

A Trail To Every Classroom

2011 Brings Additional Alumni Opportunities

January marks the beginning of the sixth year of the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program. To date, the program has engaged 225 teachers and more than 15,000 students. Program evaluations have indicated the need for continued alumni training and support. As a result, four alumni



Konnarock Trail Crew Member
NPS Photo

opportunities will be offered in 2011: a series of TTEC Alumni workshops at ATC's 38th Biennial Conference, July 1 - 8 (for more information see page 3); alumni presentations of curriculum at spring and fall regional workshops; the opportunity to apply to serve on a TTEC Advisory Council (more information to come); and the first-ever TTEC Alumni crew week, where teachers wanting to see what trail building is all about will spend a week with the oldest Appalachian Trail Crew - the Konnarock Crew out of Sugar Grove, Virginia, July 7 - 11. Both events offer TTEC alumni the opportunity to meet other teachers from all along the Appalachian Trail and share stories as well as curriculum ideas.

The Konnarock experience is like a volunteer vacation - working together and learning new skills in



the backcountry make for an unbeatable combination of fun. No trail-building experience is necessary! The Appalachian Trail Conservancy provides training, equipment, and room and board (Konnarock experience only). For more information and to apply, please visit:

www.appalachiantrail.org/2011_TTEC_crew

What's the Buzz ? by Chris "Buzz" Kaldahl

During the months of February and March, 2010 TTEC Alumni will be receiving a phone call from Chris Kaldahl, known as "Buzz" to the Appalachian Trail community. Buzz is an A.T. thru-hiker, a National Board Certified high school physics teacher, and member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Stewardship Council. He will be checking in with each of you to reflect on your Trail to Every Classroom experience. This is not a formal evaluation process - so don't fear! This is another avenue of support available to you. If there are additional highlights you might want to share about your journey through the Trail to Every Classroom program -- pass them along to Buzz. He's here to support you and explore ways that you can continue to build support locally for your A.T. projects.

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Showing program outcomes and the return on the investment made by funders to TTEC is critical to the program's future. Many of you have participated in past surveys and interviews and we hope that you will assist us again this year. Last summer we released the Reflection and Evaluation Toolkit - an authentic evaluation process that we hope will be useful to your students through reflective exercises, and to you as a means of student assessment. With student surveys, as well as your feedback, we will, for the first time, be able to document student outcomes. The toolkit was tested by five Alumni last year, and we are very excited by the initial outcome.

PLEASE help us with further investigation by using the toolkit in your classroom as you implement your TTEC curriculum. Be sure to send us your results. If you need a copy of the toolkit please contact: rita_hennessy@nps.gov or call 304-535-6170

Thank you!

Rita

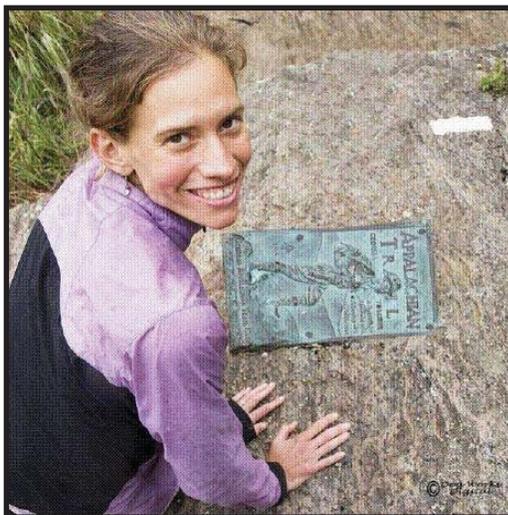


"Hurricane Rita"

Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker Visits with Students

Submitted by: Julie Judkins,
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

On Friday, November 15th, Jennifer Pharr Davis, the fastest woman to hike the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) visited the 4th grade classroom of Jeannette Kendall (TTEC alumna) at Hot Springs School in Asheville, North Carolina. While there, Davis spent the day incorporating the Appalachian Trail into the students' curriculum.



Jennifer Pharr Davis
Photo by: Dog Works Digital

Jennifer Pharr Davis served as a resource to Ms. Kendall and her 4th graders as the class covered the interdependence of plants and animals, wrote personal narratives, worked on mathematic word problems based on the Appalachian Mountain Region, in addition to utilizing map and compass skills. The students concluded the day by performing a science quest along the Appalachian Trail and removing invasive exotic plants from the path.

