 other products, most of which are not available anywhere else!



All proceeds from your purchases go back into the ATC’s volunteer-centered conservation and information programs.

Visit: **atctrailstore.org** or call toll-free 888 287-8673 (888 -AT STORE) Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

*Though the Lenape no longer frequent the rockshelters or tread the valleys and peaks of the Appalachians, the land is still looked after and maintained by like-minded people.*



with water collected from a nearby stream that will be utilized for a variety of tasks. When night settles in, the two move closer to the fire for added warmth and light. As they lightly converse the man does some minor tool repair. Shortly after he finishes up, the two fall asleep wrapped in blankets of thick deer and bear hides. The fire slowly wanes and all is enveloped in darkness, with only the occasional yelp of a coyote sounding in the distance.

The Cats Rock Rockshelter in Pawling, New York would have fitted a pair of Natives comfortably like the ones just described. This very large glacial erratic, on par with the size of a small house, is situated on a steep mountain slope just north of the Telephone Pioneer Lean-to. Its ample overhang would have ensured great comfort, and ease when walking around.

These sites are fragile so it's best to tread lightly. There's nothing worse than to see an archeological site contaminated with modern debris — it really does diminish the ambiance of it. While this shelter is a prime example of what Natives would seek out for a night's rest, this particular site is moderately degraded by the buildup of trash and through use by rock climbers who do not adhere to Leave No Trace principles.

The Lenape viewed this world differently than most of us now see it. Everything, living and non-living, was imbibed with a spirit, even the cold and prosaic rock beneath our feet. Mankind

Doodletown Brook Falls in Bear Mountain State Park — waterfalls were especially meaningful to the Lenape and other tribes who would travel out of their way to reach one to pray, conduct ceremonies, or just recuperate next to the soothing sound of the crashing water.

was but a single puzzle piece to this world. All deserved respect. The last remaining Lenape today hold the rockshelters and other sites utilized by their ancestors to be sacred.

When it comes to sacred sites, some were revered more highly than others. Waterfalls were especially meaningful to the Lenape and many would travel far out of their way to reach one to pray or conduct ceremonies. The same could be said with certain overlooks atop hills or mountains that afforded sweeping views of the landscape that kindled their connection to the divine. Every bit of the land was precious, but especially the stone, which they used for shelter, made tools out of, along with stone bowls and ceramic pots, not to mention used as a canvas — the occasional petroglyph can be found etched into bedrock outcroppings. Though they no longer frequent the rockshelters or tread the valleys and peaks of the Appalachians, the land is still looked after and maintained by like-minded beings — A.T. hikers and maintainers who see there is more to the land than just the value of natural resources it contains. ⚡

Michael Adamovic is an avid A.T. hiker and serves as a site steward at several state parks in southern New York as part of the Native American Site Steward Program (NASSP). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Manhattanville College.

ORDER YOUR A.T. LICENSE  
PLATE AND SUPPORT THE  
APPALACHIAN TRAIL!

VIRGINIA  
000000  
appalachiantrail.org

TENNESSEE  
00000  
appalachiantrail.org

APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
2175A  
NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA.gov  
ABC123  
appalachiantrail.org




APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY®

All proceeds received from each state will  
help manage and protect the Trail.  
For more info visit [appalachiantrail.org/PLATES](http://appalachiantrail.org/PLATES)

"Playwright Brenton Lengel has crafted a loving and, more importantly, likeable portrait of the Appalachian Trail and her transitory inhabitants — solid, three-dimensional characters that we grow to love.... This is a play as much about the human condition as it is a journey through 2,000 miles of American wilderness."  
-Marti Sichel, Woman Around Town

AMERICAN THEATRE OF ACTORS PRESENTS  
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND  
NORTH TO MAINE  
A NEW PLAY BY BRENTON LENGEL  
DIRECTED BY ERIC PARNESSE  
July 16th - August 2nd  
At The Beckmann Theatre  
314 West 54th Street  
New York, NY 10019  
FOR TICKETS CALL 212-581-3044  
[www.AmericanTheatreOfActors.com](http://www.AmericanTheatreOfActors.com)  
[www.brentonlengel.com/northtomaine](http://www.brentonlengel.com/northtomaine)

\$1 of every ticket sold will benefit the Appalachian Trail Conservancy



- Family -  
Hiking Day



APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY




September 27, 2014

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy invites families of all ages and hiking abilities to get outside and experience the adventure of being active on the Appalachian Trail.

Held on National Public Lands Day, Family Hiking Day is an opportunity to introduce your children to America's premier footpath, and all of the benefits that come from being active and spending time outdoors.

To plan an A.T. hike for your family visit: [appalachiantrail.org/FamilyHike](http://appalachiantrail.org/FamilyHike)



## *The “Hills” of Home*

Originally hailing from central Virginia, Tommy Penick’s spark for adventure was ignited around the Virginian A.T. sections during his high school years. After graduating from Appalachian State University, Tommy built out a five-by-ten-foot utility trailer to actively pursue his career in visual storytelling. Though he now chases the winter through the western United States and Alaska, whitewater in the spring, and other good stories for the rest of the year, Tommy’s heart and home remain in the southeastern U.S. “I’m fortunate enough to travel throughout the world to shoot photo and video projects, but I always feel rejuvenated when I return to the ‘hills’ of home in Virginia,” he explains. In the upcoming months, Tommy plans to continue exploring the southeast with a month-long source-to-sea project and multiple cultural video pieces celebrating the soul of southern Appalachia.

