



# TRAILTRACKS

**the Trails Information Newsletter**  
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Volume 33, Number 2

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FALL 2004

## Join us October 21-24, 2004 for National Trails Symposium!

**A**ustin, Texas, will be the place to be in 2004 to connect with the nationwide trails community! Your hosts for the 17th National Trails Symposium are American Trails, the City of Austin, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas Trails Network, and many more supporters. The dates are October 21-24 with even more training opportunities before the conference starts. Our host hotel is the Hyatt Regency Austin on the shores of scenic Town Lake, directly adjacent to the 11-mile Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail.

Great speakers from around the country and internationally will bring their state-of-the-art expertise to Austin this fall. Mobile workshops and fun events will round out the program. But one of the best benefits of attending this conference is networking with a wide variety of knowledgeable people working on trails today, including advocates, agencies, land managers, designers, planners, technicians, vendors, builders, developers, and enthusiasts. Come to Austin to hear the latest trails information *and* some of the latest in great music in the "Live Music Capital of the World!"

**Read more on the National Trails Symposium on pages 14-19. Register online and see details of the programs at [www.](http://www.)**



## Thanks to Symposium sponsors

*We would like to thank the many generous sponsors who have made the 17th National Trails Symposium possible. See page 19 for the list of over 100 sponsors!*

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# Training for trails and greenways

## Good training programs help make the case for trails

If trails are going to be a gateway to better health and communities, they are no longer incidental, but critical to our society and way of life. But how do we increase their visibility? At a recent meeting of the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), we listened to **Dave Larsen** describe how ten years ago there was little cohesiveness among National Park Service interpretive programs. Through a careful process interpreters developed a structure of competencies and certification to professionalize their career track. Having no common vision or standards (like trails today) hurt their credibility and ability to obtain funds.

The National Trails Training Partnership is working to promote just such a common vision. While it would be unproductive to try standardizing trail training across the country, we have much to learn from each other. NTTP draws strength from the diversity of its members— Federal and State land management agencies, nonprofit outdoor recreation groups, and trail contractors and consultants. This vast experience in different conditions has brought a lot of new ideas, and perhaps more important, better communication of trails skills *[see the in-depth reviews of two new trail design books on pages 30-31]*.

Our goal is to make training for trails and greenways more available, and to help both staff and volunteers plan, design, enhance, build, interpret, protect, and maintain trails and greenways for all Americans. We hope you'll join us!

**Lend your support to the National Trails Training Partnership! Just send us information about your organization and any education or other resources you provide. See [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net) for details.**



**[www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net)**

## Universal Trail Assessment Process looks at trail data

Another important training program promoted by NTTP is the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). The UTAP is an inventory process that provides objective information about trail conditions (e.g. grade, cross slope, width).

This data can be used by land managers to enhance the safety and enjoyment of trail users (by providing accurate, objective information about the on-trail conditions), monitor environmental impact of the trail, prepare budgets, develop maintenance and construction plans, and identify potential access barriers.

The two-day UTAP Coordinator Workshop will be offered by Beneficial Designs, Inc. October 20-21, 2004 at the National Trails Symposium. A related course in UTAP Data Management Software teaches how to enter and analyze data, and create and use reports. *[see "Featured Workshops" on page 14].*

## Find the right trails training on the online NTTP calendar

Looking for a class or workshop for trails and greenways skills? Find what you need on the most comprehensive calendar on the Web for trail-related training and education. Hosted by [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org), the calendar can also be accessed from [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net). We're eager to promote your trails training opportunities of every kind on our online calendar. Please add us to your mailing list and we'll help publicize your events.

**Tell us about your training opportunities! Call American Trails at (530) 547-2060 or email [NTTP@AmericanTrails.org](mailto:NTTP@AmericanTrails.org).**

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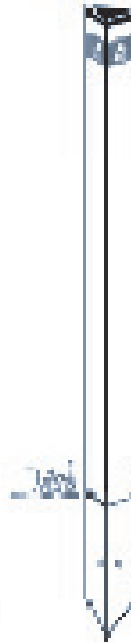
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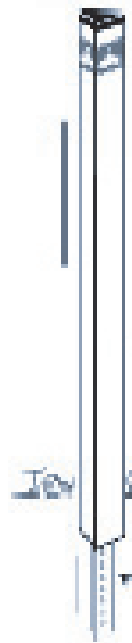
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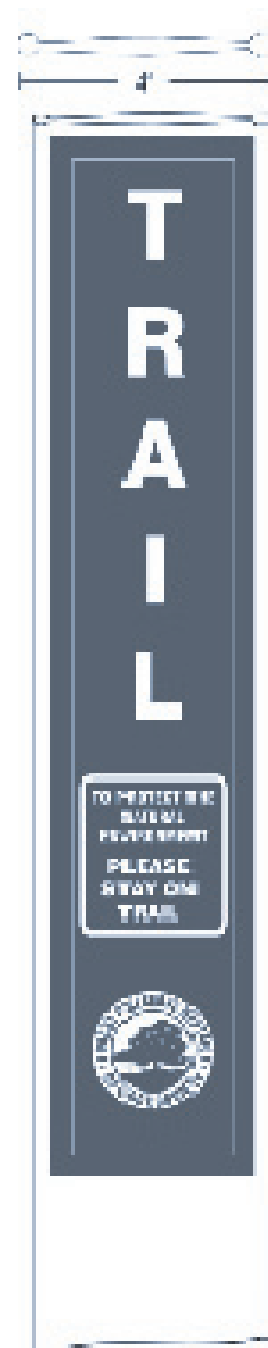
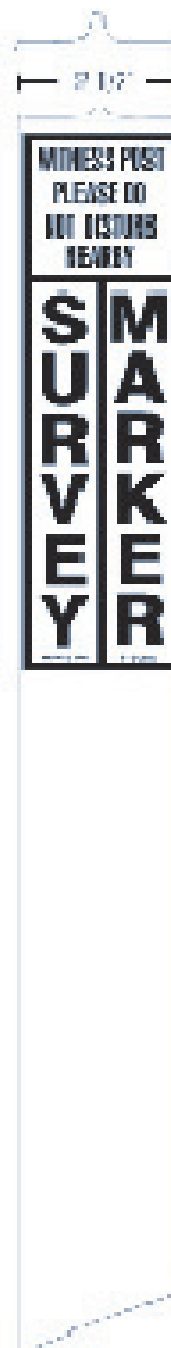
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# The Artful Ways survey

## You're invited to participate in the Artful Ways survey

As trails play an increasingly prominent role in the daily life of Americans, the connection between art and trails is growing. Art on trails is expressed in a multitude of forms and serves many functions: celebration, placemaking, interpretation, inspiration, just to name a few. Art can also be a catalyst for greater public involvement, resulting in new trail development, restoration, and improved trail stewardship.

Artful Ways is a national survey of art on trails of all kinds— walking, hiking, cycling, paddling— being conducted by American Trails in cooperation with the National Park Service. We seek practical information about art on trails: what kind of art, how is it funded, how are artists selected, and what is the impact of art on the trail and community.

The survey findings will be shared on the American Trails website ([www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org)) and at the 2004 National Trails Symposium in Austin, Texas, October 21-24. They also will guide development of a new grants program supporting art on National Recreation Trails.

**SURVEY DEADLINE:** October 11, 2004

**Visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) and pick "Art and Trails" from the pull-down "Select a topic" menu. If you have ideas or questions contact American Trails at (530) 547-2060 or [ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org](mailto:ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org).**



## Here's how to share the art on your trail or greenway

We will be adding examples and ideas to the "Art & Trails" area at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org). We'd love to see images of the trail-related artwork or performance on your trail, and share it with the trails community. Here's how:

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Email either JPEG or TIFF files to [ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org](mailto:ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org) if attachments are under 2 megabytes. Otherwise, mail us a CD (not CD-RW).

**TRADITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Mail us slides or negatives (not prints). They must be 35mm, color or black and white. Send by postal mail to: American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding, CA 96049-1797.

**RETURNS:** Negatives and slides will be returned if return postage and mailing label are enclosed.

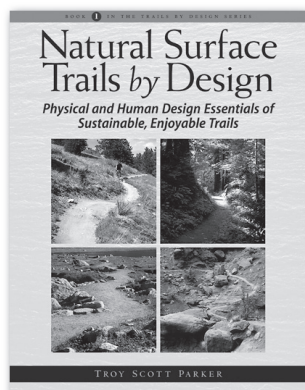
**ENTRY LIMIT:** Maximum of ten photos per trail. If submitting photos of more than one trail, please use a separate entry form for each trail.

**ENTRY FORM:** Along with your images, please send an accompanying list, electronically or by postal mail with:

1. Trail name and general location (city, county, state)
2. Artist(s) name
3. Label each image with a number, file name, or identifier
4. Provide a caption or description for each image
4. Your name and photographer's name, (if different) and contact information for each
5. Optional: maps, brochures, articles, videos, etc.

**If you have questions contact American Trails at (530) 547-2060 or [ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org](mailto:ArtfulWays@AmericanTrails.org).**

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by Troy Scott Parker

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A full-day workshop based on this book and more will be held Oct. 21, 2004 at the National Trail Symposium in Austin, Texas



# *Artful Ways: National Survey of Art on Trails ~ Survey Deadline: October 11, 2004*

Trail Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
County(ies): \_\_\_\_\_  
State(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Managing Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trail Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length (miles): \_\_\_\_\_  
Setting (urban/rural/suburban): \_\_\_\_\_  
Designated Uses: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Civic Organization  
☐ Fundraising Event  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **7. How was the art funded?**

(check all that apply): PUBLIC SOURCES

- ☐ Federal (NEA, TEA-21, etc.)  
☐ State Arts Council  
☐ Local Arts Council  
☐ Other State or Local Funding (specify below)  
☐ Other Federal (specify below)  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **8. In-kind contributions?**

- ☐ Art Space: Studio/Gallery/Presenting  
☐ Materials  
☐ Fabrication/Labor  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **9. How was the artist selected? (check all that apply)**

- ☐ Open Call To Artists  
☐ Private Commission  
☐ Panel of Community and Arts Representatives  
☐ Curation or By Invitation  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **10. Who took the creative lead on the project?**

- ☐ Artist Initiated (artist proposed and carried out project)  
☐ Community Initiated (manager approved and artist carried out project)  
☐ Resource Manager Initiated (artist carried out project)  
☐ Collaboration (artist, managers, and others proposed and carried out project jointly)

## **11. What are benefits of art on your trail? (check all that apply)**

- ☐ Increased funding for trail acquisition or development  
☐ Attracted positive public attention and increased trail use  
☐ Increased Cultural/Environmental Tourism  
☐ Generated Dialogue/Public debate  
☐ Received special awards/recognition for art on your trail  
☐ Enhanced public appreciation of trail environment  
☐ Improved environmental or arts advocacy  
☐ Catalyst for other trail-related projects  
☐ Site restoration/improvement  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for participating in this survey.  
Please forward it to your trails and arts networks.  
We look forward to learning about your projects!

Mail to American Trails, P.O. Box 491797, Redding, CA  
96049-1797 or fax to: 530-547-2035.

## **1. Do you have art on your trail?**

- ☐ No, but I want to learn more, please send me the Artful  
Ways Survey Report.  
☐ Yes (check all that apply in questions 2-5 below)

## **2. Contemporary Installation:**

- ☐ Ceramic  
☐ Functional (bench, bridge, signs)  
☐ Mosaic  
☐ Photography  
☐ Temporary Installation/Exhibition (displays, graphic  
media, publications)  
☐ Restoration/Ecological Art (habitat, erosion control, water  
quality)  
☐ Digital or Online Media  
☐ Mixed Media  
☐ Painting/Mural  
☐ Sculpture

## **3. Performing Arts:**

- ☐ Dance  
☐ Light  
☐ Poetry/Spoken Word  
☐ Folk/Traditional Arts  
☐ Film/Video  
☐ Music/Sound Art  
☐ Theater

## **4. Historical:**

- ☐ Monument  
☐ Memorial  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **5. Other Art Category Not Listed: \_\_\_\_\_**

## **6. How was the art funded?**

(check all that apply) ~ PRIVATE SOURCES

- ☐ Business/Corporate  
☐ Foundation  
☐ Individual Donor

*By answering this survey, you are giving us permission to use results and any photos you submit for publicity and promotion of art on trails. This includes use on the websites of the NRT Program, American Trails, and cooperating agencies and organizations, as well as in their noncommercial publications. This also includes use of photos by Away.com, GORP.com, GuideGurus.com, and other websites in promotion of art on trails through agreements with American Trails. You retain all other rights to your photos.*



# New National Recreation Trails

## New National Recreation Trails announced for '04

**O**n National Trails Day (June 5) Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced the designation of 27 new trails in 15 states, as part of the National Recreation Trails System, and launched the "America's Public Lands Get Fit with US" initiative, which celebrates health and exercise in the outdoors.

### Arizona • Aspen Spring Trail

This 10-mile, backcountry trail system through Hualapai Mountain Park, begins in a wet canyon at 6,200 feet and ends on mountain peaks rising to 8,250 feet. The trail was built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

### Arkansas • Tunstall Riverwalk

Wildflowers and abundant wildlife are features of an educational stroll along the White River to the site of an historic steamboat. School groups from throughout the area visit the trail for natural history interpretation.

### Florida

#### • Clearwater East-West Trail

This urban trail and greenway will eventually span 13 miles between Tampa Bay and Clearwater Beach, linking a local nature park, school and nine park facilities. Trail users enjoy biking, kayaking and swimming.

#### • Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

This 106-mile trail system will span the islands from Key Largo to Key West on historic railroad bridges, connecting national wildlife refuges, state and national parks, and underwater recreation areas.

#### • The Great Calusa Blueway

The 30-mile water trail corridor connects preserves and historic sites in Lee County, and provides kayaking, fishing and swimming, plus the chance to observe dolphins, manatees, and over 300 species of birds in their natural habitat.

#### • Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail

An important ecological corridor, this 15-mile rail trail traverses creeks, pine flatwoods, and upland forests. Trail users can visit Camp Milton, a Civil War site, and participate in a variety of activities, including hiking, biking and wildlife observation.

### Illinois

#### • Danada & Herrick Lake Regional Trail

Located in the western suburbs of Chicago, this five-mile regional trail promotes educational, recreational and health benefits. It traverses prairie, woodland and marsh habitats within the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

#### • Hennepin Canal Parkway

Spanning 173 miles across three counties, this multiuse trail system traverses rolling agricultural land along the nation's



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- Land Use Planning & Development
- Land Use Planning & Development



# Join 10,000-mile system of 915 trails



## **Horses and bikes are welcomed along with ATVs on the Hatfield-McCoy Trails.**

first canal constructed of concrete and the model for the Panama Canal. Biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and canoeing are enjoyed here.

### **• Springbrook Prairie Trail**

Located in a 1,800-acre oasis amidst the western suburbs of Chicago, this nine-mile loop trail system provides for a variety of recreational opportunities while protecting meadows, prairies, wetlands and three state-endangered bird species.

## **Indiana**

### **• Beyer Farm Trail**

This greenway promotes the educational, recreational, and health benefits of trails. It begins at the county hospital's campus and runs to Pike Lake Park, taking visitors along a boardwalk through a 60-acre urban wetland with interpretive signs.

