

# International Trails Symposium

## Program Details

### Sunday, May 7 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM Concurrent Sessions

<b>Where Trails Really Take Flight: Connecting People and Heritage in the Birthplace of Aviation</b>	Room #302,303	Fun fact: The airplane was born in a bicycle shop. Before they became the world's first airplane pilots, the Wright brothers were avid bicyclists. They built and sold their own lines of bicycles, and the bicycle figured in their development of the world's first successful airplane. But it's just one part of Dayton's bicycle connection. Huffly Bicycles was a major bicycle brand built in the Dayton region and spurred the region's interest in bicycling and recreation trails. Today, more than 330 miles of paved trails connect many of our aviation heritage sites, including the Wright brothers' neighborhood and the flying field where they perfected the airplane. This panel will explain how the bicycle figured in the development of the airplane, how the nation's largest paved trail network connects several of our aviation heritage sites, and how the Greater Dayton Region is working to connect bicycling with aviation heritage to increase our attractiveness as a tourism destination and make the Dayton region a better place to live. The panel will supplement a mobile workshop being prepared jointly by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.
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*Speaker(s): Timothy R. Gaffney, Director of Communications National Aviation Heritage Alliance. Tim Gaffney is a Dayton native and retired aviation writer for the Dayton Daily News. He is the author of 15 books for children and adults, mainly on aviation and space topics. As a backpacker, bicyclist and private pilot, he has blended his interests in outdoor recreation, aviation and aviation history. In his post-retirement career, he works for the National Aviation Heritage Alliance to preserve and promote the aviation heritage assets in the National Aviation Heritage Area, a congressionally designated region that largely overlaps the Dayton region's recreational trail network. [trg@aviationheritagearea.org](mailto:trg@aviationheritagearea.org)*

<b>Adventure Presentation-Continental Divide Trail: 3000 Miles Along America's Spine</b>	Room #304	Join Todd as he takes you along the Great Divide from the depths of the Great Basin to the heights of the snowcapped Rockies. This epic 3100 mile trail from Mexico to Canada will challenge and inspire as it passes through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Todd will share the joys, pains, and epic adventures from his thru-hike of this awe inspiring National Scenic Trail.
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*Speaker(s): Todd Soprych is an adventurer! From a trans-America bike tour from Virginia to Oregon to thru-hikes of America's Triple Crown; the Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Continental Divide National Scenic Trails Todd seeks challenge and adventure. Following his trans-America bike trip he hooked a right to Canada, switched his tires and kept pedaling, all the way to Mexico on the world's longest off-pavement cycling route, the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. [thruhiker1912@gmail.com](mailto:thruhiker1912@gmail.com)*

<b>How Did It Happen? The Evolution of the National Trails System Act</b>	Room #306	As we approach the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act of 1968, let's examine how it came about and how it has been changed. What have been the major amendments, political cross-currents, and trends affecting the Trails System? And what might the future hold? It is important that we appreciate what has been achieved for trails nationally since 1968 -- and to explore how we can build on these accomplishments. And how can we explain this to our fellow Americans so they can learn more about the national trails? We won't preserve the authorities we now enjoy if we don't understand them.
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*Speaker(s): Steve Elkinton served for 25 years (1989-2014) as National Park Service program leader for the National Trails System. He now serves on the board of the Partnership for the National Trails System and chairs the committee commemorating the National Trail System's 50th Anniversary. [elksteve50@gmail.com](mailto:elksteve50@gmail.com)*

### Sunday, May 7 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions

<b>Brazilian Trails: Promoting Greater Public Use and Appreciation of Protected Areas</b>	Room #204	Though it has 200 million people, mostly in urban areas, and one of the world's largest park systems, recreational use of protected areas in Brazil is still limited. The Brazilian federal protected area system, over 300 units, gets less visitation than the USA's Blue Ridge Parkway, with most in a few parks in southern Brazil. Brazil's federal conservation agency, ICMBio, and state park systems, are working to promote greater public use of parks and reserves, including expanding trail systems. This presentation reviews trail trends in Brazil, including development of interpretive trails in an Amazonian national forest; development of the long distance TransCarioca trail in Rio state; promotion of statewide programs such as Trails of Sao Paolo; creation of trekking routes in Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park; creation of mountain bike routes in Brasilia National Forest; and other efforts to build and manage trails for hiking, biking, and paddling across Brazil.
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*Speaker(s): Jim Barborak is Co-Director of the Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental history, policy, planning and management, and organizes and teaches in short courses for conservation practitioners from around the world. Before coming to CSU Barborak worked four years for Conservation International as director of their protected areas and corridor program for Mexico and Central America, and before that he held a similar post with the Wildlife Conservation Society for 15 years in Latin America. His B.S. and M.S. are from The Ohio State University and he also studied at the Yale School of Forestry. His areas of interest include conservation capacity building; planning and management of protected areas, conservation corridors and buffer zones; conservation finance; ecotourism; conservation governance; the role of protected areas in climate change education, mitigation and adaptation; and wildlife conservation and management. He has nearly 40 years of experience in 25 countries and territories of the Western Hemisphere. [jim.barborak@colostate.edu](mailto:jim.barborak@colostate.edu)*

<b>Ohio Buckeye's Trail - From a 1958 Idea to Today's 1400+ Mile Hike</b>	Room #302,303	Ohio's Buckeye Trail began as an idea proposed in a 1958 article in the Columbus Dispatch. In 1959 a small group of devoted citizens, including Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood, formed the Buckeye Trail Association and began developing Ohio's long distance hiking experience. Without designated funding from federal, state, or local sources the people of Ohio have created their own 'Appalachian Trail' inspired experience for all to enjoy -- and it continues to grow and improve. Come here the story and best management practices of a grassroots organization that has stood the test of time through sweat equity, expansive partnerships, and a shared vision to create the trail we wish to hike. Today the BT supports paid staff, hundreds of volunteers who devote thousands of hours so that millions of hikers can enjoy the connection of the best natural and cultural highlights of the Buckeye State in one continuous loop trail
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*Speaker(s): Andrew Bashaw is the Executive Director of the Buckeye Trail Association, a leader in building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of Ohio's State Trail since 1959. He transitioned to the BTA from the position of North Country Trail Association's Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania. Andrew's prior experience includes several years as an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer focused on sustainable forestry in Appalachian Ohio and several terms with the Student Conservation Association. Andrew's educational background includes a BS in environmental geography from Ohio University and an MS in geography from Oklahoma State University. Andrew, his wife Claudia and daughter Adelaide live and work near the Buckeye Trail in southeast Ohio in a micro-region called the Little Cities of Black Diamonds. [director@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:director@buckeyetrail.org)*

**America's Trail Above the Clouds: An Historical Prospective of How the Appalachian Trail Took Flight** Room #304 From the dream of one man in 1921 to today's 2,125+ mile footpath, the Appalachian Trail (fondly referred to as "the A.T.") has become America's most beloved and celebrated National Scenic Trail. The A.T. is visited by over three million people each year. This session delves into the rich history of every stage of its development from conception through advocacy, partnership building, corridor selection, land acquisition, funding, dirt moving, and maintenance strategies. The story of the A.T. will be told through the eyes of the men and women who worked to make it a reality – some well-known such as Benton MacKaye and some obscure such as Harlean James. Focus will be on lessons learned that apply to today's trail "dreamers and doers."