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

Sam Knob, North Carolina



A.T. — Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina





A.T. creek crossing - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina



I A.T. COMMUNITIES

BY KATHY SEILER  
PHOTOS BY JULIE JUDKINS

# dynamic FELLOWSHIP

GREATER WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Crossing the Mason-Dixon Line north into Pennsylvania gives a huge psychological boost to thru-hikers as they near the midpoint of the Trail. Offering six Trail access points within a few miles, the greater Waynesboro area hosts a slew of amenities nearby: stores to resupply, restaurants, laundromats, medical assistance (walk-in clinic, hospital), hotels, and B&Bs. There are three post offices as well, with the closest one in Blue Ridge Summit offering a “Hikers’ Supply Box” as a surprise when packages are picked up there — hikers can choose from an assortment of toiletries, snacks, and duct tape. The local Girl Scout Troop that sponsors this enjoys reading the comments of thanks in the journal — a lovely example of “paying it forward.”

From left: Local and state government leaders, ATC staff members, A.T. park office superintendent, PATC members, and many others who are committed and tied to the surrounding area proudly display A.T. Community highway signs; The ATC’s executive director/CEO, Ron Tipton, speaks to an enthusiastic crowd and presents official signs to Washington Township Supervisor, Jeffrey Gessaman, and Waynesboro Mayor, Richard Starlipier.

At this juncture of the Trail, many section hikers from the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. metro area use the Trail access points for day hikes. It can be a busy weekend destination. Many find themselves experiencing the challenges of “rock-sylvania” on the terrain’s ups and downs, and appreciate the variety of side-trips nearby, especially those steeped in history. Less than a mile from where the Trail crosses PA Route 16 is the new Battle of Monterey Pass interpretive center — where one can learn what happened July 4, 1863, as Confederate troops left Gettysburg, heading south, but engaged in battle with Union cavalry during a confusing and miserable miasma and midnight thunderstorms. Across the road from that stop is Happel’s Meadow Preserve, a unique mountaintop wetland. A nature path wends its way through skunk cabbage, red maple, and other

emergent flora bordering the cattails and wildflowers, and is home to plentiful red-wing blackbirds and raptors, throaty spring peepers and other reptiles and amphibians, and even bobcats.

## Celebrating the Designation

Blue sky. Balmy breeze. Big crowds. Bountiful energy. With smiles at every turn, the greater Waynesboro area Pennsylvania A.T. Community received its official recognition from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) on April 26, 2014. Folded into Waynesboro’s 24th annual Earth Celebration Day and Festival of the Arts sponsored by Renfrew Institute of Cultural and Environmental Studies, the entire day bubbled with good cheer and excitement.

Karen Lutz, director of the ATC’s Mid-Atlantic region, emceed the designation ceremony, which featured remarks from Trail leaders Wendy Janssen, superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Ron Tipton, executive director/CEO of the ATC, and John Hedrick, president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) on the sunny, spring afternoon. Joined by all three Franklin County commissioners, the mayor of Waynesboro, the chairman of Washington Township Supervisors, and representatives from State Senator Richard Alloway and U.S. Congressman Bill Shuster’s offices, the speakers all shared in the excitement of such a unique designation. The ceremony concluded with a proclamation and then the unveiling of official A.T. Community highway signs, to which the warm and enthusiastic crowd added icing on the cake by singing, “This Land is Your Land.”

Surrounding the presentation area was a large

15-foot map of the A.T. provided by local Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC) participants, which drew onlookers to have a close-up view of the meandering path. Individuals were asked to create small “Trail signs” to be used for names to mark their favorite sections on the map. A “Meet the Hikers” area offered a chance to interact with local thru-hikers Joshua McAlister and Ben Mitchell, who brought their packs and supplies, set up their tents, and answered questions to share information. Section hikers Peggy Weller and Sally Sussman assisted PATC shelter overseers Curt and Tawnya Finney providing event participants information on short hikes in the area.

Supporting displays included the ATC’s Ridge Runner program, the North Chapter of the PATC, the A.T. Museum, Caledonia State Park and Michaux State Forest materials, and of course, the ATC tent abounding with maps, hats, and membership information. A temporary official Post Office became a popular stop for those wishing to have a unique memento from the day — a commemorative postmark featuring the slogan: “A.T. Community of Greater Waynesboro Area.” The program for the ceremony was crafted into a postcard to make it convenient for folks to purchase a postage stamp and have the postmark done on site.

Other exhibits included those from: the American Chestnut Foundation, South Mountain Partnership, Franklin County Conservation District, and the Antietam Watershed Association, which showcased



an interactive game, a prototype from Cacapon Institute, Stream Cleaner pinball — these activities and more definitely boosted crowd participation. In turn, the larger numbers added to the awareness of the Appalachian Trail and its support.

Becoming an Appalachian Trail Community happened only with teamwork from both Washington Township and the Borough of Waynesboro — the local government and business leaders, “Trail angels,” the North Chapter of PATC, and TTEC alumni who created an advisory committee.

## Tying Community to Trail

Creating ties within the community appears to have strengthened due to the process of becoming an

A.T. Community. Those in the business area learned the details of how the Trail is administered and maintained, as explained by North Chapter PATC members Chris Firme, Tawnya and Curt Finney, and Kathy Seiler. Burgundy Lane B&B owners Dave and Margaret Schmelzer support many hikers with their shuttle service and welcoming rooms, and showed interest in learning more about the Trail access points and highlights to help future visitors.

