

# The Register

## *The Online Stewardship Newsletter for the Appalachian Trail*

*A publication of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy – Summer 2008*

### **Sidehill**

*By Hawk Metheny and Robert Proudman*

Mid-term between the 2007 and 2009 biennial meetings is a good time to reflect on the progress ATC has made and the ongoing challenges we face.

There's great progress to report! We are seeking to involve new Appalachian Trail supporters and volunteers through classroom and community outreach. We are finding new sources of funding, including the license-plate program in North Carolina and similar programs initiated in Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee ([www.appalachiantrail.org/licenseplates](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/licenseplates)). A record number of Trail club and other volunteers reported time spent working on the Trail and for ATC and the Trail clubs last year. The MEGA-Transect and environmental monitoring programs are involving citizen scientists in using the Trail as an indication of environmental health.

The National Park Service recently announced that ATC will receive a major matching grant as part of the Centennial Initiative celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPS. With these funds, ATC has retained Dr. Roger Moore, an A.T. thru-hiker, former ATC Board and Stewardship Council member, and professor of outdoor recreation and resources management at North Carolina State University, as interim program manager for the A.T. MEGA-Transect beginning this July.

We continue to support the Trail clubs in their projects on the ground and in helping them develop and manage their volunteer base. More than \$22,000 was awarded to 10 Trail clubs through the L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program this spring ([www.appalachiantrail.org/grantstoclubs](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/grantstoclubs)). Additional grants were awarded from the North Carolina license-plate program. A volunteer clearinghouse for the Trail is being developed and tested and will be available for clubs to use later this year.

And yet we face challenges. We must communicate with and persuade countless people in diverse jurisdictions across 14 states to minimize the effects on the Trail of proposed towers, power lines, gravel pits, and subdivisions. Given the climate and energy crises, we must search for more sustainable and climate-friendly ways to manage the Trail. Given the economic downturn, we must recruit more volunteers nearer the Trail who can work in our behalf, and enhance our productivity while reducing our "carbon footprint."

One of these challenges is keeping the cooperative management system vital, which requires consultation and consensus among the clubs, ATC and the agency partners for all major new projects. With turnover of leadership in the Trail clubs, retirements and reassignments of agency staff, changes in ATC's governance and organizational roles, and other pressures, we need to find ways to strengthen our partnership's effectiveness.

In this issue, we have reports and proposed policies from ATC's Stewardship Council. As always, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail deserves our mutual best efforts. We're making

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progress, and we look forward to working with you as the National Park system looks toward its second century and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail toward its fifth decade.

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### News and Features

#### News from the Stewardship Council

The ATC Stewardship Council had a full plate when it met in May in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with presentations on climate change and land stewardship, as well as discussions and actions on various issues. Several draft documents have been shared with the Regional Partnership Committees and are being distributed to the Trail clubs for discussion and advice.

Lenny Bernstein, member of the Council's energy subcommittee, past president of the Carolina Mountain Club, A.T. 2,000-miler, and principal author of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Global Climate Change (which was the co-recipient with Al Gore of the 2007 Nobel Prize), gave a special presentation on global climate change to the Council and to ATC's Board of Directors, which met the same weekend. The Council and ATC staff are reviewing environmental sustainability as it relates to the Trail and ways to mitigate our "carbon footprint." A [draft resolution on climate change](#) (PDF) has been developed.

Dennis Shaffer, vice president of the Vermont Land Trust, and ATC Lands and Resources Coordinator Caroline Dufour gave presentations on land protection and stewardship. The lands and resources subcommittee of the Council subsequently revised a [land protection policy](#) (PDF).

The lands and resources subcommittee also finalized a [draft policy on geocaching](#) (PDF), which the Council voted to share with RPCs and Trail clubs for review.

The Trails subcommittee and the full Council discussed a proposal from the 2007 biennial conference that side trails depicted on A.T. maps and guidebooks either be marked and maintained or be removed from those publications. On the subcommittee's recommendation, the Council voted to make this request to the clubs and determine how best to update publications. More information will be provided at a later date.

The Trails subcommittee tabled a proposed connection of the Great Eastern Trail with the A.T. in southwest Virginia, pending further development of plans for that multiuse trail. The subcommittee also asked the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service for advice and guidance on the differing definitions of commercial use, in preparation for improving regulation of those uses on the Trail.