*Speaker(s): Since 1997, Gwentyth Loose has been executive director of the York County Rail Trail Authority in York, PA. She has been successful in garnering over \$7 million of local, state and federal funds for the Authority to construct over 27 miles of multi-use trail to date. After becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society in 2003, she attained the status of Certified Park and Recreation Professional in 2007. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Trail Museum since 2007, currently serving as vice-president and exhibit curator. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will publish her first book on the women of the Appalachian Trail later in 2017. She holds a Masters Degree from Penn State University in American Studies. Gwentyth is a life-long, avid hiker with no ambitions to hike the entire Appalachian Trail, BUT she has great admiration for those who do!*  
[gloose@yorkcountytails.org](mailto:gloose@yorkcountytails.org)

**Drones and Horses – How Emerging Technology May Impact Your Trail Experience** Room #305 This session has a focus on the equestrian trail community, but the topic has relevance and interest to all user groups. The session provides an overview of the various uses of drones (both commercial and non-commercial), and the most up to date regulations on a nationwide, statewide and local level. Video footage of introducing horses to a drone to sensitize them to the sound and visual presence of the drone in a natural setting. The session also presents some of the positive uses of drones – specific to trails – as they are becoming more popular for trail route planning and construction, reviewing maintenance needs and search and rescue potential in a fast, cost effective, efficient manner.

*Speaker(s): Claire Miller, Park/Preserve Supervisor City of Phoenix Parks - Natural Resources Division Claire Miller started her Natural Resource Management career in the City of Phoenix in 1987 as Park Ranger – one of the first mounted patrol rangers in a newly developed program for the City of Phoenix mountain parks and preserves. She is a nationally certified mounted officer. In 1999, she left the City of Phoenix to become the first Preserve Manager for the City of Scottsdale, Arizona's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. In the Scottsdale manager position, she was integral in the development of several trailhead facilities and a network of approximately 200 miles of natural surface trails. She returned to the City of Phoenix in 2014, as a manager (and now Supervisor) for the 21,000-acre Phoenix Sonoran Preserve system. Public outreach is a very important aspect of Miller's Preserve Manager job – working with closely with the public at large and many regional agency and other stakeholder groups.*  
[claire.miller@phoenix.gov](mailto:claire.miller@phoenix.gov)

**Adventure Presentation - Pacific Crest Trail: A Walk from Mexico to Canada** Room #306 Brent and Amy Anslinger took a 5 month honeymoon hiking 2650 miles from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail. They will share their incredible journey that took them from the arid desert of Southern California to the mountain passes of the High Sierra and into the breathtaking Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington. This National Scenic Trail passes some of the most spectacular scenery in the country. Come share their stories and experiences on the trail and learn how the trail has impacted their lives "off-trail!"

*Speaker(s): Amy Anslinger*  
 It has been 25 years since Amy participated in an Outward Bound Course backpacking and canoeing in Northern Maine. Since that first trip Amy has gone on to earn a degree in Outdoor Education and has backpacked extensively throughout the US. Amy started working as a guide in the Blue Ridge Mountains while still in college. After moving to Dayton, Amy became the first outdoor recreation professional at Wright State University and spent almost 12 years building and managing the outdoor recreation program.  
[amyanslinger@gmail.com](mailto:amyanslinger@gmail.com)

*Brent Anslinger*  
 Brent's passion for the outdoors and backpacking began at an early age with family adventures out west and with Boy Scouts. He took a semester off while at Otterbein College to Thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. Brent has been to all 50 states and has backpacked in most of them. Brent is the Outdoor Recreation Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks and enjoys being an active member in building a vibrant outdoor community in Dayton.  
[banslinger@metroparks.org](mailto:banslinger@metroparks.org)

*In 2001, Amy and Brent spent 5 months backpacking from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail for their honeymoon. After their thru hike of the PCT they found jobs with Backpacker Magazine traveling the country together as the, "Get Out More" Road Team. In 2003, before moving into the family farm in Miamisburg, Ohio they thru hiked Ohio's own Buckeye Trail to introduce Amy to Ohio. Amy and Brent now spend time hiking and backpacking with their two girls, sharing their love for wild places with the next generation of Adventurers.*

**Sunday, May 7 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM Concurrent Sessions**

**Adventure Presentation: A Thru-Hiker's Journey: 2013 Thru-Hike of the North Country Trail** Room #202,203 Come hear a story about a hiker's journey over the nation's longest scenic trail, what he calls the "crown jewel" of the national scenic trail system. It's a story of struggle to overcome obstacles and to continue on in the pursuit of achieving goals and personal growth. Follow along as he traverses this trail of great diversity from the vast plains of North Dakota to the high peaks of the Adirondacks.

*Speaker(s): Luke "Strider" Jordan grew up on a farm in central Minnesota about 30 miles from Minneapolis. During his college years he started getting into backpacking and volunteered on trail construction crews for the Superior Hiking Trail every summer. During a family trip to the Northwest Angle region of Minnesota he even inherited his trail name, when he was asked to slow down because the others could not keep up with his long strides. In December, 2012 he graduated from St. Cloud State University with a BS degree in Natural Resources. With his college years behind him, he was ready to strap on his pack and pursue a dream of his to attempt a grand adventure over the North Country National Scenic Trail. He succeeded, and became the 4th person to successfully thru-hike the trail.*  
[stridernct@gmail.com](mailto:stridernct@gmail.com)

**Adventure - 9,000 Miles On A 2,200 Mile Trail. Lessons Learned From An Appalachian Trail Long Distance Hiker** Room #204

Since 1994 Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp has hiked 9,000 miles on the Appalachian Trail (AT), a continuous footpath that runs through fourteen states from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine. He has been awarded four "2,000 miler" certificates by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy which is conferred on hikers who have completed the entire AT and he is a Life Member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. He is one of a dozen people worldwide who has reported completing the entire Appalachian Trail four or more times.

Andy first became interested in backpacking in Boy Scouts, took his first solo hike on the AT in 1989, and since then has hiked the trail in sections end-to-end over three times. His average hike on the trail is 10-15 miles per day but he has walked up to 27 miles in one day. In the last few years he has averaged miles per section. He labels himself as a chronic section hiker of the AT. He finds each successive end-to-end hike gets easier and more enjoyable and his favorite areas of the trail are the southern Appalachians, New Hampshire and Maine. Most of Andy's AT hiking is solo, but occasionally he has friends join him for short sections and he has met many interesting people along the way.

During this presentation you will take a photo journey from Georgia to Maine on the AT. You will also get valuable "Captain Blue" tips and advice about the AT on things like mail drops, shuttles, hitchhiking and hiker hostels. At night he sleeps in the shelters along the AT if they are not crowded or in a one-person tent that he carries. About once a week he hitchhikes into town to resupply his food, take a shower and wash his clothes. Andy says "the physical and mental demands of long distance hiking are a great way to recharge one's internal batteries and get a fresh look on life." Long distance hiking is the closest thing Andy has found to a "fountain of youth."

