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Appalachian Trailway News

VOLUME 61, NUMBER 4 • SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2000

Appalachian Trailway News is published by the Appalachian Trail Conference, a nonprofit educational organization representing the citizen interest in the Appalachian Trail and dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, and enjoyment of the Appalachian Trail. Since 1925, the Appalachian Trail Conference and its member clubs have conceived, built, and maintained the Appalachian Trail in cooperation with federal and state agencies. The conference also publishes guidebooks and other educational literature about the Trail, the trailway, and its facilities. Annual individual membership in the Appalachian Trail Conference is $30; life membership, $600; corporate membership, $500 minimum annual contribution. Volunteer and free-lance contributions are welcome. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission. Observations, conclusions, opinions, and product endorsements expressed in Appalachian Trailway News are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of members of the board or staff of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

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75th-anniversary ATN

The “Trail Years” insert was a masterpiece of research and writing and should prove inspirational to this and future generations of A.T. enthusiasts. I think the ATC would be wise to publish this insert as a small volume, available for purchase through the Conference and maintaining clubs.

My one suggestion involves the “Where Now?” article. My feeling is that the ATC board member who favors “transition from maintenance and protection organization to an outreach organization” probably needs to do a little more real trail work. Please have him contact me for an A.T. section to oversee.

Thanks again for your wonderful 75th-anniversary publication.

Kerry Snow [PATC overseer]
Olney, Md.

EDITOR’S NOTE: A limited supply of reprints of the history insert is available at $10.00 each.

On the back page you have a short story and pictures about ATC’s “Honor Roll of Volunteers” and go on to say that “as part of ATC’s anniversary, [it] recognizes seventy-five volunteers for their extraordinary contributions to the Conference and the Trail.” It would have been nice to have more of a story about this in this 75th-anniversary issue instead of “Off the Trail; 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s,” as that had nothing to do with the A.T.

Dick Doucette (“Mr. Bean” ’96)
Freeport, Maine

EDITOR’S NOTE: The ceremony announcing and recognizing the volunteers occurred shortly before press time for the July–August issue. The first part of a two-part story on the list appears on page 25 of this issue.

Accessibility

My pleasure at getting the May ATN was enhanced by your thoughtful discussion of the demands being made for accessibility of the A.T. for handicapped or disabled people. In support of David Startzell’s balanced review of the demand for access and our mutual intent to preserve the integrity of the Trail, I enclose pictures [below] taken in April on the nature trail near Bears Den.

Maude Sterling, seated in the wheelchair, has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She can walk short distances using a cane, but quickly gets exhausted. Her pleasure in getting away from pavement and noise was an ample reward to us for bringing the wheelchair from San Francisco.

Letters

Appalachian Trailway News welcomes your comments. Letters will be edited for clarity and length. Please send them to:
Letters to the Editor
Appalachian Trailway News
P.O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
E-Mail: <editor@atconf.org>
Without resorting to maps, I can think of half a dozen places on the A.T. where wheelchair access is feasible, starting with the Virginia Creeper Trail near Damascus. It is well to remember that many disabled people are not “conditioned” to much exertion and tire out rather quickly. Provision for access need not be for any great distance for that reason. We need not think in terms of an aerial transit system to Katahdin.

Your moderate and thoughtful presentation of the problem of providing access to the disabled may save us a tedious and prolonged discussion that polarizes us and ends in a solution that satisfies no one.

Sally J. Walker (“Pokey”) San Francisco, Calif.

For those of you that do not know me, I am wheelchair-bound from multiple sclerosis. Walking is not an option at this point in my life. That is not said to evoke sympathy but simply to give perspective. Before this, I was a backpacker and had a dream of thru-hiking the Trail.

Anyone who values the Trail does so, in part, because of its wild beauty. To those like me who are handicapped, who want to visit remote areas away from trailheads, I say the beauty is more important than what you want to do in this lifetime. To those who want to make the Trail more accessible out of a sense of social duty, I would say, “Go teach some children in the inner city to read.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a very important part of my life. It ensures that I can find reasonable employment and that employers will make reasonable accommodations to use the part of me that does function properly—my brain. In short, it allows me to stay as independent as possible for as long as possible.

But, I resent the idea of using this critical part of my life for individualized and selfish purposes. I will be here and gone in another thirty or forty years, but my children and their children will still be here. To want to taint their enjoyment by making the Trail into a mere park is an act of selfishness of which I hope I would not be capable.

Max Rice
Pickerington, Ohio

From the Chair
David B. Field

What does it mean to be a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference? Our membership has grown dramatically during the past few years and now exceeds 32,000. The World Wide Web has proven to be a good source of contact with people interested in the goals of the Conference, as well as a good source of new members. But, what does membership mean, and how does learning about the ATC by way of the Web compare with membership recruitment in the old days?

The ATC is unusual among major conservation organizations in affording opportunities for its members to participate directly in Conference activities. This reflects our heritage and the fact that the A.T. would not exist had it not been for the enthusiasm and commitment of the pioneers who explored, located, and recruited others to build the original Trail. The early days of “membership” in both Trail clubs and the Conference reflected an interesting contrast between almost frantic efforts to gain members and a sense of exclusivity that required people to be “honored” by acceptance into club membership [usually after the performance of significant work and sponsorship by existing members]. In the wonderful 1981 history of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club [Friends of the Trail], club historians recorded the almost comical first attempts to lure people to meetings to try to organize a club. After those failures, a club elder later recorded, people were invited one or two at a time to hike into the mountains, look at interesting spots along what was to be the A.T., and consider the idea of having “a real trail club” in Georgia. “One by one, they became interested.”

At the other end of the Trail, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club set up a two-tiered membership classification. “Maintaining members” were honored by acceptance into the club only after having “rendered assistance of an outstanding character to work on the Appalachian Trail in Maine.” They paid no dues. “Annual members” were persons interested in the objectives of the club and were assessed dues of $3 per year as of 1953. (Both classes held equal voting rights.)

By the 1950s, the Appalachian Trail Conference had four classes of membership: Class A [clubs and organizations assigned a section of the Trail by the ATC, or organizations subassigned a section by a club], Class B [clubs and organizations not assigned a Trail section but interested in the purposes of the Conference], Class C [individuals assigned a section of the Trail by ATC or subassigned by a club], and Class D [individuals interested in the purposes of the Conference]. I was a Class C member of the ATC in 1956 and recall feeling a bit unhappy when that classification was eliminated in later years.

Keeping the Trail clear remains at the heart of A.T. volunteerism, and it is a very special privilege to be entrusted with a specific section of the Appalachian Trail. Far from the early days of desperate recruitment, there is now concern among some Trail clubs over how to provide enough opportunities for all those who want Trail assignments. But, the 1984 “Delegation Agreement” between the National Park Service and the Conference greatly expanded both the obligations of, and opportunities for, members of the Trail community beyond footpath-maintenance. It added corridor-monitoring, natural-heritage monitoring, and cultural-heritage monitoring to the choices for active involvement in the Trail project. Work on club and ATC publications has long been an “off-Trail” volunteer opportunity, and the ATC’s current strategic planning effort is opening new pathways of interest to increased public education, natural- and cultural-resource interpretation, and outreach to segments of the population for whom trails and natural resources remain a mystery.

Continued on page 30

Members
Quarry permit in N.C. revoked

Following months of complaints from Trail supporters, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revoked the permit of a new gravel quarry that already has severely marred the remarkable views from the Appalachian Trail on Hump Mountain on the North Carolina–Tennessee border.

Charles H. Gardner, director of DENR’s division of land resources, took the administrative action September 6. Quarry operator Clarke Stone Company has thirty days to appeal the decision to the state Mining Commission, but Gardner asked it to cease all operations except to reclaim the land as required by the permit, completing that work within six months. The agency in late August had conducted a “public meeting” on the quarry’s mitigation proposals, which it asked for in mid-April after sending Clarke a “notice of intention to revoke permit.” The quarry operations continued despite that action.

In late July, the Appalachian Trail Conference joined neighbors of the quarry and the National Parks and Conservation Association in suing DENR and the quarry to try to stop its operations. After a hearing August 21, a Superior Court judge reserved decision on the motions for a preliminary injunction and a finding that the permit was improperly issued. ATC’s attorneys were assessing the effect of Gardner’s action on the lawsuit.

The other plaintiffs are the unincorporated Association of Concerned Citizens to Protect Belview Mountain and quarry neighbors Faye Williams and Ollie Cox.

Gardner said the mine violated state law because of its “significantly adverse effect” on the Appalachian Trail. “There remains much credible evidence...that the mine’s visibility and audibility from this portion of the Trail would have significant adverse effects, both visual and acoustical, on the purposes of the Trail,” he wrote the quarry owners.

The 151-acre quarry, known as the Putnam Mine, also was opposed by the National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office and more than four thousand persons who sent e-mails of protest to the state since March.

Anti-ATV coalition combats off-roads in West Virginia

A coalition of homeowners, a local quarry, power companies, the National Park Service, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and the Appalachian Trail Conference has begun blocking vehicular access to the Trail and surrounding lands in the Loudoun Heights area in an effort to end damage from all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), illegal hunting, destruction of Civil War sites, and harassment of neighbors.

By law, the Trail is open only to travel by foot. In recent years, ATV riders have been entering Trail lands and property in the surrounding Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, primarily by way of a powerline right-of-way through Westridge Hills subdivision that is shared by Virginia Power Company and Allegheny Power Company. Private property on both sides of the public parklands—especially pasture lands—also has suffered from the intrusions.

The Trail is on the state line, which is just east of a road, and the Trail parallels the road for a distance before turning west to descend toward the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry. The right-of-way’s service road is now blocked with a locked pipe gate and boulders donated by Millville Quarry (due west of the site, across the river), a division of Aggregate Industries. The closure was installed, and other anti-trespassing measures taken, by an Allegheny Power crew. Virginia Power contributed $2,000 to ATC to help offset project costs.

That gate and another to be installed in late summer of 2000 came from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, headquartered in Vienna, Va. The Conference this year awarded a matching grant to the club to construct four gates for purposes such as this, under its $20,000 Grants to Clubs program (which, in turn, has been underwritten for the last several years by L.L. Bean, Inc., a leading mail-order outfitter based in Maine).

The land on which the main closure sits was donated by a resident and the Westridge Hills Owners Association. Four other closures are being erected at access points to National Park Service land.
Tentative agreement was reached August 23 in a highly public land dispute over the Trail corridor at Graymoor, a monastery of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of Atonement near Garrison, New York.

After fifteen years of unresolved negotiations and discussions, the National Park Service earlier this year began moving to condemn a narrow corridor of land through eminent-domain proceedings against Graymoor, which has for many years hosted long-distance hikers on the four-hundred-acre monastery grounds. The friars, in turn, launched a high-profile campaign against the proceedings, sparking national publicity and involving the local congresswoman and one of New York’s U.S. senators.

The problem stemmed in part from the need of the friars to expand the monastery’s sewage treatment plant, which lies near Trail lands on a protected easement purchased from the friars in 1985. According to ATC, soon after the easement deal was signed, Graymoor built sewer lines running under the corridor for about one hundred yards.

Local Trail officials said the initial easement violations led them to fear additional problems and possible sale of monastery properties near the Trail, which would expose the corridor to nearby residential development. Discussions dragged out for years—sometimes as formal negotiations, sometimes as informal discussions. Trail officials said they would finish one meeting thinking they had an agreement to buy the easement area and an additional twenty acres, only to have a different set of Graymoor negotiators tell them at the next meeting they did not.

