

DISAPPEARING giants

you can't spend much time in the Appalachian forest without becoming aware of the American chestnut. Small, shrubby sprouts appear in the Trailside understory and the spiny burs and shiny brown nuts occasionally litter the Trail. Most hikers know the lore of the American chestnut. Early farmers ran their hogs in the woods to feed on chestnuts. They gathered the nuts for their own use, collected the tannin-rich bark for tanning leather, and split the trunks for durable fence rails. The mighty giant that once made up a quarter of the forest species was laid low by an introduced disease; the chestnut blight was discovered in the early 1900s and by mid-century, most of the chestnuts were dead.

There are several other species of chestnut worldwide, in



BY MARK GATEWOOD
ILLUSTRATION BY BETTY GATEWOOD



Bygatewood

This page: Mark holds a female flower (surrounded by male, or staminate flowers); Right: Measuring a young tree; One of Betty Gatewoods' illustrations: American chestnut leaves and burr.



This page: Betty with the clipboard; Early spring chestnut leaves; Opposite page: A female flower will develop into the spiny bur surrounding the chestnuts; Mark stops to record data along the Trail.



*There is nothing else with the **SHAPE** of a chestnut leaf, nothing else with the shiny **TEXTURE**, nothing else that catches the **LIGHT** the way a chestnut leaf does.*

Europe, China, Japan, and Korea. Of these, only our American chestnut succumbs to the blight. The American Chestnut Foundation has worked for many years to cross the blight-resistant Chinese chestnut with American chestnuts, to achieve a tree with the forest tree growth form of the American, and the blight resistance of the Chinese tree. They hope someday to be able to introduce these resistant trees into the Appalachian forest.

It all makes for a very interesting story. Whole books have been written about the American chestnut, its past and its future prospects. But it also seems like a footnote on a little tree that is nothing but background in the greater Trail-side flora. We hike, we maintain a Trail section, but there's nothing we can do for the chestnut. And then we got an e-mail. Our Trail club, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), had another volunteer opportunity for us. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the American Chestnut Foundation were recruiting Appalachian Trail maintainers to take part in an A.T. MEGA-Transect project to create a census of American chestnuts along the Trail. My wife, Betty, and I signed up immediately.

We joined a group of volunteers at a training session at Shenandoah National Park head-

quarters. PATC Naturalist Bob Pickett and personnel from the American Chestnut Foundation introduced us to the count protocol and recording requirements. Then we hiked up the A.T. towards Mary's Rock to practice. Bob was very meticulous in teaching everyone to identify the American chestnut, sorting it out from the birches, the chestnut oak and other near-misses. The protocol is pretty simple: count every chestnut that is more than three-feet tall, within fifteen feet of either side of the center of the Trail; then record the results on a form. A second form is for "large trees," being anything more than 13 inches in circumference. The "large tree" form also notes the presence or absence of flowers and burs and the location of the tree. The count is organized by Trail sections. We submit our completed data sheets to the American Chestnut Foundation, along with an assessment of the density of vegetation along the Trail.

Betty and I chose to count sections in Shenandoah National Park from where the A.T. crosses Skyline Drive at Pinefield Gap to the Loft Mountain Campground amphitheater, a distance of about six miles — most of which I help to maintain, with my fellow Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter members. The tools

are simple too: a clipboard, a count form for each section, an optimistic stack of large tree forms, and a measuring tape. Beyond that, it's a walk in the park. Betty carries the clipboard and records data, and one of us counts to the right side of the Trail, the other to the left. If we see a possible large tree, I plunge off the Trail, tape measure in hand, to get the data. Finding chestnuts is not hard. Once we get the search image, there is nothing else with the shape of a chestnut leaf, nothing else with the shiny texture, nothing else that catches the light the way a chestnut leaf does.

We did our first count in 2008, around the end of June, when any large trees in decent condition are likely to be in flower. In our six-mile section, we found 268 chestnuts, including six large trees. Without exception, our trees were growing on thin, rocky acid soil — which is pretty much where the A.T. goes. They were associated with mountain laurel, witch-hazel, and sassafras; when we saw these species, we knew to keep a sharp lookout for chestnuts. I know this is supposed to be objective and scientific, but I can't help getting attached to the big trees and I visit them whenever I'm out on other Trail business. Unfortunately, there's never a happy ending. A tree we reported in full bloom in 2008 was dead the next year. I found an up-and-coming little tree three inches in diameter with tight shiny bark and a good growth form, near the Ivy Creek Overlook. On our 2010 count, it was dead, that beautiful bark streaked with the red-tinged fissures that characterize the blight.

But they don't really die. American chestnuts maintain dormant root-collar buds, below ground level, which produce new sprouts when the growth above ground dies. Prior to the advent of the blight, this may have allowed the chestnut to wait for an opening in the forest canopy. Now, it just gives them a way to bide their time, sprouting and dying, sprouting and dying. And we will keep hiking and counting, hoping that the A.T. MEGA-Transect chestnut count will give the American Chestnut Foundation an up-to-date picture of the American chestnut in the Appalachians. Projects like this, involving partners from outside the hiking community, bring a wider relevance to the Appalachian Trail. For my part, like any good hunter-gatherer, I'm always hoping to find the "big one" that will survive and maybe provide

viable seed for use in the breeding program.

