

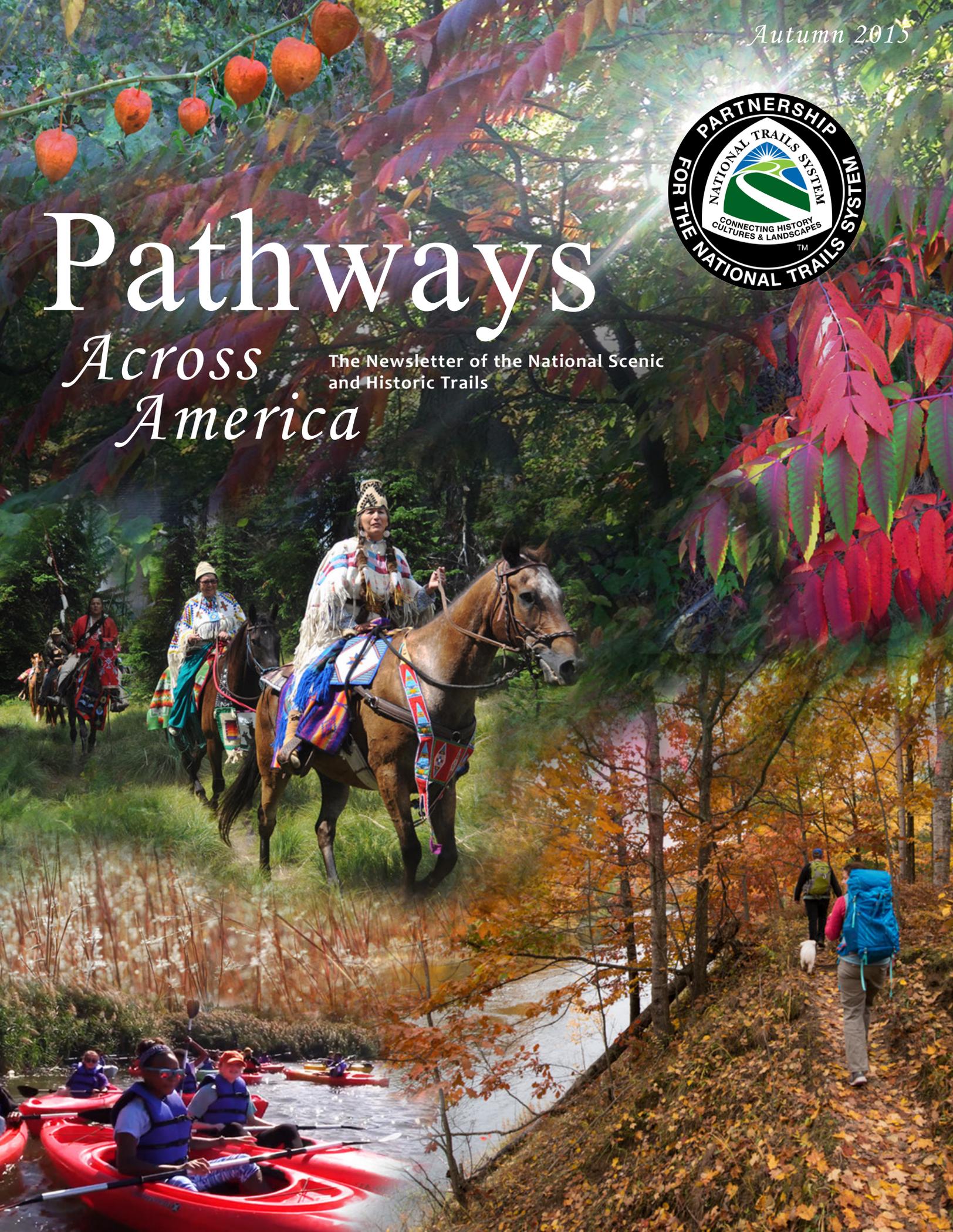
Autumn 2015



Pathways

Across America

The Newsletter of the National Scenic
and Historic Trails



Pathways 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 visit the PNTS web site at: www.pnts.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



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

The National Trail System includes 3 main types of national trails: Scenic Trails, Historic Trails, and Recreation Trails.



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

NSTs and NHTs are designated by Congress (see specific descriptions below). The Partnership for the National Trails System (see left) is the nonprofit dedicated to facilitating stewardship of the Scenic and Historic Trails as a group.

National Recreation Trails

Offer local and regional trail experiences in thousands of locations around the country. The nonprofit American Trails encourages the stewardship of the National Recreation Trails (NRTs). NRTs are designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 National Historic Trails

- Ala Kahakai NHT
- California NHT
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT
- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT
- El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT
- Iditarod NHT
- Juan Bautista de Anza NHT
- Lewis and Clark NHT
- Mormon Pioneer NHT
- Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT
- Old Spanish NHT
- Oregon NHT
- Overmountain Victory NHT
- Pony Express NHT
- Santa Fe NHT
- Selma to Montgomery NHT
- Star-Spangled Banner NHT
- Trail of Tears NHT
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

National Historic Trails may be foot or horse paths, travel routes, roadways, or a combination of both designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many National Historic Trails have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they boast wilderness and hiking opportunities as beautiful and diverse as the National Scenic Trails.



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...

Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening Communities

through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.



Enhancing Access

to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and community outreach efforts.



Facilitating

Public-Private Partnerships

for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



11 National Scenic Trails

The National Scenic Trails represent some of the most magnificent long distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the US is traversed by a National Scenic Trail, from deserts, temperate rainforests, tundra, mountains, prairies, temperate deciduous forests, wetlands, and rivers. The National Scenic Trails offer natural corridors for wildlife preservation and unspoiled views, and they create fitness and outdoor leadership opportunities for all ages.

- Appalachian NST
- Arizona NST
- Continental Divide NST
- Florida NST
- Ice Age NST
- Natchez Trace NST
- New England NST
- North Country NST
- Pacific Crest NST
- Pacific Northwest NST
- Potomac Heritage NST

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

From top left to bottom right: The Autumn 2015 Pathways cover features fall colors through orange husks of ground cherries and brilliant red sumac leaves near the Ice Age NST, photos by Julia Pooler, PNTS; members of the Appaloosa Horse Club ride to the dedication ceremony of a recently reopened segment of the Nez Perce NHT (see page 13) by Roger Peterson, courtesy of the USFS; students kayaking on the Patapsco along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT as part of a multi-partner outreach program (see page 10), photo courtesy of Baltimore City Public Schools; and hikers along the Manistee River along the North Country NST, by John Pottenger, courtesy of the North Country Trail Association.

