



TRAIL TRACKS

the Trails Information Newsletter

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Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald

SUMMER 2003

Austin, Texas will host 2004 National Trails Symposium

Sponsored every two years by American Trails and held in a host state and community, the next Symposium will be in Austin, Texas.

Trail managers, volunteers, and activists will be coming from across America and beyond to learn and enjoy at the **17th National Trails Symposium, October 21-24, 2004.**

“Texas is proud to have been selected to host the 2004 American Trails Symposium in Austin,” said **Joe Moore** of the Texas Trails Network, “We are excited about all the opportunities we have to share with the country and the exposure that trails will gain from having a Symposium such as this in Texas. The Planning Team has their tires aired up, their life jackets on, their hiking boots laced, and horses saddled up to present a Texas sized welcome to trail professionals from all over!”

Symposium partners will include **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Austin Parks and Recreation Department,** and the **Texas Trails Network.**

The Radisson Hotel & Suites Austin will be the host hotel for this symposium. It is located on the shores of scenic Town Lake, directly adjacent to the 11-mile Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail. A few blocks away the entertainment district showcases Texas music and cuisine.

Pam Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails, said “The City of Austin, Texas “wowed” me. The extensive parks and trails system winds through a sea of green forests and along numerous waterways. It connects residents to the City's fascinating natural heritage and to a healthy lifestyle, and provides a wide variety of opportunities for visitors to experience the flavor of the area. I left with a clear understanding of why people love living and visiting there.”

For more information on the 17th National Trails Symposium, see www.AmericanTrails.org. Details of the 2002 Symposium in Orlando, Florida, are also available to give you an idea of the kinds of programs, mobile workshops, and events that are part of every National Trails Symposium.

continued on page 6 ➔

Contest highlights best trails websites in America

Our second annual American Trails Website Contest winners have been announced! Last year American Trails launched the first-ever contest to seek out the best websites in the cyberworld of trails and greenways. We are delighted to bring you some great examples of creative ways that trail advocates and managers are using the Web to bring better information to the public.

AmericanTrails.org



WINNING WEBSITE

We looked at different categories to recognize websites from across America, and ranging from big organizations and agencies to sites created by a dedicated individual.

➔ See all the contest winners on page 30 and www.AmericanTrails.org/webcon03.html.

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Trail Tracks

Trail Tracks (ISSN 1082-8303) is the newsletter of American Trails, the nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of trail systems for all Americans by fostering communication and complementary action.

Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald

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We've come a long way...

By Hulet Hornbeck, American Trails Board Member

American Trails celebrates a 15-year anniversary this year! The result of a 1988 merger of the American Trails Network and the National Trails Council, American Trails continues the tradition of hosting a National Trails Symposium every two years.

I'm reminded that the tradition began in late spring of 1971, when 100 volunteers and agency representatives attended the first national trails symposium in the country held in Washington, DC, I asked, "Now, what do we do tomorrow?" Then we formed the National Trails Council later that same year in Chicago to continue the work begun at the Symposium. I said we needed to make it a biennial conference—so the continuity would be there.

The continuity of American Trails bringing the trails community together has helped foster the dramatic increase in the popularity of trails over the years. Today, the Symposium brings together over 700 attendees and last year's Symposium was the largest "trails partnership" ever with over 143 sponsors!

It has been said that, "The singular most dynamic volunteer effort in the last 100 years has been trails." Government sets a priority much higher where there is wide citizen volunteer participation. That's what these Symposiums reflect. Over the years, there has been great agency and volunteer support for trails, but volunteers have more staying power. Even after they retire— they hang around— like yours truly!

The leaders in the trails community have long been preaching the correlation between trails and healthy minds, bodies, spirits and communities. It is so rewarding that our decision makers and the health community are finally "getting" this correlation.

One thing is for certain: One cannot read the future. When I pass by a trail along an old canal right-of-way in Walnut Creek, I never fail to see several clusters of walkers, bicyclists, and even shoppers— wheeling their shopping carts. We told our community leaders this would be the case. You build them and they will come— you build them near shopping centers and they will shop!

Our dream was that trails should be thought of as "infrastructure." Who would have expected trails to be a big factor in highway programs? Today, trails are more and more considered an essential service with big dollars flowing to them across the country. No one in 1971 would have thought of building a wildlife bridge like the Marjorie Harris Carr Land Bridge outside of Ocala, Florida— spanning six lanes of freeway and costing millions of dollars. And— government doing it! We have changed, for the good, the culture of this country.

What will the next 15 years bring us? The theme of the 17th National Trails Symposium, October 21-24, 2004, is "21st Century Lifestyles: The Emerging Role of Trails in the New American Culture." Join us in Austin as we continue to work together to create the future of trails!

Hulet Hornbeck has served on the American Trails' Board for several periods over the years and is cumulatively the longest-serving Board member. He brings to the Board the wisdom of his 83 years involved with conservation and parkland and trails acquisition.



Reauthorizing federal trail funds:



Federal transportation bill will fund trails

On May 14, Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta launched the Administration's six-year \$247 billion (yes, billion with a "B") surface transportation reauthorization proposal. The **Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA)**, continues the funding program known in recent years as ISTEA and TEA-21.

The proposed funding retains the Transportation Enhancements program with no new categories or transferability. It also retains other key programs: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Scenic Byways, and Recreational Trails.

SAFETEA also maintains broad eligibility of bicycle and pedestrian projects in major funding categories, and adds bicycling and pedestrian groups to the list of interested parties able to comment on state and MPO transportation plans.

Discussion and debate over the SAFETEA bill will be going on through 2003. When the bill will reach a final vote is a matter of conjecture. Visit the "News & Alerts" area of www.AmericanTrails.org for up to date news as it happens.

The complete SAFETEA bill and a legislative analysis from the U.S. Department of Transportation can be downloaded from www.AmericanTrails.org. Pick SAFETEA from the pull-down "Select a topic" menu.

Trails are an important part of America's transportation system, providing opportunities for environmentally sustainable infrastructure, links to our heritage, and recreation for our people.

Transportation Enhancements make our communities more livable, enhancing streetscapes, preserving historic transportation facilities, and enhancing pedestrian and bicycle connections.

The Federal Lands Highways Program provides access to and within our great Federal Lands where so much recreational activity takes place.

All of these programs are helping to protect and preserve the environment—a key priority for President Bush and his Administration

— Norman Y. Mineta, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Support for Rec Trails sent by trail groups

Twenty-one organizations from across the spectrum of trail and recreation interests signed a June 9 letter to key Members of Congress in support of the **Recreational Trails Program in SAFETEA:**

"We are writing to express support for continuation of the RTP program. We applaud the incorporation of RTP in the Administration's SAFETEA bill at an increased level of funding and ask for your personal assistance in extending and expanding this important program.

"The Federal Highway Administration estimates that off-highway recreational activities generate \$286 million annually in federal fuel taxes. Federal motor fuel taxes were originally imposed as a user fee, and remain largely so today. It is therefore appropriate to invest off-highway recreation activity taxes primarily to improve the safety and enjoyment of off-highway recreation. We ask that you support the return of at least 50% of off-highway recreation-generated taxes to the RTP program rather than the 21% level proposed in SAFETEA."

Several changes to the Recreational Trails Program were proposed as part of SAFETEA. Some of these proposals were included by the Federal Highway Administration to address concerns raised by state trails programs as well as trails organizations.

One issue has been the complexity of oversight intended for typical road improvements. According to the Administration analysis, "RTP projects are much smaller than highway projects, and should not be treated as if they were highway projects." The new bill attempts to reduce this burden.

Other modifications would address the role of the state trails advisory committees, the eligibility of training for funding, Youth Corps involvement in projects, and the creation of a Recreational Trails Resource Center. Whether any of the proposals will survive public debate is yet to be seen.

