



GET Hiking

Great Eastern Trail Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 1, March 2019

By Timothy A. Hupp

Please feel free to print out or copy and distribute this newsletter

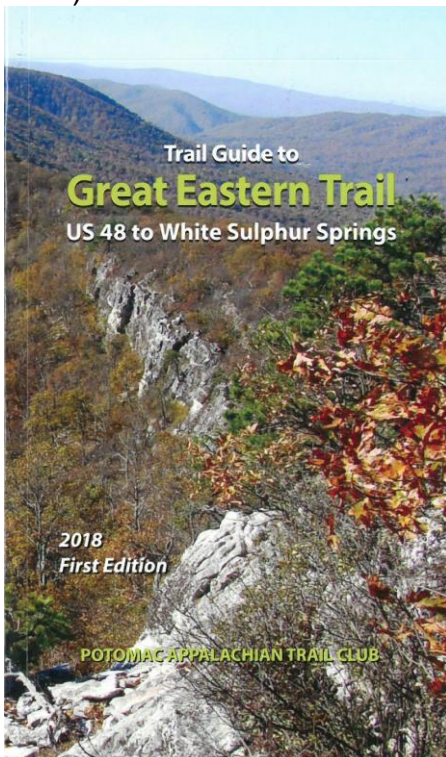
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New Trail Guidebooks for GET sections

We have a number of new guidebook for the Great Eastern Trail, just recently published. They include a new PATC Guidebook, first edition that covers the Headwaters Section, plus some of the Tuscarora and Allegheny Trails. There also is a new edition of the Mid State Trail in Pennsylvania. There is a new guide book for the Standing Stone Trail, plus a couple others covered in these pages.

The Great Eastern Trail: \$9.60 PATC Members, \$12.00 Non-Members (First edition, 2018).



PATC's publication is the first guidebook to the 200 miles-plus of the Great Eastern Trail between SR55/US 48 and White Sulphur Springs, WV (I-64) in West Virginia and Virginia.

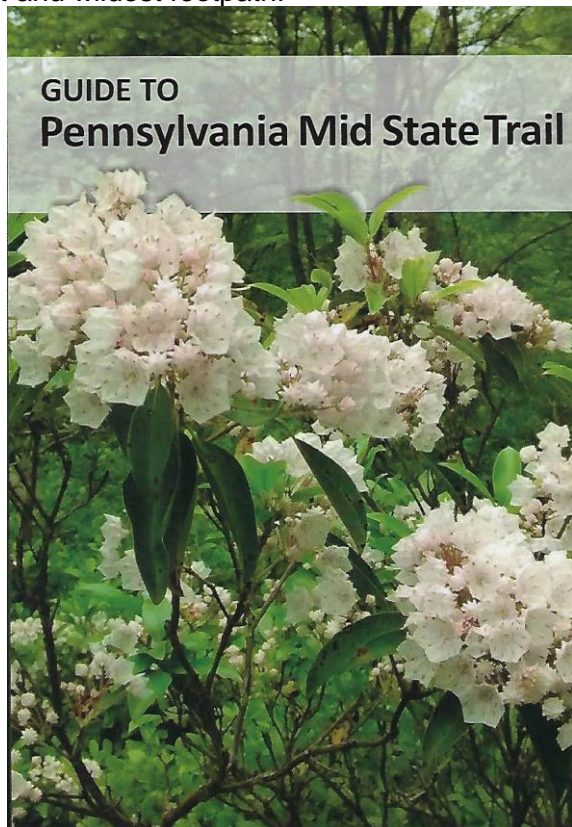
The trails making up the sections of the GET covered in this guidebook include part of the Allegheny Trail and part of the Tuscarora Trail. Between these trails is the Headwaters Section, a series of different Forest Service trails and roads largely on Shenandoah Mountain and North Mountain. 120 pages, 5 maps, 23 photographs
Regular price \$12.00 Discounted member price \$9.60

<https://www.patc.net/ItemDetail?iProductCode=P C118&Category=AW>

Mid State Trail Guide and Maps

Part of the Great Eastern Trail in Pennsylvania
Now Available!

Order the latest 2018 **13th Edition** of the
Mid State Trail Guide, and get the current
FULL COLOR MAPS here, to support PA's
Longest and wildest footpath!