Inside cover photos from left to right: a group of students from Mt. Holyoke College on the New England NST participating in a NETCORE (New England Trail College Network) event, courtesy of the Appalachian Mountain Club; members of the Appaloosa Horse Club riding along a newly-opened section of the Nez Perce NHT, by Roger Peterson, courtesy of the US Forest Service; and the Belly River along the Pacific Northwest NST by Jon Knechtel, courtesy of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association.



Help Restore LWCF, Celebrate The Park Service Centennial, and Plan National Trails System 50th Anniversary Activities

We recently passed a significant milestone for the National Trails System and are approaching two more: the expiration of the Land & Water Conservation Fund, the Centennial of the National Park Service, and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Congress allowed the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to expire on September 30th after 50 years of funding valuable conservation projects in every State and County in the Nation.



As it has for so many other elements of our public natural and cultural resource heritage, the LWCF has been absolutely essential to closing gaps in our national scenic trails and preserving irreplaceable sites and segments of our national historic trails. With many gaps and unprotected sites remaining, the LWCF is necessary to fulfill the intent of the national scenic and historic trails and to make the National Trails System whole. Until it does so, we must continue to relentlessly press Congress – with messages at least every week – to reauthorize the LWCF. We will not complete our national scenic and historic trails without the LWCF. Act now to help reauthorize it!

Throughout 2016, we will help the National Park Service celebrate 100 years of service to the Nation. Already the celebration has begun with the signature invitation to “Find Your Park.” This is not just an invitation to find the 408 National Parks, but also to find the thousands of State, County, and Municipal parks and public lands throughout America. This initiative has included trails in the generic concept of “park.” Go to this website www.FindYourPark.com for details about how to participate.

We should enthusiastically join in the celebration of the Park Service Centennial and use it to raise awareness of how integral our national trails are to these systems of parks across the land and how our trails connect them with other special places and communities. Let us modify (slightly) the invitation to “Find Your Park” to “Find Your National Trail in Your Park” and set a goal to host an event in every National, State, and local park along every National Scenic and Historic Trail in 2016! We have many splendid opportunities to do so with national trails passing through such iconic places as Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mt. Rainier, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Rocky Mountain, Hawaii Volcanoes, Glacier, Olympic, and Shenandoah National Parks; El Malpais, Scotts Bluff, Pompey’s Pillar, Fort Stanwix, and Fort Union National Monuments; Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Gulf Islands National Seashore; Big Hole, Kings Mountain, Chattanooga, and Pea Ridge National Battlefields; Harpers Ferry, Lewis and Clark, Pecos, San Antonio Missions, and Tumacacori National Historic Parks; Chimney Rock, Fort Smith, Bent’s Old Fort, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Sites; and many more equally significant State and local places. These events will strengthen ties between these parks and our trails and renew existing relationships with park managers or begin new collaborations.

Consider emulating the North Country Trail Association’s challenge encouraging hikers to walk 100 miles along the North Country National Scenic Trail to honor the 100 years of the National Park Service. How about encouraging people to make 100 mile long journeys on each of our national scenic and historic trails to celebrate the Centennial?

On October 2, 2018, the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System will be 50 years old. We are beginning to plan how to make best use of this anniversary to bring more attention and resources to national trails. Send us ideas for ways to celebrate and raise more resources and let us know if you want to be part of the 50th Anniversary Planning Team.

These three milestones all warrant the attention and action of National Trails System administrators, site managers, and trail organization leaders and activists. Let’s do our critical part to restore the Land & Water Conservation Fund and to make the most of the two important anniversaries.

Enjoy the colorful autumn and the approaching winter!

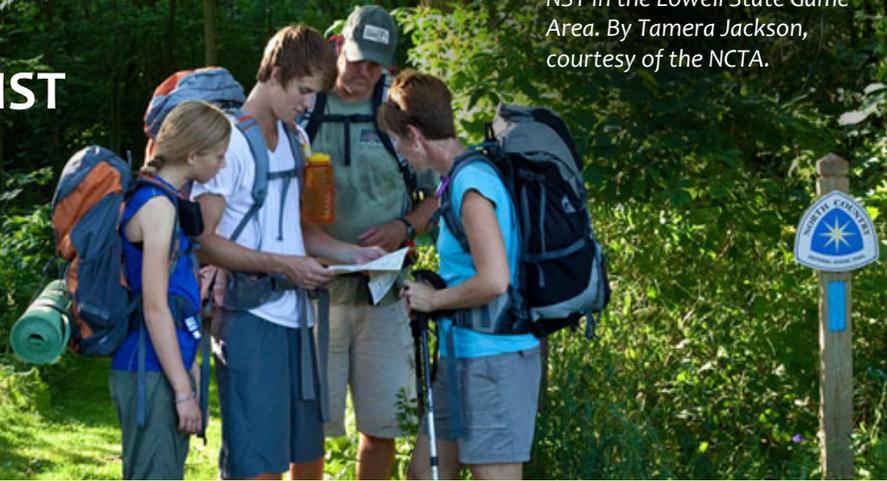
Gary Werner, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System

Photo taken from the Appalachian NST in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, by Gary Werner.

Hike 100 Challenge on North Country NST Celebrates NPS Centennial

By Amelia Rhodes,
Marketing/Communications Coordinator,
North Country Trail Association

Hikers along the North Country
NST in the Lowell State Game
Area. By Tamera Jackson,
courtesy of the NCTA.



In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) is celebrating its centennial anniversary, and everyone is invited to celebrate “America’s best idea!” The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

To commemorate this special centennial year, the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) will be promoting a Hike 100 Challenge on the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT)—which is one of our national parks. The NCTA will encourage people to hike a mile on the NCT for each of the National Park System’s 100 years. Anyone who hikes 100 miles on the North Country Trail during the calendar year of 2016 will be eligible for a special patch and certificate. Hikers can do the miles in aggregate (100 different miles) or hike one NCT mile 100 different times. Some may choose to do the miles all at once, while many will spread it out throughout the year.

“The Hike 100 Challenge is a terrific opportunity to both celebrate with our partner, the National Park Service, as they mark their 100th birthday, and to highlight the tremendous opportunities this National Park—the North Country National Scenic Trail—offers right nearby to many in America’s northern heartlands,” comments NCTA executive director Bruce Matthews. The NCTA will be offering special giveaways, events, and opportunities for hikers to engage friends and family along the North Country Trail. The NCTA plans to share the stories and experiences of those engaged in the Hike 100 Challenge on social media and at northcountrytrail.org. The NCTA is pleased to have received a grant from REI to help with this project.

