

A JOURNEYS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY / SPRING 2023

— GROWTH EDITION —



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Red spruce forests are critical to biodiversity in the southern Appalachians and provide an unforgettable A.T. experience. / *By Kim O'Connell*

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RECOGNIZING 2,000 MILERS

Congratulations to all 1,732 who reported completing the entire Appalachian Trail since 2019!

Sun rays break through the morning fog along the Appalachian Trail in north Georgia. This photo by Katie Stilwell was submitted as part of a state-by-state photo contest currently under way with the ATC's email community and social media followers. Find out more at appalachiantrail.org.

ON THE COVER

Conner McBane, natural resource specialist at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, plants a red spruce seedling on Whitetop Mountain in Virginia. Photo by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures





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A.T. JOURNEYS

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

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CREATE YOUR LEGACY


MOOSEHEAD LAKE, NEAR THE A.T. CORRIDOR IN MAINE
PHOTO BY A.T. BOUNDARY VOLUNTEER BOB HUFF

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.

If you've already made a planned gift, please let us know so that
we can partner in honoring your legacy.



Contact: Heather Hackett, Director of Gift Planning, hhackett@appalachiantrail.org

A photograph of a forest path. The path is made of dirt and rocks, winding through a dense forest. The forest is filled with tall trees and lush green ferns. The path is slightly elevated in some places, with large rocks acting as steps. The overall scene is a serene and natural setting.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IS
A PATH THAT WE WALK ON — BUT
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THE JOURNEY.

GROWTH

IT'S SPRINGTIME AND THERE IS change in the air. The landscape starts to emerge with green peeking out from brown and, maybe, snow cover. Bird songs fill the air and temperatures shift, sometimes with wide swings in a single day. The days are longer, and the sun is warmer. Accompanying all of this, for me at least, is a renewed energy and a feeling of anticipation. Surely all these changes can bring only good things.

Working on behalf of the Appalachian Trail, it is hard to not think about the importance and impact of change. As the Trail emerges from winter, the sounds of chainsaws fill the air as volunteers clear out the detritus of winter storms and winds — making sure the tread is clear for hikers. At the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), we are hiring our seasonal staff and starting large-scale projects to support the Trail and the surrounding landscape. It is spring cleaning at its most intense.

There is also the kind of change that is broader and farther reaching. Looking towards our centennial anniversary in 2025, the ATC is recognizing that preparing for future changes requires us to also change our current way of doing business. We must be faster, more inclusive, and more audacious in our goals. Our large-scale landscape protection work, coupled with a growing science and stewardship focus, is one example of how the ATC is making sure the Trail, and the Trail experience, is healthy and protected not just for the coming season but also for the next 100 years. Developing programs that bring in new volunteers and offer opportunities for the digital generation to connect with nature will ensure that we have a broad base of support for the Trail as well as a dedicated future volunteer corps to continue the work.

While all this outward-facing work to prepare for or in reaction to change fills my thoughts, there is also a personal component to this contemplation. Those of you who know my story well know that my finding myself here, in this role today, was not

something that I necessarily foresaw a few years ago. But that's how change works — sometimes we direct the change and sometimes it directs us. Recently I have come to realize that regardless of what I thought, my life's path — both professionally and personally — prepared me for this current role in ways I never imagined. It also has allowed me the rare privilege of doing work that fully aligns with both my skills and my passions. The biggest surprise for me is that I am surprised at all by this outcome. Yes, the Appalachian Trail is a path that we walk on — but it is also a path that leads us in ways that we do not know or understand until we are well along the journey. It is a place that changes everyone who steps foot on it.

The ATC wants to make sure that 100 years from now, people will still look to the Appalachian Trail for this experience. The purpose of the work we are doing and planning for is to prepare us to respond to things that could change this experience — climate impacts, increased demands for urban development, and growing numbers of people looking to connect with nature through the Trail. In some ways it is a conundrum — to mitigate change, the ATC must change. Resolving conundrums takes ingenuity, creativity, broad perspectives, and steadfast support. The ATC is ready and already working towards this resolution.

Thank you for continuing with us along this path towards our next century.

Sandra Marra / President & CEO

If you'd like to stay informed about the ATC's 100th anniversary plans and learn how you can participate, sign up for our special newsletter at: appalachiantrail.org/100years.



The Appalachian Trail near Roan High Knob Shelter in North Carolina. Photo by Jason Breland

★
TRAILHEAD
HIGHLIGHTS / EVENTS





Fundraising Success

Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will support the ATC's efforts to protect ash trees from the deadly emerald ash borer using a proven pesticide treatment. Photo by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures

ATC AMONG FIRST IN NATION TO RECEIVE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE FUNDING

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY IS ONE OF 55 INAUGURAL recipients of America the Beautiful Challenge funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Announced in November 2022, the grants support projects that conserve, restore, and connect habitats for wildlife while improving community resilience and access to nature.

The ATC was awarded \$515,800 to manage invasive species and protect endangered ash trees in national forests in five states (Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). The ATC team will treat 835 ash trees and invasives across more than 300 acres, as well as monitor some 4,000 acres of additional forestland.

"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is honored to receive this generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support forest and ecosystem health along the southern half of the Appalachian Trail," said Sandra Marra, President and CEO of the ATC. "This region is one of the most biodiverse in the entire East Coast, and that is part of what makes the A.T. so globally significant and beautiful for our millions of annual visitors."

A single invasive species has destroyed hundreds of millions of ash trees across North America, including thousands along the A.T. A metallic green beetle about the size of a grain of rice, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly effective killer. Once infected, an ash tree has less than a 1 percent chance of surviving. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will support a proven pesticide treatment, which inoculates healthy ash trees against the EAB.

In addition to the ash tree treatments, the foundation's funding will support the ATC's comprehensive management plan for non-native invasive species in six national forests along the Trail. Non-native invasive species can cause ecological damage by reducing the diversity of complex forest communities that provide habitats for a diverse array of wildlife.

All of the funded projects will also advance the America the Beautiful priority of workforce development by engaging Service Corps crews and existing A.T. volunteers.

Dozens of ATC donors have also supported this critical work. To learn more about how you can contribute, visit appalachiantrail.org.

News and Updates



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), third from left, with ATC board and staff members (from left) John Knapp, Sandra Marra, Rita Hennessy, Brendan Mysliwiec, and James LaTorre at Hike the Hill in February 2023.

ATC BOARD ELECTION AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOMINATIONS ARE currently being accepted for candidates to succeed four retiring members of the ATC's Board of Directors. The deadline to submit a nomination is June 19. If there is anyone you wish to nominate, or if you are interested in serving, we would like to know.

The slate of nominees will be announced on the ATC's website in July. It will be voted on by the ATC's membership in late summer/early fall.

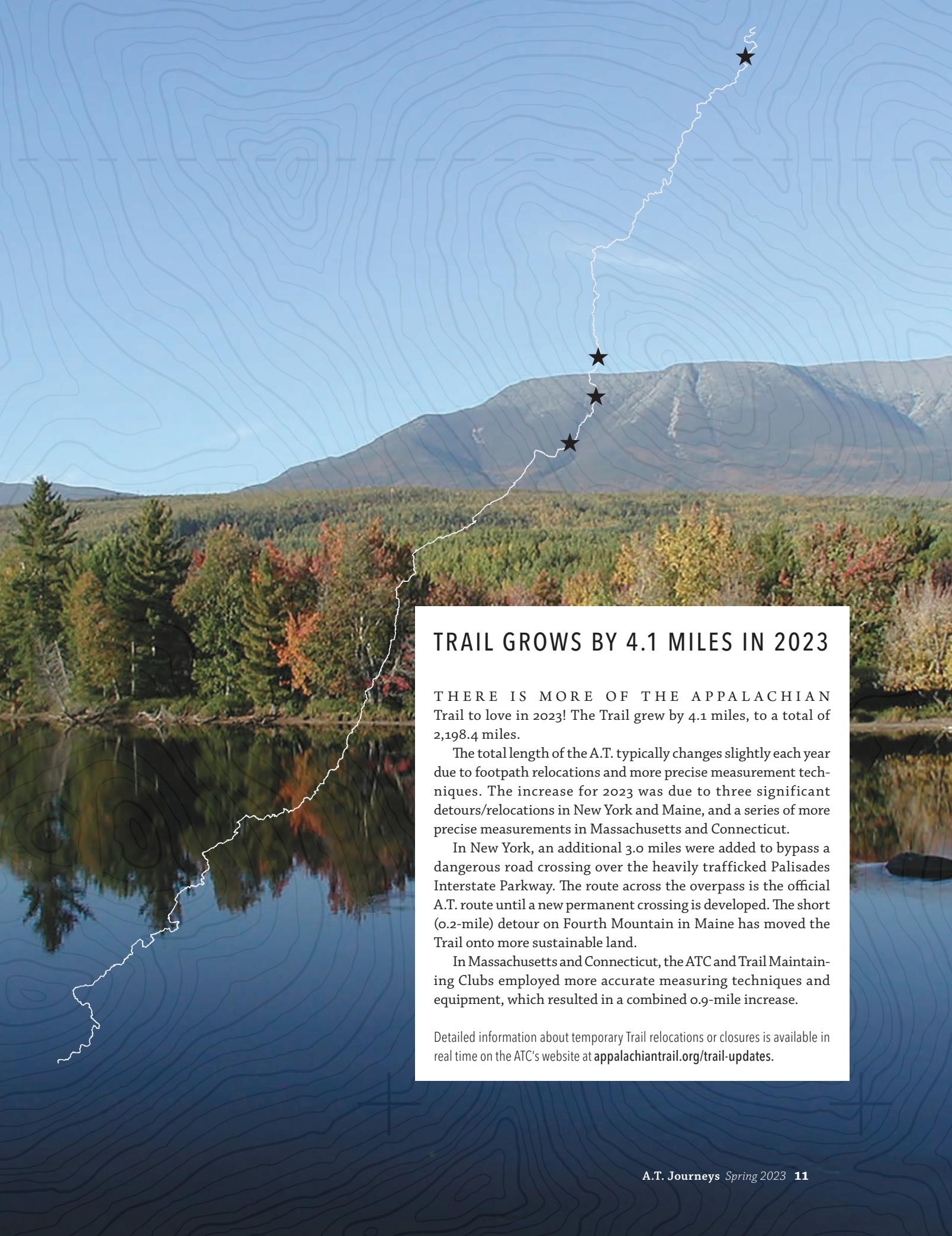
To learn about the desired skills and experience of board members, as well as how to submit a nomination, visit: appalachiantrail.org/board2023.

SUSTAINING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION, PUBLIC LANDS

BEFORE CONCLUDING ITS SECOND SESSION IN January 2023, the 117th Congress demonstrated renewed support for conserving public lands, including the Appalachian Trail landscape. Through reauthorization of the Highlands Conservation Act, the A.T. corridor in four northeastern states (Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) may directly benefit from additional funding. The Highlands area extends over 3 million acres and includes critical watersheds that support major metropolitan areas, as well as many formerly rural but quickly developing exurban areas.

In the 2023 federal budget, the National Park Service received an overall increase of 6.4 percent, which should help address staff attrition over the past two decades. The park service office responsible for the Appalachian Trail has benefited from an increase in funding over the past three fiscal years — in order to perform work that cannot be done by the ATC, the Trail Maintaining Clubs, and volunteers.

Just prior to press time, CEO Sandi Marra, ATC staff, and several members of the ATC Board of Directors participated in both the 26th Hike the Hill™ and the 2nd National Park Foundation Hill Day in Washington, DC. Over the course of five days, they met with 24 different U.S. House and Senate offices to underscore the importance of supporting our public lands networks (especially the A.T.!).



TRAIL GROWS BY 4.1 MILES IN 2023

THERE IS MORE OF THE APPALACHIAN Trail to love in 2023! The Trail grew by 4.1 miles, to a total of 2,198.4 miles.

The total length of the A.T. typically changes slightly each year due to footpath relocations and more precise measurement techniques. The increase for 2023 was due to three significant detours/relocations in New York and Maine, and a series of more precise measurements in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

In New York, an additional 3.0 miles were added to bypass a dangerous road crossing over the heavily trafficked Palisades Interstate Parkway. The route across the overpass is the official A.T. route until a new permanent crossing is developed. The short (0.2-mile) detour on Fourth Mountain in Maine has moved the Trail onto more sustainable land.

In Massachusetts and Connecticut, the ATC and Trail Maintaining Clubs employed more accurate measuring techniques and equipment, which resulted in a combined 0.9-mile increase.

Detailed information about temporary Trail relocations or closures is available in real time on the ATC's website at appalachiantrail.org/trail-updates.



Events



Near Unaka Mountain in the Cherokee National Forest. Photo by Michael Kane

A.T. VISTA RETURNS IN AUGUST 2023

A FOUR-DAY GATHERING OF HIKING AND OUTDOOR enthusiasts, A.T. Vista will take place in and around Johnson City, Tennessee — adjacent to the Cherokee National Forest and a short distance from the A.T.

The programming kicks off on Friday, August 4, and runs through Monday, August 7. Events include over 40 hikes, many of which will be on the Appalachian Trail. There are some 35 workshops expected, as well as more than ten excursions. Evening entertainment includes concerts and opportunities to meet other attendees. Accommodations are available on the East Tennessee State University campus, as well as in nearby hotels and campgrounds.

Volunteers are needed for many activities. The ticket price of \$100 for the entire weekend (or \$50 for youth 16 and under) increases to \$125 after May 31.

Early registration is available now at www.atvista2023.org



FOLLOW THE ATC ON TIKTOK

MORE THAN TRENDY DANCES, TIKTOK IS A SOCIAL MEDIA platform for sharing short-form videos on a variety of topics (with and without music). Many leading nonprofits — including United Way, American Red Cross, ASPCA, and Oceana — are increasingly using the platform to raise awareness about their causes among a new generation of young people. The majority of TikTok users are between ages 16 and 34. With over 1 billion monthly active users, it is the fastest growing social media platform in the world.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy launched its TikTok channel in February 2023. The videos shared, each less than 60 seconds long, showcase the beauty and diversity of the Appalachian Trail, as well as the work of the ATC to protect and manage it. The goal is to meet young people where they are already spending time (an average of 95 minutes per day) and inspire them to learn more about and/or give back to the Trail.

A key to success on the platform is embracing its fun and authentic tone, as well as adopting trending songs and hashtags. So if you follow the ATC on other platforms, you may notice the vibe on TikTok is somewhat different.

To check out the content for yourself, search for [@appalachiantrail](#).



APPALACHIAN FOCUS

ALIVE WITH SPRING

ENGINE GAP, ON THE APPALACHIAN Trail near the Carver's Gap access point, sits about halfway between the well-known dominant ridges of Round Bald and Jane Bald along the North Carolina – Tennessee border. "The area comes to life in the spring with an annual display of all the Roan Highlands have to offer," says photographer Daniel Burleson. "Flame azaleas are one of my favorite blooms to see."

Photo by Daniel Burleson

Daniel Burleson is a photographer based in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. imagecarolina.net





A SERENDIPITOUS MEETING

Connection through — and on — the Appalachian Trail

■ BY ANNE SENTZ

AS A YOUNG BOY GROWING UP IN Atlanta, Bill McGinnis remembers the first time he realized the Appalachian Trail extended beyond the familiar landscape of Georgia. Bill was part of Boy Scout Troop 298, and monthly camping trips were an integral part of his Scouting experience. “Every month, we would put on a backpack,” he recalls. “Some of our backpacking trips were on the Appalachian Trail, and that’s when I started realizing that the Trail goes from Georgia to Maine. It was really intriguing to me, and I always wanted to do the whole thing.”

Bill, who is now a sales engineer in Atlanta, remains connected to the A.T. to this day. He is a section hiker who finds great joy in sharing the Trail with others — including his three children. “I went to college and then went to live in different





Enjoyment of the Appalachian Trail was a common thread in the lives of Kate Hubbard and Bill McGinnis before they met each other just off the Trail in North Carolina. Photo courtesy of Bill McGinnis

BILL AND KATE SHARE A LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS AND A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE BENEFITS THE TRAIL PROVIDES. “THE TRAIL ALLOWS PEOPLE TO GET OUTSIDE, BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT,” BILL SAYS.

places, but when I made my way back to Atlanta in the '90s, I got back on the A.T. and took my kids,” he says. “Eventually, we got to the point where I was taking them on backpacking trips.”

Bill has many special memories from his time on the Trail with his children, who are now adults themselves. Over the years, they have enjoyed hiking trips across North Georgia, the Smokies, and Nantahala National Forest, exploring the beauty (and the challenge) of the A.T. The group has hiked together in all seasons, including winter. Bill recalled one particular hike in the Smokies when the Trail resembled a hockey rink because of the ice covering the footpath. “I wanted to take [my kids] on a winter hike so they could see the Trail in every condition,” he laughs. “It was freezing cold, but everyone had great attitudes about it. I don’t mind winter hiking; you just have to be prepared.”

It was during one of Bill’s solo section hikes nearly one-and-a-half years ago that he met Kate Hubbard, a registered nurse who in her spare time is also a shuttle driver, with a base in Hot Springs, North Carolina. Like Bill, Kate has a deep appreciation for the A.T. She grew up near the Trail in Pennsylvania, and she remembers exploring Wind Gap with her grandparents, hiking and picnicking.

In addition to being a common thread in Bill’s and Kate’s separate lives, the A.T. played a role in bringing them together. Bill was seeking a shuttle driver for a section hike in North Carolina, and word of mouth led him to Kate. Neither one was looking for love, and as a solo, female shuttler, Kate was



While growing up, Bill’s three children — Billy, Lucy, and Lav — were frequent hiking companions. Photo courtesy of Bill McGinnis

especially cautious. Yet the Trail has a special way of connecting people at the right time.