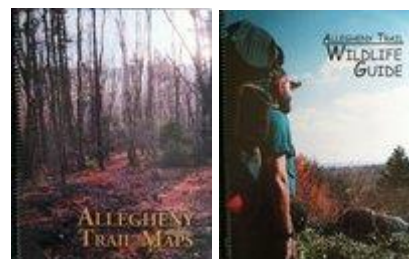
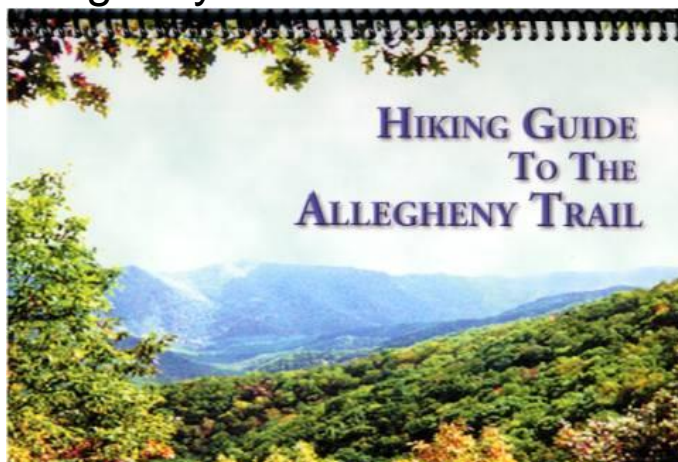
This compact book is your essential companion to hiking Pennsylvania's longest and wildest footpath, with information about distances in both directions, parking, water, camping, and a few tidbits about the nature and culture the trail passes. Descriptions give distances both ways using the same text, to save weight and bulk. The 13th Edition describes crossing the entire waist of the Keystone State, from Maryland to New York.

Standing Stone Trail Guide

The Printed Guide for the 84-mile Standing Stone Trail, all part of the Great Eastern Trail, can be obtained on request at:

<https://www.standingstonetrail.org/>

Allegheny Trail Guide



\$27.00

The Trail Guide to the Allegheny Trail consists of 3 parts.

<https://www.wvscenictrails.org/shop/allegheny-trail-guide>

Part 1 is a Hiking Guide. A smaller book that details the trail section by section.

Part 2 is a Trail Map Guide. This section contains Topographical Maps of the trail.

Part 3 is a Wildlife Guide. This guide gives you a comprehensive look at the Flora and Fauna along the length of the trail.

Utilizing all three sections of the guide even the novice hiker can enjoy the beauty and challenges of the Allegheny Trail in WV.

Online orders are normally processed within 1-2 business days

The Great Eastern Trail follows the southern part of the Allegheny Trail, south from Upper Meadow Trail from Lake Sherwood. This overlaps the PATC Guidebook's coverage, as far as White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Guidebooks, continued

Linda Clark-O'Brien states that she “also finished updating trail guides for Alabama, Georgia, & Tennessee. They are available free upon request.”
jjo_brien2@outlook.com

GET Hiking Challenges

Hike 50!

Mid State Trail Association, the all-volunteer non-profit group that cares for Pennsylvania’s longest and wildest footpath (2019 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year!) announces the Hike 50! Celebration in honor of Mid State Trail’s 50th anniversary.

MST began as a project of Penn State Outing Club in 1969, and grew to cross all of PA in association with PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (five state forests, eight state parks, and general support directly and through Keystone Trails Association), Pennsylvania Game Commission (six numbered game lands), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes, and about two dozen private landowners.

In 2019 (through New Year’s Day 1/1/2020), hike 50 kilometers (km) along Mid State Trail – 10 km each (individually or cumulatively) in at least four different parts of Mid State Trail:

- Everett Region – from MD Route 144 north to US Route 22, guidebook sections 0 through 6;
- State College Region – from US 22 to PA Route 192 at Raymond B. Winter State Park, guidebook sections 7 through 11;
- Woolrich Region – from PA 192 north to PA Route 414 at Blackwell, guidebook sections 12 through 16;
- Tioga Region – from PA 414 north to the New York State border, guidebook sections 17 through 20.

The final 10 km to make a total of 50 km in 2019, can be (individually or cumulatively) along more of Mid State Trail beyond the minimum in each region – and/or along a list of trails from Virginia to Ontario, Canada, that connect to MST.

Hikers do not need to register with us until the Hike 50! is completed. However, hikers on this quest are encouraged to use the social media hashtag **#Hike50MST**

See attached form for more information, which will also be posted in the MST Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/midstatetrailpa> and on the MST web site www.hike-mst.org

Any questions, e-mail end2end@hike-mst.org or contact me.

Pete

Peter Fleszar
Vice President (volunteer)
Mid State Trail Association, Inc. (non-staff non-profit)
PO Box 885, Huntingdon PA 16652
717 576-3112 cell or text
gis@hike-mst.org
<http://www.hike-mst.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/midstatetrailpa>
Twitter: @MidStateTrailPA
Instagram: @midstatetrail
(Note – 50 km = 32 miles)

SST Sweet 16 Trail Challenge

Starts January 1, 2019

Do you enjoy hiking? Discovering unusual tidbits of Pennsylvania history? Exploring beautiful valleys and vistas? If so, this challenge is for YOU!

Reach all sixteen challenges and become a Sweet 16'er!
You will receive a certificate and commemorative patch.

There are no time constraints so you can complete all 16 challenges at your pace. Become an official Sweet 16'er by reaching all 16 features on or after January 1, 2019. Please **download our detailed brochure and learn how to get started**. If you decide to participate, please also **download the Trail Challenge form** and follow the directions in the document.

Trail Updates

Kentucky

(From Bill Ramey, PMTC VP)

Birch Knob Section:

The north end Canyon Bridge has found some more funding. The Breaks Interstate Park has bought in on the project and secured another \$150K and has announced the project publicly. The design and engineering phase should start up this coming year.

