

# WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE A.T.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY®

2017 / ANNUAL REPORT



A misty, mountainous landscape at dawn or dusk, with a wooden post in the foreground.

# OUR STORY

The Appalachian Trail is a simple footpath. It is both the destination and the journey. For some, it is an afternoon hiatus among trees or atop southern balds, a recreational retreat. For others it is an ambitious endeavor that demands physical and mental fortitude — a life-changing experience.

The Trail's importance is personal, in each of our stories. Its significance is broader. Remarkable for its length of 2,190-miles that pass through 14 states, the A.T.'s magnitude is that it traverses the crest of one of the most significant land features in the eastern United States. That land feature — a system of contiguous mountains famously known as the Appalachians — encompasses several distinct biomes that support wildlife and vegetation, vital to the overall health and sustainability of the eastern United States. It is equally important in preserving the history of Native and other American cultures and the birth and progression of our country.

More than half of America's population currently resides within a day's drive from some part of the Trail and hundreds of communities within nearby proximity of the A.T. thrive on a strong outdoor recreation-driven economy. In 2017, more than three million people enjoyed the A.T. as day hikers, weekend backpackers, and those seeking to conquer its formidable length as section-hikers or thru-hikers. The A.T.'s visitor numbers continue to increase.

We — the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and all who support our mission — are the guardians of the iconic and world-renowned Appalachian Trail. The ATC has much to celebrate as we look back at 2017. In this report you will learn about our efforts to Educate, Protect, and Empower. Some of our accomplishments include ►



A.T. NEW YORK / BY ANNE BAKER

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## WE ARE CONTINUING TO BRING NEW VOICES TO THE TRAIL AND TO OUR LEADERSHIP RANKS.

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### ADDING LAND TO THE A.T. GREENWAY

The ATC's Landscape Partnership was launched three years ago, in collaboration with the National Park Service, to coordinate protection of A.T. scenic, natural, and cultural resources. The landscape campaign has attracted over \$3.5 million of private and National Park Service funds. These funds, in part, have allowed us to initiate a grant program to fund additional land acquisition, leveraging other protection dollars. Other grants support capacity building for partner organizations. The funds also allow us to engage communities through economic studies that connect the local recreation economy to landscape protection strategies. Since 2015, the partnership has completed eighteen projects, adding over 25,000 acres. Approximately 10,200 acres were added in 2017. The number of projects completed and acreage protected is expected to grow annually.

### ADDRESSING THREATS

Multiple threats from invasive species and forest pests, habitat loss, and climate change challenge the integrity of protected A.T. lands. An introduced exotic pest exists for nearly every native tree species found in the Appalachians.

Some, such as the emerald ash borer and the American chestnut blight, have caused near complete extinction of their hosts. Invasive species are a landscape scale issue — a challenge far too large to tackle alone. The ATC has inventoried over three fourths of the Trail to identify areas of greatest invasive concern. Our resource management work has been focused on implementing projects to curtail the spread of the emerald ash borer, an invasive forest pest that is decimating populations of ash trees. Addressing habitat loss, we have focused on expanding habitat for the golden-winged warbler and pollinators such as monarch butterflies and bees.

### DEVELOPING SOUND POLICY

Last year, our policy team had significant influence on the development of a new natural gas pipeline siting policy through the bicameral, bi-partisan Pipeline Fairness and Transparency Act. We implemented a "Take Action" strategy to engage and activate Trail supporters on high priority advocacy issues, like pipeline siting and other threats to A.T. resources. We launched a House A.T. Caucus and are raising the ATC's and the Trail's profile with Congress through regular meetings, and our annual Hike the Hill meetings. We opened an office in Washington D.C. to allow for greater access to policymakers and policy partners.

### ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

We are continuing to bring new voices to the Trail and to our leadership ranks. In 2017, we piloted a second year of the Conservation Leadership Corps. We are now working with other strategic partners to grow this program to provide hands-on training for youth at several sites along the Trail. We also hosted youth summits to build regional youth stewardship coalitions.





AMBASSADORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUTDOOR AFRO, LATINO OUTDOORS, STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, GROUNDWORK D.C., AND THE ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER AT THE END OF A 2017 SUMMIT SEEKER EVENT IN ANACOSTIA, MARYLAND

The ATC works with youth-focused organizations to encourage young people to work on local trails by providing skill development opportunities, hosting stewardship events, and fostering connections with volunteer and professional trail organizations. Reaching new audiences, we led an inaugural Summit Seekers project, a collaboration between the ATC, Outdoor Afro, Latino Outdoors, Groundwork USA (Groundwork Richmond and D.C.), and the Student Conservation Association. We continue to grow our relationships and explore expanding into new areas with new partners.

Furthermore, we continue to nurture our Next Generation Advisory Council, now in its third year. This council contributes new ideas and time to ATC, joining us at board meetings, Hike the Hill in D.C., and at many regional meetings. Their presence and fresh ideas feel like shifting winds.

#### **PROTECTING THE HIKER EXPERIENCE**

At the ATC's core is a goal to ensure that all hikers and visitors understand how to enjoy the Trail safely and ethically. We have been very successful in ensuring that annual thru-hikers understand the impacts of their numbers and their behaviors. The volunteer thru-hiker registration system, A.T. Camp, has become a valuable tool in raising awareness and helping to adjust hikers' start time and place decisions. We have also had great success with our Monson Visitor Center to make sure

hikers starting the 100 Mile Wilderness and enter Baxter State Park understand their obligations.

As might be expected with the A.T.'s increased visitor numbers, iconic spots on the Trail are often experiencing high-volume, sometimes staggering visitor use. The ATC and its Trail Clubs are working tirelessly to ensure that both the hikers' experience and Trail resources are well looked after. Work at McAfee Knob represents the best of our collaborative model — where the ATC, local Clubs, National Park and Forest Service work together to ensure everyone can continue to enjoy this beautiful, highly photographed location.

#### **HONORING TRAIL STORIES**

The A.T. beckons hikers and recreation seekers of all types. Hikes are taken to celebrate milestones, allow for life transitions, or to seek necessary solitude to process trauma or loss. For many, the Trail awakens citizen activism and a recognition that land and nature is not only for us to enjoy but also for us to protect and preserve. It is a place where both young and old discover their abilities and stamina and families learn to enjoy each other's company without electronic aids. It is even a place in which love is found.

These experiences are the foundation of our "myATstory" campaign, which can be accessed through the ATC's website. These stories of adventure, discovery, and accomplishment not

A wide-angle photograph of two hikers walking along a ridge covered in tall, dry grass. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a green backpack and blue pants, while the second hiker is further back, wearing a grey backpack and blue shorts. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear sky.

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**NOW, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS  
IMPORTANT THAT WE ENCOURAGE  
PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THE TRAIL AND  
THAT WE RECORD, SHARE, AND  
CELEBRATE THOSE STORIES.**

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ROAN HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA – TENNESSEE / COURTESY HORIZONLINE PICTURES

only help us remember what is important, they allow others to understand the power of the Trail. Often, they are the incentive for listeners to go out and begin their own story.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy understands the power of these stories. Individually and collectively they make up all that is the Trail. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important that we encourage people to experience the Trail and that we record, share, and celebrate those stories.

#### **MOVING FORWARD**

Our successes are due to the efforts of a great staff, a dedicated volunteer corps, and to the generosity of our membership and donors. In 2017, we raised over \$6.3 million including a large dedicated grant from The Volegneu Foundation to support the Landscape Partnership initiative. These funds go far in helping us achieve our goals. But there is so much more we must do, and we will continue to expand our current base and bring in new partners.

With your support, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will continue to protect and preserve this simple footpath. We are all guardians of this important and treasured landscape. Together we will ensure its presence now and for the future.

Suzanne Dixon / *President & CEO*

Sandra Marra / *Chair*





**Our mission is to preserve and manage the A.T.**— ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come.

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**YOUR  
SUPPORT  
AT WORK**

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**EDUCATE**



**45,000** annual visitors stopped into our visitor centers

**28** Ridgerunners engaged 50,000 visitors on outdoor ethics

**500** educators were trained to teach Leave No Trace principles

**4 Million** web visitors learned about the A.T. and the ATC through [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org)

MOUNT CLAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE / BY KIKI FERGUSON

/ APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY /





YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

# PROTECT

**2,190** miles of Trail maintained

**6,000** Volunteers donated **240,000** hours

**4,127** hikers registered on A.T. CAMP to avoid crowding

**15** land acquisition projects completed to protect **10,200** acres

A.T. VIRGINIA / BY RYAN KIENE

/ APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY /



A group of hikers, including men and women of various ages, are hiking on a dirt trail through a dense forest. They are wearing large backpacks and using trekking poles. The hiker in the foreground is a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue cap and a white shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. Other hikers are visible behind him, also smiling and looking towards the camera. The forest is lush with green ferns and trees.

