

A Trail To Every Classroom

TTEC's Own Rita Hennessy Wins Legend Award



Clockwise from top left: Rita's husband Sean, NPS Deputy Director Mickey Fern, Pam Underhill, Angela Walters, Karen Lutz (ATC), Rita, and Jess Liptak

June 9, 2011 - Washington, DC

The American Recreation Coalition presented its 2011 Legends Awards to seven federal managers in recognition of their outstanding work to improve outdoor recreation experiences and opportunities for the American people.

The NPS Deputy Director, colleagues, and family gathered in the South Interior Building to celebrate the outstanding achievements contributed by Legend Award winner Rita Hennessy, specifically for her development of and dedication to the A.T.'s premiere educational partnership program, A Trail to Every Classroom.

Congratulations, Rita!

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Let's Move! And . . . the Presidential Challenge . . .

We bring these two national healthy initiatives up once again to keep them first and foremost in your minds. Much media attention has been lent to Mrs. Obama and *Let's Move!* From the White House (which is a national park) lawn to the sidewalks and parks of cities and towns throughout the United States, *Let's Move!* addresses the need for not only our nation's youth, but for all citizens to become more physically active. The Presidential Challenge provides the mechanism to track your activity.

Our challenge to you . . . what better place to take on this challenge than the Appalachian Trail!

In today's world, the outdoors is something most look at through the car window, a quick glance through a camera lens or perhaps videography on the evening news.

The great outdoors is the Appalachian Trail. Challenge yourselves. Challenge your families. Challenge your students.



Happy Summer Everyone!

We are currently planning next year's Trail to Every Classroom Program specifically for TTEC Alumni. Thank you to all who took part in a recent survey - your feedback provided us insight on the types of resources and workshop topics you would like to see offered. If you have yet to respond, it is not too late to do so. Please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2M52B39> and give us your feedback!

This year, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has two exciting opportunities to offer. First, Virginia Journeys, ATC's Biennial Conference, July 1 - 8 on the campus of Emory and Henry College near Abingdon, VA. The Biennial has a packed schedule lined up including guided hikes, workshops, field excursions and live music. This is a great chance for you to celebrate July 4th with family and TTEC friends!

Secondly, ATC is launching an A.T. Family Hiking Day the weekend of September 24th, which coincides with National Public Lands Day. This event is intended to be an easy introduction to the A.T., allowing families young and old to experience the trail. A wide range of hikes, including both gentle, easy out and back as well as more challenging vertical ascents are possible.

Please consider joining us for one of these events - your support in the development of the next generation of trail stewards is essential. Thank you for everything you do.

Happy Trails!

Julie Judkins

with
son Silas



Family Hiking Day

Submitted by: Jeanne Mahoney
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

You can help us get kids and their parents out on the trail! On Saturday, September 24, 2011, National Public Lands Day, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is inviting families to the trail for a family hike. This event is part of a larger effort



to engage youth in the outdoors, especially along the Appalachian Trail. We will provide a list of family-friendly hikes, including contact information, general hiking information and safety tips. As you know, hiking is a great way for kids to be active and spend more time outdoors. Please help us get more kids and their parents on the trail by telling your students about Family Hiking Day.

You can learn more at: www.appalachiantrail.org/familyhike

LNT Teacher of the Year Chip Donahue

Please join us in celebrating the selection of Chip Donahue (2006 TTEC Alumnus) as the Leave No Trace Teacher of the Year!

Chip has been a passionate force in connecting youth, particularly youth and families to the outdoors. In 2008, Chip and his wife Ashley began Kids In the Valley! (KIVA) a free, monthly, family nature club for families in the Roanoke Valley (Virginia).

KIVA focuses on three main goals: Play, Nature Education, and Volunteerism. However, most importantly, getting families to play together - outside, to learn together - outside, and to volunteer - outside!



To learn more about KIVA, please visit: <http://kidsadventuring.org>

Congratulations, Chip!

Alumnea Coordinates Student Field Trip on A.T.

Submitted by:
Deborah Grief, TTEC Alumna

May 11, 2011 - Grayson County, NC
Together with assistance from the staff of Blue Ridge Discover Center and members of the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club, Grayson County High School special education teacher Deborah Greif organized a successful field trip to Elk Garden.

Students were divided into groups rotating through four different programs. Exploring the resources found along the Appalachian Trail was one of the programs.



Anne Maio, President of the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club (MRATC) and Carol Broderson, who works with both the Blue

Ridge Discovery Center (BRDC) and MRATC, led students on a hike of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Anne provided them with information on "Leave No Trace" principles and presented some history of the A.T. Some of the other activities the groups engaged in were wildflower and tree identification as well as recording discoveries. It was very clear that the students thoroughly enjoyed hiking and wished to stay out longer.

Teaching with unparalleled enthusiasm, Cecelia Mathis of BRDC provided students with some photography tips. Deborah Grief and fellow teacher Kathy Davis demonstrated mathematical descriptions centered on solution activities such as, measuring the slope of the land and the height and circumference of trees.