Trail re-routes around private property are a continuing effort. We routed around some private property that denied us continued trail access. We spent a year and a half working with the National Forest Service with a re-route on their property, only for them to conclude they had never actually acquired the tract and their own maps showing otherwise were inaccurate. Now the property sits with no apparent owner and no one ever having paid any taxes on it. The NFS has not completed their approval, but, the sections are flagged and usable for hikers.

The PMTC did actually purchase and take possession of a 4 acre shelter site on the Birch Knob Section of trail this year. A trail benefactor had purchased a larger tract and allowed us to choose and purchase the site we desired for the shelter. The shelter site purchase is at Cable Gap which is midway between the existing shelter at Birch Knob and the trailhead at US 23 at Pound Gap.

Highlands Section:

We have a new Highlands Section map that will be available this coming year.

Little Shepherd Section:

We continue to extend the south end of the trail, added maybe 5 miles on the Little Shepherd Trail this past year (this adds to about 4 miles constructed in 2017). The new trail occasionally intersects with a secluded ridgeline road, thus breaking the trail into several shorter hikeable loops with easy road access. This should be suitable for less experienced hikers looking for shorter hikes, a feature lacking on the rest of our trails.

No trailbuilding near Pineville, as of now.

Tennessee:

Cumberland Trail:

(From Marty Dominy, from the CTC meeting)

After election of officers, approval of minutes, and a rather tedious treatment of the budget, matters moved into the trail building portion of the agenda. The discussion included all anticipated projects from this March with college students to 2022. These will be outlined below in a north-to-south geographic order. In general, more good work has been done through 2018 although volunteer participation (outside of the alternative spring break) is lower than in past years. Paid work crews continue on a number of project sites even though retention of crew is a difficult proposition because it is hard manual labor and the weather is frequently less than ideal.

Construction activity in a north-to-south order:

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN SEGMENT (Cumberland Gap to I-75 at Caryville): This segment was not even mentioned during the meeting. All information on this segment came during informal discussion after the meeting. State personnel directed some AmeriCorps volunteers in this area in past years, but apparently nothing worth mentioning happened there this year. It is the most remote segment of trail relative to the population centers of Tennessee. CTC has had very little involvement with this segment in the last decade.

NEW RIVER SEGMENT (I-75 to The Garden Spot at the east edge of Frozen Head State Park): This is one of the few segments of the Cumberland Trail that is complete. Anecdotal evidence suggests it could use some maintenance. No word of whether or not the bridge over Smoky Creek was built even though it was high on the priority list in the last two years.

BIRD MOUNTAIN SEGMENT (The Garden Spot to U. S. Highway 27 in Wartburg): Trail is complete (and has been for a long time) through Frozen Head State Park. Gary Darnell and some other local volunteers have built about 1.5 miles of trail near the Wartburg end that sees use by the locals. The holdup seems to be with a needed land purchase on Bird Mountain. The Sheltopee Trace out of Kentucky is expected to intersect the Cumberland Trail in this area.

OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENT (U. S. 27 in Wartburg to Devil's Breakfast Table northeast of Fairfield Glade): Even though some trail was built a few years ago east of the Emory River and some of the street walk in downtown Wartburg has been marked, there remains a four to five mile gap between the town and the river. Everything west of the Emory River is open but does have some restrictions during hunting season for the big part that is within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area.

DADDYS CREEK SEGMENT (Devil's Breakfast Table to I-40 at Crab Orchard): This segment saw much construction work done in 2016 and 2017, but

only a little was done in 2018. Most of the construction is complete over the eight plus miles from Devil's Breakfast Table to Peavine Road (just east of Fairfield Glade). However, a 0.4 mile gap and a 0.8 mile gap have not been finished. Crews must work around the Catoosa WMA access restrictions to finish these segments. The State of Tennessee expects to purchase property near Daddys Creek soon. This will allow a bridge to be built across the creek. Without it, there is a nearly two mile road walk get across the creek. On the east side of the creek, there are over seven miles of trail complete to Hebbertsburg Road. For the foreseeable future, there will be several miles of road walk into Crab Orchard.

GRASSY COVE SEGMENT (I-40 at Crab Orchard to Head of Sequatchie): More road walk from Crab Orchard to Ozone Falls will be the order of the day for a number of years to come, although a shorter and significantly more pleasant road walk is available to thru hikers by bypassing the Ozone Falls segment. College students built 1.6 miles of trail between Ozone Falls and Black Mountain in 2018. They will be back there in March of 2019. I walked what was done east of Black Mountain after the meeting. The trail just seems to end about 1.0 mile after it leaves the Black Mountain loop. One explanation I saw suggested that unconnected segments have been built. The report from the meeting said there is over 3 miles yet to be built. West of Black Mountain is trail that has been in place for many years, crossing Tennessee Highway 68 and following the crest of Brady Mountain. An old trailhead on Jewitt Road is no longer accessible due to private property along the old route, but my understanding was that this was not to be the long term route anyway. Some short segments of trail exist at the Head of Sequatchie trailhead and ranger station.