The lands and resources subcommittee and the full Council reviewed proposed changes to ATC's approval process for six policies. The current process requires ATC approval of club

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proposals for reassignments of club Trail sections, local management plans, new or major renovations of shelters and campsites, new side or connecting trails, major bridges, and timber management. The Council is sharing a [draft document](#) (PDF) proposing changes to ATC's current approval process for those projects.

Clubs should work closely with their ATC regional offices early in the development of new proposals and projects affected by these six policies, which require consultation with federal and state land-managing agencies and compliance with their direction.

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### **Don Owen Says Goodbye**

Don Owen, environmental protection specialist with the NPS-Appalachian Trail Park office (ATPO), has retired following a 30-year career with the federal government. He began his 23 years of work with the park service as a realty specialist in the federal land-acquisition program for protection of the Trail and its surrounding corridor.

From mid-1988 until 1997, Owen was duty-stationed at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (then Conference) in Harpers Ferry. As resource management specialist, he took the lead in arranging for the inventories of rare, threatened, and endangered species along the Trail and in environmental issues and compliance. He worked in tandem with Bob Proudman on Trail issues and projects, including writing and revising the *Local Management Planning Guide*, contributing articles and acting as co-staff editor of *The Register*, and overseeing development of ATC's Trail-assessment database.

He returned to the ATPO office in 1997 and continued to work with ATC and the Trail clubs on compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act, remediation of the Palmerton zinc superfund site in Pennsylvania. He designed and recommended protection of additional lands for the Appalachian Trail, planned and implemented cultural- and natural-resource management programs, and authorized pipeline and power-line crossings and rights of way. He has continued to contribute to *The Register* in its online format.

Owen accepted a position as the executive director of the Land Trust of Virginia. He is a 23-year member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and continues to volunteer. He also plans to work on some projects in a volunteer capacity for ATC and ATPO.

In his parting message to A.T. partners, Owen said, "I hope you all know how much I've enjoyed working with all of you these past 23 years to protect and manage the Appalachian Trail... I will always hold a special place in my heart for the Appalachian Trail and my A.T. family. It's been an honor and a privilege to work with each and every one of you!"

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### **Coming Soon: ATC's Online Volunteer Opportunities Database**

ATC's volunteer clearinghouse was created to connect volunteers with opportunities, to attract new volunteers to the A.T., and to provide support for volunteer-program managers. The centerpiece of the clearinghouse is a new online volunteer database, currently being built by CiviCore LLC, a Denver-based company that designs and builds databases for nonprofit organizations.

The database will provide an online interface to help recruit new volunteers and assist volunteer managers with the day-to-day tasks of managing their programs. When the database is live, volunteers will be able to search by a variety of criteria for volunteer opportunities Trail-wide, register their interests, and report hours and other data.

Optional administrative features will exist for Trail program leaders—ATC staff and club leaders—who manage volunteers. Volunteer-program managers, in addition to posting volunteer opportunities online, will be able to collect hours, skills, contact information and other data from volunteers. Tools to actively manage their programs include searching for volunteers with particular skills for a special project; scheduling work trips; and receiving reminders, such as chain-saw recertification requirements or 100-hour recognition.

The ATC volunteer clearinghouse was launched in response to long-standing requests from ATC partners and staff for assistance in recruiting and managing volunteers. The volunteer database—providing a centralized source of information about A.T. volunteer programs and opportunities—will help with both of those goals. The database is tentatively scheduled to be launched late this summer.

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### **Regional Partnership Awards**

ATC's Southern and Virginia Regional Partnership Committees (RPCs) bestowed their 2007 volunteer and agency partners-of-the-year awards in March.

The Southern region (which encompasses Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee) honored **Candace Wyman**, former Watauga District Ranger on the Cherokee National Forest, as agency partner. She was described as a guardian of the A.T. partnership and strong advocate of the Trail for her willingness to listen to concerns, get things accomplished and stand firm when needed. A long list of projects were completed under her leadership, including the Osborne Farm accessible-trail relocation and trailhead, the Elk River relocation, the Mountaineer Falls A.T. shelter, and mitigation of prescribed burns and timber sales. Wyman has been reassigned to the Tusquitee Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina.