With discussions at an impasse, the Park Service turned the case over to the U.S. Justice Department in May. The friars went public with the dispute in July, marshalling the support of the local member of Congress in a publicity blitz that included a letter-writing campaign and articles in major newspapers such as the New York Times. U.S. Senator Charles Schumer stepped in to call all the parties to a meeting in early August. After both sides agreed to go back to the negotiating table, the legal proceedings were put on hold.

According to Walt Daniels, a club member familiar with the discussions, under the new agreement, some lands will be returned to the friars and additional lands will be added to the A.T. right-of-way easement. The exact acreage change has not been computed yet. Some restrictions on Graymoor were removed—the friars can now, for example, replace Graymoor’s sewer pipe with larger-diameter lines.

“The boundaries of the new right-of-way are mostly based on what is visible from various points on the Trail,” Daniels said. “Natural ridges define the area rather than roads or other artificial boundaries. Much of the Trail will be relocated to a significantly better route that moves it off the roads and sewer line and into the woods.”

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**Countdown**

It’s the hope of Congress, the federal administration, and the Trail community that the Appalachian Trail can be pronounced fully protected by the end of this year. Here is where federal and state agencies stood at the beginning of August 2000 in terms of footpath miles [less than one percent to go!] and adjoining acreage left to acquire:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Map Miles</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.H.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vt.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conn.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.Y.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.J.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa.</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md.</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Va.</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.Va./Va.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C./Tenn.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 19.7 7,913
Trail closure by Schaghticoke Indians averted

A threat by the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation to close a section of the Appalachian Trail near Kent, Connecticut, was defused just before the July 4 holiday.

Representatives of the native American group, seeking official recognition from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, vowed to close a half-mile section of the A.T. to “trespassing” hikers for four days. The protest was connected to a land dispute and the tribe’s interest in a potential casino near the lucrative New York metropolitan area.

A closing would have forced Trail officials to temporarily direct hikers around a seven-mile section of the footpath.

But, after meeting with the Connecticut attorney general June 29, the tribe announced June 30 that the protest had been called off.

According to newspaper reports, Chief Richard Velky of the Tribal Nation hoped the threatened closing would dramatize the flaws in the lengthy process of tribal recognition, which he called “broken.” He suggested that when the federal government established a Trail route over the disputed property, it was promoting trespassing on lands that had been recognized by the state government since 1736.

A forty-three-acre tract north of the reservation has long been planned as the permanent corridor for the Trail there, removing it from reservation land—land held in trust by the state since colonial days for the tribe that then was settled throughout the area.

Notable club, supporting organization, corporate and foundation gifts

(Since May 1, 2000)

$10,000 and above
Backpacker magazine—ATC’s 75th-Anniversary Volunteer Honor Roll
Bierne Carter Foundation—land-acquisition fund (McAfee Knob protection project)
Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine—ATC’s 75th anniversary
Davis Conservation Foundation—land acquisition fund (Western Maine High Mountain Protection Project)
Kettering Family Foundation—Connecticut Historic Discovery program
Lindbergh Foundation—general support
Outdoor Explorer magazine—ATC’s 75th anniversary
William P. Wharton Trust—land-acquisition fund (Western Maine High Mountain Protection Project)

$5,000 to $9,999
James M. Cox Foundation—general support
Fields Pond Foundation—land-acquisition fund (Western Maine High Mountain Protection Project)
Ford Motor Company—general support
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation—Maryland natural-diversity program

$1,000 to $4,999
Adventure Medical Kits—Trail-crew program
Air Products Foundation—general support
Allegheny Power—general support
Appalachian Mountain Club-4000 Footer Committee—land-acquisition fund (Western Maine High Mountain Protection Project)
Dana Designs—Trail-crew program
Green Woodlands LLC—Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Foundation for the Carolinas—general support
Hewlett Packard—GIS mapping project for the Appalachian Trail
Millville Quarry—West Virginia Loudoun Heights protection program
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club—Trail-crew program
Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club—general support, land-acquisition fund, Trail-crew program

$500 to $999
A Northside Lock & Key—general support
Dupont Cordura—general support
Eastern Mountain Sports—National Trails Day
Glendowner Software—general support
Gregory Mountain Products—Trail-crew program
Land Trust of Eastern Panhandle—land-acquisition fund (West Virginia/ Buzzard Rocks)
Menasha Ridge Press—general support
Old Town Canoe—Kennebec River ferry program
Swiss Army Brands—general support

The gift that gives back: ATC life membership

Convert your annual membership to a life membership and help guarantee the Conference a secure future. Your life membership gift will be placed in ATC’s Life Membership Fund, an endowment that provides perpetual funding for the Trail.

ATC’s life-membership program offers a number of advantages. First, you won’t receive any more renewal notices! What you will receive is the Appalachian Trailway News, discounts on all our publications and merchandise, and a special patch and life member card—for your lifetime.

Dues are $600 for an individual, $900 for a couple. To renew as a life member, you have several options:

• Pay in full by sending ATC a check
• Pay in full by credit card
• Pay in installments by credit card (ATC will charge your card for 12 months)
• Pay in installments by automatic checking-account withdrawal (ATC will send you information to set up such a monthly deduction from your account)

For information on joining ATC for life, contact the Appalachian Trail Conference at P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, or call (304) 535-6331.
The following pages are a summary of significant accomplishments in the Appalachian Trail [A.T.] project in 1999. It was a year marked by continuing progress in all of our programs: to establish a publicly owned greenway extending the full length of the A.T., to care for the remarkable diversity of natural, scenic, and cultural resources along its 2,167-mile route, and to serve its millions of visitors. It also was a year marked by national recognition as the Trail was named both a “national millennium trail” and a “national planning landmark”—suitable tributes for an organization about to enter its seventy-fifth year of work.

Achievements during the year also illustrated two of the most prominent characteristics of the Trail project: its thriving volunteer-based stewardship and the elaborate network of partnerships we simply call its “cooperative management system.”

During the year, we also reached a number of milestones in terms of the health of the organization, including significant growth in ATC’s membership base, publication sales, and financial contributions from a variety of sources. Those developments will help ensure that the Conference can continue its work in behalf of the Trail and its visitors, extend its positive influences over lands and resources bordering the Trail, and support the work of its network of Trail-maintaining clubs into the twenty-first century.

We have noted here many of the organizations and some individuals that helped make 1999 another successful year: our affiliated Trail-maintaining clubs, our new life members, the year’s Benton MacKaye Society members, and our corporate and foundation supporters. Many other individuals, including the more than 4,400 volunteers who contributed an astounding 181,000 hours of labor along the Trail, as well as every one of ATC’s 30,000 members who contributed dues and, in many cases, additional gifts, are not explicitly acknowledged here. Neither have we named any of the highly skilled and dedicated professionals among our cooperating public-agency partners.

To all those individuals and organizations—both named and unnamed—who have contributed toward the success of the Trail project, not just in 1999, but throughout the past seventy-five years, we say: Thank you!

David N. Startzell
Executive Director

David B. Field
Chair, Board of Managers


During the year, we also reached a number of milestones in terms of the health of the organization, including significant growth in ATC’s membership base, publication sales, and financial contributions from a variety of sources.
As of April 2000, only about nineteen miles of the Appalachian Trail right-of-way remained to be protected by the two agencies.

Land acquisition—federal programs

With the benefit of a $15.1-million, “final-installment” appropriation in the 1999 interior-appropriations bill, and the strong encouragement of both the congressional leadership and the Clinton administration, the land-acquisition programs of the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service continued in high gear, with both agencies striving to meet the objective of completing the thirty-two-year-old Appalachian Trail protection project by the end of 2000.

By September 30, 1999 (the end of the 1999 federal fiscal year), the National Park Service had acquired twenty-nine more parcels, affecting nearly 872 acres for the year. In the remaining months of 1999 and first few months of 2000, another twenty parcels, affecting 1,047 acres, were added to the “protected” column. Acquisitions were completed in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia and included a mix of fee-simple and easement purchases, as well as several donations. Among those was a 375-acre donation on Loudoun Heights in West Virginia, adjacent to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and lands acquired by the Appalachian Trail Conference’s Land Trust through its Buzzard Rocks project.

The U.S. Forest Service also continued progress toward completing its long-term Trail-protection program. During the 1999 fiscal year, the agency acquired thirty-three parcels affecting 753 acres and 2.3 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Over all, as of April 2000, only about nineteen miles of the Appalachian Trail right-of-way remained to be protected by the two agencies.

Land acquisition—ATC Land Trust

The year ended with a name change for ATC’s privately funded land trust—from the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands to the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust. Regardless of its title, the program enjoyed another successful year with the acquisition of more than 3,600 acres of land in several states. In addition, another 1,800 acres were acquired within the Appalachian Trail “area of interest” by a number of cooperating conservation organizations.

Certainly, the most significant acquisition was the purchase of more than 3,000 acres around Mt. Abraham, which includes the second-largest alpine-tundra area in the state of Maine, as well as 340 acres on the eastern slopes of nearby Saddleback Mountain. Both acquisitions are part of a 12,000-acre Western Maine High Mountains project. Through the generosity of a number of individual contributors and several foundations, ATC was successful in raising the nearly $1 million required for those initial acquisitions, but the total needed for the over-all project approaches $2.5 million—a goal ATC hopes to reach by the end of 2000.

The western Maine project is not the only large undertaking in which the Land Trust was actively engaged. Other project areas included a 57,000-acre Chateauguay–Notown open-space project in central Vermont, South Egremont–Sheffield in western Massachusetts, Sterling Forest in New York, Black Rock area in Maryland, Buzzard Rocks in northern Virginia and West Virginia, Catawba Valley in central Virginia, and Burkes Garden in southwestern Virginia.
ATC also supported an effort during the year to garner a special federal appropriation for the U.S. Forest Service to acquire the 4,800-acre Gulf tract, a key addition to the Cherokee National Forest that borders a portion of the A.T. and also is highly visible from magnificent Max Patch Mountain in neighboring North Carolina.

In addition to activities related to those major projects, the Conference acquired several small parcels bordering the Trail in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Maryland.

An important program for the future success of ATC’s efforts to conserve parcels both large and small is the “conservation-buyers program.” It seeks to pair Trail supporters interested in owning property near the Trail with properties in need of protection. In 1999, the potential of this program was demonstrated clearly when the first conservation buyer acquired a 920-acre parcel in Loudoun County, Virginia, that borders the trust’s Buzzard Rocks project area. That property soon will be home to an environmental-education center being established by the Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation, which also has provided financial support to the Land Trust and ATC’s Web site. More than 120 individuals have expressed an interest in participating in the conservation-buyers program.

Dr. Vernon Vernier [aka “Del Doc”], a volunteer who earlier had assisted the Land Trust program by working several months to digitize the Trail route for use in computer-based mapping programs, took that project a significant step farther by walking the entire Trail armed with a global-positioning (GPS) device to verify the Trail route, then contributed funds for a cartographic firm to refine the data he had collected during his thru-hike. All of that information will be integrated with other information available in electronic form to assist the trust staff in better defining properties and special resources bordering the Trail that may be appropriate for conservation, either directly by ATC or by public agencies or other cooperating organizations.

The Land Trust staff also is responsible for oversight of ATC’s Bears Den hostel in northern Virginia. The burden of that responsibility has been minimized through the efforts of another extraordinary volunteer, David Appel, who has organized a cadre to undertake a variety of maintenance and renovation projects. The main building on the property has never been in better shape in the last two decades, while the well-maintained grounds now feature a nature trail and a demonstration trail highlighting different trail-construction and -maintenance techniques.

**Land protection**

Throughout the year, ATC and various Trail-maintaining clubs were actively involved in a broad assortment of major projects or planning efforts that could significantly affect the Trail.