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

# EMPOWER

**31** Trail Maintaining Clubs engaged in on-the-ground Trail work

**45** A.T. Community partners mobilized

**15,000** youth connected to outdoors

**450,000** people supported the ATC in various ways

ATC ROCKYTOP TRAIL CREW, NORTH CAROLINA / COURTESY HORIZONLINE PICTURES

/ APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY /



2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **PROTECT**

# LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

## PROTECTING LANDS AND NATURAL HABITAT

**The Appalachian Trail outlines one of the most prominent** geographic features in the eastern United States, the distinctive Appalachians. The 2,190-milelong Trail connects wild, scenic, and culturally significant landscapes that define special and remarkable places — places that attract millions of people and support healthy recreation-driven communities.

To protect such a broad landscape, the A.T. Landscape Partnership — the ATC's landscape initiative — works to unite a broad array of people in rallying partners and communities in common goals to conserve the value associated with the A.T. The A.T. Landscape Partnership works to conserve lands that are threatened and significant natural habitat, cultural, and historic sites. In 2017 alone, partner organizations completed 15 land acquisition projects, conserving approximately 10,200 acres along or adjacent to the A.T. One of those projects included the largest unprotected property along Pennsylvania's Kittatinny Ridge: a 4,662-acre parcel that, when acquired, will become part of Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Owned by Pennsylvania American Water Company, the property is crucial to the preservation of the A.T. due to its scenic and aural attributes. The land is also home to important species like black bears, Indiana bats, northern flying squirrels, eastern rattlesnakes, redtail hawks and bald eagles, making its protection necessary to a healthy and thriving wildlife habitat. Recreational access is also addressed — the parcel's acquisition will connect the landscape to Pennsylvania state gamelands, state parks in New Jersey, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, in addition to the A.T.

In 2017, Phase I of the property was completed, which included the purchase of 1,731 acres by The Conservation Fund and the subsequent transfer of that acreage to Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The remaining 2,931 acres — Phase II of the project — will close in 2018. The successful conservation of all 4,662 acres will preserve more than five miles of the A.T., ensuring the integrity of the Trail and its landscape remain for future generations.



A REDTAILED HAWK FLIES OVER KITTATINNY RIDGE / BY WILLIAM J. MOSES

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*The land is also home to important species, making its protection necessary to a healthy and thriving wildlife habitat.*

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**15**

Land acquisition projects completed

**10,200**

Acres protected



2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **EDUCATE**

# VISITOR USE

## A.T. CAMP — A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



THRU-HIKERS START THEIR JOURNEY AT AMICALOLA FALLS STATE PARK IN GEORGIA — AN ENCOURAGED ALTERNATIVE TO STARTING AT SPRINGER MOUNTAIN

**Thanks to the success of A.T. CAMP — the thru-hiker and camping registration system for the Trail** — thru-hikers have started to play a major role in helping even out the flow of hikers to better seek the “fellowship with the wilderness” for which the A.T. is famous. The ATC’s, A.T. CAMP (atcamp.org), an online voluntary registration system for all A.T. campers and thru-hikers, opened in 2017.

Online registration allows hikers to register their starting date and location to reduce crowding on the Trail. In 2017, 4,127 people registered their intention to thru-hike, which represented over 80 percent of all 2017 thru-hikers. Many chose an alternative style of thru-hike that benefitted both the Trail and the hikers themselves.

Currently there are three registration types: Groups, Section Hikers, and Thru-Hikers. A.T.CAMP allows A.T. hikers to be part of the crowding solution — it provides a tool that allows them to see the number of other campers registered for a site to avoid crowded campsites and the damage that results. Voluntary registration enables hikers to enhance their A.T. experience and enables us to better manage the A.T. — without additional regulations. It also encourages hikers to learn and follow Leave No Trace ethics to better protect the Trail they love.