*Speaker(s): Andy Niekamp is the Chief Adventure Officer for Outdoor Adventure Connection, which specializes in backcountry adventures. Andy has backpacked over 14,000 miles including four end to end hikes of the Appalachian Trail and thru hikes of the Buckeye Trail, Ohio To Erie Trail, Sheltowee Trace, Long Trail, Ozark Highlands Trail, Colorado Trail, Superior Hiking Trail and the Bartram Trail. Andy is founder and leader of the Dayton Hikers group, the largest outdoor recreation group in Dayton, Ohio, and a Leave No Trace Master Educator. Andy Niekamp grew up and lives in Dayton and has a passion for long distance hiking which he shares with others. Andy brings his wealth of backpacking experience and his passion for hiking to this program. He has two rules for his backpacking trips. Number 1: Be safe. Number 2: Have fun! [andyniekamp@gmail.com](mailto:andyniekamp@gmail.com)*

**Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop (3:30-4:00) Tread Lightly Awareness Workshop (4:15-4:45)** Room #302,303

Leave No Trace workshops are designed for educators, children, college students, outdoor professionals, scouts, trail crews, hiking club members and others interested in Leave No Trace skills and ethics.

Participants receive introductory training in the skills and ethics of Leave No Trace. Workshop topics include the underlying concept of minimum impact recreation and the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The Tread Lightly!® Awareness Course teaches the basics about the organization Tread Lightly!, introduces the concept of an outdoor ethic and the Tread Lightly! philosophy, provides an overview of the supporting resources available through Tread Lightly! and, more importantly, educates individuals how to minimize their impacts in the outdoors by applying the T.R.E.A.D. Principles in a recreational setting.

*Speaker(s): Dene Berman is an American Canoe Association and Wilderness Education Association Instructor. You can see him around town with his sea kayak on Eastwood Lake or walking his dog, Ollie. [dene.berman@wright.edu](mailto:dene.berman@wright.edu)*

*Danielle L. Fowles, Tread Lightly!®'s Education and Training Program Manager, develops and manages Tread Trainer™ – Tread Lightly!'s volunteer training and national outreach program. Formerly the Grassroots and Legislative Affairs Coordinator for a national member-based association, Danielle has recruited, trained, mobilized and overseen advocates to influence motorized recreation related issues. A graduate from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in political science, she has worked with numerous volunteers at the local, state and national levels. Danielle enjoys shooting, hunting, horseback riding and all forms of motorized recreation. [danielle@treadlightly.org](mailto:danielle@treadlightly.org)*

**National Trails Day: Heightening Community Engagement on Local Trails** Room #304

Gaining new trail supporters and growing community awareness of local parks, forests, and trails is often difficult for small clubs, large organizations, and agencies alike. National Trails Day, however, provides a nationwide platform to activate community engagement with trails all across the country on the first Saturday in June. National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to unite all muscle-powered trail activities with the goal of connecting more people to trails. Learn how to plan and promote a successful National Trails Day event in your community. This session will walk through the process of planning and promoting a National Trails Day event. Learn how to reach beyond your current constituent network and deepen community involvement with local trails.

*Speaker(s): As the Program Outreach & Communications Manager for American Hiking Society, Wesley Trimble, has worked to coordinate National Trails Day from the national level since 2015. His work within the trail industry started back in 2007 as a crew member of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; since that first summer he has worked as a trail crew leader and a graphic design and video consultant. Wesley's award-winning short film CP and the PCT has been featured in several international film festivals and was featured on Outside Online. He has thru hiked the Colorado Trail and Pacific Crest Trail and has summited all 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. [wtrimble@americanhiking.org](mailto:wtrimble@americanhiking.org)*

**Sunday, May 7 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Allied Meetings**

**Horse Trails Caucus** Room #305

Bring your success stories, your concerns, your needs, and your energy into helping find solutions to anything relating to recreational horseback riding in our nation. We often find "learning from others" and successful case studies from other states, communities, organizations, agencies, and programs across America can be applied to our own needs for solutions.

**Water Trails Caucus** Room #306

Connect with other water trail enthusiasts. This time will provide an opportunity for a rich discussion about needs for water trails and the future of water trails nationally, as well as an opportunity to network and get to know one another. Bring a trail map/guide, pictures, etc. from your source so you can share a little more about you and your organization with others.

