

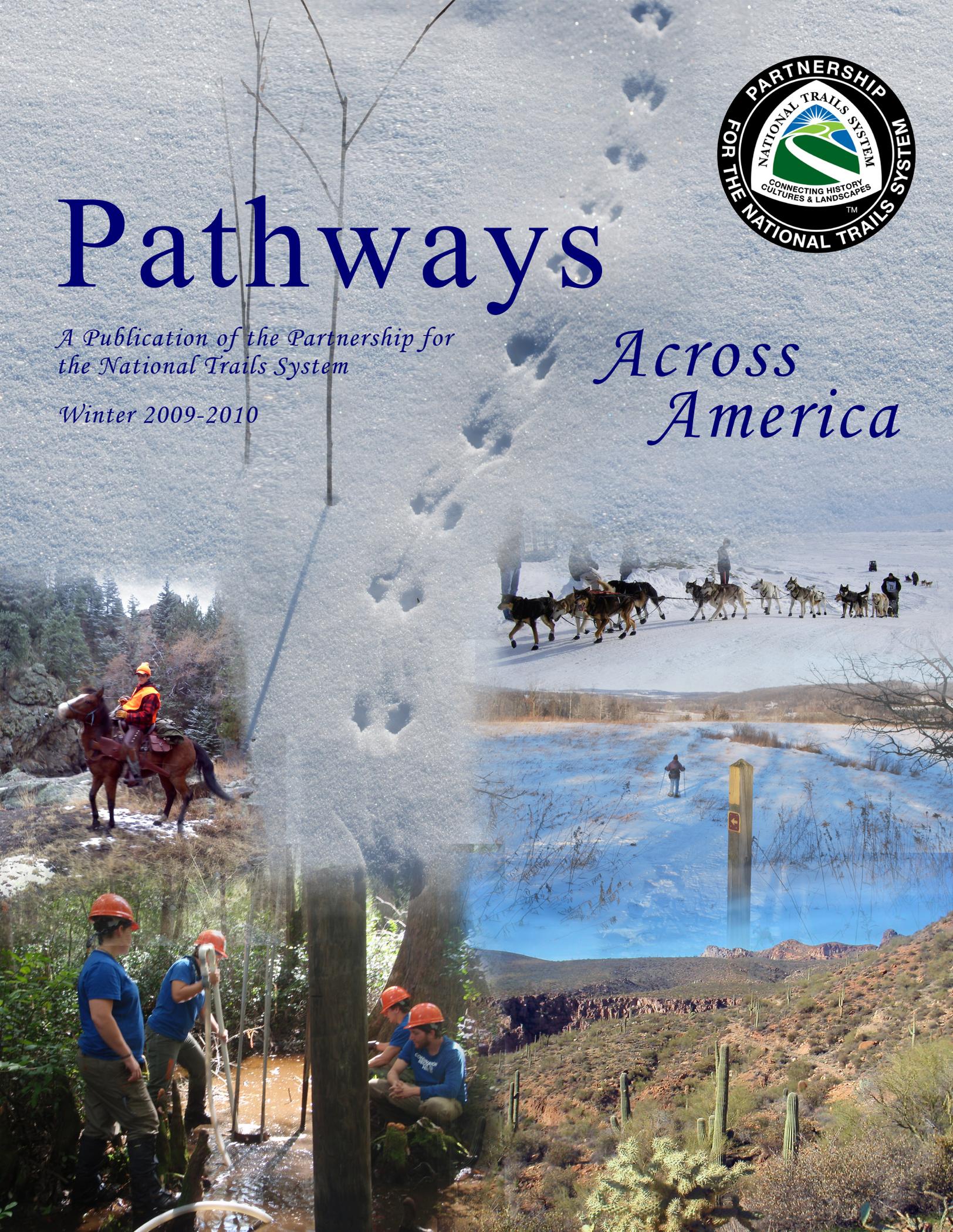


Pathways

*A Publication of the Partnership for
the National Trails System*

Winter 2009-2010

Across America



Pathways

Across America

is the only national publication devoted to the news and issues of America's national scenic and historic trails. It is published by the Partnership for the National Trails System under cooperative agreements with:



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For information about the Partnership for the National Trails System or to learn how to contact any of our partner groups working on behalf of the trails, visit the PNTS website at: www.nationaltrailspartnership.org.

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Pathways serves as a communication link for the major partners of the following national trails:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

California National Historic Trail

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

Florida National Scenic Trail

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

New England National Scenic Trail

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

North Country National Scenic Trail

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Pony Express National Historic Trail

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

National Historic Trail



The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

Greetings, All-WeatherTrails Activists!

Our cover for this issue of PATHWAYS suggests the range of opportunities available on the national scenic and historic trails to enjoy the various guises of winter across America. The cover is also a reminder that we humans are not the only animals that use the scenic and historic trails. I hope that you are taking time and finding ways to enjoy the ever fresh beauty of our land and waters through the changing nuances of the seasons.

This issue continues our coverage of various outreach initiatives (National Trails Decade Goal One) within the National Trails System, especially those involving youth – Iditarod Trail-Mail, and innovative interpretive methods, such as the interactive buoys on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Trail. We also continue reporting some of the threats and challenges to protecting and completing our trails (National Trails Decade Goal Two) posed by renewable energy developments on the Anza, Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express, and Continental Divide Trails. The number of disruptive development threats to the integrity of the National Trails System seems to be growing at an alarming rate. We need to increase our efforts accordingly to secure stronger agency protection of the trails on public lands and develop vigorous programs to acquire private lands from willing sellers.

We welcome the New England National Scenic Trail to the National Trails System community with an article that should inspire you to visit this mostly completed trail through the rural “old mountain” countryside of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Since we’ve completed another year of activity throughout the National Trails System we have added a section of “snapshots” highlighting accomplishments from the various trails. I hope you will be as impressed as I am by the range, creativity, and exuberant efflorescence of our collective activities and accomplishments. I also hope you will be inspired by them to keep letting us know about your challenges, threats, and successes through 2010.



Keeping History Alive...



Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Lastly, we gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions made by members of the Partnership’s Triangle Club during 2009 to help sustain all of the work we do to help support your work on behalf of America’s national scenic and historic trails. I hope that many more of you will join the Triangle Club or make other contributions in 2010 to help provide the essential funding to enable the Partnership to provide ever better service to our National Trails System community.

Aloha, Happy New Year, and fruitful trail making in 2010!

Gary Werner, Executive Director
Partnership for the National Trails System



Gary Werner and his wife, Melanie Lord, at the Keck Observatory over two miles above the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail in Hawai’i

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By Mike Gildesgame,
Southern New England Policy Manager
Appalachian Mountain Club
&
Eric Hammerling,
Executive Director
Connecticut Forest & Park Association

New England *Splendor*

Although the Northeast is one of the more densely populated areas of the country, it is easy to find remote and solitary hiking and other outdoor recreational experiences a short distance from some of the largest cities in the region. The New England National Scenic Trail (NENST) extends 200 miles from southern Connecticut to the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border and lies within a 30-minute drive of about 2 million people.

In March 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, which officially designated the NENST, one of the first National Scenic Trails designated in 26 years and only the second in New England, bringing the total number of national scenic and historic trails nationwide to 30. Congressmen John Olver of Massachusetts and Chris Murphy of Connecticut led the effort to secure the designation in the House, and the states' Senators provided strong support.

While the national designation is new, the Trail is largely part of the already existing Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett (MMM) Trail System, which traces the route of a Native American footpath and derives its names from Native American languages. In 1931, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) built the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails, and in the 1950s, University of Massachusetts Professor Walter Banfield extended the trail northward into Massachusetts, creating the Metacomet-Monadnock (MM) Trail. The Trail is currently maintained by CFPA and Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter volunteers.