Several months after their first encounter, Bill came back to the area for another section hike. “I told her to pick me up at Davenport Gap [in Tennessee] whenever it was good for her,” Bill says, recalling how he deferred to Kate’s schedule so he could see her again. After Bill finished his hike, they enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant in Hot Springs. From that point onward — and for more than a year now — they have continued to make memories together in North Carolina and beyond.

Bill and Kate share a love for the outdoors and a



From top: Bill and loyal backpacking companion Monty; Bill's children Lucy and Lav; and Georgia A.T. Club Third Saturday Maintenance Crew members. Photos courtesy of Bill McGinnis.

deep appreciation for all the benefits the Trail provides. "The Trail allows people to get outside, but it is also important to the environment," Bill says. "The A.T. gives all flora and fauna a place to thrive."

"When I was young, I thought everybody had the Trail in their backyard. It took me until I was an adult to appreciate that it was something special, that it was a world-renowned Trail," Kate adds. "We absolutely can't lose any part of the A.T., because we will never get it back."

Bill and Kate continue to integrate their lives and look forward to adventures on and off the A.T. Their serendipitous meeting is something they will always cherish — and laugh about. "Bill's the only person I know who owns a tux and hiking poles," Kate says with a smile.



—
As part of his commitment to the Appalachian Trail, its landscape, and its natural resources, Bill McGinnis recently made a generous donation to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We are grateful to Bill for his commitment to greater protection of the Trail. It takes many people, working together, to ensure a conserved and connected A.T. landscape remains so that people and nature can thrive.
 —

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The majority of the trees are green, but there are several distinct patches of trees with yellow, orange, and reddish-brown foliage, indicating autumn. The text "SAVING ISLANDS THE SKY" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, serif font.

SAVING ISLANDS THE SKY

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The majority of the trees are green, but there are several distinct patches of orange and red foliage, likely indicating autumn. The word "IN" is printed in large, white, serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

IN

An iconic tree of the Southern Appalachians, the red spruce, is the focus of a longterm effort to preserve one of the most endangered habitats in North America — and a distinct A.T. experience.

■ BY KIM O'CONNELL




ON A GOLDEN OCTOBER DAY, A dozen or so people headed off trail through an Appalachian forest. They climbed higher and higher, their boots crunching the leaf litter beneath them. Trees soared above their heads, many of them hardwoods, with leaves flashing amber and red.

Each person in the group had a different degree of familiarity with this section of woods, and a different amount of conservation experience. But they were united by what they carried in their hands — red spruce seedlings, none more than two feet tall — and their mission: to help restore the red spruce forest in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

A relic species of the last Ice Age that thrives in colder temperatures, the red spruce was once a mainstay of the eastern North American forest from the southern Appalachians to coastal Canada. However, in the 19th and early 20th centuries widespread

PREVIOUS SPREAD: A RELIC OF THE LAST ICE AGE, RED SPRUCE FORESTS IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS CLING TO HIGH-ELEVATION RIDGELINES; FROM TOP: THE ATC'S WORK TO RESTORE THESE FORESTS HAS INVOLVED A DIVERSE GROUP OF PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO PLANT RED SPRUCE SEEDLINGS; RIGHT: A STAND OF RED SPRUCE ON WHITETOP MOUNTAIN IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA STRETCHES SKYWARD. *Photos by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures*



WALKING ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL, WHEN
YOU ENTER A RED SPRUCE FOREST, YOU KNOW
IT INSTANTLY, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PLACE THE
EXACT SPECIES. THE AIR COOLS. SHADOWS
COVER THE FOREST FLOOR, SHROUDING
THE UNDERSTORY, THE EARTH SPRINGY
BENEATH YOUR FEET.

PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF A SINGLE SPECIES,
SUCH AS THE RED SPRUCE, HELPS KEEP A
COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM INTACT — BENEFITING
HUMAN POPULATIONS AS WELL AS PLANTS
AND ANIMALS THAT RELY ON THE SPRUCE FOR
THEIR OWN SURVIVAL.

logging cut its historic range in half. This made the remaining forests vulnerable to wildfires that burned with such intensity that they destroyed the very organic matter that spruce trees need for their seeds to sprout. In a warmer climate, red spruce in the southern Appalachians now exist mostly on the highest mountaintops, forming dark green “sky islands.” Further temperature increases will continue to stress the trees, making them more vulnerable to pests and wind disturbance events.

“Of that approximately 50 percent range that’s left, much of the forest is not in good shape,” says Matt Drury, associate director of science and stewardship, at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). “Southern red spruce is globally imperiled, and many consider it one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America.”

Southern Appalachian forests are an ecological hotspot in the United States for species at risk of disappearing. Protecting biodiversity is essential to preserving human health and well-being, because healthy ecosystems ensure food and water supplies. Preserving the health of a single species, such as the red spruce, helps keep a complex ecosystem intact — benefiting human populations as well as plants and animals that rely on the spruce for their own survival.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Walking on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), when you enter a red spruce forest, you know it instantly, even if you can’t place the exact species. The air suddenly cools. Shadows cover the forest floor, shrouding the understory, the earth springy beneath your feet. Sunlight shafts between the brown corn-flaky

trunks, bouncing off the yellow-green spruce needles, wherever it finds an opening. The air is filled with notes of pine and citrus.

Mature trees can grow between 60 to 130 feet tall, and some are as old as 350 years or more. But their hold on the landscape is tenuous. The trees are shade tolerant but only to a degree. When the tallest trees crowd the canopy, reducing light to the forest floor, smaller, younger spruce can suffer. For decades before the Clean Air Act, the species was susceptible to the effects of acid rain, and weak trees are also vulnerable to pests. Factor in other impacts of climate change and development — invasive species, more severe storms, habitat loss — and the red spruce is especially at risk.

“Sometimes spruce is its own worst enemy,” says Mark Ford, unit leader of the U.S. Geological Survey’s Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, which is housed within the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech, and a frequent partner with ATC for forest restoration. “When it was exploited a hundred years ago, if the landscape didn’t burn, it would seed itself back in, but it would overdo it. It would seed itself in too densely. Trees are like everything else; they’ve got to have space and water and light. And so, throughout the southern and central Appalachians, there are stagnant, arrested stands of spruce trees that are anywhere from 40 to 80 years old that have just quit growing because there’s too much competition for resources.”

BUILDING RESILIENCE

The ATC’s spruce restoration work in the Southern Appalachians is part of a much larger conservation



ABOVE: RED SPRUCE THAT RESEEDED ITSELF AFTER WIDESPREAD LOGGING GREW BACK SO DENSELY THAT INDIVIDUAL TREES STRUGGLE FOR SUFFICIENT WATER AND LIGHT; BELOW: THE TREES PLANTED BY THE ATC AND PARTNERS ON WHITETOP MOUNTAIN WERE GROWN FROM SEEDS OF RED SPRUCE FROM THE SOUTHERN END OF THE RANGE, SO THAT HOPEFULLY THEY WILL ADAPT BETTER TO WARMING WEATHER. *Photos by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures*





ABOVE: MUCH OF THE RED SPRUCE FOREST IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS WAS HEAVILY LOGGED IN THE EARLY 1900S, IN PART TO PROVIDE LUMBER FOR AIRPLANES USED IN WORLD WAR I. *Photo provided with the assistance of Rob Whetsell*; BELOW: LATE AFTERNOON SUN SLANTS THROUGH THE CLOUDS ABOVE THE MOUNT ROGERS HIGH COUNTRY, WHICH INCLUDES TWO OF VIRGINIA'S HIGHEST PEAKS: ROGERS AND WHITETOP. *Photo by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures*





EVEN WITH A DOZEN OR SO WORKERS AT ANY GIVEN TIME, IT TOOK THE TEAM AT WHITETOP IN OCTOBER A FULL WEEK TO GET ALL THE RED SPRUCE SEEDLINGS IN THE GROUND. *Photo by Chris Gallaway/Horizonline Pictures*

effort known as the Southern Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (SASRI), which formally began in 2015. The effort involves federal and state agencies, academic institutions, other nonprofit organizations, private companies, and volunteers. The SASRI partnership has a collective goal of restoring red spruce ecosystems across the high elevations of the Southern Appalachians.

In late 2019, the ATC began working with SASRI partners like Ford at Virginia Tech, as well as researchers at Western Carolina University and Appalachian State University, to restore red spruce to parts of its historic range within the A.T. landscape. Together, they are focusing on places like Whitetop Mountain in Virginia and Roan and Unaka mountains in North Carolina and Tennessee — all well-known summits along the southern A.T.

According to Matt Drury, who recently completed his tenure as co-chair of SASRI and remains on the steering committee, the work ranges from canopy thinning and tree planting to monitoring, data collection, and other scientific research, with the goal of generating concrete information to inform management decisions down the line. “We’re trying to build resilience in the system, structural diversity, with big trees, small trees, young trees, old trees,” Drury says, sounding un-

intentionally like the Lorax, and with equal gravity. “This way the spruce forest will be more resilient in the face of climate change and in the face of disturbance events including storms.”

The autumn tree planting took place on Whitetop Mountain, the second-highest peak in Virginia at 5,520 feet after nearby Mount Rogers (just 200 feet higher). Here, the A.T. is a province of open meadows and northern hardwood forests that give way to a fairyland of red spruce at its highest reaches. Songs of the winter wren, red crossbill, hermit thrush, and golden-crowned kinglet can be heard in these woods, rewarding patient birders. This part of southwest Virginia was heavily logged in the 1900s, and today much of the original spruce forests have been replaced with American beech, yellow birch, sugar maple, and other species.

The team chose six planting sites around Whitetop. The initial plan was to replace like with like, says Conner McBane, a natural resource specialist for the ATC based in Virginia. “Originally we collected hundreds of cones from Whitetop Mountain, thinking it would be desirable to plant this locally adapted ecotype,” he says. But after seeking advice from forest geneticists, the team instead sought out spruce specimens from the southern end of the tree’s range — places like the Great Smoky Moun-

RESTORING RED SPRUCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES SUCH AS THE CAROLINA NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL, THE ROCK GNOME LICHEN, THE SPRUCE-FIR MOSS SPIDER, AND THE BROWN CREEPER.



THE CAROLINA NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL (*GLAUCOMYS SABRINUS COLORATUS*) IS ONE OF SEVERAL ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES THAT DEPEND ON RED SPRUCE TREES FOR THEIR SURVIVAL. *Photo by Corinne Diggins/Virginia Tech/USGS*

tains. Red spruce selected from more southerly latitudes are expected to have higher survival rates under current climate change projections on Whitetop Mountain.

"We planted southern red spruce on Whitetop to diversify stand genetics and improve climate change resiliency," McBane says. "The majority of planting sites were designed for long-term habitat connectivity, but some were implemented to take advantage of canopy gaps caused by beech bark disease."

The group planted seedlings at a range of ages from two years old to eight, sourced from the Southern Highlands Reserve, a key SASRI partner. Funding for the seedlings came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private donors to the ATC, including the Jean Deeds Red Spruce Forest Restoration Fund. To date, the October spruce event represents one of the largest planting efforts.

"Three-quarters of the red spruce plantings were in northern hardwood forest understory as opposed to treeless openings," McBane says, "and now ATC will be monitoring the seedlings for viability. Spruce are somewhat shade tolerant, but only to a point. Each of the six planting sites will require maintenance and light overstory thinning to ensure the spruce aren't being outcompeted in their early stages of life."

The six sites all vary from each other in terms of shade, elevation, soil types, and density, and so now data can be collected to compare growth rates and determine what conditions are most favorable to recovering spruce on Whitetop Mountain. One of the plots, which now boasts 50 spruce saplings, is visible from the A.T. in the Elk Garden section of Whitetop, so hikers can do their part to watch these trees, too.

ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY

Even with more than a dozen workers at any given time, it took the team at Whitetop in October a full week to get all the trees in the ground. One of those team members was Brittany Phillips, a wildlife biologist for the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, a unit of the U.S. Forest Service. To her, restoring spruce is essential for the protection of endangered species such as the Carolina northern flying squirrel, the rock gnome lichen, the spruce-fir moss spider, and the brown creeper.

"From my perspective as a wildlife biologist," Phillips says, "this forest is extremely important

because it has species that are found nowhere else in the Southern Appalachians. From a recreational perspective, especially for those who don't have a lot of outdoor experience, most of the Mount Rogers area looks a lot like what you see in your backyard if you live around here — lots of oaks and maples. And then you come up to the spruce forest, you're just like, 'Whoa, I didn't know we had something like this in the South!' It's kind of like our own little slice of Canada."

It's important to the health and genetic diversity of endangered animals such as the flying squirrel, Phillips says, to build in connectivity between these spruce forest patches. "This way the endangered Carolina flying squirrel can move between these mountaintops, and we can get those populations to mix together, enhancing genetic diversity. We're building a bridge."

Some 70 miles south of Whitetop along the Trail, at Roan Mountain, the ATC coordinated a canopy gap project working with Dr. Beverly Collins of Western Carolina University and graduate student Thomas Hennessy. The team set up 6 plots with canopy gaps that were 10 feet in diameter and 6 plots with gaps 30 feet in diameter, as a way to measure growth response of spruce trees to such openings. Hennessy focused his thesis on this project, ultimately winning a Three-Minute Thesis award for his work. (Three-Minute Thesis is an annual competition for master's students held at over 200 universities worldwide.)

Existing conditions on the mountain, Hennessy explained in his winning presentation, included unhealthy mature spruce trees and a moribund understory that lacked the nutrients and organic material ideal for regrowth. By removing mature trees from the centers of the plots, the gaps mimic more natural processes such as wind events that create forest gaps, allowing young spruce to grow and thrive.

"If we see a significant difference in the amount of ground cover, the amount of growth, and the amount of photosynthesis between the 30-foot openings we create and the 10-foot openings," Hennessy says, "we may have found evidence for a process that land managers can use to help restore this threatened ecosystem site and help bring spruce back to the areas they once dominated."

When it comes to canopy gaps, Drury says, we're evaluating if bigger might be better. "When we went to Unaka Mountain, we were looking at the differ-

“EVERY TIME YOU DO LITTLE MANAGEMENT THINGS THAT RESTORE RED SPRUCE, YOU INCREASE THE COMPLEXITY AND THE HETEROGENEITY OF THAT LITTLE PATCH OF FOREST, WHICH ALL KINDS OF SPECIES CAN THEN KEY IN ON.”

—MARK FORD, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ences in 100-foot and 60-foot gaps with varying amounts of residual canopy trees in the gaps to create different light conditions. So we’re trying on different sizes and conservation methods to see what’s the best way to regenerate spruce going forward. Ultimately, we’re trying to identify and establish best practices.”

The ATC and SASRI are also working with federal partners to secure National Environmental Policy Act compliance. This will be necessary for the team to undertake large-scale spruce restoration while demonstrating due diligence around removing individual trees to benefit an entire forest.

STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

Also participating in the ATC’s spruce tree restoration work is American Conservation Experience (ACE), a nonprofit that provides environmental service opportunities for young adults. Thanks to funding from the National Park Foundation, the ATC has included ACE members in several projects Trailwide. Through ACE, young people get a weekly living allowance as well as hands-on experience in conservation and land management. The ATC’s goal in partnering with ACE is to cultivate and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

“I’ve actually never done work like this,” says ACE member Miles Taylor. “This is my first tree planting project, and it’s awesome! I’ve never worked with this many people either. It’s cool to see a bunch of different organizations come together to work on one thing.”

That is a sentiment echoed by the ATC’s Matt Drury. What he especially appreciates about this work is that it brings a diverse group — of hikers,

land managers, young people, volunteers, and seasoned professionals — together to protect a forest type that creates one of the most memorable experiences one can have on the Appalachian Trail. “People may not know that they’re in a spruce forest, but when they’re there, they have a visceral, sensory experience,” he says.

Just as this spruce restoration work creates resilience and habitat connectivity, the data collected from these efforts also connects the dots for land managers across the red spruce’s range, so they can make the best decisions possible going forward and protect the Appalachian Trail landscape for generations to come.

“This is what the flying squirrel wants,” Mark Ford says. “This is what saw-whet owls want. This is what northern goshawks want. This is what the salamanders want. Every time you do little management things that restore red spruce, you increase the complexity and the heterogeneity of that little patch of forest, which all kinds of species can then key in on. And once one of those patches gets to a certain size, it’s much better equipped to deal with the impacts of climate change.”

Hikers who summit Whitetop, Roan, or Unaka mountains may never encounter any of the species that Ford named, but they know when they’ve entered the unforgettable, almost enchanted realm of red spruce. Many of the most distinct experiences across the entire A.T. are within areas of extraordinary ecological significance. The red spruce sky islands represent how critical habitats are necessary for the survival of a large array of declining species — and awe-inspiring to all of us who seek beauty and inspiration in nature.



SUPPORT OUR VOLUNTEERS

Every year, 6,000 volunteers dedicate more than 200,000 hours of sweat and hard work to preserve one of the greatest public lands projects in American history.

Our volunteers are the glue that holds the Appalachian Trail together. But volunteerism is not cost free, and every year brings new challenges to overcome. Our volunteers depend on your donations for: gear and equipment, training and skills development, and volunteer management and recruitment.



By donating today, you'll help ensure our volunteers have everything they need to preserve the Trail for another year of adventure.

appalachiantrail.org/give

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

New perspectives on the Appalachian Trail

■ WITH SIMON HEINBERG AND LAUREN WIGGINS

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IS A MULTIGENERATIONAL project. Throughout its 102-year history, maintenance and management of the Trail have passed through at least six generations—from Benton MacKaye’s to members of the Greatest Generation, Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials.