Gary Werner, Executive Director for the PNTS states, “PNTS appreciates the leadership offered by the North Country Trail Association in providing an active way for the National Trails and their supporters to partner with and celebrate the National Park Service’s Centennial, and I encourage other National Trails organizations to follow this example or adapt it to meet their circumstances.”

Simple steps to get involved in the North Country Trail Hike 100 Challenge:

Visit <https://northcountrytrail.org/?p=11432> for details about the Hike 100 Challenge. For more information on the National Park Service Centennial, visit: <http://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/celebrating-100-years-service>.

1. Sign up for the special Hike 100 email list by visiting <https://northcountrytrail.org/?p=11432>. Registrants will be entered in drawings for fun giveaways and will receive a digital toolkit to help track their miles.
2. Start planning hikes. Participants are encouraged to use the NCTA online map, downloadable PDF maps, or download GPS tracks available at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps/>. Paper maps are available for purchase in the Trail Shop at <https://northcountrytrail.org/storefront/>
3. Invite friends. Get the family involved in the planning! Participants are encouraged to share this challenge with family and friends and hike and build stories together.
4. Starting January 1, 2016, begin tracking miles. Each experience on the Trail, whether alone, with friends, or working on the Trail as a volunteer counts.
5. Share adventures with others on social media using #Hike100NCT. Follow NCTA on Instagram ([instagram.com/northcountrytrail](https://www.instagram.com/northcountrytrail)), Twitter (twitter.com/nctrail), and Facebook ([facebook.com/northcountrytrail](https://www.facebook.com/northcountrytrail)) to join in the fun.
6. After logging 100 miles, let NCTA know! Fill out the form online at <https://northcountrytrail.org/?p=11531> and the NCTA will mail you a patch and special certificate.
7. Wear the patch with pride. If you have questions about the Hike 100 Challenge, please email myhike@northcountrytrail.org.



Engaging For-Profit Media and Event Partners

In an age where people are bombarded by opportunities, many people, especially the 35-and-under Millennials, seek unique and convenient experiences to connect with others and/or give back to their community. Within this younger demographic, experiences that incorporate nature, physical activity, a service component, and steep discounts or rewards are particularly popular. Across the country businesses are increasingly featuring outdoor events, from hikes and races to clean-ups and invasive species removal, to associate their products and services with engaging and memorable experiences.

Trail administrators and nonprofit partner organizations alike can benefit from the tremendous marketing and volunteer capacity that these for-profits offer. Identifying good potential partners and the messages you want to promote are the first steps; then reaching out to those entities and offering ideas and services to facilitate their needs can help your trail engage new audiences.

Identifying Good Partner For-Profits

The degree to which businesses are interested in or are able to promote or support a park or trail varies widely. Identifying which for-profits have the capacity and willingness to promote your trail messages or provide volunteer hours is important to ensure that your partnership building efforts result in positive gains for your trail. Outdoor gear stores, eco-tour companies, adventure races, and brands or products that cater to an active or sustainable lifestyle are typically among this category. These types of partners may be worth reaching out to because of their capacity to help spread awareness about your trail.



What's Your Message?

Many for-profits have their own event calendars, newsletters, social media, and partners to cross-promote the events. Outdoor gear stores, like REI, post events as incentive for their patrons to purchase gear. Similarly, MeetUp Groups and clubs post events to recruit members, and race organizers post events to appease their sponsors.

Below are four primary types of messaging that any event-based for-profit can help to spread, using their own marketing resources:

- 1. Awareness:** What unique features or experiences does your trail offer? What facilities are available, either on your trail or within a park that the trail is near or goes through? Does your trail offer any guided tours or special events? Who is the nonprofit trail partner?
- 2. Access and Regulations:** How can people access your trail? Does your trail or park allow dogs? Bikes? Alcohol?
- 3. Revenue Generating Opportunities:** Does the trail or nonprofit trail partner accept donations? Does the trail or nonprofit organization partner rent equipment or gear (guidebooks, snowshoes, canoes)? Can the general public reserve park or trail facilities for private use? Does your trail offer any guided tours or special events?
- 4. Volunteer Needs:** Does the trail need assistance with cleanups, trail maintenance, invasive species removal, or helpers during fundraising events? What advocacy or land protection efforts are in need of citizen support?

For-Profits Leveraging Volunteer Power:

Team Green Adventures participants, who embrace the opportunity to combine service and eco-tourism, worked to clear brush to improve access to a historic colonial ruin at the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, USVI.



About the Author and Team Green Adventures

Keeley Reed is the Director of Lightning 100's Team Green Adventures, a department of Nashville's Independent Radio Station (WRLT 100.1 FM) in Tennessee. Team Green Adventures was created to connect its listeners to a more active lifestyle while providing its unique outdoor-loving audience opportunities to engage with its likewise outdoor-loving, sustainably-minded advertisers and partners. Team Green Adventures plans and promote events that both entertain our listeners and meet the marketing needs of our clients. This year, Lightning 100's Team Green Adventures is celebrating 19 years, with about 550 paid members, over 5,000 eNewsletter subscribers, plus nearly 6,500 individuals engaged through its social media platforms. Team Green Adventures posts over 250 events a year, many of which are free and open to the public. www.teamgreenadventures.com





Removing Red Tape: Mammoth Cave National Park only accepts group reservations for schools and scout groups, but Team Green Adventures needs to be able to ensure availability for its participants in advance. In exchange for spreading the word to Nashville's audience that Mammoth Cave National Park is only a quick day trip away, park administration is willing to enter Team Green Adventures into their system as a "school" so they could reserve an entire tour slot for the group.

The for-profit entities in your area may not be familiar with your trail—so it is up to trail administrators and organization partners to reach out and initiate these beneficial partnerships!

Making Your Trail Attractive to For-Profits

Park and trail administrators can benefit from a clear understanding of what roadblocks exist for their potential partners, and the types of compromises they're willing to make in order to partner with them.

Trail administrators should not underestimate how seemingly small fees or red tape may prevent a for-profit from bringing marketing and volunteer capacity to their site. A permit fee of \$50 may seem like a small amount, but fees add up for businesses hosting large numbers of events each year, particularly given that many promotional events are free to the public. Given that there are usually free alternative public spaces, it would be a poor business decision for a for-profit to select a location with extra costs.