### **• Delphi Historic Trails**

This multi-use trail system has been integrated into this historic community using canal towpaths, stream corridors and abandoned railroads, including a section of the Wabash Heritage Trail which is envisioned to span 19 counties.

### **• Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage**

This 3-mile section is part of a planned 42-mile greenway trail system that will encircle the city of Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The project has inspired thoughts of a multicounty regional trail plan. Bicyclists, hikers, and kayakers are among the users enjoying the trail.

## **Maryland**

### **• Annapolis Rock Hiker Campground and Trail**

This backcountry loop trail features a renovated campground for Appalachian Trail hikers, and involved efforts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Appalachian Trail Conference, and Virginia Tech.

## **Mississippi • Longleaf Trace Trail**

A 41-mile rail trail and linear park, it offers natural features, opportunities for biking, hiking, and horseback riding, and economic benefits for local communities.

## **North Carolina • American Tobacco Trail**

This 14-mile rail trail connects the fastest growing area of Durham to schools, parks, businesses and places of worship, and provides for biking, in-line skating and horseback riding.

## **Oregon • Lower Macleay Trail**

This trail serves as a major access route into Portland's Forest Park, the nation's largest forested urban park, and passes through Balch Canyon along the scenic tree-shaded Balch Creek.

## **Pennsylvania**

### **• Allegheny River Trail**

Bordered by the river on one side and woodlands on the other, this 30-mile multi-use rail trail in Venango County's trail network is rich with wildlife, history and scenic vistas.

### **• Lebanon Valley Rail Trail**

Located across three counties, this 12-mile rail trail links



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# National Recreation Trails

parks, trails, historic sites, and schools, serving hikers, bikers, skiers, equestrians, wildlife enthusiasts, and snowmobilers.

## **Pennsylvania • Montour Trail**

This 30-mile, multiuse rail trail system near Pittsburgh will ultimately extend 47 miles from Coraopolis to Clairton through a variety of settings from urban and suburban areas to picturesque undeveloped landscapes.

## **• Sandy Creek Trail**

This 19-mile scenic rail trail winds through a pristine wildlife area. Visitors pass through a tunnel and along several bridges, including the spectacular Belmar Bridge, which provides views of the Allegheny River and Sandy Creek.

## **South Carolina**

## **• Kings Highway Community Park Trail**

This three-mile system through historic Stateburg includes an environmental education trail, a running/walking trail, and an equestrian/off highway vehicle trail. It also provides trail experiences for underserved communities in the area.

## **South Dakota**

## **• George S. Mickelson Trail**

Spanning 114 miles through the heart of the Black Hills, this rail trail brings to life the area's rich history with stories of American Indians, miners, and railroad workers. It has provided an economic boost for communities throughout the region.

## **• Spirit Mound Summit Trail**

This scenic prairie trail provides a glimpse of the Lewis and Clark expedition and includes Spirit Mound, one of the few remaining sites where visitors can stand where these famous explorers once stood to enjoy a panoramic view of the state.

## **The tree-lined Clearwater East-West Trail in Florida**



**Campground renovation was part of recent work on the Annapolis Rock Hiker Campground and Trail in Maryland**

## **Texas • Angel of Goliad Trail**

Following the San Antonio River, this 2-mile multiuse trail is rich with cultural and natural treasures. It offers a haven for bird watchers and butterfly enthusiasts, and connects historic downtown Goliad with a state park and the Presidio La Bahia.

## **Texas**

## **• Brushy Creek Regional Trail**

The success of this three-mile urban trail and conservation corridor has led to a vision of expanding the system to 30 miles. Located along Brushy Creek in the Hill Country, the trail is a key community connector.



## **Virginia**

## **• Algonkian Regional Park Sanctuary Trail**

Located in Sterling, this loop trail runs through wetlands rich with a variety of wildlife on Lowe's Island along the Potomac River. It will eventually include observation platforms and interpretive signs to enhance the trail experience.

## **West Virginia**

## **• The Hatfield-McCoy Trails**

Spanning 500 miles across eight counties, this backcountry trail system hosts a variety of trail uses, including ATV riding, mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. The system is also an important tourism resource for the state.

**To see photos and details of these and many other featured trails, visit the NRT Program web-site at [www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails).**



# People and trails in the news

## Annual Achievement Awards for trails announced by CRT

**T**he Recreational Trails Program funds hundreds of projects across America each year, and a select few were picked by the Coalition for Recreational Trails to receive awards in Washington, DC, for 2004:

(Award Category — Project Name — Project Sponsor)

- **Maintenance & Rehabilitation:** Teton Wilderness Maintenance and Rehabilitation Projects – Jackson, WY
- **Construction & Design (Long Distance):** Sweetser Switch Trail – Town of Sweetser, IN
- **Construction & Design (Short):** Diana Bend Conservation Area Trails – Rocheport, Missouri
- **Environment Compatibility:** Lake 22 Trail Construction – Granite Falls, Washington
- **Wildlife Compatibility:** Yellowstone Wildlife Area Equestrian Trail – Darlington, Wisconsin
- **Multiple Use Management & Corridor Sharing:** Minooka OHV Project – Jemison, Alabama
- **Accessibility Enhancement:** Camp ASCCA Environmental Trail – Jackson's Gap, Alabama
- **Youth Corp/Service Corps:** North Fork I and II – Westfir, Oregon
- **Education:** Sensible, Courteous Off Road Enthusiasts (SCORE) – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- **Communication:** Western Wyoming Avalanche Education – Jackson, Wyoming

**Descriptions and photos of these projects, plus winners from previous years, are at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org). Look under "What's Hot" for the link to "Coalition for Recreational Trails."**

## George and Vie Obern honored for life-long advocacy

**A**merican Trails is adding its voice to the chorus of honors received this year by long-time trail advocates **George and Vie Obern**. Since the 1960s they have been active with trails both in their home county of Santa Barbara as well as on the national scene. They have been regular attendees of the National Trails Symposium for many years.

A popular trail that runs seven miles along Atascadero Creek has been officially named the **Obern Trail** to honor the couple's efforts. The trail was first proposed in 1967 as a result of Vie Obern's work with the land development process in the Santa Barbara area.

The Oberns also developed relationships with elected officials and worked to build support for trails and greenways at every level.

Additional recognition came from the California Legislature and **U. S. Representative Lois Capp**. The citation in the *Congressional Record* states that "George and Vie Obern have dedicated themselves to improving conditions for bicyclists, hikers and equestrians." The couple ride their own horses and have been riding a tandem bicycle for 30 years.



## Dana Bell receives award for motorcycling advocacy

**T**he American Motorcyclist Association Board of Directors created the **Motorcycling Advocate Award** to recognize leaders in the fight for the rights of motorcyclists. It is one of the very highest awards the AMA can give. Only two awards have been previously presented.

"The AMA Board recognizes Dana Bell as one of the key voices for motorcyclist's rights," said AMA Vice Chairman Dal Smilie. Dana has served seven years as the recreation representative on the BLM California District Advisory Council and is currently an appointed member to the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism. In 2002 Dana was one of eight team members on the American Frontiers Public Lands Journey to raise awareness for public lands. Dana is also an Executive Board member for American Trails.





