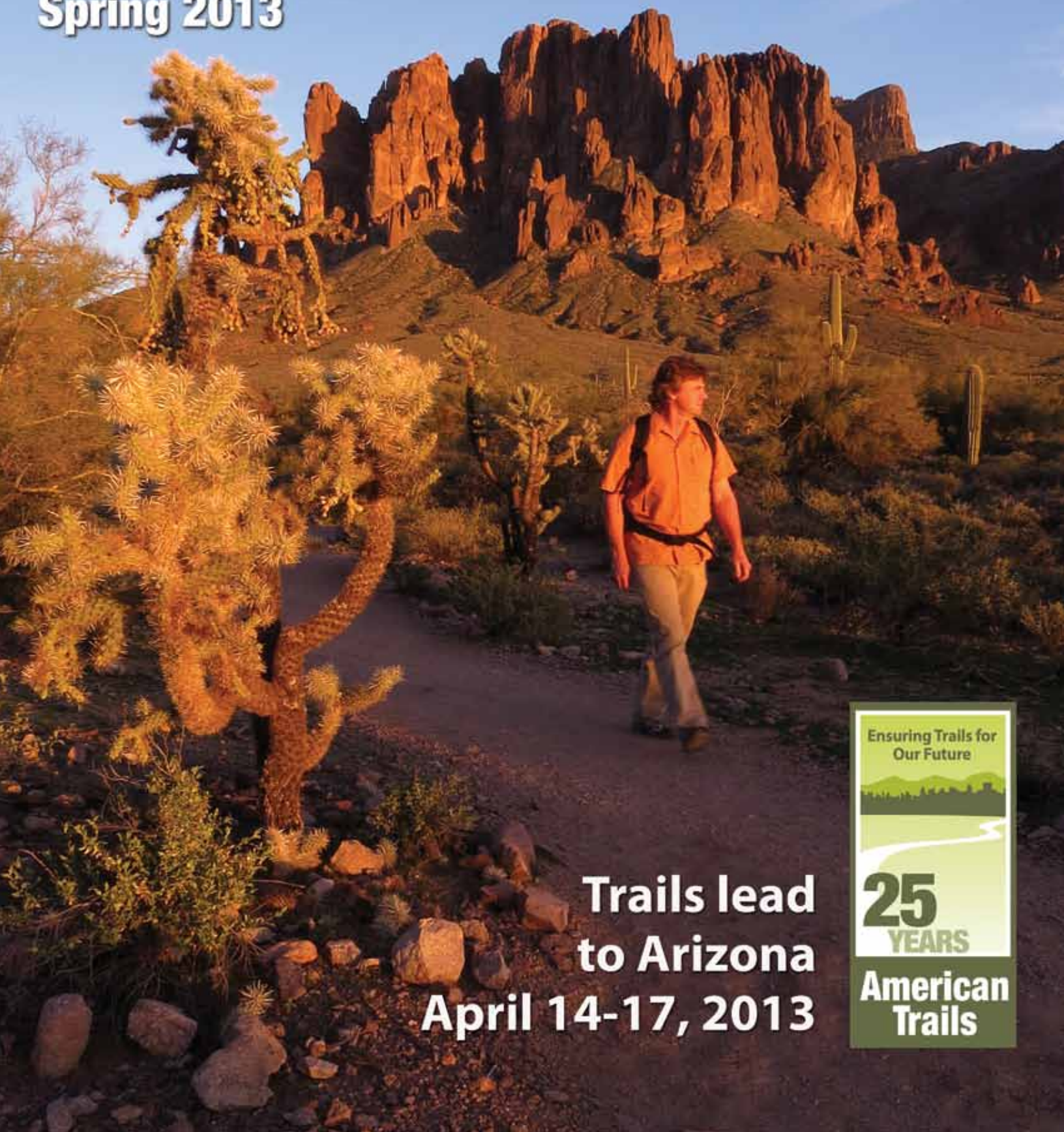


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Spring 2013



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On our cover: Lost Dutchman State Park, near Apache Junction at the base of the Superstition Wilderness Area, Arizona; photo by Kathleen Fitzpatrick, CVL Hike Club, www.cvlci.com

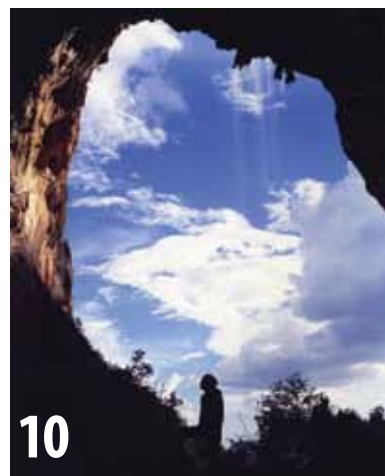
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American Trails Magazine

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Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald

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AMERICAN TRAILS 25th ANNIVERSARY



Trends and technologies evolve, but trails still matter

By Stuart Macdonald

American Trails Magazine and website editor

As we celebrate 25 years of advocacy, American Trails would like to thank the many thousands who have joined us and supported us. At the American Trails International Trails Symposium we'll be recognizing more of the milestones of those 25 years as well as looking forward to new accomplishments. The gathering also is bringing partners together from across the trails community to create an inclusive vision for the future.

The National Trails Symposium, first held in 1971, is our longest-running tradition. As we mark another milestone in these four decades of conferences, we also celebrate a welcome new direction. Since we are now a worldwide trails community, we are recognizing our broader reach as the International Trails Symposium. It has become the largest gathering of trail advocates and managers, and it will be fascinating to see how it evolves in years to come to meet the needs of trails people across the globe.

We have come to expect that technology will change the way we use our trails. It was a little over 25 years ago that I bought my first mountain bike. We've watched that sport grow into one of the largest categories of trail users. Meanwhile, deregulation led to a flood of abandoned railroads, and today close to 20,000 miles of rail trails are open. Now we are seeing water trails emerge as a new growth area. While paddling sports go back to the dawn of humanity, we have learned a new way of seeing canoes and kayaks. Just as with dirt trails, people in boats like to follow a route. Paddlers need trailheads, maps, signs, and trail information. States and communities have also embraced the benefits of tourism and economic development that come with water trails.

At the heart of American Trails' mission is promoting communication among all these trail interests. We are still the only group that represents every type of trail user, from urban bikeways to snow trails to motorized recreation to wilderness backpacking. Our goal is to find the common ground among all of us who love the outdoors, whether it is in our neighborhood or distant deserts and mountains. Just one example is the National Recreation Trails program, for which American Trails is the lead non-profit. We work with all the federal land management agencies as well as the national trails organizations to encourage more awareness and use of these great trails.

Even us old timers can barely remember the days before the internet. But in less than 25 years we have gone from typing on Wang word processors to expecting our entire

civilization to be online. American Trails has risen to the challenge, starting with some simple Web pages in the early 1990s that became the face of the organization. Several major overhauls later, AmericanTrails.org is the world's largest online resource for trail planners, builders, managers, and supporters. And it will keep on growing.