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**Lawson Herron** of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club was named volunteer of the year for the Southern region. He joined GATC in 1999 and has been named GATC overseer of the year and trail worker of the year. In 2007, Herron contributed 955 hours in 94 separate trips, earned a Konnarock t-shirt, led many GATC maintenance trips and, as chair of the club's structures committee, led projects to reroof two A.T. shelters, rebuild two moldering privies, paint six A.T. shelters and install food-hoist cables at four A.T. shelters. Since 2000, he has volunteered more trail-work hours than any other GATC member—3,250 hours.

The Virginia RPC, which comprises A.T. clubs in central and southwest Virginia, also gave 2007 volunteer and agency partner awards. **Anne Maio** of the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club (MRATC) received the volunteer award. MRATC's newsletter editor and photographer for several years, she also served as club secretary for two years, and as RPC representative for three. She has worked with camps, schools, and colleges to bring young people to the A.T. for projects ranging from removing invasive exotic plants to side-hill improvements and stream water testing. Maio has helped construct and maintain shelters and privies, as well as being a trail maintainer, and has been the chief blazer for the club's Trail section for several years. Last year, she participated in the wildlife monitoring program, moving a motion-sensitive camera to prescribed locations and forwarding photographs. She has spent many hours trying to comply with FCC licensing requirements for the club's portable radios. Finally, she not only has led hikes, but has even signed up people she happened to meet out on the Trail as new club members.

The Virginia partner award went to **Dave Hrdlicka**, who retired from the U.S. Forest Service last August. Hrdlicka was an integral part of many aspects of A.T. management during his years with the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. His contributions included such things as providing all-terrain-vehicle support for the Konnarock Trail Crew and chain-saw training for club volunteers, as well as helping to plan trail relocations, including the New River relocation near Pearisburg, Virginia. Since his retirement, Hrdlicka has continued to go above and beyond the call of duty, volunteering his time to help ATC complete further trail planning in southwestern Virginia.

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### Maintainers Tips

#### VIP and VIF Protection for A.T. Volunteers

While advance preparation, proper tool use and protective gear may help prevent injuries to trail workers, accidents can and do happen. When an injury occurs while working on the Trail, volunteers working under the auspices of one of the 30 Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs are covered for medical treatment under federal Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) and Volunteers in the Forest (VIF) agreements.

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To receive this coverage, volunteers must be authorized in writing by either the National Park Service (for VIP) or the U.S. Forest Service (for VIF). Both agencies have standard forms for this that can cover individuals or groups, including the Trail clubs. These agreements must be signed by the club and the appropriate federal agency, and the volunteer must be working within the scope of the volunteer agreement, which includes following basic safety practices, such as participating in a daily pre-work safety briefing (tailgate safety session), using all required personal protective equipment, and obtaining required training and certifications for specific tasks (for example, chain-saw or crosscut-saw operation).

Volunteers are not covered if injured during the drive to and from their volunteer work, and they are not compensated for time lost on a paid job due to an injury suffered as a volunteer.

Updated packets of information on VIP and VIF coverage, including forms and instructions, are being distributed to ATC regional offices and Trail clubs, and are available online:

[www.appalachiantrail.org/volinjurypacket](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/volinjurypacket)

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## **Chain-saw Carriers for Sale**

In the Winter/Spring issue, we highlighted a chain-saw carrier made by Ed Ritter of the Allentown Hiking Club. Steve Lund of the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers contacted us about a chainsaw-carrier bracket for an external backpack frame that he designed and had manufactured for the club. Some are still available and can be purchased as a kit, including the bracket, scabbard, all mounting hardware, and assembly instructions, for \$45 plus shipping.

The bracket attaches to the horizontal shoulder strap bar on the pack frame and comes in two different styles, one for packs having a straight shoulder-strap bar (Kelty-style) and one for those with a curved bar (Camp Trails-style). It was designed for a Stihl 026/260 chain saw with a 16" bar and should work with most saws with a 16" bar.

The pack bag can be retained, allowing the sawyer to carry oil, fuel, and water as well as most of the safety gear. Carrying the saw with the power head up shifts the center of gravity of the pack forward so the weight is better transferred to the hip belt.