On a more personal note, my chestnut roots go deeper. In 1988, Betty and I moved to Virginia so I could work at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. Part of my job in landscaping an 1850s valley farm was to locate chestnut rails for fencing, and I found them. In the mountains of western Virginia and West Virginia were miles of original chestnut split-rail fencing, abandoned and replaced by wire. I bought them by the thousands, and they are still in use on the museum grounds. They'll break if you climb on them, but they don't rot.

With my chestnut-counting credentials, I approached the American Chestnut Foundation, whose experimental farm is in southwest Virginia, and asked for one of their ¹/₁₆ American chestnut seedlings to plant in the museum landscape, so we could someday show visitors what this important tree looked like. They agreed, and on a sunny day in October, a science class from Riverheads High School, whose teacher, Jo-el Nelson, is a Trail to Every Classroom "graduate," planted our demonstration tree. Jo-el also brings her honor society students out twice a year to work with me on Trail projects. The chestnut roots spread widely. ▲

For more information visit: www.acf.org and appalachiantrail.org/megatransect



2,000 MILERS

COMPILED BY ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEER GREG STOVER

2011

Fingar Emily Labit | *Sissy Hankshaw*
Seavey Tekla | *Itchyfeet*
Seavey Tyrell | *Jumper!*

2010

■ Adair Andrew E. | *Squeeze Cheese*
■ Addy John C. | *Tequila John*
Adessa Jonathan | *Indy*
Agnew W. Aaron | *Gouda*
■ Agricola Mark T. | *Restless Legs*
Albertson Scott | *Iceman*
Allan Richard Freeman
| *Pascagoula Boudreau*
■ Alowitz Michael | *Shorts*
Alton Kenneth | *Karma*
Amaral Benjamin C. | *Papageorgio*
■ Amshel Bruce | *Furthur*
Anderson Justin | *Tiny Tim*
■ Ando John | *Dr. Rock*
■ Andrews Gavin | *Hook*
Angstadt Rachael | *Breeze*
■ Arter Alex J. | *Twister*
Asplund Garik L. | *Skittles*
Austin Kanako Suzuki | *Buttercup*
Austin Kevin Walker | *Red Oak*
■ Baker Bryant | *Sunrise*
Baker Jeannette | *Jaybird*
■ Baker Laura | *Lola*
Baker Thomas J. | *Radar*
Barker Daniel | *Stryder*
BaRoss Mary Ellen | *Jibitz*
Barr Peter Jonathan | *Whippersnap*
Barron John Joseph | *Master Chief*
Bartelme Carla | *Mrs. Limestone*
■ Bartelme James | *Limestone*
■ Baskerville Bill | *Brotherlode*
Baskerville Richard | *Brotherlode*
■ Basnett William C. | *"Bill" | Casper*
■ Beatty William J. | *Love-It or Leave-It*
■ Beaudet John | *Bodacious*
Beauvais Brian J. | *Twigs*
Bellis Jason | *Lucky*

Bennett Steve | *Wiggy*
Benvie Ben | *Rooster*
■ Benware John | *Gus*
■ Bernadt Kevin | *Golden Ray*
■ Bertothy Cindy | *Side Show*
■ Blackburn Bryan | *Gandalf*
Blackburn Quinn | *Boo Boo*
Blais Benjamin | *Quickstep*
■ Block Keith | *Shagman*
■ Boileau Viviane | *Pixie*
Boittin Isabelle | *Fro*
Boittin Nathalie | *Bou*
Bojanowski Julie | *Evergreen*
■ Borek Cheryl | *4:13*
■ Borek Owen | *Scooter*
Bosse Jr. Rod | *Lorod*
Botkin Colm | *Tabasco*
■ Bowden Dan | *traildoc*
■ Bowden Kathy | *trailghost*
Bowen Mason | *Lobo*
■ Bradford Thomas | *10-K*
■ Bradshaw Brent | *Red*
Bragg Jacob | *Just Jake*
■ Brame Paul | *Solo*
■ Brann Terrence W. | *Homebrew*
Brannan David | *Boomerang*
Braymer Jonathan | *Bumper*
■ Brooks Jr. Wiley C. | *Muddy*
Brown Jesse A. | *Reckless*
Brown John D. | *Saguaro*
Brown Robin | *Sideways D*
■ Bruce Ray | *Tennessee*
Bruner John Richmond | *Rico*
Buja Stephen James | *Three Bears*
Bunting Clint | *Lint*
Burgess Amanda | *Mimi*
Burgess Thomas | *Wonderland*
■ Burnette Harold E. | *Hal the Hiker*
Burns Brendan | *Landfill*
Burns Sloan | *Two Speed*
Busbee Justin | *Redman*
Byers David | *Little Foot*

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy now has more than **11,942** reports of hikes of the entire A.T. posted to its register of 2,000-milers. This includes **661** reports, which were received since last year's listing. Of those, **593** thru-hikers and section hikers completed the Trail in 2010.