THE FALLS SEGMENT (Head of Sequatchie to Shut In Gap Road): While there is a short segment of existing trail east out of the Head of Sequatchie, this segment will be the focus of construction by paid crews in 2019 and possibly 2020. Access for the purposes of construction will be difficult on the upper end of Soak Creek. The lower end of Soak Creek was built in 2018 and connects with the

existing Stinging Fork Falls Trail. It is a bit odd, but the west (or south) end of the Piney River Segment and the west (or north) end of the Stinging Fork Falls / Soak Creek section are less than a 2 mile road walk away, yet the walk down Piney River and up Soak Creek is about 15 miles by trail. The report in the meeting says six miles of trail was constructed in 2018 along Soak Creek, but some of this walk is along an old logging road. It should be noted that an owner of part of the logging road doesn't mind people walking on it, but would prefer it not be signed or advertised as open in a guidebook or similar publication.



feature a steep climb down from the plateau to the river with long distances to be walked to reach the construction sites. Bids to construct this portion have not been sought by the State at this point. Once up on the plateau, the trail will be relatively flat, passing through some pine woods. This portion already has funding by the CTC and a grant provider and is scheduled to be built in 2022.

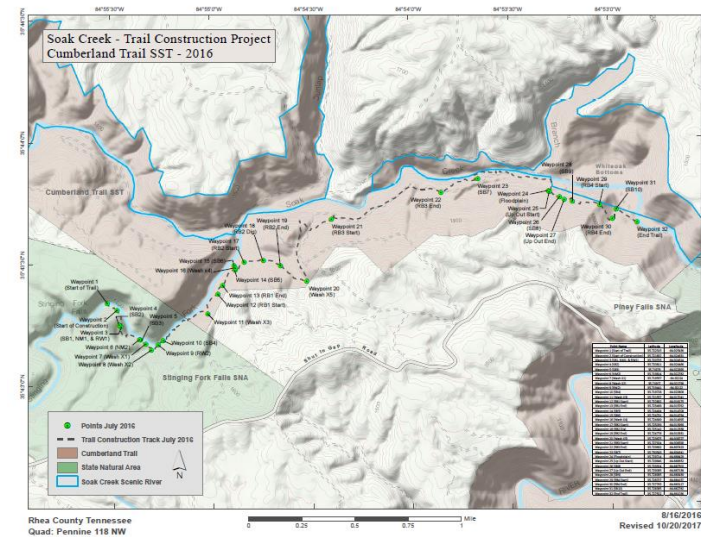
LAUREL SNOW SEGMENT (Indefinite point to Leggett Road southwest of Dayton): The Henderson Creek section is to be built in 2021 or 2022. It has not been bid. A new bridge, built by the State, replaces a bridge damaged by a falling tree in the existing Laurel Snow trail system. There is still a gap between Highway 30 and the trail leading nine miles to Roaring Creek. The trail currently ends at the completed McGill Creek Bridge, 2.4 miles south of the Roaring Creek trailhead. I heard no mention of when the gaps in this segment would be complete.

Laurel_Snow Bridge Replacement



Modular bridge in Laurel-Snow SNA. (Deakins)

The long-awaited replacement of the damaged bridge in the Laurel-Snow Section opened in December. It is the second modular aluminum bridge that was jointly designed and funded by the CTC, Cumberland Trail State Park and TDEC. The first one was assembled over McGill Creek in 2017.



PINEY RIVER SEGMENT (Shut In Gap Road west of Spring City to some indefinite point on the plateau northwest of Dayton): Piney River is a very old part of the Cumberland Trail, but part of it will be truncated when the new trail on the Upper Piney River is constructed. That is scheduled for 2020 and possibly 2021. The State Park ranger warned that it will be a much harder construction effort than has heretofore been experienced by CTC. It will

THREE GORGES SEGMENT (Leggett Road to Mowbray Pike west of Soddy-Daisy): A 32 mile segment that is complete with just a mile or two of road walk.

NORTH CHICKAMAUGA CREEK SEGMENT (Mowbray Pike to North Chickamauga Creek trailhead): Very little to report here. There is still no connection to the Three Gorges Segment.

Later in the agenda, rankings for connecting trail projects were discussed. Out of ten potential projects, four landed in the Priority 1 category. The Great Eastern Trail from North Chickamauga Creek trailhead to Lookout Mountain was one of them. There was a slideshow for this part of the meeting that compared the pros and cons of each project. I was a bit surprised by the amount of public land on the GET route between the Tennessee River and North Chickamauga Creek trailhead. Linda Hixon commented that the map, particularly that version to be made available to the public, needed to be corrected in a few places with regard to the GET route. It was made clear that a third party would need to acquire the remaining needed property along the GET route. The slideshow suggested that this would most likely be either the North Chickamauga Conservancy or the Land Trust for Tennessee.