# May's Trail Equipment & Leasing

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# National Trails Symposium news

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- **Natural Surface Trail Design: The Keys to Sustainability & Visitor Enjoyment**; presented by Troy Scott Parker (full day, Oct. 21)
- **Trail Toys Equipment Expo** (8 a.m.-noon, Oct. 21)
- **Texas Trails Conference: Building the Great Texas Trail** (full day, Oct. 21)
- **Tread Trainer Course**; presented by Tread Lightly! (9 a.m.-noon, Oct. 21)
- **Master Tread Trainer Course**; presented by Tread Lightly! (full day, Oct. 21)

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**Browse the program topics, descriptions, and speakers on the website at [www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin).**

## Exhibit Hall celebrates American trails community

**A**t this year's Symposium supporters will work together to construct the American Lifestyles Trail & Greenway that will traverse the indoor Exhibit Hall. This will be a unique showcase of exhibitors' products, services, and contributions to trails in America. Here's where you'll also find the Poster Gallery and Silent Auction, as well as the place you'll enjoy Happy Trails hours. We'll see you there!



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**Hotel details, reservation information, and maps can be found at [www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin).**

## Register online today!

**Or register by mail with a check or money order**

Everything is easy about registering for the National Trails Symposium this year. First, go to our website at [www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin). Check the Symposium day by day schedule, read about the main events and highlights, consider one of the training sessions featured before the Symposium, and browse through the complete descriptions of the mobile workshops. Then, simply click on the link to the online registration form and you'll be done in just a few minutes!

**Call the Symposium hotline at (530) 547-2060 if you need assistance. Register online with a credit card at [www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin).**



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## 20/20.

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For planners, builders and maintainers of recreational paths that intersect public roads, the simple difference between hindsight and foresight is Cross Alert Systems.

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**—Ken Block, President, Cross Alert Systems**



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# Foresight.

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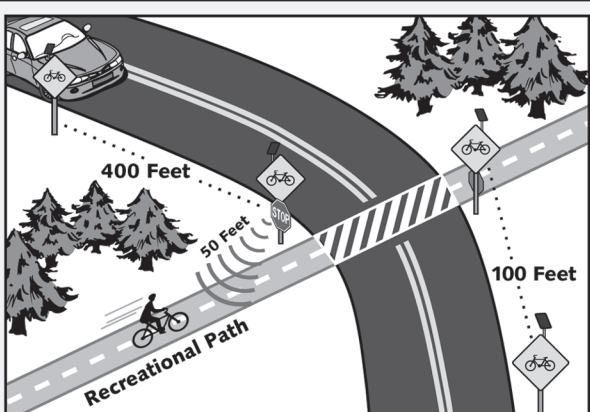
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For specs and more information call  
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# National Trails Symposium news

Details and registration at [www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/Austin)

## See you at the ¡Fiesta!

**O**n Friday night, October 21, join us at **Fiesta Gardens on Town Lake** for a fun-filled evening with a Tex Mex flavor. You may choose to arrive via paddle wheel riverboat with the gorgeous city skyline around you. Dinner is fajitas with all of the accompaniments amid the grounds and pavilions aglow with luminaria. Enjoy the Latino sounds of Del Castillo, chosen Austin's band of the year in 2003, and bid for great items provided by generous donors to support American Trails. It will be an excellent time to network with many other trail enthusiasts while relaxing under the stars. Don't miss it!

## Take your horse out to dinner

**T**he Equestrian Land Conservation Resource is hosting the **Party for the Trails** at the Hyatt Regency to bring trail riding enthusiasts together at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20. The gathering will bring together land managers, horseback riders, and anyone interested in equestrian and trail issues. Register at [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org) or call (815) 858-3501.

## Creative Crossings highlights trail bridges

**S**hare the beauty of your trail bridge! Recent years have seen the construction of some striking and innovative trail bridge designs. American Trails will showcase these bridges in the Creative Crossings Photo Gallery in the Exhibit Hall. They will also be on display during the Creative Crossings breakout session which will highlight three major bridge projects from across America.

**For more information, visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) and click on "National Trails Symposium." You can read about the programs, field trips, workshops, pre-conference seminars, hotels, and travel. Register online and make hotel reservations as well.**



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**Call the Symposium hotline today at (530) 547-2060.**

## Keynote speakers will bring you inspiring ideas

**T**he Opening Keynote Luncheon, themed "The Emerging Role of Trails in American Lifestyles" will explore how trails activists can work with Federal, State, and local agencies to improve opportunities for physical activity on our trails and greenways. **Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson** and the **Surgeon General, Dr. Richard H. Carmona**, have been invited to speak about their "Steps to a Healthier US" and "Get Fit with US" programs. **Mayor Will Wynn, City of Austin**, and **Dr. Steven N. Blair, Cooper Institute**, will also share their cutting-edge Texas programs.

During our Federal Partners general session, hear from the heads of our Federal Trail managing agencies and the Federal Highway Administration. Then, during our Closing Luncheon sit back and absorb the inspirational program on the importance of striving for our dreams and excellence and not letting obstacles stand in the way of achieving great things for America's trails.

## Be ready for the auctions!

**Don't leave home without that card or cash!**

**B**oth silent and live auctions will be a fun part of the Symposium. Be ready to bid on some great items from our generous supporters. Proceeds from the auctions go to support the important work American Trails does to serve the trails community throughout the year.

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**For links to our sponsors' web-sites, visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) and click on "National Trails Symposium."**



# A tale of two trail towns:

**Most trails have long tales of hard work, good luck, and heartbreak behind them. Here is a story of persistence and commitment in creating a major trail through a difficult environment.**

## Junction & Breakwater Trail: connecting cities

**By Susan Moerschel**  
**DE Division of Parks & Recreation**

As I reflected recently on my twenty-three and a half years with Delaware State Parks, a thought really hit me: for three-quarters of my career, I have been involved with the creation of the Junction & Breakwater Trail. The route to create the trail was long and indirect, but 3.9 miles are now complete between Lewes and Rehoboth.

The trail runs along the rail line that once brought resort-goers to the Methodist Camps along the Atlantic Coast. As I walk the deeply shaded trail and draw in a deep breath, I smell pine and recall fond memories from family camping trips. I never gave up hope that the trail would be built simply because it was the right thing to build, in the perfect place.

The idea of the trail was noted in a 1974 study, and a 1980 plan recommended the route along the Penn Central rail line stating ominously that it “would be the easiest to construct and would have the least environmental impact, but... would require right-of-way acquisition from private owners.” Nor was our Department of Transportation (DelDOT), which conducted both studies, yet in the business of creating bike and pedestrian facilities. And finally, there was neither the interest nor the funding to justify land purchases by DelDOT or my Department.

Next scene is the late 1980’s: enter a young, energetic State Legislator who earmarks funds in DelDOT’s budget for, you guessed it, another study on the bike route. Funds sit; DelDOT does nothing.

Enter young, eager State Parks Planner: me. Through much red tape, I am successful in transferring those funds to our Division for the study, which proposed two alternatives: the rail corridor and a boardwalk alignment. As the freshman legislator held town meetings with constituents he began to have second thoughts about the rail trail when a few local land owners opposed it.

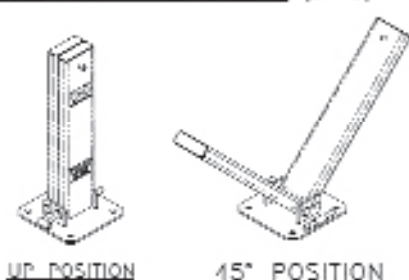
Soon the legislator himself was saying that he, “never supported the rail trail and never wanted this study.” The message bounced around my brain. How could he say this? This was my first exposure to a blatant twist of the truth. Naive, I was appalled and compelled to give up.

Then the unthinkable occurred. Local paper headlines broadcast, “Boardwalk proposed: Schroeder envisions one from Rehoboth to Lewes.” These headlines, an article, and a very large photo of the legislator walking, in business dress, through a dune field made my heart sink.

The study, however, recommended the rail trail alignment over the boardwalk route, citing funding and environmental concerns. At the public meeting I recall one man saying the trail would be an ideal place to exercise. Others supported it as a way to protect valuable coastal resources. But folks who lived along the abandoned rail line objected loudly. Hence the chilly headline on the day following the meeting, “Lewes-Rehoboth Bike Path Gets Cool Reception.”