Extending the Trail

A Trail extension in Connecticut to Long Island Sound, adding about 20 miles to the Trail, is also included in the NENST designation. As an added benefit, this extension will connect the Trail to bus and rail services at the Shoreline East station in Guilford, providing public transportation for day hikers and shuttling options for through-hikers. Final plans to extend the NENST to Guilford are anticipated by early 2010, and the CFPA has worked with local partners to find an appropriate route. The legislation additionally provides New Hampshire with the future option of adding 15 miles of the MM trail to the NENST, leading to Mount Monadnock.

Continued on Page 4.



One of the premiere views in the Massachusetts section of the NENST is the oxbow in the Connecticut River near Northampton, made famous by the Hudson River School painter Thomas Cole (ca. 1836, at left). Several other landscape artists, such as Frederic Edwin Church and Asher Durand, were similarly inspired by views from and of the traprock ridges.

Thomas Cole, View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow, 1836 (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

The Appalachian Mountain Club is currently working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to re-route one section of the Trail in Massachusetts onto state conservation land by the summer of 2010, in response to requests from a private landowner. No land acquisition to protect the Trail will occur without the consent of the landowner.

Special Geology and Habitats

Flat floodplains of the Connecticut River (New England's largest) wind southward from the Canadian border through four states to enter Long Island Sound. In contrast, the traprock ridges of the NENST rise dramatically on the river's Western flank, providing panoramic views of forests, wetlands, and diverse suburban and rural landscapes.

The basalt traprock ridges stretch over 100 miles from the Holyoke Range in Massachusetts to the Hanging Hills of Connecticut. They are the remains of massive lava flows hundreds of feet deep that welled up in faults created by

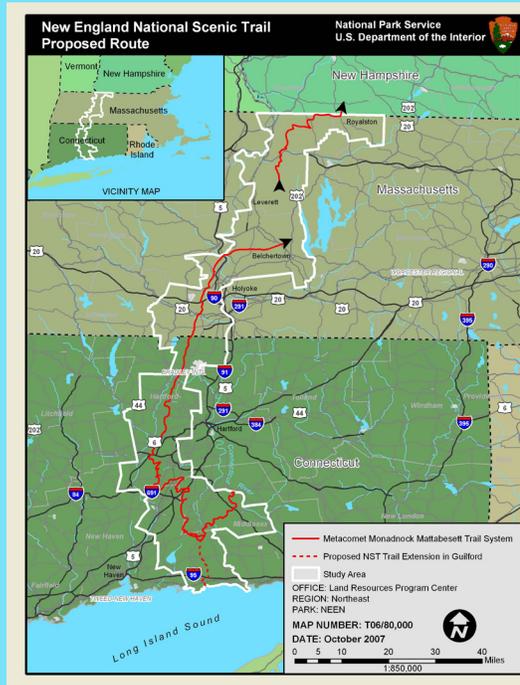


Vista from Mount Holyoke. Photo by Paul Jahnige, Director of Trails and Greenways, Massachusetts Dept of Conservation and Recreation.

the separation of the North American continent from Eurasia and Africa 200 million years ago. This tectonic movement, followed by eons of weathering and cracking, has left behind a north-south oriented ridge with steep eastern-facing cliffs and more gradual western-facing backslopes, each with its own associated habitats and wildlife.

Stark elevation changes, sheer cliffs, thin basaltic soils, and unique microclimates associated with the traprock ridges provide hosts for many specialized habitats and species found there, including old growth eastern red cedars that often cling to the barren edges of cliffs. Eastern hemlocks shade narrow ravines and create damp, cool growing conditions for cooler climate plant species. Slopes of loose, fractured basalt known as "talus" (Latin for the ankle joints that are often twisted by scampering over them) are especially rich in nutrients and support a number of calcium-loving plants and lichen uncommon in the region. Updrafts along miles of cliffs make ideal raptor habitat, and the traprock ridges provide an important migration corridor for many eastern birds of prey.

The topography of the steep ridges offers such varied terrain that many species reach the northern or southern limit of their range along the NENST, and there are a number of rare species that live along the ridges.



The Trail Ahead

The AMC and the CFPA share overall responsibility for NENST management. The Trail Stewardship Council, consisting of committees with active volunteers from all 39 towns along the Trail, advises the AMC, CFPA and the National Park Service on all aspects of trail management, use and maintenance. The Council is also dedicated to the ongoing involvement of communities and landowners in planning for the management of the Trail.

In addition to the many projects that have already been identified in the Trail Management Blueprint, the AMC and CFPA look forward to learning from the efforts pioneered by existing National Scenic Trails across the country. The Partnership for the National Trails System is instrumental in providing ongoing opportunities for information sharing, and helping to strengthen collective efforts to maintain, publicize, and support National Scenic Trails.

For progress updates and other Trail information, visit the NENST website at www.newenglandnst.org.

Vista From Mount Skinner. Photo by Paul Jahnige, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation



Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail – A Partnership Showcase

By Walt Tegge, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT is the only trail in the National Trails System to be located entirely on water!



Kayakers on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NST. Photo by Sadie Runge, Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail.

About the Trail

Four hundred years ago, between 1607 and 1609, Englishman John Smith and his small crew set out in an open boat to explore the Chesapeake Bay and establish a settlement colony in the New World. Smith mapped nearly 3,000 miles of the Bay and its major tributaries. During the course of these explorations, contact was made with many of the Native American communities throughout the area. Smith's maps and journals influenced the exploration and settlement of eastern North America, and stand as a remarkably accurate record of the 17th-century Chesapeake natural environment and native culture.

In December, 2006, as an amendment to the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244), Congress designated the routes of Smith's explorations as a national historic trail – the first nationally recognized historic water trail. The legislation specified that the new trail will consist of a series of water routes extending approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, tracing Smith's 1607-1609 voyages.

Why the Trail?

The legislated purpose of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (CAJO) is threefold:

- to commemorate the exploratory voyages of Smith and his crew between 1607 and 1609
- to share knowledge about the American Indian societies and cultures of the 17th century
- to interpret the natural history of the Bay (both historic and contemporary), America's largest estuary, and a national treasure

The trail will complement the existing Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and provide new opportunities for education, recreation, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region. In providing this focus on the Bay's natural and cultural resources, the trail will help to facilitate their protection. The trail has potential for citizen stewardship and Bay restoration has support from many partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: A CAJO Trail Partner

National historic trails are, by nature, partnerships, as they span vast distances across varying jurisdictions. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT has numerous partners, with that number certain to increase as the trail develops. Two partnerships are linked to the trail by law, those being the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and the Chesapeake Bay Program. The National Park Service's (NPS) Chesapeake Bay Office provides leadership and coordination for these two partnerships, and serves as the lead agency in the CAJO Trail planning effort. In addition to numerous state and local government partners, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Friends of Chesapeake Gateways, The Conservation Fund, and National Geographic are major non-governmental trail planning partners.