For more information or to order a kit, contact Steve Lund at [slund348@pobox.com](mailto:slund348@pobox.com) or 919-481-1300.

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## **Publications for Trail Workers**

### **The Register**

Summer is here and with it come potential seasonal dangers to trail workers, including lightning strikes and tick-borne diseases. Articles on these and other topics can be found on ATC's *The Register* online archive ([www.appalachiantrail.org/theregister](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/theregister)). *The Register*, ATC's stewardship

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newsletter, began as a monthly publication in 1978. Submit articles or story ideas to [TheRegister@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:TheRegister@appalachiantrail.org).

### **Missoula Technology and Development Center**

The USDA Forest Service's Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) has a number of safety and trail-related publications that can be accessed via an online "Extranet" at [www.fs.fed.us/t-d/](http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/). The log-in name and password for the site are the same: t-d

You can browse or search the site in a number of ways. For example, selecting T&D Pubs brings up options to search by title, by program area (aviation, fire, recreation, safety and health, range management, etc.), or by how recently it was published. If you select the recreation option, a list of publications is provided, such as the current T&D newsletter and a trail bridge catalog with information on planning, siting, designing, constructing, inspecting, and maintaining trail bridges. To be put on the e-mail list for *T&D News*, contact [wo\\_mtdc\\_pubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us).

The 2006 MTDC sawyer curriculum currently used Trailwide for chain-saw and crosscut-saw certification is posted on ATC's training and workshops page (<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/workshops>). It is also found in the Safety and Health category on the MTDC site, along with situational-awareness slide shows for chain saw and crosscut saw users that we highly recommend. You can view these at <http://www.fs.fed.us>, using the t-d log-in and password described above.

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## Clubs

### **L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs**

This year, ATC awarded more than \$22,000 to ten of the 30 Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs. Most of the funding for this program since it began in the late 1980s has come from outdoor retailer L.L. Bean. Additional funds come from the earnings of several endowment funds. The application deadline for 2009 grants is November 1, 2008. Application forms and guidelines can be found at <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/grantstoclubs>.

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### **Volunteer of the Month**

**Bradley Alston** of the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) is ATC's volunteer of the month for June. A volunteer hike leader and leadership council member for MCM, he has worked with the club to bring students from local schools to the A.T. More about Alston and this new ATC recognition program, including how to nominate volunteers, can be found on our Web site at <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/volunteermonth>.

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### **Earth Day Event**

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) was well represented at the Fort Detrick Earth Day Event held March 20, 2008 on the post in Frederick, Maryland.

**Michelle Hewitt** took time off from her position at the post to host the PATC display. Two tables were needed to display material and information provided by the club, along with additional information sheets about the club's history and mission and handouts about the Appalachian Trail Hewitt had prepared.

For over four hours, Hewitt welcomed visitors and answered questions. Approximately 400-500 people visited the display and picked up information. Many of them stayed to ask questions about the club's activities and the A.T.

A relatively new PATC member, Hewitt's enthusiasm and "get it done" attitude has landed her the position of secretary for the club's north chapter, known as the Yankee Clippers. She was instrumental in the design and production of the chapter t-shirt, and is active in monthly worktrips.

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### **Whole Foods Supports GATC**

As part of their commitment to local communities, individual Whole Foods Markets periodically select a local nonprofit organization to receive proceeds from a "5 Percent Day." On April 2, the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) was the featured organization at the store on Ponce de Leon Avenue in metro Atlanta. The event provided an opportunity to showcase GATC programs, as club volunteers provided information throughout the day.

The display included a three-panel club exhibit, a photo album featuring GATC outreach activities (National Trails Day events, presentations and hikes for schools north Georgia trail towns, and urban youth programs), new GATC brochures, and an announcement of a National Trails Day event at Stone Mountain.

Five percent of the day's proceeds totaled \$3,869, which Whole Foods donated to GATC.

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## **Monitoring**

### **Corridor Monitoring Saves Pennsylvania from Encroachment**

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In the early spring of 2007, ATC's Boundary Program Manager Sally Naser and AMC-Delaware Valley (AMC-DV) chapter volunteers discovered a significant encroachment on NPS-easement lands near Little Gap, Pennsylvania. A number of structures had been constructed over the years and continued to be expanded even after the initial discovery was made. Good photo documentation by ATC field staff and AMC-DV corridor monitors was extremely helpful in the mitigation process and in working with our Trail neighbors at the Blue Mountain Ski Area.