The last two decades have seen trail programs develop in every state. Thanks to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), every state has both funding and some staff time devoted to trails and greenways. American Trails has worked with the states since RTP was authorized in 1991. Our goal is to share information among the states, promote good examples of effective state programs, and encourage public participation. American Trails continues to host the annual meetings of the state administrators.

Another important issue is accessibility. American Trails had a seat on the ADA Regulatory Negotiation Committee from 1997-99. As Colorado's State Trails Coordinator, I became the State Trail Administrators' representative on the Committee. Years later, these issues are still grinding their way through the federal agencies and Congressional reviews, but the report of the RegNeg Committee is still considered a basic guideline for creating accessible trails.

One aspect of accessibility is simply building better trails. And that is the main goal of the National Trails Training Partnership. Since 2000, American Trails has grown into the leadership role in promoting trails training and education. The important work is preserving the skills of our heritage of experts, while understanding and explaining the new technologies. As the state of the art evolves, so will our need for training.

Another trend has been documenting the benefits of trails, including their role in jobs and the economy. Another benefit that has emerged as a social issue is the role of trails in health and fitness, especially for children. American Trails has been a leader in defining the health, social, and spiritual benefits of trails to an increasingly disconnected world. The promotion of trails as a reconnection with the great outdoors has successfully offered a simple and cost effective means to achieve a healthier community.

We can only guess at the changes the next 25 years will bring. We can expect the politics to become ever more complicated and funding to become more contentious. But I can safely say that all of us who are deeply involved in trails have an abiding optimism about the value and longevity of trails. David W. Larsen of the American Trails board of directors, shared his vision: "The future of trails is toward enhanced mobility offering multiple options for recreation, transportation, and education. American Trails will be an important voice for positive engagement through the political and economic processes."

Read more on American Trails' 25th Anniversary on pages 34-36

Join us at the American Trails International Trails Symposium!



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American Trails | April 14-17, 2013 | ARIZONA

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- Australia
- Canada
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Our theme: "Trails Lead Everywhere"

The 2013 Symposium's theme celebrates the remarkable role that trails continue to play worldwide. Throughout time, they have united and guided humans across the globe. They were the foundation of our communication network and continue to be an essential component of our personal and professional experiences and relationships. Trails are one of our greatest assets. They let us explore, play, travel, and savor the world's natural wonders, from the highest mountains to the deepest can-

yons and all the vast open spaces in between. They are the best way to see nature's hidden treasures, the cleanest way to commute, and the easiest way to encourage kids to adopt healthy lifestyles. Trails are the ribbons that connect us, lead us, and expand our horizons.

Hulet Hornbeck Youth Scholarship Fund

Scholarships for youth participants will enable 19 young people from across the country and Canada to attend the Symposium. The newly-created Hulet Hornbeck Youth Scholarship Fund will support continued training and mentoring opportunities. Just as Hulet did, the fund will be used to inspire young adults to choose a career path and leave a lasting legacy on the world.

Jeff Spellman, a member of the Symposium Planning Team, wrote "To prepare our next generation of leadership to care for the land as Hulet did, we need to listen to what our youth are saying about the future. Sometimes we professionals think we have all the answers and that young people can only learn from us. We have much to offer in mentoring them, but we need to do it through their eyes. Young people do realize how important open space is to the next generation, but how they will approach our profession in the future is certainly different than how we have approached it."

Phyllis Ralley, who worked at fund raising for the scholarships, said "In reviewing the over 70 applications that we received for the scholarships, I paid special attention to their essays. I was blown away by the passion expressed by this group of trail lovers." We know you'll enjoy meeting these young trail enthusiasts.



Grecia Nunez is one of 19 youth who received scholarships to attend the Symposium

**For news on the American Trails International Trails Symposium
see current details at www.AmericanTrails.org/2013**



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Sharing our experience across world borders

American Trails is thrilled to host its first International Trails Symposium in Arizona— an international tourist destination! We want to reach across the oceans to harness our combined wisdom to support and encourage the collective dedication to trail initiatives around the world.

The program will feature international sessions, which will provide alternative ways of approaching challenges in the trails world and will provide excellent networking opportunities for our attendees. We are stronger and more effective together, and the Symposium is a perfect way for the international trails community to share success stories and lessons learned.

Thanking our Sponsors and Exhibitors

Please take time to visit our Exhibitors at the American Trails International Trails Symposium, and take a look at the websites of our many sponsors along with their products and services. See all the contacts for our Exhibitors and Sponsors at www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/sponsors.html.



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Hiking Arizona State Parks

STATE PARKS NEAR PHOENIX PROVIDE MANY TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

There are State Parks across Arizona where families can experience outdoor activities together and enjoy memories that will last a lifetime. Family activities at the State Parks include camping, fishing, boating, water skiing, picnicking, hiking, and other trail activities. Here are details of four State Parks that are a short drive from the Phoenix metropolitan area and have unique opportunities for hikers.

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

Named after the fabled lost gold mine, Lost Dutchman State Park is located in the Sonoran Desert, 40 miles east of Phoenix. Volunteer Barbara Linkins says, "The park offers weekly volunteer-led hikes that focus on different facets of the park, the history, geology, tales of lore, exploring for and identifying medicinal plants, birding, enjoying the beauty of sunset skies, or taking the challenge of climbing to the top of the mountain. Every season hikes are re-evaluated and changes are made so that hikes don't become stale."

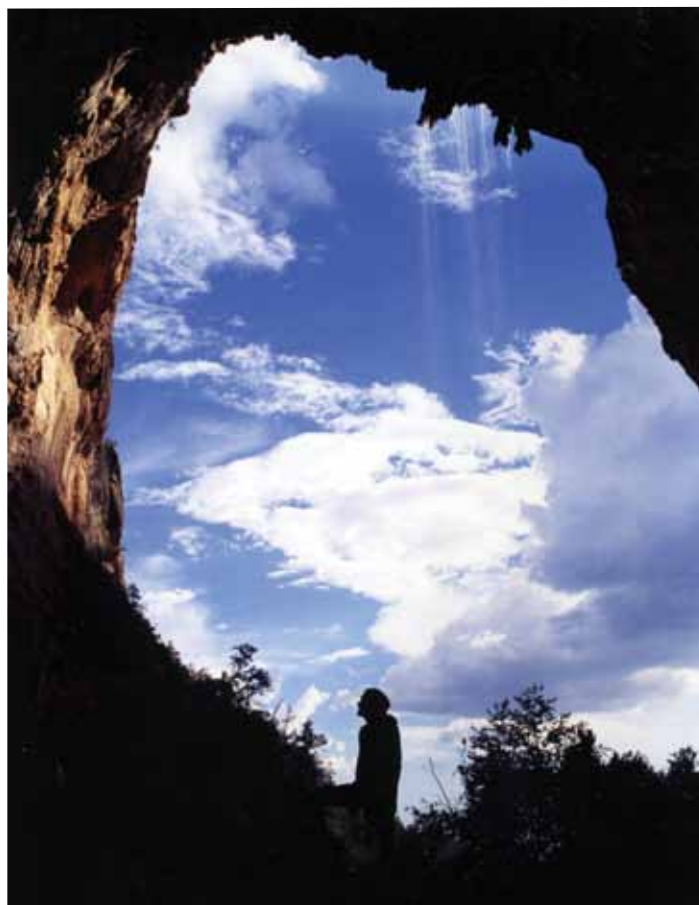
For more information about Lost Dutchman State Park call (480) 982-4485 or visit AZStateParks.com.