For more news, links, and analysis on SAFETEA, see www.AmericanTrails.org. Pick SAFETEA from the pull-down "Select a topic" menu.



2004 National Trails Symposium

➔ *continued from page 1*

Save the dates in 2004: October 21-24 in Austin, TX

Join hundreds of trails supporters from across America and beyond for the 17th National Trails Symposium.

In Austin, trails provide a place for fun, socializing, exercise, and the opportunity to be out in nature—making trail use an integral part of daily life. A community-wide survey revealed that trail-related activities are the most popular outdoor recreation for the majority of the local population.



In the early 1990s, a coalition of governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizens formed the Austin Metro Trails Council. The mission of the Trails Council was to create a regional trails master plan. Since this was accomplished, the metro area has secured over \$14 million in local and federal funds for the construction and improvement of trails in the metro area, and another \$13 million was approved by local voters for the acquisition of greenways. Through these and other grassroots efforts, Austin's long-term vision for trails and greenways is indicative of the emerging role of trails in the new American culture.

Learn from America's diversity of trails

As at every National Trails Symposium, the gathering in 2004 will provide essential training by experts from across America. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from every trails interest and bring home great new ideas. Some of the educational proposals from Texas greenways and trails supporters include:

Clinics for Runners and Mountain Bike Riders – Classes hosted by local experts and organizations will showcase techniques, safety, and etiquette for a variety of trail activities. Participants will have a chance to visit scenic area trails.

Trail Planning and Construction Workshops – McKinney Roughs Environmental Education Center will host classes in the latest natural surface trail planning, design, and construction techniques. Hands-on demonstrations will showcase the sustainable trail development, and tools of the trade, led by local trail crews and professional trail builders.

Using Youth in Trail Building – The American YouthWorks facilitates young people in trail building and environmental restoration. Learn about success stories in helping youth rise from “at risk” to “at promise.” Tour the West Bouldin Creek trail to see a former wasteland converted to a very interesting inner city greenbelt.

Boating and Trails along the Colorado River Trail – The Lower Colorado River Authority will describe its River Trail corridor that links cultural, recreational, historical, agricultural, and environmental features and host a boating trip.

Hiking in an Endangered Species Habitat – The 14,000-acre Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is dedicated to the preservation of urban habitat for endangered species. Learn about management techniques such as a required environmental awareness class for visitors.

Designing Parks and Neighborhoods – Learn how parks departments and local developers are joining forces to develop neighborhoods integrated with parkland. Learn about a process that begins with a joint land purchase and land use design, and culminates in a win-win situation for everyone.

High Techreation – The Grandma Camacho Recreation Center, one of the most innovative in the country, focuses on non-traditional recreation that embraces the high tech environment in a mostly Hispanic neighborhood.

We'll be continually adding news and details on the 17th National Trails Symposium to the American Trails website at www.AmericanTrails.org.



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Sincerely,

Walter C. May



New National Recreation Trails

The National Recreation Trails Program recognizes America's community of trails that promote health, stewardship, public involvement, and leadership.

Secretary of Interior names new NRTs

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton has announced the designation of 23 trails in 12 states as National Recreation Trails. Four additional designations were announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman (see story on page 11). This is an honor given to trails that have been nominated and meet the requirements for connecting people to local resources and improving their quality of life. Norton's announcement coincided with National Trails Day celebrations, June 7, 2003.

"Our aggressiveness in promoting trails for health and recreation is part of a larger partnership effort by President Bush," Norton said. "These partnerships build trails, and trails help to build healthy Americans. It is through these partnerships and recreation trails that we are encouraging a variety of activities to keep our citizens healthy and physically fit."

The National Recreation Trails program provides technical assistance and support for outreach efforts. The National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service administer the program with help from a number of other federal and nonprofit partners, notably American Trails, which hosts the National Recreation Trails Website: www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails.

The national trail designation is part of a continuing campaign to promote community partnerships and to foster innovative ways to encourage physical fitness. The National Trails System Act of 1968 encourages the Secretary of the Interior to recognize existing community trails that qualify as additions to the National Trails System.

The length of the 23 new National Recreation Trails in 12 states is about 492 miles. Last year Secretary Norton designated 26 national recreation trails in 16 states for 836 miles. And in 2001, she designated 15 trails in 13 states for 512 miles.

Along with inclusion in the National Recreation Trails System, each trail will receive a certificate of designation and National Recreation Trail markers. There are now almost 900 National Recreation Trails throughout the United States, totaling more than 9,000 miles.



Central Arizona Project Trail • Arizona

The 32-mile shared-use trail, currently under construction, is part of a larger vision to create a trail along the entire 336 miles of the Central Arizona Project canal. The trail serves a broad population and represents a key link to major trails in Pima County and the Tucson metro area.

Big Dry Creek Trail • Colorado

This 10-mile trail is a haven for the residents of Westminster in the Denver Metro area. The trail is integrated into the community with bridges and underpasses, providing safe connections to schools, shopping centers and recreation facilities. In addition to abundant wildlife (including a pair of bald eagles) and native vegetation, the trail corridor includes interpretive signs explaining the area's Native American history. Bicyclists, equestrians, and wildlife enthusiasts all enjoy the trail.

Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail • Florida

Among the busiest trails in the nation, this 47-mile multi-use rail-trail is seen as a green jewel in the midst of the state's highly urbanized Pinellas County. It links cities while providing a greenway corridor for both recreation and urban wildlife. The trail plays a significant role in assisting with downtown redevelopment efforts, as well as linking area parks.

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail in Florida is a well-used greenway enjoyed by a wide variety of people.



Join America's Community of Trails

Peghorn Nature Park and Trails • Florida

The park is located on a wetland site and hosts a variety of native birds and wildlife, as well as migratory birds during the winter. In addition to its many natural and historic features, the trail allows for recreational activities such as hiking and wildlife viewing in close proximity to downtown St. Cloud.

Great River Trail • Illinois

The 60-mile trail in the Quad Cities region is part of a larger trail network, including the 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail and proposed 10-state Mississippi River Trail. The route includes a variety of attractions and natural features including spectacular views of the Mississippi River, Native American mounds, and rookeries of the Great Blue Heron.

Rock Island State Trail • Illinois

The 27-mile rail trail traverses central Illinois farmland through a variety of natural settings. The trail corridor preserves a piece of history amidst prairie grasses, wildflowers and trestle bridges. In addition to its natural and historic features, trail users can enjoy hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing.

Cattail Trail • Indiana

This four-mile urban trail and greenway (currently under construction) provides West Lafayette residents with a connection to the Northwest Greenway Trail, Celery Bog Nature Area, and Purdue University's Pickett Park. In addition to its natural features, the trail is used for biking, skiing, and skateboarding.

Cardinal Greenway • Indiana

This 30-mile rail trail spans 5 counties and 3 major cities. It is the state's longest linear park and serves all of East-Central Indiana. The multi-use greenway is part of a 60-mile project that provides a key community connection to area schools, parks, and local cultural and historic resources. Trail users enjoy a number of activities including jogging, biking and wildlife viewing. This greenway is a fine example of what is possible through volunteers and a successful partnership.



Monon Greenway • Indiana (above)

The five-mile rail trail and greenway links Carmel's suburban neighborhoods with area businesses, the civic square and a planned Central Park. The greenway is a key part of a regional trail system and connects with the Monon Rail-Trail (a NRT) in Indianapolis. The trail has brought with it a sense of community and provides a peaceful setting in which residents can explore their surroundings while enjoying a walk or bike ride.

Northwest Greenway • Indiana

A five-mile trail (currently under construction) that connects with a local trail system and on-road bicycle lanes, it provides West Lafayette residents with a variety of recreational opportunities as well as a way to commute throughout the city and to Purdue University. The trail preserves natural features as well as a place for biking, skiing, and wildlife observation.