This situation serves as an excellent reminder of the importance of a strong boundary management program. A faded, overgrown, or neglected boundary can and does invite encroachment problems.

The remediation of the encroachment was a stellar example of cooperative A.T. management and the success that can be achieved by working together with Trail neighbors toward a common end. In late April of this year, a meeting was held on-site with key AMC-DV chapter members, ATC Mid-Atlantic regional staff, National Park Service-ATPO Chief Ranger Todd Remaley, and managers of the Blue Mountain Ski Area to discuss the encroachment and formulate a safe and efficient plan to remove the illegal structures from NPS scenic easement lands.

On May 17, a combined crew of more than 25 volunteers from AMC-DV and the Blue Mountain Ski Area staff worked side by side to dismantle the structures, haul away debris, and restore the site in a single day! Besides providing volunteers to assist with the clean up, the ski area also provided two pickup trucks, two ATVs, a backhoe, a dump truck, a large stake-body truck, hand and power tools, and food and drink for the clean-up efforts. A slide show of the project can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/wsteinmetz/ATCCleanUpNearBlueMtSkiArea>.

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## World Water Monitoring Day Data

Water resources within the 250,000-acre Appalachian Trail corridor provide habitat for wildlife and plants as well as water for hikers. Streams and rivers within the corridor support public water supplies, fisheries, agriculture, and hydropower generation downstream from the Trail. Determining the state of these resources helps A.T. land managers and policy makers make better decisions, but collecting data is a huge task.

In 2007, ATC became a partner in World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) to collect that data. A month-long event held annually from September 18—October 18, WWMD is a volunteer program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world.

Water samples drawn from streams, rivers, lakes and ponds were collected at 225 sites on the A.T. by 894 volunteers, including participants from 22 Trail clubs. Using simple kits provided by WWMD, samples were tested for pH, dissolved oxygen, clarity and temperature, and the data was entered by the volunteers in the WWMD online database. The data represents a "snapshot" of Trail water resources; a picture that will become clearer each year as the program continues.

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The sampling process was simple enough to build into other A.T. projects. Many club volunteers collected water data during regular hikes and maintenance trips, although several clubs partnered with local youth organizations and school groups. WWMD also attracted new volunteers to the Trail; this project was popular with scout and school groups.

ATC will be participating in WWMD in 2008—no special skills are required for this project, and adults, supervised youth groups (classes, clubs, scouts, etc.) and families are encouraged to participate. Contact [waterquality@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:waterquality@appalachiantrail.org) for more information.

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### Along the Trail

#### **Recognition for longtime Konnarock Trail-Crew Volunteer**

Dean Sims, ATC's longest-serving trail-crew volunteer, was honored during the first week of the 2008 Konnarock season, the 25th year he has come out to work on the crew. Sims received a 25-year service award from ATC, in addition to an award for working more than 7,000 hours for the U.S. Forest Service. Sims, from McIntosh, Florida, is also a long-time volunteer on ATC's mid-Atlantic trail crew. ATC is grateful for his work over the years and looks forward to his continued involvement for years to come. For more about the Konnarock Crew:

<http://konnarockcrew.blogspot.com>.

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#### **MEGA-Transect Report**

An introductory report on the A.T. MEGA-Transect program is now available for download. [www.appalachiantrail.org/megatransect](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/megatransect). The report lays out the broad categories of environmental variables that A.T. MEGA-Transect partners are committed to studying, it explains why they are relevant to all residents of the eastern U.S., and it explores how they can be studied and potentially acted upon by volunteers, A.T. MEGA-Transect partners and other interested parties.

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#### **Pennsylvania A.T. Act**

A bill strengthening protection of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania is awaiting the governor's signature after being passed by state representatives in December and by the state senate in May. ATC staff and club volunteers worked closely with legislators to get the bill passed. Pennsylvania is a "home rule" state, where land-use planning decisions are made by individual townships or boroughs. The A.T. passes through 55 townships and 3 boroughs as it winds 229 miles across the state.