In January 2023, the first member of Congress from Generation Z, Maxwell Frost (FL-10), was sworn in. As a new generation begins to assume societal leadership roles, what are their thoughts about inheriting responsibility for the A.T.? And more broadly, what expectations do they have for the continued protection of public lands used for outdoor recreation?

We recently sat down with two twenty-somethings pursuing careers in environmental conservation to hear their thoughts, ideas, and concerns.



Nature • ANAWARENESS •
EDUCATION • CONSERVATION •
SUSTAINABLE



LAUREN WIGGINS

Lauren Wiggins will receive her Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment in May 2023. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she received a bachelor's in health science, public health, and international affairs at Tennessee State University. Lauren is also a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC's) Next Generation Advisory Council.



SIMON HEINBERG

Simon Heinberg is a philanthropy manager at the ATC, where he oversees grant applications to public and private funders. Among his successful applications in the past year is the America the Beautiful challenge grant described on page 9. Simon grew up in New York City and holds a degree in philosophy from Pomona College.

Q: What do you remember about your first A.T. experience?

Lauren: When I was in college I spent two months one summer in the White Mountains in New Hampshire as an intern for an environmental research project. Our group of interns went hiking three or four times a week. As a city person, I was amazed at the peace and stillness on the Trail. I remember sitting by the side of a stream and watching blue and black butterflies land on me. I felt like I was in a completely different world, experiencing another dimension of existence. It reminded me why I care so much about environmental advocacy.

Simon: My first time on the Appalachian Trail was also in the White Mountains. I grew up in New York City, and from a young age I always yearned to escape the city and spend time outdoors. When I was 10 or 11, I went on my first camping trip along the Appalachian Trail in the Whites. We are lucky to have started out on one of the most beautiful parts of the Trail!

Lauren: My most intense experience on the Trail was after I joined the ATC's Next Generation Advisory Council. We did an 11-mile out-and-back hike from Amicalola Falls. I remember worrying beforehand if I had the right gear to enjoy it. But once I stepped on the Trail, it felt wonderful to be surrounded by so much vegetation, to feel the ground beneath my feet. The A.T. is such a special place, and so few people know about it.

Q: What do you view as the greatest benefit of time spent in nature?

Lauren: The mental health impacts are immense. The time and space away from the hustle and bustle of the city give you a break from worrying about the stresses of the day-to-day. Some of the most peaceful moments in life happen in the outdoors. That is true for everyone, including those in the most marginalized communities — and I don't just mean ethnically or socioeconomically marginalized. In my late teens and early 20s, I

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was a camp counselor with a nonprofit that supports kids who are neuro-divergent (for example, with Down syndrome or on the autism spectrum). I remember that the most serene moments for the kids in my group were outdoors. That experience taught me that all individuals want to experience different forms of nature — and you never know what benefit that could have on their psyche, behavior, or value system.

Simon: I agree about the mental health benefit. That's going to become even more important for our generation due to the mental health crisis among youth, which has only been exacerbated by COVID-19.⁽¹⁾ And for a society that is increasingly reliant on technology and screens, the Trail provides such a calming escape.

Q: What are the greatest challenges that public lands like the Appalachian Trail are encountering today?

Simon: One obvious challenge is climate change, which is posing an imminent threat to all public lands. The A.T. is fortunate because the forest in the East Coast is more climate resilient⁽²⁾ and won't face the same degree of wildfire risk that forests out west will. Another challenge to the Trail, which stems from its location in the East, is development encroachment. The Trail corridor — the protected land on either side of the footpath — is incredibly narrow in some places. The ATC is working to widen the corridor every year by protecting new lands, but there are still many sections of the Trail where the surrounding land is unprotected. Most people who hike on the Trail don't realize that.

Lauren: I'm also concerned about encroaching development. In addition to the large cities within a half-day's drive, the small communities adjacent to the Trail can still have issues with urban runoff contaminating local water supplies, for example. The lack of environmental literacy is also a big challenge. I wonder if people would continue to treat lands in a dismissive manner if they knew more about what makes an ecosystem work, how it supports us, and what it needs to thrive. We protect things if we know how our behavior can impact them, positively or negatively.

Q: So, do we need more environmental education to overcome or address these challenges?

Lauren: Yes, in fact, perhaps environmental values need to be institutionalized. Throughout my K-12 education, we never went into the forest or talked about what it means to be stewards of it. That's a simple educational objective that could be incorporated into existing requirements to teach kids biology or earth sciences. There could be a stewardship component that explains what happens when you leave a candy wrapper on the ground, for example.

Simon: I agree incorporating environmental education into K-12 curriculums would help. I think there are challenges with promoting environmental literacy outside the classroom. Cost can be prohibitive for some people who want to take outdoor educational courses, such as wilderness first aid or preparedness courses. We also can't put up a bunch of signs along the Trail to educate people about staying on the footpath, in order to minimize erosion or protect the surrounding ecosystem. That



Japanese stiltgrass (Microstegium vimineum), shown here along the A.T. in Pennsylvania, is one of the invasive species that is spreading more rapidly due to the impact of climate change on native plants. Photo by Pamela Roy; Inset: As storms become more intense and more frequent due to climate change, blowdowns along the Trail will become a more common hazard. Photo by Laurie Potteiger

would adversely impact the Trail experience. The ATC is working to make outdoor education more accessible by hosting free volunteer trainings and conducting outreach to ensure those trainings reach underrepresented audiences.

Lauren: Education is also a conduit to experience. We want our students to learn about the forest — and in the forest. Field trips need to include time in the outdoors. That should be standardized and prioritized for the most marginalized in our society, who are the least likely to go to a national park.

Q: Given all this talk about education, what do you hope the Appalachian Trail experience will be like for your children and grandchildren?

Lauren: I want them to feel welcome. When they're on a hike, I want them to witness diversity in all forms of life around them. That includes biodiversity in the natural environment — as well as diversity in

the people they encounter on the Trail. Diversity of gender expressions and ethnic appearances. Where I grew up, in the South, everyone says hello when you pass someone on the street. I haven't always experienced that in outdoor spaces. There are times when a person I walked past wasn't comfortable with my presence there. And you can feel that. I'd like future generations to feel that they're all part of one community, enjoying a view or soaking up a special moment — together.

Q: As the U.S. population continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse, what can be done to help make outdoor spaces feel more inclusive?

Lauren: There are some practices in place today that are already helping. The ridge runners, for example, make a huge difference in helping me feel safe. Knowing that there are people on the Trail who can answer my questions or help me get more out of my

THE TRAIL CORRIDOR — THE PROTECTED LAND ON
EITHER SIDE OF THE FOOTPATH — IS INCREDIBLY
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—SIMON HEINBERG

experience offers peace of mind. It would be great if that program could be expanded. One of the main barriers to outdoor recreation is the gear and how expensive it is. Perhaps a gear swap or loan program could be set up for people who don't have discretionary income or who want to try out hiking before committing to it as a hobby.

Simon: The fact that in most cases you need a car to access public lands creates a barrier. I agree that the gear is prohibitively expensive, but that's mostly true for equipment needed for overnight camping or multi-day hikes. There's also an outdoor culture, with its own jargon and insider know-how, and that culture is very white. I think creating opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors among groups or communities that aren't predominately white can make the outdoors more accessible. I know the ATC has co-hosted events with Latino Outdoors, and there are many other incredible organizations working to make public lands more inclusive.

Lauren: I also think it would help to facilitate opportunities for people to explore the outdoors in groups based on a particular affinity — your professional affiliation or ethnic identity. These groups do exist, but some of them seem to be more active out west.

Q: The Appalachian Trail has been maintained throughout its history by volunteers. Do you view this reliance on public service to be a sustainable model moving forward?

Lauren: I would like to believe so, but in today's economic context, people need to work longer

hours or more jobs to provide for their families. A volunteer position can start to feel like yet another part-time job. I do think people would be more inclined to volunteer their time if they knew there were different roles to choose from, over time — from maintaining the treadway, to helping with advocacy efforts, to building partnerships with more diverse groups. Ultimately, I think more staff positions will need to be created, so that you can pay people to do the work that needs to be done. And you'll need to make it clear that people can donate money to support that work, whether or not they're in a position to volunteer their time.

Simon: I think it is hard to say. I agree with Lauren that longer work hours and growing inequality will reduce how much time people have to volunteer. On the other hand, I think our generation is particularly motivated to give back through service. It is hard to predict what will happen, but at the very least, there is a real risk that relying on volunteers won't always be a sustainable model.

End Notes

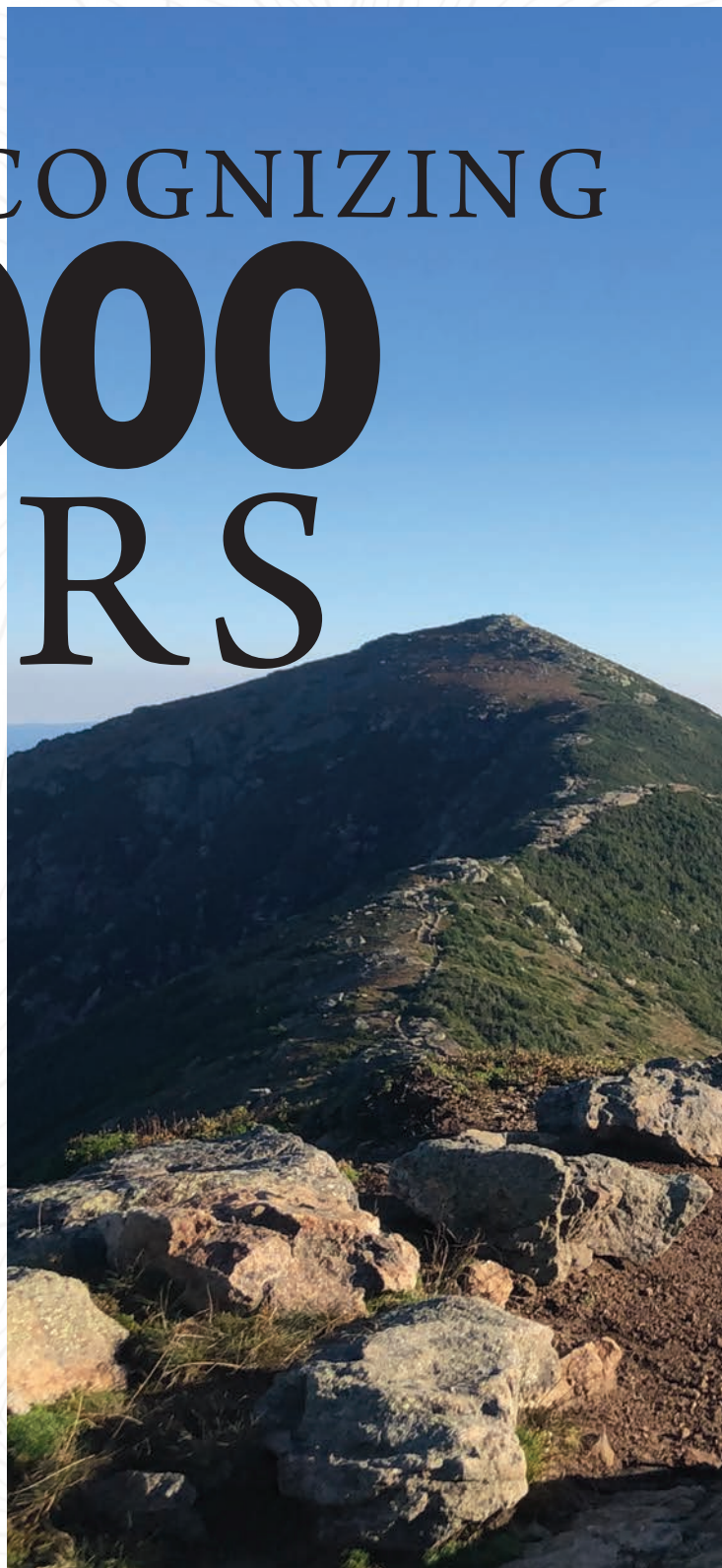
(1) A September 2022 study by the Walton Family Foundation and Murmuration revealed that Gen Z members (born between 1997 and 2012) are twice as likely as Americans over 25 to battle depression and feelings of hopelessness.

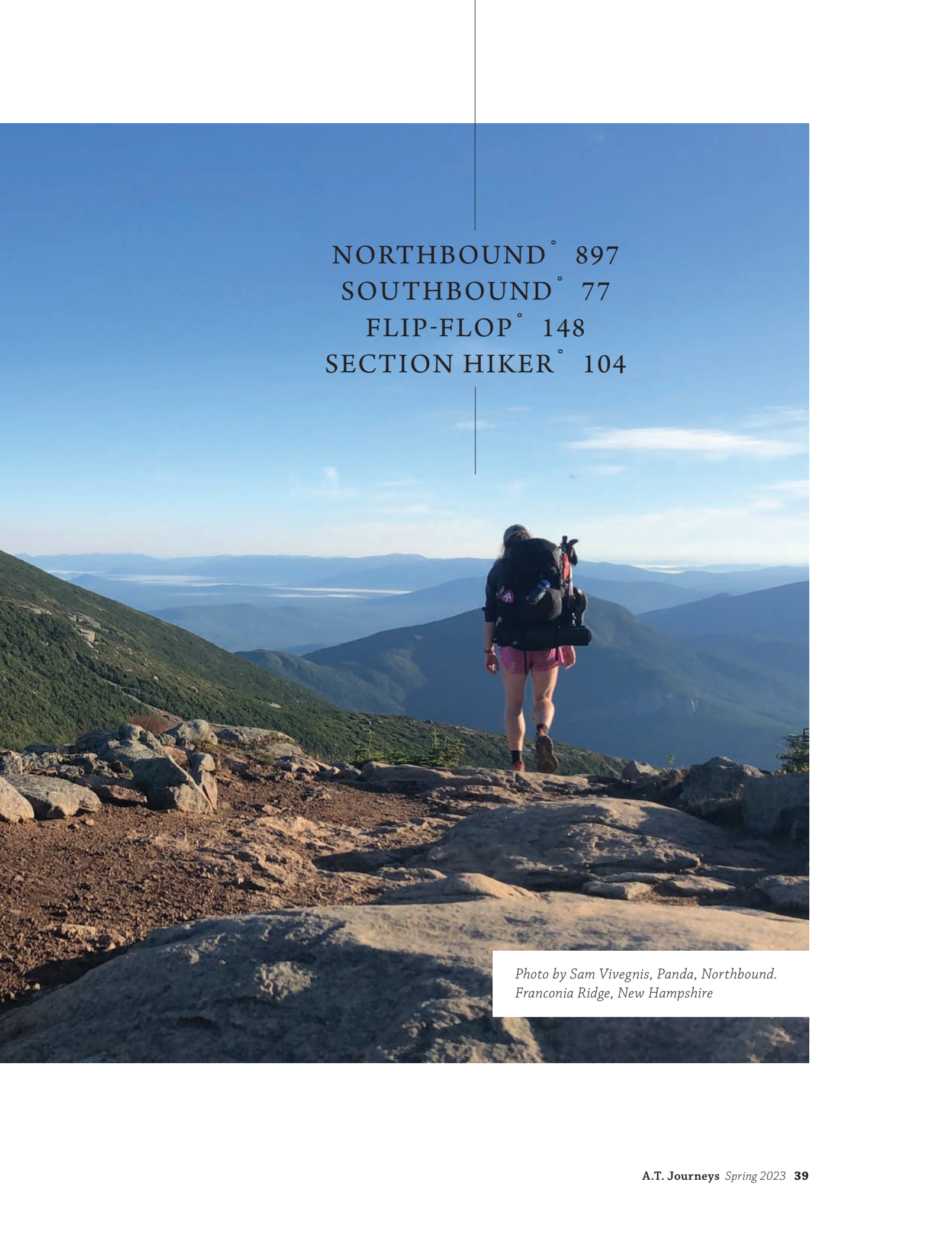
(2) The Nature Conservancy has identified the Appalachians as a priority landscape for conservation due to the resilience it provides in the face of a changing climate.

RECOGNIZING 2,000 MILERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 1,732 determined hikers who reported completing the entire Appalachian Trail since 2019! The following list includes those who reported finishing thru-hikes of all types (flip-flops, southbound, etc.) and section hikes to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). The number of thru-hike attempts and finishes in 2022 was just shy of the record number recorded in 2017. We received applications from hikers as far away as the Czech Republic and Australia. The ATC wants to thank all of those hikers who are also ATC members and encourages others to give back to the trail they love at: appalachiantrail.org/give

Please note: This marks the last year this listing will appear in print. You can find all 2,000 miler names on our website at appalachiantrail.org/2000milers.