Since the Trail actually crosses in Washington Township land bordering the Michaux State Forest, township planner Clint Rock enthusiastically supported the group by providing maps, graphics,



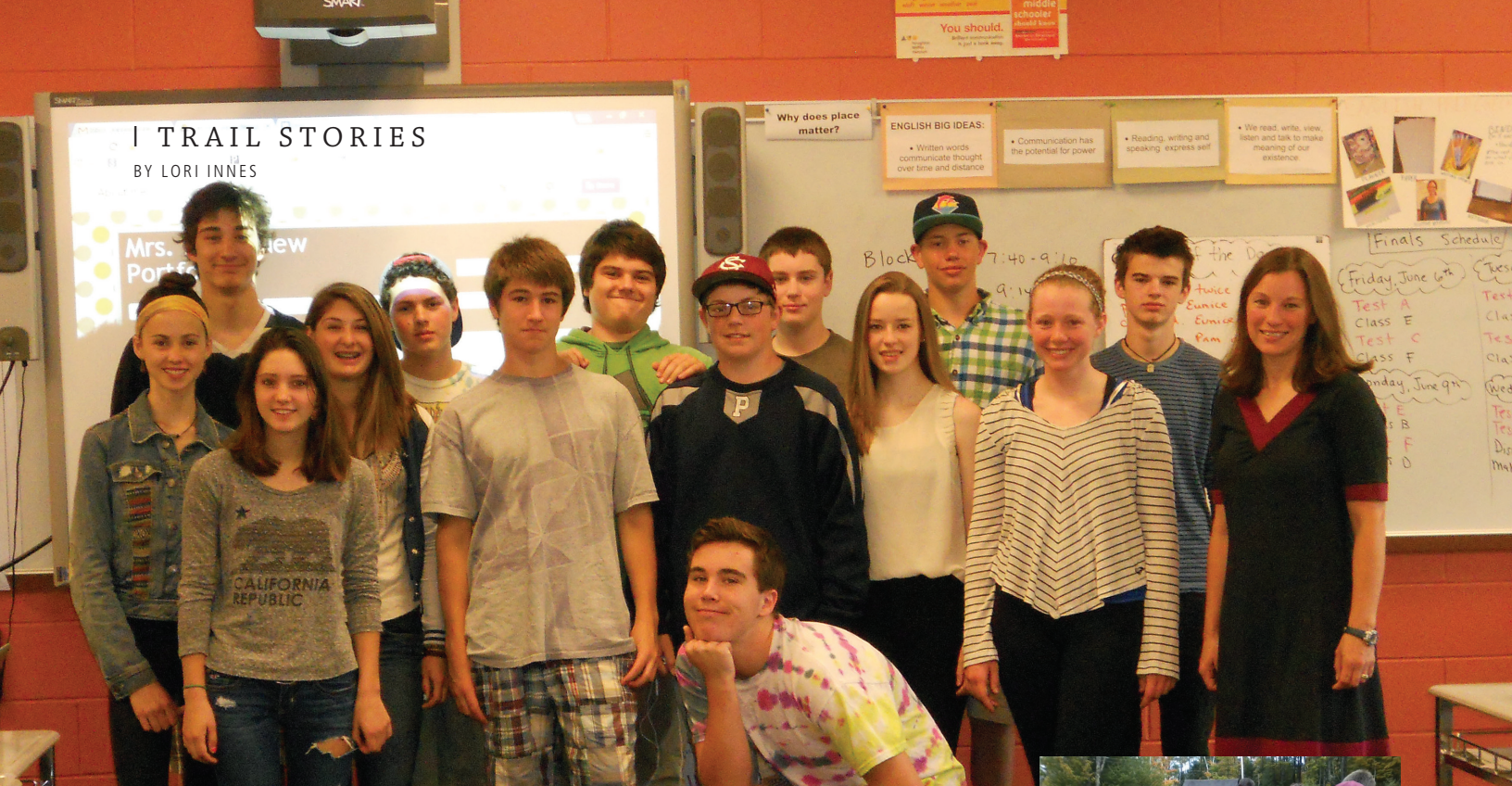
logistics, and photos. Scott Hershberger of Main-street Waynesboro aided with public relations and other contacts.

With the support of Julie Judkins, the ATC’s community program manager, the ATC’s Mid-Atlantic regional director Karen Lutz, and Mid-Atlantic office manager Kelly McGinley we were given guidance, encouragement, and patience when we most needed it all along the A.T. Community designation process. It was definitely a team effort. Truthfully, with dedication, commitment of time, focus, planning, and lots of communication, becoming an official Trail Community has been a rewarding achievement for all involved — but this is only the beginning. Planning for our annual event, a “Hikers’ Weekend” to kick off June 2015, has already begun.

Being an Appalachian Trail Community connects hikers and the towns they pass through and, equally important, it educates those who live in the Franklin County area and who may not have yet trod past a white blaze, from the youngest in a backpack to the oldest walking gently with hiking sticks. It encourages people to become future caretakers and supporters of the A.T., citizens to become healthier with more outdoor activity, and makes it possible for everyone to experience the amazing “footpath for those who seek fellowship with the wilderness” — for a day-hike, section-hike, or thru-hike. 🌲

Kathy Seiler is a volunteer with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. For more information visit: [appalachiantrail.org/atcommunity](http://appalachiantrail.org/atcommunity)

Left: Local thru-hikers answer questions and share information during the festival; Above: A 15-foot map of the A.T., provided by local Trail To Every Classroom participants, drew onlookers who could create their own Trail signs and use them to mark their favorite Trail sections.