Smith's Island Nature Trail • Iowa

The Smith's Island Nature Trail is a one-mile trail located near Pleasant Valley. The trail is a naturalist's paradise, home to oaks, sugar maples, and woodland wildflowers, as well as herons, osprey, and pelicans. Annual bald eagle watches attract thousands from across the Midwest. In addition to its scenic features, this trail is valued for its historic resources and natural history interpretation, which draw school children from throughout the region.

Cross Island Trail • Maryland

This six-mile linear park is considered a gem of Queen Anne's County. It provides a number of recreational opportunities within a variety of natural settings. Trail users enjoy scenic vistas, wildlife observation under a forest canopy, and connections to area businesses, parks, and schools. The trail is not only valued for its natural features but for its achievement in reconnecting the communities of Kent Island.

➔ continued on page 10

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New at www.americantrails.org

Online bibliography gives over 2,000 trail resources

An excellent starting point for your trails research is the *American Trails Bibliography* containing over 2,400 trails- and greenways-related publications collected and compiled by Jim Schmid. The publications are organized in broad categories: book, conference proceedings, dissertation/thesis, journal-article, journal-whole, report, and video. Each citation lists the standard information including author, title, date, length, etc. What makes this bibliography special is that Jim wrote an abstract and assigned keywords (over 150) for each citation. He also lists where he found the publication to help you locate your own copy.

With the new online version of the bibliography, users can search by keyword, author, or title. The database will return any matches and allow you to refine your search. According to Schmid, "Finding a good bibliography puts you a step ahead in the research game; somebody else has already done a lot of work on your behalf."

The Trails and Greenways bibliography is online at www.AmericanTrails.org. Jim Schmid will be periodically updating the references; if you have additions to suggest contact him at jimschmid@hotmail.com.

Trail quotes and glossary by Jim Schmid now on the Web

Two more great resources at www.AmericanTrails.org are also the product of Jim Schmid. The *Glossary of Trails, Greenway, and Outdoor Recreation Terms* includes hundreds of definitions. They have been taken primarily from glossaries and terms found in dozens of trail and greenway publications published in the last forty years.

"I think that everyone involved with trails and greenway development will find that this is more than just a useful list of terms," Schmid said. "Spending some time with this list will provide quite an education about the various professions involved in trails and their terminology."

The second publication is *Trail Quotations: Memorable Remarks on Trails Topics* from historic times to the present on topics related to trails and the outdoors. Several hundred quotes are organized by topic and include a date and citation. By sharing Jim Schmid's collection we hope that you might find just the right quotation for your publication or presentation, or just enjoy reading them on their own.

The quotes and glossary are at www.AmericanTrails.org. Let Jim Schmid know if you have additions to propose: jimschmid@hotmail.com.



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Trails Training Partnership News

National Trails Training Partnership 2003 efforts

The National Trails Training Partnership is working with agencies and trails organizations nationwide to make training more available. American Trails will be providing news of this project as it happens, and expanding the website at www.NTTP.net to include all the latest developments.

The NTTP Steering Committee met in June to review the project. Continuing work includes adding more resources to the NTTP website; promoting the online calendar of training opportunities; working with state trails programs; researching trail-related education offered through colleges; and promoting cooperation among agencies providing training.

For more information on the National Trails Training Partnership visit www.NTTP.net.

BLM and NTTP partners offer week-long class

The Trail Management Process is the topic of an in-depth class offered by the Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the National Trails Training Partnership. The class will next be held **October 20-24, 2003, in St. George, Utah.**

The goal of the course is for participants to achieve sustainable and accessible trails of all kinds, using the best practices of the Trail Management Process (TMP). This collaborative process includes planning, design layout, construction, maintenance, monitoring, crew leadership, interpretation, operations, and safety. We believe this may be the best course available for comprehensive training in all aspects of trails.

Who will benefit from the TMP course? Anyone looking to improve their skills for hands-on trail design, construction, and management. Students typically include federal recreation staff officers, state and community park planners, crew leaders, trail advocate groups, maintenance staff, and a technicians from throughout the recreation, forestry, and engineering fields.

For more information visit www.ntc.blm.gov or contact Ann Hill, Training Coordinator, BLM National Training Center, 9828 N. 31st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85051; phone (602) 906-5590.

National Trails Training Calendar is online

We are continuing to update and develop the most comprehensive calendar on the internet for trail-related training and education. Hosted by www.AmericanTrails.org, the calendar can also be accessed from 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. And, if you're looking for specific training for yourself or your colleagues, you'll find a wealth of skill-building courses:

- trail building and facility design
- greenways, bikeways, and pedestrian facilities
- maintenance and sustainable trails
- management for every kind of trail activity
- volunteer training and promotion
- advocacy and organizational development
- conferences, workshops, and technical training sessions

Send news of your trails training opportunities for the NTTP Calendar to NTTP@AmericanTrails.org, fax to (530) 547-2035, or send printed notices to American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding CA 96049-1797.



www.NTTP.net

Tell us your Trails Training resources

It is simple to register with the National Trails Training Partnership. Just visit us at www.NTTP.net and send in the form about your group and training resources.

As the lead trail organization for the Partnership, American Trails is providing online details of businesses, products, and services that support trail planning, improvement, and education. We're also doing research to identify needs as well as resources in priority areas such as accessible trails, volunteer development, funding, trail design, construction, and maintenance, nonprofit management, strategic planning, and liability. Please let us know about any new resources you may have—classes, publications, studies, or other materials.

Let us know about your training-related resources! Contact us through American Trails at (530) 547-2060 or NTTP@AmericanTrails.org and visit the website at www.NTTP.net.

American Trails Resources Online

Among the hundreds of pages of information at www.AmericanTrails.org:

- **AMERICA'S TRAILS State By State:** A page for each of the 50 states and Canada's Provinces
- **NEWS and ALERTS:** jobs available, funding opportunities, new publications, and legislation
- **CALENDAR:** Nationwide events, conferences, and training opportunities
- **RESOURCES & LIBRARY** section. Every page has a pull-down "Select a Topic" menu to make it easier to find main topic areas as well as a "Search" function to look for key words
- **TRAIL TRACKS** newsletter: one of America's largest publications on all aspects of trails
- **BUSINESS of TRAILS:** Products, consultants, businesses, and American Trails sponsors

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links: Trails • News & alerts • Calendar • Resources & archives • Newsletter • Member groups • About us • Join us. Below this is a search bar with the text "Search" and a "Go" button. The main heading is "Resources & library". A dropdown menu titled "Select a Topic" is open, listing various categories such as "Accessible trails", "Adjacent Landowners", "Benefits of Trails", "Bibliographies", "Bicycle Organizations", "Canadian Trails", "Congress — contacts", "Consultants", "Designing trails", "Economics and Business", "Environmental issues", "Federal Agencies", "Federal Funding Programs", "Funding and Fundraising", "Greenways and Riverways", "Habitat protection", "Health and Trails", "ISTEA", "Land & Water Conserv. Fund", "Maintenance of Trails", "Management of Trails", "Maps", "Multiple Use", "National Scenic/Historic Trails", "National Recreation Trails", "Nat'l Trails Training Partnership", "Off-Highway Vehicle Orgs", "Organizations — National", "Organizations — by State", "Paving & surfacing", "Trails & wildlife", "Planning — Statewide Trails", "Products for Trails", "State Trail Programs", "Studies of Trail Use", "Recreational Trails Program", "Trails & Wildlife Project", "Volunteers", "Training Opportunities", and "Web sites".