Byrd James W. | *jaybird*
Byron Marjorie | *Listener*
■ Cahill Eric | *Captain Slick*
Calhoun Daniel | *Muffin Mittens*
Campbell Meredith | *Merf*
■ Canavan William | *Little Brown*
Carr Dennis | *Road Runner*
Carter Jocelyn | *Skylarke*
■ Castro Rafael | *Rafi*
Catts Michael A. | *Mike*
Chambers Collin | *Rabid*
Chilson Brian | *Smokestack*
Christopher Brian | *Spork*
Chrusciel Nicole | *Stitch*
Clark Duane B. | *Fla. Duane*
■ Clark Jonathan | *Thrasher*
Clark Juliana | *Turkey*
■ Cleaver Christy | *Bear Blaze*
Clement James W. | *Utah*
Clingan Sarah | *Snow White*
Coleman Kaye | *Klarity*
■ Collins Kelly | *Red Lobster*
Confair Adam
■ Connor Robert | *Donner*
Cook Thomas | *Squid*
Costello Kelsey | *Hot Lips*
Cotham John | *Junior*

"Rock n' Roll" and his Mom reunite on Katahdin. By Ben Benvie



■ LIFE MEMBERS ■ CURRENT MEMBERS

We would like to express our appreciation for those 2,000-milers who have chosen to support the Appalachian Trail as Appalachian Trail Conservancy members.

HIKERS WHO COMPLETED THE TRAIL IN PAIRS = 51

MARRIED COUPLES WHO HIKE TOGETHER = 24



- Dalke Brian | *Sugar Ray*
- Darcy Daniel | *Coon Cat*
- Davies Stephen | *Saint*
- Davis Duane | *Calculator*
- De Luna Hugo | *México*
- Dean Donna S. | *Stambler*
- Decker William M. | *Miles*
- Degner Matthew W. | *Flatlander*
- DeLapp Matthew | *Rocket*
- Delisle-Mitchell Donna | *Nature*
- Denton Herbert | *Herb*
- DesRosiers Wilfred | *Frenchy*
- Dexter Edwin | *Tennessee Ed*
- Dhoore Paul | *Skink*
- Di Vito Yanick | *Montreal*
- Diaz Frank A. | *Red Stick*
- Didyoung Gregory | *FREEDUMB*
- Dieckmann Carolyn | *Yahtzee*
- Distler Chris | *Tetherball*
- Dobbs William H. | *Wineard*
- Dodge James T. | *Dodger*
- Donovan Eric | *Chet*
- Dorley James | *Kimo*
- Downes Mary E. | *Tigerlily*
- Downing Peter | *Pistol*
- Doyle John | *Dethmarch*
- Duffus John | *Yogi*
- Eakes Sumner | *Easy*
- Eddy Keith | *Cloud*
- Edwards Jonathan B. | *Crawfish*
- Egger Alan | *Night Light*
- Englich Sirko | *Wolfpack*
- Ensworth Jennifer | *Thin Mint*
- Epperson Dale | *Hat Trick*
- Evans Hal | *Kite*
- Evans Wendy | *Sandpiper*
- Ewing Jeffrey D. | *King*
- Ezinga Joanna | *Seeker*
- Faith William B. | *Mage*
- Falzerano Aaron | *Low Step*
- Faraone Jon | *Moun" T" ain Monk*
- Fariss Jason
- Farrier Rodney M. | *Lucky*
- Faulkner Randy | *The Wizard*
- Faus James D. | *Uncle J-Bird*
- Fava Patrick | *Full-Pint*
- Fay Eric | *Eric the Red*
- Felando Carol | *Little Engine*
- Fields Adam | *Burl*
- Fletcher Brian | *Redbear*
- Fogg Tyler | *Samurai*
- Ford Robert H. | *Ole Yeller*
- Fournier Brandon J. | *Absent*
- Fox Alan | *Frost*
- Frankenfield Cheryl | *City Squirrel*
- Franklin Andrew | *Wolverine*
- Freeman Jennifer | *Ripple*
- Freeman Michael | *Kentucky*
- Fricke Norbert | *Eddy*
- Friedli Heather | *Crafty*
- Friedman Noel | *Uncle Noel*
- Fritchman James A. | *Power Nap*



OPPOSITE PAGE: (LEFT TO RIGHT) MATTHEW "GUILLERMO" McLAIN, BEN "ONE PACE" ROYER, AND JAN "CREAMCICLE" SCHUMACHER AT MOUNT WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE. ABOVE: BRYANT "SUNRISE" AND LAURA "LOLA" BAKER WITH FELLOW KATAHDIN SUMMITTEERS.

- Fryska Adam | *First Man*
- Fuller Erin | *On The Loose*
- Gandt Jeffrey | *Boundless*
- Gardner Blake | *Soccrosse*
- Garrison Evan | *Mr. Fusion*
- Gearhart Dave | *Quarterpounder*
- Gee II David E. | *Enoch*
- Gehring Richard M. | *Ohibro*
- Gehrman Cameron | *Cookie Monster*
- Genova David | *Gumby*
- Gerhardt Benjamin C. | *Naviagtor*
- Gerhardt Dale C. | *Turtle*
- Gerson Xan
- Gilbert Emily | *Maple*
- Gillan Stephen | *Lastonthebus*
- Ginger Emily | *Lightning*
- Goldberg Carlos | *Galilee Man*
- Goldfus Micah | *Shank*
- Gonzales Miguel | *Tin Man*
- Goodenough Ralph | *Hobbit*
- Goolsby Bree | *Turtle*
- Gotts Alison | *Tripper*
- Gotts Digby | *Wizard from Oz*
- Graham Michael | *Sherlock*
- Graham Thomas S. | *Tom Thumb*
- Grant Jacqueline | *Snail*
- Gray Chris | *Dr. Geo*
- Greenwood Dave | *Big Sky*