In addition to the National Park Service, other major federal trail partners include the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

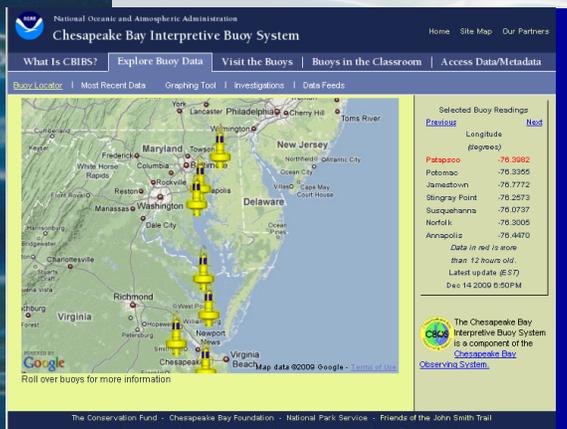
Sixteen national wildlife refuges are located along the route of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. They are a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Refuges are public lands and waters that are managed for conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants. All of the refuges in proximity to the Smith Trail are within the Service's Northeast Region. Many of these are already a part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, providing Bay connections, access, and quality wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities. These refuges are a significant resource where visitors may see wildlife habitat that retains a landscape character similar to what Captain John Smith saw during his voyages.

Continued on page 6.

New “Smart Buoys” a high-tech approach for monitoring trail conditions and interpreting history

You set out in your kayak from a canoe launch on the Chesapeake Bay—the same geography traveled by Captain John Smith some 400 years ago. As the first English settler to fully explore the Bay, Smith traveled more than 2,000 miles during the summer of 1608 in an open “shallop” boat with no modern conveniences. But your trip is quite different. While you are also in an open boat, you are equipped with a cell phone and waterproof maps of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, giving you many advantages that the early explorers didn't have.

In particular, you have access to the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS), an observing and trail-marking system developed and managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). CBIBS is a system of NOAA's “smart buoys” that use wireless technology to share a wealth of information. You can pull out your phone and dial up any CBIBS buoy at (toll-free) 877-BUOY-BAY—it reports real-time weather and environmental information including wind speed, air and water temperature, wave height, and salinity at all buoy locations. (Web-enabled phones can visit www.buoybay.org/m for quicker access to buoy data.) Unlike John Smith, you can monitor Bay conditions ahead of you, and can decide on an alternative plan to strike out for a landfall closer to home—sheltered from the elements—if, for example, the buoys report growing waves on the Bay.



CBIBS can also tell you something about John Smith's adventures during his 1608 voyage. The system provides recorded voice narration—available at both the toll-free phone number and at www.buoybay.org—of natural and cultural history for the area around each buoy. These vignettes afford the opportunity for trail users and shore-side classrooms to learn about the local history of these waterways, making the water trail a paddle through time as well as space.

Today, a variety of people use information from the buoys. Boaters and anglers monitor conditions to plan for a safe day on the Bay—and to determine if conditions are right for fishing. Scientists use the water-quality data to track the health of the Bay. And educators and students use data from the buoys in curricula and projects available on www.buoybay.org to learn about the Bay's environment, science, and history.

www.buoybay.org

Article and Photo Credit: NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office/CBIBS

Continued from page 5 The Trail Planning Process

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently partnering with the National Park Service to develop the comprehensive management plan and environmental assessment (CMP/EA) for the Smith Trail. Preparing these documents is a complex task, especially considering the number of partners and varying jurisdictions. Working with partners, interest groups, and the general public, the NPS expects to have the final CMP/EA completed in 2010. A series of eight public involvement workshops is currently being held in the Chesapeake Bay region to solicit input that will help develop alternative concepts for trail management, leading to a “preferred management alternative” for the CAJO Trail.

Required by statute, and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2008, the CAJO advisory council consults with the Secretary on matters related to trail development and assists the NPS in developing the CMP/EA. Once these documents are completed and approved, they will guide trail decisions for the next 10-15 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a key agency represented on this advisory council, consisting of representatives of federal and state agencies and Bay-related organizations.

The Service fully supports the goals of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. It is a portal to the past that provides insight to our present-day national character, and how we arrived here. Consistent with the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it promotes a national environmental consciousness, and enhances public stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the benefit of America's natural and cultural resources, Native peoples, and for our future generations.

For further information: <http://www.smithtrail.net/about-the-trail/faqs.asp>.



Classrooms Traveling the Tundra:

The Iditarod Classroom Trail Mail Project brings history and adventure to school children nationwide during the world-famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race

The Iditarod National Historic Trail is home to the world-famous Iditarod Dog Sled race in honor of the mail route that once brought mail and supplies to remote settlements across Alaska. The race combines knowledge of the wilderness, skill at mushing (travelling by sled dog) and physical and mental endurance in some of the harshest conditions in the world. Each musher travels 1,200 miles from Anchorage to Nome. Every year 60-90 teams of mushers flood into Anchorage to participate.

In 1975 Leo Rasmussen, a long-time enthusiast of the Iditarod and an active member of the National Trails System community, started the Trail Mail project, which sent symbolic letters along with each musher to be carried across the entire route and delivered at the end of the race. They served as a way to commemorate the mail once carried by sled dog across the trail and to raise funds for the Iditarod by sale of the signed and dated documents.

In 1989, the long distance learning program for children homeschooled in remote areas of Alaska learned of the Trail Mail project and asked to send letters from students with the Trail Mail. That first year, 869 individual students applied to have their letters sent along with the Mushers.

With so many individual students wanting to participate and only so many mushers, Leo modified the project so that an entire classroom could participate at once via a one-page project. At first just a few classrooms participated, but 20 years later, the number of classrooms submitting Trail Mail had grown to 634 and required the assistance of a small army of volunteers to to organize, package, and return the projects to their classroom of origin. Now, the letters come from all over the country and the world: last year classrooms from 40 states and 5 different countries participated.



Start line in Anchorage where Mushers start on the long trek to Nome carrying their supplies, the mail and educational projects.

Know of a classroom that would like to participate?

For mail requirements and mailing address, go to:

**<http://www.leaknomeak.com/IditarodEducationalProject.htm>
Deadline: February 5, 2010**

IN THE CLASSROOM...



As an elementary school teacher, I have used Trail Mail as a cooperative learning tool in my classroom since 2000. The projects have promoted teamwork between my second grader and older students as they work together to complete a specific year's project. One year our project was an art collage of sled dogs and dog teams with each student contributing a part of the drawing.

In addition to coordinating the projects, Leo Rasmussen, the founder of the Trail Mail Projects, ensures the students receive personal attention. Each project is signed and comments written by the Iditarod musher carrying the project. The mail is signed by an official in Nome and cancelled at the Nome U. S. Post Office.

-Lynne Witte, Elementary School Teacher, Macomb, Michigan



Photo at left: Students from Lynne Witte's classroom display the class Trail Mail project

- 1) A classroom mails a 1-page Trail Mail to the Trail Mail program in Anchorage, AK.



How the Trail Mail
Educational Program
Works

The Path of a Classroom Project

- 2) A team of enthusiastic volunteers sorts through the classroom projects and combines them in groups for individual mushers

- 3) Each piece of Classroom Trail Mail is signed and dated by the musher who will carry that piece

- 4) Volunteers use vacuum packers at a local butcher shop to tightly bundle each packet of classroom letters. The tight, vacuum wrapped letters facilitate easy carrying for the mushers across the 1,200 miles of the Iditarod.



- 5) Packets of Trail mail are given to each musher to carry for the entire race

Photo at left: Leo Rasmussen, Chairman of the Iditarod Trail Mail and the Educational Project, hands over the Mail and the Students Educational Project to Canadian Musher Karen Ramstead

- 6) Upon arrival at the finish line in Nome, volunteer official Iditarod timers and checkers make sure the trail mail is properly stamped with the arrival time and certified.