(From Linda Hixon)

The structural load study of the C. B. Robinson Bridge was completed by the City of Chattanooga with a grant from TDOT and it was found that the bridge can with some relatively minor retrofits carry a pedestrian/bicycle lane and also, if needed, two additional lanes of traffic. The remaining portion of the Chattanooga segment of the GET to be completed is the area between the north end of the C. B. Robinson Bridge and the Cumberland Trail's trailhead in North Chickamauga Creek Gorge off Montlake Road in the Soddy-Daisy area. In that area, the Dupont segment of the Riverwalk needs to be developed and the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway trail, which is partially completed, needs to be finished. The development of pedestrian/ bicycle access on the bridge and the development/ completion of the Riverwalk segment and the North

Chickamauga Creek Greenway trail will require funding and time so there's not at this time a projected completion date. The effort of the CTC's Chattanooga GET Committee this year will focus on building project awareness and support as political will and funding are what's needed to keep progress on the GET moving forward here.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BASE OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Various government agencies, including the City of Chattanooga, have made some pedestrian friendly improvements on the connection between the Lookout Mountain trail system and the Riverwalk. A section of Broad Street / Cumming Highway at its crossing with St. Elmo Street has been reduced to two driving lanes from the previous four. This does not significantly impact motorized traffic as there was an existing constriction to two lanes several hundred yards away at the Norfolk Southern railroad underpass. A crosswalk has been added on the east side of St. Elmo Street with signs indicating that motorized traffic must yield to traffic in the crosswalk.

It has yet to be determined if the preferred connection route runs through the underpass and onto Old Wauhatchie Pike. While this is now the most direct way to access the Guild Trail on Lookout Mountain, there have been longstanding safety concerns about using the underpass. Once up Old Wauhatchie Pike, there is an old driveway providing access to the Miller's Way Trail and Laney Loop. The former forks right and leads 1100 feet to the Guild Trail. The latter forks left and leads 600 feet to the Guild Trail. The new route will shorten the connection by 1.5 miles and shorten the road / street walk by just over a mile.

Georgia

(From Linda Hixon)

The big news during the last year with the Chattanooga segment of the GET is the Lula Lake Land Trust's completion of the Cloudland Connector Trail that links the National Park Service

trails on Lookout Mountain with Cloudland Canyon State Park in Georgia. The Chattanooga segment of the GET is essentially complete from Cloudland Canyon State Park to the south end of the C. B. Robinson Bridge in Chattanooga.

(From Marty Dominy)

Pinhoti Trail - Section 14 near Cave Spring GA: new trail constructed from Jackson Chapel trailhead around Hematite Lake.

RELOCATED SEGMENT OF THE PINHOTI TRAIL / GREAT EASTERN TRAIL IS NOW OPEN IN GEORGIA

In cooperation with The Conservation Fund, the Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association along with members allied users groups has completed work to open a new 3.2 mile relocation of the Pinhoti Trail in Polk County, Georgia. This relocation begins only 5 ½ miles from the Alabama border and replaces the former route which primarily followed old logging roads. The new trail is entirely single track graded trail that crisscrosses the ridges of the Santa Claus tract. The Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association scouted, planned, and marked the new trail while The Conservation Fund contracted with professional trail builder Barry Smith to construct the rough cut of the trail. Barry has constructed many miles of trail in the Southeast and has excellent reputation for building sustainable, low maintenance trail. The project was funded by the sale of timber on the tract. Volunteers followed behind Barry to do finishing work on the trail and to build the bridge over Mill Race Branch. The new trail follows a protected corridor of mature trees. The timbered areas are to be replanted with longleaf pine with the help of The Nature Conservancy.

In addition to removing the trail from the old logging roads, the relocation also removed the trail from about 0.2 mile of paved county road. Now, the first 8.7 miles of trail from the Alabama border

is entirely graded trail built from scratch with the exception of a ¼ mile long segment along an old railbed. While the old route may not be the best trail in the area, it will be used with other logging roads as part of a side trail network. The entire network of trails between Santa Claus Road and Old Cave Spring – Cedartown Road will be comprised of five different trails totaling 8.2 miles in length. Descriptions of the Pinhoti Trail / Great Eastern Trail and the side trail have been added to the Guide to the Pinhoti Trail in Georgia and the Guide to the Great Eastern Trail in Georgia. These guides will be available online by the end of February. The section is now 0.7 longer than the description given in the 2018 guide.

We hope to formally open the three new miles of Pinhoti Trail / GET south of Cave Spring in advance of the Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association board meeting in Cedartown on February 23rd.

Alabama

New Section of Pinhoti Trail

A 6 mile section of trail, described in the previous issue of GET Hiking, has been opened over Terrapin Hill between Weogufka and US 231. See that issue for the description of the approach to the new trail. It was blazed and hikeable at this time last year, but it wasn't officially opened until National Trails Day, June 2, 2018. Hayward Warren posted the information and states that the mileages are approximate. If it is accurate, the total length of the relocation is 12.7 miles with a net increase of 7.1 miles. Strangely enough, it increases the total road walk by 1.1 miles although it reduces the road walk on paved roads by 1.6 miles.

BreakAway 2019

March 3 to 30, 2019

BreakAway this year continues the link between Black Mountain and Ozone Falls in Cumberland County.



ASB 2017 Michigan State students work on the trail south of McGill Creek. (Deakins)

Over 160 college students joined the paid crew and a dozen local volunteers to make the connection happen! An additional 2 miles of trail was built between Black Mountain and Ozone Falls.