After three different covers, the study was never released. But, that’s another story. As this saga continued, I wondered what could possibly happen next. Though the project again sat, people across the state asked when we were going to build the rail trail.

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# politics and persistence

As property values at the beach continued to rise, traffic grew too, as did the use of bicycles in the region. Our agency now had access to a steady and reliable source of land protection funds and a very long list of projects. Land purchases along the rail line had to wait their turn. Speaking to trail supporters, I impressed upon them the need to purchase land before it was devoured by sprawl. It was the trail's local supporters that convinced our Division's managers to protect lands between Lewes and Rehoboth, sooner rather than later.

Two stream corridors, wetlands, forests and fields, a few miles of that old Penn Central line and a 1938 railroad bridge were all part of the 1,500 acres now preserved. When Governor Minner announced our land protection successes, she said a trail would be built and it would be built of stone. This settled our staff disagreement on the type of trail surface. The press reported those new facts and my dream of a rail trail was one more step closer to reality.

Fast forward to 2003, a chilly November day. Phase I of the dream was complete. In the middle of the trail, next to Lt. Governor Carney, stood folks who were once opposed, long-time trail supporters, new and former legislators, construction managers, and trail users. Someone remarked that day that trail users are friendly and warm. Imagine that! That's quite a difference from the long-ago worries of bad trouble on trails and bad things happening to neighborhoods near the trail.



**A new bridge on the Junction & Breakwater Trail.**

The Junction & Breakwater Trail, named for the train that transported early visitors seeking out the coast, has new travelers: runners, moms pushing strollers, walkers, and bicyclists. It's a popular place, and its first summer season as a new trail is upon us. My father, who rarely inquires about my work, asked recently, "will the trail go further?" Yes, it will! We're working on it.

**Susan Moerschel is the Manager, Park Resource Office, Division of Parks & Recreation for Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources &**





# The future of trails

## Thoughts on the dedication of the Sundial Trail Bridge

By Hulet Hornbeck, American Trails Board Member

This is a recreational, health-promoting, habitat-intense, spirit-challenging experience of unsurpassed joy in my life. Never did one dream that an event of this magnitude could be in place, when, 33 years ago, the first national trail voluntary trail entity was formed. That organization, by wonderful serendipity, home officed in Redding— is American Trails. Nor did President Lyndon B. Johnson or Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall, who together pushed through Congress the first National Trails legislation in 1968, possibly realize the future of the new concept: trails are now of national concern and in the public interest to acquire, develop, and maintain.

Trails are the firestorm of the last two generations— from coast to coast and border to border. There are thousands of trails: federally designated National Recreation, National Scenic, National Historic, Wilderness and state, regional, and local. The Sundial Bridge is on the Sacramento River Trail, designated a National Recreation Trail in 2002.

Our trails are diversified: snowmobile, canoe, bicycle, mountain bike, hiking, off-road, jogging, horse, all terrain, and dog walking. Some are greenways, tracks, bridges and boardwalks. The uses and users proliferate thousands of trail organizations and implement this network.

The efforts as shown here today can't stop. Mostly still volunteer, our elected and appointed officials have responded with federal, state, and local laws and money. Groups like The McConnell Foundation in Redding, recognize the benefits of trails to a community and are committing major funds to projects like the Redding Sundial Bridge. College courses and degrees are now in place. The cultural change is massive.

Bridges, such as the Santiago Calatrava designed Sundial Bridge, are trail jewels allowing the traverse of rivers, railroads, interstate highways, marshes, canyons, and at times, sufficient in width to allow wildlife to pass safely from wild area to wild area. Today, the trail dedication participants also

dream and vision for tomorrow as they look on this new jewel: the Sundial Bridge. I see a bright future for trails, yet as unknown and unknowable as was the experience two generations ago of the founders of the new national trails organization and the first federal trail authors, President Johnson and Secretary Udall.

## Presidential candidates bike while running for office

From the International Mountain Bicycling Assoc.

This year's path to the White House includes singletrack. Cyclists from Texas and Massachusetts are in the news, and we're not talking about the rivalry between Lance Armstrong and Tyler Hamilton.

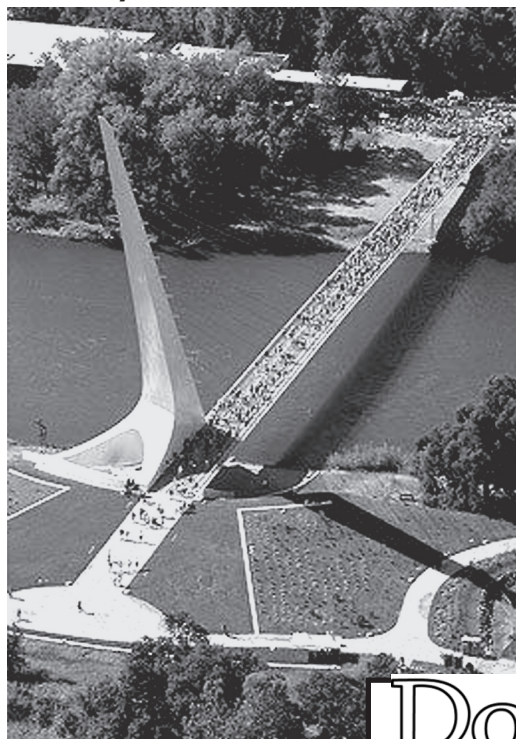
President George Bush's new-found enthusiasm for off-road riding has been a top story in the national media. And he's not the only presidential candidate who rides. Senator John

Kerry's primary outdoor exercise is bicycling— road riding and occasionally mountain biking— and the press has taken notice.

"The fact that both presidential candidates are avid cyclists is great news for our sport," said Tim Blumenthal, Executive Director of the International Mountain Bicycling Association. "IMBA is enrolling both candidates as honorary IMBA members and is making sure both campaigns understand our priorities."

Knee pain motivated President Bush to start mountain biking and now he's hooked on the sport. Long rides on his Texas ranch and at Camp David in Maryland are a highlight of his regular schedule. Senator Kerry has been photographed riding his road bike, but he's also known to pedal dirt trails near Sun Valley, Idaho. No matter who you are voting for in this year's election, it's good to know that both candidates appreciate singletrack!

Photo by Michael Burke



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# Planning update for state shares

**The challenge: to update the state's trail corridor plan to insure funding eligibility, and to enable agencies, trail groups, and the public to provide input into Florida's future trails and greenways system.**

## Florida turns to Web for trails data update

**By Jim Wood, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails**

In the Spring of 2003, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) faced a significant challenge. The office needed to update a statewide set of trails data with input from non-profit organizations, user groups, and agencies across the entire state. OGT also wanted to complete the work in less than a year, ensuring that sufficient opportunities were provided for public input.

Faced with that challenge, OGT turned to its long-time partner, the University of Florida GeoPlan Center (UF). It quickly became clear that the Web would be the solution. An online system was developed that provided not only the ability to quickly update data with input from individuals and organizations throughout Florida, but that same system now provides the ability for anyone to interactively view the updated data online.

### The Data

The Trail Network data being updated was originally developed as a companion to Florida's statewide greenways and trails plan in 1998. Given the rapid growth in local and regional planning of greenways and trails since that time, OGT felt it was important to update the data so it would reflect the tremendous progress being made throughout Florida in greenways and trails visioning.

The Trail Network data not only represents the statewide vision for a connected system of trails, it

also determines eligibility for funding to purchase land under Florida's greenways and trails acquisition program. A trail corridor can only be eligible to compete for the state's acquisition dollars if it is part of the Trail Network Opportunity Corridors. For the online system, the focus was on multi-use and paddling trail corridors. The hiking opportunity map for the state adopted the planning corridor for the congressionally designated Florida National Scenic Trail.