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK

Visitors traveling along I-10 between Phoenix and Tucson can't miss the prominent 1,500-foot peak at Picacho Peak State Park. Before you hike at Picacho Peak, be prepared



Lost Dutchman State Park (photo ©Arizona State Parks)



Tonto Natural Bridge State Park (photo ©Arizona State Parks)

with enough water, proper footwear, and gloves for cable railing, as the trails are steep and challenging. The Hunter Trail (2 miles to the peak) and Sunset Vista Trail (3.1 miles to the peak) both take you through saguaros, chollas, and ocotillos that dot the desert landscape.

For more information about Picacho Peak State Park call (520) 466-3183 or visit AZStateParks.com.

DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK

Travel to northern Arizona's Verde Valley to enjoy water sports and abundant wildlife at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, located in the town of Cottonwood. The 3,300-foot elevation provides mild temperatures that are ideal for mountain biking in the Coconino National Forest, hiking along the Verde River, canoeing, picnicking, fishing, watching wildlife, camping (including accessible sites, all of which are available by reservation), or just wading in the cool water. The park offers many different levels of hiking trails for the beginner to the enthusiast. Smooth paths along the Verde River are prime for those looking

for a leisurely hike. Other trails rise from the flat track and circle the pond and ridges. In addition, seven miles of developed trails and frequent elevation changes in the Dead Horse Trail System provide opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

For more information about Dead Horse Ranch State Park call (928) 634-5283 or visit AZStateParks.com.

TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK


Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is tucked away in a tiny valley surrounded by a forest of pine trees 10 miles north of Payson. This natural bridge has been in the making for thousands of years and is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world. The bridge stands 183 feet high over a 400-foot long tunnel that measures 150 feet at its widest point. Visitors can stand on top of the bridge or hike down below to appreciate the true size and beauty of this geologic wonder. The nearby 300-foot Waterfall Trail ends at a waterfall cave where visitors marvel at the water-loving mosses and flowers in the high desert. Pets are not allowed on the four park hiking trails, which descend into a canyon and are all steep and strenuous.

For more information about Tonto Natural Bridge State Park call (928) 476-4202 or visit AZStateParks.com.

For information about all 27 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs, and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 or toll-free (800) 285-3703. Visit the website and online camping reservations at AZStateParks.com, Twitter/Facebook AZStateParks.

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THE WORLDWIDE TRAIL REVOLUTION HEATS UP

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By Tony Boone
Tony Boone Trails, LLC

After traveling and digging in a handful of countries over the past several years I have been amazed at the increasing international awareness and the intensifying desire for recreational trails. Whether it's greenways for the masses in China, or flow trails in New Zealand, it is hard to find a country not implementing a trail project of some type.

Those that know the joys and benefits of hiking, running, or riding a simple path through nature can celebrate. Finally the economic, physical, environmental, emotional, and spiritual benefits of trails are becoming obvious on a global basis.

Professional trailbuilders are sculpting thousands of miles of trails from as far south as Tasmania and Southeast Asia, across China, around Europe, and north to Alaska. The Professional Trailbuilders Association established in 1976, has grown to almost 100 companies in North America, with an amazing portfolio of projects in dozens of countries around the world.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), has been rolling across the nation for decades teaching

volunteers how to build sustainable trail and how to advocate for more trails. Their 35,000+ members represent all 50 states, most Canadian provinces, and over 30 countries. IMBA is experiencing a "global growth spurt" despite the lagging global economy.

Mike Van Abel, Executive Director of IMBA USA, is excited about IMBA Europe, sharing that "After nearly three years of gestation, it's the birth of another progeny of IMBA, joining its siblings, IMBA-Australia and IMBA-Canada. Many mountain bike advocates in Europe, and the industry are excited to see IMBA guidance for purpose-built trail development."

Nick Bowman, National Director for IMBA Australia, states, "Mountain bike trail development is taking off at all levels in Australia, from the community level where trails are being created by volunteers to huge projects that have secured state and federal funding, with over a dozen professional trail contractors busy all over the country, working on projects in Perth, Adelaide, Cairns, and Sydney."

Greenways are also experiencing significant growth. Just imagine the recently completed 1,500-mile Pearl River Delta Greenway in the

Guangdong Province of China. It is longer than our top ten longest "paved rail trails for bicyclists" added together, and it was completed in only three years. Peking University has also started translating well-known greenway books into Mandarin.

The 2012 World Trail Conference in South Korea had representatives from 17 countries. This network brings trail associations together from around the world to help provide support, training, and ideas, and to encourage trails across the globe to become more environmentally friendly, sustainably developed, and user friendly.

Bob Searns, with The Greenway Team, Inc. and chair of American Trails, notes, "We are witnessing an unprecedented worldwide trails and greenway movement. Cities across the globe from Beirut to Beijing are recognizing that trails are indispensable amenities for nations in attracting tourism dollars, promoting health and fitness, and furthering economic development and quality of life. The United States has been a leader and now there are opportunities with many nations to exchange trail knowledge, share trail solutions, and continue advocating for the benefit of all humanity."

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A Roman aqueduct leading to Antioch in Pisidia

Trails to Turkish history and culture

By Aaron Cederberg

Armed only with faint images from Google Earth and a general knowledge of Roman hydraulic engineering principles, we head off across the Turkish countryside and into a densely forested ravine in search of a long-forgotten Roman aqueduct. After consulting a local farmer, slipping down a series of muddied goat trails lining the embankment, and wading knee deep through a stream, we have arrived at our destination: the weathered stretch of limestone emerges from the thick brush and arcs across the sky some thirty feet above us. We scramble up the opposite side, bush-whack our way to the top of the bridge and to what will soon be the newest section of the Saint Paul Trail.

This scene is typical of how long distance hiking trails come together in Turkey. The country is dense with both history and natural beauty, and

much of it remains undiscovered or under-appreciated. The task of bringing these treasures back to the world's consciousness is often left to

enthusiasts, writers, or individual tour operators who have found a love of this region and its people.

However, tourism in the country is often concentrated around the cities, and efforts to preserve the unique wealth of historic, cultural, and natural beauty elsewhere are often challenged by the whims of a fast-developing economy where growth is often haphazard and unregulated. For instance, it is not uncommon for an old Roman trade route to be paved over by a more modern iteration, and there have been occasions where entire mountainsides are removed in order to mine marble—all without any concern for the remains of early Christian monasteries that are housed in their caves.

A SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION

In response to this trend, there is a growing movement of trail enthusiasts and tourism professionals who are discovering the need to take matters into their own hands. They see

TURKEY *continued on page 16*



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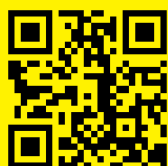
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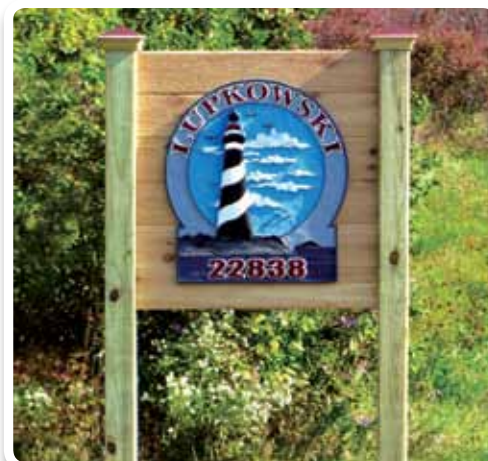
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TURKEY *continued*

long distance trekking trails as an invaluable tool to bring attention to these historical and natural treasures, to promote local economies, and to facilitate cultural dialogue and understanding between the Turkish countryside and the outside world.

The Culture Routes Society of Turkey was formed in July of 2012 in order to address these concerns through advocacy and support to anyone involved in promoting long-distance trekking trails in the country. The society places particular emphasis on sustainable growth and on involving communities that are local to the trail in the development and support of the tourism there. Trail membership is open to any trekking, biking, or equestrian route that shares its aims.

FOLLOWING IN SAINT PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS

The Saint Paul Trail is actually one of the 19 member trails of the Culture Routes Society. First opened to the public in 2008, the Saint Paul Trail



Lake Eğirdir in the Turkish Lakes Region

offers hikers an opportunity to experience the Turkish backcountry from a unique and rare perspective. The trail is a constantly evolving 500-kilometer way-marked footpath that loosely follows the route Saint Paul took on his first missionary journey through Asia Minor. The hike begins at the outskirts of the coastal resort city of Antalya, and weaves northward through the mountains and countryside while following a variety of old trade routes, forest tracks, and Roman roads through a series of rural Turkish towns and historical sites.

There are many ways to enjoy the trail and while some choose to hike it in its entirety with camping gear, the route is also designed to be accessible to those who are looking for a more structured experience. The trail is divided into discrete day hikes between villages that can generally provide both accommodation and food. The accommodation is a mixture of pensions, boutique hotels, and village home-stays with local families. There are also many local guides available for hire.

The route also brings the hiker to an incredible variety of natural beauty and many opportunities to interact with a world and culture that is far removed from the trappings of the emerging market economy of urban Turkey. Varying from the rugged peaks and canyons of the Taurus mountains to the gentle rolling hills and fertile farmland of the Turkish Lakes Region, the trail covers a lot of distance in remote locations that the tourism industry in the area typically overlooks. The variety is staggering. Hikers will enjoy everything from fields of wildflowers and slowly winding rivers in the valleys to intricate mazes of natural stone pillars referred to as "fairy chimneys" on a mountain side. There are many miles of peaceful pine forests, as well as steep canyon walls that overlook the spring-fed rapids that are hundreds of feet below.



Hiking a stretch of Roman road

THE TRUE ATTRACTION

Against this backdrop, there are the local people. Hiking any stretch of these trails will bring you close to their hospitality and there will be many invitations to join for tea, if not for a meal. You will share the trail with the foot-traffic of shepherds tending their flock and the pack mules that still bring supplies between towns. It is an opportunity to see rural Turkish life play out before your eyes, and at times participate. These often remote villages are spectacular specimens of a lifestyle that is simple, peaceful, and welcoming, and the members of the Culture Routes Society strive to make this experience available to everyone.

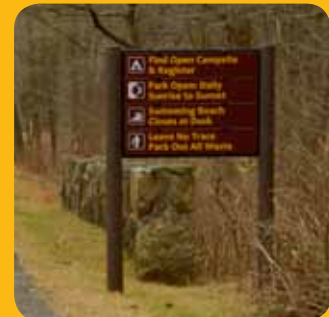
Aaron Cederberg is a freelance writer and photographer who is working with the Culture Routes Society to create interactive guidebooks for smartphones that will help make the trails more accessible to everyone. Contact Aaron at shveddy@gmail.com. Learn more about the Culture Routes Society at www.cultureroutesinturkey.com.

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NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

Photo contest winners



We are proud to announce this year's winners of the annual National Recreation Trails Photo Contest, sponsored by American Trails. Our goal is to show off these great trails with good photos of trail users and facilities, management ideas, construction, and volunteers. We also want to highlight the many types and uses of these trails— on snow, land, and water— throughout America.

The NRT Program is designed to celebrate America's trails, greenways, and blueways. Even as we struggle with budgets and priorities, more people than ever are using trails, and we need more recognition for our parks and public lands.

If you'd like to enter the 2013 contest, check the online searchable database for a list of NRTs in your state and for more information on individual trails.

Links to the winning photos and the nearly 200 entries are at www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/photocon.html.



Medina River Greenway, San Antonio, TX - Photo by Julia Diana Murphy



Bright Angel Trail, Grand Canyon, AZ - Photo by Fiana Shapiro



Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Viewing Trail - Photo by Kimi Smith

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS



Air Line State Park Trail, CT - Photo by Stan Malcolm

ADDITIONAL WINNING PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Doug Alderson • Alabama State Lands Bartram Canoe Trail, AL
- Callie Thornton • Pinhoti Trail, AL
- Jonathan Voelz • Lower Cache River Trail, IL; and Tunnel Hill State Trail, IL
- Lane & Linda Thomas • Fremont National Recreation Trail, OR
- Rob Grant • DeSoto State Park Trail, AL
- City of San Jose, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services • Guadalupe River Trail, CA
- Jonathan Canfield • Mountains To Sea Trail, NC
- Mary Shaw • Montour Trail, PA; and Three Rivers Heritage Trail, PA
- Patricia Mobley • Karina Miller Preserve Loop Trail, GA



Withlacoochee State Trail, FL - photo by Heather Nagy



George S. Mickelson Trail, SD - photo by Brooke Smith

2012 National Recreation Trail Photo Contest
Details at www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails

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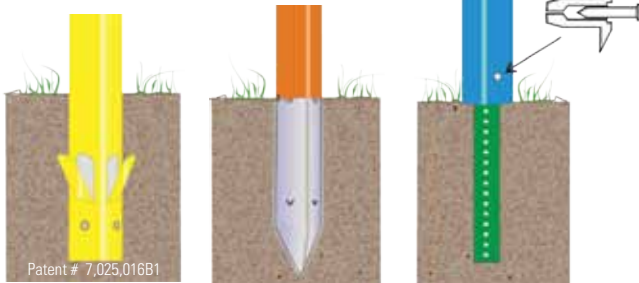
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National Water Trails System Marks its First Anniversary



By Emily Linroth
National Park Service

From coast to coast, and on many coasts in between, people are out exploring our nation's waterways. A new national network of exemplary water trails is expected to increase access to water-based outdoor recreation, encourage community stewardship of local waterways, and promote tourism that fuels local economies across America.