A full-page photograph of a hiker with a large black backpack and pink shorts walking away from the camera on a rocky mountain ridge. The hiker is looking out over a vast, hazy mountain valley with rolling hills and a distant lake under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

NORTHBOUND° 897
SOUTHBOUND° 77
FLIP-FLOP° 148
SECTION HIKER° 104

*Photo by Sam Vivegnis, Panda, Northbound.
Franconia Ridge, New Hampshire*

2022

Elías Abbott / *Bard*
 William Abbott / *Easy*
 Brianna Abernathy / *Sea Legs*
 Samuel Abernathy / *Owl*
 Emilio Acosta / *Level 1*
 Gregory Adams / *Music Man*
 Jesse Adkins / *Frosty*
 Rosemary Adrat / *Stretch*
 Ian Ainsworth / *Schnickles*
 Claire Aither / *Honeybee*
 Timothy Aither / *6Mil*
 Afrah Akbar / *MidNight*
 Mia Åkerman Markgren / *Saltbae*
 Manny Alalouf / *Manatee*
 Dale Allen / *Gryllz*
 Larry Alley / *Alley Cat*
 Daniel Allred / *Mountain Dew*
 Alison Altieri / *Bluebird*
 Jeremy Altman / *Fuzzy Duck*
 Ashley Alunan / *Back to Back*
 Bridget Amrich / *Xena Warrior Princess*
 Stephen Amrich / *Postman*
 Kevin Amsrud / *Godfather*
 Gail Anderson / *Largo*
 Michael Andrews / *Anonymous*
 Sam Andrews / *Sasquatch*
 Linda Angelosante / *Detour*
 Mark Ansolini / *NEVER BETTER!*
 Dean Anthony / *S'mores*
 Evan Arents / *Cheerio*
 Masen Armel / *Fruitfly*
 Julianne Arnold
 Luise Arnoldi / *Agent Penguin*
 Robert Arthur / *Backwards*
 Deb Arvidson / *Beebalm*
 Casey Attallah / *Rudolph*
 Aaron Ausmus / *Trip*
 Larry Autrey / *Captain Lawrence*
 Bob Ayers / *Bob*
 Tom Azumbrado / *slo dog*
 Kurt Bachmann / *Hiker with a Job*
 Paul Bachor / *Slow and Steady*
 Michael Bailey / *McLOVEN*
 Richard Bailey / *richiedanger*
 Denton Baird / *Labrat*
 Thomas Baker / *RADAR*
 William Baker / *Float*
 Ryan Baldwin / *Pineapples*
 Michael Ball / *Teddy Bear*
 Pat Balog / *Fire Walker*
 Rebecca Banks / *Time Crunch*
 Andrew Baptista / *Not Bob*
 Betsy Barbera / *Trillium*
 Ian Barnard / *Indiana Ian*
 Emily Barnett / *Ducky*
 Tennon Barnett
 Alan Barnhart / *Wilberforce*
 David Barnhart / *Take-It-Eazy*
 Dylan Barrett / *Dharma*
 Elijah Barton / *Summer Time*
 Christopher Bass / *Unwound*
 Luis Bauer / *F-Log*
 Charlie Bauroth
 Søren Beck / *Bubbles*
 William Beckman / *Deadweight*
 Hannah Becktell / *Road Rash*
 Derek Beitzel / *Don't Stop*
 Elyse Belarge / *Professor*
 John Bellinger / *Dr. Weed*
 Scott Benerofe / *Aquaman*
 Rupinder Benipal / *Shorty*

Amanda Bennett / *Jeff*
 Mark Beno / *Papa Dump*
 Brian Bensema / *Big Breakfast*
 Christopher Berger / *Berger King*
 Casey Bergschneider / *Rabbit*
 Peter Bergstrom / *Swede*
 Joseph Bernick / *Trail Mix*
 Joseph Bernot / *Yellowjacket*
 Matt Bernstein / *Soups*
 Joe Berry / *Lego*
 Kaylee Betts / *Surgeon*
 Elianna Bier / *Boomerang*
 Elizabeth Bik / *Bugs*
 Bailey Black / *Little Steady Mountain House*
 Morgan Black / *Gold Star*
 Benjamin Blanchard / *Dionysus*
 Susan Bliss / *Blister*
 Travis Blount-Elliott / *Baton*
 Kurt Bodling / *Concordia*
 Thomas Boehm / *Bigg Daddy*
 Scot Bogert / *Lentil man*
 Alyssa Bohn / *Orchid*
 Wendy Boller / *Serendipity*
 Annie Bonds / *Steg*
 Kim Booth / *Chatterbox*
 Shaun Booth / *Straps*
 Chloe Borgnis / *Whisper*
 Jonathan Borisch / *Sensei*
 Katie Borns
 Lily Borror / *Little Foot*
 George Boulamatsis / *Pace*
 Will Bourne / *Willing*
 Ellen Bowman
 Mike Bowman / *One Throw*
 Amy Bowser / *Spout*
 Logan Boyles / *Cargo*
 Nicole Brasfield / *Beebop*
 Madison Breder / *Cowboy*
 Bo Brickey / *Tiga*
 Jordan Briggs / *Taters*
 Randy Brittingham / *Calico*
 Steven Brooks / *CK (Couch to Katahdin)*
 Leslie Broome / *Lovin' It*
 Mike Broome / *Livin' It*
 Liza Brosius / *Crumbs*
 Eliza Broughton / *Croc Eater*
 Conor Brown / *Captain Frost*
 OB Brown / *Dusk*
 Charles Bruce / *Tracker*
 Chris Buckalew / *Lost Cause*
 Kath Bukis / *Goodall*
 Dave Bunton / *Ghost*
 Jason Burks / *Cisco*
 Paul Burks / *Pops*
 Jared Burris / *Greased Pig*
 Mikey Butters / *Blacklight*
 Dennis Call / *Pilgrim*
 William Callahan / *Catchup*
 William Callahan / *Green Briar*
 Bob Campagna / *Obi-Wan*
 Nick Campos / *Camp*
 Nicholas Carl / *Nat Geo*
 Kathy Carls / *Quarter Mile*
 Mark Carls / *Cat Like Reflexes- C.L.R*
 Alexa Carpenter / *Happy Camper*
 Patti Carroll-Hernandez / *Jessie's Girl*
 Jillian Carter / *Pocket Bagel*
 Zac Carter / *Candyman*
 Michael Cash / *Cash in*
 Devin Caulk / *Double D*
 Jeffrey Cermak / *Kid*
 Larry Chambers / *Dreamer*
 Rebecca Chapin / *Misfit*
 Olivier Chatot / *Potato*
 Nicole Chauncey / *Bean*
 Robert Cheek / *Faramir*
 Nathan Chesnut / *Blaze*
 Angela Choe / *Ant*
 Micah Christensen / *Orbit*
 Tyler Chubb / *Morpheus*
 Jonathan Churchill / *Clutch*
 Peter Cipolone / *Barba Rossa*
 Conner Claffey / *French Toast*
 Peyton Clark / *Shaggy*

Lynley Clay / *Bovi*
 Greg Claypool / *Zombie*
 Dale Clem / *Hikes A Lot*
 Izzi Clemens / *Mothman*
 Graham Clements / *Ironman*
 Angela Coates / *Phoenix Rising*
 Colton Coffin / *Mowgli*
 Jason Cole / *Gazelle*
 Kyra Coleman / *HawkEye*
 Althea Collier / *Migrator*
 Mark Collier / *vinchee*
 Matthew Collings / *Tick Magnet*
 Carole Colon / *Hummingbird*
 Cliff Comeaux / *Big Hungry*
 George Cone / *Red Beard*
 Victoria Conklin / *Baby Yoda*
 Chris Connor / *Scorpion*
 Gregory Coogan / *Five Year Plan*
 Terry Cooke / *T*
 Paul Cooper / *Zohand*
 Richard Cooper / *Dr. Doolittle*
 Robert Cooper / *EZ-E*
 Sean Coppola / *Rocket*
 Braiden Corbett / *Bananas*
 Brian Corbett / *Spreadsheets*
 Kailee Corbett / *Goldfish*
 Kerrie Corbett / *Cautious K*
 Devin Cornish / *Buttercup*
 Tim Costanzo / *3 Sticks*
 Mark Costello / *Burning Man*
 Sean Cotter / *Lone Ranger*
 Carly Coughlin / *Smokey*
 Chris Coulliette / *Poncho*
 Victoria Coulter / *Trip*
 Damian Counsel / *Long Gone*
 Jean-Paul Courville / *IBEX*
 Abby Couser / *Miss Moss*
 Jeremiah Cowan / *Squatch*
 David Cox / *Honey*
 Emsia Cox / *Hill flower*
 Stephan Cox / *Spidy*
 Anna Crafton / *6 oz.*
 Mitchell Craig / *Dozer*
 Peter Cram / *The Tyvek Shaman*
 Leah Crandall / *Beetlejuice*
 Alexandra Crawford / *Flip*
 Kyle Cresap / *Vintage*
 Samuel Crisp / *Richard*
 Cory Cristante / *Casper*
 Tony Cristofano / *Halfway to Nowhere*
 Beth Critton / *Left Field*
 Charles Crombie / *Shrooms*
 Andrew Crosby / *Acoustic*
 Benjamin Crosier / *No Time*
 Christopher and Ann Crow / *Heckle and Jeckle*
 Anne Crump / *Phoenix*
 Jennifer Cudd / *Teouble*
 Julia Cunfer / *Teardrop*
 Alyssa Cunningham / *Broadway*
 Bill Curley / *Bald Eagle*
 Becca Curry / *Downfall*
 Michael Curry / *Jewel*
 Galen Curtis / *Scarecrow*
 Michael Curtis / *Mega*
 Trevor Cutler / *ICE MAN*
 Paul D'Auteuil / *Sherpa*
 Claire Dal Nogare / *Claire*
 Lauren Daley / *Beanbag*
 Lyndsay Daley / *Blackbird*
 Christopher Dallmus / *Fillin In*
 Tim Daniel / *Chef*
 Brian Davidson / *Slipknot*
 Dustin Davis / *Clutch*
 Robert Davis / *Tree Hugger*

Photo by Karen Snow. Skake (Dora), Northbound.
 McAfee Knob, Virginia.

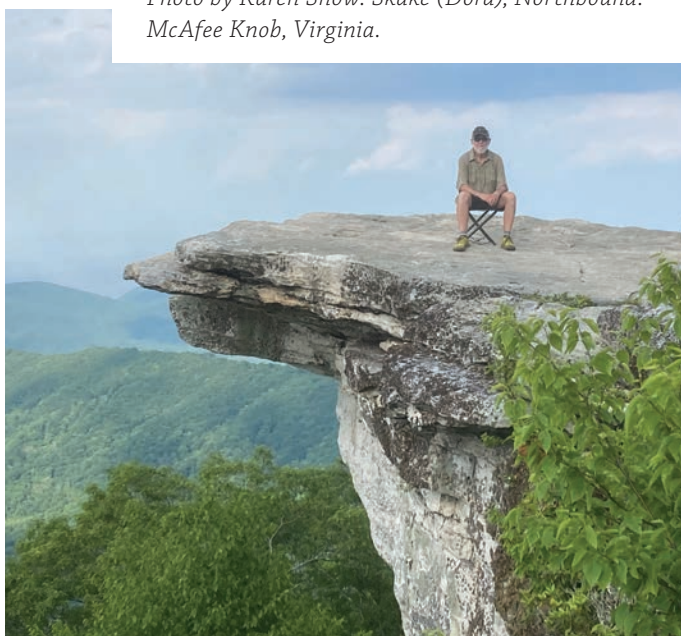


Photo by Julie Simpson, Bubbles,
Flip-Flop. Rockfish Gap, Virginia.



Photo by Brad Holzwart, Monarch, Northbound.
Blue Mountain, Pennsylvania.



Mary de Boer / Zucchini
Sarah de Jong / Bears
Russell Dear / Sushi Bat
Sam Deeble / Big Dipper
Tyler Deem / Red Dawn
Sean DeFeo / CAPITAL
Lockett DeGraaf / Lockett
John Del Percio / Raccoon Man
Nicolas Delisle / Kick
Ally Dell / Chum
Paul DeMaagd / Rookie
Elizabeth Denham / Worm
Paul Denoncourt / Paladin
Matthew Desrochers / Special
Shelby Diesen / Leapfrog
Francis DiGiano / Il Cuoco
Desirae Dine / Des/Michigama
Sandolo Dinicola / Mad Hatter
Breanna Dionne / Mapz
Anna Gomez Domenech / Rocks
Gregory Donoghue / Agony
Steve Doorn / Strider
William Dorsey
Marina Douglas
Westin Douglas / Fiddie
Benjamin Doyle / Yueng
Johnny Drahos / Jom
Ralston Drake / Maverick
Nicole Drapeau / Strong Arm
Jim Duan / Sojo
Austin Duarte / Macho Man
Adam Dube / Cinnabun
Eric DuBois / Ducky
Blaine DuBose Jr. / Magic
Marc Duchesne / Poptart
Caroline Duffy / Fern
Owen Duncan / PeachFuzz

Brett Dupras / 2x4
Josiah Durrell / Kayak
Jeremy Dus / Turn-Around
Frank Dutman / Heineken
Craig Dyerson / Crexit
Jessica Dzialo / Antelope
John Dzialoski / Jello
Laura Dzubay / Crossroads
Jeff Eaton
Darrell Eck / Old Stag
Griffith Eddy / Sandworm
Rachael Edge / Jetpack
Will Edge / Parkour
William Edmundson / Sole-less
Ally Eggleton / Buff
Henry Eglloff / Hash
Owen Eigenbrot / AtHome
Fabian Eisinger / Tux
Thomas Ellenwood / Tight Tights
Andrew Ellingsworth / Bloodbeard
David Ellington / Cool Hand
Teresa Ellington / Scarface
Duane Elliott / Yolo
Jacob Ellison / Grapefruit
Katherine Ellsworth / Braveheart
Grace Elphinstone / Spillz
Livier Enciso
Jonathan Eng / Gyaatso
Eric Engel / 2E
Eric Englot / Melon
Shelly Estabrooks / Hummingbird
Chris Estus / Bone Spur - The Chappalachian
Hannah Evans / Sherbet
Jon Ewig / 2 Pack Jack
Taylor Farmer / Amazing Grace
Robert Farrell / Papa Foxtrot
Maya FarrHenderson / Crocs

Myron Fay / TAPS
Barry Feathers / Jarry
Jennifer Feathers / Ben
Edward Feeley / Guam Guy
Akos Fenemore / Cinderella
Jim Fergione
Devon Fernandez / Binder
Angela Ferrante / Detour
Victor Fickes / Growler
Olive Finch / Sparkles
Anna Finkelstein / Gnarly
Shawn Finn / DoubleVision
Harrison Fiscus / Double Trouble
William Fishell / Canoe
John Fisher / Field Medic
Michelle Fisher / Gumby
James Fiste / Bootie Pusher
Patrice Fiste / Pacer
Lauren Fitzpatrick / Siesta
Drew Flickinger / No Kiddin?
Michael Flynn / Moonshine
Abby Foley / Splash
Stephen Foley / Casper
Christopher Folsom
Jackson Folwell / Poison Puff
Ben Ford / Toolman
Dave Ford / Hairnet
Liz Forkel / FIREBALL
Beverly Fossum / Little One
Clara Fournier / Beats
Gray Fowler / Fat Man Walking
Benjamin Fox / Twinkletoes
Michael Fox / Jukebox
Naomi Fox / Bumblebeast
Greg Frank / Hammer
Melissa Frank / Butterfly
Katie Frawley / Spice

Ashton Frech / Braveheart
Aryn Freeman / Red Squirrel
Pascal Frei / Crunch
Owen Frieden / Banana Boat
Doug Frieders / Updog
Randi Fries / Twister
Anna Frisbie / Tuna
Greg Frye / Not Yet
Ashley Fuchs / Webster
Mike Fuhrmann
Jeff Fuls / Divining Rod
Kelly Fuls / Special K
Autumn Fuller / Chipmunk
Christian Funder / Monty
Dylan Funk / Tarzan
Vincent Fuqua / Sunfish
George Gajda / G-Unit
Mark Gallardo / Solar
Samantha Galvao / Downhill
Sarah Garmard / Press
Dylan Gamza / Biodome
Dennis Garboski / BIGfoot
Willard Garlock / Sonar
Amelia Garmany / Day Tripper
Chad Garmany / Caboose
Lucas Garmany / Mountain Goat
Sylvia Garmany / Queen Bee
Brian Garner / Slurpee
Kylie Garrety / Margaritaville
Nicholas Garrety / Lightyear
Patrick Gasser / Paws
Randall Gates / Ranger Randy
Dean Gay / 4Runner
John Gaynor / Johnnywalker
Christian Geer / Tinman
Halie Gehling / Ace
Mike Gerrish / MnM



Photo by Cindy Scott, Radar, Flip-Flop.
Upper Goose Pond, Massachusetts.