**Monday, May 8 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Trail Talks (Breakfast with an Expert)**

<b>Around the Lake(s) – Big Ideas Build Multi-Use Trail Networks</b>	Room #103	<p>Big ideas and special places stir creativity and connection. With 1600+ miles of shoreline and over 22 million people within a 2hr drive, the Lake Michigan Trails Network is working to create a totally unique multi trail experience around Lake Michigan. With no passport required, connecting recreational users to adventure around the lake where it combines the entire Midwestern transect from totally wild to major metropolitan areas will bring users an all American “experience”. Even bigger visions exist for connected trails along all of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Century Vision connects planning on either side of the lakes and the Blueprint for the Great Lakes Trail, defines an opportunity for National Scenic Trail development. These ideas will be covered in terms of issues in development, access, process and outcomes of creating multi-modal trail systems while working in multi-jurisdiction’s to enhance tourism and economic development.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Diane Banta, National Park Service, is an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Starting her career in the IL DNR Youth Conservation Corps, she then joined the NPS working previously at Mammoth Cave, Cape Hatteras, Smoky Mountains, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and Cuyahoga Valley NP. With 35 years of service, Diane now works in Illinois with non-profit organizations and state and local government to preserve open space, greenways planning and trails projects. E-mail: <a href="mailto:diane_banta@nps.gov">diane_banta@nps.gov</a></i></p> <p><i>Eli Lechter, RLA, is a Senior Associate and registered Landscape Architect at Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects. As a designer, he utilizes his experience in detailed design, recreation and open space planning, and stormwater management on a range of design projects. Eli contributed to previous trail master plans, including the award winning Brays Greenway Framework, currently under construction in Houston. He holds a BS Landscape Architecture and a BS in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin</i></p>
<b>National Recreation and Water Trail Networking</b>	Room #103	<p>Networking with your fellow National Recreation &amp; Water Trail Managers.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Rita Hennessy and Lelia Mellen, National Park Service</i></p>
<b>Finding your path: A Comprehensive Strategic Plan</b>	Room #103	<p>A successful Trail Program can deliver great things for a local agency. It creates a highly-desirable public amenity, it elevates the agency as bike-friendly, it can secure revenue via grants, and be a legacy achievement for its political leader. In this context, how does staff start a conversation with agency leaders about falling behind on ambitious goals, struggles to keep up with ever-complicated projects, and requests for resources when there are so many other demands? A Strategic Plan can support the conversation in a productive and positive manner by bringing forward research, successful examples, and innovative ideas. Such a Strategic Plan can find stronger buy-in by discussing the critical resource issue in manner that doesn't solely rely on the local agencies budget. The Strategic Plan can support accelerated pace of work, greater scope, and sustained quality by offering strategies that open doors to the private sector, market the existing trails as strong assets, and pursue costly staffing recommendations as a short-term, limited duration commitment.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Yves Zsutty serves as the City of San Jose’s Trail Network Manager for development of a planned 100-mile inter-connected trail network that serves recreational and commuting objectives. He has overseen development of over 25 miles of Class I trails and secured \$35,000,000 in grant funding from Local, State and Federal source. San Jose’s existing 57-mile urban trail network is already one of the nation’s largest, and recognized by the FHWA for Transportation Planning Excellence. Yves has a degree in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University. E-mail: <a href="mailto:yves.zsutty@sanjoseca.gov">yves.zsutty@sanjoseca.gov</a></i></p>
<b>Getting Your Concept off the Ground: Taking the Leap from Concept to Reality</b>	Room #103	<p>One of the first steps when planning a new trail route is identifying the connections that will benefit the community: what are you trying to connect and how do you get there? Often stakeholders have an idea of important landmarks the trail should connect, but inevitably there will be turbulence along the way in getting from one landmark to the next. Creating a realistic concept plan can help trail advocates take their vision from the taxi-way to take off by proving the feasibility of the plan to funders, stakeholders and supporters. This session will explore how to use a toolkit of planning and engineering solutions to overcome obstacles and develop a project that can really soar. We'll explore the greater Cincinnati Area's trail scene, what's sparking recent success and dive into the Mill Creek Triangle Trails, an ambitious leg of trails moving from concept to reality.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Wyatt McDermitt is a transportation engineer with The Kleingers Group. In this role, he supports the City Engineer for six diverse communities around the Greater Cincinnati Area creating Capital Improvement Plans, developing conceptual design layouts and estimates as well as securing federal and state funding to allow these projects take flight. He also serves in a more traditional design engineer role working on Safe Routes to Schools projects, road improvement projects for school and other site developments and specializes in environmentally friendly, storm water designs for roadway projects. Wyatt obtained a Bachelor’s of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky and an Associates of Arts in Business from El Paso Community College. In his leisure time, he enjoys hiking, canoeing and white water rafting. E-mail: <a href="mailto:wyatt.mcdermitt@kleingers.com">wyatt.mcdermitt@kleingers.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Wade Johnston is the Regional Trails Coordinator for Tri-State Trails, an initiative of Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance. An avid commuter cyclist and outdoor enthusiast, Wade is working to change people's everyday interaction with the built environment and the outdoors in the Greater Cincinnati region. Wade earned his Bachelor of Urban Planning from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning with a focus on multi-modal transportation, Geographic Information Science, and public relations. Prior to joining Green Umbrella, Wade worked for several years as a planning and zoning consultant in the private sector. In addition to cycling, Wade also enjoys backpacking, camping, and rock climbing.</i></p>
<b>Is It Okay If I Walk Here? Exploring Trails as an Anxious, Depressed, Neurotic Girl</b>	Room #103	<p>The forest service has a campaign that says "it's all yours". Public Lands campaigns have been encouraging people to see the land as their own. In my own job, I work in interpretation, which includes aims of helping people to connect to wild places. Many people have spoken about the challenges of inclusion, of making sure that barriers are broken down for people to claim the trail as their own, regardless of their background. But, what about those of us who find the barrier in our own brains? As a woman with a mild mental illness, and a history of anxiety, I've had to address the --sometimes irrational and often ridiculous-- barriers to the trail that can be overcome to find a place in the wild, too. It is our lands, even for those of us who sometimes get panic attacks in gear shop</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Since finishing undergrad, Chloe Donaldson has been working in and around public lands. She currently works as an interpretive trainer at the Grand Canyon. She has a background in art, English, and writing, as well as a love for the outdoors and for interpretation. Additionally, she has found healing on trails, and uses hiking and the outdoors to help mediate a life-long struggle with depression and anxiety. One of her goals is to break down the stigma around mental illness through creative art, advocacy, and humor. E-mail: <a href="mailto:donaldson_chloe@ymail.com">donaldson_chloe@ymail.com</a></i></p>
<b>The Devil is in the Details: Common Trail Design Mistakes &amp; How to Avoid Them</b>	Room #103	<p>Hard surfaced trails look simple on the ground, but are not as easy to design as they seem. Details that can make trails safer, more user-friendly and more accessible often get overlooked. Examples of good and bad design for details such as at-grade crossings, trail surfaces, user-specific trail specifications, bridges, tunnels, trailheads, signage and landscape elements will be presented in an easy-to-understand, non-technical format with photos and drawings from around the U.S. Anticipating problem areas and simple design solutions solve many common problems. The presentation will include innovative design solutions for difficult locations, and applications of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Holly Larson has been a trail planner since the early 1990's, and for the last 16 years has been an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. In this position, she has assisted over 20 communities in Minnesota with planning and design for hard surface multi-use trails, collaborating with multiple trail user groups, and state, county and city engineers and trail managers. She worked for five years as a Trail Planner for the Maryland--National Capitol Planning Commission, where she was asked to fix really bad trail design mistakes, and to make bicyclists, hikers and equestrians get along. She started her trail planning career as a Monroe County Planner in the Florida Keys, when the first ISTE legislation was passed, and her boss told her to wrestle some of that money away from Miami and create some projects for the Keys. She holds a Masters Degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University, and never regrets switching from land use planning to trail planning, even after finding out that it is no less controversial. E-mail: <a href="mailto:holly_larson@nps.gov">holly_larson@nps.gov</a></i></p>