Event-oriented for-profits may have a limited ability to determine the number of event participants in advance, making some fees and reservation processes prohibitive. Park and trail administrators can also be proactive in providing assistance with logistic considerations and supportive services.

What are you willing to offer in exchange for getting your message out to a younger demographic?

These are just a few ways a park or trail can appeal to an event-oriented for-profit:

- **Waiving/Reducing Fees (memberships, permits, equipment)**
- **Adjusting Standard Procedures: (deadlines, reservations)**
- **Providing Experiences: (guided tours, interpretive events)**
- **Offering Support Services (tools and maps, transporting trash)**

These types of small steps can provide the foundation of a new partnership. It may take initiative from the trail administrators or associations to make this conversation happen in the first place, since event-oriented for-profits may not know what locations offer attractive benefits or concessions.

One great example of how public administrators, event-oriented for-profits, and product-oriented private corporations can all meet their goals through collaboration is Team Green Adventure's annual river cleanup series. We partner with Bridgestone Americas, who wants to create awareness about their Tires4ward recycling program. As a marketing tool for them, Team Green Adventures organizes river cleanups and rewards our participants with prizes for collecting the most tires or bags of trash during a float. A canoe outfitter provides steeply discounted canoe rentals, Team Green Adventures provides the prizes and marketing, and Bridgestone Americas recycles the tires. But, what about the other trash?

Each year, Team Green Adventures chooses to work the Harpeth River State Park because the park rangers provide us with complimentary trash bags, transport the trash and debris to the landfill, and pay the dumping fee. This summer, on a single float, Team Green Adventures volunteers removed 38 tires and a truckload of trash along an 8-mile section of river. The participants loved the opportunity to float the river at a discounted rate, while competing for prizes, and giving back. Team Green Adventures doesn't have to worry about the logistics of transporting a truckload of trash or incurring a dumping fee for the trash they collected, and Harpeth River State Park Rangers receive significant volunteer time and a cleaner river.



The Bryson Effect

By Jack Igelman

Among Dave Startzell's Favorite Episodes in Bill Bryson's Book, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, is when the author and his pudgy partner Katz try to shake an overbearing hiker on their first night out. "She kept showing up and telling them they were doing it all wrong. I met people like that!" laughs the A.T. thru-hiker and former executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC).

The encounter with a know-it-all is by no means exceptional. The fact that everyone — not just hikers — has confronted the type is what makes the scene, and the entire book, so endearing and such a smash when it hit the shelves in 1998. Not only was it a side splitter, it re-elevated America's most famous trail to the gold standard of foot paths. The beloved book may also be accountable for inspiring many to lace up their boots and show up at Springer Mountain the following spring. In 1999, the number of northbound thru-hiker starts spiked by 45 percent — what some refer to, matter of factly, as the "Bryson effect."

Now, with the release of *A Walk in the Woods* as a major motion picture, the ATC is carefully considering the impact of a swell of Hollywood-inspired adventurers.



Redford and Nolte as Bryson and Katz in *A Walk in the Woods* - photo by Frank Masi - courtesy of Broad Green Pictures. The ATC provided guidance to the movie producers, helping to suggest set locations, authenticating details, and incorporating Leave No Trace principles.

The ATC's current executive director, Ron Tipton, is confident the film will be a huge asset to the organization and the trail. But he's not blind to some of the worries expressed by A.T. advocates about the movie. "There's no question that there will be a surge in hikers. Our challenge is to make sure that the trail can absorb them without degrading the experience," says Tipton, who saw a screening of the movie earlier this year. "What comes across so well in the film and the book is that being on the trail is a mind-changing experience. That's what makes the A.T. so special and what we intend to protect."

In 2007, when word spread about a planned film based on the book starring Robert Redford and his late film mate, Paul Newman, people were generally pretty excited, says Startzell. "There was some hope it could not only bring greater attention to the trail, but also to the role the ATC and our clubs and volunteers play in maintaining the trail." Still, there was plenty of nail biting about the direct impact of filming at sites on the A.T., and the long-term effects that a rush of more backpackers would have on the thru-hiking experience.

In fact, when the book came out, not everyone within the trail community was at peace with Bryson's A.T. account. Overall, it's a sweet story of two men coming to love the trail, but it's slightly irreverent too, which caught a few A.T. supporters by surprise. Morgan Sommerville, the ATC's southern regional director, admits that he wasn't "wildly enthusiastic" about the prospects of a film at first. But he says his aim as a trail manager is to make sure people have a great A.T. experience and that the trail stays in excellent shape. Which is why he led a brainstorming session in the spring of 2007 with a cross section of trail advocates — from volunteers to public land managers — to address some of the concerns of a major film highlighting the A.T.

"When I hiked the trail in 1977, I didn't see a soul on the first day," says Sommerville. Back then fewer than 100 hikers completed the A.T. in a year; today that number is approaching 1,000. "That's the experience I was looking for: 'a footpath for those that seek fellowship with the wilderness.' These days the trail experience has changed and it's much more challenging to deliver on that promise."

Startzell says that unease about hyping the trail isn't new. When he began work at the ATC in 1978, there was an ongoing debate about how much the trail should be publicized. Back then, he explains, resources were particularly thin and clubs were stretched to the brink. Over time, says Startzell, "we came to the conclusion that people will come anyway, and the best way to deal with it is to accept it and improve the trail and its resources."

An ad hoc task force led by Sommerville generated a long list of protective strategies ranging from improving overnight sites to redesigning trailhead information. But, in 2008, Newman, who was slated to play Bryson's sidekick, Katz, passed away and the project was temporarily shelved. It was revived again in early 2014, at which point Sommerville and the task force narrowed their list down to 10 priorities. In addition to potential negative impacts, there may be payoffs too. "I'm excited that people might learn about the trail and appreciate that it exists. It's an extraordinary American project and experience," says Laurie Potteiger, the ATC's information services manager, whose encounter with Bryson in the ATC's Harpers Ferry visitor's center is captured in the book. "We recognize the film is here and the healthiest approach is to make the best of the opportunity."

Few people also realize the Appalachian Trail is a unit of the Federal park system, points out former Appalachian National Scenic Trail superintendent Pam Underhill. The movie, she predicts, will give people the incentive to find out more about the trail and make that connection. “Americans love the national park system; people are proud of it,” says Underhill. “The Trail is a wonderful resource and the more people that know about it the better.”