### Phase I: Trail Planning Organizations

The online system that was developed by UF to conduct the data update allowed trail planners, trail user groups, and others involved with visioning to submit updates from their desktop computers. Trails organizations and agencies were provided password access during the first phase of the update. Representatives from these entities could visit the website and zoom in from a statewide map of Florida to the local area of interest. They could then submit specific additions or "draw" trail corridors on their computer screen, using aerial photos or other data layers as their guide.

In addition to submitting geographic information, representatives also filled out a form with specific information such as the organization they represent, whether the corridor is part of a specific local plan, and other information about the corridor itself. Because the additional information was provided through an online form, all information submitted was consistent.

### Phase II: Public Comment Period

After comments were received from trail agencies and organizations, a draft update was prepared based upon those comments for review by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC).



## Trails and transportation funds still moving slowly

It has been almost a year since the expiration of TEA-21, the source of much of our Federal trails funding. So contentious have been the budget issues, the President has signed five extensions into law since then. The next expiration is September 30, so Congress will be busy with yet another stop-gap measure pending eventual resolution.

The debate in Congress centers over the total amount to be authorized over six years:

- \$256 billion: Administration request
- \$275 billion: House bill
- \$318 billion: Senate bill

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the White House could sign off on \$299 billion, but Senate approval is uncertain.

**For news on the ongoing TEA funding story see "News & Alerts" at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org).**



# Trail information via internet

Once reviewed and approved by the FGTC to move forward, the draft update was made available to the public via the online system. During that time, virtually anyone could submit comments regarding the draft update. Three public workshops were also held throughout the state to provide an opportunity for citizens to discuss questions or comments face to face with OGT.

## Phase III: Prioritization of All Segments

After public comment, the final opportunity corridors were submitted to the FGTC for review. Once approved, all of the trail corridor segments were prioritized through a process that included both subjective input as well as quantitative criteria. Each segment received a ranking of high, medium, or low. This ranking serves as one of the factors to be considered when projects are being evaluated for acquisition. The rankings were reviewed and approved by the FGTC in May of 2004, officially completing the update of the data.

## Summary

In less than twelve months, the trail opportunity corridor data for the entire state was updated. Receiving comments through the online system significantly reduced the cost and time of the tremendous number of meetings that would have otherwise been needed, not to mention the many hours that would have been required to compile information from marked-up paper maps. Another significant benefit during the process was that changes submitted online were viewable almost immediately by others submitting comments. This helped to avoid duplication of comments. For further information about Florida's trails data update and to view the results of the work, visit <http://ogt.geoplan.ufl.edu>.

*Jim Wood is an American Trails Board member. As Assistant Director of the Office of Greenways & Trails he oversees Planning, Public Outreach, Designation, and Land Acquisition programs and staff.*

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## ATVs and disabled riders

## USFS continues work on trail Accessibility Guidelines

The U.S. Forest Service and the Access Board are continuing to work together on the development of the ***Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines*** (FSTAG), which will only apply within National Forest System boundaries, emphasize maintaining the natural setting and experience of the trails, and will only apply to trails that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) the trail must either be new or have a change of purpose;
- 2) it must also be designated for “hiker/pedestrian” use; and
- 3) the trail must also either be connected directly to a trail head or to a currently accessible trail.

If the trail does not meet all three of those criteria, then the FSTAG does not apply to that trail. The result is that the FSTAG will apply to new trails from parking lots to waterfalls or other scenic vistas, to interpretive trails and so forth, but will rarely apply to long distance trails.

The FSTAG is slowly moving through the directives clearance process in the Forest Service and then through USDA. When that process is complete, the FSTAG will be published in the Federal Register for a sixty-day comment period.

The U.S. Access Board has determined it will develop accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas, including trails, which will only apply to Federal agency trails, those trails operated under a permit from a Federal agency, and trails receiving funding from a Federal agency. The Access Board will publish in the Federal Register, as a proposed rule, the 1999 final report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee. The Access Board will use the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and the FSTAG to develop the Board's final outdoor accessibility guidelines. That entire process is expected to take 3 to 5 years.

The Forest Service and the Access Board will be presenting a half-day workshop, “Accessibility and Trails,” at the National Trails Symposium in Austin, Texas, on October 21 and a shorter version of the same session on October 22. Those workshops will include the legal background, how the Forest Service guidelines work, and what’s ahead through the Access Board’s efforts. Practical examples will be shared by trails specialists showing how accessibility applies to trails and related facilities, while maintaining the natural setting. A panel will discuss the issues and discussion by all will be encouraged.

**Contact Janet Zeller at [jzeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jzeller@fs.fed.us) or by phone at 202-205-9597. The draft FSTAG and frequently asked questions and answers about it are available at [www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility).**

## Physically challenged sportsmen find freedom on ATVs

**By Steve Casper, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)**

**F**or many physically challenged people, the quest for outdoor recreation is just as strong as it is for able-bodied folks. Avid hunters, fishermen, archers, snow skiers, and snowmobilers don't allow their various disabilities to stand in the way of their favorite outdoor sports. In fact, many clubs and organizations for disabled people offer a calendar of events filled with outdoor experiences.

**Adaptive Sportsmen**, a relatively new organization based in Wisconsin, has organized many successful hunting and fishing expeditions over the past year for their members. Costs are typically held to a minimum by the generous donations from outdoor businesses and the help from enthusiastic volunteers.

Recently the Adaptive Sportsmen crew held their first ATV riding event at the wheelchair-friendly Pine Forest Lodge in Wisconsin's Iron County. Riders could access an extensive OHV trail system directly from the lodge, and enjoy other

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# Accessible trails



activities such as fishing, boating, canoeing, and kayaking. A group from the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council attended the event with NOHVCC President of the Board of Directors Dan Kleen, who is physically challenged himself.

"It's great that more people get to see how valuable a tool ATVs are for people with disabilities," he said. "ATVs are a great equalizer for physically challenged people. We recreate on an equal footing with our friends who aren't limited and get to see lots of backcountry we would not be able to get to with our cars or chairs. And ATVs are not only a godsend for folks in wheelchairs, but they can also open the woods to people with many other less-debilitating disabilities."

What a lot of people don't realize is that the automatic shift ATVs of today need little, if any, modification for disabled riders. And folks are surprised to see how well riders with paralysis below the chest or waist can tackle the trails.

"There were a lot of advanced riders at this deal who really put their quads through the paces," says Dan. "And on the other hand, we also had the opportunity to introduce some riders to the sport for the very first time this weekend." The three days of trail riding at the Mercer event offered two different guided groups to ride with each day, a fast bunch for the experienced riders and a more sedate tour for beginners.

"NOHVCC is proud to be a part of this first annual event and we're really looking forward to next year already," Dan concluded. "I would also like to encourage other trail enthusiasts to get involved with disabled organizations and get some ride events going."

During the final night campfire, one of the participants in a reflective moment, summed up the mood of the entire weekend. "Ya know, recreation really helps make life better."