Ronald Kirby, Eric Harold, Scott Jackson-Ricketts, BRDC volunteers, offered a biological survey on two small sections of forest edges. They began each rotation identifying plants found within one square yard and followed that up with a brief discussion. Questions



emerged about seed dispersal, wildfire bloom sequence, maple syrup operation, microecosystem contained within leaf litter, edibility of some species and so on. The students were then given free time to explore under rocks and logs, where they were encouraged to bring specimens they found back to a workstation to further explore the discoveries under microscopes.

The students were thoroughly engaged in the activities. Inquisitive follow-up questions were asked while sketches, photos, and lists of field finds documented this outdoor learning experience.

Share Your Stories with Us

To keep the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program alive - we want to hear from you! Celebrate some of your curriculum achievements with us by sending news of your activities and photographs that document your journey. Photos can be submitted with your stories, however, be sure they can tell a story on their own - action or activity shots are best. All individuals captured in the photo must have filled out/signed a National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy photo release form.

Submissions can be sent electronically or via regular mail to:

Jessica Liptak, TTEC
Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov

**Newsletter Submission
Deadlines:**

August 20, 2011
November 20, 2011
February 20, 2012
May 20, 2012

The Color Purple

Courtesy of: Dale Nisbet, Biologist
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Have you ever wondered what these purple boxes are you see hanging in trees? They are traps for monitoring the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks Ash trees.



A purple trap designed to detect the EAB (NPS Photo)

The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle native to China and eastern Asia and was first detected in the United States in 2002. It is responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of Ash trees. Several

years ago the borer was identified in Virginia near Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. This area was quickly quarantined. Currently, it is believed that the beetles are held in check, however, the beetles can take years to detect making it next to impossible to contain the damage.

Why the color purple?

The Emerald Ash Borer really can't tell the color difference, however, research has indicated that the color purple in addition to the type of trap depicted in the adjacent photo gave the best results. Located inside this trap are two types of lures that smell like Ash trees in stress. The traps also contain a sticky substance that catches these little bugs. By checking the traps for ensnared



An example of the tunneling and feeding by larvae that eventually kills the Ash tree (NPS.gov)



The EAB is a small destructive beetle, metallic green in color with a slender body measuring about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide (NPS.gov)

Ash Borers, we are able to monitor the presence of the beetle.

Many states including Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia have placed quarantines and have taken preventative measures to ensure that firewood containing the Emerald Ash Borer does not cross state lines and cause a wider infestation. Since the beetles lay their eggs in the bark of an Ash tree and the larvae tunnel under the bark to feed and grow, it is possible that cut wood might actually contain larvae. If you have ever gone camping at a national or state park that prohibited you from bringing in your own firewood, the Emerald Ash Borer may be to blame.

Grant Opportunities

TTEC Alumni Opportunity

Toshiba America Foundation Grants

The mission of the Toshiba America Foundation is to promote quality science and mathematics education in U.S. K-12 schools. The Foundation provides grants through two main initiatives. The Grants Program for K-5 Science and Math Education provides up to \$1,000 to teachers in public or private schools in order to improve science and math teaching units. Annual deadline is October 1st. The Grants Program for 6-12 Science and Math Education provides up to \$5,000 and large grants over \$5,000 to teachers who are passionate about making mathematics more engaging for their students. Applications for small grants can be submitted throughout the year. Large grant application deadline is August 1, 2011.

Visit <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/> for more information.

Trail to Every Classroom Grants

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will be offering grants for the 2011-2012 school year of up to \$1,000 to support the execution of your place-based, service-learning curriculum. Please keep an eye to your email for the official grant application.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

ATC's Biennial Conference



July 1 - 8, 2011
Emory & Henry College
Emory, VA

TTEC Alumni Opportunity

www.virginia2011.org

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Looking Forward To 2012

TTEC Alumni Opportunity

We are listening! 2012 will be the year Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) administrators and staff focus on you - TTEC Alumni. Since 2006, the TTEC program has hosted more than 275 teachers in communities along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Results from a recent survey indicated that all of you are interested in strengthening the skills and professional connections you acquired through your participation in the TTEC.

Opportunities offered in 2012 may include: field naturalist studies

such as birding, wildflower and tree identification; hike leadership; Wilderness First Aid; and Leave No Trace principles.

Keep your eyes peeled for workshop announcements later this year and in early 2012. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Join the Journey! Become a Member

When you join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, you become a member of the distinguished group of people dedicated to preserving and protecting the Appalachian Trail. Every dollar we raise goes to support ATC and maintainer club efforts to conserve the footpath, viewsheds, and environmental and cultural resources along the now 2,181-mile Trail.

As a member, you will receive the following benefits:

- *A.T. Journeys*: The magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, focusing on conservation efforts and celebrating the stories of our volunteers, hikers and Trail communities.
- Discounts at the Ultimate Appalachian Trail Store.
- An Appalachian Trail Conservancy decal and patch.
- An ATC Member card.

Join by phone (304.535.6331, ext. 120), or on the web by completing an online form at www.appalachiantrail.org/join.