**April 2017 eNewsletter**

Advancing trails for those who build, maintain, use, and dream of trails...

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May 7-10, 2017 ~ Dayton, Ohio**

**Online Symposium registration now available!**

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**WHAT’S HOT**

Pam Gluck receives Professional Trailbuilders award

The Professional Trailbuilders Association recently honored Pam Gluck, former Executive Director of American Trails. PTBA gave Pam the 2017 Roger and Harvey Bell Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service to the trails community. The award was presented at the PTBA Trailbuilders Conference in Bend, Oregon, March 15, 2017. [*Read the letter Pam provided in her acceptance of the award…*](http://www.americantrails.org/pamgluck/pam-gluck-award-ptba.html)

Positive outlook seen for outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation contributes $650 billion to the American economy, and supports tens of millions of jobs. According to the American Recreation Coalition’s new report Outdoor Recreation Outlook 2017, those numbers are only expected to grow. Most of the recreation industry reported significant gains in 2016 and the outlook for 2017 is optimistic. [*Download report (pdf 258 kb)...*](http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/ARC-2017.pdf)

June is Great Outdoors Month® across America!

June is a special time to celebrate America's Great Outdoors. What started as Great Outdoors Week under President Clinton in 1998 has grown significantly under both the Bush and Obama administrations into a month-long celebration of the outdoors and all the benefits it brings. [*Read more and find events…*](http://www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org/about)

**INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM  
May 7-10, 2017 ~ Dayton, Ohio**

**Online Symposium Registration now available!**

You can now register online for the American Trails International Trails Symposium. See details of programs, process, and payment options. Discounts are available for early registration through March 17. American Trails members, sponsors/exhibitors, and Ohio residents are also offered special rates. [*Read more and access online registration...*](http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017-register)

**Mobile Workshops give attendees a closer look at trail projects**

This Symposium is offering 26 mobile workshops for all trail user types covering new projects, problem solving, community organizing, and funding techniques for putting trails on the ground. Get inspired on some of the best trails in the Dayton and Ohio region! [*See Mobile Workshops listing and details...*](http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017-MobileWorkshops)

**PTBA Sustainable Trails Workshops highlight techniques**

**The Professional TrailBuilders Association and American Trails are proud to feature for a second Symposium the Sustainable Trails Workshop Series. These hands-on workshops focus on important skills and techniques for the sustainable design, planning, construction, and maintenance of trails for all types of users in a variety of environments.** [*See Sustainable Trails Workshops listing and details…*](http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017-SustainableWorkshops)

Why the Dayton, Ohio area is an outdoor recreation destination

Five Rivers Metroparks is working with many regional partners and communities to expand the Dayton area’s 300+ mile paved trail network. It’s only one of the reasons Dayton is being called the “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest.” [*Download the article… (667 kb)*](http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/2017_ParkWaysCoverStory.pdf)

Check out the exhibit hall layout and save 10% as an exhibitor

Download the [Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities Packet](http://files.constantcontact.com/75f462b4101/15f1bb19-5fcd-4f66-ba28-e467865c2e27.pdf" \t "_blank) to view additional benefits, including choosing your booth location in the order the contract and payment is received (some exceptions apply) and adding a logo or name link on our [Meet Our Sponsors](http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017-sponsors" \t "_blank) page.

Thank you to our major sponsors and honorary partners to date:

* [Professional TrailBuilders Association (PTBA)](http://www.trailbuilders.org/" \t "_blank)
* [City of Dayton](http://www.daytonohio.gov/" \t "_blank)
* [Five Rivers MetroParks](http://www.metroparks.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](http://ohiodnr.gov/" \t "_blank)
* [Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://www.daytoncvb.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Miami Conservancy District](http://www.miamiconservancy.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Miami County Park District](http://www.miamicountyparks.com/Default.aspx" \t "_blank)
* [Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission](http://www.mvrpc.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Greene County Parks & Trails](http://www.gcparkstrails.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](http://www.railstotrails.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Bureau of Land Management](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html" \t "_blank)
* [National Park Service](https://www.nps.gov/index.htm" \t "_blank)
* [US Fish & Wildlife Service](https://www.fws.gov/" \t "_blank)
* [USDA Forest Service](http://www.fs.fed.us/" \t "_blank)
* [US DOT Federal Highway Administration](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/" \t "_blank)