Olivia Gerstenbacher / *Newt*
 Anna Giannelli / *Bad News*
 Brad Gibson / *Jaws*
 Koen Gideonse / *Super Max*
 Jana Giles / *Ducky*
 Alexandra Giorgos / *Cosmic Pickle*
 Jack Girerd / *Wraps*
 Logan Giroux / *Yogi*
 Christine Givens / *Scrunch*
 Emma Glass / *Snacks*
 David Gledhill / *Pioneer*
 Cody Godfrey / *Last Doughnut*
 Stephanie Godsea / *Splash*
 Nick Godsey / *Lil Bit*
 Angela Gonzalez / *Billy Goat*
 Nelson Gonzalez / *Yardsale*
 Jen Gordon / *Grommit*
 Karin Gordon / *Hobble-it*
 Zachary Gordon
 Patrick Gould / *Fermented*
 Anouk Goulooze / *Brains*
 Elizabeth Grace
 Matt Gradeless / *Do-dah*
 Trevor Granstrom / *Lefty*
 Arthur Graves / *Wicked*
 Ryan Gray / *True True*
 Micah Graziosi / *Granite*
 Adriene Green / *Starbucks*
 Christopher Green / *Paucka*
 Ed Gregoire / *Strange Brew*
 Jay Gregory / *Look Back Jack*
 Lori Gregory / *Stumble Boots*
 Edward Griffin / *Wrecking Ball*
 Phillip Griffin / *Trash Man*
 Shana Grigston / *Sunni*
 Paul Grim / *Jedi*
 Robert Groelsema / *On My Knees*
 Kim Grover / *Squirrel!*
 Gia Gruett / *Trapz*
 Richard Guenther / *Crossword*
 Wesley Guillory / *STRINGS*
 Ian Guswiler / *Quartermaster*
 Anthony Guthrie / *Padre*
 William Guthrie / *Hobbit*
 Brenda Gutierrez / *Waterglider*

David Haack / *Sticky Fingers*
 Robert Haas / *Wet One*
 Carson Hackney / *Gilligan*
 Emilee Hackney / *Holy Roller*
 Charles Hadley / *Powers*
 James Hainstock / *Pac-Man*
 Jacqueline Hale / *Polaris*
 Traci Halvorson / *Laughingloud*
 Nicole Hamel / *Mary Poppins*
 Taylor Hames
 David Hamill / *BUMPIN'*
 Jake Hamley / *Shower Beer*
 Anna Hamrick / *Blossom*
 Patti Hanna / *The Happiestgrl*
 George Hansen / *Fightbac*
 Christopher Harker / *Brick*
 Ryan Harper / *Coastie*
 Ben Harridge / *National Geographic*
 Nate Harris / *Renaissance*
 Victoria Harris / *Intel*
 Zach Harrison / *Laps*
 Courtney Hart
 Matthew Hart / *Birthday Boy*
 Kristine Hartlaub / *GG*
 Michelle Harvey
 Samuel Harvey / *Panda*
 Sid Harwood / *No Time*
 Brandon Hassett / *Simba*
 Frank Haverlack / *Papa Bear*
 Russell Hawkins / *Rusty*
 Thomas Hayden / *Band-Aid*
 Samuel Haymann / *Chef*
 Coleton Hedlund / *Tunes*
 Mirko Heidenreich / *Jaywalking Jesus*
 James Heifner / *Plato*
 Ellis Heminway / *Combo*
 Tim Hendriks / *Digit*
 Blake Hensley / *Hops*
 Simon Hermann / *EarlyBird*
 Laurie Herndon / *Clutch*
 Garrett Herndon / *THUNDERCLAP*
 Daniel Herndon / *Poncho*
 Max Herz / *Airplane*
 Devan Hess / *Flint*
 Lauren Heuer / *Weeble*

Preston Hickman / *BS*
 James Hicks / *Chewie*
 Kelsey Highline / *Yaya*
 Joel Hilbrands / *Florida Man*
 Max Hilgendorf / *Fisherman*
 William Hinsch / *Hobbit*
 Arlee Hiskey / *Margaritaville*
 Matthew Hite / *McConaughy*
 Mitchell Hobart / *100 Grand*
 Tim Hockenbury / *Wrong Way*
 Reece Hockstedler
 Skip Hodges / *Skip*
 Ashley Hoefflin / *Pace Car/Beverages*
 Matthew Hogan / *Turtle Wizard*
 Eli Holdom
 Lane Holloway / *Atlas*
 Brad Holzwart / *Monarch*
 Rachel Holzwart / *Tank*
 Jimmy Hood / *Rocket Man*
 Braden Hooter / *Bones*
 Thomas Hopper / *Out There!*
 Jeffrey Hostelley / *Smooth*
 Caleb Houchin / *Chompers*
 Christina Householder / *Sunshine*
 Steven Houser / *Walrus*
 Anna Howard / *Gretel*
 Cary Howard / *Yellowstone*
 Kaity Howard / *Cheeseball*
 Gina Hribik / *Hangin*
 Erin Hudson / *Tales*
 James Hughes / *Bumblebee*
 Zachary Humphrey / *Ninja*
 Richard Ihnat / *Eagle*
 Michael Ikeler / *Eagle Ike*
 John Imhof / *Whizz*
 Michael Inlow / *Steady*
 Morten Innes / *Great Dane*
 Peter Ippich / *Ice man*
 Julene Irwin / *Popsicle*
 Zachary Isenhour / *Mush*
 Michael Jackson / *Lightning*
 Rowland Jackson / *All The Way*
 Richard Jacobus / *LightFoot*
 Melissa Jaeger
 Angela James / *Boo Boo*

Deborah James / *Oz*
 Lee James / *Mr. Clean*
 Rebecca James / *Rainbow Brite*
 Roy James / *Haz Mat*
 Patrick Janda / *Schmosby*
 Julie Jandeska / *Slooper*
 Emily Janecek / *In Tune*
 Robert Janes / *Tick*
 Edward Janicki / *Bard*
 Charles Janssen / *Kansas Express*
 Scott Jarvis / *Skidmark*
 Matthew Jeffries / *Syrup*
 Mark Jensen / *Monsieur Lapin*
 Thomas (Tod) Jervey / *Spiderman*
 Brett Jervis / *CRAZY COP*
 Brian Jimenez / *Maui*
 Becca Johanson / *Chewbecca*
 Caleb Johnson / *Buckeye*
 Carlton Johnson / *Zip*
 Caroline Johnson / *Sponge*
 Daniel Johnson / *Danny*
 Geoff Johnson / *Tracks*
 Jared Johnson / *Rapunzel*
 Matthew Johnson / *Resupply*
 Dennis Johnston / *Skipper*
 Jennifer Joiner / *Chips*
 Marcus Joiner / *Fish*
 Aiden Jones / *Pistachio*
 Edward Jones / *Doubletime*
 Elijah Jones / *NuttyBuddy*
 Gareth Jones / *Cracker*
 Isaac Jones / *Donut*
 Laila Jones / *AlmondJoy*
 Lemuel Jones / *Pecan*
 Marcus Jones / *Odysseus*
 Matt Jones
 Paul Jones / *Legacy*
 Philip Jones / *Jetski*
 Jeffrey Joslin / *Scribe*
 Christopher Junkins / *Smee*
 Michael Jurnovoy / *Smiles*
 Daniel Justice / *KT*
 Jacob Kalodner / *Kodak*
 Michael Kamboureilis / *Clean Machine*
 Voitto Kangas / *Ketchup*
 Josh Karmon / *Owl*
 Kathryn Karp / *Sobo*
 David Kearney / *Packman*
 Ragan Kearney / *Choo*
 Bob Keating / *Just Bob*
 Craig Keegan / *CFRESH*
 Christopher Keene / *Krinkle*
 Joseph Kefauver / *Terrapin*
 DeeAnna Kennedy / *Lady V*
 John Kennedy / *Jake-a-Lope*
 Joseph Kennedy / *Wildfire*
 Alexander Kent / *Trainwreck*
 Nicole Kepron / *Neo*
 Thomas Kerstiens / *Silver Bullet*
 Michael Kester / *2Packs*
 Elizabeth Kibby / *Amelia Airheart*
 Emaleigh Kierstin / *E.T.*
 Dennis Kilburg / *Trailgater*
 Katharine Killion / *Big Catt*
 Amanda King / *Moss*
 Cameron King / *Schroeder*
 Melissa Kinman / *Relish*
 Matt Kizaric / *Sauce*
 Daniel Knowles / *Mooseboy*
 Kirk Knutson / *Moment*
 Wesley Koen / *Chill Pill*
 Rick Koenes / *Fulltilt*
 Brad Kohler / *Jingles*
 Corydon Kolodji / *Huckleberry MN*

Martin Komm / Grillmaster
 Katie Kopecky
 Evan Krabill / Tang
 Caryn Krahe / Rocket
 Douglas Kramer / Zen
 Kirsten Kramer / The Wise One
 Darrell Krause Jr. / OB aka Other Brother
 Gina Kretschmer / Jeans/Dead Ass
 Maya Krieger-DeWitt / Painkiller
 Jennie Krigbaum / Juice Box
 Karsten Kristensen / Gandalf
 Cameron Krivich / Pipes
 Alexandra Kroh / Funky Flames
 Gregory Krowicki / Brunch
 Anna Kulinski / Almost
 Andriy Kuranov / Tanager
 Ekaterina Kuranova / City Slicker
 Maggie LaBillois / Teeter Totter
 Sasha LaBillois / Slinky
 Jeff LaFrenier
 Liza Lagdamen / Brooklyn
 Steve Lail / Quarantine
 Roger Lamb / Tennessee
 Vince LaMonica / Wise Acres
 Richard Lamp / Maizee
 Arthur (Art) Lancaster / Mudduck
 Sarah Landis / Sunny
 Doreen Landry / Bucket List
 Jim Lang / Chill
 Sarah Lang / Conductor
 Troy Langford / Troy
 Devaul Lanier / Senator
 Hayley LaPointe / Giggles
 John Lapp / Gumby
 Aaron LaPrade / Toad
 John Rini Larson / Crooked Foot
 Brianna Latourelle / N3MO
 James Lauer / Oak Thighs
 Nicholas Lauritano / Wet Woodie
 Lance Laws / Tumbleweed
 Zac Lawton / Hitch
 Mary Leavines / Newfound
 Michael Lebo / Papa Bear
 Caroline Lee / Kado
 Andrew Leed
 Rebecca Lehman / Pebbles
 Kate Leinart / Magnolia
 Benoit Lejeune
 Elzear Lemieux Jr. / Lazer
 Patrick Leonard / Cold Brew
 April LeSage / 4-Low
 William Lesslie / Psyched
 Stefan Levie / Duckie
 Mara Levine / Spider Monkey
 Rikk Lewis / Chief
 Janelle Lewis / Fancy Feast
 Christine Lewis / Firelight
 Jacob Licker / Bididit
 Abel Bordonado Lillo / Noisy Bear
 Bryan Limb / Workin' On It
 Ender Limb / Dirty Meat
 Haley Lindell / Tiny Dancer aka TD
 Tyler Lindsay / Tyler
 Sasha Litostansky / Helium
 Benjamin Little / Big Time
 Katherine Little / KT
 Hope Lloyd / Sunflower
 James Loflin / Hook
 Jeremy Lofthouse / Rocky
 Michael Long / Frostbite
 Carmen Lopez / Hummingbird
 Mark Loreno Jr. / White Sox
 Jamie Lorenz / 4 Ponies
 Ethan Lott / Breathe Right



Photo by Robert Miller, Solo, Northbound.

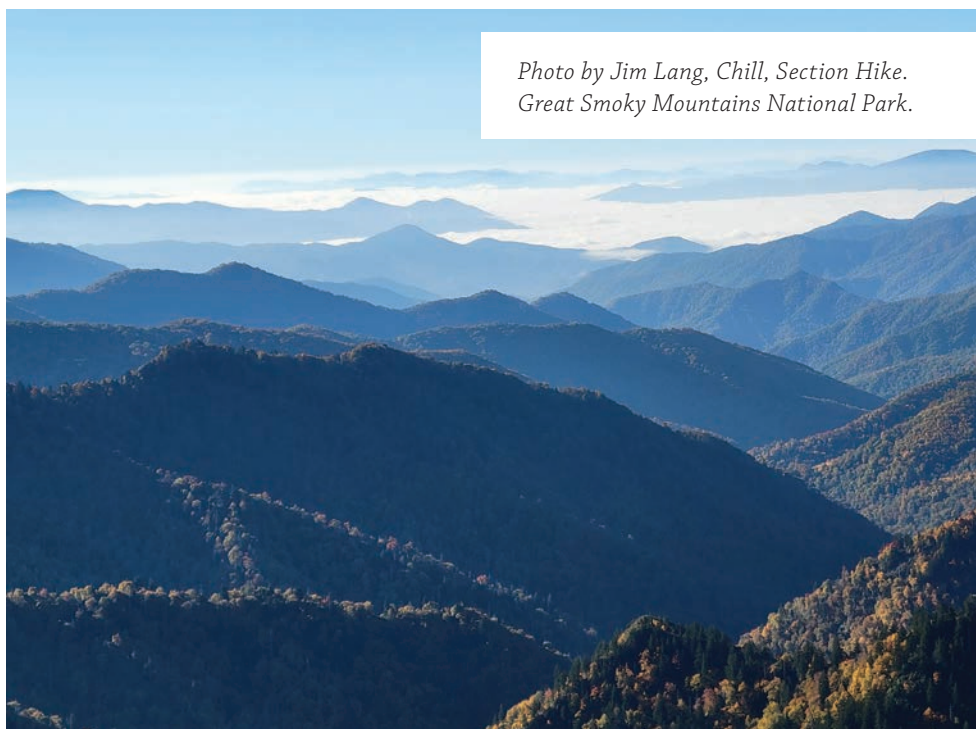


Photo by Jim Lang, Chill, Section Hike.
Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Photo by Caroline Lee, Kado, Northbound.

Dennis Louter / *Dutchie*
 Aaron Love / *Pipes*
 Willie Lovett / *Bulldog*
 Hayden Lucas / *Timber*
 Randy Lukas / *Roller*
 Ella Lundstrom / *Bird*
 Phoebe Lustig / *Clementine Rage*
 Hailey Lynch / *Snoopy*
 Shaun Lynch
 Kate Lysaught / *Platinum*
 Christopher MacArthur / *Weatherman*
a.k.a. 'His Dry-ness'
 Kalyn MacDonald / *Pika*
 Mat MacDonald / *Laundry Mat*
 Hayley Mackay / *Shell Shock*
 Kate Madigan / *High Kick*
 Jill Magill / *Disco*
 Erika Maguire / *Sunny*
 Shawn Mahoney / *Log Man*
 Elijah Maier / *Dr. Squatch*
 Craig Mains / *Hawk*
 Agustin Malki
 Alyssa Maloney / *Shade*
 Matthias Mank / *TickBite*
 Joshua Mann
 Adam Mareth / *Deetz*
 Jake Markland / *Sole*
 Nicole Markovich / *Droplet*
 Alexander Marriott / *Lookout*
 Katrina Marriott / *Cat*
 Brian Marshall / *Shades*
 Nancy Marshall / *Road Runner*

Westa Marshall / *Special K*
 Carson Martel / *Buzz*
 Caroline Martin / *Skipper*
 Thomas Martin / *Chef Boyardee*
 Maritza Martinez / *Red*
 Ruben Martinez / *Siesta*
 Steven Martinez / *Lowgear*
 Andrew Mascherino / *Rockyroad*
 Thadeus Mason / *Photo Op*
 Dakota Massucco / *Early Bird*
 John Mattson / *Papa John*
 Cindy Matyus / *Ivy*
 George Matyus / *Poison*
 Sarah Matyus / *Firecracker*
 Kirstin Maulding / *KoiCat*
 Justin Maurer / *Suspenders*
 Melanie May / *Java*
 Steve May / *Good Water*
 Alex McCafferty / *Candyman*
 Terry McCay / *Teddy*
 Michael McCormick / *Nightcrawler*
 Ian McCracken / *Cool Ranch*
 Gordon McCrickard / *Cast Iron*
 David McCulley / *BackTrack*
 Marina McCuskey / *Pivot*
 Austen McDaniel / *P.I.*
 Robert McDevitt / *Tripper*
 Susan McDevitt / *Lucy*
 Brittany McDonald / *Puddin'*
 Micheal McDougal / *Reboot*
 Donald McDowell / *Early Bird*
 Allyson McEwen-Dupras / *Puffer*

Sage McGill / *Tin Man*
 Austin McKain / *Coco*
 Austin McKay / *Treble*
 Martin McKay / *Crazy Eyes*
 Mae McKee / *Weebles*
 Jackie McKennan / *Pony*
 Kelsey McKeon
 Charles McLawhorn / *King Kong*
 Madelyn McLemore / *Whoopie*
 Stewart McLeod / *Mule*
 Brian McManus / *Yard Sale*
 Mitchell McNeill
 Erin McQuade / *Ketchup*
 Nolan McQuade / *Scramble*
 Meagan Meade / *Waffle*
 John Meisenhelder / *Thumper*
 Eric Meister / *GRIP*
 Katie Melsky / *Ibex*
 Denes Mendoza
 Dahlia Menelao / *Sour Cream*
 Rich Merritt / *Whiskey Jack*
 Cannon Metcalf / *Thunderbird*
 Alex Meyer / *Dreamcatcher*
 Katia Meyer / *Stranger Danger*
 Eric Michels / *Jolly*
 James Mijares / *Silverback*
 Christy Millek / *Hailstorm*
 Alexandra Miller / *Lost and Found*
 Caleb Miller / *Walden*
 Elizabeth Miller / *Splitzy*
 John Miller / *POZ*
 Joseph Miller / *Outlier*

Margaret Miller / *Idris*
 Mervin Miller / *Woodz*
 Peter Miller / *Flapjack*
 Robert Miller / *Solo*
 Ronald Miller / *YardSale*
 Madison Mindler / *Jam*
 William Misenhimer / *Lucky*
 Eva Mitskevitch / *Forest Lore-ist*
 David Mizer / *Joseph*
 Lee Mobley / *Diesel*
 Valerie Mobley / *Spooky*
 Andy Moliski / *Slowdance*
 Daniel Molnar / *Aengus*
 Lyndsay Monsen / *Chef Decker*
 Todd Montgomery / *Snail*
 Carlos Montoya / *Wooly*
 Kaitlynn Mooney / *Avocado*
 John Moore / *Chuparosa*
 Rory Moore / *Masshole*
 Kaden Morgan / *Boxcar*
 Laura Morin / *Sunshine*
 James Morris / *Bucket*
 Lynn Morrison / *Groceries*
 Michael Morrison / *Boxcar*
 Scott Morrison / *High Road*
 Timothy Morrison / *Last Call*
 Kimberly Morrow / *Scooter*
 Gregory Morton / *Cottage*
 Carson Moser / *Mixed Up*
 Michelle Moshinskie / *Starr*
 Isaac Moss / *Scoop*
 Ferrell Moultrie / *Daddy Long Legs*