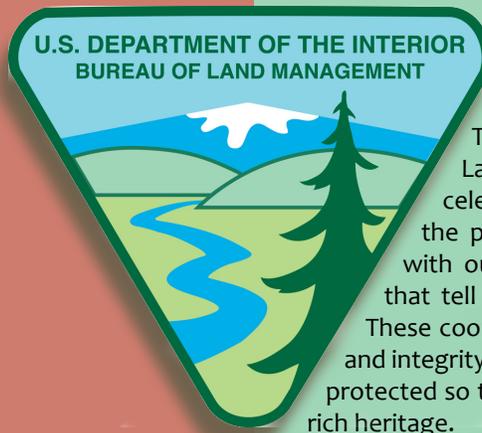
Ben Esch, Tom Vaden, Howard Appel, Leo Rasmussen and Urtha Lenharr share time at the finish line to guarantee officiation coverage 24-hours a day for the arrivals of the mushers in Nome.



- 7) Volunteers sort out the letters, now signed, stamped, and well traveled, and mail each classroom project back to the class that made it.

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the BLM

National Landscape Conservation System



By Courtney Hoover,
Outreach Specialist, BLM, NLCS

The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2010. Over the past decade, NLCS staff has been working with our partners to take care of national trails that tell of America's national and natural history. These cooperative efforts will ensure that the history and integrity of the trails and their surrounding lands are protected so that future generations can learn about our rich heritage.

The National Landscape Conservation System was created to conserve, protect, and restore significant landscapes. You may wonder what constitutes a landscape, but when you experience the great expanses of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on the Old Spanish Trail or the sun setting over the White Cliffs at the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, you'll know. These are places that excite our imagination and connect us to both the past and future of our country.

NLCS will be hosting numerous events throughout 2010 to celebrate what has been accomplished over the past decade and to pave the way for the NLCS's future. Several national events will celebrate the 10th anniversary, including the "A Decade of Discovery" Science Symposium, May 24-28, 2010, which will highlight the numerous areas of research in the NLCS and discoveries found on NLCS lands. We will also be co-hosting an event at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, on April 14 and 15, 2010, which will feature roundtable discussions and presentations highlighting the past 10 years and then focusing on the future of the system. Many states and specific NLCS units will be hosting their own events. All BLM-hosted events will be posted on our Webpage, along with new interactive features that highlight our public lands, at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.

Our success in conserving, protecting, and restoring the integrity of the scenic and historic trails that we manage is due in part to the efforts and dedication of our partners, and we want to celebrate our successes and our future working together. Some of our trail partners have let us know about events showcasing the NLCS and our partnerships. For example, the Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc., will be highlighting its partnership with NLCS at the Alaska State Fair in the late summer of 2010. Contact your BLM state trail leads to discuss opportunities to work together on events, and join in on the celebrations. If you have questions about NLCS's 10th anniversary or want to discuss the national events, please contact Angela West at Angela_West@blm.gov.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM?

- 16 National Monuments
- 21 National Conservation Areas
- 8.7 million acres of Wilderness
- 12.8 million acres of Wilderness Study Areas
- 2,415 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 6,006 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails
- Conservation Lands of the California Desert
- The NLCS Mission is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological and scientific values for the American public
- The NLCS was originally established in 2000 by Interior Secretary Babbitt
- The NLCS was Congressionally established and expanded by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009
- The System contains more than 886 federally recognized units encompassing approximately 27 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management



Save the Date!
~ NLCS ~
Science Symposium
"A Decade of Discovery"
May 24-28, 2010
Albuquerque, NM

The Importance of Setting

By David J. Welch
Former Preservation Officer
Oregon-California Trail Association

Advocates and visitors have long recognized that wilderness provides a unique experience and that the essence of this experience is the lack of modern intrusions. They have fought for more than 100 years to set aside areas where a visit today differs little from that of one hundred or one thousand years ago. I suspect something within us preserves the memory of our ancestors' first intrusion into the natural landscape.

Those of us with an interest in history have been much less successful in articulating the importance of the setting (or landscape) to the location of an historical event. While historic preservation laws and regulations recognize the importance of the area around a site, protection of this landscape has often been a lower (or absent) priority. As a result we are left to visualize history by attempting to subtract irrelevant things from the view, a difficult if not impossible task. For example, often we must attempt to visualize a battlefield and its horrific events by eliminating intrusions such as signs, malls and office buildings. It does not work.

Historic trails present a special challenge due to their length and the size of their setting. The California and Oregon National Historic Trails are each about 2,000 miles long. In the wide-open spaces of the west, their setting often encompasses 30 miles or more on each side of the trail. Thus their setting encompasses 120,000 square miles, most of which has already been severely impacted by modern intrusions. There are, in fact, only a few sites which remain relatively pristine. Many of those are in Wyoming.



Photos courtesy of Dave Welch



My interest in the western emigrant trails is based upon the fact that I am the descendant of twelve trail emigrants who traveled in the mid-1800s. The journey they undertook was history-changing and their sacrifices were great. While all of my ancestors survived the journey, it is estimated that over 20,000 died on the trails due to disease and exposure—ten emigrants for every mile of trail. When visiting the trails you are literally visiting a cemetery that is a memorial to the emigrants' efforts.

It is important to me, and I know many others, that when I visit the trail I have the opportunity to experience some of what the emigrants experienced (of course without many of the hardships). I have sat by myself at South Pass in Wyoming and felt the passing of 200,000 or more emigrants through that welcoming gap in the Rockies. The wind whistles through the sage brush and with a little imagination you can hear the jangle of the wagon gear and the voices guiding the oxen and children across the plains. The view extends a hundred miles to the west to the next range and fifty miles to the Wind River Range to the north. At this site the United States as a continent-wide nation was born.

The setting at South Pass is not pristine, but it is still evocative of the emigrant's journey. A power line crosses the trail a few miles west of the pass and an old railroad grade lies parallel to the trail. Wind farm sites are being studied on the adjacent ridges. I am not certain that future visitors will be able to replicate the experience at South Pass that means so much to me.

“Once part of the trail and the setting is lost, a part of the story is lost as well.”

A friend of mine, who deals with historic trails setting and landscape issues on a daily basis, summarized the issue as follows: There are three aspects of the preservation of a historic trail. First, there is the story itself: the challenges, failures and successes of the emigrants themselves. Second, there are the physical remnants (the ruts and swales). Third is the experience which can only be found by visiting an undisturbed trail site. We have done a good job on the first (history), less well on the second (physical remains), and very little on the third (setting). As another friend noted, once part of the trail and the setting is lost, a part of the story is lost as well. The loss is irreplaceable.

Planned Solar Energy Facility Would Impact Anza NHT

Steven D. Ross, AICP

Outdoor Recreation Planner, Anza NHT



A solar energy project planned for 6,500 acres of federally-owned land in Imperial County, California would directly impact the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The massive Sterling Energy Systems Solar Two project would result in the installation of 30,000 solar collectors, each about forty feet high, within the historic corridor traveled by the Anza expedition. The project site is located in the Yuha Desert region, located east of the Jacumba Mountains, west of the Imperial Valley agricultural area, and south of the Salton Sea. The site is also approximately eight miles north of the U.S. – Mexico border, and ten miles west of the City of El Centro, California. The scale of the proposed solar project would result in significant changes to the landscape of the area and views as seen from the Anza trail, and it also has the potential to impact historic artifacts that may have been left behind by the expedition. Despite a few modern intrusions in the vicinity, such as a wallboard manufacturing plant, an Interstate highway, and powerlines, the desert landscape is essentially undisturbed. The lonely, remote environment conveys a remarkable sense of what the Anza Expedition must have experienced when it passed through the area in 1775 to colonize the recently-discovered San Francisco Bay, a strategic move intended to cement Spain's territorial claims on Alta California. The Yuha Desert area remains one of the least disturbed landscapes along the entire 1,200-mile length of the Anza trail, and it retains the integrity to convey historic interpretation and appreciation of the Anza expedition.