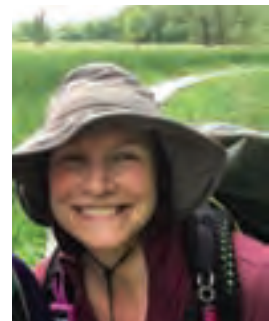
A 2017 THRU-HIKER DISPLAYS HIS LEAVE NO TRACE HANG TAG / RECEIVED THROUGH REGISTERING WITH A.T. CAMP

**4,127**  
People registered

**80%**  
of all thru-hikers registered

*“The ATC’s thru-hiker registration is a great idea! The charts helped convince me that a flip-flop thru-hike was the right choice for me and helped me select a start date that wouldn’t be too crowded but when I wouldn’t be starting out alone either. It seems like hikers are realizing the benefits of the voluntary registration system and are increasingly using it.”*

— Deb “Mona Lisa” Coleman, a 2017 flip-flop thru-hiker





2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **PROTECT**

# MCAFEE KNOB GRANT

**PROVIDING SAFE ACCESS TO THE PEOPLES' TRAIL**

**In 2017, the A.T. management partnership was awarded a \$2.8 million grant to construct a pedestrian bridge over State Route 311 at the parking area for McAfee Knob. The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club's vice president Diana Christopulos, was a critical part of that effort. "This bridge will not only solve one of the most pressing hiker safety issues on the Trail, but will also further establish the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as a keystone unit of the National Parks System in the minds of all visitors," she says. Bridgework is expected to begin in 2021.**

The Virginia Department of Transportation also stepped up their partnership on Appalachian Trail-related issues, working to ensure safe and well-marked road crossings across the commonwealth of Virginia. Dennis Sanders of the Bristol district was recognized with the ATC's Virginia Regional Office Agency Partner of the Year Award for his work establishing parking areas in Bland County and better signage at road crossings, among other successes.

**\$2.8**  
Million Grant



SUNRISE ON MCAFEE KNOB / BY KEVIN DELONAS



2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **EMPOWER**

# CHILDREN'S FOREST NETWORK

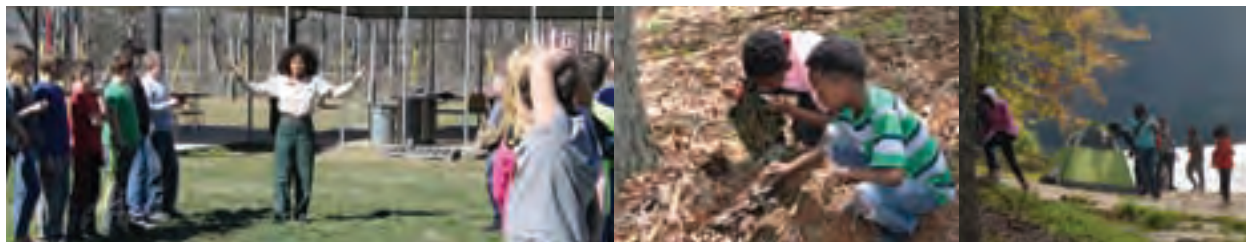
**CULTIVATING THE NEXT STEWARDS OF THE A.T.**

**The ATC continues to engage, inspire, and transform** the next generation of A.T. leaders through education, partnerships, civic engagement, and sharing inclusive stories. One example of an ATC partnership with great collective impact is the Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network, which creates opportunities for diverse young Georgians to experience the natural world in their backyard. By enhancing and expanding successful programs offered through strong U.S. Forest Service partnerships, this network cultivates an understanding and stewardship of public lands. The network's goals are to create inclusion and collaboration, get youth outdoors, develop 21st Century conservationists — and focuses on addressing the cultural and financial

obstacles that exist for underrepresented youth in making a connection to these places that belong to them.

The effort connects communities, land managers, and non-profits to provide a wide-range of innovative programs for youth in northern Georgia. While the ATC supports teacher workshops, partners also support field days, urban campouts, outreach programs in schools, hiking, and camping experiences.