In western Maine, for example, the Conference and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, as well as many individual members, participated in the National Park Service environmental-assessment process—including a number of public hearings that took place in Maine—to determine the extent of lands that should be acquired to protect the 3.2-mile segment of the Trail across Saddleback Mountain in western Maine. Off-and-on negotiations there between the Park Service and the property owner during the past fifteen years have failed to produce a settlement. In August, ATC submitted formal comments on the environmental assessment and endorsed an 893-acre land-acquisition option known as Alternative 2. [Many members supported the more expansive option known as Alternative 1.] In January 2000, the Park Service agreed with ATC, selecting Alternative 2 as the basis for future negotiations, which resumed in April.

Another large-scale project that required ATC participation was the Virginia State Corporation Commission’s review of a proposed 765kV American Electric Power Company transmission line, which might have had significant adverse impacts along many miles of the Appalachian Trail in central Virginia. However, indications now are that the utility company may be directed to more fully explore an alignment, first proposed by the Conference and the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club as early as 1990, that would shift the power line farther south to an area already compromised by a major highway crossing.

The Land Trust enjoyed another successful year with the acquisition of more than 3,600 acres of land in several states. In addition, another 1,800 acres were acquired within the Appalachian Trail “area of interest” by a number of cooperating conservation organizations.
ATC and the Roanoke club also are involved in planning related to a proposed new interstate [I-73] and an associated interchange with the existing I-81 near Roanoke, Virginia, at Daleville. The Conference also continued its involvement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to minimize adverse impacts to the Trail in proposals for upgrades to U.S. 58 and Va. 16 and a proposed bypass around the town of Damascus. Late in the year, the Conference also learned of a proposed major gas pipeline projected to cross the A.T. in Bland County, Virginia. It intends to participate fully in the planning process associated with that project.

In Connecticut, ATC began work with the Appalachian Mountain Club Connecticut Chapter to develop comments on a thirty-year license renewal for two hydroelectric generating facilities on the Housatonic River. Those dams, at Bulls Bridge and Falls Village, Connecticut, control water flow in sections of the river that are adjacent to A.T. corridor lands. Those reaches of the river serve as a primary scenic feature of the Trail in Connecticut, but water levels are significantly reduced for much of the year due to fluctuations related to power generation. ATC is working to ensure that water is released in the river channel to create an aesthetically pleasing environment for Trail visitors and to improve habitat quality on the bypassed reaches of the river. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission oversees the licensing process, which will likely extend into 2001.

In a development that affects the entire corridor, a “consensus agreement” among principal telecommunications-industry representatives, the American Hiking Society, and representatives of each of the national scenic trails was signed in October 1999, culminating nearly two years of negotiations spearheaded by ATC. The agreement incorporates an early-notification concept affecting wireless-communications towers proposed within one mile of those trails. It is intended to provide trail representatives an opportunity to influence the siting and design of those structures. As an outgrowth of the agreement, ATC developed a digital centerline of the Appalachian Trail, accessible to the telecommunications industry via the Internet, to enable it to identify more effectively the proximity of any proposed facilities to the Trail.

Staff members and several Trail-maintaining clubs also were involved during the year in the process for revising the management plans for most national forests along the Trail, including the White Mountain, Green Mountain, Jefferson, Cherokee, and Chattahoochee. Staff members or club volunteers, or both, participated in a variety of public meetings for each of the forests and submitted comments related to different forest-management scenarios being considered for each of the forests. The Conference also worked with the Forest Service to update regional “standards and guides” for incorporation into future forest plans that affect the management of lands bordering the Trail. Late in the year, ATC formally commented on the Forest Service’s draft environmental-impact statement on a proposed new roadless-areas management policy within the national forest system.

Other work of regional concern during the year included monitoring a proposed wind-turbine “farm” project in Redington Township that could adversely affect many miles of the Appalachian Trail in western Maine; developing a plan with VAST (Vermont’s snowmobile group) for snowmobile crossings of the A.T. corridor; rehabilitating the Mt. Everett fire tower in Massachusetts; and commenting on revised regulations affecting horse and bike use on trails located on Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry lands.

**Stewardship**

The Conference supports a variety of programs to provide technical and financial assistance for volunteer-based stewardship of the Trail, its facilities, and associated natural and cultural resources, but the lion’s share of the work along the Trail is carried out by a remarkable cadre of dedicated volunteers, most of whom are affiliated...
with one or more of the thirty-one Trail-maintaining clubs. In 1999, more than 4,400 volunteers contributed 181,000 hours of labor along the Trail in all manner of activities and projects, a number of which are summarized below.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION—Despite the effects of several snow, ice, and wind storms during the year, spring footpath maintenance was completed to its typical high standard through the dedicated efforts of the clubs and their volunteers in time to provide ready passage for a record number of thru-hikers.

Several footpath-reconstruction projects also were completed during the year, the most notable of which was a major Trail relocation along the western face of the Coolidge Range near Rutland, Vermont. The new route, known as the “Pico West” route, was opened on Labor Day weekend after more than two years of treadway work by a mix of volunteer and professional crews led by the Green Mountain Club and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. The new route is highly scenic, avoids existing and proposed ski-area development, and follows raised geotextile-based treadway through a boggy area north of U.S. 4. The route also required a new footbridge over Mendon Brook designed to be shared by the A.T., Long Trail, and Catamount Ski Trail. Those projects were aided by $25,000 from National Park Service repair and rehabilitation funds. Work continues in 2000, and a new parking area will be constructed in 2001 if funding is obtained.

In addition to Mendon Brook and other, smaller bridges, three major footbridge projects were advanced in 1999. In New Jersey, volunteers from the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference, employees of the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forests, and ATC staff members completed construction of 1,200 feet of elevated boardwalk and raised geotextile-based treadway across the Pochuck Creek floodplain. The wooden-decked boardwalk is supported on Chance helical piers, power-driven deep into the wetland soils. This project, one of the largest and most complicated Trail-construction efforts ever undertaken by the A.T. community, was in the second of four phases. Phase one was the 1995 completion of a 146-foot suspension bridge across Pochuck Creek. Another thousand feet of boardwalk is scheduled to be constructed in 2000, and it is anticipated that the final remaining eighteen hundred feet will be constructed and opened in 2001, eliminating a current two-mile roadwalk.

In Pennsylvania, following preparation of a proposal by the mid-Atlantic staff and the Susquehanna A.T. Club in the fall of 1998, ATC learned that its application for $250,000 in federal-state funding to construct a footbridge over heavily traveled Pa. 225 near Carlisle had been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Environmental compliance was completed in 1999, design and engineering work is proceeding in 2000.

By far the biggest footbridge project of the year was the 626-foot pedestrian bridge across the James River in central Virginia. Final funding was obtained for this project by the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club through a second transportation-enhancement grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Officials with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests completed the design phase, and the construction phase, supervised by VDOT, went to bid in early 2000 with a projected completion in the fall of 2000. As the longest foot-travel-only bridge ever built on the A.T., it will link major relocations along Matts Creek and Rocky Row Run and will improve hiker safety by eliminating a dangerous roadwalk across a highway bridge.

A number of shelter and associated sanitation projects were completed during the year, including several of note:

In New Hampshire, the Appalachian Mountain Club repaired and reroofed the Imp Shelter with financial assistance from ATC’s grants-to-clubs program. In addition, student volunteers from the Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) used hand tools and na-

Natural Bridge A.T. Club member Ralph Etherington and VDOT’s Eddie Keene check progress at James River Bridge (Photo: Barbara Etherington)
tive materials to construct a new shelter at Ore Hill. DOC volunteers also upgraded the fire warden’s cabin on Smarts Mountain, with structural repairs, replacement windows, and a new porch.

In Vermont, Green Mountain Club (GMC) volunteers constructed a new shelter at Stratton Pond. That post-and-beam shelter replaced two older shelters that were situated too close to the shoreline of the pond. The AMC Berkshire Chapter built a new post-and-beam shelter, “The Hemlocks Shelter,” on the shoulder of Mt. Everett in western Massachusetts. Sadly, this project was marred by the loss of volunteer Jack Cysz, who died of a heart attack while on a club work trip.

An unusual group of volunteers constructed the Ensign Phillip Cowall Shelter in Maryland. Under the leadership of their teacher, PATC member Frank Turk, students from the Model Secondary School for the Deaf built the log structure, designed by Turk and PATC shelter chair Charlie Graf. The shelter was named after an avid hiker who died in an automobile accident and whose family provided a significant contribution toward the project.

Volunteers with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club installed a new backcountry “sweet-smelling toilet” (SST) at the heavily used Maupin Field Shelter. Another “pumpable-vault” SST was installed at the Partnership Shelter near the visitors center in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. Farther south, volunteers with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club moved pit privies at Brown Fork Gap, Spence Field, and Pecks Corner shelters, rebuilt the Icewater Spring shelter, and designed the Birch Spring Gap campsite to replace a shelter there. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park also completed installations of food-storage cable systems at shelters to improve sanitation and reduce interactions between humans and bears in the park’s backcountry areas.

ATC cooperated with a number of clubs and agencies to expand joint offerings of trail-skills training workshops, including basic maintenance, chainsaw safety, drainage and erosion control, rock work, winch techniques, and wilderness first-aid certification courses. That program benefited from partial funding from the National Park Service’s Volunteers-in-Parks program as well as its challenge cost-share program.

Among the workshop offerings was a “train-the-trainer” chainsaw program sponsored by ATC at its Bears Den hostel in northern Virginia. That was the Conference’s first effort to develop certified expert sawyers who can then train other volunteers in the Trail-maintaining clubs. The National Park Service, ATC, and the Forest Service have adopted a standard curriculum for this program that meets agency certification requirements. Fourteen participants from all regions of the Trail completed the four-day training course and are now certified to conduct A.T. chainsaw-training workshops on the Appalachian Trail. The Conference also provided modest scholarships for a number of club members in the southern region to partially offset the costs of obtaining the first-aid training required by the Forest Service in order to obtain chainsaw-operator certification. In its mid-Atlantic region, ATC sponsored trail-skills training and a volunteer-motivation workshop.

In both 1998 and 1999, the Conference participated as a representative of trails and backcountry recreation interests on a national advisory committee charged with developing proposed regulations affecting access for disabled people to outdoor envi-
Approximately $12,000 of ATC money went to support a feasibility study and construction of a one-mile wheelchair-accessible trail segment (including one-half mile of the A.T.) at Falls Village, Connecticut.

The Conference also completed a major revision of its *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance* manual. This book, one of several ATC Trail-management publications, provides detailed descriptions and illustrations of construction techniques for the Appalachian Trail and has been adopted by other organizations and agencies for application to trails throughout the United States. ATC also initiated development of a comprehensive manual on backcountry sanitation technology that is being produced by the Green Mountain Club. The manual, which will provide A.T.-maintaining clubs and agencies with an overview of the different toilet systems available and help them make decisions about the cost-effectiveness of those systems at different sites, is scheduled for publication in 2001.

**SEASONAL TRAIL CREWS**—ATC directly sponsors three seasonal Trail-crew programs to assist Trail-maintaining clubs with especially challenging trail- and facility-construction or reconstruction projects and to provide hands-on training opportunities for volunteers who are not affiliated with a Trail club. Those programs include the Konnarock crew, operating throughout the southern region; the Rocky Top crew, operating in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and the mid-Atlantic crew, operating throughout the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, a number of club- or agency-sponsored trail-crew programs are deployed in the mid-Atlantic and New England regions, some with partial financial and logistical support from ATC. Highlights of those programs include:

**Baxter State Park Trail Crew.** Work continued on extensive rehabilitation of the A.T. (Hunt Trail) ascent on Katahdin. This project required sophisticated winch techniques to raise rock 100 vertical feet out of Katahdin Stream Gorge to a location where it could be used as steps.