**Contact Adaptive Sportsmen at (414) 617-4870 or visit [www.adaptivesportsman.org](http://www.adaptivesportsman.org). The Pine Forest Lodge is at (715)476-2241 or [www.pineforestlodge.com](http://www.pineforestlodge.com).**

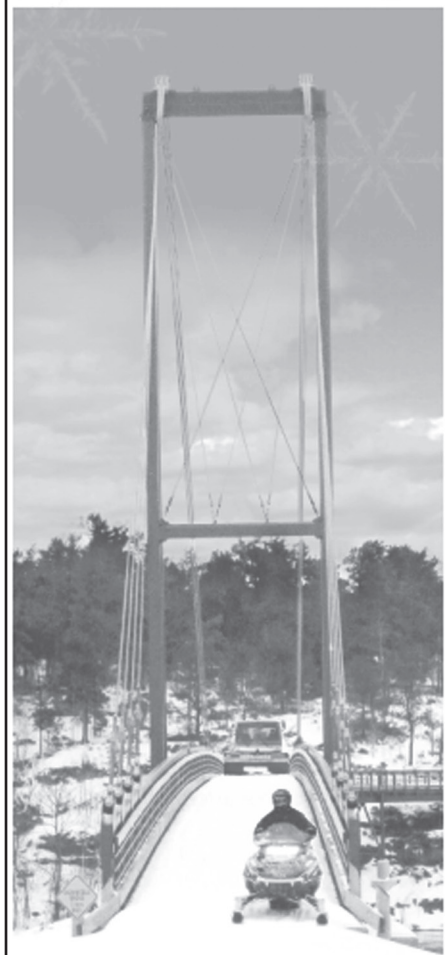
## LWCF state funds eyed

**From National Recreation and Parks Assoc.**

The Americans Outdoors Act (S. 2590), would authorize a permanent trust for Land and Water Conservation Fund state assistance at \$450 million per year and \$125 million for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program. Bill sponsors are Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) are urging the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to continue active consideration.

**For current issues in Congress check "News & Alerts" at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org).**

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# A new look at walking adventures



## Long distance hiking as a cultural experience

By Phebe Novic

To most Americans, the term “long-distance hiking” conjures up thoughts of hauling a 60-pound pack through remote landscapes, slogging through pouring rain, pitching a tent, eating freeze-dried food, and sleeping uncomfortably on the ground. Although removed from the everyday comforts of life, this style of backpacking is still a wonderful experience. But let’s face it— this may not be the ideal sport for the average middle-aged American. While lots of us middle-agers are in great shape and enjoy backpacking, it’s the 140 million or so others who will never go on an overnight trip (and those who want a different kind of trip) that I want to reach.

For this new king of walking adventure, we will venture beyond the boundaries of the US, across the ocean to distant shores, where you will find footpaths of a different nature. Some do meander through forest and mountain landscapes, but they also extend down country lanes, wind in and out of small villages, and cross the farmer’s field. As writer Adam Nicolson so aptly stated, “In America to go for a trek is an attempt to emerge from culture; in Britain it is an inevitable immersion in it.”

The rewards of such an experience are different. First of all, it’s not merely sport or recreation, it’s a form of travel; a way to visit a foreign land. To step onto a long-distance trail is to step into a history book and atlas, tied together with rain in your face, a beer in the pub, and treacle sponge cake at the end of the day. “Place is the most important component,” says H.V. Morten. “Fantasy or not, we all need to know where we are.” No other form of travel gives you such a thorough knowledge of your surroundings.

This year we are walking across Ireland. We’ll follow five long-distance paths somewhat linked together and extending over 350 miles. The route will take us from coast to coast beginning in Dublin on the Irish Sea and ending at Bray Head on the Atlantic.

One of the secrets of walking a long-distance trail is immersion. To that end, I began reading as much Irish history and literature as possible during the winter. My conception of Ireland has already changed as I

realized how little I actually knew about this small emerald isle. To me Ireland has always meant potatoes, immigration, red hair, fiery tempers, great tenors, and Guinness. I knew it had the fewest trees of any country in Europe and some of the least crowded roads, and I wasn’t surprised to read that over 40 million Americans trace their roots to Ireland. What I didn’t know was that Ireland is one of the best-fed and best educated countries in the world. Though we tend to emphasize our English heritage, it may be the Celtic influences that have made America much of what it is today.

So now, like settling in for a good read, we are ready to walk; ready to experience a place we’ve never been. To take you along on this adventure is to give you, the American walker, a vision of the “what could be”. Imagine the average American discovering the joys of walking and the travel opportunities it affords. Imagine a whole new tourist industry, where all fifty states create their own walking trails. You might hike from dairy to dairy in Wisconsin, vineyard to vineyard in California, and through the small towns and Dairy Queens of the Oklahoma landscape.

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**Imagine the average American discovering the joys of walking and the travel opportunities it affords.**

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“How many states have you done?” That might be the new travel question. Farm B&Bs and small town guest houses would spring up around

the country. Tourist centers would hire new staff. Schools kids could get special credit for completing the trails and learn first hand about the history of their state. Walking would become a passion, not only for the joy of exercise, but as a means to an adventure. And most importantly, government funding would not be necessary— it would fuel itself.

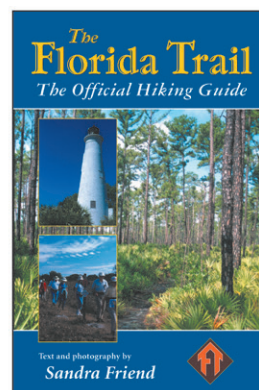
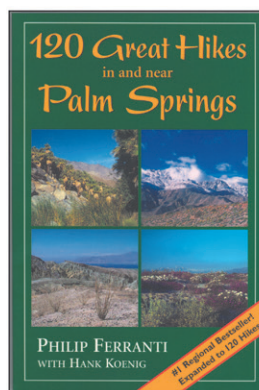
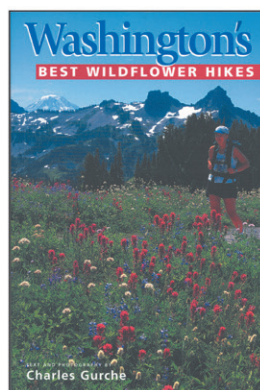
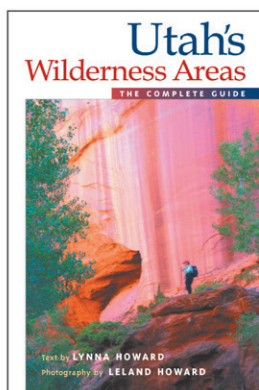
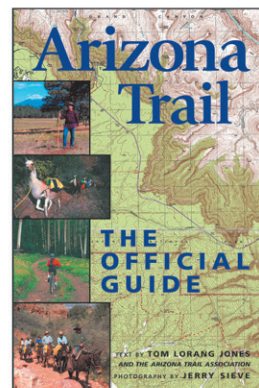
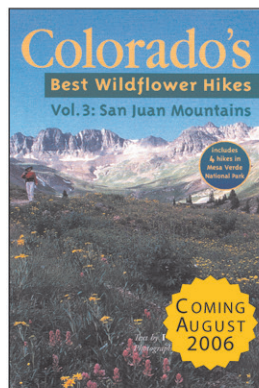
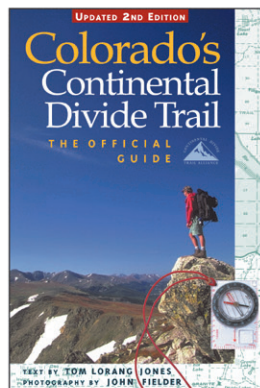
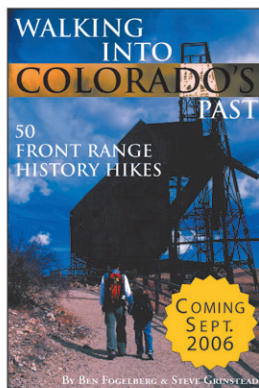
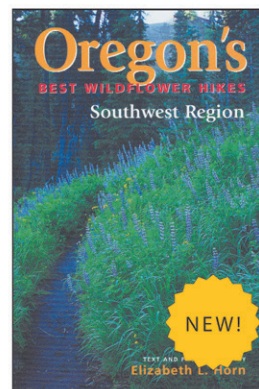
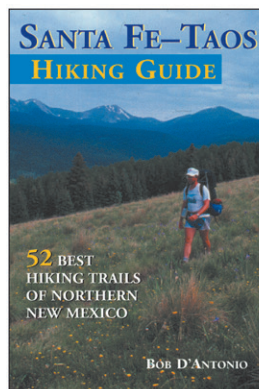
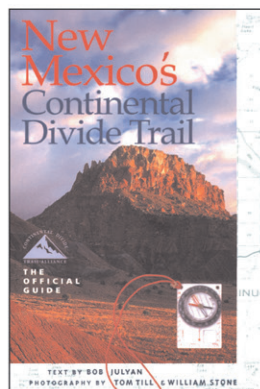
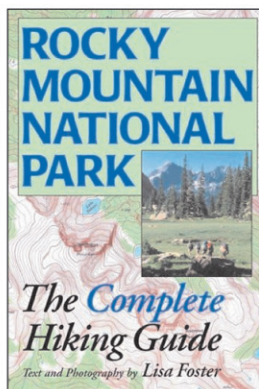
Even though I’ve hiked paths around the world, that first day I walked onto the rocky cliffs of the Coast to Coast trail in England, I knew I was on to something wonderful. Now we look forward to Ireland, to the freedom of crossing the land with only the essentials on our back; to the smell of the sea, green grass, and burning peat, to the smell of living history. So relax with a cup of tea or pour yourself a pint, and think about a new kind of journey on down the trail.