Ryan Moyer / *Tips*
 Erin Moynihan / *Beansie*
 Sven Müller / *Bear Slayer*
 Adam Mumaugh / *Forrest*
 Bob Mundorf / *Smiley*
 Julie Mundorf / *TacoBell*
 Denisse Muniz-Nash / *Nightingale*
 Benjamin Murdock / *Gorby*
 Andrew Murphree / *Vibe*
 Paul Murphy / *Lucky Charmer*
 Trevor Murrah / *Lightweight Tango*
 Bob Murray / *Santiago*
 Carson Myers / *Beastie*
 William Nash / *Ash*
 John Nasuta / *Rainbow*
 Olivia Neal / *Rainbow*
 Rebecca Nease / *Doneski*
 Paul Neat / *Dunk*
 Skeeter Neff / *Achilles*
 Levi Negley / *Woody*
 Katherine Neidorf
 Jenn Neiss / *Skeeter*
 Jonathan Nelligan / *Caffeinator*
 David Nelson / *Gravy*
 Miriam Nelson / *Fern*
 Christopher Nepomuceno / *Woo Pig*
 Molly Newell / *Bravo*
 Trishadee Newlin / *Dandelion*
 James Newman / *Perpetual Motion*
 John Newton / *Cough Drop*
 Leslie Newton / *Dragonfly*
 Hilary Nichols / *Disco*
 Connor Nielsen / *far out*
 Lindsay Nimon / *T-Rex*
 Patrick Nimon / *Stitches*
 Anna Nissley / *Half Pint*
 Robert Nixon / *Banquet*
 David Norton / *Double Take*
 Lukas Nowotny / *Ice Cream*
 Kelly Nye / *KGrennie or KG*
 Mary O'Brien / *Beer Girl*

Susan O'Donnell / *Turbo walking home*
 Beau Oestreich / *Juggernaut*
 Tom Ogasawara / *El Gato*
 Frank O'Hara / *Papa Roja*
 Emily O'Keefe
 Jacob Okurowski / *Messenger*
 Hermes Olmos / *Birdman*
 Camilla Orr / *Free Flow*
 Rachael Ortberg / *Duckie*
 Kevin O'Sullivan / *Milky Moo*
 Egon Overgaard
 Daniel Owen / *Foody*
 Kevin Owens / *PACER*
 Roy Owens / *Caboose*
 Janice Page-Frische / *Boo Boo*
 Otis Pannell / *Rude*
 Mark Paquin / *Popeye*
 Heather Pardi / *Pacemaker*
 James Parfitt / *Koozy*
 Charles Parker / *Snowman*
 William Parker / *Skywalker*
 Susan Passerello / *Sue*
 Ethan Pathammavong / *Manitoba Man*
 Evan Pauling / *reptar*
 Jennifer Peasnell / *Songbird/Skylark*
 Madi Pecht
 Laura Peck / *Storytime*
 Laura Peckham
 Barrett Peitz / *Mothman*
 Hannah Perez / *MooseBoots*
 Gary Perkins / *Bushwhacker*
 Gene Perry / *Bricks*
 Lee Perry / *S.A.S*
 Greg Peters / *M & M*
 John Peters / *Amazon*
 Ralph Peterson-Veatch / *Podcast*
 Michelle Petix / *SpitFire*
 Ryan Peyton / *RHINO*
 Kevin Pfau / *Strider*
 Di Pham / *Double D*
 Jesse Phillips / *LittlePackRat*

Mitchell Phillips / *Lost Boy*
 Daniel Piepho / *Casserole*
 Stephen Pike / *Machine*
 James Pinto
 Jerry Pisecki / *Springer*
 Shane Pitman / *Goofy*
 Brian Plumb / *Sligo*
 Matthew Podolsky / *Birdman*
 Ashton Polk / *Cornfed*
 Daniel Polotski / *Kroc A. Schidt*
 Faye Poon / *Infomercial*
 Bryce Poorman
 Jillian Pope / *Dairy Queen*
 Earl Porter III / *A. Ham*
 Laurie Potteiger / *Mountain Laurel*
 Matthew Potter / *Dijeridoo*
 Shayn Powers / *NashVegas*
 Malia Pownall / *Mantis*
 Sonny Preston / *Sonnyside*
 Caitlin Pristupa
 Annie Protzmann / *Platinum*
 David Proulx / *Tonka*
 Cassie Pugh / *Grazer*
 William Pugh / *Lennon*
 Jason Pursell / *Halfway*
 Terri Purser / *Berri Berri*
 Christin Quinn / *Tamale*
 Matthew Radford / *Spirit*
 Oleg Radjabov / *Good Time*
 Emily Rahn / *Strider*
 Luis Ramirez / *Mangú*
 Brent Ramsey / *Rougarou / Viking*
 John Rapp / *JR*
 George Rasmussen / *Lucky*
 David Rathbun / *Crow*
 Kevin Ravas / *McFly*
 Charles Ray / *Prophet*
 Sara Read / *Gourmet*
 Joshua Reedy / *Sir Fresh Nuggs*
 Michelle Reidt / *Timer*
 J. Reilly / *Zippy Morocco*
 Kevin Reilly / *Cap'n Crunch*
 Liam Reilly / *Twix*
 Nicole Reitz / *Fib (Fibonacci)*
 Kevin Remillard / *Chop-Chop*
 Mark Rentz / *Pirate*
 David Repko
 Kieran Repko / *Columbo*
 Steven Reynolds / *Muppet*
 Monica Rhodes / *Play by Play*
 Eric Richard / *Chomp*
 Tom Richardson / *GiddyUp*
 Donnie Rickman / *Splash*
 Kerry Rickman / *Honey Badger*
 Eric Riese / *Old Bay*
 Scott Rimes / *Punisher*
 Stephen Rinker
 Chris Ritter / *Birthday Sandwich*
 Chris Rivera / *Slow Down*
 Roby Roark / *Red Panda*
 Thomas Robert / *Mirage*
 Evan Roberts / *Boom*
 Noah Robertson / *Tater Tantrum*
 Lucas Robins / *TurtleFish*
 Jenna Robinson / *Safari*
 Matthew Robinson / *Tomato*
 Savannah Robinson / *Songbird*
 Shawn Robinson / *Teddy Bear*
 William Robinson / *Shim Hortons*
 Nicole Robitaille / *Pale Moon*
 Andrew Roden / *Spock*
 Dori Rodman / *Trouble*
 Gabriel Rodriguez / *Not Yet*
 Daniel Rohlfing / *Journey Man*

Ella Rohm-Ensing / *Pantless*
 Kathy Rohn / *Lotus*
 Kevin Rohn / *Stretch*
 Sam Rollins / *Saco*
 Rafael Roman / *Ninja Turtle*
 Matthew Romasco / *U*
 Michael Romasco / *Countryclub*
 Maria Romfoe / *Beans*
 Maricon Roquero / *Mushroom*
 Julie Rosà / *Hoops*
 Peter Rosà / *Outlaw*
 Holly Rosenthal / *Daisy*
 Natalie Rosenthal / *Sunshine*
 Jill Rosholt / *SpiceGirl*
 Jared Ross / *Sparkles*
 Emily Rosser / *Gonzo*
 Rich Rossetti / *Gator/Sunrise*
 Stephen Rossetti / *Croc/Leif*
 Evie Rozendaal / *Twister*
 Hunter Rud
 Richard Rumschlag / *Trash Panda*
 Timothy Runkles / *Gandalf*
 Richard Ruth / *Maui*
 Pavel Sabela / *Paya*
 Aroc Sabins / *Pink Hotdog*
 Laura Sagurski / *Memories*
 Patricia Sale / *Trout Lily*
 Rebecca Salstrand / *Tennessee Pickle*
 Chandler Sam
 Zachary Sanborn / *Mountain Doctor*
 Andrea Sande / *Out N' About*
 Micah Sanders
 Cole Sandridge / *Hitch*
 Thea Erickson Sawyers / *Tater*
 Joseph Saxton / *Stuntz*
 Stephan Say / *Motor Mouth*
 Sydnie Sayward / *Bug*
 Chris Scagliotti / *tRiS*
 Leigh Scarff / *Long Break*
 Charlene Schaffner / *Tortoise*
 Isaiah Schafraath / *Woodstock*
 Kari Schairer / *Komorebi*
 Kevin Scharkey / *Zen*
 Leah Scharkey / *Azaleah*
 Joe Schellenbach
 Mark Schemmel / *Chief Squid*
 Sonja Scholz / *Bear Snack*
 Elijah Schreiber / *Heat Lightning*
 Luke Schroeder / *Dijon*
 Tyler Schuette / *Lunchbox*
 Kimberly Schultz / *Chirp*
 Sky Schwartz / *TBD*
 Ronald Schwarz / *Turtyl*
 Don Scivley / *Vulcan*
 Cindy Scott / *Radar*
 Dillan Seaver / *Halftime*
 Brandi Seeley / *Skipper*
 Samantha Sharkey / *Lemon Drop*
 Dennis Sheidler / *Mantis*
 Scott Sheldon / *Jean Genie*
 Nicole Shelton / *BFD*
 Roy Sheppard Jr. / *Easy*
 Kacie Shifflett / *Hummingbird*
 Jeremiah Shinkle / *Dipper*
 Emily Shorter / *Apples*
 Evan Shortes / *Gypsy*
 Sarah Shyers / *Pathfinder*
 Aaron Siegel / *Cheez-It*
 Raymond Siewert / *Lat*
 Alexa Siino / *Sunset*
 Molly Sikora / *Lemon Drop*
 Bryan Silverman / *Croaker*
 Travin Silvers
 Rosalie Silvia / *Survivor*

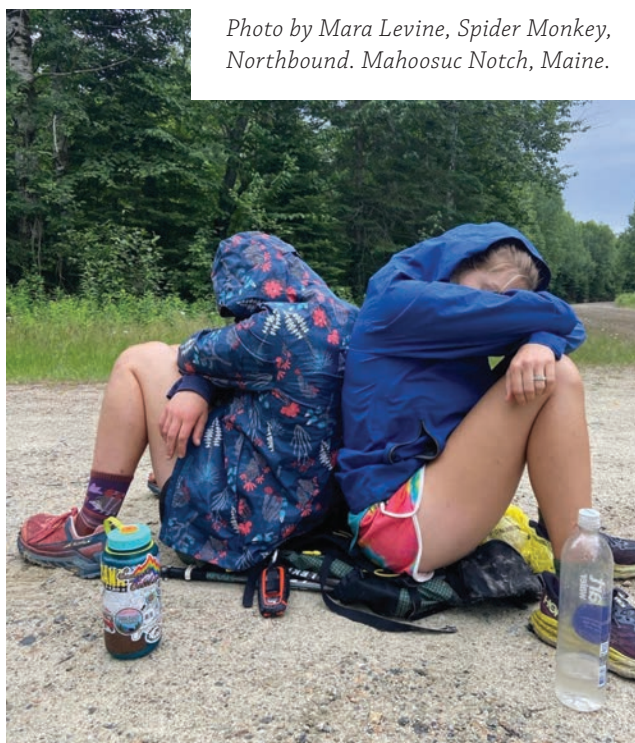


Photo by Mara Levine, Spider Monkey, Northbound. Mahoosuc Notch, Maine.

Peter Simmeth / *Little Calves*
 Robert Simonds / *Just Bob*
 Julie Simpson / *Bubbles*
 Ronald Simpson / *Ron*
 Tom Simpson / *Onion*
 Dan Sims / *Boone*
 Benjamin Singleton / *Leapfrog*
 Claude Sittin / *Obliv*
 Samuel Sjostrom / *Gamgee*
 Morgan Skinner / *Savory*
 Grayson Skogman / *Fish*
 Jasper Skogman / *NinjaSquirrel*
 Joni Skogman / *North Star*
 Anelia Slavoff / *Sunshine*
 Nathan Sloan / *Casserole*
 Charles Smith
 Curt Smith / *Schweddy*
 Daniel Smith / *Yogi*
 Glenn Smith / *Mr. Greeter*
 Greg Smith / *Greens*
 Jo-Ann Smith / *JoMaMa*
 Joshua Smith / *Aldo*
 Nate Smith / *Marathon Man*
 Robert Smith / *Cash*
 Sean Smith / *Shaggy*
 Theodore Smith / *Butterfly*
 Thomas Snodgrass / *Just Tom*
 Karen Snow / *Skake (Dora)*
 Michael Snow / *Bake*
 Nina Sone / *Mushroom*
 Stephen SooHoo / *Sparrow*
 Joe Sorrentino / *Supersuit*
 Wayne Southwell / *No Worries*
 Elisabeth Spankowski / *Jelly*
 Jeffrey Speak / *NameGame*
 John Speer / *Cakes*
 William Speer / *Spill Beer*
 Sarah Spencer-Piszczek / *Frank*
 Dalton Spurlin / *Cast Iron*
 Mark St. John / *Gandalf*
 Kevin St. Clair / *Razorback*
 Emilie Stahl / *Blue*
 Chris Staley / *Thermal*
 Amber Stearns / *Happy*
 Perrin Stein / *Spoon*
 Mark Steinbacher / *Determined*
 Fritz Steingrube / *Best Friend*
 Chelsea Steitz / *Pig Pen*
 Timothy Stelter / *Grizzly the MAD Scientist*
 Joshua Stephan / *Neon*
 Nathan Stephansky / *Tacocat*
 Anna Stephenson / *Beyore*
 Michael Stern / *Tiki*
 Tanner Stewart / *Tarzan*
 Kelly Stocker / *E.B. (Energizer Bunny)*
 Roger Stohlberg / *Big spoon*
 Gabriela Stolpinski / *Marathon*
 Matthew Story / *Strider*
 Timon Strano / *Hitch*
 Jule Streety / *Maestro*
 George Stuart / *KJ*
 Maria Stubbendick / *Glamazon*
 Ryan Stubits
 Eric Stuck / *Goose*
 Jill Stuck / *Gander*
 Laurence Studer
 Amanda Stys / *Swift Feet*
 George Sullivan / *Patches*
 Stanley Sutter / *Stan The Man*
 Eliza Sweeney / *Swerve*
 Ian Sweet
 Jason Swenson / *S.O.S*



Photo by Dave Ford, Hairnet, Northbound

Margaret Switzer / *Billy Goat*
 Charlotte Szafranski / *GoGirl*
 Nell Tarno / *Fireball*
 Sam Taylor / *Hot Sauce*
 Mercer Tedders / *Frodo*
 Jacob Tegler / *Daddy Long Legs*
 Abigail Teichert / *Spillz*
 Michael Telesca / *ThunderDome*
 Kurt Theiler / *Professor*
 Ian Theriot / *Morgan*
 Jennifer Thomas / *DEFCON*
 Kelly Thomas / *Spotter*
 Samuel Thomas / *Whippoorwill*
 Ethan Thombs / *Hermes*
 Gareth Thompson / *Guru G*
 Greg Thompson / *Governor*
 Braeden Thomson / *Fuel Can*
 David Thurston / *Christian*
 Steven Thyme / *Darwin*
 Courtney Tibbetts / *Split*
 Falk Tischer / *Falcon*
 Edward Tobin / *Lego*
 Cara Toebe / *Lil Fizz*
 Stroud Tolleson / *Stomps*
 John Tomczak / *Traffic Cone*
 Carol Tomlinson / *Coyote*
 Erin Toole / *Painkles*
 Wendy Toole / *Shade Tree*
 Travis Travis / *Smokey the Bard*
 Megan Travis-Carr / *(S.) Rocket*
 Megan Tremaine / *Mystic Aqua*
 Heidi Triantafillou / *Evil Shadow*
 Jay Trull / *Heurich*
 Roman Tsitron / *Candle*

Justin Tucker / *New Shoes*
 John Turner / *Raven*
 Mark Turner / *Bubblehead*
 Miranda Turner / *Zazz*
 Lauren Tuttlebee / *Bubblesaurus Rex*
 Jacqueline Twohig / *Spicy Brown*
 David Ulissi / *Baseball*
 Helen Umpierre / *Meadow*
 James Uncapher / *Pilgrim*
 Lorraine Underwood / *Sparkle*
 Robyn Urdaibay / *Singalong*
 Daniel Valentine / *Blue*
 Thomas VanderSloot / *Ridealong*
 Sjors van Eijdsen / *Dutch Tin Man*
 Bryan Vanetten / *Sonic Boom*
 Don Vanhook / *Captain Hook*
 Margaret VanLandingham / *C Bear*
 Wayne VanLandingham / *Viewfinder*
 Karin Van Nieuwenhuizen / *Sprouts*
 Alexander Van Vliet / *Turbo*
 Derek VanVolkenburgh / *Limbo*
 Andrew Vargo / *Drinks*
 Steve Vaught / *Lil?Chap*
 Dave Veder / *Testudo*
 Brian Vereb / *Mountain Goat*
 Jack Viere / *Homework*
 Ashley Vines / *Wildflower*
 Robert Visintainer / *Fire Man*
 Sam Vivegnis / *Panda*
 Brian Voyles / *Rockwalker*
 Kristofer Vukasin
 Nathan Wagner / *Classic Frank*
 Charles Waite / *Ruby Red*
 Caleb Walden

Jeffrey Waldo / *Hot Feet*
 Caleb Waldrop / *AKA*
 Matthew Wallace / *Rosin*
 Nancy Wampler / *Coldilocks*
 Tim Wampler / *Rasputin*
 James Waslicki / *6 pack*
 Gavin Wasson / *Black Paws*
 Joel Watson / *DIY*
 John Webb / *Gimlet*
 Alexandra Weber / *Circles*
 Brandt Webster / *Branch*
 Eric Weiland / *Cowbell*
 Stefanie Weir / *Megaphone*
 Richard Welch / *Alpine*
 Julia Welsh / *Back Bone*
 Haley Welshoff / *Tang*
 Jessica Wemer / *Uptown*
 Will West / *Fungi*
 Mark Wetekamp / *Scorpion*
 Kevin Whaley
 Edward Whips / *TenYear*
 Benjamin White / *SAFARI*
 Rock White
 Joshua Wight / *Popeye*
 Jonah Willers / *Sea-Monkey*
 Brian Williams / *Bolt*
 Emily Williams
 John Williams / *Grey Wolf*
 Johnny Williams / *Lost Johnny*
 Stephanie Williams / *2Barz*
 Rushton Williamson / *Longportage*
 Thomas Wills / *GRNDR*
 Matt Wilmot / *Mapquest*
 Taylor Wilson / *Toy Story*