**FORCE Trail Crew.** The Maine Appalachian Trail Club’s volunteer Trail crew completed seventeen crew weeks at nine different sites. Work included reconstruction projects at Gulf Hagas, Whitecap, Rainbow Ledges, Bemis Mountain, and Pollywog Stream. FORCE crews set a total of 126 rock steps, 92 stepping stones, 15 waterbars, 66 log steps, and 35 feet of elevated causeway, with additional sidehill and crib wall.

**Public Lands Corps.** Also in Maine, the National Park Service’s Public Lands Corps funding supported a project by the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC). MCC crews put in time on Moody Mountain, doing extensive and highly technical rock work. In Vermont, Public Lands Corps funding supported the involvement of a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew in the Pico West relocation, where it assisted in installing an extensive geotextile-based segment of raised turnpike along the newly relocated A.T. near U.S. 4.

**AMC White Mountain trail crews.** These crews completed reconstruction projects on the Mahoosuc Trail and the Webster Cliff Trail, both of which are segments of the A.T. AMC also completed a major relocation of the Ethan Pond Trail section of the A.T. to avoid an area severely eroded during a November 1996 storm.

**Green Mountain Club Long Trail Patrol.** The crew worked extensively with volunteers to complete two major relocations in 1999, in the Coolidge Range and at Vt. 140 over Bear Mountain.

**Mid-Atlantic Crew.** The crew completed several long-term projects in 1999, including Trail-rehabilitation projects near Port Clinton and Mt. Minsi, both in Pennsylvania. Other projects included trail-rehabilitation at Raven Rocks in northern Virginia, sidehill footpath construction and cribbing on Blue Mountain north of the valley in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, replacement of...
sections of the elevated walkway at Hiller Brook in New York, and ongoing rehabilitation of the Trail in the Delaware Water Gap area of New Jersey at Dunfield Creek. The crew also worked with other volunteers to complete the first section of the new elevated walkway across the Pochuck Creek wetlands in New Jersey.

Konnarock and Rocky Top Crews. The Konnarock program, based in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, attracted a large number of both independent and club-affiliated volunteers who together contributed more than 14,000 hours of labor during the sixteen-week crew season. Accomplishments included major rehabilitation projects on Wilburn Ridge and The Cuckoo. Significant progress was made to complete a multiyear relocation project on Humpback Rocks along the Blue Ridge Parkway, with financial support provided by a National Park Service cost-share grant. Another very technical tread-construction project, together with the construction of two footbridges across Rocky Row Run, completed the north side of a Trail-relocation effort on both sides of the James River, to provide an alignment that will coincide with the new James River footbridge. That project was a model of cooperation among ATC, the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, and the Pedlar and Glenwood districts of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The crew also completed a relocation near Groseclose, Virginia, with volunteers from the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers and made significant progress on large relocations at War Spur in the Mountain Lake Wilderness and on Brushy Mountain in the Dismal Creek area with volunteers from the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club. Work was completed on a new section of a "high-water bypass trail," near Little Wolf Creek, as well as other rehabilitation work on Peters Mountain with student volunteers from the Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech.

Farther south, the Konnarock crew and volunteers from the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club completed a significant relocation between U.S. 19E and Doll Flats. That was the last section of a steep and eroding Trail segment between Apple House Shelter and Doll Flats. Members of the Carolina Mountain Club joined the crew to complete a relocation requiring substantial rock work along the escarpment at Firescald Ridge. Volunteers from the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club worked alongside Konnarock members to complete half of the so-called Brown Fork relocation, which required difficult sidehill construction on steep slopes.

In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Rocky Top crew constructed several thousand feet of treadway for a Trail relocation in the vicinity of Russell Field and also reconstructed a thirty-foot crib wall at Newfound Gap to replace one that had collapsed.

In Georgia, volunteers with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and members of the Konnarock crew completed about three-quarters of a relocation at Hickory Flats.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT — The Conference and Trail-maintaining clubs are responsible for more than 100,000 acres of lands acquired by the National Park Service along the Trail and also participate actively in land- and resources-management programs affecting lands administered by other federal and state agencies. Highlights from resource-management programs during 1999 include:

ATC’s natural-heritage program is a long-term program to inventory state- and federally listed rare, threatened, and endangered species and communities along the Trail and is nearly complete. Final reports on surveys in both Massachusetts and Georgia were completed in 1999. A new, two-year inventory was initiated in New York, and preparations were made to initiate studies in New Jersey and Maryland in 2000. With the help of ATC headquarters volunteer Joanne Firman, most identified natural-heritage sites have now been entered into ATC’s Trail- and land-management database (TREAD), which will allow both professional and volunteer managers to access the information for monitoring purposes or Trail-management decisions likely to affect those sensitive species and habitats. To date, this program, initiated in 1989, has resulted in the identification of 1,675 occurrences of 429 different species. Total costs have exceeded $225,000. Fortunately, the program has attracted support from a number of charitable foundations, as well as federal and state agencies. About 240,000
acres have been included in those surveys.

The natural-diversity program does not end when sensitive species have been identified. To ensure the continued vitality of those rare plants and animals, and to ensure that they are not adversely affected by Trail-maintenance and use or other influences, their condition and extent must be monitored periodically. For this reason, ATC and the National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office sponsor a set of volunteer-based natural-heritage site-monitoring programs. They are active in Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and North Carolina. In 1999, the Conference and the Park Service sponsored two monitor-training workshops—one in Massachusetts and one in Virginia—that attracted more than sixty volunteers.

Modeled on the successful natural-diversity program, a program to develop cultural-diversity inventories was initiated in 1999 with the completion of a literature search in Pennsylvania. That program, which catalogues sites of historical and cultural significance bordering the Trail, is likely to continue for some time. The results of those inventories will assist both volunteer and professional A.T. managers in protecting and interpreting the wealth of such resources along the Trail, should enrich the experience of many Trail visitors, and should be of interest to many in the nonhiking public.

The Conference continued to assist the National Park Service throughout the year in administering agricultural-use permits, primarily in the valley of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Forty-one agricultural special-use permits are in effect, with 1,160 acres under cultivation. In addition to regular liaison with affected farmers, ATC contracts for agronomy monitoring to provide professional evaluation of crop rotations and compliance with NPS-approved methods governing the application of fertilizers and pesticides. ATC provided or contracted for mowing services to maintain meadows and other open areas in Cumberland County and in Vermont, controlled burns, and manual clearing of nineteen open areas and “balds” on U.S. Forest Service lands in the southern region. All of those activities are intended to maintain diversity, scenic overlooks, and wildlife habitat in those special areas.

The Conference also assisted the National Park Service with managing structures that have been acquired in conjunction with the A.T. land-acquisition program. In most instances, those structures are removed, and the sites are restored to a natural condition. However, such projects can be quite costly, since a number of them require abatement of such hazards as asbestos and underground storage tanks. During the year, ATC administered structure-demolition and hazard-abatement contracts in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. ATC also contracted for asbestos abatement and repairs to its mid-Atlantic regional office in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, one of several NPS-acquired structures that have been retained for administrative purposes.

With the help of paid survey technicians as well as club volunteers, ATC continued its long-term program for boundary maintenance and monitoring. More than 100 miles of boundary lines demarcating National Park Service ownership of the Trail-protection corridor were reblazed and marked with new boundary monuments during the year. That program provides an important deterrent to encroachment on publicly owned lands and easements. Several workshops in orienteering, monitoring, and reporting were sponsored to enhance the skills of volunteers. Also in 1999, ATC supported boundary-maintenance and monitoring activities along U.S. Forest Service-administered Trail lands in the Green Mountain and White Mountain national forests.

To ensure a better understanding of land-management needs and Trail-resource characteristics, staff members and club volunteers continued ATC’s Trail-assessment program, which involves detailed inventories of maintenance and construction needs and resource conditions along the Trail. Although essentially the full length of the Trail has been assessed through this program, those inventories quickly become outdated, and several hundred miles must be reassessed each year. Information gleaned from those inventories is entered in the Trail and resources database (TREAD) to assist ATC in establishing priorities for its grant and technical-assistance programs. Information also is available to club volunteers to assist them in scheduling annual maintenance and construction activities and projects.

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ATC contracts for agronomy monitoring to provide professional evaluation of crop rotations and compliance with NPS-approved methods governing the application of fertilizers and pesticides. ATC provided or contracted for mowing services to maintain meadows and other open areas in Cumberland County and in Vermont and oversaw the mowing, controlled burns, and manual clearing of nineteen open areas and “balds” on U.S. Forest Service lands in the southern region.
VISITOR SERVICES—An estimated three to four million people visit some portion of the Appalachian Trail each year. Many are first-time visitors with only limited hiking knowledge and skills. Others are more experienced hikers and backpackers. All of them occasionally need a helping hand. To serve those visitors, ATC and many Trail-maintaining clubs sponsor a variety of programs intended to promote sensitive use of the Trail and associated resources and support public safety.

More than three dozen paid and volunteer ridgerunners and caretakers were deployed along high-use sections of the Trail in 1999 by ATC and clubs. Those individuals provide education services and emergency assistance to visitors and also serve as a deterrent to crime and illegal use of the Trail and Trail lands. The Conference provides training in Leave No Trace practices, emergency-medical techniques, and communications skills to many of those seasonal workers, as well as financial assistance for salaries and stipends and in-kind support in the form of clothing and equipment, much of which is donated by ATC’s corporate members.

The Conference continued its long-term support for a hiker ferry service across the Kennebec River in Maine, where one fatality and other near-fatalities occurred before 1987. It also provided a water-testing service at a number of locations along the Trail where improved drinking-water sources have been developed to meet the needs of visitors.

Staff members and club volunteers were involved in a number of emergency- and incident-management situations, most notably problems stemming from an outbreak of intestinal virus in southwest Virginia that affected about four dozen thru-hikers. ATC worked with public-health officials to track down affected hikers and identify possible sources of the illness. Staff members and volunteers also assisted in apprehending at least one suspected felon in Pennsylvania, supported several temporary Trail closures in high fire-risk areas, and responded to damage to several Trail bridges and shelters stemming from Hurricane Floyd.

ATC initiated in 1999 a multiyear study of high-use campsites along the Trail with Dr. Jeffrey Marion, a professor at Virginia Tech and recreation ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. With the benefit of Marion’s twenty years of experience in assessing resource impacts at backcountry campsites, ATC is developing a series of case studies that will illustrate management practices that can help reduce such impacts while improving visitors’ experiences. About ten campsites were evaluated during the year, and a similar number will be evaluated in 2000.

The Board of Managers reviewed and approved five local-management plans developed by Trail-maintaining clubs during the year. Those plans detail all the policies and management practices applicable to each segment of the Appalachian Trail. The board’s Trail and Land Management Committee has recommended that all management plans be updated every five years, to reflect changes in Trail conditions, new information about Trail resources, and new policies developed by the board and agency partners.

The Conference also renewed a number of its cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with club and agency partners during the year. Specifically, a
new agreement among ATC, the nine affected Trail-maintaining clubs, and state agencies in Virginia was signed at the biennial membership meeting held at Radford University. A new cooperative agreement was developed with Shenandoah National Park, and work was initiated for development of a new cooperative agreement with the Blue Ridge Parkway. Those agreements are important because they spell out the roles and responsibilities of each partner in the Trail’s remarkable “cooperative management system.”