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The Appalachian Trail Act requires the municipalities to enact zoning “to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the trail and to conserve and maintain it as a natural resource,” even if the remainder of the township has no zoning. The Act also provides technical and financial assistance from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A task force including those agencies and ATC is strategizing how best to engage the municipalities.

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### **Dickinson Puts ATC on YouTube**

In the fall of 2006, the policy-management studies senior seminar from nearby Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was tasked with creating a public relations DVD for a nonprofit organization in central Pennsylvania. A group of three students selected the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. ATC mid-Atlantic regional office staffers Karen Lutz and John Luthy worked with the students throughout the project, providing talking points and messages to be conveyed, and reviewing the content for accuracy and clarity. The students also interviewed area A.T. volunteers and got some visuals and marketing guidance from ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry. While the narrated DVD uses examples from the mid-Atlantic area, the messages are presented with a Trail-wide scope. The vision of the Trail, its history, partnerships, threats, and current ATC programs are covered quite thoroughly in 8:38 minutes. By publishing the production on the Internet, it is available to audiences anytime, anywhere. Click <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Xp1g1woeO8> or visit youtube.com and search for Appalachian Trail, Dickinson.

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### **Side Trails**

### **National Recreation Trails**

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne has announced 24 new national recreation trails in 16 states, adding more than 1,100 miles of trails to the national trails system. In addition, the Ozark Trail has been designated a national recreation trail by the USDA Forest Service. See the American Trails Web site for more information: [www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/08NRTapps](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/08NRTapps).

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### **USDA Personnel Changes**

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Ed Schafer became secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January. He is the former governor of North Dakota. Other recent personnel changes in the national forest system: Chuck Myers, former southern regional forester, is now the associate deputy chief of the National Forest

System; Tom Peterson, currently serving as the acting southern regional forester, will become the agency's director of forest management in July.

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### **National Trails System 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Although work on the Appalachian Trail began 86 years ago, and the initial route was officially completed in 1937, the A.T. was not designated as a national scenic trail until 1968. Enacted on October 2, 1968, the National Trails System (NTS) Act set the stage for national scenic and historic trails. This year a partnership of national trails are celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the act and kicking off "A Decade for National Trails". The NTS will be profiled in 18-pages of the October issue of the National Geographic Society magazine. As part of the National Trails Symposium November 15-18, the NTS will be highlighted. The Partnership for the National Trails System will offer a workshop preceding the National Trails Symposium on November 13 and 14, addressing every Trail's pressing question—how to expand constituencies.

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### **National Trails Fund Grants**

The American Hiking Society (AHS) is accepting applications for 2009 National Trails Fund grants. The online application form and guidelines can be found on the AHS Web site ([www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org)). The program is intended to give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America's hiking trails. The application deadline is August 15; grants will be awarded in spring 2009.

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### **Celebrate the Smokies**

2009 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and a year-long celebration is planned. A 75th anniversary Web site ([www.GreatSmokies75th.org](http://www.GreatSmokies75th.org)) has been set up and will provide a complete listing of anniversary events to be held in the park and in neighboring communities. Visitors to the site will be able to view informational features and purchase anniversary merchandise online.

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### **John Morgan Update**

Subscribe to receive notification of each new issue of *The Register* by sending an e-mail to [TheRegister@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:TheRegister@appalachiantrail.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line and your full name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

# The Register

## *The Online Stewardship Newsletter for the Appalachian Trail*

*A publication of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy – Summer 2008*

John Morgan, the last editor of *The Register* as a printed newsletter, former ATC Board member, and former Maine Appalachian Trail Club president and trail maintainer, sent us a recent update while traveling in northern California:

I couldn't help but think back on trail maintenance days while...walking and hiking in the redwoods here... On [the first trip to] my first trail section in Maine (an access trail to the A.T.), I was confronted with a major task of windfall blowdowns. I think the largest one was a tree about 24" diameter. But I stuck to it and finally got all my section cleared. I think if the first tree I encountered that day was of the size in the enclosed picture I would have handed in my resignation... I will always keep the years of participation [with the Appalachian Trail] I was blessed with as one of the better times in my life...As always, the best to all,  
John Morgan