<b>Safe Trails Begin With Marking Standards</b>	Room #103	<p>With over 60,000 miles of trails in all 50 states, it is critical to remain mindful of the nation's more than 19 million miles of buried pipelines and cables. Many of these buried utilities lie underneath, or nearby trails, no matter how remote they are. In 2015, nearly 143 million Americans participated in an outdoor activity at least once. That makes for a lot of footprints, potentially crossing over miles of underground infrastructure. This is where your trail marking standard comes into play. Not only would you be providing visible and consistent signage throughout the trail for trail users, but safe digging practices when building or working on a trail should be equally important. It is crucial to always remember a solid marking program protects your team, your community and our buried infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Dan Zabka E-mail: <a href="mailto:dzabka@rhinomarkers.com">dzabka@rhinomarkers.com</a></i></p>
<b>Adventures in Urban Trailblazing: Cleveland's Towpath Trail</b>	Room #103	<p>The first mile of the Towpath Trail in the City of Cleveland remediated brownfield conditions and removed failing steel bulkheads while creating a riparian buffer to improve the water quality of the Cuyahoga River and providing a larval fish habitat. This completed mile of trail, Scranton Flats, will be discussed as part of a preview of the northernmost four miles of the otherwise nearly completed 100 mile Towpath Trail, connecting Historic Zoar Village with Downtown Cleveland. The trail traverses a variety of urban landscapes in Cleveland across a wide spectrum of redevelopment. The Towpath will transform twelve acres of asphalt stockpiles into a meadow and wetland, convert a treacherous local street into a half mile of accessible neighborhood trail abutting the front steps of existing townhouses, and will ultimately enable the connection of Downtown Cleveland to hundreds of miles of independent shared-use trails throughout Ohio.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Doug Blank is a transportation project manager with Michael Baker International in Cleveland. He holds degrees from both the Case School of Engineering and Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Doug's experience includes project management of context sensitive transportation projects, trail and streetscape design, implementation of sustainable stormwater management, utility and stakeholder coordination, and public involvement. The majority of Doug's experience has been in the core of Cleveland on highly constrained urban projects. He works regularly with City agencies, utilities, and community development corporations in connecting local needs with broader transportation solutions. E-mail: <a href="mailto:dablank@mbakerintl.com">dablank@mbakerintl.com</a></i></p>
<b>How to Make Your Town a Better Place for Everyone - A Complete Streets Approach</b>	Room #103	<p>The term "Complete Streets" was accepted by the Federal Highway Administration in 2010. For a community to adopt a complete streets policy, transportation engineers must design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. This session will focus on a recent highly successful example of a multiple award-winning complete streets design that revitalized the Central Business District of the Village of Fairfax, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati. An informative case study will be presented to discuss how it is possible for pedestrians, cyclists, public transit riders, and drivers to have their very different needs addressed to safely co-exist and thrive within the same roadway. You will leave the presentation inspired and with the knowledge of how these principals can be applied and achieved in your own town to spur community development and inclusion across your local network.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Caroline Duffy is a professional engineer in Ohio and Kentucky and currently heads the Traffic Section for the three Ohio offices of Johnson, Mirmiran &amp; Thompson, Inc. (JMT). As a senior transportation engineer with more than thirty years of experience managing complex civil engineering design projects, Caroline has become well-known for her approach to designing projects that takes into consideration the needs and wants of the communities that will utilize the final project. A good example of this can be found in the topic of discussion for this presentation, the Wooster Pike Revitalization project. Caroline designed the project using complete streets principals, well before that term was accepted by the Federal Highway Administration in 2010. Caroline was presented with the ASHE Member of the Year Award in 2015, was recently elected President of ASHE's Great Lakes Region, and is a member of several community organizations advancing bike trail initiatives. E-mail: <a href="mailto:CDuffy@jmt.com">CDuffy@jmt.com</a></i></p>
<b>Native and Medicinal Plants: Maximize What Your Trail has to Offer!</b>	Room #103	<p>Ever wonder what the plant life along your trail is? Let's get together and discuss ways to maximize what Mother Nature has to offer along our trails and how we can use that to engage community members on our trails!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Diana Druga is the president of a newly formed non-profit volunteer trail group in Harrison County, WV. Harrison Rail Trails (HRT) was a grass root effort that began in 2015 and became formally organized as a non-profit public charity in 2016. HRT's mission is to assist the Harrison County Commissioners in gaining rail-trail support from the community on their newly reopened rail-trails, to help improve and maintain the trails, and to complete their portion of the Industrial Heartland Trail circuit. Diana and HRT, in 2016, hosted 7 community &amp; family bicycle rides, 16 regularly scheduled walking groups on the rail-trails, and various other rail-trail events that were community focused. E-mail: <a href="mailto:HRTS.WV@gmail.com">HRTS.WV@gmail.com</a></i></p>
<b>Where Muscle Meets Motor: Mixed-Use in a Rural Context</b>	Room #103	<p>Rural communities are seeing transportation trends opposite those of the rest of America. While some communities value and are making considerable efforts to maintain culturally traditional forms of travel, others are experiencing significant social pressures on traditional ways of mobility. Non-traditional vehicles (e.g., all-terrain or off-highway) often serve as the only travel option, are becoming increasingly utilitarian, and fulfill basic mobility needs in rural communities but present significant planning and safety challenges as they interact with non-motorized and more traditional motorized forms of transportation. This hour is intended to promote discussion on safety, interactions of users, and the evolution of transportation culture in rural mixed-use environments</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): E-mail: <a href="mailto:npbelz@alaska.edu">npbelz@alaska.edu</a></i></p>
<b>Hut Operators and Land Managers: An Emerging Community of Practice</b>	Room #103	<p>Learn from research on the experience of U.S. operators of systems of huts, cabins, tents, or yurts, for hiking, biking or skiing. We will present an overview of how such systems work and the challenges in planning, permitting, building, and operating them in the USA.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Sam Demas is an independent researcher working to understand the situation and outlook for hut-to-hut type accommodations systems in the USA. His work is aimed at informing a discussion of how hut (yurt, cabin, etc.) systems might fit into the recreational opportunity spectrum of the USA. To this end, he also studies a wide range of accommodations systems for long distance human-powered travellers in other parts of the world to see what we might learn from lessons abroad. Sam is a retired academic librarian and avid long distance walker. He is editor of <a href="http://www.hut2hut.info">www.hut2hut.info</a>, a key resource on accommodations systems for walkers, skiers and bikers.</i></p>