**Finances**

During 1999, the Conference’s gross total assets jumped by more than 25 percent to almost $9.6 million—with almost 30 percent of them held in the Stewardship Fund, 32 percent in the Land Acquisition Fund (more than half of which is land held for resale), and 11 percent in the Annuity Fund, representing various “planned gifts.” Most of the “liabilities” at year’s end were either membership dues being held for recognition as income a month at a time ($553,457) or mortgages or other loans associated with the creative financing of the Land Trust’s work to protect significant resources along the A.T. corridor.

Although the table on page 20 indicates an operating loss of $55,882, that came before the budgeted annual transfer of a part of earnings from the endowments [the Stewardship and Life Member funds] and the Land Acquisition Fund’s cash to support Trail-management and general-operating expenses, as intended. The result was a modest surplus of about 1.4 percent of total revenue.

Substantial gains were posted in the principals of both endowments, as noted in the following section. Fund-raising and administrative expenses together accounted for less than 13 percent of total realized revenues—in other words, 87.3 cents of each dollar of revenue went into programs.

Complete copies of ATC’s independent audit for 1999 are available upon request to the controller, Jean Hebert, at the Harpers Ferry office.
Membership and development

The Conference welcomed approximately 9,000 new members during 1999, ending its year with 29,044 households who make annual dues gifts to support its mission. A substantial number of members also elected to make gifts above and beyond their dues to support information and education programs, programs to protect the Trail’s threatened and endangered flora and fauna, the Land Trust, and other conservation efforts.

The Benton MacKaye Society, a special-givers program, comprised 186 households or individuals, while the Conference’s life-membership endowment benefited from an unprecedented 353 new life members, an increase of almost one-third. Three individuals opted to make an investment in the Trail by executing a charitable gift annuity or other form of planned gift. And, ATC’s other endowment, the Stewardship Fund, grew as a result of a substantial bequest and two named endowments within its scope.

Federal and state employees made gifts through several workplace-giving programs, such as the Combined Federal Campaign—an important and growing source of financial support. Members employed by companies that match employee contributions to charitable organizations increased their gifts to the Conference, resulting in more than double the total income from this source in 1998. (A listing of those sixty-three employers is on page 23.)

Approximately one thousand members carry and use an Appalachian Trail Conference VISA or MasterCard credit card that helps generate additional funds for Trail-protection and -management work. That program yielded more than $22,800 in 1999.

Sixty-two corporations supported the Conference through corporate membership. Notable contributions included L.L. Bean’s renewed sponsorship of the Grants to Clubs program; Deer Park Spring Water’s significant partnership with ATC and sponsorship of several events at the biennial meeting held at Radford; and Campmor’s distribution of hundreds of thousands of membership brochures through its catalogue-sales fulfillment operations.

The Appalachian Trail Conference
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 1999

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EXPENSE

| Program Services |                       |                            |               |                 |             |       |
|------------------|                       |                            |               |                 |             |       |
| Trail Management | $1,211,187            | $19,814                    | $1,231,001    | $7,101          | $557,593    |       |
| Trail Protection | $382,802              | $167,081                   | $2,094        | $305,233        | $325,383    |       |
| Membership Services | $302,048 | $1,111 | $2,094 | $305,233 |
| Development      | $400,551              | $4,273                     | $404,824      | $404,824        | $404,824    |       |
| Information & Visitor Services | $147,746 | $3,289 | $151,035 | $151,035 |
| Publications     | $318,894              | $6,489                     | $325,383      | $325,383        | $325,383    |       |
| Administrative Services | $83,722 | $9,213 | $92,935 | $92,935 |
| Total            | $2,846,950            | $167,081                   | $1,111        | $0              | $52,882     | $0    |
| Surplus/(Loss)   | ($55,882)             | $415,868                   | $338,608      | $9,366          | $582,669    | $78,616 |

Other Changes in Net Assets

| Transfers of 1998 surplus to reserves | ($9,640) | $9,640 | $0 |
| Transfer of investment income | $117,475 | ($37,964) | ($20,748) | ($48,763) | $0 |
| Transfer of assets | ($3,000) | $3,000 | $0 |
| Annuity actuarial adjustment | $25,572 | $25,572 | $25,572 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | $38,953 | $377,904 | $317,860 | $9,366 | ($40,242) | $533,906 | $104,188 | $1,341,935 |

Net Assets at Beginning of Year | $335,439 | $1,923,435 | $660,071 | $66,040 | $388,922 | $2,308,675 | $376,086 | $6,056,668 |

Net Assets at End of Year | $374,392 | $2,301,339 | $977,951 | $75,406 | $348,680 | $2,882,581 | $480,274 | $7,400,603 |

* Total revenue after excluding unrealized gains on investments and donated services was $3,919,121.
Twenty private foundations provided grants to support various programs, including natural-diversity inventories in New Jersey and New York, a cultural-resource inventory in Connecticut, ATC’s Tower Watch program to monitor and influence the design and siting of wireless-communications facilities near the Trail; and several land-acquisition projects by the Land Trust, including the Western Maine High Mountains project, acquisition of the Gallo property in Vermont, and the Buzzard Rocks project in West Virginia.

Finally, seven supporting organizations and eight Trail-maintaining clubs made gifts to the Conference to support volunteer Trail-crew programs, land-acquisition efforts, and ridgerunner programs.

**Information, education, and publications**

Midyear, the Appalachian Trail was named one of sixteen “national millennium trails” by the White House Millennium Council—a designation that warranted a $20,000 grant from the American Express Company. A short time later, the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, and the West Virginia Planning Association announced they were naming the Trail a national planning landmark and ATC founder Benton MacKaye a national planning pioneer.

For the sixth consecutive year, the publications program posted a significant gain in sales—a 10.6 percent increase, to a gross of more than $825,000—as Trail guide sets began to appear in major chain book stores in a serious way, as well as on such major e-commerce sites as amazon.com. Nonetheless, the fulfillment staff managed to hold to its average “twenty-four-hour turn-around” rule in processing and shipping orders, which increased by a little less than 10 percent.

More than 1,100 thru- and section-hikers stopped at the Conference’s information center in Harpers Ferry during the year, part of what seemed like a tidal wave spawned by Bill Bryson’s *A Walk in the Woods*, a best-seller in hard cover and audiotape (1998) and paperback (1999). One of those thru-hikers was longtime ballet star Jacques D’Amboise, an ATC member for several years, who generated national publicity as he taught a special dance to children in towns along the way. The best estimate was that the number of starting thru-hikers rose by up to 45 percent, with “2,000-miler” reports for the year exceeding 500 for the first time—an increase of more than 21 percent from 1998 levels, including more than 420 thru-hikes. (The first years to crack the 400 mark for 2,000-miler reports were 1996 and 1997.) The number reaching Harpers Ferry was up by more than one-third.

From May on, those visitors to Harpers Ferry could enjoy “Exploring the Appalachian Trail,” a multimedia information display for the Harpers Ferry information center that had been under development for five years by members Frank and Victoria Logue. It was made possible by a 1993 grant from the National Park Foundation and part of a 1994 bequest from Richard Goldin of New York. Copies of the program on CD-ROM will be made available to parks and forests along the Trail and school and public libraries.

In 1999, for the first time, the annually updated *A.T. Data Book* and the *A.T. Thru-hikers’ Companion* (published for the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association) each went to a second printing to meet the increased demand. ATC also copublished (with Menasha Ridge Press) *Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail*, by members Leonard Adkins and Joe and Monica Cook. In a joint arrangement with the Maine A.T. Club, New York–New Jersey Trail Conference, and Potomac A.T. Club, it licensed Maptech, a New Hampshire firm, to produce and market CD-ROM versions of their Trail guides, with photographs and many interactive trip-planning features. More than 2,000 units were sold in their first two months on the market, at year’s end.

In the sixth year of its Grants for Outreach program, the Conference awarded $11,500—the highest total yet—to Trail-maintaining clubs, schools, and other organizations to help support programs to encourage educated, low-impact use of the Trail by school-aged children, people with disabilities, and urban groups.
## Major contributors

* Indicates ATC Board of Managers or committee member

### Organizations

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### Horizons (ATC’s long-term endowment gifts)

Michael Bequaert—Andrew Kinney Shelter Memorial Endowment The Smart Family Foundation—Trail-Crew Fund Mark Sperling Shelter Memorial Endowment Fund

### 1999 Benton MacKay Society

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<td>Elizabeth Hurd</td>
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<td>James and Ruby Norton (in memory of Mike Norton, Ga.-Maine ’89)</td>
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<td>Michael Perry and Christine Wolfe*</td>
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<td>Stephen D. Gunther (in honor of Millie and Stephen Meyers)</td>
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| James* and Linda Hutchings |
| Rob Hutchinson |
| Arthur and Sylvia Koerber |
| Jo and Grant Reynolds |
| Nancy Shofer |
| Mary Szpanka |
| Jodi and Leonard Verebay |
| Sidney R. White III |
| Bob and Dorylin Williams |
| Gordon T. Wells |
| Walter Wells |

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<td>Tucker and Karen Andersen</td>
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<td>Marian T. Baker*</td>
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<td>George and Dianne Baskin (in memory of David Baskin)</td>
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<td>B. David Benson, Jr.</td>
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<td>Frank and Lucia Bequaert</td>
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<td>Richard and Alice Blake L.D. and Nancy Boozer (in honor of Jim and Parlee Park)</td>
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### Sustainer ($500–$999)

New life members in 1999

Robert E. DeHart II
Samuel A. Denham
John Dick, Jr.
Gerald and Alison Dickinson
Jeff Diltz
Walter Dippold
Deb Dolph
Darcy Douglas
Gregory Duckworth
Theresa Duffey
Thomas W. Dugdale
Trestor Dyke
Sharon Dzieniels
John Eliaides
V. Curtis Enger
John C. Everett, Jr.
Stanley M. Ezell
Brian G. Felker
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ferguson
Kerri Ferriese
George W. Field
Mary L. Fisher
Stephen A. Fitzgerald
Scott Fleischman
John R. Fletcher
Charles S. Forester
Peter H. Fornof
Adam Foster
Kevin G. Foulis
Stuart and Elise Fraser
Earl and Terry Frederick
Margaret C. Freifeld
Dick Frisbee
Douglas E. Fry and Yvonne Gisler
Kelly Gallagher
Raphael Germany
Robert Glynn
Bruce W. Graham
Keith E. Graver
John Graybill
Gary N. Griffin
Benjamin F. Gundelfinger
John and Marianne Gunzler
James M. Hall
Lea R. Hall
Michael L. Hall
Helen L. Hamilton
William B. Hamilton
William T. Hamrick
Rex Hanby
Steve Hanes
Phillip A. Hoadood, Jr.
Richard Harper
Scott Harris
Donna Creaser Harwood
James R. Haynor
George Hebeler
Ron Heilmann
Richard H. Helman
James F. Hendrick
Monticello J. Hendrix
George Henry
Michael Hickey
Caryn Hodges
Bill Hofman
Robert Holley
Mr. and Mrs. William Earl Holman
Richard E. Hostelley
Debby Hotka
Marvin L. House
Paul "Sharkey!"
Hudspeth
William Hueston
Patricia Humphrey
Jim and Linda Hutchings
Robert Bissone
Debbie Ireland
Edward John Jamieson
Stephen Jennnings
Robert Jones
William R. Jones
Lloyd C. Joyce
Norman W. Kalat III
Leonard C. Keifer
James W. Kelly
Mike Kennedy
Catherine H. Kerruish
Chong P. Kim
Fred Kirich
Charles Klubande
Sharon Klick-Brandt
Lee Knight
Todd Koch
Richard J. Kolar
John Kratziug
Robert and Robin Lahnenmann
C. LaMoneha
Leonard Lauder
Glenn Lawrence
Harriet Lawrence
Towles Lawson
Paul R. Layman
Thad C. Lee
Robert and Dee Leggett, Jr.
Beverly Leikkanen
Dan and Deanna Lentz
The Limbird Family
Don Lind
John and Debbie Lindernuth
Judith Lindquist
Lawrence A. Linebrink
Brian D. Lloyd
John M. Looney
Jack Lundgard
David Lundquist
Karen Lutz
Lawrence and Frieda Luxenberg
Helen Maddock
Michael Magan
James Malcolm
Janet Malcolm
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Malnati
Eric Manson
Sandra Marra
J. Edward Marsh
Judy C. Matheny
James L. McAlarney III
The Conference staff