# essential EDUCATION



**WHY DOES PLACE MATTER? THIS WAS ONE** of my focus questions for my students last year. This question guided my activities and assessments, and through these, my students understand the importance of place; that places can teach us about ourselves and our history, that places are a part of us, and that we must respect the places we travel.

I was never so excited for a school year to begin. After 11 years of teaching the short story as the first unit in my ninth grade course, I began a different way, with a unit centered around place, which would prepare my students for a hike on the Appalachian Trail and a Trail maintenance day. The Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) summer institute inspired new ideas and ways to get my students outside, and my students had already benefited from this new approach.

From day one of my place-based unit, my students were interested. They wanted to learn about their local area. We started with creating a class poem called “Where we are From,” using writer George Ella Lyon’s work as a model. Students were writing and formatting poetry without me ever using the terms “poetry,” and “stanza.” After writing their own “Where I am From” poem, students shared their favorite line and we used these lines to create a class poem. While rearranging and add-

ing punctuation to their class’ poem, they realized they wrote a poem using repetition, free verse, and learned a little about grammar. I’ve never had a poetry lesson go so well.

Our school has been working with Understanding by Design (UbD) and the Common Core for the last few years, and, as I continue to create and re-work curriculum, I realize that thinking about what I want students to understand lessens the amount of “stuff” I need to teach. We took field trips to local historical sites, such as the Frost Place (where Robert Frost lived). We designed journal covers before our trip —these journals would be a place for students to write down thoughts about the trip and about nature. “I can’t wait to write!” was one of the comments I heard from students after the journal making project, and they all remembered their “adventure journals” (as one student called it) on field trip days. If I had known this journal activity would have inspired writing, I would have been doing it years ago.

After this experience, some of the students’ reflections included: “From our visit I think I have developed a different perspective about poetry. Robert Frost turned his passion into his job. I think that it is important for everyone to strive for this.

Doing what you love is the only option if you strive for happiness.” And: “This experience taught me more about the history of Franconia and more about the place I call home.

I was blown away by their thoughtful reflections. Some had not been on a field trip since elementary school. They not only valued the experience but were excited about what we were doing. I felt like I found a curriculum to motivate the unmotivated. We continued on our field trips to historical markers, such as the first ski school in America and the Iron Furnace. As we read about the history, we did a writing marathon. This involved students “free writing” for a period of time, then sharing their thoughts. Some students wrote about the place now, some wrote about the past or from another perspective. The goal was to inspire writing and personal connections. Some days in class it is a struggle to get students to put any thoughts on paper, but every student wrote during this activity. Here is one student’s response from the trip: “This trip impacted the way that I look at where I live. I used to think that there was nothing to do around here, but this trip showed me just how much there is to do if you want to be in the wilderness and do different kinds of activities. It definitely showed me how cool this place can be.”

All work with my TTEC program is in collaboration with our health teacher, Kristy Duris. We shared a presentation about service learning and reflection at a staff meeting. Our goal was to distinguish between community service and service learning, encourage other staff to create service learning projects in their curriculum, and teach a couple of reflection techniques. This went really well, and I convinced the ninth grade science teacher to incorporate a mini place unit.

TTEC not only encouraged networking and sharing of resources within our school, but also between schools. I worked with two teachers from Massachusetts who invited my husband and I to present our Appalachian Trail lecture about my husband’s 2007 thru-hike (I joined him for 800 miles) at their K-12 school. We presented to a lively and engaged group of fourth and fifth graders, who then interviewed us about hiking with our dog, clothing, and gear. This was an interesting experience for me since, when it was question time, many of the youngsters wanted to tell us stories about their own hikes.

The two teachers from Massachusetts and my colleague, Kristy, and I decided that we would do something collaborative with our two schools. Our students researched and presented about our areas, including the A.T., via Skype. My goal was to have students feel more connected to the community

they live in and appreciate its history. Through our “Growing up North Country” essays, students wrote descriptively about the seasons or told a story about their favorite place or a memory.

For instance: “The vibrant purples of the lupin, and the convincing call of the mountains often bring in vacationers; hiking and swimming in the fresh North Country wilderness ... The days become longer, the nights become shorter and summer night paradise begins under the stars.” And: “People have called our town a ‘small’ skiing town but to the people who live here it’s much more than something small. The feeling just before the snow falls can’t be described ... it builds in the stomach and spreads into every inch of the body.”

These pieces show my observant ninth graders reflecting upon their surroundings. In addition to this essay, students conducted a research presentation about a place of choice. I used this assessment as a vehicle for teaching the research process and to prepare students for our sharing our communi-



Lori’s students picked up trash and debris during a Trail maintenance day near Coffin Pond.

ty’s presentation with the Massachusetts school. Students learned more than just about historical sites. They learned that preservation and perspective is so important to understanding and respecting a place. And if we are unable to physically preserve our favorite places, we can preserve the memories and our perception of those places. Those places become a part of us and make us who we are. Our footprints are left behind at the places we encounter throughout life.