**Phebe and her husband David Novic own The Warming House, an outdoor store in Estes Park, Colorado. We’ll be continuing a series of articles on long-distance hiking by Phebe Novic on our website.**





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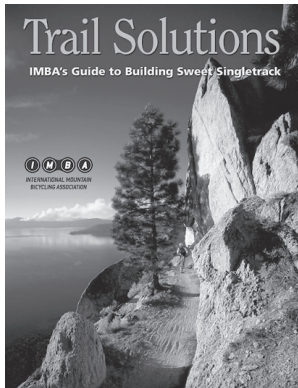
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# Two new trail design books cover

## IMBA book covers details of mountain bike trails



### *Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack*

- Published by the International Mountain Bicycling Association
- 272 pages, 130 color photos, 50 drawings
- 8-3/8 x 10-7/8 inches, full color
- \$30 for IMBA members, \$35 for non-members, \$26 each for 10 or more
- Available from [imba.com](http://imba.com)

**I**MBA's new book is an excellent, deeper-than-usual overview of the current state of the art of mountain bike trail development from conception to maintenance. Intended for user groups, trailbuilding volunteers, and land managers with at least a laypersons' grasp of trail development, it tries to make development of fun, sustainable trails look doable.

Indeed, its colorful pages, breezy style, simple explanations, and energetic presentation tend to make you feel there aren't any problems that can't be solved. It's great for motivating user groups and land managers to launch trail projects.

Style aside, it's a very practical book full of helpful advice, especially for newcomers to trailmaking. Its eight parts attempt to cover the entire process of developing mountain bike trails and trail systems, with the goal of building sustainable trails.

Each part averages about 29 pages and does a remarkable job of distilling, or at least touching on, much of what you would likely encounter on most trails. Serious work went into the text, which captures a vast amount of pertinent information in a very few words.

Unavoidably, though, when each part could fill one or more entire books, its more than 20 authors concentrated on breadth over depth, omitted much useful detail, oversimplified some explanations, and excluded potential alternate solutions.

Topics which it presents well in limited space include working with land managers and volunteers; trail flow and speed control through design; building full-bench tread, switchbacks, and banked curves; time and cost estimating; hand tools; rolling grade dips and knicks; and trail closure and reclamation. Three-dimensional color drawings are clear and easy to understand at a glance.

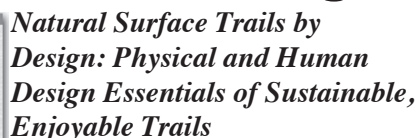
The book covers some ground rarely found in published form. It provides detailed advice on switchbacks and climbing turns customized for mountain biking; "rock armor" to harden tread in fragile soils; and an excellent introduction to trailbuilding with mechanized tools including basic pros, cons, pitfalls, and tips on obtaining and working with the equipment. The "Building Challenging Trails" part is a short primer on mountain bike challenge-park-type trails including freeriding, building technical trail features, and risk management, with a brief piece on downhill.

The book focuses on mountain bike trails yet discusses multiple use and includes information on other non-motorized uses. Interestingly, although OHVs are not mentioned, most of the book also directly or indirectly applies to motorized trails and systems. In lieu of a similar book for OHV trails, OHV developers can learn a lot from this book.

Overall, *Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack* an excellent guide that lives up to its title. It will be especially valuable to its target audience of mountain bike trail developers for single or shared use, especially those without much development experience.



## Troy Parker book delves into concepts behind trail design



- by Troy Scott Parker
- 80 pages, 140 color photos, 46 drawings
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author of the popular *Trails Design and Management Handbook*, has authored the first of what is expected to be three innovative books on natural surface trails.

Linking art, science, psychology, and what you already know about trails and nature, the eleven concepts cover the basic human and physical forces and relationships acting on every piece of every natural surface trail.

*Natural Surface Trails by Design* focuses on trail design. It puts a firm foundation under most other trail design, construction, and maintenance publications.

*Trail Solutions* is a “how-to-do-it” book that tells you how to do it quite well in the relatively limited context of mountain bike use on sloping sites. Its eight parts address a far wider scope than *Natural Surface Trails by Design*.

In contrast, *Natural Surface Trails by Design* is a “how-to-think” book that dives deep into the foundation of trail design. It teaches you how to see and analyze complex information so that you can work with almost any trail use in almost any site or location.

For a thorough education, get both books and read *Natural Surface Trails by Design* first since it “sets up” the design, construction, and maintenance portions of *Trail Solutions*. Both books advance our knowledge, giving trail developers more options for shaping sustainable, fun trails.

They include the shape of nature itself; how we perceive nature; safety; efficiency of movement; playfulness; harmony; the physical forces of compaction, displacement, and erosion acting on trail treads; tread materials (soil types, crushed stone, rock); and the detailed interaction of site, slope, runoff, weather, trail width, water sources, trail use, grades, and sustainability of tread drainage.

Parker then clearly explains these concepts and their many relationships, including how to “read” trails and sites, see what conditions are actually there, see what occurs, and predict what will occur in the future through trail use and erosion. Because prediction is key to sustainable trail design, he spends considerable time showing how to predict and sustainably accommodate changes in tread shape that trail use and erosion almost inevitably cause, including loss of outslope. He illustrates his many points with abundant, well-chosen color photos and diagrams of familiar-looking trail situations.

Instead of stating rules or step-by-step procedures that can't be accurate in all instances, he builds each universal concept from its causes, effects, relationships to other concepts, and our own experience using trails. You can then flexibly apply these concepts in virtually any location and context that can support a sustainable soil or crushed stone tread. The interaction of the concepts tells you what works and what doesn't. Working with concepts also help you reason through new materials, techniques, and situations.

In addition, he shows how the concepts provide a quick, effective, trail evaluation tool that take physical and human aspects of trails— and their relationships— into account.

*Natural Surface Trails by Design: Physical and Human Design Essentials of Sustainable, Enjoyable Trails* is a must-have book for all natural surface trail workers, volunteers, designers, and planners for any trail use. The design language it creates is especially useful for those involved in teaching or communicating details of trail design.

**Troy Scott Parker will present a one-day workshop largely based on the book at the upcoming National Trail Symposium (see [natureshape.com/workshops](http://natureshape.com/workshops)).**



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