Administration
David N. Startzell, executive director; R. Hansen Ball, systems administrator; Matthew C. Robinson, GIS technician; Rebecca A. Cline, secretary

Public Affairs
Brian B. King, director of public affairs; Laurie H. Potteiger, information-services coordinator; Robert A. Rubin, senior editor; Teresa L. Tumblin, customer-service manager; Kay E. Bresee, publications assistant; John Buchheit, education planner; Carolyn M. Allen, order-entry clerk; R. Todd Coyle, shipping/receiving; Nancy C. Hough, receptionist; Lauren E. Post, information assistant; fulfillment clerk (vacant); George Chapline, seasonal information assistant

Trail Management
Robert D. Proudman, director of Trail-management programs; David Reus, management-projects coordinator; Susan Daniels, Trail-management assistant

Regional Staff
New England: J.T. Horn, regional representative; Jody L. Bickel, associate regional representative; Alice Schori, office assistant
Mid-Atlantic: Karen Lutz, regional representative; Michele Miller and John Wright, associate regional representatives; Chris Florak, exterior corridor-boundary survey technician; Nancy Tritt, office assistant
Central & Southwest Virginia: Michael Dawson, regional representative; Teresa A. Martinez, associate regional representative; Dottie M. Atkins, office assistant
Tennessee, North Carolina & Georgia: C. Morgan Sommerville, regional representative; James (Ben) Lawhon, associate regional representative; Valerie Shrader, office assistant and central-office public-relations assistant

Development
Director of development (vacant); membership coordinator (vacant); Monica A. Bowman, corporate and foundation gifts coordinator; Anna L. Hartman, membership secretary; Katherine Edelen, secretary

Accounting
Jean M. Hebert, controller; Beth A. Marrone, assistant controller; Dianna M. Poling, bookkeeper; Deborah D. Kessel, accounting assistant

ATC Land Trust
Robert B. Williams, director of land-trust programs; Kevin Peterson, northern regional administrator; Melody Blaney, Bears Den manager; Rita Rudolf, land-trust assistant
Who keep the dream alive

An honor roll of Trail volunteers, Part 1

Since 1921, it has been volunteers who have kept the Appalachian Trail open and who keep alive Benton MacKaye’s vision of a Georgia-to-Maine footpath. In the early days of the Trail, the work was done by a dedicated few. Today, thousands pitch in. In 1999 alone, more than 4,400 volunteers contributed 181,000 hours of labor along the Trail, in all manner of activities and projects.

Myron Avery, the Conference’s third chairman and the driving spirit behind completion of the Trail in 1937, once wrote that, “Instead of ‘Appalachian Trail,’ [the A.T. might well] have been termed, ‘the Anonymous Trail,’ in recognition of the fact that many, many people...have labored on [it]. They have asked for no return nor recognition nor reward.”

Today’s volunteers may not have asked for it either, but, seventy-five years after MacKaye founded ATC when he convened the 1925 Appalachian Trail conference in Washington, D.C., as part of ATC’s anniversary celebration, we asked our clubs to nominate a seventy-five-person “honor roll” of present-day volunteers to represent the thousands of willing hands who make the A.T. America’s premier long-distance hiking trail.

The Honor Roll of Volunteers was sponsored in part by L.L. Bean, American Express, and Backpacker magazine. Members were selected by their fellow volunteers according to several criteria—the number of hours they volunteered on and off the Trail, their willingness to serve as mentors and examples for new members, and their abilities as leaders.

Here, then, in alphabetical order, are thirty-seven of seventy-five people you should know—representatives of the thousands of volunteers who make the A.T. what it is today and keep the dream alive. The remaining thirty-eight members of the honor roll will be profiled in the November–December ATN.

Steve Abell. A member of the Massachusetts A.T. Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Berkshire Chapter, Abell first began volunteering on the Trail in 1980. A retired General Electric engineer, he is presently shelter coordinator for his club, “but that only hints at the depth of his involvement on the A.T.,” a fellow maintainer writes. “Though Steve is skillful and energetic with a hammer and saw, his tools of choice are the ‘swizzle stick’ and loppers. He is happiest doing classic Trail construction and maintenance or teaching others these skills.” Abell has donated an estimated twelve thousand volunteer hours to his club’s efforts. He lives in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dave Arnel. Though he hails from Alexandria, Australia, Arnel has managed to cross the Pacific frequently enough to become a regular A.T. volunteer. He put in an estimated four hundred hours in 1999 alone, working with the Green Mountain Club’s Long Trail Patrol. In the past, he has also worked with other Trail crews, including the Konnarock crew.

Keith Astoria. Since 1997, Astoria has been a member of the Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech, working near his home in Blacksburg, Virginia. According to a fellow club member, Keith’s weekend work groups “leave before everybody else’s, get back later, cover more miles, and have more fun doing it.”

Marian “Tockie” Baker. Baker lives in Monkton, Maryland, and, since 1978, she has helped staff the Conference’s information desk in Harpers Ferry once a week. She is a consummate day-hiker and a member of the Mountain Club of Maryland and has given more than nine thousand hours of her time to Trail-related work.

David Barr. A former Conference vice chair from Quincy, Pennsylvania, Barr is a member of the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club. He served as the club’s president for four years. In addition to thousands of hours of his time spent helping secure and maintain the Trail’s route across the Great Valley of the Appalachians in Cumberland County, a fellow club member said, Barr “wasn’t afraid to let the multiflora rose turn him into a bloody mess during relocations.”

Joe Bell. As a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Delaware Valley Chapter, Bell has volunteered more than three thousand hours since 1970. “Joe has been consistently working on the Trail without much direction or supervision for many years,” a fellow club member wrote. “I think he’s just one of those solitary types who simply likes to go out and do Trail work. He doesn’t get much recognition for all his work.” He lives in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Jane Blodgett. Since 1979, Blodgett has spent some fourteen hundred hours as an active volunteer with the Carolina Mountain Club. A resident of Asheville, she has edited the club’s newsletter for many years, in addition to faithful work on the Trail and at meetings.

Jim Botts. For nearly twenty years, Botts managed Trail maintenance for the one hundred miles of Trail in North Carolina and Tennessee overseen by the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. He was closely involved from 1976 to 1991 as the club took over more responsibility for A.T. management in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He also served on ATC’s Board of Managers and as a vice chair. He lives in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Bill Boudman. This former schoolteacher has given more than 5,000 hours
of his time to the Trail with the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers, helping his club maintain and protect its fifty-mile section of the Trail.

Chris Brunton. Anyone who has seen the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club’s Blackburn Trail Center’s transformation from a rickety summer cabin to a multipurpose A.T. facility, serving club members and backpackers alike, can testify to Chris Brunton’s work as supervisor of the project and as the club’s district manager for A.T. maintenance in Northern Virginia. But, Brunton has also put in many hours helping hikers, working with Trail neighbors, and helping to secure and protect land increasingly vulnerable to suburban sprawl from nearby Washington, D.C. He lives in Falls Church, Virginia, and put in an estimated 750 hours of volunteer work in 1999.

Gordon Burgess. For more than ten years, Burgess did the advance work and delegation of manpower—as well as hefting his share of pulaskis and loppers—for the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers [PATH]. A fellow club member wrote, “Gordon’s sky-blue VW ‘Bug’ is a well-known feature off the southwest Virginia landscape. He has put in tens of thousands of miles on the back roads, and the Bug has long served as the ‘alarm clock’ for our work trips at the Forest Service’s Stony Fork Campground: Gordon is an early riser, and the first thing he does in the morning is slam the door of the VW as a signal to all PATH members that it’s time to get up.” Burgess lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and has given more than ten thousand hours of his time to Trail efforts since 1982.

Hal Cantrill. A former vice president, president, and land-management supervisor for the Roanoke A.T. Club, Cantrill first got started with the club in 1986. The Salem, Va., resident helped represent the club when the U.S. Forest Service was designating several wilderness areas in the club’s section and has led the club’s opposition to high-voltage electrical transmission lines crossing the Trail. Fellow club members estimated he has contributed 2,500 hours to Trail work.

Doug Christie. Since 1986, this former school principal has worked with the Connecticut Chapter of AMC as a monitor coordinator, chair of the chapter’s trails committee, and as a member of the ATC Board of Managers from 1993 to 1999. He is a resident of West Hartford, Connecticut.

Barbara Clark. She has served as the secretary for the Maine A.T. Club since 1971 and has been a club member for more than forty years, helping to double the club’s membership during that time. In 1999, Clark contributed an estimated five hundred volunteer hours to the work.

Steve Clark. He is a former member of ATC’s Board of Managers and former president of the Maine A.T. Club, to which he has volunteered thousands of hours of his time. Clark has been a club member for thirty-eight years, editing the club’s guidebook for fifteen for those, and was closely involved in the program to relocate the A.T. in Maine from existing lowland forest roads onto the ridgeline. He has helped build twelve lean-tos, dating back to 1955, and has served as chair for two ATC biennial meetings sponsored by the Maine club. He is responsible for having developed Maine’s unique guidebook format, which relies on maps, and helped develop the club’s sign program. Clark lives in Shapleigh, Maine.

Kay and Jack Coriell. The Coriells have been members of the Nantahala Hiking Club since 1984, serving in a variety of capacities ranging from membership on the board of directors to chairing the newsletter committee, editing the North Carolina half of the North Carolina–Georgia guidebook, running the club’s Web site, and keeping membership records. They live in Franklin, North Carolina.

Charlotte Crittenden. This Blacksburg, Virginia, resident has been a “repeat offender” on ATC’s Konnarock Trail crew since 1997 and on the mid-Atlantic crew from 1996 to 1998. She has also worked on the C&O crew and with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club.

Sara H. Davis. She first began volunteering in the early 1980s and joined the ATC Board of Managers in 1983. Davis was vice chair from 1989 through 1995 and secretary from 1995 to 1999. A resident of Fairview, North Carolina, she is a second-generation A.T. volunteer—her father, Jack Davis, was a Board of Managers member and a president and leading member of the Carolina Mountain Club for many years.

Paul DeCoste. “Paul just has the A.T. in his blood,” a fellow member of the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference writes. “How he manages to do all he does in the same number of hours we all have is the mystery. He has consummate skill in organizing large-scale volunteer projects and in maintaining volunteer motivation over the long haul, as he so ably demonstrated in the more than six-year-long Pochuck Bridge relocation effort.” DeCoste, a teacher in Vernon Township, has served as chairman of the New Jersey A.T. Local Management Committee and been a volunteer with the conference since the mid-1980s. He lives in Highland Lakes, New Jersey.

Kate Donaghue. Since 1980, Donaghue has raised money, recruited volunteers, and built trail for the Green Mountain Club, contributing about three thousand hours in the process. She lives in Westboro, Massachusetts.