**Monday, May 8 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Concurrent Sessions**

<b>American Trails Townhall: Designing AT's Path Forward</b>	Room #106	<p>Everybody has an opinion! Usually, that is not a good thing, but in this case, it is exactly what we need. American Trails is growing with our changing times. We need your help to shape the direction of American Trails. Join AT's board of directors, and all of our key partners to kickoff the process of planning our strategic direction over the next 5 years. Come prepared to brainstorm and postulate about everything that AT could be. We welcome all of your opinions and off the wall ideas to help AT better serve its members and the greater trails world.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mike Passo is the Executive Director of American Trails. Mike has also served as the Executive Director of the Professional Trailbuilders Association and the owner and operator of a sea kayak outfitter called Elakah Expeditions. Mike has led groups of all backgrounds, ages and abilities on sea kayak expeditions in the San Juan Islands of Washington, Vancouver Island in British Columbia, and in Glacier Bay Alaska. Mike has conducted an extensive study of outdoor developed areas nationwide to determine the cost implications of construction according to proposed American's with Disabilities Act standards, and a Congressional study on improving access to outdoor recreational activities on federal land. He has a B.S. in Recreation Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, including three years coursework in Landscape Architecture and Civil Engineering. He has presented on Universal Design and Programming at several national conferences and served on the Board of Directors of American Trails since 2000. His love of the outdoors and his own paraplegia has given him a great interest in the creation of an accessible outdoor environment that does not ruin the characteristics and value of that environment. <a href="mailto:mikepasso@americantrails.org">mikepasso@americantrails.org</a></i></p>
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<b>It is all in the Difficulty</b>	Room #202,203	<p>There are many ways to classify trails. Most often trails are classified first based on the type of recreation. This could be causing trail conflict or making trails not meet the needs or the recreationist. During this session, we will look at creating or classifying trails based on width while offering a wide range of difficulty levels to meet the needs, and wants, of those people using the trail.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Karen Umphress is the IT and Project Manager for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). In this role, she has created projects and given workshops regarding safe and responsible OHV trails throughout the US. Karen graduated college with a double-major of Psychology and Speech Communication. She, along with her husband, have been the Government Relations Officers for AMA District 23 (also known as the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association) since 1999. Karen is a founding member of a local dirt bike club, the Twin Cities Trail Riders, and serves on 2 MN state motorized recreation coalitions, the Minnesota Motorized Trail Coalition and the Coalition for Recreational Trail Users. In addition, she represents motorized recreation on the national America Trails board of directors. In addition to motorized recreation, Karen enjoys hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and canoeing.</i>  <a href="mailto:karen@nohvcc.org">karen@nohvcc.org</a></p> <p><i>Andy Williamson currently serves as the IMBA Great Lakes Region Director, supporting local off-road cycling organizations and land managers in the creation, protection, and promotion of trails across the region. Previously, Andy held the position of Outdoor Recreation Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio. He is founder of the Miami Valley Cycling Summit, sits on the City of Dayton's Bike/Walk Task Force and serves on the Board of Directors for Bike Miami Valley, the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) and UpDayton. As an outdoor professional, advocate and enthusiast Andy enjoys all forms of active outdoor endeavors.</i>  <a href="mailto:andy.williamson@imba.com">andy.williamson@imba.com</a></p>
<b>Leveraging People and Places: Trails as Economic Development</b>	Room #204	<p>Towns and cities are capitalizing on their trail networks to forge stronger ties to their pasts as well as to stimulate their local economies looking ahead. Trails that intersect downtowns offer unique opportunities for reinvention as former industrial areas are becoming increasingly attractive for redevelopment given their proximity to adjoining neighborhoods and community assets. However, urban trails also pose specific challenges as they relate to history, gentrification and addressing issues of environmental contamination. This session brings together a city planner, landscape architect and architect to talk about trails in the urban context and what cities in the United States are doing to facilitate connectivity and provide economic development opportunities for the properties that lie along former industrial corridors.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): David Gamble, AIA AICP, is a Lecturer in the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design where he teaches courses in urban design, planning and real estate. He is Principal of Gamble Associates, a Cambridge, MA-based design firm focused on urban regeneration. He is a member of the National American Institute of Architects Regional and Urban Design Leadership Group and is a former co-chair of the Boston Society of Architects Urban Design Committee. Together with Patty Heyda, David published "Rebuilding the American City: Design and Strategy for the 21st Century Urban Core" (Routledge Press, 2016). The book identifies recent successes in urban transformation around the country and identifies challenges to redevelopment that are yet to be overcome.</i>  <a href="mailto:dgamble@gsd.harvard.edu">dgamble@gsd.harvard.edu</a></p> <p><i>Kristin Booker, Principal Booker Design Collaborative. A professional landscape architect with over 20 years of experience in her profession, Kristin Booker (ASLA) has worked in both the private and public sectors throughout her career with an all-encompassing understanding of the complex process of bringing successful design and planning projects to fruition. She is the owner of Booker Design Collaborative, LLC, a landscape architecture and urban design firm in Louisville, Kentucky that was founded in 2012. Her project management experience includes urban planning, historic preservation, commercial development, public realm improvements, master planning, residential design and community outreach. In her practice, she has focused on the social and environmental implications of her work while striving for enduring beauty in design. Kristin is the current president of the Kentucky Society of Landscape Architects and was featured in Landscape Architect and Specifier News magazine in the November 2016 edition, 'Women and Landscape Architecture'.  <a href="mailto:kbooker@bookerdesign.com">kbooker@bookerdesign.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Chris Schmiesing is a City Planner who holds a degree in civil engineering. He has been employed by the City of Piqua, Ohio for 25 years and his work has included designing and administering the construction of numerous roadway, park and public space improvements and leading the development and implementation of plans, policies, and strategies. Some of Chris's recent work includes the preparation of the City of Piqua Complete Streets Policy, which was recognized by Smart Growth America in 2013 as one of the top ten complete streets policies in the United States, and leading the planning and implementation of the Piqua Placemaking Initiative, a bold game-changing revitalization effort focused on Piqua's downtown riverfront.  <a href="mailto:cschmiesing@piquaoh.org">cschmiesing@piquaoh.org</a></i></p>
<b>Regional Collaboration Across 1,000s of Miles: Connecting Communities to Their Natural Heritage</b>	Room #302,303	<p>Regional trail projects can represent different types of "networks" depending on their intent and desired impact. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) is involved in two major regional trail projects that are designed not only for their recreational aspects, but as well as their projected economic impact. The Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition is a 1400-mile, 4-state trail vision that seeks to celebrate historical connections between cities, while The Circuit Trails in Southeastern PA is a 700-mile network working to connect local communities to one another and to Philadelphia with a primary focus of transportation. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is working extensively on The Iron Belle Trail (IBT) which is a 2,000 + mile trail that consists of both a biking and hiking route and aims to reconnect communities to their heritage and important natural resources. PEC's extensive experience in the conservation and policy world allows trail projects to be about more than just construction. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has worked extensively with state, federal and local community partners to make this showcase trail a reality and has faced many road blocks in the process. The presentation will focus on stakeholder engagement, group dynamics, non-traditional partnerships and the strength of large-scale vision to create momentum at a local scale. Specific attention will be paid to the utilization of collaborative planning tools developed for these projects, allowing for better communication and priority development.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Melissa Buzzard, Iron Belle Trail Assistant Coordinator, Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Melissa Buzzard is the Iron Belle Trail Assistant Coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast. Before coming to work for the State of Michigan, Melissa served two AmeriCorps terms and contracted with the Bureau of Land Management for four years in various parts of Nevada in their Wilderness and Recreation Programs. She collected baseline data for a district wide analysis of wilderness character and assisted in fine tuning the guidelines for doing so. She also gained valuable experience with a variety of private and public partners as well as public land users through the Recreation program and its' permitting aspects. With a degree in Natural Resource Management from Grand Valley State University and her boots on the ground work in the west, she brings a well-rounded background to the Trails Division. She continues to work closely with partners and communities to aid in the development and completion of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail.  <a href="mailto:buzzardm@michigan.gov">buzzardm@michigan.gov</a></i></p> <p><i>Frank Maguire, Program Director, Trails and Outdoor Recreation, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; has over a decade of trail experience across the Mid-Atlantic. Since joining PEC in February of 2015 as trails program manager, Maguire's efforts have focused on several large trail initiatives, including the Industrial Heartlands Trails Coalition, as well as managing the PA Water Trails Program, a statewide partnership that encourages the development and promotion of river recreation and conservation. In December of 2015, he became the Program Director for Trails and Recreation, overseeing trail initiatives throughout the Commonwealth. Prior to his work at PEC, Maguire worked for five years as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).  <a href="mailto:fmaguire@pecpa.org">fmaguire@pecpa.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Deb Frawley, Trails Program Coordinator, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, is the Project Coordinator for the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition at the Pennsylvania Environment Council. Her work at PEC ranges from conservation and outdoor recreation planning, project management, grant writing, watershed management, environmental education and branding. Her previous experience includes working for the National Park Service, US Forest Service, PA State Parks, County-level positions and non-profits. She is Board member of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance and the Allegheny Valley Conservancy.</i></p>

**Trails: Nature's Path to Participation in Physical Activity for All—Benefits, Experiences and Stories**

Room #304

This session will highlight the collaborative work between the Lakeshore Foundation and the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition for making trails an accessible place for all to participate in physical activity. The focus of the session will be on health benefits of accessible trails and how to make it happen in your community. The role of trails in achieving physical activity guidelines, and attaining physical, social, and psychological health through outdoor activity will be discussed particularly from the perspective of grants and funding requests. Two separate examples, Oak Mountain State Park (Alabama) and Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (Georgia and North Carolina) will be shared including partnership development, grass roots efforts and funding mechanisms for trail assessment, modifications, and signage. Project successes and road blocks will also be reviewed. Disability and trail experts will lead discussions on raising awareness in communities, building partnerships, and driving progress toward accessible trails unique to each community.

*Speaker(s): George Owen's 45-year avocation has been foot trails. He has laid out and overseen the construction of over a hundred miles of new trail routes on public land. George has been active in the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition since its founding, the only regional foot trails body, recently serving as its president. He is one of six founders of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, which built a new 300-mile trail over three states. Following occupational retirement in 2002, George served as an alpine guide in Switzerland ten summers for two companies. Currently George gives on-the-ground leadership for a regional project to provide accessible trails for the mobility impaired, mainly on public lands. This project, involving the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers from trail maintaining clubs, staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local personnel, is progressing with developing accessible sites in two states and exploring others. [gowen2@tds.net](mailto:gowen2@tds.net)*

*Ms. Amy Rauworth joined Lakeshore Foundation in 2012 as Director of Policy and Public Affairs. She also works within the University of Alabama Birmingham/Lakeshore Foundation Research Collaborative where she is the Associate Director of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD). Ms. Rauworth is a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist and has over 19 years of experience in health promotion development and implementation, focusing on the delivery of physical activity programming for people with disability across the lifespan. In Alabama, Ms. Rauworth Chairs the Livable Communities priority group of the Health Action Partnership of Jefferson County and was appointed by the Governor in 2014 to the Alabama Trails Commission. Ms. Rauworth leads the content development, synthesis and training within NCHPAD and directs the coordination of the Inclusive Fitness Coalition which consists of over 220 organizations seeking to improve inclusive physical activity options within all communities across the United States. [amyr@lakeshore.org](mailto:amyr@lakeshore.org)*