Moving forward, the network is building a Next Generation Forest Ambassador program for 14-to 16-year-olds, and looking forward to the increased impact they will have on inviting future stewards and advocates to the A.T., our national forests and our public lands.



FROM LEFT: MICHELA WILLIAMS LEADS A GROUP OF FIFTH GRADERS IN A GAME; CHILDREN LOOK FOR INSECTS; ENJOYING A CAMPOUT IN BLAIRESVILLE, GEORGIA

*“My drive to promote inclusion of underrepresented youth in the outdoors has allowed me to successfully secure grants, attend career fairs, write blogs and record podcasts, visit dozens of schools and classrooms to educate children about public lands, national forests, the A.T., on macroinvertebrates, watersheds, wildlife, Leave No Trace Principles, and share Smokey Bear’s wildfire prevention messages. My hope is to continue to teach environmental education and foster stewardship in those who may have less access and opportunity to the great outdoors.”*

— ATC Next Generation Council member and Children's Forest Coordinator / Michela Williams

**15,000**

Youth connected and engaged

**680**

Youth took guided Appalachian Trail hikes

**10,000**

Students reached through conservation education programs

**447**

Kids participated in overnight treks in national forests



2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **PROTECT**

# TRAIL MANAGEMENT

## A CLEAR AND SAFE PATH

**In 2017, the ATC continued efforts to make the Trail safer** in New England by addressing tree safety issues at areas of congregation such as campsites, shelters, parking areas, and vistas. These areas are places along the Trail where visitors may congregate for longer than 15 minutes. An unsafe (hazard) tree may be dead or have various defects that might contribute to the likelihood that it will fall and cause damage to hikers or property. While some hikers are safety-conscious,

many do not consider nearby hazard trees when choosing a campsite, parking their car, or taking a break during a hike.

Staff and dedicated volunteers visited sites to perform assessments that are used to determine how to deal with problem trees. A variety of options — such as removal, pruning, or long-term monitoring — may be used to ensure that visitors to the A.T. are not unwittingly placing themselves in a dangerous situation.



ATC NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR HAWK METHENY TOOK DOWN A BIGTOOTH ASPEN TREE THAT ENDANGERED THE PRIVY AT ANTLERS CAMPSITE IN MAINE



SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN WILDERNESS STEWARDS PARTNERED WITH THE GEORGIA A.T. CLUB, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, AND ATC STAFF TO CLEAR ONE OF MANY SOUTHERN SECTIONS OF THE TRAIL AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IRMA

*Trail management includes the on-the-ground work of keeping the footpath safe and clear — and the maintenance of its structures and its natural and cultural resources. The ATC coordinates this work by providing training, funding, and other assistance to 31 Trail clubs, and the recruitment and management of volunteer Trail Crews.*

# 1,000

Downed trees in the deep south region removed in the wake of Hurricane Irma

# 37

Hazard trees removed in southern New England at various overnight sites

2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **EDUCATE**

# MONSON, MAINE VISITOR CENTER

## EDUCATING HIKERS NEAR THE TRAIL'S NORTHERN TERMINUS

**The Monson Visitor Center** — located on the main street in Monson, Maine — allows hikers to learn about Trail conditions and regulations in Maine, including important information about Baxter State Park.

During the center's second season of full time operation, we welcomed 4,412 visitors, which is an 82 percent increase over the 2016 season. This included 74 percent of northbound thru-hikers on the Trail.

Along with the hikers and visitors at the Visitor Center, our ridgerunner Kim Rosenbaum educated hikers on-trail about Leave No Trace principles and what to expect when entering Baxter State Park — 2017 was the first year of limited A.T. hiker permits in the park. We regularly communicated with park field staff regarding the permits, Trail incidents and events, questionable hiker behavior, and messaging. The visitor center staff, along with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club's three ridgerunners, visited the park in June and we welcomed Katahdin Stream Campground staff and supervisors to Monson in July.

The ATC hosted several community events during the hiking season, including: presentations on local hikes, conservation, Trail history, and natural history, an artist's open house, and a nature walk. We hope to expand this program in 2018 and beyond.