Brett Winckler / *Shaggy*
 Gary Windham / *Rock Steady*
 Eric Wineburg / *Gizmo*
 Maurice Wisser
 Jamie Witherby / *Pearwood*
 Erin Wolf
 Brian Wolfer / *Keystone*
 Jason Wolff / *Styx*
 Veronica Wolff / *Take Three*
 John Wood / *Hopper*
 Noah Wood / *Guide*
 Pamela Woods / *Wam*
 Christopher Woodward
 Christine Wright / *Stray*
 Jimmy Wright / *Tarzan*
 Meredith Wright / *Pink Panther*
 Philip Wrightson / *Boston*
 Sarah Wu / *Fix-It*
 Amanda Wylie / *Two Braids*
 Piljo Yae / *WIC*
 Joshua Yates / *Yota*
 Jefferson Ye / *Seven Plates*
 Newman Yeilding / *Stretch*
 Eric Yonce / *Rolling Solo*
 Janet Younts / *Happy Dancer*
 Kaylee Zabawa / *Hawk*
 Mike Zarbo / *Magic Mike*
 Annelise Zeender / *Mulligan*
 Cort Zimmerman / *Ledge*
 Kara Zinger / *Swiss*
 Ashley Zuverink / *Zamboni*

2021*

Michael Anderson / *Banger*
 Annemarie Athey / *Zipsss*
 Tracy Auchtung / *Draggin'*
 Geoff Avery / *DuckTape*
 Megan Avery / *Whisper*
 Alex Bailey / *Bags*
 Donna Barkley / *Gunslinger*
 Katelyn Barok / *Lost N' Found*
 Steve Bartholomew / *Pokie Hokie*
 Benjamin Bater / *Mr. Clean*
 Aaron Beckelhymer / *OSHA*
 Randy Behm / *Tortoise / Tangerine*
 Danielle Benedetto / *Happy Feet*
 Ashley Benedict / *Croft*
 Adam Bengis / *Tarzan*
 Marcus Beyerle / *Marcus*
 Emma Biba / *Giggles*
 Hannah Bissmeyer / *Wonder*
 Wesley Blomquist / *Maine Course*
 Josh Bohn / *Bones*
 Michael Boisture / *Gap*
 Zachary Boston / *Prototype*
 Kerrigan Boyd / *Atomic*
 Andrew Boyter / *Great Dane*
 Carol Brandt / *Hickory Stick*
 Steven Breaux / *Bro*
 Michael Brenkus / *Mullet Mike*
 Bailey Brocker
 William Bryant / *Short Trip*
 Chris Burlison / *Cornbread*
 Christine Burns / *Joja*
 Patrick Cagney / *Amtrak*
 Amy Cambridge / *Poles*
 Winter Camille / *Weatherman*
 Jim Cardon / *Plantman*
 Melissa Cardon / *Grateful Newt*
 Roger Carpenter / *Greg in Wild*
 Chuck Cave / *Silverback*



Photo by Michael Telesca, ThunderDome, Northbound



Photo by Larry Autrey, Captain Lawrence, Northbound

Harrison Chapin / *Picnic Basket*
 Berenice Chew / *Pacesetter*
 Robert Chew / *Wayfinder*
 Tyler Chidester / *PrePack*
 Henry Clark
 Rand Clark / *Half-Time*
 Bethany Conerly / *Layers*
 Ronald Cox / *Ultra Burn*
 Brandon Crider / *Latenight*
 Erik Curtis / *Fauna*
 Heather Daigle / *Egg*
 George Danis
 Azure Davey / *Business Time*
 Charles Davidson / *Chase*
 Don DeArmon / *Hitchhiker*
 Harvey Dennenberg / *GrandPa Walking*
 Chris Derajits / *Italian Ice*
 Hayley Devine / *Tipper*
 Dylan DiGrazia / *Tater*
 Thomas Doczi
 Henry Drexel / *TrueTex*
 Regan DuHadway / *TB (Tiny Bladder)*
 John Durrett / *Mr. Magoo*
 Kim Dwyer / *Caboose*
 Benjamin Earl-Moseley / *Turtle*
 Nancy Ellis / *Shake-a-nanny*
 Steven Ellis / *Deac*
 Sarah Ellison / *Sheepdog*
 Jeff Evanoff / *Prone to Wander*
 Mary Ann Evans / *8 Mile MA*
 Christina Faulkner / *Curly Turtle*
 Rick Faulkner / *Flex*
 Micah Faustin
 Richard Federman
 Benjamin Feliksiak / *Pancho 420*
 Christopher Field / *Road Runner*
 Jeff Field / *Flicker*
 Brady Fitzgerald / *Squirrel*
 Lowell Fluke / *Blue*
 Mark Forman / *Old Chief*
 Sarah Frost / *Mighty Mouse*
 Alex Fukuchi / *Beach Day*
 Tom Fulbright / *Hacksaw*
 Susan Gannaway / *Rainbow*
 Louis Gaudreau / *Timekeeper*
 Nancy Gaudreau / *Mouser*
 Judith Gentz / *Steamy*
 David Gillis / *Green*
 Rosie Glaser / *Pacer*
 Charles Glaws / *Moose*
 Taylor Glaws / *Moose*
 Wayne Godfrey / *Gunny*
 William Goodall / *Scoter*
 Nathan Gourley / *RainDance*
 Lloyd Grainger / *Country Boy*
 Travis Grant / *Rooster*
 Tim Gutzmer
 Dustin Hadley / *Braveheart*
 Carl Hagelin / *Farfar*
 Callie Hagerman / *Jukebox*
 Sarah Haggerty / *Amazon (Beer Mama)*
 Zachary Haggerty / *Double Take*
 Tori Hanold / *Swift*
 Leah Harman / *Twig*
 Ashley Harrison / *Sass*
 Justin Hathaway / *Rest Stop*
 Robert Hawkins / *Mushroom*
 Matt Healey / *Mess*
 David Hefner
 Liam Henderson / *Mud Lantern*
 Sophie Heny / *Waterbug*
 Nancy Hinchliffe / *M&M*
 Cathy Hing / *My Sweet Lady*
 Joshua Hipps / *Paddles*

Austin Hollis / *Mystik Spiral*
 Danielle Holsinger / *Footloose*
 Ann Hudnall / *Pipes*
 Kayt Hunt / *Taco*
 Tali Hunt / *Topo*
 Barbara Hurne / *Grey Goose*
 Patrick Hurne / *SnoBoat*
 Yvonne Imrie / *Stealth Walker*
 Nick James / *Splash*
 Rick James / *Silver Streak*
 Bradlee Jeffrey / *Specs*
 Emily Johnson / *Slow Squeeze*
 J. Dennis Johnston / *Skipper*
 David Jones / *Wombie*
 John Jones / *Chairman*
 Alex Kelley / *Jaybird*
 Myra Kincaid / *Wonder*
 James King / *CROATOAN*
 Michael Koltonuk / *Bigfoot*
 K. Kramer / *Socrates*
 Caroline Krantz
 Mac Kraus / *Meat Quilt*
 Nathan Krekelberg
 Cathy Lacienski / *Minnie*
 Krysten Lamberson / *Lambo*
 James Lamers
 Jared Lampal / *Fisherman*
 Matthew Lanfair / *Snackpack*
 Mark Langenfeld / *Sunshine*
 William Langford / *Funkle*
 Henry Latimer / *Pappy*
 Justin Leahy / *Picky*
 Katie Legenski
 Julia Leveille / *Waffles*
 Henry Lewis / *Moose Juice*
 Donna Logan / *Signage*
 Gregory Loveless / *Polar Bear*
 Daniel MacFarland Jr. / *Stand-Up*
 Andrew Magalhaes / *Flip*
 Maxwell Magalhaes / *Flop*
 Tara Magee / *Puff the Magic Dragon*
 Corey Mahjoubian / *Maui*
 Laura Mangan / *Scout*
 Marmot
 Win Marsh / *Happy*
 Jesse Marshall / *Buffalograss*
 Paula Martin / *Windeagle*
 Donald Martin / *Just Don*
 Larry Massey / *RainMaker*
 Brent McDougal / *Oracle*
 Bryce McGahen / *Alias*
 Anastasia McGinnis / *Sunnybear*
 Gregory McGrath / *Midnight*
 Patrick McIlmoyle / *Big Yellow*
 Aubrey McIntosh / *Bugs*
 David McKinney / *Singin Dave*
 Mary Meixner / *Vulture*
 Annette Melius / *Doppler*
 Edward Michaud / *Old Army 1775*
 Timothy Morphew / *Coffee Kid*
 Evelyn Needham / *Showman*
 Peter Nichols / *Medicine Man*
 Andrew Niekamp / *Captain Blue*
 Katherine Nix / *Choo Choo*
 Shane O'Day / *Slainte*
 Stephen O'Neal / *Thumper*
 Jeffrey Oppenheim / *Oppy the Sherpa Guide*
 Jim Page / *Fly'n J*
 Ben Palladino / *Iceman*
 Lisa Parker / *Tex*
 Eleni Philipon / *Trail Daddy*
 Teresa Pinto / *Navigator*
 Karl Pleger / *WHO*
 Alain Plouffe / *NOT YET*

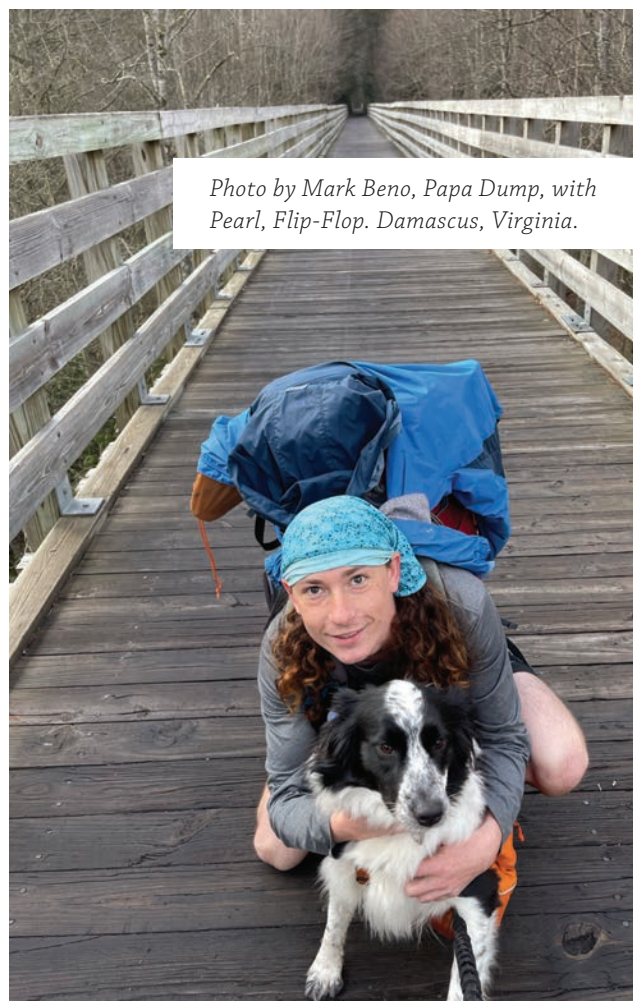


Photo by Mark Beno, Papa Dump, with Pearl, Flip-Flop. Damascus, Virginia.

Ben Poston / *Skid Mark*
 Sam Poston / *Festus*
 David Price / *No-Box*
 Adam Prusiecki / *Yonder*
 Cameron Ratchford / *Upbeat*
 Kevin Redden / *Bear - Lilo*
 Alexander Reiber / *Snooze*
 Anne Reid / *Dirt Fox*
 Kevin Reilly / *Rippin Reils*
 Michael Riccui / *Rizz*
 Terry Rice / *Finder*
 Nick Riese / *G.O.*
 Scott Rimes / *Punisher*
 Keith Rinzier / *Kernal Angus*
 Annie Rittenhouse / *ViewMaster*
 Regina Rizzo / *THC*
 Kirk Robinson / *Solo*
 Tony Rouse / *"Just " Tony*
 Gabrielle Rumney / *Vortex*
 Staci Sanders / *Cookiemonster*
 Lisa Santa Maria / *KC*
 Madeline Saxton / *GOLF*
 Lauren Schaupp / *Tracker*
 Charmaine Schiele / *Charmin*
 Phillip Schroeder / *Possum*
 Allen Scott / *Just Al*
 Jonas Selk / *Donatello*
 Rebecca Shaw / *Tadpole*
 Robert Shaw / *Social*
 Laura Shepherd / *Kamin*

Tom Sherry / *Stellar*
 Alec Sieber / *Prof*
 Karli Siefker / *Frog*
 Cade Smith
 Abigail Smithey / *Bugs*
 Kellee Spillman / *Hobbit*
 B. Spring / *Flatlander*
 Colin Steele / *St. Paul*
 Patricia Steely / *Traildancer*
 Barton Steffy / *Brightside*
 Melanie Stephenson / *Cactus*
 Jake Stewart / *Astro*
 Zack Stockbridge / *Beekeeper*
 Jacob St. Onge / *BAIT*
 Julie Stubbs / *Birdfeed*
 Sarah Stypulkoski / *Indie*
 Carly Sullivan / *Lil Skunk*
 Kevin Sullivan / *Tropical*
 Jim Surdukowski / *Vintage*
 Leigh Surdukowski / *Lady Bird*
 Ronald Tebbetts / *Water Doc*
 David Thompson / *Hammer Man*
 Steve Titcomb / *Professor T*
 Richard Tobey / *Rocket Man*
 Joseph Turmel / *Joseph Turmel*
 Joshua Twiddy / *Frogger*
 Cooper Uliano / *AYCE*
 Carol Vassey / *Pollyanna*
 Ryan Vees / *Crime Scene*
 Lauren Walker / *Buttspice*

Jenn Wall / *Zebra*
 Julia Wall / *Trippin'*
 Jack Wallace / *Twinkle Toes*
 Linda Wallace / *Pvt Benjamin*
 Mary Kathryn Wallace / *Turtle*
 Kevin Walls
 Harry Walton / *Two Tenths*
 Holt Ward / *Tonto*
 Piper Warren / *Sweetie*
 Zachary Warres / *Cobbler*
 Lara Watrous / *Trash Panda*
 Chester Watson / *Chestet*
 Paige Whisenhunt / *Pippie the Hippie*
 China Whitmire / *China*
 Michael Whittle / *Whittle*
 Amanda Williams / *Stealth*
 Julie Wilson-Freeman / *Stripper*
 Andrea Windmeyer / *Onward*
 Rochelle Winn / *Rockie*
 Bill Woody / *G-Daddy*
 John Wright / *Thumper*

2020*

PK Brunnemer / *Mule*
 Edwin Bumbaugh / *No Sweat*
 Cassidy Camp / *Borderline*
 Benjamin Feliksiak / *Pancho420yoyo*
 Brad Glaser / *Chaser*
 Madison Hale / *Hot Sauce*
 Japheth Hester / *The Champ*
 Susan Hornbuckle / *Cashmere*
 Andrew Huggins / *No Pants*
 Kayla Lichtenberg / *Giggles*
 Mark Lichtenberg / *All Day*
 Nicholas Mayo / *Mayo*
 Kevin Mobbs / *Chickenbone*
 Ferrell Moultrie / *Daddy Long Legs*
 Anne Stewart-Hill / *Quiet Storm*
 Richard Wettstone / *No Keys*

2019

Mylin Ackerman / *Meow*
 Lore Amberise / *Dot*
 Sonia Amberise / *Soso*
 David Balick / *P.D.*
 Eric Bastidas / *Roadside*
 Mallory Belknap / *Wag*
 Rich Bergsma
 Casey Billings / *Hopper*
 Scott Bingham / *Iceman*
 Bethany Bourget / *Granite*
 Matthew Brdecka / *Sir Eats-A-Lot*
 Brooks Bumbalo / *Etch a Sketch*
 Tarin Bybee / *Bear*
 Eucaris Carlino / *Washbucket*
 Frank Carter / *Golden Walker*
 Nile Carter-Thorp / *City*
 Kaleigh Cauble / *Shiitake*
 Tuan Anh Cauble / *Spruce Lee*
 Peter Cherkas / *Fish*
 Kelli Cleavenger / *One Step*
 Abbie Cogger / *Vike*
 Doug Cogit / *One Day*
 Sherry Cook / *Tee Bee Dee*
 Dustie Cooper / *Indie*
 Abishai Corey / *Madre*
 Hadassah Corey / *LOL*
 Heidi Corey / *Meidi*
 Jesse Corey / *Destroyer*
 Marcus Corey / *Maine*