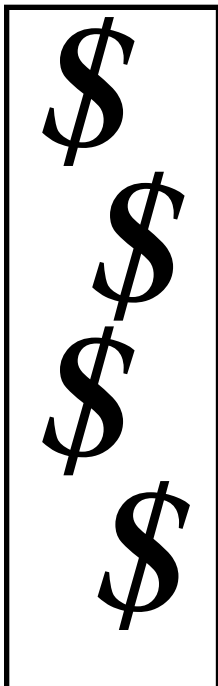
Categories below contain dozens of articles on a wide variety of tr

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Benefits of trails	Land acquisition & corridor preservation
Consultants & services	Millennium trails
Economics of trails	Motorized trails & recreation
Federal legislation	National Recreation Trails
Federal agencies	National Trails Training Partnership
Federal funding	Planning trails
Funding	Products for trails

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Funding ideas from America's trails



Get creative! That's the advice that successful trails activists invariably give. Finding funds for trails and conservation projects is the ultimate creative challenge. Here are some successful examples of trail and greenway funding from across the nation.

\$ Bristol Brewing Company and Palmer Lake Brewing hosted the first annual craft lager beer festival featuring beers from over 25 breweries from New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado. The great news is that profits will go to the **Trails and Open Space Coalition** of the Colorado Springs region. The June 14 afternoon event was held in Manitou Springs Memorial Park. The \$15 donation brought unlimited beer tasting plus a commemorative glass.

\$ The Moving Mountains Industry Achievement Award, started in 2000 by a group of nonprofits, recognizes outstanding corporations who support the maintenance of backcountry resources. Recent winner **Cascade Designs**, nominated by the **Washington Trails Association**, donated products and helped install steps on the Snow Lake Trail. For the past five years a quarter of Cascade Designs staff has volunteered for at least a day of trail work.

\$ **Koobi**, a Colorado Springs maker of bicycle saddles, gave \$24,000 to International Mountain Bicycling Association's **National Mountain Bike Leadership Fund**. The two-year commitment will award \$500 cash grants to 16 local clubs to help preserve trail opportunities. Pete Schweiver, Koobi CEO, said, "IMBA leads a growing and well-crafted effort to protect our trails and open spaces through its advocacy programs and long-term strategic vision."

\$ Ninety-five equestrians participated in the annual **30/50 Napa Valley Endurance Ride** on scenic trails of the San Francisco Bay area. Over the last seven years the ride has raised \$16,000 for Skyline Park and the **Bay Area Ridge Trail**. Jessica Tuteur, a long-time supporter of the Trail and a Skyline Park neighbor, is the organizer of the benefit ride. *Information: Jessica Tuteur at (707) 258-1937 or www.napanet.net/~jessicat/home.html.*

\$ The **New England Mountain Bike Association** is sponsoring a **fundraising raffle** for its **Land Preservation Fund** to help purchase of the fabled riding area in Massachusetts known as "Vietnam." Grand Prize is a six-day mountain bike camping tour through Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks for two with Escape Adventures. *To learn more about mountain bikers buying mountain bike trails visit www.nemba.org.*

\$ **John Mueller** of **Sutter Equipment Company** donated a new **SWECO 480 Trail Dozer** to the **International Mountain Bicycling Association**. The machine will live at Tony Boone's Arrowhead Trails facility in Salida, CO, and will be put to work at IMBA Trailbuilding Schools and trail consulting visits. *For information on the Sweco: Sutter Equipment Co., 80 Chamberlain Ave., Novato, CA 94947; Phone (415) 898-5955.*

\$ The state of Indiana is selling **license plates** to promote the **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial** celebration and the role the explorers played in Indiana history. The plates cost \$25 plus the \$15 license fee, and proceeds will be used for Lewis and Clark events and educational materials about the expedition. The plates depict a silhouette of the explorers. *Information: www.LewisandClarkinClarksville.org.*

\$ The **South Carolina Department of Transportation** has launched an initiative to find funding sources to supplement Transportation Enhancements dollars. DOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry is on record supporting the growing demand for biking and walking trails: "I continually hear that the public wants these accommodations, not only for safety purposes, but because they improve the quality of life," she said. "They restore neighborhoods and a sense of community."

One local effort underway began when the **Beaufort County Council** earmarked \$1.6 million for trails as part of a \$63 million list of road projects that could be funded through a **proposed one percent local option sales tax**. The proposed tax, which must be approved by voters, would last for three years. Local greenway advocates said they would support the tax if the council agreed to let a citizen-based steering committee decide how the \$1.6 million would be spent.

\$ **Niel Everbrook**, CEO of **Vectren**, an Indiana-based provider of natural gas and other energy, donated \$15,000 to the **Cardinal Greenway**. The money, to be divided between the cities of Muncie, Marion, and Richmond, will be used for maintenance as well as for local extensions to the trail.

"Vectren wants to be part of the community and loves supporting projects like the greenway," said Diana Roach, director of programming for the 30-mile trail. "People expect the trail to be clean and maintained just like a city park, but they don't realize we depend on volunteers and the donations of generous people to do so."

\$ **Emily Gregor**, an active trail supporter for many years, bequeathed part of her estate to the **American Hiking Society**, which plans to put the funds into the AHS Endowment so that her gift can keep providing income for trail projects in perpetuity.



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People in the News

Remembering Bill Spitzer, Park Service mentor

By Steve Elkinton and Chris Brown

The trails community lost a great friend with the passing of Bill Spitzer. He collapsed and died of heart failure May 6 while bicycling on the Capital Crescent Trail near his home in suburban Washington, DC. As the National Park Service's Recreation Resources division chief and later Assistant Director for Recreation and Conservation, Bill played multiple roles in building the trails movement nationally.

Bill grew up in Florida and served in the U.S. Navy in the early 1960s (both of his children were born in the Philippines). Bill was one of the first staff hired by the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, created in 1965. He was one of the authors of the first Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan and a prime strategist for urban national parks. He moved into the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service (HCRS) in 1978 to operate an outstanding series of technical assistance publications. In 1981 (on Bill's birthday!), HCRS was abolished and Bill found himself in the National Park Service.

A committed advocate for river recreation and protection, Bill was active with Wild and Scenic River designations nationwide. In 1988 he was instrumental in establishing the NPS's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and was also a key player in strengthening the NPS National Trails System program.

Bill was the principal inspiration in 1990 for *Trails for All Americans*, which laid out the vision of a trail within 15 minutes of every American home. Typically, the report was a joint Federal/state/local/private effort. Bill's signature was collaboration and collegiality and he often described our nonprofit partners as our "Board of Directors." Bill was also a key player in strengthening the whole National Trails System, building base budgets for most of the 17 established national scenic and historic trails.

Bill was a unique blend of visionary and pragmatist. He believed in partnerships and grass-roots advocacy but scorned half-baked ideas that he sensed would never fly. His first rule was "only get involved with programs and projects that have strong public support." Bill was an opinionated entrepreneur, an inspirer, a skilled budget analyst, a river rat, and visionary. He had "sparkle." He loved weird Chinese food. He took long shot chances, he scorned mediocrity, he adored his family, and he lived for the breathless "ah ha" moment at the top of a rapids or the rise of the trail. Bill Spitzer certainly left behind a world enriched for his having passed through it.

Erik Larsen joins American Trails Board

American Trails is honored and thrilled to welcome Erik Larson to our Board of Directors. Erik was "discovered" by our American Trails talent scouts at last year's Urban Land Institute national conference where he led a panel entitled "Trails and Open Space Recreation: Going Beyond Golf." His panel was enthusiastically received by an assembly of the nation's leading land developers and urban planners who recognize the importance of trails, greenways and open spaces as part of a quality project.

Erik is Vice President and Managing Director of the Arnold Palmer Companies and is based in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. A practicing landscape architect and golf course architect, he received his degree in Landscape/Horticulture from North Carolina State University. He is a regular member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and a full member of the Urban Land Institute. Since joining Palmer Course Design Company in 1983, Erik has been involved in the design of more than 100 completed golf courses worldwide. As Vice President and Managing Director, Erik oversees his company's present operations and helps guide its future direction.