Upcoming Events

April 6: Standing Stone Trail Spring Membership Meeting Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9:00 am - noon at the Rothrock State Forest District / DCNR building in Huntingdon, PA. The public is welcome to attend, and as usual, is invited to submit suggested topics for discussion in advance to Jim Garthe (jwgarthe10@gmail.com). **Details will be posted in early March**

April 25-28: Trail Care BTB
Mid State Trail, State College Region
Rothrock State Forest
statecollege@hike-mst.org
814-643-4238
Camp: Greenwood Furnace State Park

May 18: GETA Board Meeting
Cheaha State Park, AL
johnts25@gmail.com

May 30- June 2: Trail Care BTB
Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region
Tiadaghton State Forest
Leader: Joe Healey
jnlhealey@aol.com
570-655-4979
Camp: Ravensburg State Park

June 20-23: Trail Care BTM
Mid State Trail, Tioga Region
Tioga State Forest
Leader: Peter Fleszar
tioga@hike-mst.org
717-583-2093
Camp: Twin Streams Camp Ground,
Morris

August 8-11: Trail Care BTM
Mid State Trail, Everett Region
Buchanan State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence

cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

September 12-15: Trail Care BTM
Tuscarora Trail
Cowans Gap State Park
Leader: Ben Auer
auer.ben@gmail.com
608-772-1715
Camp: PATC Cabin at
Little Cove

Various News Items

GETA Board Meeting

In 2018, the Great Eastern Trail Association Board Meeting took place in McArthur Inn in Narrows, VA. The various clubs presented the trail conditions of each section. In other business, the board worked on updating the GETA Bylaws. There was also discussion about a formal claim of trademark for the GET logo, which is at the top of the first page of this newsletter.

President Tom Johnson announced his plan to step down from the presidency after one more year. He will have already served 7 years, which he feels is long enough—it's time for someone else to fill the position. There were no volunteers, but a few offices were filled: Shad Baker had been treasurer but had to resign in 2017; that position has been filled by John Spies. There were no volunteers for the vice president slot. Secretary Bob Williams remains in that office until someone else volunteers.

Following the board meeting, seven of the board members did a hike on the Mary Ingles Trail from Shanklins Ferry, WV to Glen Lyn, VA along the New River, which is part of the GET.

In Spring 2018, Kathy Finch tackled the Western Bifurcation of the GET southbound (Detweiler Junction, PA, to Hancock, MD) and then the

northern half of the Mid State Trail northbound (Detweiler Junction to the NY/PA state line). Her goal was the northern terminus of the GET on the Crystal Hills Trail, but her knees gave up the journey in Painted Post, NY. Hope to cover those miles and a few short missed sections of the MST -- as well as other sections of the GET -- in 2019.

Pinhoti NRT Heflin Spur from Cahulga Lake to FS 500/RR Trailhead

The new spur trail leaves the west end of Cahulga Reservoir Dam and follows a dirt road up the hill. It heads northwest, passes by a small signal tower then enters the Talladega National Forest. It continues northwest uphill along the ridge and joins FS rd. 535 for a short distance. At about the elevation of 1200', the trail pulls off southwest and follows a side ridge dirt road descends to the Rocky Creek Bridge (elevation about 910' and about 1 mile west of the dam. Just north of the bridge there is a short side trail blazed red to a waterfall up stream).

The white blazed trail crosses the old bridge and heads down stream then turns straight west and uses the original dirt road which parallels the Norfolk Southern Railroad. About a mile west of the bridge it meets the parking lot and Pinhoti Trailhead at FS 500 (just north of the US Hwy78 & AL 281 Scenic Drive at about 960' in elevation).

How Many GET miles have you hiked?

An awful lot of people still have **not** reported their GET miles—unless no one has hiked much of the Mid State, Standing Stone, Tuscarora, Pinhoti, and other constituent trails that make up the GET.

Here’s the breakdown of the constituent trails, GET miles only:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crystal Hills Trail | 48 miles |
| Mid State Trail | 322 miles |
| Standing Stone Trail | 84 miles |
| Tuscarora Trail | 132 miles (now 125) |
| Allegheny Trail | 41 miles (plus gap) |
| Appalachian Trail | 21 miles |
| Pine Mountain Trail | 44 miles (trail only) |
| Cumberland Trail | 138 miles (so far) |
| Pinhoti Trail | 214 miles |

If you have thru-hiked any of these trails, you have this many miles of the GET.

There are also segments of combined shorter trails:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Headwaters Section | 165 miles |
| TuGuNu Section | 100 miles |
| Lookout Mtn. Section | 87 miles |
| ...plus a few others | |

I’m trying to give credit for those who have hiked significant miles of the GET. If you have hiked at least 50 miles of the GET, please report it to me at the email address given at the end of the newsletter.

You may include miles of exploring for GET routes, and if it has two branches, you may count the miles hiked on both. Count only the trail miles—if you’ve done a section twice, you don’t double the miles. Also, do not count side trails, but if you hike a close parallel trail, you may count that if you go that way instead of the main trail.