Richard Cox / *Rover*
 Lisamarie Cropper / *Mojo*
 Stephen Crowe / *Forty Four*
 Donald Danser / *Pilgrim*
 Julie Day / *Deer Song*
 Kristina de los Santos / *Dodger Dog*
 Matthew T. DesChamps / *Matt in the Hat*
 Jack Dexter / *Smokey*
 Annabelle Dunbar / *Tinkerbell*
 Josh Easter / *Eldorado*
 Lara Watrous / *Trash Panda*
 Susanne Flowers / *Baudisch*
 Caleb Fowler / *50/50*
 Guy Gaechter / *Django*
 Jack Garrett / *Walnut*
 Joshua Garrett / *Steady*
 Shawn Geiger / *Dawson Grizzly Adams*
 Frank Girgenti / *The Professor*
 Alex Glenn / *Tripod*
 Maxwell Goto / *Guardian*
 Danielle Goularte / *Calamity Dan*
 Rob Gradoville Jr. / *I Yard Sale*
 Mike Gulasey / *Snake Eyes*
 Nancy Hammer / *Grace*
 David Hanson / *Feral*
 Larry Harrison / *Weezer*
 Sydney Hartley / *Rosie*
 Zach Hartley / *Chippie*
 Robin Heller / *BiteMe*
 Tara High / *Soul Shine*
 Emily Himberg / *Wild child*
 Daniel Hinshaw / *Iron Pony*
 Corbin Jenkinson / *Staples*
 Gaelen Jenkinson / *Slinky*
 Michelle Jiao / *Northstar*
 Jessica Jordan / *Yalla*
 Christopher Juarez / *One Gear*
 Jeffery Kapanek / *Ziploc*
 Joshua Keating / *No Hitch*
 Christopher Kromeich / *Giggles*
 Nigel Lange / *The Honorable Leech*
 Michael and Mia Lawhon / *M&Ms*
 William Lawrence / *POME*
 Savannah Lee / *Turbo*
 Ethan Lehman / *Thunder Thighs*
 David Lipnitz / *Walmart*
 Richard Losek / *One Step*
 Jessica MacLean / *Maple*
 Jordan MacNeil / *Nightingale*
 Craig Mains / *HAWK*
 Jonathan Manley / *Honeybuns*
 David Mansell / *Gretzky*
 Sarah McKee / *Sassfras*
 Billy Meredith / *Wahoo*
 John Metheny / *Moon Walk*
 Thad Mickler / *Moccasin*
 Simon Morris / *WOW*
 Mirjam Nastali / *Snake Charmer*
 Marissa Neel / *Executioner*
 Tyler Neff / *Reno*
 Isaac Nesbitt / *Blouse*
 Marissa Nixon / *Burner*
 James O'Keefe / *The Marine*
 Justin Parker / *Pan*
 Nick Pavlot / *Legs*
 Ben Perry / *Twin*
 Monika Pfister / *Teaberry*
 Ryan Piersing / *No Slack*
 Pascal Prevost-Aubin / *Celcius*
 Miranda Pridgen / *Bop It*
 Cameron Puchosic / *Pegasus*
 Dave Ranck / *Boots*
 Caleb Reynolds / *Fire God*
 Mark Rice / *Old Skool Moose*

Nicole Riley / *Noodle*
 Richard Romanelli / *Six-Wheel*
 Cameron Root / *Zorro*
 Alexander Rosenberg / *Chef*
 Sebastien Roy / *The Beast*
 McLin Sanders / *The Duke of the Trail*
 Jordan Schmalz / *Mom*
 Andy Schwarz / *Count*
 Siobhan Sheridan / *Drop Bear*
 Meredith Snyder / *Kicks*
 Kelsie Stahl / *Spark*
 Charles Stephens / *Rooster*
 Lindsey Sullivan / *Pale Ale*
 Brandon Thomas / *Stumbles*
 Michelle Tranter / *Blue Jay*
 Ethan Vannata / *Food Truck*
 James White / *Whitey*
 Stephanie N. White
 Amanda Wilson / *Mandolin*
 Ashley Wood / *Pinecone Mama*
 Jonathan Young / *Why Tho*

2018

Louis Agoston Jr. / *Box Turtle*
 Luke Beane / *Skywalker*
 Jennifer Brouwer / *Nana Troll*
 Katherine Fortin / *Spirit Walker*
 Benjamin Goodrich / *Squints*
 Kelley Guimont / *Wicked*
 Brendon Judd / *Crispy*
 Daniel Kovalik / *Danimal*
 Donald Macpherson / *Du Jour*
 Stacy Magee
 Dennis Manske / *Spiderman*
 Dennis Martin / *Bean*
 Daniel McCarty / *Nacho*
 Daniel Mills / *Rivers*
 Jeremy Monroe / *"The Man with No Name"*
 Joey Provencher / *Miller 55*
 James Shepherd / *Mr. Snickers*
 Rebekah Shepherd / *Nancy Drew*
 William Trent / *Shadow*
 Paul Truesdale / *Day Tripper*
 Mike Umphrey / *IDHATN also Skeleton Santa*
 John Zook / *Sunnyside*

2017

MaryAnne Barry / *Happy*
 Quinn Brookins / *Q*
 Elise Bridge / *Leesybug*
 Leith Clews / *Turtle Traxx*
 Jesse Ditzer / *Puddle Jumper*
 Kirt Fitzpatrick / *Owl*
 Charles Noe / *Lucky Man*
 Joshua Phillips / *Dakota*
 Al Prack / *Papa Yeti*
 Michael Rainwater / *Turmeric*
 Andrew Ryman / *WoodPile*
 Paul Schmidt / *Doc*
 Elayna Seago / *Pumba*
 Paige Seago / *Professor Sprout*
 Dean Smith / *Oatmeal*
 Martin Spough / *McFly*
 Charles Tabor / *Trapper John*

2016

Matthew Cotten / *Gandalf the Green*
 Eli Darby / *Sonic*
 Zack Darby / *Goose*
 Emily Garner / *Bumble Bee*
 Christopher Gibson / *Stuck*
 Frank Hancock / *Merlin*
 James Hoher / *Jupiter*
 Matthew Marshall / *Magic Man*
 Jon Rigden / *Birdman*
 Hope Schrouder / *Hoot*
 Samuel Sly / *Trekeroni*
 Josh Stewart / *Monkeyleg*

2015

Sonia Amberise / *Soso*
 Dan Bennett / *The Slow One*
 Stephen Binkley / *Peppermint*
 Robert Blaine / *Bobby Hill*
 Jesse Cody / *The Boston Mule*
 Samuel Getchell / *Kiwi*
 Tyler Morin / *Moosehead*
 James O'Keefe / *Fathero*
 David Stock / *Sunscreen*

2014-1966

2014 Christopher Davis / *Squirrel*
 2014 Sara Davis / *Treefrog*
 2014 Jaleesa Houle / *Chispa*
 2011 Fred Ramos / *FredT4*
 2010 Jesse Phillips / *Mr. Tea*
 2009 Allison Johnston
 2008 Peter Hagen / *Claus*
 2007 Matthew Stannard / *The Breeze*
 2007 Lawrence White / *Ranger*
 2005 David Hauver / *Papa Razzi*
 2004 Leah Scandurra / *Giddyup*
 2001 Edward Schaff / *MAINEiac*
 2001 Karen Soubeyrand / *RikkiTikkiTavi*
 1999 Evan Berland / *Sluggie*
 1999 Whitney Pratt / *Timber*
 1997 Darron Powell / *Pedro*
 1997 Mark Stover / *Space Wrangler*
 1993 Alfred Carpenter Jr. / *Islandpapa*
 1992 Gary Cox / *Easy Does It*
 1990 Sherri Hedgpath / *Snake Charmer*
 1990 Arthur Batchelder / *AB+*
 1988 Alan Nelson / *Midnight Owl*
 1985 Jeff Ellis / *Spunk 3*
 1984 Dennis Tupick
 1980 Marc Fortin / *Forts From Maine*
 1980 Greg Gudger / *The Fugitive*
 1979 Jeff Hammons / *Kansas*
 1978 Charles McKenzie / *McKenzie*
 1974 Robert Hill
 1973 Turner Williams III / *Trip*
 1973 Charlie Gerow
 1966 Charles Ebersole / *Silver Chief*

* Reported hikes for 2020 and 2021 conformed to the ATC's 2,000-miler policy as outlined on appalachiantrail.org/2000milers

A LIFE'S WORK

REFLECTIONS ON THE A.T. AND A CAREER IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

■ BY WENDY JANSSEN

I AM WRITING THESE WORDS AS I PREPARE to retire after 35 years with the National Park Service, including nearly 10 years as Superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Fulfilling the National Park Service's mission has been my life's work. I have been honored to work at incredible parks with amazing stories and landscapes, with people who have made a lasting impact in both my life and the lives of others, and for an agency with colleagues who exemplify the very best of government service. My career has taken me to many places and provided me with unforgettable experiences. I have had so many opportunities to contribute, to improve the resource, to work with those who helped write our collective American history, and to encourage the youth who will lead our future.

I want to thank the wonderful partners in the

A.T. cooperative management system for your tireless efforts to preserve and protect this national and international treasure. The A.T. would not be what it is today without your hard work, expertise, passion, and commitment. All of you exemplify the power of one and of many — the work you do as an individual and the work we do collectively. The A.T. is truly a trail by and for the people. It is a tangible example of the importance of our national trails, partnerships, and communities.

As you may have heard me say before, the history of the A.T. is a collection of stories, as many as there are miles of trail, and as varied as the changing landscape from Georgia to Maine. I am so very proud of the stories written during my tenure and of all that has been accomplished with the small but mighty National Park Service team and our partners.



Above: Superintendent Janssen with a visitor to the Minidoka National Historic Site who had been incarcerated at the internment camp during World War II. Photo courtesy of Wendy Janssen. Below: The view from Annapolis Rocks in Maryland is one of the scenic views documented in the visual resources inventory project begun during Janssen's tenure as superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Photo by Bethany Coomes.





HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Created the largest landscape conservation initiative in the eastern United States — the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership — as co-convenors with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This included the completion of a strategic plan and a science and stewardship symposium.

- Advanced our active National Park Service land acquisition program, including Bald Mountain (Maine), Hudson Farm (New Hampshire), Killington (Vermont), Hottle-Fahey Forest and Fernside (Massachusetts), Corbin Hill (New York), sites acquired in Pennsylvania with Susquehanna-Roseland mitigation funds, Hogan Hollow/Morgan's Mill/Mountain Pass (Virginia), and more on the horizon.

- Addressed a range of developments that had the potential to impact the Trail experience. These included a missile interceptor site in Maine, a casino in New York, transmission lines, wind farms, and pipelines.

- Completed the first-ever inventory of all Trail assets (and an innovative web app), which has enabled a better understanding of facility resources, greater competition in project proposals, and receipt of more funding year after year.

- Removed incidentally acquired structures along the Trail, with more to come.

- Completed safety assessments and corrective actions to ensure visitor and partner safety.

- Compiled and utilized natural resources data such as a vegetation map, geologic resources inventory, and a natural resources condition assessment.

- Worked to remove non-native species, restore native habitat, and address species such as the golden-winged warbler.

- Nominated for a National Register of Historic Places designation for the entire A.T., with 14 individual state segment nominations.

- Completed a trailwide wayfinding plan to ensure consistent messaging across 14 states and multiple jurisdictions.

- Advanced educational and youth-oriented programs, preparing the next generation to care for the A.T.

- Completed visual resources inventories for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which document the quality and components of scenic views so that changes to them can be measured over time. We also established a trailwide visual resources program and completed pilot inventory work in each of the four ATC regions.

- Established the Triple Crown Partnership in Virginia, which included the development of a visitor use management plan and the completion of a transit feasibility study. This work has resulted in the pilot shuttle service to McAfee Knob, launched in September 2022.

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National Trails are some of the best examples of 21st century conservation, and the National Trails System Act (of 1968) was far ahead of its time. The purpose of the system was and remains visionary: "...to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and... 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..."

I like to say that we're in the "perpetuity business." We are here because of so many who have come before, and what we do now is for future generations. The collaborative environment that we have amongst the partners of the A.T. and the level of community engagement are a model in the National Park Service.

The Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail established the very successful and enduring cooperative management system — a unique partnership between many public and private groups involved in the management of the Trail. This system provides opportunities for federal, state, and local agencies, communities, tribes, and conservation organizations to work collaboratively so that we can leverage the natural, cultural, scenic, and

recreational value of the A.T. towards common goals. My hope is that all of you continue to nourish and sustain an inclusive cooperative management system and make space for even more partners and fellow stewards.

The A.T. is a place for not only recreation, but for solace. It is a place for communion not only with nature, but with each other. It is a powerful expression of the relevance of our public lands and preservation in perpetuity.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail possesses the power of place, the power of people, and the power of partnership. Its story will continue to be written by all of you.

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Superintendent Janssen retired in December 2022. An acting superintendent, Ed Wenschhof, was named on February 27, 2023. He will serve a 120-day term.
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AN AMERICAN STORY

~ BY LISA ZAID

IN 1941, THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL Conference held its last meeting before the end of World War II. That final meeting was about preparing for war. Some of those involved in the conference were active-duty military and had been called to serve. During that time, my family was already in the war. By 1941, their shtetls and hometowns had been turned into ghettos or had been burned to the ground during the Nazi invasion of Poland. I often think about the parallels of that — how the planning of one of the greatest hiking trails in the world grounded to a halt during one of the darkest chapters of human history.

But by 1948, the world was experiencing a profound sense of rebirth. That year, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, asserting that everyone has a right to freedom of movement and thought. In 1948, the Appalachian Trail Conference held its first meeting since the war to continue the work of the A.T. In 1948, a World War II veteran, Earl Shaffer, became the first A.T. thru-hiker — an attempt to “walk off the war.” That same year, in 1948, my dad was born in a displaced persons camp on the island of Cyprus to two Holocaust survivors — one of about 2,000 children born there to survivors fleeing Europe after the war.

Somehow, all four of my grandparents survived the Holocaust. They arrived in the United States filled with hope and a deep sense of gratitude for their adopted country. While they’d never return to the landscapes of Eastern Europe again, they began creating new memories in America. Flipping through family photo albums, I watched their lives return to color again. There were photos of the family in redwood forests, on the beaches of California, gliding in a boat across Lake Casitas with relatives visiting from Israel. The reality is that some survivors didn’t die and others came back to life. The landscapes of the United

States were a place where my grandparents experienced a kind of vitality that had been drained from them in the forests of Poland. There, my grandfather dug holes in the ground to hide from the Nazis and their collaborators. But in America, the landscapes signified a renewed sense of freedom and autonomy.

My grandparents didn’t identify as outdoor enthusiasts. They didn’t talk about hiking, though certainly they’d walked along many trails. They didn’t own hiking boots or special hiking clothes. They didn’t look like other Americans who had generations of experience with camping and outdoor recreation. In fact, I never heard them use the word “camp” to describe anything remotely recreational. “Camp” was a special term used sparingly and primarily to describe a place they never wanted to go again.

I don’t think my grandparents thought too much about conservation either. Not being native English speakers and being primarily concerned with earning a livelihood, they didn’t have the luxury of involving themselves in big ideas. My grandfather painted homes for a living. My grandmother worked in sewing factories in Los Angeles. Later, after graduating from UCLA, my dad started a car stereo business and my family joined in on it together. They were glad they had places of refuge in their new country, but they didn’t pay a lot of attention to how those places came to be and why. And who can blame them? When you’ve been excluded from places for so long, you engage with them differently.

But being a generation or two removed, I have the luxury of contemplating those bigger ideas and creating a much more intentional life for myself. When my sister started school at Smith College a few years ago, we decided to take a road trip through New England. I had heard of the Appalachian Trail and we thought it would be cool to take a hike on it, so we picked Katahdin. Though I grew up hiking in the trails



Shira Zaid (left) and Lisa Zaid (right), the evening before their first hike on the A.T. August 2019, Baxter State Park. Photo courtesy of Lisa Zaid

around my home in California, Katahdin was the first time I connected the concepts of conservation and recreation. I stayed up all night before the hike reading about the history of Baxter State Park and the Appalachian Trail. It was such a transformational experience that two days later, my sister and I got the outline of Katahdin tattooed onto our arms. Three months later I joined the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as a staff member.

When I think about the Appalachian Trail, I imagine it as a quintessentially American story. I imagine the dreamers of past generations who had the courage to bring such an innovative concept forward and the tenacity and intelligence to actually carry out the vision. There is nothing more inspiring. While people like Benton MacKaye, Myron Avery, and thousands of countless volunteers never met my grandparents, they created something for them in America and for others like them. They created the space they didn't have before. They enabled beauty to flourish. They connected landscapes. They connected people. And after World War II ended, they picked up where they left off, blazing a path for millions of people across the globe to come, to imagine a bigger, wider life for themselves. In many ways, the Appalachian Trail is a continuance of the American dream and a statement about the necessity and importance of freedom. Maybe the deepest need we have as humans is a space to be ourselves.

Being surrounded by those with deep roots in the

Appalachian Trail and its history, I am acutely aware of the fact that I am an outsider here. Coming from a family of immigrants, it feels like you're always playing catch-up to those who have deep roots in our country. But one thing I see in the culture of the Appalachian Trail and in my own immigrant family is the following — a commitment to honest hard work, a deep appreciation for natural beauty, and a desire to take exceptional care of a country that has given us so much.

As Vice President of Advancement, I am not looking for ways of bringing "outsiders" in, I am constantly challenging the idea that any of us are outsiders. We are, first and foremost, just people. And however we encounter and love the Trail is enough. This freedom that the A.T. provides is for all of us. Having a place to come alive, to heal, to connect and disconnect, these are fundamental human needs. Choosing to protect the A.T. is choosing to protect some of our most deeply held values and beliefs as Americans. Whether you've been here for ten generations or have just arrived, it's going to take all of us coming together to protect this great manifestation of freedom and to carry the A.T. forward.

To everyone who has made the A.T. possible, thank you.

—

Lisa is the ATC's Vice President of Advancement.

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APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY®

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Photo of Mount Lafayette, New Hampshire, taken by Joni Skogman, North Star, one of 1,732 hikers who completed a recent thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. The listing of the newest 2,000 milers begins on page 38.