I offered enrichment opportunities such as my “A.T. Reads” project (for every extra book a student reads they earn 100 miles on the A.T. If they read 22 books they make it to Maine). Students must fill out a critique slip about the book they read that I post on a book recommendation board in my classroom. Their progress is posted on a chart and on a map of the Appalachian Trail hanging in the back of my classroom. A colleague and I also taught a mini lesson about Leave No Trace (LNT) principles

and made safety kits with our ninth graders in preparation for a hike on the Trail.

Recently, my ninth grade students participated in a service learning activity — a Trail work day project in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire near Coffin Pond. After this experience, I truly believe service learning projects enhance learning and have a positive impact on the students involved. Afterward, one of the students wrote: “I really enjoyed our Trail work activity. It made me realize how important it is to maintain our local trails, so everyone can enjoy them. Another said: “After walking the Trail and picking up after others, I felt a



Lori joined her husband for 800 miles of his 2007 thru-hike.

positive vibe. I felt useful being able to help out the community and make the Trail a beautiful place ... I thought more about Leave No Trace and how I can leave less of an impact wherever I go.”

Through a grant from the Center of Rural Partnership and in collaboration with Plymouth State University, one of my colleagues and I are facilitating a hiking and writing summer institute for a week for middle and high school students in the North Country of New Hampshire. One of our hikes will be along the Appalachian Trail. My colleague, Kristy and I have also been writing letters and emails about our unit, to communicate what we are

Lori Innes teaches English for grades 9 through 12 at Profile High School in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. She is also the curriculum coordinator of her department and a Nordic coach. Lori lives with her husband, Mike, and their golden retriever, Pemi in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire. She is an avid hiker, cyclist, and cross country skier, whose passion is to inspire others to enjoy the “great outdoors.”

doing, to parents, our principal, and colleagues.

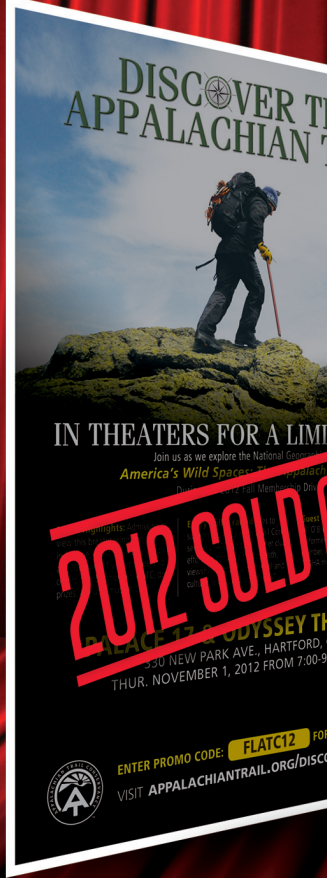
My prior definition of place based curriculum has expanded. I always thought of a place unit as nature writing in an area I could take my students. I never thought of it as research based or with a service learning component. During our journey, my students and I delved into the area we live in. We realized that no matter what “place” it is, place matters and helps us to feel more connected to others, our environment, and to the world. Or as one of my students wrote: “Place matters to me, because it makes meaning of everything.”

My hope is that exposing students to a place of meaning through literature, writing, and field trips will boost their enthusiasm and make them feel even more connected to their community. They will realize that a place can teach many important lessons about life and self-worth and that they can have a positive impact on the environment in their own “backyard” playground in our beautiful area.

On a personal level, I have changed. My husband and I moved to the White Mountain area in New Hampshire for the outdoor lifestyle. We spent a lot of our free time hiking in the White Mountains. But now, we are talking about becoming Trail maintainers, and helping on National Trail Days. I want to help preserve this area and feel even more connected to this beautiful area we call home. My colleague and I are also exploring Trail adoption, so our students could help maintain a section of Trail. Our goal is to have a student initiated service project next year for Trail maintenance.

I have been reading as many A.T. books as I can get my hands on. This summer, my husband and I are planning to hike for a month on the A.T. so I can become a section hiker. I plan to create video clips on a different topics (water sources, LNT, A.T. Communities, etc.) to share with my students the following school year, and to keep a blog so my students can follow my journey. My principal stated in her opening letter of the school year: “This is a challenging time in public education. We are being asked to do more than ever before. How can we manage it all, stay passionate about what we do in the classroom, and still remember to breathe?” For me, I feel creating meaningful curriculum is essential. By teaching place based service learning like the TTEC program I feel inspired again, like I did in my first years of teaching. ⬆

More information about TTEC and Lori’s full curriculum is available at: [appalachiantrail.org/TTEC](http://appalachiantrail.org/TTEC)



# 2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NEW FEATURED FILM | GUEST SPEAKERS | PRIZES

LEARN MORE: [www.appalachiantrail.org/2014drive](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/2014drive)

**WELCOME SUMMER! I SURE HOPE IT HANGS ON LIKE WINTER DID.**

In May we held our fifth Leaders in Conservation Gala in Washington, D.C. where we honored Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel with our Vanguard Award. Senator Richard Burr and Congressman David Price, both of North Carolina, received our Congressional Leadership Awards and Sean Gobin, creator of the Warrior Hike “Walk Off The War” program received our Innovation Award. I extend a special thanks to our table sponsors, the gala committee co-chairs, and everyone who made the event a success.