Thank you to the additional sponsors and exhibitors to date:

* [Adventure Cycling Association](http://www.adventurecycling.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Alta Planning + Design](http://altaplanning.com/" \t "_blank)
* [APA Ohio](http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/home_page" \t "_blank)
* [Asphalt Systems, Inc.](http://www.biorestor.com/" \t "_blank)
* Roger Bell
* [Beneficial Designs](http://www.beneficialdesigns.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Bio Stripe](http://www.biostripe.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Bright Idea Shops, LLC](http://www.brightideashops.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Buckeye Trail Association](http://buckeyetrail.org/)
* [Choice One Engineering](http://www.choiceoneengineering.com/)
* [Composite Advantage](http://www.compositeadvantage.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Contech Engineered Solutions](http://www.conteches.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Crowne Plaza](http://cpdayton.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Dayton Cycling Club](http://daytoncyclingclub.org/)
* [Dayton Hikers](http://www.meetup.com/daytonhikers/" \t "_blank)
* [E.T. Techtonics](http://www.ettechtonics.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Environmental Design Group](http://www.envdesigngroup.com)
* [Flexamat](http://www.flexamat.com/)
* [Friends of the River of Grass Greenway](https://evergladesrogg.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Great Parks of Hamilton County](http://www.greatparks.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Green Umbrella](http://greenumbrella.org/TriStateTrails" \t "_blank)
* [Halff Associates, Inc.](http://www.halff.com/" \t "_blank)
* [IBI Group](http://www.ibigroup.com/" \t "_blank)
* [iZone Imaging](http://www.izoneimaging.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Jamar Technologies, Inc.](http://www.jamartech.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Korda/Nemeth Engineering, Inc.](http://www.korda.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Lund Manufacturing](http://www.jblunddock.com)
* [Miami County Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://homegrowngreat.com/)
* [Miami Valley Section of APA - Ohio (MVAPA)](http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/sections_miami" \t "_blank)
* [North Country Trail Association](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/)
* [Ohio Bicycle Federation](http://www.ohiobike.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Ohio Horseman’s Council, Inc.](http://www.ohconline.com)
* [Ohio State Parks & Watercraft](http://www.ohiodnr.gov/" \t "_blank)
* [Orec America, Inc.](http://www.orecamerica.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Outdoor Adventure Connection](http://www.outdooradventureconnection.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Pachner & Associates, LLC](http://pachner.info/" \t "_blank)
* [Pannier Graphics](http://www.panniergraphics.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Partnership for the National Trails System](http://www.pnts.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Pedal Pals](http://www.mvrpc.org/transportation/miami-valley-rideshare" \t "_blank)
* [PermaTrak, North America](http://www.permatrak.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Pioneer Bridges](http://www.pioneerbridges.com)
* [Progressive Bike Ramps](http://progressivebikeramps.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://visitquadcities.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)](http://www.i-riderta.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Rhino Marking & Protection Systems](http://www.trailmarking.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Santa Fe Trail Association](http://www.santafetrail.org/" \t "_blank)
* [Stabilizer Solutions](http://www.stabilizersolutions.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Sutter Equipment Company](http://www.sutterequipment.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Sweco Products, Inc.](http://www.swecoproducts.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Terrabilt, Inc.](http://www.terrabilt.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Thompson Hine](http://www.thompsonhine.com/" \t "_blank)
* Trails Unlimited, LLC
* [Voss Signs](http://www.vosssigns.com/" \t "_blank)
* [Zeager Bros., Inc.](http://www.zeager.com/" \t "_blank)

**NEWS**

Could Greenways Help Fight Chicago Crime?

An in-depth study of Chicago neighborhoods in 2011 and 2015 suggests that parks and greenways could play a role in reducing crime. During that time, crime of all types decreased at a faster rate in neighborhoods along Chicago’s 2.7-mile Bloomingdale Trail – better known as The 606 – than in similar neighborhoods, according to research published in *Environment and Behavior.* [*Read more and see photos...*](https://news.ncsu.edu/2017/02/greenways-chicago-crime/)

Six ways to stay safe on mountain hiking trails

Improvising a hiking route by going off-trail is a common reason hikers run into trouble on a mountain. And, sudden changes in weather and medical emergencies or injuries can happen to anyone. So, what should you do to avoid trouble on a mountain trail? And if you find yourself in an urgent situation, what can be done to maximize your chances of rescue? [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2017/04/12/56140/6-ways-to-stay-safe-on-la-s-hiking-trails/)