Hikers and Total GET miles hiked

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Jo Swanson “Someday” | 1774 |
| Bart Houck “Hillbilly Bart” | 1774 |
| Kathy Finch | 1774 |
| Dan Bedore | 1093 |
| Mark Sleeper | 1033 |
| Stuart Hickey | 915 |
| Taylor Pannill | 800 |
| Sue Turner | 720 |
| Tim Hupp | 690 |
| John Calhoun | 632 |
| Lois Ludwig | 561 |
| Bill Shaffer | 545 |
| Dixie Greer “Star Left” | 495 |
| Rick Guhse | 437 |
| John Stein | 437 |
| Jim Sims | 392 |
| David Frye | 386 |
| Tom Johnson | 382 |
| Marcie Schubert | 374 |
| Doug Schubert | 332 |
| Lloyd McAskill | 321 |
| Garrett Fondaule “Shepherd” | 258 |
| Bill Amonette | 240 |
| Meredith Eberhart | |
| “Nimblewill Nomad” | 235 |
| Burgess Smith | 232 |
| Marty Dominy | 211 |
| Warren Devine | 205 |
| Carol Devine | 187 |
| Jane Thompson | 168 |
| Nancy Ruggles | 156 |
| Sam Goldsberry | 142 |
| Faith Schlabach | 129 |
| Shad Baker | 124 |
| Christa Neher | 119 |
| Michael Seth | 97 |
| Chad Churchman | 97 |
| Linda Clark O’Brien | 90 |
| Malcolm & Lynn Cameron | 89 |
| Mary Huffer | 76 |
| John Spies | 71 |
| Brian Hirt | 71 |
| Kathy Dickenson | 58 |

So get out and GET Hiking!

And report your miles!

Flagg Mountain Complex

(Current Southern Terminus of the Great Eastern Trail)

(From Meredith Everhart)

Flagg Mountain is a monumental mountain, a very special place both historically and geographically. Of historic significance is the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) complex, the tower and cabins, built in the mid 1930s. Of geographic importance, Flagg Mountain is the southernmost mountain in the Appalachian Mountain Range, the beginning of the Appalachians. The Pinhoti National Recreation Trail starts at the pavilion here on the flanks of Flagg Mountain. From this beginning it's possible to hike the entire Appalachian Mountain Range, all the way to Belle Isle, Newfoundland, the northernmost mountain, the last bastion of the Appalachians, which stands along the iceberg trail in the Labrador Sea, a distance by trail of some 4,400 miles.

There are two different entrances to Flagg Mountain—one to the tower, the other to the cabins. The gate to the cabins is open seven days a week, nine until sunset. The tower gate is open weekends and holidays, same hours.

Three of our cabins are now available for overnight stay, first come first serve. A minimum donation of \$25.00 per day would be much appreciated. Stay is limited to three days, two nights. The cabins have fireplaces, and there's always plenty of firewood. We have no water up here, so you'd need to bring water, also your bedrolls. An old-fashioned outhouse serves as our toilet facility. We keep it clean and bug-free. We also have nearby primitive campsites with fire rings and picnic tables. Trails surround the mountain, and loop hikes of varying length can be enjoyed.

So, we hope you come and plan to stay awhile!

Oh, also, the mountain is now hosting a public event up here every month called "First Friday on Flagg." It's a covered dish, potluck get together, an after work start-the-weekend sort of gathering. So, mark your calendar, then come up and spend some time with us--first Friday!

Sunny Eberhart, Caretaker - (417) 543-3801 text only

Joe Jones, Assistant Caretaker - (256) 375-8332
Flagg Mountain/Weogufka State Forest

I'm the caretaker for the Flagg Mountain CCC Complex, which includes the tower and cabins. It's a full-time (voluntary) position--appointed by the Alabama Forestry Commission, through the Alabama Hiking Trail Society.



I started hiking and backpacking in the early eighties. During that time I managed to hike a good bit of the Florida Trail and about half of the Appalachian Trail, from Springer Mountain Georgia to Duncannon Pennsylvania, all in jerks and starts over a period of fifteen or so years. In January 1998, I set out on my first uninterrupted long distance hike. That trek began on the Florida Trail, thence continued to the Cliffs of Forillon, Cap Gaspé Quebec, a distance of over 4,000 miles. During that time I took on the trail name: *Nimblewill Nomad*. The years 2000 and 2001 brought about nearly that same hike in reverse, the first known trek o'er the entire Appalachian Mountain Range, at least as we know the majestic Appalachians to exist on the North American continent. That journey lasted 347 days, covered a distance of over 5,000 miles, and included a hike through the Long Range Mountains of Newfoundland. 2002 brought a cross-continental

trek, an adventure-filled journey that lasted 147 days, over 3,000 miles, from the old lighthouse at Cape Hatteras North Carolina, to another old lighthouse at Point Loma in San Diego California. In 2003, in preparation for a trek up the Lewis and Clark Trail that runs from St. Louis Missouri to Fort Clatsop on the Pacific, a journey, God willing that I'll attempt at age 66, I loosened my legs by hiking the Natchez Trace Trail, from Nashville Tennessee to Natchez Mississippi.