*Tip Ray is a certified UTAP/HETAP Master Trainer and has provided trail assessment training to local, state, and federal land managers and their trail volunteers, including at past International Trail Symposia. Tip has also traveled to conduct on-trail assessments in various states including Minnesota, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Hawaii. He is a retired Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and consultant in private practice where he focused on inclusive recreation practices and systems change advocacy. [tip.ray@gmail.com](mailto:tip.ray@gmail.com)*

**Telling the Tale of our Ohio Trails – Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton Connect to Create the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network**

Room #305

The Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network is not just a catch-phrase to locals, it a 340-mile accomplishment and a point of pride. Discover what Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission in Dayton has been working on since 1973 to connect more than a dozen major trails to local communities and Ohio's three largest cities. Highlights include collaborating with and building consensus among multiple agencies, setting the standards for a regional signage and wayfinding system, producing award-winning trail maps, and telling the story of trail use by conducting trail counts and user surveys. Head north with us to hear how the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has been driving progress on greenway development in Columbus since 2005. Since the creation of the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board in 2015, new energy has been behind the efforts to increase the number of people using the 180-mile trail system by fostering new partnerships, expanding the trail network, increasing programming, and improving branding and marketing. Finally, we'll traverse south to learn how the younger Tri-State Trails initiative in Cincinnati has been quickly gaining momentum since its humble beginnings around a table of trail advocates in 2013. Thanks to partnership and support from Interact for Health, a regional health foundation, Tri-State Trails has driven significant public sector progress using nonprofit innovation to connect southwest Ohio to neighboring Kentucky and Indiana. Linked by the Ohio-to-Erie Trail, these three metropolitan areas are working collaboratively and innovatively to make trails and active transportation a higher regional priority for Ohio and the Midwest.

*Speaker(s): Tony Collins is currently serving as the Director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Columbus. Prior to Columbus Collins served as the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Gahanna joining the city in 2000 after serving as a Director with the Akron Area YMCA four years. Collins is an active leader with the parks and recreation profession in Ohio as a past Ohio Parks and Recreation Association board member, past board president, past OPRA foundation president, and currently Vice President of the OPRA Foundation. In his new role, Collins serves as a board member of the Columbus Zoo, After School All Stars Ohio and the Audubon Stewardship Board. He is the Chair of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Central Ohio Greenways Board driving a regional effort to increase trails in Central Ohio. Collins holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio University and an MBA from Franklin University. He lives in Dublin, Ohio with his four children and wife Becky. [tacollins@columbus.gov](mailto:tacollins@columbus.gov)*

*Wade Johnston is the Regional Trails Coordinator for Tri-State Trails, an initiative of Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance. An avid commuter cyclist and outdoor enthusiast, Wade is working to change people's everyday interaction with the built environment and the outdoors in the Greater Cincinnati region. Wade earned his Bachelor of Urban Planning from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning with a focus on multi-modal transportation, Geographic Information Science, and public relations. Prior to joining Green Umbrella, Wade worked for several years as a planning and zoning consultant in the private sector. Tri-State Trails is a coalition of trail advocates, a physical network of trails, and a vision to connect the Greater Cincinnati region. Formerly known as the Green Umbrella Regional Trails Alliance, Tri-State Trails unites advocates, leaders, and stakeholders in a collaborative discussion on active transportation and outdoor recreation. Tri-State Trails believes that trails enhance our region's communities, resulting in healthier people and stronger economies. Their mission is to connect people and places via a regional trails network that promotes vibrant communities through equitable access to active transportation and outdoor recreation. [wade@greenumrella.org](mailto:wade@greenumrella.org)*

*Megan Folkerth coordinates Interact for Health's Active Living and Tobacco-Free Environments work. Before coming to Interact, Megan was a Senior Health Educator with the Northern Kentucky Health Department for more than five years. There she focused on policy and system and environmental changes in the tobacco prevention and cessation program, as well as worked in Covington on healthy eating and active living initiatives. Megan also worked at the Center for Closing the Health Gap as a Community Health Program Coordinator. In 2013 Megan received the Legacy Next Generation Leader Award for Community and Social Services and in 2012 she was a Balderson Leadership Project Award Runner-Up. Megan holds a Master of Public Health in health promotion and education from Wright State University and earned a certificate of public health leadership from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. She also holds a bachelor's degree in athletic training from Marietta College. Megan is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a member of the Ohio Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education. [mfolkerth@interactforhealth.org](mailto:mfolkerth@interactforhealth.org)*

*Kjirsten Frank Hoppe works as a Transportation Planner with the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, with a focus on biking, walking, senior transportation, and safe routes to schools. She has worked in urban and regional planning in Ohio, California, Nevada, Illinois, and back to Ohio, and she has degrees from Miami University and the University of Southern California. Back in Dayton, she lives within walking distance to work. Kjirsten volunteers with the Gem City Ballet Board, the Miami Valley Section of APA-Ohio, the Dayton Metro Library Foundation, and the Dayton Ballet Barre. In her spare time she is a new mother and learning to cope - so please be nice to her. [kfrank.hoppe@mvrpc.org](mailto:kfrank.hoppe@mvrpc.org)*