Liz Bergeron, the CEO and executive director of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), says their experience with the movie *Wild*, featuring the A.T.’s sister trail on the West coast, was first-rate. “We realized the movie was going to happen with or without us and we needed to do everything we could to get our messaging alongside the movie.” Bergeron says the PCTA focused attention on improving their website and harnessing the upswell in media attention to convert as many website visitors to supporters as possible. “From our perspective, it’s been not only a positive experience for the PCT, but for the entire National Trails System.”

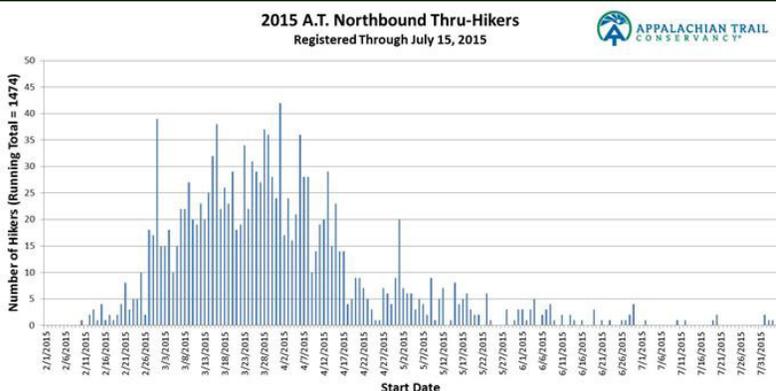
Tipton explains that the *Walk in the Woods* filmmakers have been sympathetic to the impact of creating the film and finding ways the trail can benefit from it. He says that special screenings and other events will work to aid the ATC in fundraising, and he’s excited about the bump the film will have on the visibility of the A.T. on a national — and perhaps international — scale.

The ATC was also involved with the production of the film as a technical consultant to aid the filmmakers in presenting an authentic A.T. experience, from using correct signage to ensuring that the film presents an acceptable stewardship ethic. Both Sommerville and Tipton were on or near the set for portions of the filming that occurred along the A.T.

Yet, what appears on screen is largely beyond the control of the ATC. Within their grasp, emphasizes Sommerville, is their response to more boots on the trail. The challenge is figuring how to manage more hikers without negating the experience that Bryson captures so well in the book. While the 2,000-plus mile trail can absorb a fair number of additional hikers, it’s the areas where people tend to cluster that are most delicate. Among the high-demand places of concern is the trail’s southern terminus at Springer Mountain in early spring. This year, the ATC implemented a voluntary registration system to more accurately gauge the number of thru-hikers. Yet, there’s no precedent for the impact of the film, since it’s the first Hollywood flick to feature the Appalachian Trail.

In 2014, an estimated 2,500 thru-hikers began at Springer mountain and so far figures in 2015 suggest a 5 to 10 percent increase, which follows a trend of increasing hiking starts that began in 2008. Assuming the film is consistent with the “Bryson effect” of 1999, the trail’s capacity at the southern end in 2016 “would be exceeded on a daily basis in March and April,” says Sommerville. Among the strategies devised by the task force is an emphasis on promoting alternatives to conventional end-to-end thru-hikes. In particular,

Screenshot of the online voluntary hiker registration system for Thru-Hikers, courtesy of the ATC.



A small crowd gathers around Nick Nolte’s double at Clingmans Dome in the Smokies, one of the areas along the A.T. where movie footage was shot. Ron Tipton, the ATC’s executive director, was on-site for this portion of the filming and captured this image.

“flip flopping” can help disperse trail use more evenly and can offer advantages to hikers. In May, Tipton and other ATC employees, volunteers, and members of the community sent off more than 30 thru-hikers from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia to help promote itineraries that begin mid-trail. At the end of June, 185 flip-floppers had started in or passed through Harpers Ferry, a three-fold increase over 2014.

Sommerville says the ATC is also looking at ways to cushion the blow of more thru-hikers by improving facilities, such as overnight sites and bear hanging systems, addressing sanitation issues, and recruiting more ridgerunners and caretakers. Tipton notes that the A.T.’s network of more than 6,000 trail volunteers shouldn’t be overlooked. “Without them we would not be prepared to manage and limit the human impact of more people on the trail,” he emphasizes. “If not for them, we couldn’t pull this off.”

Ultimately, Sommerville points to the ATC’s voluntary stewardship ethic as pivotal for the trail to take on more walkers. “Our biggest concern is that people start a thru-hike with uninformed expectations and not enough experience to have a solid outdoor ethic. This is our toughest nut to crack.” To combat the concern, one approach is to inform 2016 thru-hikers — via the internet and through ATC partners — before they get to the trail, making sure their expectations jibe with the reality of a thru-hike and that they are prepared to do the best job possible to take care of the A.T. “The best solution is a hiker-based solution, not a trail manager solution. People need to take responsibility of taking care of the A.T. It can’t exist without their assistance,” says Sommerville.

The ATC’s publisher Brian King agrees. What King admired most about the book was Bryson’s short history of the trail — a synopsis he considers the best ever written. King and Bryson have developed a professional relationship over the years, and Bryson penned the foreword of King’s own book, *The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America’s Premier Hiking Trail*. He’s hoping the movie is able to capture a sense of the trail’s history and rich tradition.

“The Trail belongs to the public,” says King. “I think the movie may help people understand that it’s their trail and there for everyone; and they may come away with the same sense as Bryson: that the trail is a special place. What I am hoping, is that when they enjoy it, they treat it well and preserve it for those who come later.”



All Trails Lead to Santa Fe: An Overview of the Three Trails Conference

Backcountry Horsemen arrive at Santa Fe Plaza, having ridden the Old Spanish Trail from California to Santa Fe, kicking off the conference.

All trails led to Santa Fe, New Mexico, on September 16th as three historic trail associations united for their first joint conference. The Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (CARTA) created a conference of morning presentations and afternoon field trips to explore portions of each trail.

Kicking off the conference was the arrival of three Backcountry Horsemen and their mules at the Santa Fe Plaza, who, over the course of two years, had ridden from Los Angeles to Santa Fe following the Old Spanish Trail (OST). Bus tours took attendees along the OST to Abiquiú where they observed a weaving demonstration—textiles were an important trade item—and through narrow, curvy roads which followed the original trail from Santa Fe headed northwest toward the rugged terrain of northern Arizona and southern Utah. Another bus tour went south of Santa Fe to see a section of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, still visible via a difference in vegetation. Juan de Oñate blazed this trail in 1550. A bonus on this tour was an opportunity to walk a section of Route 66, decommissioned in 1926, up the steep La Bajada hill between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The third tour traveled north along I-25, tracing the Santa Fe Trail past Glorieta Pass, up to Pecos National Historic Park, and continuing to San Miguel del Vado, where attendees walked in swales of the trail.