National Water Trails are designated by the Secretary of the Interior and are part of the National Trails System. Water trails must be cooperatively supported and are intended to strengthen local efforts for recreation, conservation, and restoration of America's waterways and surrounding lands.

"Rivers, lakes, and other waterways are the lifeblood of our communities, connecting us to our environment, our culture, our economy, and our way of life," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "The new National Water Trails

System will help fulfill President Obama's vision for healthy and accessible rivers as we work to restore and conserve our nation's treasured waterways."

APPLYING FOR DESIGNATION

A Secretarial Order established national water trails as a class of National Recreation Trails under the National Trails System Act of 1968. The order provides the framework for secretarial designation of water trails that will help facilitate outdoor recreation on both urban and rural waterways, and provide national recognition and support to designated water trails.

To apply for designation, trail managers must fill out an application and obtain landowner permissions and broad support from their communities and state trail administrators. The application needs to demonstrate how the trail achieves the following best management practices:

Recreation Opportunities: The water trail route has established public access points that accommodate a

diversity of trip lengths and provide access to a variety of opportunities for recreation and education.

Education: The water trail users are provided with opportunities to learn about the value of water resources, cultural heritage, boating skills, and outdoor ethics.

Conservation: The water trail provides opportunities for communities to develop and implement strategies that enhance and restore the health of the local waterways and surrounding lands.

Community Support: Local communities provide support and advocacy for the maintenance and stewardship of the water trail.

Public Information: The public is provided with accessible and understandable information, including details for identifying access and trail routes; cultural, historic, and natural features; hazards; and water quality. The water trail is promoted to the community and broad national audience.

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Trail Maintenance: Routine and long-term maintenance investments on the water trail are supported. Facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained incorporating sustainability principles.

Planning: Maintain a water trail plan that describes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies to strengthen best management practices.

Designated water trails serve as models for other trail managers to emulate best management practices. The key for the system's long-term success lies in the ability of the water trail community to become a network of mentors and promoters of the system.

Currently, the Interagency Water Trails Team is working to designate additional exemplary water trails, develop a mentorship program to support water trail managers, share best management practices, and revise a riverside access manual that gives examples of boat launches and designs for access points.

In 2012, the system's first year, the secretary designated nine national water trails across the country:

- **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Water Trail**

(Georgia - 48 miles) - Managed by: National Park Service Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

- **Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Water Trail**

(Minnesota - 76 miles) - Managed by the National Park Service Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- **Alabama Scenic River Trail**

(Alabama - 631 miles) - Managed by the Alabama Scenic River Trail

- **Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trail**

(Georgia - 120 miles) - Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

- **Mississippi River Water Trail - Great River Water Trail**

(Missouri and Illinois - 121 miles) - Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District; and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association

- **Bronx River Blueway**

(New York - 8 miles) - Managed by the Bronx River Alliance

- **Hudson River Greenway Water Trail**

(New York - 256 miles) - Managed by the Hudson River Valley Greenway

- **Kansas River Trail**

(Kansas - 173 miles) - Managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

- **Willamette River Water Trail**

(Oregon - 217 miles) - Managed by the Willamette Riverkeeper

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National Park Service coordinated creation of an interactive website to promote and support the new system and trails. Water trail managers can learn best management practices and apply for designation online, and visitors can learn more about designated trails through a photo gallery, dynamic stories, and videos. An interactive map and new search functions make it easy for users to find national water trails. See www.nps.gov/WaterTrails.

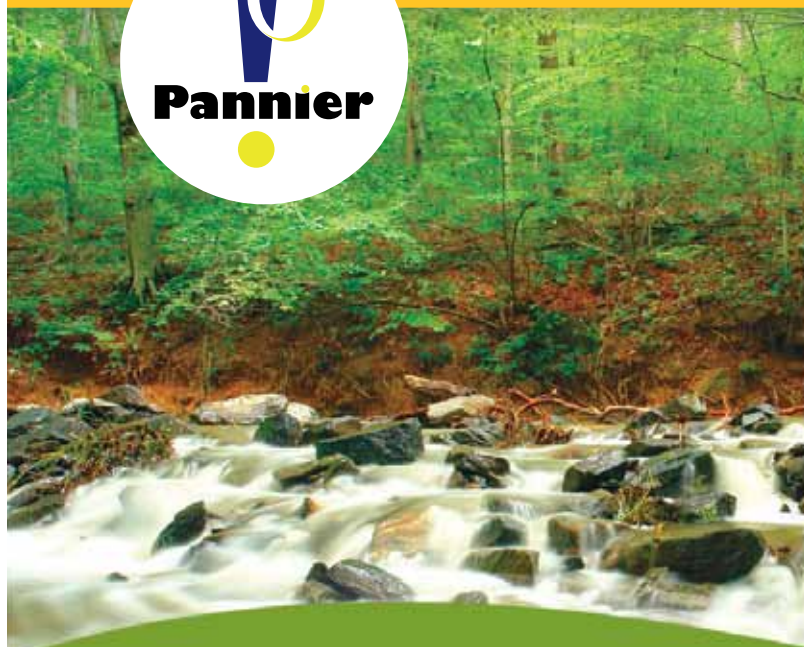
The National Water Trails System is administered by the National Park Service with guidance from a wide range of federal agencies. For more information, contact Corita Waters, National Park Service, at (202) 354-6908.



Celebrating the designation of the Willamette River Water Trail



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Conservation Corps tackles urban trail challenge

By Amber Goodenough

The Otay Valley Regional Park in San Diego, California recently upgraded a stretch of the multi-use Palm Avenue Trail. The trail connects the communities of Otay Nestor to 8,500 acres of open space and the Otay Lakes.

To complete the project, the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation partnered with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to build the trail. The CCC, a state-run organization that hires youth (18-25 years) to restore and protect California's environment, is the oldest and largest state conservation corps program in the country. As a cost-effective labor force the CCC tackles over 900 projects annually and works with more than 250 local, state, and federal agencies each year.

The County of San Diego has had a long partnership with the CCC and as Chuck Tucker, project manager for the County said, "The CCC crews and the crew supervisors are great to work with as they have the skills, knowledge, and

abilities to perform this hard work and provide excellent results."

The partnership also saved the county considerable time and the high costs associated with bids, designs, and construction management typically required for this type of project. Because the CCC is considered an educational program for youth, it is exempt from prevailing wage requirements for labor.

In addition to cost savings, the Palm Avenue project was an excellent learning opportunity for the youth crew. While the CCC typically builds non-paved, or natural surface trails, this project gave them an opportunity to build a hardened crushed-granite trail comparable to asphalt or concrete. They also received hands-on training

in new construction techniques and with state of the art materials and equipment such as the Trailblazer 900 mixer. The mixer was used to develop a 500-square-foot vista point, made of crushed granite mixed with a G5 hardener developed by TechniSoil Global Inc. The trail and the overlook were designed and built to protect the identified sensitive habitat area with minimal impact on the environment.