San Jose trail bridge replacement mired in controversy

A legal battle has been waging since 2014 between San Jose and a group of residents who call themselves Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle over the historic status of the controversial structure. The Friends group challenged the San Jose City Council’s vote to replace the trestle with a new $1 million steel bridge. [*Read more and see photos…*](http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/04/12/san-jose-asks-for-quick-ruling-in-willow-glen-trestle-case/)

New bike, walking trail would link NJ's two largest cities

The bridge over the Hackensack river is scheduled for completion in 2022 and will include bike and walking lanes. That addition will allow the bridge to connect to a Hudson-Essex trail network and serve as a vital component of a new biking and walking trail connecting Jersey City and Newark. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2017/03/cycling_group_creating_trails_linking_hudson_and_e.html)

**FEATURES**

New technology is documenting the Dayton region’s trails

Five Rivers MetroParks has partnered with Outdoor Adventure Connection to participate in Google's Street View Trekker loan program. When completed, everyone will have access to explore the Dayton area with street view-like “treks” of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, water and paved trails in Google Maps. *[Read more and see photos...](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailhead/Dayton-trail-technology-google.html)*

Trail Towns 101: getting started in trail tourism

American Trails hosted the webinar “Trails and Towns Together” with presenter Amy Camp. The webinar focused on how communities capitalize on trails and tourism. Participants asked a lot of questions on how to get started in creating a “trail town” program. Here’s a primer to help you in getting started. [*Read more and see more resources…*](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/economics/Trail-Towns-101-amy-camp.html)

Featured National Recreation Trail: Backbone Trail celebrates grand opening

The 67-mile designated National Recreation Trail spans the Santa Monica Mountains, an east-west trending mountain range that bifurcates Los Angeles and tumbles down to the Pacific Ocean. The trail has just been completed after it was started in 1978. The project required acquisition of 180 parcels of land totally 6,518 acres of park land. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/trailNRT/Backbone-Trail-Santa-Monica-Mountains-NRT-CA.html)

Featured Recreational Trails Program project: Ohio’s Great Miami River

The Dayton, Ohio area is traversed by the Great Miami River Water Trail and its companion Great Miami River Bikeway. This Recreational Trails Program-funded project, which currently runs 58 continuous miles from Piqua south to Franklin is estimated to draw 772,000 trail visits each year. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/greenways/Great-Miami-River-trails-OH-RTP.html)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Canada launches phone app for cross-continent trail

How will Canadians and visitors find and experience The Great Trail? In order to plan routes, switch trails easily and trek safely, trail users need a simple tool to navigate an immense landscape. Given the 23,922 km length, physical maps would be cumbersome and heavy. As mobile app— something digital yet transportable— is a smart solution for trail users. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/long/trans-canada-trail-phone-app.html)

Trails help economy of Costa Rica’s pristine Osa Peninsula

An initiative to involve locals in the Central American country in the tourism business is enriching the visitor experience and contributing to the economic well-being in an area of biodiverse rainforest. By developing three distinct hiking trails through the area around Corcovado visitors connecting with locally-owned accommodation and attractions. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/travel/article/2075161/how-hike-costa-ricas-pristine-osa-peninsula)

**TRAINING & RESOURCES**

Best Practices: accessible interpretive trails

A new design guide helps visitors with mobility and sensory disabilities to follow pathways that welcome exploration of the natural world. Mass Audubon’ “how to” manual addresses new technologies as well as physical trail development. [*Read more and see photos...*](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/Trails-to-nature-for-all-accessible.html)

PCTA’s Trail Skills Colleges: A hands-on trail education

The Pacific Crest Trail Association Trail Skills College is for volunteers who would like to expand their knowledge about trails and learn how to construct, repair, and maintain the PCT to the correct standards. It is becoming harder and harder to obtain the traditional skills required for trail maintenance, but the Trail College events are keeping these skills alive and passing them down through generations of trail enthusiasts. [*Read more and see photos…*](http://www.americantrails.org/nttp/PCTA-Trail-Skills-College-nttp.html)