HIKERS ON MAINE STREET IN MONSON

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*I believe the Monson A.T. Visitor Center made a real difference in the quality of hikers' experiences in northern Maine. Through our guidance, long-distance A.T. hikers entered Baxter State Park with a clear understanding of how to achieve their hiking goals, while still respecting the wilderness values of the park. And we steered day hikers who wanted just a taste of the A.T. toward safe and enjoyable adventures.*

— Wendy Weiger / Monson A.T. Visitor Center Manager

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ATC STAFF OPEN THE MONSON CENTER FOR ITS 2017 SEASON

**4,412**

Visitors welcomed

**82%**

Increase over the 2016 season

**45,000**

Visitors Welcomed to ATC Visitor Centers Trail-wide



2017 / ATC HIGHLIGHT / **PROTECT**

# ENERGY EQUILIBRIUM

**GUIDING ENERGY POLICIES ALONG THE A.T.**



**“WE PREFER TO BE IN A POSITION OF WORKING TOWARD A SOLUTION”**

— Lynn Davis / ATC Director of Federal Policy & Legislation

VIEW FROM A.T. — PALMERTON CLIFFS, PENNSYLVANIA / BY ANNE BAKER

**Energy infrastructure projects — both large and small** — are becoming more common throughout the A.T. landscape. While the natural gas pipelines have lately been the center of attention, new and relatively cheaper power options — such as solar and wind — have created a completely new energy infrastructure landscape and with it, a different policy discussion. The anticipated transformation explains why the ATC has positioned itself to be more involved in shaping future policies related to energy production and delivery.

“Communities up and down the A.T. are grappling with the development of energy infrastructure,” says Lynn Davis, the ATC’s director of federal policy and legislation. Davis points out that the ATC is willing to work with energy companies, government, industry, and communities, to help guide decisions on future projects.

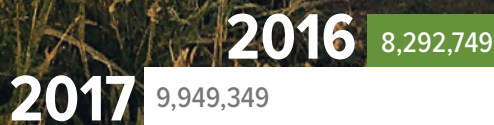
Given significant challenges and impacts from the Mountain Valley Pipeline on the A.T. landscape, in 2017, the ATC participated in crafting bipartisan federal legislation to address a number of concerns associated with the planning and regulatory process of natural gas pipeline projects. Known as the Pipeline Fairness and Transparency Act, the bipartisan bill was introduced by Republican U.S.

Congressman Morgan Griffith who represents a portion of southwestern Virginia. Democratic Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner of Virginia have introduced similar legislation in the U.S. Senate. The bill addresses the protection of the A.T. and other national scenic trails as well as the public vetting and approval process by the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission. The bill would also focus on the cumulative visual impacts of any similar proposed project. It would also mandate that multiple projects meeting certain criteria would be considered as one project, increasing the likelihood of locating multiple projects in a single energy corridor.

The ATC’s vice president of Conservation and Trail Management, Laura Belleville, is encouraged by the language in the legislation. “It’s thoughtful and forward-looking and showcases the kind of policy work the ATC is working towards,” she says. “We’re going to see more energy projects that will have an impact on the Trail corridor. We need our members, volunteers, and supporters to engage with us as we advocate for meaningful policy development,” says Belleville, who believes that stronger policies and more effective decision-making processes can help limit the cumulative effects of future energy development on the A.T. landscape.