The conference featured field trips to each of the National Historic Trails in the area, including El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail (above).



Photos above: Left to Right: One of the field trips involved a weaving demonstration at Chimayo, New Mexico. Textiles were an important trade item along the OST. A unique event was the children's musical composed and directed by Dolores Valdez de Pong of Santa Fe and sponsored by the National Park Service and the Santa Fe Trail Association. Performed by 22 children in grades 2-5 from Carlos Gilbert Elementary School in Santa Fe, the play delighted the audience with depictions of the three trails in creative costumes and songs.



Jack Prichett and the Tecopa Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association receive the Gregory Crampton Award 2015 for work in preserving the OST in the Mojave Desert. Pictured from left to right: OSTA President Ashley Hall, Barbara Milliken, wife of Jack Prichett, Dennis Ditmanson, OSTA manager, and Jack Prichett.

Presentations included a rare appearance by renowned Southwest historian Marc Simmons and the keynote address by New Mexico State Historian Rick Hendricks. Jack Prichett (OSTA) spoke on trail preservation; Steve Post, Matt Barbour, and Cordelia Snow gave presentations on archaeology and goods along the trails. Henrietta Martinez Christmas spoke of several New Mexico families in the era of 1598-1850, and José de la Cruz Pacheco Rojas, through an interpreter, presented the Mexican perspective on the creation of roads to Santa Fe. Mike Olsen presided over a group of "trail travelers", reenactors representing characters along the three trails. Conference chairs were Pat Kuhlhoff (OSTA), Pam Najdowski (SFTA), and Troy Ainsworth (CARTA). A multitude of volunteers and professional partners made the conference possible.

“Kids In Kayaks” Exploring National Historic Trails in Baltimore



This year, a new youth outreach program from the City of Baltimore is introducing hundreds of students to the environment and history of the Chesapeake Bay through a series of interactive experiences. The Kids in Kayaks program was conceived by the Baltimore National Heritage Area and implemented in partnership with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore City Public Schools, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the Maryland Zoo, and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House.

The goals of the Kids in Kayaks program are to show the next generation how to enjoy the recreational and natural resources in their own hometown, to encourage an ethic of stewardship, and to use the two national historic trails as teaching aids.

The program is one of many initiatives inspired by the National Park Service’s Centennial Goal of “connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates”.

Before the students’ on-the-water experiences, a NPS Chesapeake Bay park ranger conducts in-class sessions on the John Smith Trail’s central interpretive themes of his historic voyages four hundred years ago, American Indian communities in the Chesapeake, and the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and rivers, particularly focusing on the Patapsco River in Baltimore.

“This is going to have a lasting impact on how our kids interact with their environment, view it, and take ownership of it, more so than what they’ve ever experienced in the past.”

– Sarah Martin, Teacher, The Mount Washington School



On paddling day, the students switch off between paddling and a series of hands-on activities and lectures by multiple partners covering local environmental ecology, biology, the history of the War of 1812, and the experiences of Captain John Smith in the area.

When the youth explore tributaries along the Patapsco River in their kayaks, they often have visceral reactions to seeing first-hand the debris floating in the water, inspiring dialogue about how to help clean up their local environment.

Baltimore National Heritage Area received 2015 Special Opportunity Funds through the NPS Northeast Regional Office. That office has requested additional funding to maintain and expand the program.



All photos for this article are screenshots from the video, used with permission courtesy of Baltimore City Public Schools.

Program information submitted by Abbi Wicklein-Bayne, Chief, Interpretation, Education and Communication, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office.

Learn more about the program through a short film made by Baltimore City Public Schools:

<https://vimeo.com/141215156>.

Learn more about Kids on Kayaks at www.nps.gov/cajo

New England Trail College Network Engages Students with Volunteerism and Hiking

With five colleges located within the New England Trail community of Amherst, Massachusetts, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) identified the area as a potential hot spot for engaging young adults. With the establishment of the NETCONE (New England Trail College Network) college students are educated on the hiking and volunteering opportunities along the NET and invited to participate in programs and events targeted specifically towards young adults.

Since the five colleges all have outings clubs and adventure programs of some kind, the NETCONE is comprised of partnerships with the individual programs. Staff members of the Appalachian Mountain Club present at their meetings, work to get NET programs on their event calendars, and help coordinate volunteer expeditions and hikes.

The program specifically highlights the portions of the trail nearest the schools to increase both accessibility and sense of ownership for students. AMC Trail Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Emily Bedenkop visits the outings clubs and highlights up to 10 separate hiking itineraries that students can easily do on nearby segments of the trail. "Convenience of information and overall accessibility are really key for busy students", Ms. Bedenkop reports. Students are most likely to pursue volunteer efforts and hiking at locations that are easy to get to and offer contained experiences that can fit within their busy schedules. She also collaborates with the leadership of the outdoor clubs to identify the best ways to get students involved and promote the NET to the participants of the outdoor clubs.

She also notes that since college outing clubs are often fairly self-sufficient, with their outing events following routine patterns year after year, getting specific trail events onto the programming agenda of the outing clubs is sometimes a hurdle. However, once trail events are on the student organization agendas, particularly as regular or annual events, student volunteerism on the trail can increase significantly.

NETCONE is comprised of partnerships with local college outdoor and adventure clubs

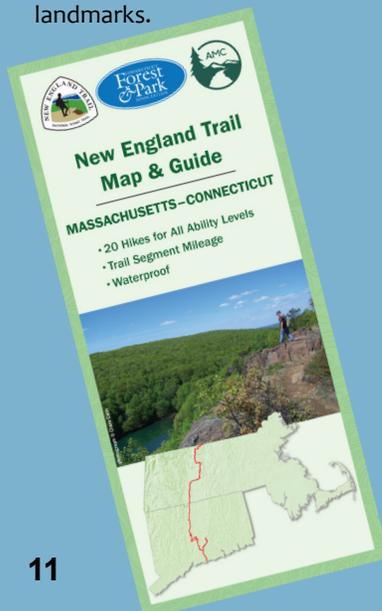


Photos above: Top: Mt. Holyoke Outing Club, part of the NETCONE. Bottom: NETCONE event participants on a hiking along the New England National Scenic Trail.