The Palm Avenue Trail was a test case by the County to verify the potential for developing less expensive trails. Ideally, they wanted a trail with a natural look and feel but that required little maintenance. TechniSoil's G5 stabilizer was the perfect solution for this type of trail because it maintains the natural aesthetic but has the durability of asphalt. G5 is also slip-resistant and provides a durable surface for many uses, including wheelchairs, strollers, bikes, and even vehicles.

The Palm Avenue trail was funded by a private donor through the San Diego Foundation in the amount of \$57,000 and by donations from Lehigh Hanson Aggregates, who contributed 300 cubic yards of crushed stone aggregate. TechniSoil Global Inc. also donated over 1,000 gallons of G5 stabilizer and the Trailblazer 900 mixer to mix and lay the decomposed granite on-site.

Later this year the CCC will construct 22 miles of trail in the Tijuana River Valley Trails System and another 2.5 miles of trail for the Historic Flume Trail in east San Diego County.

The collaboration between the CCC and the County of San Diego proved to be not only economically beneficial to the trail managers but was also completed in less time thanks to the advanced technology available to the crews. The trail is now open to the public.

Amber Goodenough is Director of Marketing for TechniSoil Global Inc. Contact her at amber@technisoil.com or (530) 605-2082.



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News and Resources

See many more recent articles and studies at www.AmericanTrails.org/resources

Update on accessible trail guidelines

Janet Zeller, U.S. Forest Service National Accessibility Program Manager, gave us an update on the long-awaited guidelines for accessible trails and related outdoor facilities: "There are several things here to consider. First the Access Board's *Outdoor Developed Area Accessibility Guidelines* will only be legally mandated for new or altered facilities under the federal agencies, because they are being released only under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) first and the ABA only applies to federal agencies.

"Sometime well into the future these same guidelines will be released under the ADA and at that time will be mandated for new or altered facilities of State and local governments and of private businesses open to the public, because those are the entities that are

under the ADA. That said, from their initial release as final the Accessibility Guidelines will still be a 'best practice' for those under the ADA."

Read more on Accessible Trails issues at www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/accessible. For current Forest Service Accessibility Resources see www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility.

Comment sought on Shared Use Paths

The Access Board has released for public comment proposed requirements for accessible shared use paths used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and others for transportation or recreation. This rulemaking will complement guidelines the Board is developing for public rights-of-way and outdoor developed areas, including trails.

The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which cover access to side

walks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The Board's proposal would apply these and other relevant requirements to shared use paths as well. It also would add new provisions tailored to shared use paths that address grade, cross slope, surfaces, and protruding objects. Public comment on the Shared Use Path guidelines will be accepted until May 14.

Read the "Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" and comment at www.access-board.gov/sup.htm.



Partnership seeks more bike/ped funding

The Partnership for Active Transportation is calling on state governments to leverage their funds to invest in walking and biking networks. The goals include:

- Prioritizing active transportation in project selection and leveraging flexible sources of funding
- Completing networks by filling strategic gaps in existing facilities
- Encouraging collaboration between state transportation and health departments to integrate health concerns into transportation decisions

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has been a driving force behind the coalition, which seeks to build a broader and more influential active transportation movement.

Read more at www.partnership4at.org.

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Gallery: art applied to trail surfaces

A new gallery of photos in our “Cool Trail Solutions” area provides examples of the exuberant variety of artistic trail surface treatments from around the country. Many kinds of art have been applied to the surfaces of paved trails.

We find poems, words of wisdom, the names of local birds, and snippets of history engraved in concrete. Plaques provide a more durable inset, often of metal. Ceramics are also set into the concrete as mosaics or other pieces of art. The concrete can also be colored or tinted to create bold patterns. Plants, animals, and local history are all popular topics.

See the new photo gallery at www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/cool.

Rec Trails project database update

Nearly 18,000 projects have been funded and completed with support from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). An update to the RTP project database will make this wealth of project information more accessible to the public. The redesigned database and website, funded by FHWA, and accomplished through a partnership between KMS Enterprises, Inc. and

American Trails, will be ready for release very soon. We'll be looking for photos of RTP-funded projects to add to the usefulness of the database.

Marketing Tools for Mississippi River Trail

“Minnesota has been working to develop a series of bicycle-friendly communities along the 800 miles of the Mississippi River Trail Bikeway (MRT) in Minnesota, said Liz Walton of MN Department of Transportation. “As cities become more bike-friendly, MnDOT wants its partners to have tools and information they need to effectively market the MRT, and bicycling in general.”

The marketing toolbox provides tools and information to effectively promote the MRT. An annotated table of contents and marketing plan development flow chart are provided to help identify the information in the toolbox you need to make your marketing efforts a success.

Read more at www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/economics.

Posters in schools: safety education

The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council created an innovative safety education program to post key messages on walls and lockers in K-12 schools. Colorful, five by five foot posters were on display at 23 schools in five Minnesota school districts. “The School Media project was a great opportunity for us to get important safety messages in front of the people that need them the most: students, parents and teachers,” said Karen Umphress, NOHVCC Project Manager.

Read more and see additional posters at www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/motors.



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Photo courtesy of Gene Knaebel

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Trails training opportunities

The National Trails Training Partnership is a nationwide coalition committed to improving skills for trail work.

Trail Skills College offered by PCTA

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is sponsoring a series of trail training opportunities it calls "Trail Skills College." The courses are held in several locations along the National Scenic Trail that runs from Mexico to Canada. The courses cover basic and advanced trail skills and are taught by professionals and volunteer leaders experienced in trail construction, trail maintenance, leadership, as well as saw certification and training.

Read more at www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college.

Missouri volunteers teach skills series

The Master Trail Builder program provides training to individuals throughout Missouri who then volunteer their time applying what they have learned to help others in their communities to learn about building and maintaining dirt trails. The program consists of 10 four-hour courses to choose from.

To become a Missouri Trail Builder, an individual must first attend 30 hours of classroom core-course training. Then the Master Trail Builder trainees are required to give 30 hours of volunteer service back to their community in approved activities to fulfill the program's mission of "More Recreational Trails for Public Health."

The training program is sponsored by Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri, whose mission is to build a force of volunteer workers that provides the resources for state, county, and cities to draw upon in building and maintaining sustainable recreational trails.

The goal is to develop partnerships with local land managers, and provide them with training and resources for improving the sustainability of their public recreational trails.

The underlying assumption of this "trail college curriculum" is that a student new to trail work will start with the 100-level classes before moving on to 200-level classes.

- 100. So, What is Trail Work? Intro to Trail Maintenance
- 101. Opening the Trail: How to Brush and Scout a Trail
- 102. Protecting Trails from Erosion: Intro to Tread and Drainage
- 200. Where Do Trails Come From? Basic Trail Design
- 201. Location and Design of Drainage Features
- 202. Preserving Trails with Self-Cleaning Drain Dips
- 203. Correcting Trail Drainage Problems with Log Water Bars
- 204. Correcting Trail Drainage Problems with Rock Water Bars
- 205. Tread Re-Construction
- 304. Leadership: Managing a Crew

Read more about Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri and the Master Trail Builder program at www.vfom.org.