The journey through the Yuha Desert was particularly challenging to the Anza expedition as it made its way from what is now Sonora, Mexico to the San Francisco Bay. After receiving food and navigation assistance from the Native American tribes along the fertile banks of the Colorado River, the expedition had to navigate through a mostly-unknown wilderness before reaching Mission San Gabriel (near present-day Los Angeles). In December 1775, the expedition, which was made up of approximately 250 colonists and 1000 livestock, successfully navigated through this severe desert environment by dividing into four groups. These parties had to ration the limited water that was available at the few potable springs in the region. The springs at



Simulated images generated by URS corporation, provided by Steven Ross

Yuha Well and San Sebastian Marsh, located a few miles south and north of the project site, respectively, were critical campsites that sustained the expedition during its six-month journey. The Bureau of Land Management has mapped and signed the Anza recreational trail through this area, and has developed some Anza-related interpretive exhibits and materials. The trail connects the Anza Overlook monument and the historic campsites and passes through the project site.

The National Park Service is working with the BLM to ensure that the solar project's impacts to the Anza NHT are adequately analyzed, and to minimize and offset those impacts by providing significant mitigation. In December, NPS staff participated in a site visit and submitted comment letters to the BLM regarding preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as the Section 106 review process required by the National Historic Preservation Act. NPS staff is currently drafting a proposed mitigation plan to offset the project's impacts to the Anza trail. Possible mitigation could include innovative interpretation resources, physical improvements to the recreational trail, and contribution to a fund for trail-wide improvements. The EIS is expected to be available for public review and comment in mid-January 2010. Project-related documents can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo/index.html>.

LET'S PROTECT OUR TRAILS WITH MANAGEMENT CORRIDORS AND GENERATE OUR ENERGY CLOSE TO WHERE WE USE IT

A message from the PNTS
Executive Director, Gary Werner

The 10 square mile solar power array on the Anza National Historic Trail and the wind farm at South Pass are but two examples of the destructive impact that the mushrooming interest in renewable energy development can have on the integrity of national scenic and historic trails. In November of 2009 the Superintendents of the 23 national scenic and historic trails administered by the National Park Service reported more than 40 proposed energy generation or transmission projects close enough to the trails to disrupt or destroy their rights-of-way or aesthetic integrity.

Ironically, the technology proposed to generate electricity from non-polluting renewable resources poses a greater threat to the integrity of national scenic and historic trails than the drilling and mining for non-renewable energy sources did in the past decade. It is relatively easy to "mitigate"

Continued on page 12.

Continued from page 11.

the impact of 30 to 50 foot tall oil or gas drill rigs, storage tanks, and other infrastructure by hiding them behind hills or ridges out of sight from the trails. It is much harder to soften the impact of 400 foot tall wind turbine towers or even taller solar generating towers even when they are miles away from the trails.

Preserving the integrity of the “setting” that Dave Welch describes as so important for both historic and scenic trails on public lands is made much more difficult by the lack of defined areas or corridors for special aesthetic management surrounding them. While the routes of the trails are mapped quite accurately and referenced in agency land management plans they continue to be treated as either a continuous several-foot-wide tread for the scenic trails or a series of unconnected “high potential sites and segments” for the historic trails. In both cases they have only one effective dimension – length. The lack of a second dimension of officially recognized substantial width puts the scenic and historic trails in jeopardy when decisions are being made about the siting of energy projects on public land.

In 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adopted a protocol for new solar energy development proposals that excludes them from units, including national scenic and historic trails, of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). However, all of the other NLCS units (monuments, wilderness areas, even wild and scenic rivers) all have that critical second dimension – width. They also have recognized boundaries. Under the new BLM protocol and with a substantially wide recognized management corridor the Sterling Energy Systems Solar Two project would not be allowed to destroy a segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

To address this fundamental deficiency the leaders of the Partnership for the National Trails System have set establishment of special management corridors for all of the national scenic and historic trails on public land as a major focus of “Decade for the National Trails” Goal 2 – “Completion of the Trails and Protection of their Resources.” We will need the help of all the trail organizations and their diligence to watch for new energy development proposals on public lands to convince Federal agencies to manage national scenic and historic trails as special resource corridors rather than as lines upon the landscape.

We should also join with those who are promoting distributed renewable energy production rather than continuing to rely on our industrial mega-scale generation approach. Distributed energy production is complementary to the “Local Food Production” initiatives that are growing across America. In either case the principle is the same – produce the energy (food calories or mechanical and electrical calories) close to where we consume it rather than producing it hundreds or thousands of miles away and transporting it to where it is needed. A distributed energy approach would leave the deserts, mountain passes, and other wide-open spaces of the West wide open and free of intrusive human development. This, in turn, would help us preserve the landscape setting so critical to the quality of the experience of our national historic and scenic trails.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TRIANGLE MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

What is the Triangle Club?

The Triangle Club is comprised of some of the most ardent supporters of the Partnership for the National Trails System. These benefactors enable the Partnership to keep increasing our efforts to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the National Trails System. While the Partnership receives dues from its member organizations and funding assistance from federal agencies to provide services for the National Trails System community, private donations from Triangle Club Members and others are a crucial component of the funding support for the Partnership.

The support of the Triangle Club has helped underwrite our advocacy for the National Trails System, our celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act, and our launch of the “Decade for National Trails.” The generosity of Triangle Club members enables us to help our network of partner agencies and organizations to expand their public outreach, increase their leadership capacity, and advance their protection of precious landscapes. With their help, the Partnership has been able to host its bi-annual National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference and specialized workshops for National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. We salute the Triangle Club members for their vision and dedication!

The Partnership for the National Trails System staff, Leadership Council and Board of Directors would like to express their enthusiastic appreciation for the support provided by the Triangle Club.

2009 Triangle Club Members:

Gold - \$1,000

Ross Marshall

Bronze - \$250

Judith Bittner

Rich Deline

Silver - \$500

Robert Ballou

Melanie Lord &
Gary Werner

Art & Marjorie Miller

Other Contributors

Leo Rasmussen

David Startzell

Kent Wimmer

Jim Wolf

Support the Partnership by becoming a member of the Triangle Club!

The Partnership for the National Trails System is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Your donation supports our advocacy for the National Trails System and helps us provide services to our many dedicated partner organizations

Please send checks to:

Partnership for the National Trails System
222 S. Hamilton St. Suite 13
Madison, WI 53703

Membership Levels:

Gold \$1,000

Silver \$500

Bronze \$250

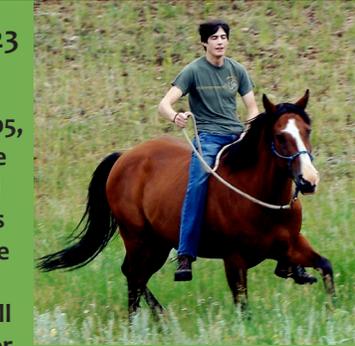


Spotlight on Trails Apprentices

MARSHALL ALFORD, Age 23
Colorado State University

I have worked on trails since 2005, and I now work part time for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. There I conduct surveys of visitors leaving the forest. We monitor use and inquire about demographic information as well as satisfaction with their outdoor experience.

During winter I work in the office processing paperwork, but in the summer I work in the field conducting interviews and inventorying Forest Service property. This means checking for damage to picnic tables and bathrooms in campgrounds.



In the past, I have signed up my horse as a volunteer and used him to get into the backcountry. He is great for helping out with big projects; I was building a log bridge and he helped me to drag the timbers to the stream crossing. I have worked on trails since 2005 and plan to continue working in a outdoor recreation-related field.