Quite interestingly, these respective odysseys generated much insight, much joy, and much profound inspiration. As a result, in the winter of 1999-2000, I published my first book, Ten Million Steps. Shortly after came a book of poetry entitled, Ditties, and in 2004, my third book, Where Less the Path is Worn was published.

Despite the fact that (over twenty-five years ago) heart specialists at Shands Teaching Hospital in Florida insisted on plugging me and a heart pacemaker together, a device I've very well managed to do without, thank you...and to this day, do I remain blessed with remarkably good health and stamina. In short, this old puddle-jumper carries the classic make, model and VIN for...

I recall Earl Schaffer talking enthusiastically about Benton's dream concerning the GET. The Eastern Continental Trail follows the AT. That's what I've hiked.

God Bless,
Sunny (Nimblewill)
www.nimblewillnomad.com

YouTube Video series of hiking the Pinhoti Trail

Note- there are many Youtube videos of trail hiking. Other sections of the GET are planned to be shared in coming issues.

Pinhoti Trail Thru-Hike 2018 : Part 1
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZhEg7_Gt5E

Pinhoti Trail Thru-Hike 2018 : Part 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzxZ2tAGv4k>

My Pinhoti Trail Experience
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78SxecGfY0o>

Pinhoti Trail 2018 Day 1 (Leonidas)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXWfKCwcUxQ>

The Best of Alabama Pinhoti Trail
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh14igo-irI>

Section 1 of the Pinhoti Trail February 2019
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qro_vI-G-0A

Alabama Pinhoti Trail: Sections 1-3 (SuperClassy Adventures)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT6ZvO13T24>

John Calhoun has volunteered over 100 trips of about 800 hours, clearing 69.5 miles of the Pinhoti Trail in 2018. From 2002 – 2018 he volunteered over 10000 hours to clear 1235 miles of trail. He also does volunteer work for Disaster Relief, Church Building, and Community Service.

CTC Co-Founder Sam Powell Dies –

Sam H. Powell, 86, of Signal Mountain, devoted his whole life to building hiking trails, conservation and improvement of the environment, died on February 8, 2019. He was married to the late Emilie Ervin Powell for 61 years. A native of Tarpon Springs, Fla., he was the son of the late William Marshall Powell and Margaret Harvey Bomar Powell. He grew up in Fla. and Haley, Tenn., and served in the U.S. Army 1953-54 during the Korean War. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK) in 1958. Sam worked his entire life in the electric utility industry, starting as a lineman with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in West Tennessee and Kentucky in 1951.

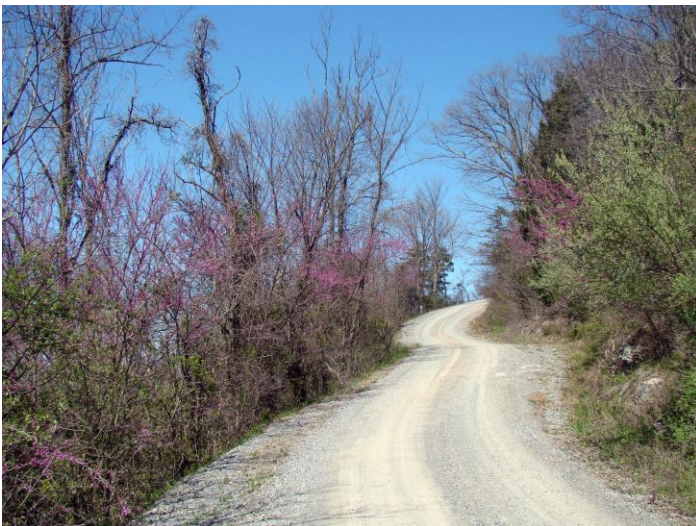
Sam is remembered, he was a founding member of the Cumberland Trail, which runs from Signal Mountain 300 miles across the state to Cumberland Gap. This trail continues to grow with additional parts that spin off to connect various parks. In addition, he was chairman of the Cumberland Trail Conference, and was a founding member and longtime director of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. Preservation of the environment was very

important to Sam and in addition to the many other groups he was active in he served on the Tennessee State Committee on Off-Highway Vehicles and the Tennessee Riverpark Advisory Committee which oversaw Hamilton County Parks for many years. On Signal Mountain he served as chairman of the Parks Board, was an environmental monitor for the construction of Shackleford Ridge Recreational Park, obtained grants and led development of four miles of hiking trails within Shackleford Ridge and directed the building of a trail system connecting Green Gorge with Rainbow Lake and the Cumberland Trail. Sam spearheaded the building of two bridges in the Green Gorge section of the Mountain

In honor of Sam's dedication to his community, the town of Signal Mountain dedicated "Sam Powell Trail" as a new road through Shackleford Ridge Park. It is now the official address for Signal Mountain Middle High School.

He is survived by daughter Julia Powell Rafter, her husband Michael and son Jaden Powell Rafter of Milton, Georgia.

Photo Gallery







Web addresses & emails:

GET website: <http://www.greateastertrail.net/>
GET Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatEasternTrail/>
GET Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Gethiking>

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