As a designer, executive and trail user, Erik brings a special enthusiasm for trails to our Board as well as creativity and the ability to articulate the trails concept and mission of American Trails to an even broader audience.

With the exploding interest in trails and open space in urban communities and developing areas, Erik will provide an important liaison with the land development community and the private sector as well as helping American Trails with its array to current trails advocacy activities. As a landscape architect, he also brings outstanding design expertise to American Trails. Erik is also a congenial and fun person to be around.

We look forward to a long, productive, and creative working relationship with Erik now that he is a member of our American Trails Board.



Stewardship for Trails

Walking sticks add historic touch to volunteer awards

By Terry Whaley, American Trails Board Member

Ozark Greenways recently needed to come up with a token of appreciation for retiring board members, which were going to be acknowledged at our annual members meeting. Certificates of appreciation, coffee mugs, plaques, and wall hangings, were becoming too routine for an organization on the cutting edge of social change. So what would be better for trail folks than a customized walking stick from their favorite trail?

Research on the topic of walking sticks turned up the fact that great leaders throughout history have been attracted to walking sticks. The ancient Egyptians and Greeks represented their Gods and rulers as carrying staffs, which they used to symbolize authority and leadership. It was believed that walking sticks placed next to a mummy would help the deceased on their travels after death and in resurrection. Archeological digs have revealed that King Tut was buried with some 132 sticks; this was a guy that had travel plans! I would guess if he were here today he would be a member of American Trails, or possibly Egyptian Trails.

Lord Baden Powell and P.T. Barnum both were into the walking stick craze. King Henry the 7th, Louis the 14th of France, and George Washington all had walking sticks. Washington's was made from crab tree wood and was a gift from Benjamin Franklin. In America after the Revolution the custom of presenting sticks was a sign of esteem and admiration. Again just the message we wished to illustrate to our board members.

Ozark Greenways had fun with this idea, which has started a new tradition for retiring board members. The presentation of a locally grown walking stick is our symbol for leadership, commitment, and contribution of time and talent toward the development of trails in our community. The sticks were a great touch for our meeting and greatly appreciated by the receiving board members. The closing comment to our board members was "we're not suggesting you take a hike, but hope you stick around for many years both supporting and enjoying your trails."

Ozark Greenways is a nonprofit citizens group promoting, funding and working to develop trails in Springfield, Missouri. Visit them at www.ozarkgreenways.org.

Florida "TrailBridge," world's longest, has funding ideas

The Friendship TrailBridge will benefit from a public arts project to encourage outdoor enthusiasts to donate more freely to the upkeep of the 2.6-mile bridge. Billed as the "world's longest over-the-water recreational trail," it is jointly owned by Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

The Florida Department of Transportation had originally allocated \$7 million to demolish the bridge. When the decision was made to preserve it, the funds were used to make the bridge safe for recreation use. Very little, however, was left for operations, which total \$300,000 a year to cover salaries for park rangers and nighttime security guards, a security system, and bridge cleaning and maintenance.

Friendship Trail Corp., the nonprofit group that campaigned to save the bridge in 1999, hired artist Eileen Goldenberg to design colorful signs to call attention to six formerly inconspicuous metal donation boxes at the bridge's two entrances. They depict an open palm adorned with fanciful drawings in bright, jewel-toned colors, and the slogan, "Give Your Bridge a Helping Hand."

Other fundraising projects include the annual Friendship Races for in-line skating, running, and wheelchair users. In the future, fliers soliciting donations may be included with utility bills in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

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ENTERING

Sharing the Trail with Horses

Sharing the trail with horses: understanding their instincts

By Judi Daly • photo courtesy of Clark Collins

The comic strip “Born Loser” one day had a strip that I’ve never forgotten. A man was walking down the street was thinking something like, “My great-grandfather loved horses but was afraid of trains. My grandfather was loved trains but was afraid of cars. My father loved cars but was afraid of airplanes. I love airplanes, but I’m afraid of horses.” It has stuck in my head for years, and I’m reminded of it whenever I am riding on the trail and someone reacts to my horse in an inappropriate way. At one time, the average person knew basically how horses behave, but these days most people think horses are oversized dogs that can be ridden.

Put in a nutshell— horses are afraid of everything. Wild horses stayed alive by running first and asking questions later. If they are trapped, they will fight. With patient training, we help our horses overcome their natural tendencies, but we can never fully desensitize them to everything. I train my horses not to be afraid of deer by allowing them to watch the deer and even follow them if possible. They treat deer with curiosity or indifference when they see them, but if a deer should suddenly leap out in front of them, it can mean trouble.

The same applies to bikes, hikers, dog walkers, joggers, and all other sorts of human trail users. We do our best to train our horses that there is nothing to be afraid of, but if a human does something unpredictable, our horses may act in a predictably horse-like manner— run.

Other trail users can help us by acting in a predictable and non-threatening way. If possible, when you see a horse and rider coming, step off to the side of the trail to allow them to pass. Don’t hide. To a horse, someone hiding behind a tree is suspicious behavior. Say, “Hello.” As silly as this sounds, it helps a lot. If a horse is confused as to what you are doing, hearing your voice will help. Be extra careful on hills. If you can, position yourself so you are below the horse instead of above him. Remember, a frightened horse will run away from what is scaring him. Running down a hill is far, far worse than running up a hill.

Dogs are another potential fright. Hold your dog closely, and try to keep him quiet and still. Once a loose dog ran at one of my horse’s hind feet as I was leading him. Since I wouldn’t let my horse run away from the dog, naturally he kicked out. His heels did make contact with the dog, who fortunately wasn’t seriously hurt. Keeping your dog on a leash around horses is smart for another reason: a dog that has never seen a horse may panic and run away. I’ve seen this happen.

Bikes can also be very frightening to horses because they are so quiet, yet move very fast. Never pass a horse from behind. Call out that you want to pass, so the rider can turn the horse around to face the bike. Then the bike can pass safely. If the horse is facing the “monster,” there is no place to run. If there is a horse coming towards you, it is best to just stop your bike and allow the horse to pass you. Don’t forget to say “hello.”

Motorized vehicle riders should stop their vehicle, turn off the engine and let the horse go by. Let him get way down the trail

before you start back up, as a sudden engine noise has spooked many a horse. If you want to pass a horse up that you are approaching from behind, do the same as suggested for bicyclists.

Horses, like people, each have their own personality. Some are naturally calmer than others regardless of their training. One day, as I was riding my Paint, Mingo, a bike came up the trail from behind. Mingo stopped, turned his head, and simply watched the bike go by. The rider didn’t say a word or slow down at all. The cyclist

was lucky. If I was on my Morab, Cruiser, he might have dashed forward to get out of the way. And if he had done the same to my sister when she was riding her horse, Ranger, the cyclist would have seen a pair of heels flying towards him.

We know what we need to do with our individual horses. I don’t worry when I ride Mingo, I turn Cruiser to face anyone approaching us so he won’t bolt, and my sister positions Ranger so he won’t hit anyone if he kicks. Equestrians want to help all of us on the trails know how to act in a safe and predictable manner— not only is it much less likely someone will get hurt, but you might make a new friend.

Judi Daly is the author of Trail Training for the Horse and Rider. Visit Judi’s website at <http://trailtraining.bigstep.com>.



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Voss Signs, LLC: Our newest Patron Member

We're pleased to introduce our newest Patron member, Voss Signs, LLC, who became a first-time

exhibitor at our National Trails Symposium in 2002. They had such a positive experience that they continued their support this year by showcasing their products in our newsletter (see page 11) and joining the American Trails network of members.