First-Ever New England National Scenic Trail Map & Guide Published

Submitted by Clare Cain, Connecticut Forest and Park Association

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) have partnered to published the New England Trail Map & Guide, the first-ever comprehensive hiking resource for the New England National Scenic Trail (NET). The three-map set and guide includes 20 suggested hikes and covers the entire long-distance trail. The new map and guide is the ultimate resource for anyone seeking to day or thru-hike the trail, which is treasured for its classic New England landscape and colonial historical landmarks.



Features include:

- Two easy-to-use, waterproof, topographical trail maps—one for Connecticut and one for Massachusetts, plus the National Park Service paper map
- 20 suggested hikes for a variety of ability levels, including Ragged Mountain Preserve, Bluff Head, and Seven Falls in Connecticut, and Mount Tom, Royalston Falls, and Ledges-Hermit Mountain in Massachusetts
- Trail segment mileage between intersections and important features
- Natural and cultural history of the trail and region
- Parking identification for easy navigation to trailheads
- Trip planning, safety tips, and Leave No Trace information

The New England Trail Map & Guide (ISBN 978-1-628420-15-9) is available for \$14.95 and can be purchased directly from AMC at outdoors.org/amcstore, from CFPA at ctwoodlands.org/bookstore, or nationwide through booksellers and outdoor retailers. The map and guide is distributed to the book trade by National Book Network.

To find out more about the NET, including trail conditions and volunteer opportunities, visit

www.newenglandtrail.org.

Federal Highway Administration Publishes New Set of Information Resources

Submitted by Christopher Douwes, Transportation Alternatives Program / Recreational Trails Program, Federal Highway Administration

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has produced several publications and documents over the past several months that may directly or indirectly benefit National Trails. Among these:



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

- **FHWA Guidance: Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions of Federal Transportation Legislation:** Provides guidance on policy, integrating networks, funding, planning, environmental review, project selection, and design resources. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/guidance_2015.cfm
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian Funding Opportunities:** Lists typical projects and eligible Federal highway and transit funding programs. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding, Design, and Environmental Review: Addressing Common Misconceptions.** http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/misconceptions.cfm
- **Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide:** Provides information about safety and design for separated bike lanes. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/separated_bikelane_pdg/page00.cfm
- **Current Research and Activities:** Summarizes FHWA's ongoing bicycle and pedestrian research and activities. The Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation will inform future investments, coordinate policies, and promote partnerships, including partnerships with Federal Land Management Agencies. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/resources/current_activities.cfm
- **Revised Transportation Alternatives Program Questions and Answers:** Provides information about TAP project selection, match, eligibility, the Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qatap.cfm>

New Interpretive Signage Highlights Significance of the Fishkill Supply Depot to the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT



On Saturday, September 19, as part of the 6th Annual Revolutionary War Weekend event, the Fishkill Historical Society (FHS) and Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot (FOFSD) unveiled display panels marking the Fishkill Supply Depot site's inclusion in the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, known commonly as the W3R. Research has uncovered Fishkill's clear connection to the French forces that served in the Revolution. Along with the Van Wyck Homestead Museum's status as a Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNA) site, the installation of the panels marks the national importance of the Fishkill Supply Depot.



The Fishkill panels are part of a larger W3R NHT interpretive signing project initiated by the Hudson River Valley Greenway made possible through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP). The project consists of determining locations for directional signs and wayside exhibits and then designing and installing them along the route in NY. Also included is the development of audio and digital information about the route. The National Park Service was asked by the Hudson River Valley Greenway to administer and provide technical assistance to implement this flagship project and prototype for the NHT.

Information submitted by Joe DiBello, NPS Superintendent of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT.

Photos courtesy of the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot. Learn more at:

<http://www.fishkillsupplydepot.org/>

Nez Perce NHT Segment Dedicated



Last summer, the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPpHC) completed a project with the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) to locate, reopen, and mark 2.2 miles of historic Nez Perce Trail and redo one mile of the Trail from Moon Saddle to Indian Post Office. The Indian Post Office is located along the Lolo Motorway Road 500, in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. After brush and small diameter logs were removed, official NPNHT signs were placed along the Trail and their locations recorded electronically with a GPS. A portion of the Trail that has not been used for perhaps 100 years is now open to horseback riding and hiking traffic.

Other purposes of the trail clearing project were to educate, connect, and allow members of the NPpHC the opportunity to be directly active in the stewardship and protection of the Nez Perce Trail. This NPpHC event offers a similar experience to members of the Nez Perce Tribe and members from the surrounding communities.

Due to the significance of this reopened trail, on August 6, about 50 people made their way along the rugged Lolo Motorway to the site of the dedication at Indian Post Office high (elev. 6,966 ft.) in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho. More than a dozen members of the NPpHC in full regalia rode the recently reopened route. US Forest Service representatives Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT Administrator Sandi McFarland expressed their appreciation to everyone involved in the reopening effort.

NPpHC members Emmitt Taylor, Josiah Pinkham, and Rosa Yearout presented, and Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Director Nakia Williamson discussed the importance of the Trail to the Nez Perce (Niimípuu) people. Also unveiled was the US Forest Services' interpretive sign explaining the importance to the Niimípuu of the rock cairns and the trail at the site.



Photos from top left to right: members of the NPpHC ride the recently reopened segment; Grace Moore and Abe Yearout, President of the NPpHC. NPpHC member Emmitt Taylor and Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Director Nakia Williamson (speaking). All photos by Roger Peterson, US Forest Service.