Pharr Davis was able to provide her Appalachian Trail program to select teachers in the Trails to Every Classroom program, through a grant program that is funded by the North Carolina Appalachian Trail specialty license plates. For each license plate purchased, a portion of the proceeds raised goes directly towards the management, maintenance and protection of the Appalachian Trail.

The visit was made possible through two initiatives of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC): The Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program and the A.T. Specialty License Plate Grants. If you would like more information about Pharr Davis' A.T. program in Hot Springs, contact Jennifer Pharr Davis at jen@blueridgehikingco.com or call 828-713-5451. For more information on specialty Appalachian Trail License Plates, contact Julie Judkins at jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org or call 828-254-3708.

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 every photo submitted must have completed and signed a National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy photo release form.

Submissions can be sent electronically to Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov or via regular mail to: Jessica Liptak, TTEC - Appalachian Trail Park Office, P.O. Box 50 Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Newsletter Submission
Deadlines:

- February 20, 2011
- May 20, 2011
- August 20, 2011
- November 20, 2011

Member & Teacher Speaks to Students

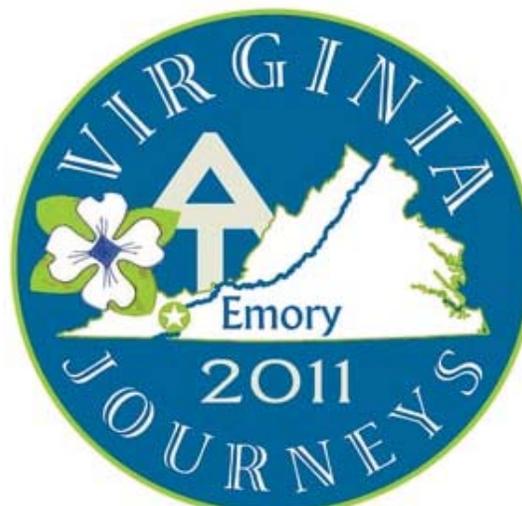
Submitted by: Bill Van Horn,
Nantahala Hiking Club & ATC Member
Courtesy of the Franklin Press

Carol Fritz, a Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) member and retired Macon County school teacher, provided an overview of the Appalachian Trail, basic knowledge required to participate in a day hike, and Leave No Trace (Outdoor Ethics) to Cartoogechaye 4th graders on Sept. 27. For several years the NHC has assisted the physical education department in preparing students to hike four miles on the A.T. to Siler Bald in Macon County.



Carol Fritz, Nantahala Hiking Club Member
Photo Courtesy of Bill Van Horn

ATC's Biennial Conference



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

Hosted by the seven A.T. maintaining clubs of central and southwest Virginia, the Biennial will celebrate the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Mountain Trails of Virginia. Planned around ATC's membership meeting, Virginia Journeys 2011 is also an opportunity for A.T. enthusiasts to take Trail-related workshops and hikes on the A.T. (and other trails) in Virginia and Tennessee. Explore Damascus, Virginia - the "friendliest town on the trail."

To register please visit: www.virginia2011.org

QUESTS ARE TREASURE HUNTS



that use maps, clues, puzzles and hidden treasure boxes as a means of building community, deepening sense of place, and sharing the stories and special places of your community.

Are You Questing?

Have you or your students made a Quest? Quest Extraordinary Delia Clark wants to hear from you. She is contributing to a report on Questing activity across the United States and would love to include your efforts in the report. Please contact Delia (delia_clark@comcast.net) with:

- Quest name and location
- Grade level
- Number of participants



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

Did You Know . . .

There are now 31 Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs.

The trail's official mileage for 2011 is 2,181 miles.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is on Facebook --- become a friend!

\$10,000 in grant funding was awarded to TTEC alumni this school year.

Over 6,200 Appalachian Trail volunteers logged in over 210,000 volunteer hours in 2010. Were you one of them?



2011 Recruitment in Progress

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, together with the Appalachian Trail Park Office, is currently recruiting teachers for the 2011 Trail to Every Classroom program. We are looking for new teams of teachers to participate in our program. Applications are out, and they are due back by March 11th.

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**TTEC Alumni Opportunity**  
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www.virginia2011.org



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 2,178 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 on-line form at www.appalachiantrail.org.

This publication is made possible through the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) in addition to many other trail partners and clubs.

NPS Trail Superintendent/Manager
Pamela Underhill

**Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Executive Director**
David Startzell

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