In May we received notice of the passing of Ursula (Sula) Kreutzer-Webster. Mrs. Webster was the widow of John Bancroft Webster whose section hike of New England in 1948 is mapped out on an old Texaco road map that is framed and hangs in my

office. When Mr. Webster died in 1997, he bequeathed nearly two million dollars to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). His gift is our largest cash bequest to date. Mrs. Webster, in her will, left an additional million dollars to establish the John Bancroft Webster and Ursula Kreutzer-Webster Memorial Fund. Both of the Websters were life members of the ATC and generous supporters for decades.

Just this week we were notified of the passing of another longtime donor and life member to the ATC, George P. Putnam, Jr. Mr. Putnam was a generous benefactor to many conservation charities. Former ATC executive director, Dave Startzell, worked with him on several land acquisition projects over the years and in the intervening months traded postcards from their various travels. Mr. Putnam’s most recent gift to the ATC is enabling us to undertake much needed structural repairs to our headquarters building in Harpers Ferry. Mr. Putnam, too, left a legacy gift to the ATC through a charitable remainder trust. We extend our belated but heartfelt condolences and appreciation to his widow, Marie, his daughters, and extended family.

If you would like to know more about how to include the ATC in your estate plans, please call me. Your gifts this year enable us to do the routine work required to manage the Appalachian Trail. A legacy gift to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will provide the funds needed to do the same for your children, grandchildren, and beyond.

Over the summer and into the fall, the ATC’s executive director/CEO Ron Tipton and others from the ATC Board of Directors and staff will be attending a number of events from Maine to Georgia. We hope to be able to meet you if we are in your area. ⚡

Enjoy your summer,  
**Royce W. Gibson** | *Director of Membership & Development*



Ursula Kreutzer-Webster and  
John Bancroft Webster – photo  
courtesy Stephanie D’Ulisse

# CREATE YOUR LEGACY WITH THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Planned Giving is an easy and flexible way to  
meet your philanthropic goals while  
protecting the Trail you love. Whatever your  
stage in life, your financial circumstances and  
your charitable goals, let us show you how to  
make a gift that benefits you and your loved  
ones as well as the Appalachian Trail.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 304.535.2200 x122  
Email: [membership@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:membership@appalachiantrail.org)  
Visit: [www.appalachiantrail.org/legacy](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/legacy)





MARCH – APRIL 2014

RED EFT ON A.T. IN NEW YORK – BY MIKE ADAMOVIC

## Individual Gifts Leadership Circle

**\$10,000+**

Nat Stoddard\*  
Estate Of Margaret Faye Taylor  
Betsy & Bob Thompson\*  
Greg Winchester \*

## Myron Avery Society \$5,000 to \$9,999

Chris Brunton & Sandi Marra\*  
Rich Daileader\*  
Mary Higley & Kyran Kennedy\*  
Terry Lierman\*  
Clark Wright\*

## Trail Explorer's Society \$2,500 to \$4,999

Beth Bryan Critton\*  
Arthur & Denise Foley\*  
Mary K. Gall  
Ed & Janelle Guyot\*  
Lennox Garden Club  
George Perkinson  
Carrie & Rolf Tweeten\*

## Arthur Perkins Society \$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous (1)  
Marcia Fairweather\*  
Steven Franklin  
Rob & Kathryn Freer  
Edward & Carole Friedman  
Craig, Deb & Zach Gallaway  
John P. Hoybach  
Robert L. Hueston  
James J. King  
Kevin Leath  
Mary F. McCoy  
Randy Motz & Georgia Harris  
George B. Owen, Jr.  
Kathryn & Peter Powers  
Sam Sarofeen\*  
Laura & Jeff Schwennesen  
Elizabeth K. Weisburger  
Lois Q. Whitman

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

Bob & Lynn Almand  
Kevin Brown  
W. Bates Chappell  
George & Elizabeth Danis  
Jeff DeTroye

James & Marilyn Dickman  
Charles Gore  
Elizabeth Graham  
Carl Hagelin  
Lance Herning  
David C. Heston  
Van J. Hill  
Anne Humes  
Robert F. Kahoe, Jr.  
Karen & Michael Lemmon  
Judith A. Lindquist  
Les & Catherine Love  
Madeiros Realty Trust  
Russell & Sandi McKnight  
Teresa & J. Randall Minchew  
Timothy & Debra O'Rourke  
Don & Lois Ray  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Sampson  
Shirley M. Sontheimer  
Dan J. Stohs  
Margaret Taylor  
Anon E. Westmoreland  
Frank Wood  
John D. Judge  
\*Denotes ATC Board Members

## In Honor Of:

**Beth Able** by Stan Miller  
**Carol Barnes** by Thomas Hollett  
**Kristi & Tom Cabot-Dmukas** by Julie Weisman  
**J. T. & Michele Cooper** by Elizabeth Cooper  
**Dawn Geer** by Virginia E. McMillan  
**Royce Gibson** by Troop 276 of Stanhope, New Jersey  
**Glen, Harmon & Sandy Gladding** by Kelton Slane  
**Tom Lloyd** by Department Of Literature & Philosophy Georgia Southern University  
**Preston Mitchell** by Bette Mitchell  
**Tracy Payne Doggett** by Katherine Rockco  
**Betsy Thompson** by Sarah Best

## In Memory of:

**Zachary Adamson** by Mark & Mimi McNutt  
**John Boone** by Sisters of Charity  
**Peter Busher** by Mr. S. A. Stroff  
**James Byrd** by Carl & Lyna Anderson, The Byrd Family, Ann Newman