I am majoring in Natural Resources Management and minoring in Conservation Biology. My enthusiasm for the outdoors originates from my parents who were both wild-land firefighters and enjoyed riding horses into the backcountry.



I grew up riding, hunting, and hiking. I became a Boy Scout in order to camp more and earned my Eagle after many years of scouting. I currently rock climb, hike, ride horses, snowshoe, ski, and snowboard for fun.

This past summer, I travelled to the 12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails as a Youth Scholarship Recipient. There I learned about career opportunities with trails and even met US Forest Service Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop.



MONIKA SOVINE, Age 24
Glendale, Wisconsin

I Graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in Writing from Northland College, a tiny school nestled in the North woods of Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Superior. From an early age I spent my summers romping through the woods at camp until I was old enough to venture out on backcountry trips



that grew longer and longer with each trip. My appreciation for the outdoors has led to trips from sea kayaking in Georgian Bay, Ontario, to roaming the mountains of Montana, the Yukon, and Colorado. Since 2006, I lived in New Zealand, hitchhiked around the West Coast, and led outdoor trips for teenagers in Alaska, Ecuador, and the Galapagos.

I began to work with trails during an eight-month Student Conservation Association project all over Southern California, including on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the Yucca Valley and in the Mojave Desert. As part of a SCA crew, I helped create water bars and cleared out rocks and brush as general trail maintenance. I so enjoyed my work there that I have returned to the SCA to spend 3 months working on the Florida National Scenic Trail.



On the Florida National Scenic Trail, our work often involved blazing new trail, as a good portion of the Trail is still along roads. We worked to build completely new trail to re-route the trail off the pavement,

and often we worked up to our knees in water in swamp areas- a far cry from my time in the Mojave Desert!

A Quick Glance at the Student Conservation Association

A Partnership Opportunity for Trails Managers and Organizations



What is the SCA?

SCA is the nation's largest youth conservation organization. The SCA provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems, teaching environmental education, and conducting sophisticated trail work. The SCA develops youth service opportunities through partnerships with agencies and organizations. Youth can get involved with the SCA through a variety of SCA programs, lasting anywhere from three weeks to 12 months. SCA's partners include:

- NPS
- BLM
- USFS
- FWS
- Florida Trail Association
- Pacific Crest Trail Association
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- And many more...

How could an SCA intern, Crew, or Corps help your trail?

Every year, over 4,000 SCA members contribute 1.6 million hours of service each year to more than 500 natural and cultural sites. SCA members work in all 50 states in a multitude of natural and cultural resource areas including:

- Backcountry & Wilderness Patrol
- GIS/GPS Mapping
- Habitat Restoration & Preservation
- Inventory & Monitoring
- Trail Maintenance & Restoration
- Visitor Services & Interpretation
- Wildlife & Fisheries Management

SCA members build or maintain more than 2,500 miles of trail per year!



How does the SCA work?

Position Development: Each opportunity for interns or conservation crews/corps is initiated by an agency or an organization that identifies a need and prepares a position description. The organization or agency then collaborates with the SCA to determine the specific parameters.

Recruitment: SCA members are nationally recruited by SCA staff. Students use the SCA website to search and apply for thousands of internships and corps opportunities based on length, focus, and location of the experience.

Training: Once selected, Corps/Crew Members are trained and supervised by SCA Leaders. Interns are supervised by the partner and given training.

Administrative Oversight: SCA provides complete administrative oversight for all field-based programs and positions. Includes background checks, travel and living allowances, and where appropriate, medical insurance and AmeriCorps Education Award.

Cost Effectiveness: SCA Members are volunteers supported by SCA cost-share agreements with our partners.

Would your agency trail office or trail organization like to have the help of an SCA Intern or a team of SCA youth members?

For more information about SCA, including cost estimates, contact:

www.thesca.org/partners

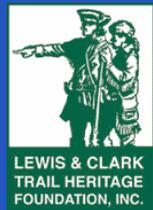
Ashley Hansen, SCA's Eastern Partnership Representative; 703.524.2441 x2012
ahansen@theSCA.org

Sally Ferguson, SCA's Western Partnership Representative; 208.424.6734 x406
sferguson@theSCA.org

Partner Organization Highlights of 2009

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's 2009 Camp Pomp for children was our most successful to date. Among their many lessons, participants learned about period music and dances, learned tribal signs that were significant to Lewis and Clark's safe passage through Native American lands, studied tools and equipment of the expedition, spent time at a replica Lewis and Clark encampment and visited important segments along the route of Meriwether Lewis's final journey.



The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's national memorandum of understanding with the Boy Scouts of America has gained momentum with support from Foundation chapters and Boy Scout councils across the country. Our 2009 annual meeting included a Boy Scout encampment alongside the replica Lewis and Clark encampment.

CARSON VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

In 2009, we raised nearly \$100,000 to pay for environmental studies and construction costs for the upcoming 22 mile Genoa Foothill Trail System near the oldest town in Nevada. CVTA initiated and is managing this project through a \$396,378 grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 grant program.



Photo: Dick Morissette

We also installed trail maps and direction signs on the Fay-Luther and Jobs Peak Ranch trails through a \$3600 grant from the American Hiking Society. In addition, draft interpretive signs have been researched and designed by CVTA through a \$17,555 grant from the Nevada Recreational Trails Program and will be installed this year.

We received a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. The grant provides a NPS planner to assist CVTA with planning and conducting meetings with public and private stakeholders to facilitate the construction of a connected Carson Valley Trail System.

TAHOE RIM TRAIL ASSOCIATION

We hosted two regular backcountry camps in August to build new trail and succeeded in finishing 3.8 miles of a 13-mile multi-year pavement bypass. We held four Youth Backcountry Camps in July teaching youth wilderness and leadership skills while promoting environmental stewardship through volunteerism. We also hosted our annual Thru Hike, many segment hikes, and we had more than 700 people from our community participate in a variety of our free guided programs.



We provided trail construction and certification trainings, First Aid and Wilderness First Aid classes, and leadership trainings. We hosted events such as National Trails Day, Trail Fest, our Annual Meeting, Volunteer recognition luncheon, and many Trail of Dreams outreach events.

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT ASSOCIATION

In 2009, El Camino Real de los Tejas Association hired an Executive Director, Steven Gonzales, who undertook a media event tour along the trail, speaking with local chambers of commerce, historic commissions and other interested parties along the way.



El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association initiated a membership drive and completely redesigned its website, www.elcaminotrail.org, as part of its membership initiative. The new website features an interactive trail map highlighting historical points of interest along the Trail along with descriptions and access information.

To raise public awareness and support of the trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association collaborated with a public relations team and focused on building partnerships with local trail communities.

Towards the end of 2009 El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT began efforts for hosting the 2010 National Historic Trails Workshop scheduled for May 12-14, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas.



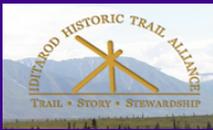
CAMINO REAL TRAIL ASSOCIATION



A successful September 2009 Symposium brought speakers from the U. S. and Mexico, federal representatives, members, and an interested public together for a weekend of camaraderie and a variety of fascinating presentations. CARTA gained several new members, and received very positive feedback on the event!

Participants interested in heritage tourism took a half-day Sunday jaunt along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro following the Symposium. CARTA's immediate past-President Pat Beckett (center in photo) and NM State Senator Mary Jane Garcia (right) show visitors the interior of the church at Doña Ana, a small village that began as a *paraje* or campsite, along El Camino Real. Constructed of adobe circa 1850, the small church was recently restored by local volunteers working with Cornerstones Community Partnerships.





IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

The 2009 Alaska State Fair featured an exhibit on the Iditarod National Historic Trail highlighting the centennial celebration of the Iditarod Trail and providing a historic context for a trail commonly known for its annual sled dog and snowmachine races. Centennial themes and collaborative work between BLM, Federal and state agencies, and the Iditarod National Historic Trail Alliance were presented to the thousands of exhibit visitors.

Work continued on the adjudication of the right-of-ways on state land for the Iditarod National Historic Trail. By the end of 2009, 1,480 miles of the 1,611 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail on state land had state easements or right-of-ways, or they or were located on state navigable water.

Two safety shelter cabins were built along remote, isolated stretches of the Iditarod NHT with permits from the State of Alaska. The work was accomplished through cooperation between BLM, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, the McGrath Trail Blazers, the City of McGrath and the City of Shageluk.



ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

More than 2,200 different volunteers dedicated more than 58,000 hours to building and maintaining the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, an increase of around 600 volunteers and 16,000 hours from the previous year.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance moved into a new headquarters building in Cross Plains, WI. The new building brings together most of our staff under one roof, is directly on the Ice Age Trail and is located in a community with tremendous Ice Age Trail spirit.



Our efforts to engage the next generation of trails enthusiasts continued to grow. These efforts were perhaps best embodied in the Summer Saunters program, which allowed children in grades 3 to 5 to spend a week hiking the Ice Age Trail as a way to develop healthy lifestyle habits while learning about Wisconsin's geologic and cultural history (see Autumn 2009 Pathways for more info).

ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

After many years of effort by the Arizona Trail Association and supporters, the Arizona Trail was recognized by Congress and the President as a National Scenic Trail in March 2009.

Fifty miles of Arizona Trail were given a permanent easement across Arizona State Trust land in November. The Pinal County government, working closely with Arizona State Parks and the Arizona Trail Association, acquired a permanent



Arizona Trail easement at a cost of \$106,000 across 50 miles of lush Sonoran Desert. The existing trail had been built under a temporary right-of-way agreement.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS ASSOCIATION (OCTA)



The passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorized that the National Park Service may begin feasibility studies for 64 additional routes of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails. For a decade, OCTA members regularly responded to our Legislative requests by contacting their Senators and Representatives in support of the Four Trails Additional Routes/Cutoffs Study Authorization bill. Near the end, the Senate was short of votes to pass the Omnibus bill. The Partnership and OCTA sent out urgent Action Alerts, and the Senate staff credit us collectively with obtaining the six additional votes needed to pass the bill.



OCTA's movie, *In Pursuit of a Dream*, made its world debut in connection with the OCTA's 27th annual convention in Loveland, Colorado in August. *In Pursuit of a Dream* follows the story of 24 modern-day teenagers living the lives of Oregon-bound emigrants. The movie depicts the hardships they encountered as they led their own wagon train across the sagebrush of central Wyoming and the forests of the Barlow Road south of Oregon's Mt. Hood. OCTA and the film's developer, Boston Productions, collected comment cards from audience members and made more edits to the movie, which is now being entered in myriad film festivals. OCTA is also now actively seeking a broadcast partner, and a new film website (complete with interactive trail map) launched as part of its main website at www.octa-trails.org.

In January, OCTA held its first-ever Southern Trails Symposium in Yuma, Arizona. Partnering with the Yuma Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bureau of Land Management, Friends of Anza, and the National Park Service, the Symposium attracted over 200 trail enthusiasts from Mexico to Canada and gained OCTA 52 new members. The dormant Southwest Chapter was reborn as the Southern Trails Chapter and initiated efforts to gain National Trail status for the Southern Route.



NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION

In 2009, the National Pony Express Association conducted our 30th Annual Re-ride of the Pony Express National Historic Trail, passing a leather *mochila* over the backs of approximately 500 horses. The Re-ride started in St. Joseph, MO, and reached Sacramento, CA, traveling day and night for 10 days.



The 2010 Re-ride will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the historic Pony Express. The Re-ride will be expanded to allow celebrations all along the trail and to educate the public and generate excitement over our National Historic Trails.

E MAU NA ALA HELE

Completion of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail highlighted 2009. E Mau Na Ala Hele began an inventory project on the highest priority 15 miles of the trail in partnership with the National Park Service. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association, a non-profit organization with strong ties to families along the trail was formed to increase support of the trail.



Together E Mau Na Ala Hele, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, and three students attended the 12th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference in Missoula.



E MAU NA ALA HELE

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

CDTA reached over 3000 young people through its CDTA Youth Corps presentation programs. Sponsored by an REI grant, CDTA Youth Corps delivered presentations to K-12 and college students across New Mexico and Colorado.

CDTA volunteers in the community of the Village of Cuba, NM, initiated a program to raise health benefits of their community by tying the CDNST to their local trail sidewalks and facilities through a program called "Step Into Cuba". This program includes an innovative approach to solving the issues of increasing opportunities to access healthy lifestyle activities with the CDNST.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

CDTA took the lead in developing a Youth Initiative program for the Partnership for the NTS and its conference in Missoula Montana. Combining its already wealth of experience in working with the 18-25 age community of trail stewards and a need to engage more of these folks into PNTS activities, CDTA served as the key partner in bringing 32 young adults to the conference, ultimately altering the nature of the PNTS Conference, hopefully forever!

In partnership with Summit County, Colorado, CDTA supported the purchase of four mining claims in the Argentine Pass Area to allow for the relocation of approximately seven miles of CDNST to a new non-motorized route. A new trail route was opened in the Mt. Taylor area of New Mexico and 5 new miles of trail were completed in the Big Sandy Lake area of southern Wyoming. The enthusiastic support of CDTA Youth Corps and Volunteers, Boy Scouts, and Back Country Horsemen of America Chapters made these projects possible. A new southern terminus for the Trail was dedicated in a ceremony on November 14, 2009, signifying the formal opening of 40 miles of new trail for the CDNST between Hachita and the New Mexico/Mexico Border.

CDTA hired its first Mapping team to launch a new effort to map the official route of the CDNST. In 2009, Colorado was completed along with 200 miles in New Mexico. The three member mapping team collected data for use in public information materials and for the management of the CDNST. Once data collection is completed, the team will serve as the lead of data management for the CDNST cooperative partnership. CDTA moved its offices from Pine, Colorado to Golden, Colorado to increase its access and visibility. In addition, CDTA added a regional representative in Montana and hired a field Coordinator in New Mexico.

TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION

The Trail of Tears Association celebrated four major accomplishments in 2009 for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. After almost a decade of obstacles, the National Park Service's National Trails System Office in Santa Fe completed the Trail of Tears Interpretive Film, produced by the Cherokee Nation, and is currently being dispersed to interpretive centers and museums. Earlier in the year, President Obama signed into law additional sections of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, totaling an addition of 2800 miles. The additions included the Bell and Bengé Routes; the land components of the designated water routes; routes from collection forts to emigration depots; and related campgrounds located along these sections. After many, many years of fundraising and work, the Tennessee chapter of TOTA celebrated the dedication and grand opening of Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, which was a camping area for 9000 Cherokee being removed from their homelands in 1838.

The Oklahoma chapter of TOTA completed its 116th gravestone marking of survivors of the Trail of Tears, 6 of which were done in 2009; these events include a dedication ceremony and installation of a bronze marker acknowledging the buried's survival of the Trail of Tears.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Support for the A.T. remained strong in 2009, with a record number of club volunteers (6803) contributing a record number of hours (220,565) to maintain the Trail. In addition, Congress appropriated \$9.8 MM under LWCF to acquire and protect environmentally significant lands adjacent to the trail corridor from Maine to Tennessee.