- Greeves Roger | *Springkat*
- Gregor Sean | *Reststop*
- Griffith William | *Marty McFly*
- Gripleit Yvonne | *Wolfpack*
- Grip Daniel T. | *Roots Rock*
- Guerber Justin | *Stretchor*
- Guinn Faye
- Guinn Howard
- Guinta John | *Two of a Kind*
- Gutterson Russell | *Branch*
- Haffner John | *Dirt Stew*
- Hafner Martin | *Trailblazer*
- Hahn Ronald A. | *Ron*
- Hail Shelly | *Kutsa*
- Hallman Nathan | *Ice*
- Hamilton Phillip | *Tic-Tac*
- Hampton Carly | *Cubbie*
- Hanson David B. | *Prairie Dog*
- Hanthorn Micah | *Toeman*
- Hardy Wayne D. | *Scooter*
- Harper Laura M. | *Super Max*
- Harris Gregory | *Pale Blue Dot*
- Harwood Hannah | *Sugarbush*
- Haskell James T. | *Two Tents*
- Hauck Jeremy | *Ink*
- Hebert Drew | *ABEAR*
- Hedrick Roger Wayne | *Grapevine*
- Helm Carolyn | *Llano*
- Hemmerly Paula | *GramCracker*
- Herbaugh Abe | *Able*
- Herbert Gillian | *Tumbleweed*
- Herbert Skylar | *Sky Rocket*

- Herman Andrew | *Grubs*
- Hershberger Pamela | *Cookie*
- Hershberger Richard | *Tic Toc*
- Hershbine Elias J. | *Phantom*
- Hettinger Daniel | *Mr. Griswold*
- Hettinger Summer | *Mrs. Griswold*
- Heumann Mike | *Sherpa*
- Heyman Kenneth C. | *Shags*
- Hiatt Adam | *Achilles the Red*
- Higgins Maria S. | *Modiyooch*
- Hill Perry C.
- Hodges Clay | *Motorboat*
- Hodney Cody | *Coyote*
- Hoffman Jr. Jimmie H. | *Catman*
- Hoffman-Wentling Ryan | *Patch*
- Hogan Jonathan | *Hopi*
- Holderfield Katie Suzanne | *Carl*
- Holmes Mitch | *Roughin' It*
- Holser Keith | *Paul Bunyan*
- Holt Matthew Thomas | *Patch*
- Hopkins Mike | *Tail End*
- Housten Drew | *Hobbot*
- Hovey Jr. George | *Duct Tape*
- Howser Karen | *Cody*
- Hudnell Kevin | *Half-Pint*
- Hudson Alison | *Rummy*
- Hueso Miguel | *Fredo*
- Huff Jim A. | *Pappy*
- Huff Noah | *Appy*
- Hughes Douglas | *Sweeper*
- Hunkins Ian L. | *Two Rings*
- Huyseune Steven | *Indiana*

■ LIFE MEMBERS ■ CURRENT MEMBERS

Imhoff Matthew | #1 Son
 ■ Imhoff Terry | 96
 Imp Brandon | Monkey
 Imp Katherine | Ringleader
 Irvin Malone | Not Bad
 Israel Elinor
 Ivers Brian | Ten Fidy
 Jacaruso Joseph R. | EZ Hiker
 Jacaruso Martin | Trail Trash
 ■ James IV Robert | El Jefe
 Jean Nadia | Bug Bite
 ■ Jenkins Jim | Jenx
 Johnson Brad | Compassionator
 Johnson Don E. | Uncle Don
 Johnson Hayden | Heads Up!
 Johnson Nolan | Wobbler
 Johnson Walt | Robo Jesus
 ■ Kaczmarek Kevin | Tree

Kinnear Heather | Aboo
 Kinney Laura
 ■ Kirksey Bill | Halfway
 Klauk Jason | Conan
 Kleber Kristen | Backwards
 Kleber David P. | Boston Bones
 Klebes John F. | Papa Smurf
 Klein Dan | Mellow Yellow
 ■ Knight Bob | King Krawler
 ■ Knight Lonnie | Knight Crawler
 Knoll Danny | Slapshot
 ■ Koether Robb T. | Mule
 ■ Kope William G. | G.R.U.M.P.
 Kovalchik Adam | Funk
 ■ Kovalchik Michael | Spirit Walker
 ■ Kozlovska Tatyana | Dancing Wind
 ■ Kramer Andrew | Eatmore
 ■ Krol John Paul | War Cry

Lee Cindy | Bluesky
 ■ Lee III Howard E. | Stagger Lee
 Leever Michael | Fink
 Lemieux Jennifer | No Longer Chef
 Lennox Ethan | Easy Stride
 Leonard Selena | Wing It
 ■ Leone Joseph A. | Cob
 Letendre Christian | The Crusher
 Lewis Brian | Gadget
 ■ Lindler Robert C. | Hopsing
 Linton Alex | Rocksteady
 ■ Lippke Kristina | Seminole
 Littell Douglas | Wrong Way
 ■ Little Christopher | Panther
 Little Misti | Ridley
 Litton Scott Lee | Ball Hawk
 Lockwood Reed | Snack Attack
 ■ Logan Chuck | Sir Woodchuck
 Lombardi Thomas | Willard
 ■ Lowe David J. | El Flaco
 Lucas Dan | Blue Moon
 Lukof Kate | Power Pack
 ■ Lunn John P. | John of Amanda
 Lynch Paul E. | Used to could
 Lynn Phillip L. | Mtn. Orange
 MacAskill Philip | Casper
 Malcher Olaf | Hermann
 Malloy Geoff | Spring Chicken
 ■ Malmquist Beth S.