For over 37 years Voss Signs has produced a full line of signs for various organizations and natural resource professionals. Their clientele includes natural resource professionals, tree farmers, land trusts, State and Federal agencies, and land managers throughout the U.S. and overseas. Signs are screen printed on aluminum or plastic with durable fade resistant inks providing long-term outdoor use. Custom signs are their specialty, and they feature full in-house graphic arts capabilities. Their friendly and knowledgeable staff will assist you with selecting the material, gauge, text and graphics to create your custom signs, which can be made for many applications such as trail identification, posted signs, boundary markers and warning signs to name a few. Located near Syracuse, NY, owner Jim Mentor and sales associate Mary Walser, Diane or Peter are available via phone, email or fax. Visit their website at www.vosssigns.com— and be sure to let them know you found them in Trail Tracks!



Events Across America

East Coast Greenway event kicks off National Trails Day

American Trails joined agencies and trail groups from across the country for a National Trails Day celebration in Washington, DC.

U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and **National Park Service Director Fran Mainella**, with **Assistant Transportation Secretary Emil H. Frankel** and **Deputy Surgeon General, Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu** gathered on the National Mall to inaugurate the East Coast Greenway.

The event kicked off National Trails Day 2003, a nationwide celebration organized by the American Hiking Society to recognize our growing system of trails. This year's event celebrated "Healthy Trails, Healthy People" to focus attention on the benefits of trails as a way to increase physical activity of Americans and address the alarming rate of obesity.

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a 2,600-mile long trail system planned to form a continuous safe pathway from Maine to Florida for hikers, cyclists, and other nonmotorized users. The vision for an "urban Appalachian Trail" was launched in 1991. It is being established incrementally by connecting locally owned and managed trails, paralleling I-95 and the Amtrak corridor. "The ECG is 20% complete today, and we anticipate it will be completed by 2010, with 80% of it off-road," said **Karen M. Votava, Executive Director** of the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), the national non-profit organization spearheading development of the trail.

Chip Jahnke, a 65-year-old proprietor of a bed-and-breakfast in Friendship, Maine, arrived at the event on his bicycle, after pulling a trailer from Canada loaded with letters to the President from local folks and officials along the route who want to see the trail finished. **Kevin Porter**, a 49-year-old bicycle messenger from Boston, cycled north from Key West, Florida, carrying similar messages. "I've delivered thousands of parcels during my career," said Porter, "but 1300 miles is definitely the longest I've had to ride to make a delivery."

Mark Fenton, former US National Team racewalker and host of the PBS series "America Walking," talked about the benefits of physical activity and the value of creating trails close to every American, making exercise easy and fun. At the event, the Department of Health and Human Services showcased the *Administration's Steps to a Healthier US Initiative*, which advances President Bush's Healthier US goal of helping Americans with longer, better and healthier lives.

Event sponsors included ExxonMobil, Eastern Mountain Sports, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and Kodak-American Greenways.

Mark Twain Forest Adventure Race raises funds

By Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways American Trails Board Member

If you're looking for an event that will draw attention to your trail efforts, challenge your special event staff, and with good planning make you a few dollars consider hosting a local adventure race.

Adventures races or eco challenges are fast becoming the next great sport activity for the weekend warriors and the seasoned athletic alike. Both of these are user groups on your trails, so why not program a special race that will really get their juices flowing. Unlike duathlons and triathlons, adventure racing is more open for interpretation as to the activity and distances. Adventure racing combines a variety of traditional outdoor sport activities into one grand event that can truly level the playing field between the athletically gifted and the rest of us.



For the fourth consecutive year Ozark Greenways, Inc. in Springfield, Missouri has held the Mark Twain Forest Adventure Race. Designed as a fundraiser and to attract attention to Ozark Greenways efforts to build trails, and develop urban greenways the event has become an annual activity for many of its original participants and volunteers.

The event requires that a coed team be prepared to spend 8-12 hours in a variety of challenging activities. Our favorites are running, canoeing, mountain/trail biking and orienteering. Several other small "mystery events" are often added to the program just to keep racers on their toes. Mystery events have included, obstacle course activities, trivia questions about the resources they're using, archery, and even a mini jigsaw puzzle one year. The most anticipated mystery is always the order of activities, distances and route. This information is not revealed until team check in on race day.

Celebrate Trails and Greenways

The first year's race attracted 54 teams, three times what the planning committee expected for a first time event. We have found that for safety and logistics of the venue 85-90 teams is a good number, and we have no problem filling up. Cost for team participation in 2003 was \$320. For this each participant receive a post-race meal, use of a canoe, an event t-shirt, and a finisher prize. Each participant must provide his or her own bike and all personal gear required to participate in the race.

To coordinate such an event is no small task. On race day some 40 volunteers pulled double duty over a fifteen-hour period. Paramedics were logistically placed to cover a 39-mile racecourse and twenty minutes away was a medical helicopter placed on alert with two predetermined landing sites on the course. Also necessary were cooks, food, and drink for the post race meal for 400 plus participants, and volunteers, showers, awards, photographers, 180 canoes, mobile water tanks, PA system, two-way radios with volunteer operators,

and parking for volunteers, spectators, and ninety teams with bikes and related race gear.

The race committee consisted of six volunteers meeting weekly from January to the end of June. Long range planning time has been reduced thru four years of experience with the same individuals remaining involved. Your success will depend on the commitment and follow thru to every possible detail by your committee and volunteers. One year in advance is not too far out to start planning. Your venue, necessary permits, insurance, sponsors, and establishing the race route, are a few of the first things to take care of. Also needed are post-race management activities, including follow up surveys with volunteers, participants, and sponsors to evaluate the potential for future events.

Ozark Greenways is a nonprofit citizens group promoting, funding and working to develop trails in Springfield, Missouri. Visit them at www.ozarkgreenways.org.

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Managing Heavily-used Trails



Alternative day zoning: handling heavy trail use

By *Eric Finstick*

In crowded recreational locales such as open space parks, bikers and hikers increasingly are finding that their recreational outing has evolved into a series of maneuvers to avoid other users. Hikers are constantly dodging bikers, stepping aside to let the faster bikers pass. Bikers have to slow down or stop frequently for hikers in places where they can't pass safely. Wider track trails, which allow faster biking speeds, can also result in conflicts if the bikers don't slow down when passing hikers because some bikers regard this as an inconvenience.

Experience in Colorado

When mountain bike use levels get really high as they have, for example, in Jefferson County (directly west of Denver), hikers are displaced from trails by the sheer number of such encounters. A hiker on some Jefferson County trails may expect to encounter as many as seventy bikers in an hour.

Because of the differences in speed, the laws of physics dictate that the slower moving user will have more encounters with the faster user even when the actual numbers of different users on the trail are the same. On a single-track trail, it only makes sense that the hiker allow the faster uses to pass. But after seventy passages, even the most tolerant hiker finds his recreational experience diminished.

As a result, we find few, if any, hikers on multiple use trails at high use periods. Seniors, families with young children, and dog walkers are especially likely to avoid such trails during "rush hour." Some local guidebooks even caution against families using trails where the bike use is heavy.

As population and use continues to increase over time, these problems can be expected to increase exponentially. What's a land-use manager to do?

Possible solutions

Some trails could be closed to bikers in order to provide a higher quality hiking experience, but this, of course, means that bikers have reduced opportunities. On the other hand, continuing the status quo

results in the effective exclusion of hikers from trails at peak times. Jefferson County provides a few hiker-only trails in newly acquired parcels, but these trails are currently very few and far between, leaving hikers minimal options at peak times to find safe and enjoyable experiences.

We live during an age when population pressures result in inadequate resources or conflicts over competing uses. Consequently, we have learned to expect restrictions on some uses at some times. For example, we have lawn watering days. We have fireplace no burning days. We have separate hunting seasons for bow, black powder, and rifle hunting. We have some areas where all use is restricted in order to protect wildlife during critical times. We have car pool lanes or bus lanes in rush hour periods. Can't we apply reasonable rules so that everyone can have a better (and safe) experience?