Trails training: 2013 highlights

For details of these and more training events, see the National Trails Training Partnership online calendar at www.TrailsTraining.net.

May 8-10 - Lake Tahoe, CA
• California Trails and Greenways Conference

May 19-23 - Traverse City, MI
• 2013 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

June 1 - On trails across America
• American Hiking Society's National Trails Day®

June 6-8 - Green Bay, WI
• International Snowmobile Congress

June 17-21 - Bloomington, IN
• Accessibility Management in Parks, Recreation and Tourism

July 11 - Columbia County, WI
• Ice Age Trail University Session 2

July 18-20 - Rock Hill, SC
• 2013 National Equestrian Trails Conference

August 13-15 - Sacramento, CA
• Safe Routes to School National Conference

October 2 - Jackson, MS
• Mississippi Bike Summit

October 4 - Providence, RI
• New England Bike-Walk Summit

November 2-7 - Tucson, AZ
• National Scenic & Historic Trails Conference

For classes, conferences, and training opportunities, visit the NTTTP online calendar at www.TrailsTraining.net

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Okanogan Trail Construction

Okanogan Trail Construction (OTC) is a versatile trail construction company that has dedicated itself to the many facets of sustainable trail building for over thirty years. OTC is adept in working with diverse environments and geologies, specializing in rugged and remote terrains, as well as rural and urban settings. Sustaining through drastic weather conditions and years of use, our durable trails can be enjoyed and shared for generations. For more information contact matt@otctrails.com or visit the website at www.okanogantrail.com.



Omega Rail Management

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Reflections on the past and future

Moving forward with American Trails and the worldwide trails community

By Robert Searns

**Chair, American Trails Board and Owner,
The Greenway Team**

Each year the American Trails Board elects its officers. Typically, board members serve from biennial symposium to symposium. Since this will be my fourth symposium as Chairman, that makes eight years, and I think that's a sufficient term. For that reason, I did not run for election again. I believe boards and organizations need timely turnover and rejuvenation of leadership to grow and thrive, just as people need change and new endeavors to pursue.



Needless to say I am very proud of what we as a Board, Staff, Advisory Committee, and volunteers have accomplished together over past eight years. I especially want to thank all of our fantastic volunteers who have been invaluable in organizing our programs, putting on our Symposia, conducting trainings, and performing all sorts of other tasks both complex and mundane.

Especially I thank all of YOU who have supported American Trails with your generous donations, memberships, advertising, exhibits, and sponsorships. I thank all the talented, enthusiastic, and generous people who have worked so hard to get us to where we are today—a premier trails and greenways advocacy and resource organization, serving locally, nationally, and internationally.

I see three important areas where American Trails and the trails community should be focusing going forward:

Expanding advocacy at the state, local, and grass roots level. In an era of federal deficits and cutbacks, it is highly likely that federal support of trails will continue to be sparse. To sustain and grow the greenways and trails movement, more local investment will be needed. States like Colorado have led the way with a lottery dedicated to parks, open space, and trails. A number of counties have adopted similar sales tax measures. Increasingly there has been philanthropic and private developer support of trails. American Trails needs to redouble its efforts to engage and enable local advocates to pursue financial support of trail projects. Efforts like our Economic Benefits of Trails webinar, our magazine and eNews, and our databases have

been invaluable in making the case that, locally, trails are a must-have investment promoting fitness, community livability, and competitiveness for attracting businesses, skilled workers, and tourism. Part of this is working with each of YOU to build a legion of local "Trails Ambassadors."

Building long-term sustainability for American Trails by expanding a robust non-governmental revenue stream.

Over the years, American Trails has created a world-class information and training resource and has tirelessly advocated an important cause. While public funding support has been and will be essential, it is important to build sustainable revenue from other sources. This has included sponsorships, memberships, symposium attendance, webinars, and other projects. While free services and resources are great, we tend to take them for granted in an environment of advertising-based services, like Google.

At the first National Trails Symposium in 1971, past Board Member, Hulet Hornbeck predicted:

"Urban trails will materially assist in the re-creation and enhancement of our urban living environment. This therefore is the time of opportunity for trails. Recreational trails must play a vital role in the new city."

The reality, however, is that American Trails needs financial support from its beneficiaries. So when you purchase a webinar, register for a symposium, advertise with us, or simply become a member, you are helping to assure that valuable services and a priceless informational resource will continue to be available to you and hundreds of thousands of others. Simply put, American Trails' continued growth and effectiveness depends upon YOU!

Continuing to build the organization to better serve YOU. We all need to express our ideas, volunteer our time, and share our knowledge to help assure American Trails remains the world's go-to resource. This includes understanding new trends, exploring new trail activities, enhancing the databases, and other efforts. As part of this strategy American Trails will be building its ties to the international trails community as well as expanded local engagement.

I look forward to my continued engagement with American Trails, working with the new Chair, with the staff, and with all my valued colleagues in the trails community. I also look forward to serving on the American Trails Advisory Committee working as liaison between that group and the American Trails Board.

I also plan to be working with an international committee (currently led by Galeo Saintz from South Africa) charged with building a global trails advocacy network. This effort, initiated several years ago by the Jeju Olle Foundation in South Korea, is now joined by 20 nations. The group is striving to create a worldwide exchange where nations and peoples can share their vast know-how, keep each other current, and help promote trails, greenways, conservation, and economic benefits through effective marketing.

Thank you all! I look forward to exciting things to come in the greenways and trails community. I treasure the learning experiences I have had and the lifelong friendships I have been privileged to enjoy with so many of you during my tenure.

Robert Searns has a four-decade track record in planning, designing and implementing award-winning trails, greenways, and open space projects. He has been a speaker, instructor, and led workshops for American Trails, the National Park Service, American Planning Association, and the Urban Land Institute Mayor's Forum. He has lectured and met with students and faculty in Canada, Japan, China, and Russia. Robert also coauthored, with Charles Flink, "Greenways: A Guide to Planning Design and Development" and has written articles and editorials for many publications.



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We stand on the shoulders of giants as we move forward

By Steve Elkinton

**Program Leader, National Trails System
Program, National Park Service**

Happy Anniversary— 1988 was a great year. It yielded both American Trails and the RTCA Program (and a daughter for me)!



I have had the privilege of watching American Trails evolve from wobbly legs to the robust nationwide group it is today. When I first took this job as NPS National Trails System program leader in 1989, the office was still full of stories of how our then chief, Bill Spitzer, envisioned a national organization for trails parallel to what American Rivers does for rivers. And he persuaded the leadership of two struggling groups— the National Trails Council and the American Trail Network— to combine to form American Trails.