# REVENUES



# EXPENSES





## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

 ASSETS	GENERAL FUND	LAND ACQUISITION FUND	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	MONITORING FUND	DAVID N. STARTZELL STEWARDSHIP FUND	ANNUITY FUND	TOTAL FUNDS
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,874,901	\$238,776	--	--	\$284,017	--	\$2,397,694
Accounts receivable, net	\$2,058,334	\$2,046	\$1,745	--	\$432,988	--	\$2,495,113
Pledges receivable, net	\$59,955	--	--	--	--	--	\$59,955
Construction loan receivable	--	--	--	--	\$115,852	--	\$115,852
Interfund receivables	--	\$1,159,640	\$204,493	\$44,380	\$246,047	\$124,068	\$1,778,628
Inventory	\$357,268	--	--	--	--	--	\$357,268
Land held for sale	--	\$655,350	--	--	--	--	\$655,350
Prepaid expenses	\$156,936	--	--	--	--	--	\$156,936
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$4,507,394</b>	<b>\$2,055,812</b>	<b>\$206,238</b>	<b>\$44,380</b>	<b>\$1,078,904</b>	<b>\$124,068</b>	<b>\$8,016,796</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>							
Long-term investments	\$39,204	\$691,200	\$2,451,811	\$214,891	\$6,430,062	\$814,180	\$10,641,348
Property and equipment, net	\$1,030,379	\$3,300	--	--	--	--	\$1,033,679
Other assets, deposits	\$7,224	--	--	--	--	--	\$7,224
Land held in conservancy	--	\$1,644,157	--	--	--	--	\$1,644,157
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,584,201</b>	<b>\$4,394,469</b>	<b>\$2,658,049</b>	<b>\$259,271</b>	<b>\$7,508,966</b>	<b>\$938,248</b>	<b>\$21,343,204</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>							
<b>Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenues</b>							
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$527,470	--	--	--	\$2,000	\$1,750	\$531,220
Deferred revenues	\$1,828,537	--	--	--	--	--	\$1,828,537
Interfund payables	\$1,778,628	--	--	--	--	--	\$1,778,628
Current maturities of long term debt	\$3,932	--	--	--	--	--	\$3,932
Current maturities of annuities payable	--	--	--	--	--	\$39,921	\$39,921
<b>Total current liabilities and deferred revenues</b>	<b>\$4,138,567</b>	--	--	--	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$41,671</b>	<b>\$4,182,238</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>							
Construction loan payable	\$115,852	--	--	--	--	--	\$115,852
Annuities payable, less current maturities	--	--	--	--	--	\$225,487	\$225,487
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>\$115,852</b>	--	--	--	--	<b>\$225,487</b>	<b>\$341,339</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>							
Unrestricted	\$573,602	\$8,648	--	--	\$6,066,277	\$439,874	\$7,088,401
Temporarily restricted	\$756,180	\$3,829,520	--	\$259,271	\$510,782	\$231,216	\$5,586,969
Permanently restricted	--	\$556,301	2,658,049	--	\$929,907	--	\$4,144,257
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$1,329,782</b>	<b>\$4,394,469</b>	<b>\$2,658,049</b>	<b>\$259,271</b>	<b>\$7,506,966</b>	<b>\$671,090</b>	<b>\$16,819,627</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,584,201</b>	<b>\$4,394,469</b>	<b>\$2,658,049</b>	<b>\$259,271</b>	<b>\$7,508,966</b>	<b>\$938,248</b>	<b>\$21,343,204</b>

2017 / **OUR SUPPORTERS**

# THE VOLGENAU FOUNDATION

**VISIONARY INVESTMENT IN THE A.T.**



**THE SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION  
DEMONSTRATES A DESIRE WITHIN THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR TO PROTECT THE NATURAL PLACES  
THAT MAKE AMERICA SO SPECIAL.**

CARVINS COVE, VIRGINIA / BY CHRIS D'AMBROSIO

**A \$3 million grant from The Volgenau Foundation is** allowing the ATC to significantly ramp up efforts to protect the exceptional values that make the Appalachian Trail and its landscape a world-renowned treasure. The support from the Virginia-based foundation demonstrates a desire within the private sector to protect the natural places that make America so special. With the ever-present challenge of dwindling public funding, donations from philanthropic foundations, corporations, and individual citizens are crucial.

The A.T. Landscape Partnership — led by the ATC and the National Park Service — safeguards the wild, scenic, and culturally significant values of the A.T. and its surrounding lands while also increasing the chance of economic prosperity in towns and communities along the Trail. The grant will help ensure the values that make the A.T. landscape so unique —

and cherished by so many — remain for generations to come.

To leverage the financial support from the Virginia-based foundation, the ATC will award land protection and organizational capacity building grants to qualified conservation organizations working within the A.T. landscape.

Over the next three years, the ATC expects to grant annually up to \$500,000 to projects that will accelerate the pace of A.T. Landscape Conservation projects. An additional \$150,000 will be awarded each year to projects that implement new or existing strategic conservation plans, sustain and steward the resources that define the A.T. landscape, or increase public awareness of those resources.