Margaret Drummond. For nearly forty years, Drummond has been closely involved with the Conference, the Trail, and the Georgia A.T. Club. She served as Conference chair for six years, vice chair for six, and a board member for four. Back home in Georgia, she held most of the offices with the club between 1961 and today, including newsletter editor, membership director, Trail supervisor, and club president. For many years, she maintained a section of Trail herself. A fellow club member said, “Perhaps Margaret’s most lasting contribution was in convincing a somewhat reluctant club, satisfied with its traditional role in A.T. maintenance, convinced that they needed no outside help or instruction, to look ahead to a cooperative partnership with the ATC and fifteen other southern clubs.” She lives in Atlanta.
Who keep the dream alive

Lionel Edney. As a member of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Edney has spent several thousand hours volunteering on the A.T. and held leadership positions in the club since the 1940s. He is a former member of the ATC Board of Managers and managed the club’s Trail-maintenance program for many years, focusing particularly on the section of Trail in the Nantahala National Forest. He lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Joe Fenelly. A resident of Cheshire, Connecticut, Fenelly is a member of the Green Mountain Club and its Long Trail Patrol. He is known as “Cool Breeze,” notorious for waking members of the patrol by playing reveille on a tin whistle. Fenelly contributed an estimated one hundred hours of Trail work in 1999.

Dave Field. Currently chair of the Conference, Field is a department chairman and professor in the forestry school of the University of Maine. He has volunteered an estimated sixteen thousand hours of his time with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and ATC. For thirty-two years, he has served as an volunteer officer or director of the club. Between 1956 and 1995, Field maintained 7.4 miles of the Trail from Orbeton Stream to the summit of Saddleback Mountain in western Maine; he still takes care of a portion of the same section. He has served on the board since 1979 and lives in Hampden, Maine.

Bill Foot. A former resident of Lynchburg, Virginia, Mr. Foot died just before his designation as a member of the Honor Roll of Volunteers was announced. He had been a member of the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club since 1984, a former club president, former member of the Conference’s board, an A.T. 2,000-miler, and a member of the board of directors for the American Discovery Trail. He contributed an estimated four thousand volunteer hours and spearheaded several major projects, including construction of a new pedestrian bridge across the James River.

Terry and Linda Forrider. The Forridors, residents of Richwood, Ohio, first began volunteering with ATC’s Rocky Top Crew in 1996. Since then, they have joined the crew every year, contributing more than three hundred hours to various A.T. projects.

Bert Gilbert. He has been a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club since the mid-1980s and coordinated the club’s corridor-management program. Gilbert has also coordinated the club’s work with the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. He lives in Enfield Center, New Hampshire.

Charles Graf. Currently chairman of the Trail shelters committee for the Potomac A.T. Club (PATC) and a member of the Board of Managers, Graf was recognized for his work in reviving the Potomac club’s shelter-building and maintaining program. He is a past president of PATC who has led cabin and shelter construction crews for many years. Fellow club members estimated he contributed more than fifteen hundred volunteer hours in 1999 and has contributed more than ten thousand since he first began volunteering in 1982. He lives in Arnold, Maryland.

Ronald Gray. For twenty years, Gray was trails chairman for the York Hiking Club. He was president of the club for six years. He has been active with other organizations, including the Keystone Trails Association, and leads numerous meetings, workshops, and club projects. A resident of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, he has donated more than two thousand hours to Trail work.

Phyllis Henry. In addition to organizing work trips, coordinating National Trails Day programs, and recruiting volunteers, Henry worked with horse-riding clubs in the Smokies to increase their participation in maintenance in areas where horse-riding is permitted on the Trail. She has been a club section leader since 1993, a vice chair, an editor, and a volunteer coordinator. She lives in Seymour, Tennessee.

Raymond F. Hunt. This former Conference chair from Kingsport, Tennessee, has volunteered thousands of hours of his time since the 1950s—both with the Conference itself and as a leader and maintainer with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club. A fellow volunteer called Hunt “the designated ‘bulldog’ in the South—when there’s a problem, he’s the man.” In 1984, it was Ray Hunt who, as chair of the Conference, signed the agreement with the National Park Service delegating management authority for A.T. lands to ATC.

Paul Ives. A resident of Baltimore, Maryland, Ives is currently supervisor of trails for the Mountain Club of Maryland, where he has been a volunteer since 1971. A former club president, he remains active in the organization, recruiting new members, handling telephone information inquiries, teaching Trail skills, and doing little things for other club members, such as attending holiday gatherings and funerals. A fellow volunteer estimated that he has spent twenty thousand hours working for the Trail.

Ed Kenna. He first began volunteering with the Philadelphia Trail Club in 1983, and since then Kenna has put in thousands of hours and held most of the leadership positions with the club, in addition to serving as a member of the Board of Managers. A fellow volunteer praised the Warrington, Pennsylvania, resident’s “steadying continuity from past officers to present, as well as on club activities.”

Lester Kenway. Kenway has been involved with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club for twenty-eight years, volunteering approximately ten thousand hours of service during that time. He has served as overseer for the entire Maine Trail, drafted the club’s management plan, served on the ATC board for six years, and founded Maine’s FORCE crew. He is employed by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and lives in Bangor, Maine.

Bill Kerr. As a member of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Kerr has donated more than seven thousand hours of his time since 1987. This Knoxville resident has been chair of the club’s A.T. management committee since 1991.
REFLECTIONS

The joy of sections

Some A.T. aficionados argue that the Trail’s sternest test is not the 2,000-mile sprint of a thru-hike, but rather the long, patient grind of a section-hike, as the years and decades roll by. Here are two section-collectors, one at the beginning of his long walk and one at the end.

Mile one

by Ken LaFlamme

We finally did it! After being members of ATC for about three years, we set foot on the A.T. and hiked a section. My wife and I walked the Glastonbury Mountain loop in the Green Mountains over a long Fourth of July weekend in 1998. Ten miles down, 2,157 to go.

My first time on the A.T. was 1985, when I was in the U.S. Army’s Ranger School near Dahlonega, Georgia. I walked a patrol from Camp Merrill, and there were a few hikers camped out on the Trail. That must have been when the bug bit. Later, I worked with a person who thru-hiked the A.T. after college, and I met another thru-hiker while walking in the Pisgah National Forest. He encouraged me, telling me a lot of thru-hikers are “older.” I sure wasn’t getting any younger. It was time.

My wife, Linda, and I started our short northbound journey from Vt. 9. We started late and had to push hard because I wanted to make it to Goddard Shelter before dark. There had been a lot of rain in New England, so the Trail was muddy and wet. We saw little wildlife (two snakes and a chipmunk), but we did see animal tracks. It was good to get away.

Shortly after beginning our climb, we came to Split Rock, a good place for a photo. In a few more miles, we crossed Hell Hollow Brook, which was running high due to recent rain. Then we came to Porcupine Lookout, with a view of the foothills to the east. After climbing the last stone steps, we reached Goddard around 7:30 p.m., sweating and tired. We were alone except for one northbound hiker going from Pennsylvania to Maine. I pitched a tent and cooked some pasta, and we watched the sun go down. Shortly after retiring, we heard a small creature scurrying on the edges of the tarp that protruded from under our tent.

In the morning, we woke to the sound of birds singing. Another glorious day—we were in no rush to leave. After eating breakfast and drying some of our stuff in the sun, we walked the West Ridge Trail south. It was less strenuous, an easy grade descending most of the way back to Vt. 9, except where it crossed Bald Mountain. One beaver pond was a little hard to cross, since the footbridge was in need of repair. I had read and heard about how winter had affected the Trail. The damage was evident in the many blowdowns, especially on the West Ridge Trail.

I’m already planning my next trip—south from Arlington–West Wardsboro Road to Goddard Shelter. I plan to continue to hike small sections each time I have the opportunity. I am thankful for, and grateful to, all those maintainers, past and to come, who make it possible for people like me to bond with nature, challenge the Earth, and find some peace and solitude in God’s country.

Ken and Linda LaFlamme learned to love the outdoors in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, where they lived before moving to Gardner, Massachusetts. Ken works in retail management and Linda in manufacturing. When time allows, they go to the woods.

Mile 3,808

By Ralph Ferrusi

Friday, October 2, 1998. Stormville, New York. Got up at 3:45 a.m. Arrived at work in East Fishkill, New York, 5:00 a.m. Left work at 1:30 p.m. and jumped on I-84 south. Immediately hit a long construction back-up; delayed about fifteen minutes. Hit several long, frustrating, single-lane back-ups on I-81 near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Considered turning around and going home. Did not have supper; ate peanut-butter crackers in the car. Drove straight through on I-81 to...

Send us your Reflections

Reflections is where we ask you to consider the Trail and tell stories about subjects close to it and you. The list below notes upcoming topics and the deadlines for submissions. We look for sincerity, thoughtfulness, humor, sensitivity to the privacy of others, and factual accuracy. Because of space limitations, we can’t print everything we receive. We may edit your article—perhaps heavily—to fit our format. Submissions must be typed and double-spaced or submitted via electronic mail (editor@atconf.org) to be considered. If you’d like your submission back, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We must wait until the last minute to make our final selections, so we cannot answer questions regarding the status of submissions or provide criticism.

We invite you to write on the following topics. Submission deadlines are:
Daleville, Virginia, stopping only to buy gas and go to the bathroom. Arrived at the Best Western motel next to the A.T. in Daleville about 9:30 p.m., after more than five hundred miles and eight solid hours of solo driving and a full eight-hour workday. Confirmed my shuttle for Saturday, called home, got ready for tomorrow’s hike. Got to sleep after 11 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 1998, Daleville, Virginia. Got up at 4:45 a.m. Had two helpings of cold, natural cereal with water in a motel cup [forgot to bring a spoon] and a banana. Kevin, my ride, arrived at exactly 6 a.m. Dropped my Honda off at Va. 42, Sinking Creek Valley, and dropped me off at Va. 635, Stony Creek Valley, at 8 a.m. I started walking north on the A.T. toward my Honda, 17.8 miles away. Walked more than nine miles without stopping, enjoyed a thirteen-minute lunch break (Cliff Bar, granola bar, two strips of energy drink) at the War Spur Shelter, then banged out the remaining 8.7 miles nonstop. Arrived at Va. 42 at 3:09 p.m., in a drizzle, and back at the Best Western about 4 p.m. Had leisurely afternoon. After a nice salad and an onion pizza at the Pizza Hut, was sound asleep before 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 4, 1998, Daleville, Virginia, and environs. Got up at 4:15 a.m., had the same cold “breakfast in a cup.” Kevin arrived at exactly 5:30 a.m. Dropped the Honda off at Va. 621, Craig Creek Valley, Kevin dropped me off at Va. 42 at 7 a.m. I started walking north on the A.T. in the dark. Took two pictures of the Keffer Oak and walked 11.6 miles without a break, passing the Niday Shelter and arriving at the Honda at Va. 621 a little before noon. Put on a clean T-shirt and my Reeboks, jumped in the car, and headed toward I-81 north. Ate a Cliff Bar and a granola bar in the car. Took ten-minute gas and-bathroom stop in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Arrived home in Stormville around 9 p.m.

Monday, October 5, 1998, Stormville, New York. Got up at 5:15 a.m. to go to work. Totals for the weekend:

- Driving miles, 1,000-plus.
- Hours on the road, about 22.
- Trail miles for the weekend, 29.4.
- Approximate cost per Trail mile [gas, tolls, motel, food, shuttles], more than $8.00.

Ralph “mainTenance man” Ferrusi of Ralph’s Peak Hikers was the 311th person to report completing the entire A.T. and started rehiking it in 1978 in approximately 100-mile sections. At the time this was written, he had 3,808 miles under his boots, with a 60-mile gap to go between Bland, Va., and Va. 635, and a 360-mile gap between Winding Stair Gap, N.C. and Damascus, Va. In August 2000, he notified ATC that he had completed his second 2,000-mile hike of the Trail.