■ Mountain Woman
 Mangum Mike | Bloodhound
 ■ Mansfield Karen | Birdy
 Marcet Nicholas | Upgrayedd
 Martens Christine | Dormouse
 Martin Jeffrey A. | Fish
 Martin Kathryn | Appleseed
 ■ Martin Leslie Anne | Mama Bear
 Martin Matthew B. | Trooper
 Martin Max | Watermelon
 ■ Martin Robert | Treadmore
 ■ Maule Robert | Babalu
 Maveus Todd | Overload
 Maxey Floyd Timothy | Flag
 Mazairz II Robert J. | Connecticut
 ■ McCarthy Craig | Babyface
 ■ McCauley Patrick | Pluto
 McClendon Spencer | Squash
 ■ McCoy Greg A. | REDNETK
 McCoy Lauren | Little Big Toe
 ■ McDaniel James D.
 | Chairman of the Board
 ■ McKay Ronald | Flexible
 ■ McKee Eddie T. | Mule
 ■ McKinney James | Handyman
 ■ McKinney Judith H. | Drover
 McLain Matthew C. | Guillermo
 McMenamin Amy | Pixie
 Mellon Jr. Arthur J. | Sweatband
 Mencil Jessica | Orbitz
 ■ Menendez Eric | G.P.S.
 ■ Mercer Jr. Paul | Garage Man
 ■ Mick Brian | Ghost Pirate
 Migliaccio Joseph | Blinky
 Milholland Russell | Apocalypse
 Miller Brian
 Miller John | Six Toes

■ Miller John D. | Gonzo
 ■ Miller Norbert G. | Doc
 Miller Ryan | Skittles, the Great
 ■ Molyneaux Asher | Venado
 Monahan Carly | Dodger
 Montchal Maria | Boss Lady
 ■ Mooney Deborah | Grace n' Glory
 ■ Mooney Patrick | Walking Man
 ■ Moore Bradford L. | Weenail
 Moran Joe | Kashmir
 ■ Morde Lisa | Zen
 Morde Matthew | Devo
 ■ Moultrie Ferrell | Daddy Long Legs
 Murphy Colin | Long Shanks
 Murphy Drew | Pre-Life Crisis
 Muzzillo Michael | G-Hippie
 ■ Myers Lisa | Two of a Kind
 ■ Nath Mark A. | A.T.O.M.
 Neblett Elizabeth | Laughing Socks
 Nelson Mark C. | 7 Dwarves
 ■ Nestander Matt | Alpine
 ■ Neumann Emily | Crash Course
 Neuse Corwin | Major Chafage
 ■ Newton A. Wayne | Fig
 Nicholson Craig | Lodestone
 ■ Nicholson Tara | Lift'n Step
 Nicolodi Jonathan | Jon
 ■ Niekamp Andy | Captain Blue
 Nielsen Elizabeth | Cerveza
 ■ Niemczura Amy | Whoopie Pie
 Nitti Christopher | Food Network
 Nolen James | Tennessee Walker
 Oberdörster Benjamin | Cheeseburger
 ■ O'Brien Mark | Go Fish
 Ohlgren Derek | Giant
 ■ Oliver Andrew | Tillerman
 Oostema Stephen M. | Shadow N. Fox
 Orson Matt | Wall Flower
 Owen IV Rufus | Big R
 Pacinelli Todd | Piss Flaps
 Padgett Devin | Caveman
 Paetsch James | Skidmark
 ■ Palmer II Leo L. | Dead Man Walking
 ■ Parker Lucy | Spoonz
 Parker Zack | Nesta
 Parks Megan | Ace
 ■ Parrish M. Darrell | Numbers
 ■ Parrish Miriam A. | Butterfly Mama
 Patton C. Steve | Buckwheat
 Peak Laurel | Moose
 ■ Pendleton Cameron | Chili
 ■ Pendleton Dennis | Pepper
 ■ Peterman Bob | Skiman
 ■ Petrovich Wayne | Krispy Kritter
 Phillips Dana M. | HD Mama
 Pilzer George | T Cat
 ■ Platts Jaime | Earthling
 ■ Plunkett Ed | Moose Caboose
 ■ Pramuk Gabriel X. | San Gabriel
 ■ Prewitt Tim | Bluegrass
 ■ Prindville William A. | Capt. Bly
 ■ Prior Ford | Uncle Frank
 Provencher Sylvain | Sly Jangles
 ■ Quinn Michael | Strider
 ■ Quirk Jeff | buff Jeff
 Ranck Michael A. | Coal Cracker