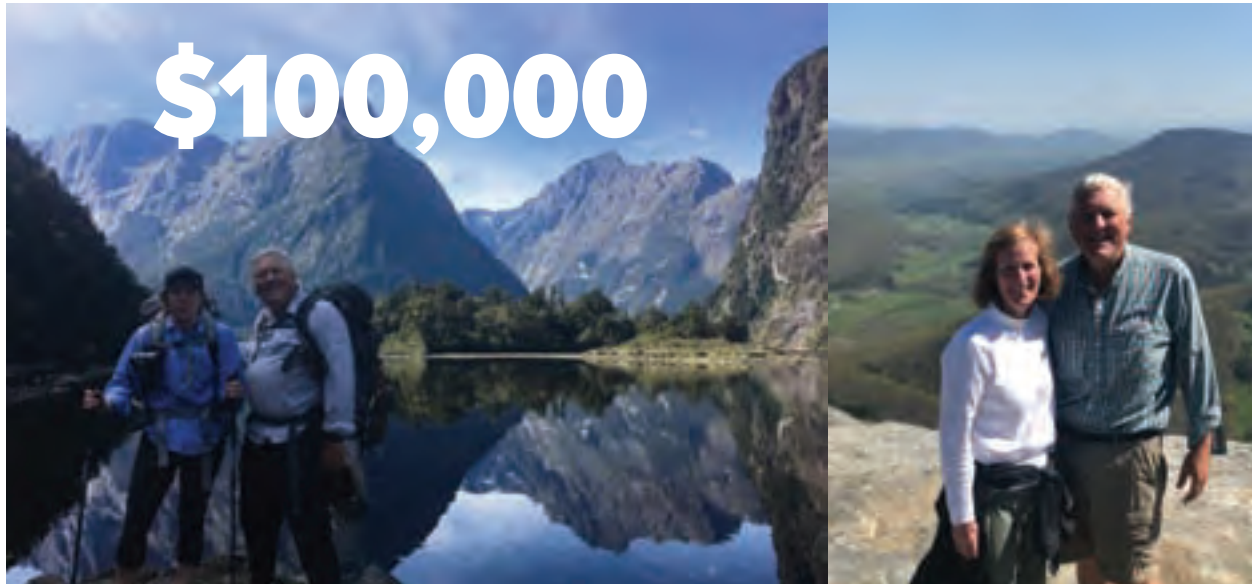
The ATC is accepting proposals for projects on behalf of the A.T. Landscape Partnership, which is made up of public and private conservation groups working within the A.T. landscape.



2017 / **OUR SUPPORTERS**

# BRUCE “RTK” MATSON

**USING A CHALLENGING THRU-HIKE TO CHALLENGE  
OTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE**



BRUCE ON PREVIOUS OUTDOOR ADVENTURES – WITH HIS DAUGHTER (TOP LEFT), SON (BOTTOM LEFT) – AND WITH HIS WIFE CHERYL DURING HIS CURRENT A.T. HIKE

**Bruce Matson is honoring his life-long dream of hiking** the Appalachian Trail. Bruce, at 60 years old, has carved out the time and opportunity to attempt a thru-hike of the entire 2,190 miles of the Trail from Georgia to Maine. In 2017, Bruce decided — as a way to “give back” to the A.T. — to use his planned 2018 thru-hike to help raise money for the ATC. Bruce wants millions of Trail visitors to enjoy the Trail, for generations to come. His campaign to assist the ATC is called the “RTK A.T. Challenge.”

Bruce’s Trail Name — “RTK” — comes from the theme of his thru-hike: “Returning to Katahdin.” Born and raised

in Connecticut, Bruce learned to love the outdoors through hiking, backpacking, and canoeing in New England (including two summers of guiding canoe trips in the North Maine Woods and climbing Katahdin). He moved to Virginia for college and law school, met his wife Cheryl, and stayed to begin a career and a family. By his own words, Bruce has had a wonderful life thus far. In returning to Katahdin by way of the longest footpath in the world, Bruce will be reflecting upon his life as he retraces an earlier and shorter journey along the A.T., from north to south, from Connecticut to Virginia.



Bruce will be matching contributions  
dollar for dollar up to \$100,000

For more information about this challenge or to support Bruce’s  
goal visit: [appalachiantrail.org/RTKChallenge](http://appalachiantrail.org/RTKChallenge)

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