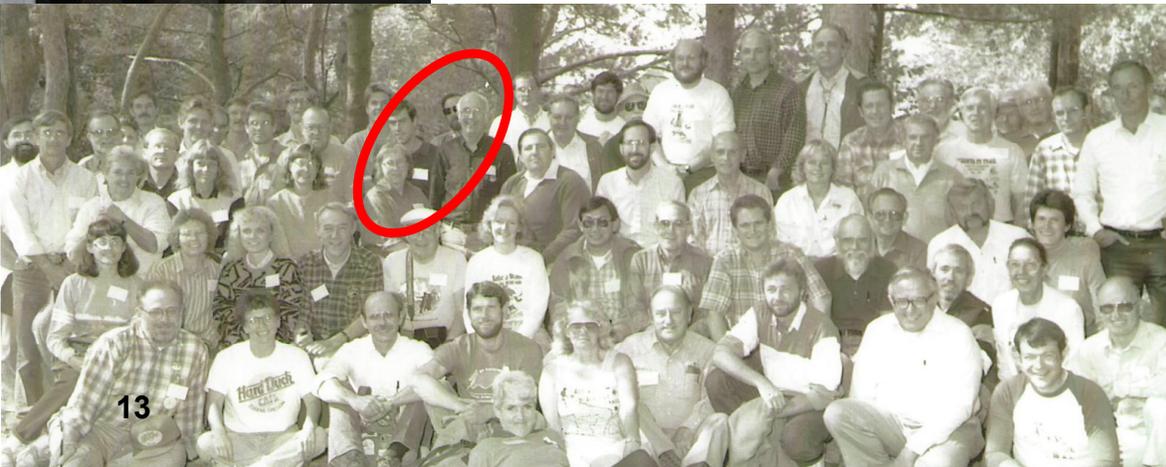
In Memoriam ~ Jeanne Watson, Oregon-California Trails Association, Partnership for the National Trails System



Jeanne Watson was a life-long proponent of trails, historic sites, and museums as well as a long-time supporter of the National Trails System. For 50 years, Jeanne and her family worked to interpret, mark, and protect the Sierra crossing of the Carson Route of the California Trail. Together with her husband Bill, Jeanne was active in the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) in a wide range of capacities, including multiple terms on the OCTA Board of Directors and congressional advocacy.

Jeanne and Bill were at the forefront of creating the successful Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), beginning in 1988 at the first National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference (photo below) and she continued to be actively involved with PNTS events and advocacy for the rest of her life. She cherished her OCTA Meritorious Achievement Award, PNTS Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Department of Interior's "Take Pride in America Award".

As a museum professional since 1973, Jeanne brought her passion for history to a variety of sites and was one of the founders of the International Historic House Committee. She received many awards for her endeavors, including the American Association of State and Local History Award and the International Council on Museums-US International Service Citation.



Photos: Top: Jere Krakow presents a bouquet of flowers to Jeanne and Bill Watson to commemorate their 30 years of service to OCTA during Hike the Hill in February 2015. Bottom: Jeanne and Bill at the first conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Wisconsin in 1988.

New Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council Brings Together Wide Variety of Partners

Excerpted from the original press release US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region September 4, 2015

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack recently appointed 23 members to the inaugural Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council under the authority of the National Trails System Act. The council will advise the Secretary, through the Chief of the Forest Service, on management of the Pacific Northwest Trail in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. One of America's 11 National Scenic Trails and designated in 2009, the Pacific Northwest Trail is only the second such trail – alongside the Pacific Crest Trail – to traverse Washington State.

"We're excited to assemble such a diverse group of volunteers to collaborate with us in developing a plan designed to improve recreational opportunities and experiences, and support our unique mix of gateway communities," said Matt McGrath, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Program Manager. "The strong interest in the council demonstrates the significance of the Pacific Northwest Trail as a truly national resource." The council is composed of citizens with diverse backgrounds chosen for their expertise in recreation-related issues, and ability to represent a balance of stakeholder perspectives and geographic areas. The council also includes representatives of the US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management, which manage sections of the trail.

Establishing the council is a major milestone in the trail's short history. The US Forest Service is cooperating with many other Federal, State, and local agencies as well as private landowners to develop a trail-wide comprehensive plan. Over the next three years, the council will provide recommendations on trail uses, signage, establishing a trail corridor, and prioritizing projects.



Waterfall in Glacier NP along the Pacific Northwest NST. Photo by Jon Knechtel, courtesy of the PNTA.

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Presents 2015 Achievement Awards

Youth Achievement Awardees (upper left to right)

Gordon Wallace of Florence, MT, is a Lewis and Clark Expedition enthusiast. He has been reenacting with the Travelers' Rest Brigade since he was in the fourth grade and has continued that tradition throughout high school. Gordon displays extensive knowledge and understanding of Expedition members' journals and helps out fellow reenactors, filling in for them on a moment's notice and giving their presentations flawlessly.



Maren Burgess of Alpine, UT, is a Student Member of LCTHF and a Lewis and Clark Expedition artist. She paints canvas pictures and creates sculptures of Sacagawea. Maren aspires to be a Sacagawea historian and period artist and prepares class reports, writes articles creates artwork, and enters exhibits in county fairs on the Expedition. Her latest exhibit, titled "The Legacy of the Corps: Lewis and Clark's Great Journey West," won her first place at National History Day in Washington, D.C. in June.



Distinguished Service Awardees (lower left to right)

Dan Sturdevant of Kansas City, MO, began his service to the LCTHF 15 years ago and has served as a chapter president, member of the National Board of Directors, and president of the LCTHF. During his term as national president, Dan identified member services as a top priority and promoted increased outreach to members.

Kris Townsend of Spokane, WA, is on the LCTHF Board and serves as LCTHF Webmaster and Technology Chair. He conducted all of the behind-the-scenes legwork to put searchable issues of the LCTHF journal *We Proceeded On* onto the LCTHF website as well as redesigned the site, giving it greater functionality, chapter pages, a calendar, and other improvements.



Meet Steve Lee, New President of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) is pleased to announce a new president, Steve Lee. Steve is a resident of Clarkston, WA, and financial analyst at Washington State University. Steve has been active in the LCTHF since 1987; he had previously served as vice president and chairman of the Finance Committee and was also involved in planning several LCTHF annual meetings.

Among Steve's goals for his presidency are to build membership, seek donations for LCTHF's restricted funds, which provide dollars for trail stewardship and education programs as well as operations, and to emphasize the key role legacy donations play in building capacity.





Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
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Trails Events Calendar

February 7 -10, 2016	The Corps Network's National Conference	The Corps Network	Washington, DC	http://www.corpsnetwork.org/national-conference
February 8-11, 2016	Hike the Hill	Partnership for the National Trails System, American Hiking Society	Washington, DC	www.americanhiking.com/hike-the-hill
March 5-11, 2016	Sustainable Trails Conference	Professional Trail Builders Association	Knoxville, TN	http://www.trailbuilders.org/training
April 2-6, 2016	American Planning Association Conference	American Planning Association	Phoenix, AZ	https://conference.planning.org/conference/
April 6-8, 2016	California Trails and Greenways Conference	California Trails Conference Foundation	Riverside, CA	http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24151
April 7-10, 2016	Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Rothschild, WI	www.iceagetrail.org/