Outreach to youth through the Trail to Every Classroom program continues to excite and draw interest along and beyond the Appalachian Trail, with NPS personnel coordinating with the Iditarod National Historic Trail this fall to launch a version of the program in

Alaska. Capping off all of these efforts, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy was pleased to announce the release of an all-new documentary from the National Geographic Channel in November that captures the heart and soul of the A.T. while showcasing its natural beauty with stunning aerial video.



FRIENDS OF THE JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE TRAIL

The Friends assisted the Conservation Fund in the acquisition of more than 4,500 acres and 20 miles of shoreline along the John Smith Trail on behalf of the state of Maryland. These historic lands, acquired by the Jesuits in the 17th century, include 20 miles of shoreline on the Potomac River and will provide tourism, recreation, and interpretation opportunities associated with the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake Trail.

The Friends of the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake Trail is also working closely with the NPS to develop the Trail's comprehensive management plan, providing planning and mapping assistance and promoting and staffing planning workshops. The Friends has developed featured trips for the Trail and supported development of a boater's guide. We helped



develop and publicize trips run by Sultana Projects and the James River Association. We have worked with the Maryland Watermen's Association and others to establish a program to train watermen to guide trips on the Trail and to educate modern-day explorers about the Bay's natural, cultural and historic assets.

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) saw unrivaled successes in 2009. OVTA's membership grew to its largest since 1980—the bicentennial year of the Trail's historic significance. We now boast members from 25 states spanning the country from Connecticut to Oregon. OVTA greatly broadened the scope of its board of directors by nominating an executive director of convention and tourism bureau, city planners, and a director of economic development and tourism.

The OVNHT received the National Park Foundation's \$50,000 2009 Active Trails Grant, a first for any of the National Historic Trails.

The Trail's superintendent passed the grant to OVTA to implement. Working with 13 different communities and sites along the Trail, OVTA volunteers fostered Trail-wide energy and enthusiasm and founded a new OVTA chapter. Public attendance at programming during our annual March rose from last year's record of 6,986 to 11,123 this year, 8,500 of which were school children. OVTA and NPS contracted with East Tennessee State University's unique Story Telling Graduate Degree Program to bring onboard a graduate student to speak with communities and to train volunteers along the Trail.



OVTA is involved in the production of a cultural tourism coffee table book about the Trail and its story. Production is funded through sponsorships, and proceeds will help the OVTA continue to protect and preserve the Trail. A copy of the book will be placed with every 4th and 8th grade teacher in the entire Trail corridor. We are also supporting a fund raising effort to produce a documentary on the Trail and its story. In addition, OVTA provided a \$500 grant to a local company to do a test run of "Overmountain Victory Trail Mix." We envision this healthy trail mix to have a series of historic cards inside that each tell a piece of the Trail's history.

OVTA has started planning a Trail Conference for the spring of 2010 that will follow up on the energy from the Active Trails Grant work and address Trail completion. OVTA's bid to host the 2011 Conference on the Partnership for the National Trails was accepted in July, and the conference will be held in Abingdon, Virginia. Hip Hip Huzzah!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS WORKSHOP

Cultural and Heritage Tourism: Trails as Destinations

MAY 12 - 14, 2010

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Conference hosted by PNTS and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

Join us along the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk for a combination of presentations, field trips, community service, and youth partnerships. Sessions may include topics such as Enhancing Visitor Experience, Funding Acquisition, Historic Trail Stewardship and Site Maintenance, and Interpretive Centers.

Meet Laura Stoesz, PNTS Operations Assistant

I first fell in love with trails in high school, when I was running on them most mornings all summer and several afternoons a week during the school year. I was on the cross country team, you see, and training on trails honed our hill-climbing fitness and made us surefooted on rough terrain.

My teammates and I ran in Eagle Creek Park, a natural haven of nearly 4,000 acres in my native Indianapolis. It's a big park – I got lost pretty regularly at first (that made for some long runs). Now, nine years later, I know every trail in that park – the rooty staircase on the Reservoir Run, the jack-in-the-pulpits surrounding a bench on the Volksmarch trail in the springtime, the maples whose trunks and leaves become pillars, arches, and stained glass on my favorite side trail. Whenever I run those trails, I feel like I'm seeing an old friend.

So why would I go all the way to Madison, Wisconsin, and leave Eagle Creek behind? To blaze some new trails, I suppose. I graduated last spring from a small school in northern Indiana called Goshen College, with an English major and a developing (and relatively mismatched) interest in sustainability. So I decided to commit to a year of service to try and link the language with the land.



The program through which I'm volunteering for the Partnership is called Mennonite Voluntary Service, and it's a program of the Mennonite church, the small Protestant denomination I grew up in. MVS offers its volunteers a chance to work in a professional position of their choosing, in any of 22 locations all around the United States, unpaid but with basic living expenses provided. Madison appealed to me, having earned a reputation as a green city, and I soon came upon the Partnership for the National Trails System, headquartered in Madison, in my search for environment-related placement options.

I was intrigued: here was an organization that existed to improve and unite, not just one park or trail, but an entire (and extensive!) system of national trails. I'd hit paydirt – figuratively speaking, of course. Gary and Julia agreed to take me on as a part-time volunteer, and I started work at 222 South Hamilton in October. Since then, I've assisted with various mailings, a congressional directory, survey analyses, action alerts, and occasional copy editing. I've even made it out to Wisconsin's own National Scenic Trail – as of December, I've been working half-time with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, a perfect pairing that lets me see how the Partnership interacts with one of its trail partners.

From one trail lover to another – thank you for all the work you do to preserve, protect, and maintain the beautiful places that stir us and keep us surefooted.



Laura planting prairie along the Ice Age NST. Photo by Dave Jenkins



Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
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Trails Events Calendar Winter - Spring 2010

February 2010

		Sponsor:	Location:	Online:
February 7-10	2010 APPL Partnership Convention & Trade Show	Association of Partners for Public Lands	San Diego, CA	http://www.appl.org/Training_Conventions/2010%20index.html
February 20-25	Hike the Hill: PNTS Trails Advocacy Week	Partnership for the National Trails System	Washington, DC	www.americanhiking.org/Our-Work/Policy-Advocacy/Hike-the-Hill/

March 2010

March 8-12	A Universal Approach to Interpretive Planning, Programs, and Design	National Center on Accessibility	San Antonio, TX	http://www.ncaonline.org/index.php?q=node/1274
March 6-21	Iditarod 2010 Sled Dog Race	Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.	Anchorage, AK - Nome, AK	www.iditarod.com www.iditarod100.org
March 26-28	Florida Trail Days	Florida Trail Association	Haines City, FL	www.floridatrail.org/
March 29-April 2	Trail Management: Plans, Projects, and People	DOI National Conservation Training Center	San Rafael, CA	https://doilearn.doi.gov/

April 2010

April 11-17	National Environmental Education Week	National Environmental Education Foundation	Nationwide	www.eeweek.org
April 21-23	2010 California Trails & Greenways Conference	California State Parks	Cambria, CA	www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference
April 29-May 2	Old Spanish Trail Association Conference	Old Spanish Trail Association	Fredonia, AZ & Kanab, UT	www.oldspanishtrail.org/news.php

May 2010

May 12-14	National Historic Trails Workshop	Partnership for the National Trails System, EL Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	San Antonio, TX	
May 24-28	BLM NLCS Science Symposium "A Decade of Discovery"	National Landscape Conservation System	Albuquerque, NM	www.blm.gov/nlcs