**Terry "Caterpillar" Carter** by Robert & Susan Swain  
**Jean Cashin** by Lynne Miller, The Half Fast Hiking Club  
**Esca Crews** by Mary Wilson  
**Jeffrey Dale** by Dorothy Hughes  
**E. Bruce Darsey** by Mrs. Reed Lawson  
**Chris Deffler** by Margaret Deffler  
**Edwin Deffler** by Mr. & Mrs. John Wolff  
**Adam Dulaski** by Elaine Hart  
**William Erb** by Hedy & John Bauer, Doris Dunbar  
**Bill Irwin** by Richard & Laurie Potteiger  
**Bill Kirksey** by Kendall & Irene Spyke

**Rodney Montgomery** by Craig Butler, Suzanne Butler, Mark Klyza, E. Jane Sloan  
**Shay Moorman** by Veal Moorman  
**Elsie Mozelle Eaves** by Lynn Ezell, Larry Johnson  
**Gary Newton** by Wendi & Mike Londner  
**Pamela Marie Ortego** by Jester & Gretta Ortego

**Bob Saxe** by Joel Saxe  
**Russell Sturgis** by Michael & Donna Herlihy  
**Janice Taylor** by Lon & Marjorie Fugate, Mac McNutt, Edwin Peck  
**Paul Thaxton** by Lianie & Kile Unterquber  
**Trygve Tolnas** by Clark Roberts  
**Jan Vent Sleeper** by Troy & Carolyn Kear  
**Carrie Vincent** by Barbara Harry, Alfred Vincent  
**Darlene Watson** by Debra McRoberts  
**Frank Williams** by Mark Conway  
**Daniel Yaniglos** by Richard & Diane Foote & Family, Clyde Morris, Janet Yaniglos

## Corporate & Foundation Gifts

**Diamond:**  
**\$25,000 to \$49,000**

National Forest Foundation

## Visionary: \$10,000 to \$24,999

Crenshaw  
Expedia, Inc  
Google Mountain View  
Shell

## Trail Blazer: \$5,000-\$9,999

Bavarian Inn  
Brown Advisory Charitable Foundation  
Comcast NBC Universal  
Honeywell  
Summit Global Ventures

## Leader: \$2,500-\$4,999

Arnold & Porter  
Eagles Nest Outfitters, Inc.

## Ambassador: \$1,000-\$2,499

Alliance Hospitality Management, LLC  
Susan Gage Caterer  
Teneo Media  
Walter G. Wells Revocable Trust  
Westlake Troop 8 BSA Memorial Foundation, Inc.

## Partner: \$500-\$999

Appalachian Mountain Club  
Air Experts, LLC  
Cumberland Valley AT Club  
NewPage  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

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)

PHOTO BY: MATTHEW BARNEY



## CONGRESSIONAL PARTNERS

C R E N S H A W A S S O C I A T E S



## CAPITOL PARTNERS



Megan and Don Beyer

## TRAIL PARTNERS



ARNOLD & PORTER, LLP



COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

Greg and Jan Winchester

Honeywell





## Connect with the A.T. and support the Appalachian Trail Conservancy by advertising in *A.T. Journeys*



Southern VA Fall 2 by Bob Visintainer

*A.T. Journeys* is the official magazine of the A.T. and the membership magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy — a national not-for-profit corporation with more than 43,000 members from all 50 U.S. states and more than 15 other countries. Our readers are adventurous, eco-friendly outdoor enthusiasts who understand the value in the protection and maintenance of the Trail and its surrounding communities.

For more information about advertising opportunities visit: [appalachiantrail.org/ATJadvertising](http://appalachiantrail.org/ATJadvertising)

## | PUBLIC NOTICES

### For Sale

Rustic **A-frame cottage 500 yards below Buzzard Rocks**, south of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Has water and electricity but needs some work including a new roof. Three-acre wooded site. Grand view of the Shenandoah River; \$75,000. Contact: 703-938-2944 or [cwsloan@aol.com](mailto:cwsloan@aol.com).

### Lost and Found

I left my poles 5/22/14 at the **Partnership Shelter** near the Mount Rogers Visitors Center. They are Leki brand, red and black with brown cork handles. The only identifying marks are slight remnants of duct tape on one of the poles and a small black "L" (written w/marker) on the top of one of the poles. These poles have great sentimental value as I thru hiked with them in 2002 and several hundreds of miles since. If found I will provide a reward of \$50 to the person or will donate the same amount in their name to their favorite hostel or A.T. organization. Contact: [glelinsmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:glelinsmeyer@yahoo.com).

### For Your Information

Join the **RPH Cabin Volunteers Club for the annual work weekend** on July 11-13, 2014 at the RPH Cabin in New York. Plenty of food and campsites. We will be working on local Trail restoration projects. For more information visit: [rphcabin.org](http://rphcabin.org) or email Tim Messerich at: [bascomgrillmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:bascomgrillmaster@yahoo.com).

Come to the Gathering. ALDHA is sending out a call to all long distance hikers, announcing the **2014 Gathering**. This year we will be at Williams College in Massachusetts. Both the college and our camping are at the base of Greylock. The campsite is in a beautiful farm field just west of the mountain, with a view of the long ridge that so many of us scrambled along. If you haven't been able to

get out to a Gathering in a while, start planning now. We will have the usual great workshops and seminars. The opening ceremony will be on October 10. The Gathering will take place over Columbus Day weekend. Come on out and reunite with those who shared your journey.