FATHER AND SON HIKING DUOS = 7

MOTHER AND SON DUOS = 1

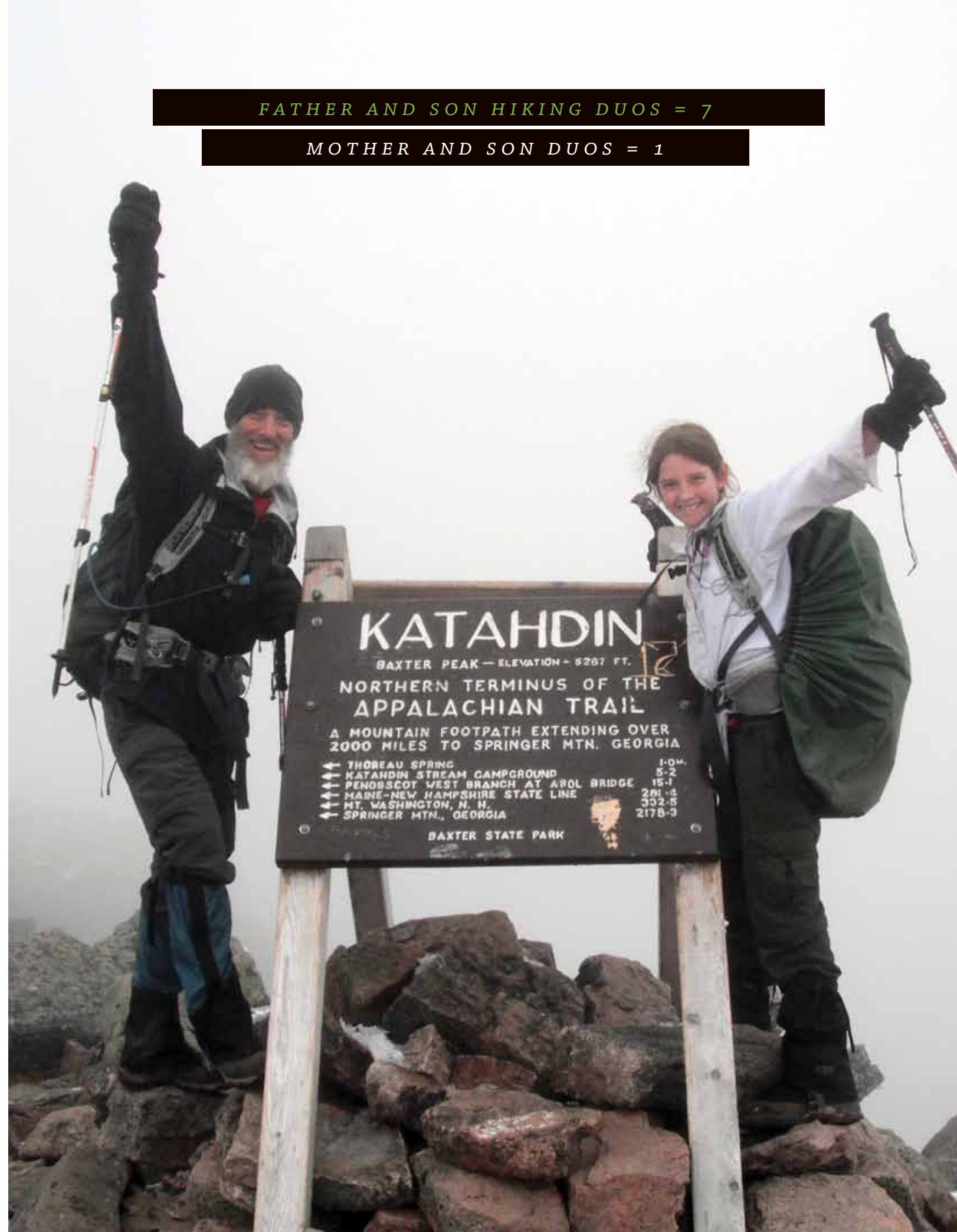


SOUTHBOUNDERS, TEKLA "ITCHYFEET" AND TYRELL "JUMPER" SEAVEY, AT THE SPRINGER MOUNTAIN PLAQUE, WERE TWO OF THE FIRST THRU-HIKERS OF 2011; RIGHT: DENNIS PENDLETON AND HIS SON CAMERON, A.K.A.: "PEPPER" AND "CHILI."

■ Kaufman Michael | So Far
 Keener Randal | Menno
 Kelley John G
 Kent Jeffrey | Beans
 ■ Keogh Tim | Spoon
 ■ Kersula Blythe | Bar Fight
 ■ Kerwood Ann M. | Birch
 ■ Killeen Evan | Dilly Dally
 ■ Kilpatrick Ethan | Barnabas
 ■ Kimmel Stephen | Greendog
 ■ Kinerk Lindley | Pi
 King David | Kricket
 ■ King Tina | Serenitina
 ■ King Vernon H. | East Wind

■ Kuehne Lance A.
 | Wool E. Mammoth
 LaBruzzo Salvatore | Agent Orange
 LaForge Jeff | Barley
 ■ LaFortune Jessica E. | Ghetto Sheep
 Lambert Jeffrey | Ichabod
 ■ Lamothe Joshua N. | The Animal
 ■ Lanius Jr. Ross M. | Photo Op
 Larimer Noel | Smokey's Friend
 Lavertu Jeremy | Toothpick
 Lavertu Kelly Beth | Little Aspen
 Lawson Kimberly A. | Peace-o-cake
 Lay Johnny | Tater Chip
 Leavesley Kristina | Crazy Talk