Managers in other states with similar trail use issues have opted for a creative solution. They have established an "alternative day" scheme in which the trail is open one day for hikers and the next day for bikers. Such systems have been implemented on Forest Service trails just outside of Salt Lake City, in North Carolina, and on a portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail. The trailheads are well signed, and after an initial break-in period, the systems work well.

Under an alternate day-use system, the trails continue to be open to all users, but hikers and bikers can each choose days when the trails are best suited to their needs. Bikers will have few if any hikers on the trails on their days, although they are not closed to hikers on those days. Hikers can pick days when no bikes will be on the trail, providing a safer, more peaceful hiking opportunity, especially for families, seniors, or hikers with dogs.

We would like your opinion on such a system. As hikers and bikers, would you like to see such a system implemented in specific high-use areas in Colorado? Do you think this approach provides an equitable resolution?

Eric Finstick is a board member of Plan Jeffco and sits on the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Council. He is a member of the Denver Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. Contact him at (303) 278-7276.



More Tips for Trail Advocates

Write more effective letters to elected officials and politicians

By Del Albright, BlueRibbon Ambassador

How on earth do you capture the attention of a decision-maker so that your letter doesn't end up in the proverbial "stack" of unread letters? Perhaps it's not fair to say unread; let's say "sort of read, but unheeded." I'd like to offer suggestions from my own experience with letter writing.

The first tip for writing letters to bureaucrats and elected officials is to GET THEIR ATTENTION UP FRONT— make your point in the first sentence. If you place yourself in the shoes of a busy government official, reading tons of mail and dozens of emails every day, you'll soon realize that there just isn't enough time in the day. If a letter doesn't hone right in on the salient points, those points might be missed.

So start your letter with your primary reason for writing. For example, if you're going to write to your elected official to say that you're opposed to a piece of legislation that is going to close a bunch of trails, then start out by saying so: "I am writing to let you know that I oppose (whatever) legislation."

Immediately after stating your position, you may want to compliment their efforts so far, if appropriate. It lets the reader know that you're not just slamming his/her current work. It might read like this: "I appreciate the time and effort you and your staff have devoted to this issue, and I know you have given this (whatever) a lot of thought." By doing this you acknowledge the fact that they're not just sitting around playing cribbage.

Now you need to lay out your facts in simple form— easy to read— visually capturing. As a (retired) 30 year bureaucrat, I can attest to the visual affect of bullet points in a letter.

- They stand out and get the point across quickly.
- They draw the eye to focus on them immediately as the salient points.
- They are easy to find again when the reader wants to refer back to your letter.

You can also use numbers if you want to show some sense of priority. But the point is, make your key messages stand out in the letter. Then after the bullets with the key facts, elaborate on each one in succeeding paragraphs. I like to discuss one point per paragraph for simplicity's sake, and for ease of finding the information later. Don't overdo it, but underlining and bolding also work to make a key point stand out.

Depending on the topic, you may have to establish your credentials at this point (or even earlier on if that works better). If you are an experienced in your sport, let the reader know your background or expertise.

The next tip is to close your letter with a summary of your key message, and your specific request for action. Busy people will read the opening paragraph, the bullets, and the closing sentence or two. Leave the reader with a clear message: "Let me close by restating that I very much support (whatever) policy that will help us improve trails on public lands, and I request that you vote for it when it comes before you."

Finally, leave the reader with a pleasant salutation and an offer to help. For example, "Thank you for your time. If I may be of some help to you on this issue, please let me know."

Further, if you want to be included in future mailings, or be notified of any actions affecting your area of concern, include that comment. To summarize the tips I've offered you:

1. State your key message right up front, in the first sentence.
2. Say something nice and acknowledge previous and ongoing efforts.
3. Lay out your facts in bullet point form.
4. Establish your credentials (if necessary).
5. Close by summarizing your key message and requesting specific action.
6. Include a pleasant salutation and a sincere offer to help.

Visit Del Albright's website for more on trail activism and access issues: www.delalbright.com.



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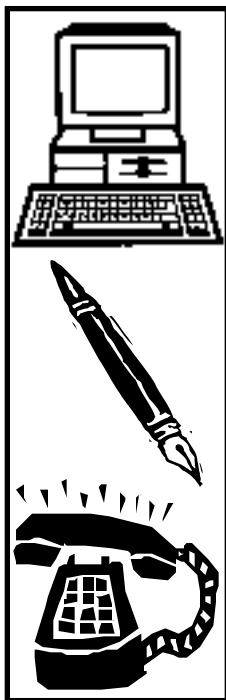
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Resources

For hundreds of resources on all aspects of trails and greenways, visit www.AmericanTrails.org and click on “Resources & Library.”



New publications on “trails for health” topics

Trails for Health: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles & Environments is a two-page brochure produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It provides a good overview of the how trails contribute to fitness, and is another example of the benefits of community trails and greenways.

Increasing Physical Activity through Community Design: A Guide for Public Health Practitioners is a 48-page publication of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking. It covers community design issues, and describes seven kinds of projects that can help create more bicycle-friendly and walkable communities. It also discusses how such projects get funded, and presents an array of resources to help with implementation.

Guide to promoting Active Living Communities by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation promotes health through active living. The guide offers:

- step-by-step marketing and communications
- how to motivate, influence, and persuade
- Tools and resources to help you learn more

The documents are available as PDF files through www.AmericanTrails.org. Select “Health and Trails” from the Topics menu.

Manual for using asphalt pavements for trails

Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements for Trails and Paths provides guidelines and recommendations for the design and construction of asphalt pavements for trails and paths. The new publication is aimed at parks and recreation planners, civil engineers, architects, and landscape designers. Producers and contractors of hot mix asphalt will also find this useful for designing and placing mixes for clients.

Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements for Trails and Paths (order number IS-129) is available from National Asphalt Pavement Association at publications@hotmix.org, (888) 468-6499, or order online at www.hotmix.org.

New book: Trail Running: From Novice to Master

This new book covers the sport of running on a variety of trails. A complete reference for runners of any skill level, the 160-page book includes a glossary of terms, photos, and diagrams. Topics include how to plan your running program, preparation and safety, and tips for running on uneven terrain and varying conditions.

Published by The Mountaineers Books, 1001 SW Klickitat Way, Suite 201, Seattle WA 98134. Call for a catalog: (800) 553-4453.

Green Infrastructure Report available

Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century calls for states and communities to make green infrastructure an integral part of local, regional and state plans and policies. The report was written by Mark Benedict and Ed McMahon of The Conservation Fund.

The report argues that successful land conservation in the 21st Century will be more proactive by looking at conservation values in concert with land planning and development.

The report can be viewed at www.sprawlwatch.org/green

Start your job search at www.AmericanTrails.org

Are you or a colleague on the lookout for a job in the field of trails, greenways, and bicycle/pedestrian planning? We post opportunities from across the country on the American Trails website for a variety of positions. And if your organization or agency is looking for qualified candidates, send us the job description, deadline, and how to apply or inquire.

Visit www.AmericanTrails.org and select “Jobs” from the pull-down Topics menu for current offerings. Send job announcements to trailhead@AmericanTrails.org.

Calendar

For more events, email addresses, and conference websites, go to www.AmericanTrails.org and click on "Calendar."

2006 National Trails Symposium

The site of the 2006 National Trails Symposium will be the Quad Cities (on the Mississippi River on the border of Iowa and Illinois). These communities are developing an extensive trail system that includes the RiverWay—featuring riverside parks, trails, natural areas and overlooks, art and historical sites along 65 miles of the Mississippi River. To learn more about the area visit the Quad Cities Visitors Bureau at www.visitquadcities.com or the River Action website: www.riveraction.org.