**Volunteers needed for weekends in Harpers Ferry Visitor Center.** Volunteers are needed to greet visitors, provide local hike recommendations, and help generate support for the A.T. and the ATC. If you have customer service or related experience, like to hike, and are available on a Saturday or Sunday two days a month, please contact Laurie Potteiger at: [lpotteiger@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:lpotteiger@appalachiantrail.org) for more information.

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia will hold a weekend **"Step Into Autumn"** festival September 27-28 that will provide unique opportunities to tour historic and scenic sites in and around Harpers Ferry by bicycle and on foot. On Sunday, participants will be able to tour lesser-known sites and learn fascinating stories at places often missed by tourists, including a church that served as a hospital during the Civil War, an African American cemetery, and the building with a colorful past that now houses the Appalachian Trail Conservancy headquarters and Visitor Center. For more information visit: [appalachiantrail.org/events](http://appalachiantrail.org/events). 📍

Public Notices may be edited for clarity and length. Please send them to: [editor@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:editor@appalachiantrail.org)  
Public Notices  
P.O. Box 807  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807

**A LONG HIKE ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IS LARGELY A VOLUNTARY ENDEAVOR**, typically undertaken for individual and personal reasons. Enticed by the Trail's natural lure, many are drawn by a deep love of nature, with aspirations of personal fulfillment and self-discovery stoking their passion. An A.T. hike is a deliberate leap out of one's known life and comfort zone and into a greater unknown, and for many it comes in the form of a primal urge, an urge driven purely by desire and fueled wholly by ambition.

But for some the Trail is not so much of a choice, but a necessity. There are those that find themselves at confusing junctures in their lives, saddled with unshakeable sorrows and unbearable burdens, emotionally rudderless and spiritually adrift. I was honored to share a piece of Trail with someone under these circumstances, who came to the Trail with a burden weighing her down and crippling her to the point where her life had abruptly stalled. Her name was "Jingles," and she was a kind, 50-something woman I met on the A.T. in '97. She was doing a "flip-flop" section hike, starting at the Maine/New Hampshire line and hiking south to Harpers Ferry, having already completed roughly 300 miles by the time I had met her in Massachusetts. If time and weather permitted, she intended on flipping back north to the point where she started and continuing north through Maine to Katahdin. She was out there trying to cope with the loss of her 20-something daughter in a car crash the previous year. Having limited success in grief counseling, and upon a suggestion from a friend and encouragement from her husband (who was her resupply and occasionally met her along the Trail), she decided to go for a walk on the A.T.

She got her Trail name from bells she attached to her boots as a bear early warning system, and you could always hear her before you saw her, her steps emitting a rhythmic, ringing cadence as she moved, revealing her whereabouts and fulfilling their purpose. I ran into her off and on over the course of three days. Each day we would stop and chat for a bit, then would continue down the Trail together, talking and admiring flowers and birdsong until we reached a climb, where she would invariably tell me that I should continue on, not wanting to slow me down. I would move ahead, but when I reached the summit I would linger, not only to check her progress, but to spend a little more time with her, and draw from her inspiration. It seemed like I would wait for ages, but she would always plug along, and eventually a distant, audible ring would be heard, its volume growing with my smile.

It was easy to notice that she genuinely enjoyed the company of others, but at the same moment there was the realization that she was out there searching for some peace in the solitude. I made an effort to respect that, but when I caught up with her she would turn and smile, talking about something she just saw, or a mountain or stream we had just crossed.

On the last day I saw her, just the two of us shared a food break on a pretty overlook in the Berkshires, and she related a story of a family vacation from many years back that took place at a location in the far distance of our viewshed. She told the story freely and in a serene tone, as if I were suddenly not there and she was narrating aloud while sitting and placidly leafing through a family scrapbook. I couldn't help but think that a few weeks earlier this probably wouldn't have been as easy for her, and in that moment you could sense the Trail performing its healing.

Being near someone who was clearly reaping such cathartic benefits provided by an A.T. journey was truly one of the best of the countless Trail memories I gathered along the way. We never know who we'll meet or exactly what lies ahead of us on our Trail. We enter this new life through a trailhead, a portal to the timeline on which we are reborn, and attempt to guide ourselves through tangled webs of wood, navigate unfamiliar ground, hop over and through rushing waters, and clamber over endless obstacles in the shapes of mountains. And our introspections on these summits eventually allow us to grow in our steps, live freely, and move forward.

I kind of figured, because of her pace, that the last time I passed Jingles I wouldn't see her again. I've often wondered about her, and in my mind I was hopeful that the Trail was able to give her every bit of the solace she sought. I believe, based on the three short days we drifted along the same path together, that in time she was able to accept the offer the Trail gave her. It's an offering the A.T. so readily gives to all who seek it. And every now and then you meet someone in your timeline who stays with you, even 16 years later, making you grateful to have shared that same piece of Trail and time, long after your paths have parted. 📍

*Eric "Sharpshin" Davidson*

LIVES IN POCONO SUMMIT, PENNSYLVANIA

"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 (700 words or under) 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.

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

A.T. MOUNTAIN LAKE WILDERNESS, VIRGINIA — BY ALISA MOODY