■ LIFE MEMBERS ■ CURRENT MEMBERS



CELEBRATE

YOUR TRAIL COMPLETION AT THE 2011 GATHERING

The Appalachian Long Distance Hiker's Association (ALDHA) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will recognize this year's 2,000-milers during a special ceremony at the Gathering in North Adams, Massachusetts on October 7, 2011. At this event, the A.T. Class of 2010 will receive their ATC patches and certificate along with ALDHA's special patch and certificate during the "Roll Call of Years" Friday night. [Contact Mike Wingart for more information at coordinator@aldha.org.](mailto:coordinator@aldha.org)

Rayson Joseph D. | *Rockefeller*
Reardon Michael | *Michael J. Fox*
Redpath Mandy | *Veggie*
Reeves Joseph | *L J*
Rehrig Scarlett R. | *Rambling Tanager*
Reich Marc | *Almost There*
Reid John Charles | *Uncas*
Reinert Anthony | *Travele*
Reyburn Brian F. | *lower case b*
Reyling Chris | *Critter*
Rhyne William | *Darkstar*
Richards David E. | *Déjà vu*
Richards Robert E. | *Snowman*
Rink Thomas | *Fireball*
Rizor Crawford | *Paps*
Robbins Van W. | *Freight Train*
Roberts Rodney K. | *Cornpatch*
Robinson Carol A. | *The Canadian Geese*
Robinson Richard C. | *The Canadian Geese*
RoFrano Louis | *Jerzee*
Romstad Deanna | *Scat Tracker*
Ross Lachlan | *FELo*
Ross Tyler | *T-Funk*
Rottmann Thomas | *Fog*
Royer Benjamin P. | *One-Pace*
Rozov Daniel | *Apollo*
Rummel Whit | *Cool Tool*
Saari Mark J. | *Safari*
Sanderson Eric | *Hollywood*
Sandnas Christofer | *Puck*
Sauer Jeffrey | *Sauerdough*
Scher Robin | *Piere De Quinoa*
Schirano Aaron | *Snickers*
Schoenfelder Steven J. | *iTroD*
Schoenike Kenneth | *Whistler*
Schoning Polly | *TOTODOC*
Schreiner Eric P. | *Salty*
Scott-Lawson Phoebe | *Naptime*
Seamands Tyler | *August Rush*
Sell Nathan | *Preacher*
Senger Scott | *Dune*
Sestini Leo | *Capt. Leo*
Shackelford Michael | *Moon Pie*
Shanks Myra | *Biscuits*
Shealy Michelle R. | *Tiny Dancer*
Sheppard Steven Christopher | *Turtleback*
Simphiss Helen | *Redwing*
Simpson Nathan | *Sampson*
Smith David J. | *Ponytail Dave*
Smith Fred B. | *Fenceman*

Smith Matthew Scruggs | *DOS XX*
Souls Carrie | *Stucco*
Spreha Rosemary A. | *Birdwoman*
Sproul III Russell E. | *Moose*
Spydell Matt | *Sherpa*
Spydell Steven E. | *Draggin' Tail*
Stacey Robert | *P-Nut*
Stafford Kyle | *Aikido Jo*
Stein Joe | *Tattoo*
Steinfeld Daniel | *Powder*
Stewart Chas | *Meglodon*
Stewart Karen | *Cricket*
Stock David M. | *Dirtroad Dave*
Stockbridge Lindsay | *Dewlap*
Stokes Taylor H. | *Sleepy*
Stout Margaret "Peggy" | *Blueberry*
Stylos Melissa | *Inferno*
Sullivan Andrew C. | *Specs*
Sullivan Jack Britton | *Full Value*
Swanson Joanna | *Someday*
Sweeney Jeffrey | *Geo*
Syndram Willy | *Nature Boy*
Tai Hsin-Chien | *Chippy*
Taylor Neil | *Stick Walker*
Temple II John B. | *Johnny Walker*
Terry Winston | *Ratman*
Tews Jay | *Bird*
Thompson Brian | *Bowtie*
Thompson Catherine | *Miss*
Thompson Nathan | *Natedog*
Thompson Ryan | *Hit*
Tice Richie | *Buhne*
Timmons Bruce | *Stix*
Timpone Connor | *Flora*
Torbett Craig | *Riverdog*
Towle Richard | *Troll*
Travers Paul J. | *Son-Dance*
Triplett Glenda S. | *Hi Hills*
Trocher Daniel | *Birch*
Tucker Stevie | *Butter*
Twigg Jason | *Twiggy*
Twombly William R. | *Wilbur*
Van Horne Matthew P. | *Snowfox*
Ventura Nathan | *Rainer*
Vezie Claire | *Lil' Dipper*
Von Handorf Jerry | *Eureka*
Wachtler Angela | *Bugsy*
Walker Daniel | *Wendigo*
Walker Ella Mae | *Traipsing Platypus*
Wallace Jeffrey | *Southern*
Warrington Justin | *Wazi*
Wassa Nicholas | *Alkaline*