September 21-24 • Mid-America Trails & Greenways Conference • Indianapolis, IN

The theme for the conference sponsored by several midwest states is "Green Infrastructure, A Natural Framework for the Future." • Contact: www.indygreenways.org/conference/

September 22-23 • Innovative Trail Design Workshop • Grantville, Pennsylvania

Learn how natural surface trails are shaped, not built, with field work to practice trail design and evaluation. Instructor is Troy Scott Parker, President of the Western Trailbuilders Assoc. • PA Recreation and Park Society (814) 234-4272

September 22-25 • Retrofitting Parks and Recreation for Accessibility • Gatlinburg, TN

National Center on Accessibility will host education on federal accessibility requirements for park and recreation facilities and programs, with emphasis on application of accessibility standards, barrier removal, safety issues, and maintenance. • Contact: www.ncaonline.org

October 3-5, 2003 • VOC Comprehensive Skills Workshops • Colorado

Choose from a variety of topics on Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance, including rock work, switchbacks, closure and revegetation, and managing/organizing volunteer projects. • Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (303) 715-1010 ext 15

October 15-18, 2003 • California Walking and Biking Conference • Oakland, CA

This new conference will examine how walking and bicycling can relieve congestion, stimulate economic activity, increase transit use, and create safer and healthier communities • Info: Chris Morfas at (916) 446-7558

November 14-15, 2003 • Washington State Trails Conference • Whidbey Island, WA

Statewide conference sponsored by Washington State Trails Coalition at Deception Pass State Park. • Contact: JohnKeates@ci.enumenclaw.wa.us

Improve your accessible trail skills with UTAP training

The two-day Universal Trail Assessment Process workshop teaches the techniques of accurate, objective trail assessment to help trail users determine whether a trail meets their interests and abilities. Land managers can also use the information to improve trails to comply with proposed accessibility guidelines. Students will also learn how to lead groups of untrained individuals in the completion of trail assessments. State trails program staff may receive training free of charge, thanks to funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

Universal Trail Assessment Process Coordinator Workshops for 2003:

September 10-11 • Humber Arboretum, Toronto
Contact: Patti Longmuir (416) 445-2358

September 24-25 • Martinsville, IN
Contact: Kathy Mispagel 831-429-8447 ext 113

September 27-28 • Northern Virginia area
Contact: Kathy Mispagel 831-429-8447 ext 113

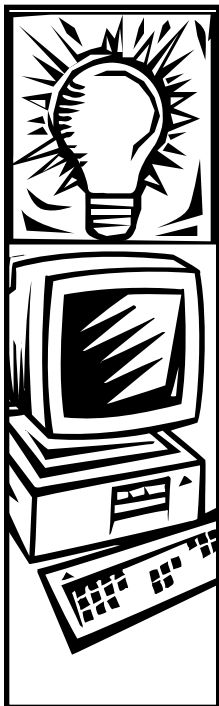
For information on these and future UTAP workshops contact Kathy Mispagel, Beneficial Designs, (831) 429-8447 ext 113 or email: kathy@beneficialdesigns.com.

IMBA trail building schools offered across America

Sponsored by Subaru of America and directed by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, the Trail Care Crews work with bike clubs, land managers, and other trail groups to build and improve trails, solve trail management challenges, and teach the art of sustainable trailbuilding with interactive learning, hands-on trailwork, and top-notch instructors. Typically lasting over a weekend, several dozen of the schools are being held throughout 2003— see the calendar at www.AmericanTrails.org for the full schedule.

Contact: Avery Stonich, Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew coordinator (303) 545-9011.

American Trails Website Contest



Tour America's trails on Winning Websites

We were pleased to receive nominations of 88 trail-related websites for the American Trails Website Contest. Our goal is to publicize sites that really make trails come alive, and provide effective information, support volunteers, and engage the public. For online links to the winning websites and all of the nominated sites, visit American Trails online: www.AmericanTrails.org/webcon03.html.

And the winners for 2003 are...

For State or Provincial trails agency

- * The Florida Greenways and Florida Trails Guide: www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com/
- * Honorable Mention: Wyoming Snowmobile Trails: <http://wyotrails.state.wy.us/snow/>

For State or Provincial trails organization

- * Texas Offroad Network: www.texasoffroad.net
- * Honorable Mention: The Florida Trail Association: www.florida-trail.org

For Community trails system

- * Indy Parks Greenways, Indianapolis, IN: www.indygreenways.org

For trails on Federal Lands

- * Gila National Forest Trails, Arizona: www2.srs.fs.fed.us/gilanf/rec/trails

For Local Trail Organization or Club site

- * Eastern Trail Alliance: www.EasternTrail.org

For Designated National Recreation Trail site

- * The Poudre River Trail Corridor, Colorado: www.poudretrail.org
- * Honorable Mention: Pigeon Creek Trail System: hosted by Twin Lakes Bicycle Club www.norfork.com/cycling

For Trail Tour or virtual visit

- * Northeastern Illinois Water Trails: www.openlands.org/watertrails.asp

For Site Design and Graphics

- * The Western Trailbuilders Association: www.trailbuilders.org

For best use of Photographs

- * "Along the Air Line..." State Park Trail, Connecticut: www.performance-vision.com/airline/index.htm

For Promotion and Recognition of Volunteers

- * Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association, southern California: www.lmva.org

For Individual or Personal trails site

- * Singletrack.net, Kentucky mountain bike trails: www.Singletrack.net
- * Honorable Mention: Trails of Anchorage, Alaska: www.trailsofanchorage.com

For trail-related Business or Product

- * Katemcy Rocks, Texas: <http://rock-it-land.com/katemcyrocks/>

For promotion of Accessible Trails

- * AccessibleTrails.com: covers accessible trails in Washington and beyond: <http://AccessibleTrails.com>

For Wildlife and Trails education

- * The Citrus Birding Trail, Florida: www.citrusbirdingtrail.com

For trail Travel and Tourism

- * Pittsburgh to Cumberland Trail includes a trip planning guide: www.atatrail.org

For promotion of Courtesy and Trail Sharing

- * The New Hampshire State Trails Bureau: www.nhtrails.org

For presentation of Plans and Proposals

- * San Diego Sea to Sea Trail: www.seatoseatrail.org

For best site for Kids and Families

- * The Nez Perce National Historic Trail, hosted by the USDA Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/npnht/

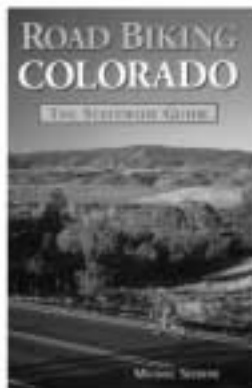
For more on the American Trails Website Contest and links to all the entries, visit www.AmericanTrails.org.



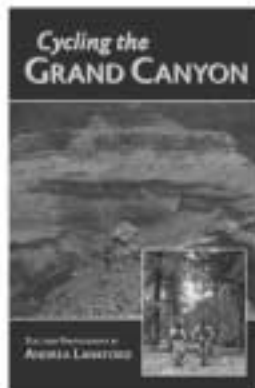
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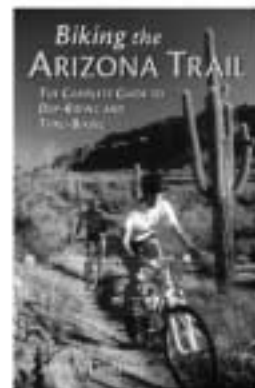
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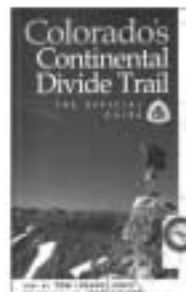


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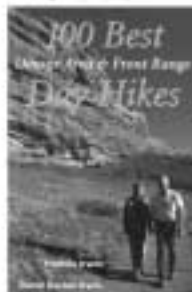
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