Slowly but surely it came alive, devoted largely to holding the biennial symposia. One early board member, the irascible George Cardinet, walked out because he objected to working with motorized trails folks. But cooler heads prevailed. The group's first project was *Trails for All Americans*, an ambitious and far-sighted agenda that in many ways is still relevant today. And then, right after in 1991, with the passage of ISTEA, suddenly money for trails began flowing and American Trails became a wonderful nexus for folks to learn about funding opportunities for their projects close to home. It was fun to watch the progress at each of the symposia in 1990 (my first) and 1992 and 1994 (in Anchorage!). Even so, American Trails was weak enough that about six to eight weeks out from each of these gatherings our office would get a call saying that the meeting should be cancelled— not enough people had registered. And dear Tom Ross, our trails chief in those days (and one of the cooler heads) said, "Be patient, it will all work out." And it did, in every case.

The Anchorage symposium was one of my favorites and showed that American Trails could take a risk. It was at that meeting that I realized what a powerful influence women have in the trails movement— and how lucky I was to work in a network where women made such a difference. Many then active are now gone from the scene: Butch Henley, Jeannette Fitzwilliams, and Emily Gregor.

Then I took my turn helping organize the Symposium when it came to Bethesda, Maryland, in 1996. I knew it was a lot of work, but my role was pinched because I had suffered a herniated disk a few months before and had to sit for much of it. Also, half our field trips were cancelled

due to unseasonably cold weather that March. I also saw the contrast between the behind-the-scenes headaches and the rave reviews in "the front of the house" by participants.

One joy was being able to give the banquet keynote speech and the other was hearing Representative John Lewis describe the pending Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Also that year, Pam Gluck showed up with potted cactus and sunglasses to invite us all to Tucson in 1998 for a Symposium that definitely raised the bar for all the meetings ever since.

It has also been my privilege to be the custodian for a chain of cooperative agreements between American Trails and the National Park Service. Through these agreements (and those American Trails has with other agencies) we have accomplished a lot on behalf of the public: vibrant symposia every other year, the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), and a revived national recreation trail (NRT) program. Our specific interests have varied over the years— but the goodwill shown by both sides has made a huge difference as America's trail community has matured, become smarter, and documented its impact more profoundly on the American landscape. You have leveraged our support into many new areas: UTAP, smart websites, trails training, and international outreach.

American Trails, you've come a long way in 25 years. The list of key players (board members, funders, trainers, staff, participants) is too many to list here. But, indeed, we stand on the shoulders of giants as we move forward.

From the public's perspective, America's infrastructure of trails is all of one piece, a seamless network of trails of many types. The more each of us (and all of us together) can come up with ways to smartly promote all types of trails— the better off we all will be. I'd like to believe that America's national scenic and historic trails are the backbone of the national system of trails— and that may be true in many places.

So far I have enjoyed how American Trails' symposia normally meet in the even-numbered years and the National Trails System folks meet around their special concerns in the odd years. That rhythm has helped grow the entire infrastructure of America's trails. I can only hope that each part of America's far-flung trails community comes to appreciate the skills, gifts, and accomplishments of the other parts of the system.

American Trails Member Organizations

Our members are continuing to help us advocate for your interests and making it possible to provide you access to thousands of trails and greenways resources on the American Trails website!

Join and review all the benefits online today at www.AmericanTrails.org or fill and mail in the membership form on page 33.

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Leon Creek Greenway, Texas

The City of San Antonio's efforts to keep citizens and visitors active and healthy while also connecting them with nature are on a roll, thanks in part to the Linear Creekways Development Program. On any given day in San Antonio, you'll find dozens of people of all ages, walking, jogging, running, cycling, skateboarding, and enjoying nature along a 13.5 mile stretch of the Alamo City's Leon Creek Greenway. This segment of trail stretches from Loop 1604 and IH-10 to Ingram Road.

Leon Creek Greenway currently offers over 17 miles of paved, multi-use trails plus natural surface paths and connections to city parks. Special Projects Manager Brandon Ross, who heads up the Linear Creekways Development Program, says "Leon Creek trail users are enjoying views of limestone bluffs, fields of colorful wildflowers, and stands of beautiful cottonwoods and other heritage trees. They're also experiencing wildlife like never before. They're spotting deer, armadillo, raccoon, and a wide variety of birds, including the great horned owl."

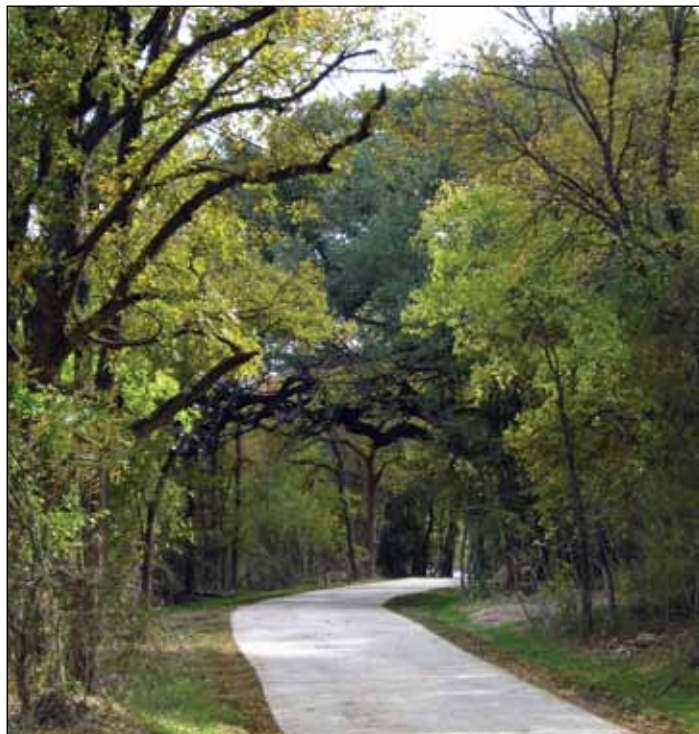
The City of San Antonio sits at the confluence of four ecological regions: Blackland prairie, Post oak savanna, South Texas plains, and the Edwards Plateau. Each region features distinct varieties of soil, flora, and fauna. Numerous springs, creeks, and rivers arise along one of the nation's largest karst limestone aquifers, known as the Edward's Aquifer. This abundance of water along with a wide variety of vegetation and mild temperatures makes San Antonio a great location for bird watching.

The Leon Creek Greenway features connections to several parks, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and numerous adjacent neighborhoods and businesses. A trailhead at VIA's Ingram Road Transit Center provides direct bus access for trail users. Additional trailheads include way-finding maps and other information.

A total of 41 miles of developed greenway trails are now open to the public. The trail systems funding to date incorporates 89 miles of planned trails in an overall system goal that could ultimately yield 130 miles of hike and bike trails along the creekways. The Leon Creek Greenway was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2012.

"In keeping with former Mayor Howard Peak's vision, the goal of the Linear Creek Greenway Development program is to encircle the City with easily accessible hike and bike trails that will connect people to nature while also creating a very pedestrian and bike friendly City," Ross says.

For more information: www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec.





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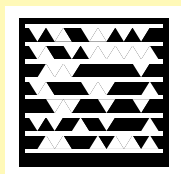


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