Webb Marsha | *Tumbler*
Welborn Larry | *Doubleback*
Weldin Dylan | *Stiltz*
Wetzel Kate | *Scatters*
Wexler Andrew William | *Waldo*
White Steven L. | *Silver*
Whitesell Jonathon | *Speed Racer*
Whitesell Rob | *Bandana Man*
Wick Nathan C. | *TAAT*
Wicklund Freeman | *Freeman*
Wilcox Paul | *Roadhouse*
Wilhelm Christopher | *Buck Minus Bard*
Williams David Kelly | *Hot Wing*
Williams Stephen | *Williams Terry O'Brian*
Williamson John A. | *NASCAR*
Wilson Jeremy | *Picker*
Wilson John L. | *MoFo*
Windsor Charles | *Silver Spring*
Windsor Julie | *Turtle Hawk*
Winnett Brian | *Moonshine*
Wisdahl Nathan | *GrolarBear*
Witte Mattison | *Legend*
Woods Guy | *Sweet Tooth*
Clark Wright Jr. | *Thinker*
Wynne John P. | *Chewy*
Zapp Charles C. | *Piece of Work*
Zapp Nancy C. | *Tough Little Cookie*
Zard Arml | *Dinobuddy*
Zellner Alyson | *Spark*
Zellner Brian | *Caboose*
Zimmer Mitch | *Explorer 61*
Zimmerman Elissa | *Cheese*
Zimmerman Emily | *Switchback*
Zion Mathew | *Mouse*

2009

Bailey Jessica R. | *Lady Jelly Bean*
Ball Christopher | *Leif E*
Bunn Daniel | *Nexus*
Cardella Andrew | *Smiling Bandit*
Chalfant Doug | *Watchman*
Cordle Jesy | *Callus*
Dadian Elizabeth | *Miss Step**
Damgaard Susanna | *THE DARKNESS*
Dennis Gary | *Phatmandu*
DiSanto Dave | *<Kiros>*
Downs Kevin | *Mississippi*
Drake Wes | *Three Streams*
Foote Adam | *A-Train*
Gourley Joshua L. | *Ewok*
Jacobs Jason | *Boy Floyd*
Johnson Joe | *Smile Train*
Kelly Jessica | *Downhill*
Kent Robert B. | *3 Stove Tex*

Madson Lance | *Lunatic*
McEntire Michael | *Gorgonzola*
Parrish Steven | *Root Beer Float*
Pellinen Trevor A. | *Snags*
Pleasants Colin | *Krammin*
Robertson Carla | *Zipper*
Scheller Dustin | *Indiana Jones*
Schneider Patrick | *Poet*
Schuringa Joost | *Larry*
Star Kyler | *Star Trek*
Sternhagen Kelly | *Firefly*
Strader William | *Strider*
Terpstra Derek | *Creep*
Toole Eric | *Swampcricket*
Towery William R. | *Wheeler*
Varghese Priya | *Lefty*
White Chris | *Joe Kickass!*
Zelnick David | *Cajun Dave*
Zimmerman Eric | *Fiddler*

2008

Blake Daniel | *Crunk Phillip E.*
Noland Nicholas | *Smiles*
Quinn Barbara | *Nails*
Rohrig Dennis | *Southpaw*
Ross Sheri | *Take Two*
Syndram Willy | *Nature Boy*
Zehr Michele | *Certain*

2007 — 1973

Syndram Willy | *Nature Boy* | 2007
Weber Daniel M. | *Hedgehog* | 2007
Anastos Douglas | *Yabut* | 2006
Ocampo Robert | *Miracle Man* | 2004
Johnson Caleb H. | *Humble Harmon* | 2003
Quinlan Paul | *Virgin* | 2002
Hunter Brent R. | 2001
Boland Sandra D. | *Boo Hag* | 2000
Hough Colleen B. | *Crackerjack* | 2000
Hammer Doris H. | *California Roadrunner* | 1999
Lowe Charles Joseph | *Solowe* | 1997
Garrett Thomas R. | *Gypsy Bones* | 1995
Sherrell Eric | *VA Slim* | 1993
McGinn Michael J. | *Boston Straggler* | 1988
Alterman Stuart M. | *Limey* | 1984
Taggart Deborah Atkinson | 1983
Touchton Mary Morgan | 1976
Banks Robert A. | *Boba* | 1975
Chalfant Doug | 1975
Richardson Tom | *TR* | 1975
DeGalan Edward G. | 1973

■ LIFE MEMBERS ■ CURRENT MEMBERS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: "BRANCH" AND "APPLESEED," PECKS CORNER SHELTER, NORTH CAROLINA; "TENDERFOOT" AND "SNOW WHITE"; "HOT LIPS" AND "ROCKER" AT HIKERS WELCOME HOSTEL, GLENCLIFF, NEW HAMPSHIRE. PHOTOS BY BEN BENVIE



wanderlust

Ben "Rooster" Benvie approached his 2010 thru-hike the same way he approaches every other aspect of his life: with a relaxed sense of adventure, an open mind, kindness, and with the exceptionally talented eye of a professional photographer. Of his thru-hike, Ben says "I loved the way life became so simple on the Trail. You don't need anything more than food, water, shelter, and laughter to get you through most days. My photography became more basic too; no flashes or tripods, no extra lenses, just a 35mm lens on a 35mm camera."

www.benbenvieblog.com

Fourth of July sunset from inside Madison Spring Hut, New Hampshire



"#1 son" and "96" at Horseshoe Canyon Lean-to in Maine





"Roaring Lion" performing blister "surgery" on "Snow White"