Making trails count in Illinois

A new report studies the runners, walkers, and cyclists who are making hundreds of thousands of visits to six regional trails around Illinois. More than 30% of trail users reported visiting the trail 21 or more times during the past year. [*Download 28-page study (pdf 9.8 mb)…*](http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/count-il.pdf)

Trail or Rail with Trail debated in Santa Cruz

The Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line runs 32 miles along the central California coastline. Rail advocates have argued for investment in railroad operation, with trails where possible. Other advocates have proposed a Trail-Only option which is detailed in the Great Santa Cruz Trail Plan. [*Download 40-page plan (pdf 3.1 mb)…*](http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/gsct16.pdf)

Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation

Federal funding for pedestrian and bicycle transportation has increased from $113 million in 1994 to $820 million in 2014. The Federal Highway Administration developed a Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation to guide planning, design, and safety resources, foster public participation, and ensure accessibility. [*Download policy (pdf 184 kb)...*](http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/fhwa-agenda16.pdf)

Summer 2017 trail training opportunities

Current training opportunities for trail skills across the country. *See the* [*Online Trails Training Calendar for details…*](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

June 3 — On trails everywhere!

• National Trails Day

June 8 — Durham, NH

• ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop

June 9-11, 2017 — Ashland, OR

• Big Bend Trail Skills College - Pacific Crest Trail Association

June 21-23 — Northstar, CA

• Downhill Bike Park Summit

July 8-10 — Raleigh, NC

• National Equestrian Trails Conference

July 14-16 — Castle Rock, CO

• COHVCO Great Trails Training Workshop

July 21-23 — Truckee, CA

• Tahoe Trail Skills College - Pacific Crest Trail Association

July 27-29 —
Marquette, MI

• North Country Trail Alliance Celebration

July 31 - Aug. 4 — Portland, OR

• Comprehensive Bikeway Design 2.0 - Portland State University

*Contact us with your scheduled training opportunities at* [*nttp@americantrails.org*](mailto:nttp@americantrails.org)*.*

**JOIN THE AMERICAN TRAILS NETWORK**

**Working together - works! There is strength in numbers!**

**For over 28 years,** [**American Trails**](http://www.americantrails.org/ee/) **has been a collective voice for a diverse coalition of enthusiasts, professionals, advocates, builders, land managers, conservationists, and friends of the outdoors and livable cities.**

**American Trails will continue to keep you informed on both trail know-how and issues critical to the future of trails. With your help, we can increase funding for trails, keep more trails open, and improve the health and well-being of Americans of all ages and abilities, including our children.**

**American Trails is a tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.**

**QUICK LINKS**

* **American Trails** - maintains *one of the world's most comprehensive online go-to sources for planning, designing, building, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blueways* at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org).
* Save the date! Join us in Dayton, Ohio for the 23rd [International Trails Symposium](http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium" \t "_blank) ~ May 7-10, 2017
* Visit [American Trails "Supporting Trails" webpage](http://www.americantrails.org/support.html) for alerts and legislation.
* Read about great Recreational Trails Program-funded projects by visiting the Federal Highway Administration’s [RTP Database website](http://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/).
* Find products and services for trails in our [Online Business Directory](http://www.americantrails.org/businessdir/).
* Visit our [Blog](http://www.americantrails.org/blog/).
* Join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanTrails.org) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/american_trails)!
* Learn about and find [National Recreation Trails (NRT)](http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails) near you today!
* The [Online Trails Training Calendar](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html) connects you with courses, conferences, and trail-related training.
* Purchase books, maps, memberships, and webinars through the [American Trails Online Store](http://www.atfiles.org/store/).
* Need Trails Training? Visit [www.TrailsTraining.net](http://www.americantrails.org/nttp/default.htm).
* [Cool Trail Solutions](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/cool/index.html): view galleries of trail projects, enhancements, and facilities to give you ideas and see how others solved typical trails and greenways problems..
* If you appreciate the myriad of resources we provide on our website to help you do your work better, please help support American Trails ~ by [joining the American Trails Network](http://www.americantrails.org/store/membership-center/) today.

**Trail Tracks** is our monthly e-Newsletter with links to [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org" \t "_blank) *one of the world's most comprehensive online resources for planning, designing, building, funding, managing, and enhancing trails, greenways, and blueways.* We also bring you news from the halls of Congress, new studies and resources, interesting articles, events, training opportunities, and the latest in trail products and services. Check out the topics above for what's new in the trails world!