Memorial gifts

Since our last edition, donations to the Appalachian Trail Conference were made in memory of:

MARY M. ANDERSON
By Nellie M. French

RICHARD C. ARDNER
By Robert and Kathryn Ardner, Jr.

DEAN “HAWKEYE” BARBER
By Jeanne W. and Harry “The Indian” Thomas

CLARA CASSIDY
By Dan Bryner

CHRISTOPHER DEFFLER
By Edwin and Margaret Deffler

E.V. FILBERT
By Mrs. E.S. Filbert

BILL FOOT
By Julian and Mary Adams, Eric and Melba Anderson, J. Marshall and Nancy D. Anthony, Phyllis and Allen Arkett, Juanita, Keith, Janet, and Roger Barnes, Ted Brenig, Deb and Scott Burnette, Pamela Carson, Central Virginia Mountain Bike Association, Bob and Elaine Clarke, Noel and Peggy DeCavalcante, Gary and Vivian Diehl, Sandra and Jim Elder, Jim, Eileen, and Laura Everitt, Doris R. Ewing, John and Anja Falcone, Framatome Employees’ Club, Charles and Layonnie Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. William Haack, Harriet and Jack Hellewell, Pinkie and Leighton Houck, Edward M. and Roberta Foot Jackson, Mary Janick-Smith, Clinton Y. Kawanishi, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, Bob Kyle, Mary Jane Layne, Melinda and Reese F. Lukei, Jr., Frieda and Larry Luxenberg, Parthena Martin and Clint Kawanishi, Frances LoSchivo, Karl and Barbara McConnell, James and Leneta McCormick, the Michael G. Messner Family, John and Rockett Morgan, Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech, Ed and Sue Page, Pamela and Ron Patterson, Edward and Carolyn Polloway, Mr. and Mrs. Lucy W. Powell, Sam and Sharon Ripley, Ted “TinFoot ’87” Rogers, Rosel and Elliot Schewel, Kurt Seitz, Jim and Marianne Skee, Thyr’a Sperry and Richard Martin, Martha and Ed Stoll, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sykora

ED GARVEY
By Barry D. and Kathleen C. Buschow, Wayne “Walking Eagle” Greenlaw

WILLIAM MILNE
By Kenneth R. and Judith N. Lynch

DAVID MULLEN
By Marjorie V. Barondes

BRUCE B. MORIN
By Lisa Fields and Jonathan Band, Morrison and Foerster, Brian Swartz

FRANCES NEWCOMER
By Nellie M. French

BARBARA “SMOKEY” SCHLAM
By Marjorie V. Barondes

JOHN W. SCHNELLER
By American Bar Association’s Section of Intellectual Property Law

FREDERICK F. SCHUETZ
By Robert F. Schuetz

DOROTHY “CANJO” SMITH

ROBERT SWEIGERT
By Nellie M. French

JOSEPH “DEKE” WALLACE
By Bonnie Bischoff, Carol Dennis, Emily Dennis, Doug Fleager, Marvin Fleager, Libby Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pettigrew, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wales, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Weeks, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zwissler
Lost and found
Found: Compass, 1/14/00 at Scorched Earth Gap near Roanoke, Va. Must describe. Don or Grace, [828] 774-7882.

Hiking partners wanted
Chicago-area hikers enjoy monthly local hike with fellow ATC members. Call or write Roger Ginger, 206 Berry Parkway, Park Ridge, IL 60068; [847] 825-2982.


Thru-hiker: Male seeks female partner for thru-hike. Leave Springer about 4/1/01. Jay Studley, P.O. Box 60606, Fort Myers, FL 33906.


For sale
Rainsuit: Man’s medium Columbia Ibex, forest green. Worn once, cost $45: $25, including postage. Ron Ziegler, 10 Lake Ruby Dr., Deland, FL 32724; (904) 734-7876, <rondelz@webtv.net>.
Maps: Complete A.T. maps and extra area maps, $50, postage paid, Dave Bigard, 13617 East 1025 Ave., Newton, IA 62448.

Free gear. Gregory Palisades Plus medium (forest) pack; MSR Internationale shaker stove; Slumberjack bivy shelter with 11-oz. bottle, repair kit, and MSR composting privy system, environmentally regenerative projects, minor Trail maintenance, and keeping sites clean of trash. Requirements: responsible and enthusiastic individuals with backpacking/Appalachian Trail experience, excellent communications skills; good physical condition; willingness to live and work outside; understanding of LNT low-impact camping, current basic first-aid certification. Wilderness first-aid certification desirable; teaching experience/focus is a plus. Outreach education coordinator must be LNT certified (LNT Master preferred). Home in Maine and personal computer with e-mail. The outreach education coordinator works March–November for 32 weeks. Caretakers/coordinator works March–October, one caretaker for 23 weeks, and three for 16 weeks. Three positions will be 10-days-on and 4-days-off, one will be 5-days-on and 2-days-off. Weekly schedule to be determined, but weekends will be included, with days off during the week. Coordinator’s schedule varies according to needs. Living conditions: a large canvas wall tent, cooking stove and utensils, work tools, water filter, and other related items provided at the sites. Pay: $270–$310 per week for caretakers, $310–$350 per week for coordinator. Some items of personal gear, such as sleeping pad, backpack, tent, water filter, uniform shirts, and tools, are provided. Food and clothes not provided. All positions require reliable personal transportation and own arrangements on days off. Send letter of interest & resume no later than January 15, 2001. Video explaining why you want this job is desirable! Contact: Chris Wolfe, MATC CARE Program Oversight, 80 Maquoit Drive, Freeport, ME 04032; [207] 865-3438, phone/fax; <dreams@ime.net>.

Caretakers, Blackburn Center. Mid-March through October 2001. Blackburn Trail Center is located on the A.T., 12 miles south of Harpers Ferry, and is owned and operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Blackburn is a premier stop for thru-hikers and day-hikers alike. Caretakers’ duties include maintaining the center, hiker hostel, and campground. Should have experience in offering comfort and company to weary A.T. hikers. Prefer couple with knowledge of the A.T. and hikers’ needs. Very modest stipend offered, along with a fabulous summer experience. If interested, send letter of application to: Chris Brunton, 9000 Piney Grove Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031; (703) 560-8070; <trlboss@dellnet.com>.

Public notices
are published free for members of the Appalachian Trail Conference. We cannot vouch for any of the advertised items. Ads must pertain to the A.T. or related hiking/conservation matters. For complete guidelines, send SASE to ATC. Send ads to PUBLIC NOTICES, Appalachian Trail Conference, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Deadline for the March-April 2001 issue is December 15.

Public notices
From the Chair . . .
Continued from page 5
Finally, membership is part of the foundation of financial and political support that is increasingly important to many organizations, not the least to one whose mission involves the protection of values along a 2,167-mile trail that crosses fourteen states. I pay dues to numerous organizations whose missions I consider worth supporting, but take no active role in the activities of those associations. I know that, in addition to financial support, the number of members that a group can claim can aid it in furthering its purposes. I encourage every reader to continue to support the Appalachian Trail Conference in every way possible. It’s still an honor to be a member. ♦
It should be right around this bend. The guidebook said it’s seven-tenths from that last Trail junction. I’m starving. Should I eat some chocolate? Naaah, I’ll be to the shelter in the time it takes to get my pack off. Right around this bend.

Where is it? I’ve gone at least seven-tenths from that sign. My M&Ms are in the top compartment. Maybe I can reach them with my pack on. Is that the shelter? Yes! Yes! Oh, wait. It’s just two rocks. I could swear I heard someone.

I’m getting the shakes. If I drop my pack and eat now, it’ll turn out the shelter was about a minute away. I can make it another minute. My water bottle is empty. I am so thirsty. Where is that shelter? Those damn guidebooks. This climb wasn’t supposed to be this steep, either. The map showed almost no incline. Keep walking. Keep breathing. Keep walking. I’m going to start keeping candy in my pockets. Is that smoke? Do I smell smoke? The shelter has to be over this hump.

I’m going to write the Trail club about those guidebooks. The mileages are always wrong. I don’t know why they do that. I’m going to eat scalloped potatoes tonight. Do I have any brownies left? I wish I had my other shorts on. There’s a sign! Finally. Oh, it’s a limb. I know I’ve gone more than seven-tenths. I’ll bet I passed it. Why don’t I keep any candy in my pockets?

Is this shelter on a blue-blaze? Did I miss a blue blaze? I know I’ve gone more than seven-tenths. Why did Mom wear that hat to my wedding? It’s a dumb hat. It didn’t even match her dress. Maybe I ate that last brownie for lunch. I need a drink of water. Where is that shelter?

In the jun-gle, the migh-ty jun-gle…. Who sang that? What if I didn’t put my stove back in my pack after lunch? I remember it on that rock. Did I put it away? I should drop my pack and check. I could eat some M&Ms. The shelter has to be right here. If it’s not around this next bend, I’m going to stop and get something to eat. My feet are killing me. Did I put my stove away?

My hands are shaking. My legs are like rubber. I guess I really don’t know what rubber legs feel like. I’m so hungry. If I don’t stop, I’m going to pass out. I hear running water. That must be the creek near the shelter. Just the wind in those pines—sure sounded like water.

There’s a good rock to take a break on. Should I? Too late now. Shelter should be at the end of this little straightaway. If it’s not, I’ll stop at the end of this straightaway. I’m going to start keeping some candy in my pockets. I feel clammy. The li-on sleeps to-night….

Why do they make the Trail go over rocks instead of around them? I hate when they do that. It’d be so much easier to just go around. There’s a stone in my boot. I’ll just stop at that blowdown and eat some M&Ms, get a drink, and get that stone out of my boot. Where is that shelter? I hear someone talking again. I’ve got to be close now.

I wonder if I still have tuna fish. That would be good with the potatoes. I should have one can left. When I get home, I’m going to write a letter about the mileages in the guidebooks. I need to call the plumber about fixing that outside spigot. Gotta remember that. If that stone would slide over between my toes, I could make it the rest of the way to the shelter.

This happened at Cable Gap Shelter, too. The guidebook said it was 0.2 and it was more like 1.2. I’m going to write them a letter when I get home. This is crazy. I’m starving. If that stone would stay right there, I could make it without having to take my boot off.

Spent too long on that lunch break. Should have been here an hour ago. That pond was nice, though. I had my stove sitting on that rock right next to the pond. Did I put it away? It has to be in there. My pack is too heavy for it to not be there. What’s that? A bag of M&Ms? Yes. A bag of M&Ms on the Trail! Yes! It’s empty. Maybe one stray’s stuck in the corner. Please…? Just litter. First thing I do when I get to the shelter is check for my stove. No, I have to eat something first. Then, check for my stove.

It should be right around this bend.

Felix J. McGillicuddy thru-hiked the A.T. in 1998. When not hiking or writing about hiking, he can be found working for a melon camp.
Here are the images from the Appalachian Trail Conference’s calendar for the year 2001, the fourteenth edition.

The cover shot of sunset atop Saddleback Mountain in Maine, by J. Andrew Walsh, is also the image for September. Other photographers whose work appears in the calendar—copublished with Graphic Arts Center in Portland, Oregon—are Mark Carroll, Eric Krukowski, Willie Johnson, Michael Warren, Jerry D. Greer, Henry R. LaFleur, Gary W. Szelc, Carla LaFleur, and Robert J. Kozlow.

The calendar is available at an increasing number of bookstores (including amazon.com on the Internet) and outfitters and, of course, can be purchased directly from ATC by mail (ATC/Dept. SD, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425), by toll-free telephone (888-287-8673), or on-line at <www.atctrailstore.org>.

It’s item #315-01, and copies are $9.25 each for members ($11.99 retail] or three for $23.50 [#315-01S, $30 for nonmembers], plus postage of $3.75, whether one or three.