<b>Ohio Bridle Trails Take Flight: Shared Visions Establish Route to Success</b>	Room #306	<p>The Wright brothers had a dream of flight and inspired many sharing the same vision. Likewise, Ohio equestrians had a dream to get outside with their horses and enjoy the variety of scenery Ohio offers. As early as 1969, a grassroots group of riders advocated for horseback riding trails in Ohio. By 1972, Ohio Horseman's Council was created and incorporated as a non-profit organization with a vision to advocate for horseback riding trails in Ohio. Other inspired equestrians around the state began to get involved in developing, preserving and advocating for trails, combined with their dedicated support to Ohio's equine industry. Getting started wasn't easy, but fast forward to 2016 and Ohio has more than 1,600 miles of bridle trails in state and national parks and forests, private lands and Metro parks. The Council has more than 4,200 members, all volunteers to the vision. This informative and "kick back and take off the cowboy boots" session will give attendees insight into the importance of shared vision between volunteers and landowners. Wilbur and Orville would be proud of the relationship and perseverance of the volunteers and landowners.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Dawn McCarthy, PhD, Recreation Team Leader, Forest Service, Wayne National Forest, Athens Ranger District Dawn McCarthy is a natural resources specialist with the USDA Forest Service.</i></p> <p><i>Arden Sims, President, Ohio Horseman's Council, Inc. Arden Sims was re-elected to a second term as President of the largest non-profit, volunteer equestrian organization in the State of Ohio. I</i></p> <p><i>Brian M. Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Metroparks, is responsible for the management of over 23,000 acres including 18 park reservations, eight golf courses, a nationally acclaimed Zoo, hundreds of miles of parkways and trails, and more than 1,500 employees that serve approximately 18 million recreational visits annually.</i></p> <p><i>Penny Passalacqua, Cuyahoga County President &amp; Northeast Regional Mentor, Ohio Horseman's Council, Inc. The Cuyahoga County Chapter of OHC was formed in 1996 and members are volunteers who work with Cleveland Metroparks overseeing 100 miles of trails in seven reservations.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Gerard, Trail Advocacy Chair &amp; State OHC Director, Ohio Horseman's Council, has been a member of OHC since 1993. Horseback riding enthusiasts who enjoy the 27 miles of trails and overnight camping with their horses at Pleasant Hill Lake Park can thank him for leading the efforts in establishing the trails and camping amenities.</i></p> <p><i>John Olivier, Deputy Chief – Marina Operations, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, has 30 years of public service in Parks &amp; Recreation, and Natural Resources.</i></p> <p><i>Don Wagner, Trails Chair &amp; Southeast Regional Mentor, Ohio Horseman's Council, a long-time member of Ohio Horseman's Council, is the main "go to" person when it comes to OHC volunteers wanting to establish bridle trails in Ohio.</i></p> <p><i>Lt. C. Shannon Hoffer, SW Unit B, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Watercraft, is a 20-year veteran of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and his current role is a law enforcement supervisor with the Division of Parks &amp; Watercraft.</i></p> <p><i>Mary Alice Kuhn, Marketing &amp; Promotions Chair, Ohio Horseman's Council, Inc., has ridden many miles of Ohio bridle trails and did not realize that the trails were the result of volunteers working with land managers. When she learned about OHC, she wanted to give back by volunteering her time, skills and resources to help OHC market and promote their mission and goals.</i></p>
<b>Trail Signage Can Make or Break the Visitor Experience</b>	Room #307,308,309	<p>This session focuses on the methods to improve trail user experience, safety and appreciation of public trail facilities through improved identification, wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage. Receive an overview of the planning and design processes required to create a comprehensive trail signage program and the resulting signage applications, fabrication and installation methods that can enhance and improve the overall user experience of public trail systems.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Grady Brown is President of iZone Imaging. He serves as a Trustee on The Sign Research Foundation Board, is a member and Austin Chapter Co-Chair for the Society of Experiential Graphic Designers (SEGD) and has served on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the International Committee for the International Sign Association (ISA). <a href="mailto:gbrown@izoneimaging.com">gbrown@izoneimaging.com</a> Tom Mullin is an Associate Professor of Parks and Resources at Unity College in Maine. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Interpretation, the Stewardship Council of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and is chair of the Waldo County Trails Coalition in Maine. <a href="mailto:tmullin@unity.edu">tmullin@unity.edu</a></i></p>
<b>PTBA Technical Track-Sustainable Trails for All</b>	Room #310,311	<p>With the September 2013 release of the Federal Trail Accessibility Guidelines, communities and land trusts need to know how to sustainably build hiking trails that provide access for everyone. This important workshop will help you understand the guidelines and will provide an overview of the techniques and hands-on skills needed to build sustainable hiking trails that provide enjoyment for all. Whether you work with an existing trail or are contemplating a new trail, this session is for you!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Director, USFS, is the National Accessibility Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the accessibility programs and policies across the 193 million acres of the National Forest System. She also represents the Forest Service working on accessibility issues with partners, organizations, States, and other federal agencies including with the U.S. Access Board and the Department of Justice. Janet instructs accessibility and universal design of programs and facilities at a wide range of training sessions nationally. Email: <a href="mailto:jzeller@fs.fed.us">jzeller@fs.fed.us</a></i></p> <p><i>Peter Jensen, Peter S. Jensen and Associates, is the principal of Peter S. Jensen and Associates, LLC based out of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He is a nationally recognized expert in the accessible trails industry. He served on the Regulatory Negotiation Committee of the US Access Board, and has been integral in the development of proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Trails and Outdoor Developed Areas. He is also a skilled instructor in the design, construction, planning and maintenance of natural surface trails that are both sustainable and as inherently accessible as an environment will allow.</i></p>
<b>Exhibit Hall EXCLUSIVE 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	Exhibit Hall (#102)	<p>Join our amazing vendors for dedicated exhibit hall time for attendees in our "Exhibit Hall Exclusive." This year we will include two full hours, including poster presentations "on the bridge," refreshments, and more.</p> <p>Poster Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Living Landscapes and Active Transportation: Green Infrastructure's Role in Developing a Sustainable Network</li> <li>o Trail Design: Have We Missed Anyone?</li> <li>o Succeeding Together: Advancing Trail Cooperation and Technology</li> <li>o Got Money? The economics of water trails.</li> <li>o Rule the Ranch: Help Plan the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground!</li> <li>o The Ozark Trail, One of Missouri's Hidden Treasures</li> <li>o Here's to Better Health: One Bicycle Commute at a Time!</li> <li>o Into the Wild: Learning from the Land</li> <li>o Trails, Bees, and Stormwater: Designing trails for the 21st century</li> <li>o Underground Railroad Bicycle Route Great Miami Riverway Alternate</li> </ul>

**Monday, May 8 1:45 PM - 2:15 PM TRAILx Sessions**

**What's in Your Volunteer Toolkit? Managing a Successful and Sustainable Volunteer Program** Room #106

Explore successful and essential tools and techniques to effectively equip your organization to effectively engage and retain volunteers to work with public land managers in important trail construction and maintenance efforts. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, a nationally recognized outdoor stewardship organization, will showcase its CO Outdoors Toolkit: Technical Assistance Guide for Advancing Outdoor Stewardship – a comprehensive guide for organizations who engage volunteers in partnership with land management agencies for on-the-ground stewardship work. Toolkit components will be explained and discussed including: On-line and Print Guides designed as best practices to help organizations in identifying and undertaking effective volunteer stewardship projects; On-line and Field-Based Certified Trainings in volunteer project management, crew leader management, and technical skills in trail design, construction and maintenance, flood and fire mitigation, and riparian and ecological restoration; and, Impact Measurement and Evaluation Tools to provide uniform collection of volunteer and project accomplishment metrics.

*Speaker(s): Ann Baker Easley, Executive Director Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, is a Colorado native who grew up in Boulder. There, she first discovered the joys of the outdoors through family camping trips, backpacking and hiking. Today she helps thousands who share her love for the outdoors get involved in outdoor stewardship volunteer efforts across Colorado through Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC). Over the past 25 years, Baker Easley has led numerous environmental, volunteer, and youth-development oriented nonprofit organizations, with a focus on strengthening their programs and helping them grow to new levels. During that time, she founded or helped start 7 different youth and civilian service corps programs, both in Colorado and nationally. Prior to VOC, she founded the Colorado Youth Corps Association where she served as its Executive Director for 11 years. Baker Easley joined VOC as Executive Director in March 2007. At VOC, she is focused on recruiting a new generation of outdoor volunteers and leaders, and expanding VOC's programs to pioneer a new era of outdoor stewardship. Under her leadership, VOC recently received the "Making a Difference Award" for exceptional contributions to conservation and management of public lands, the highest national award from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Baker Easley presently serves as the chair of the Board of Directors of Conservation Legacy and is a member of the Colorado Non Profit Association's Leadership Advisory Committee. She graduated from Colorado State University with a dual major in Psychology and Social Work and earned a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan.*

[ann@voc.org](mailto:ann@voc.org)

**The Latest in Trail Technology - Crowdsourced Data, Open Data, Maps and Apps** Room #202,203

Americans are increasingly recognizing the health, quality of life, environmental, and economic benefits that trails and active transportation offer. As a result now more than ever it's important to connect people to your trails, improve the planning of new trails and better understand how visitors use trails. For this session, we'll explore what role technology plays in how people engage with trails. How can land managers utilize technology to publish better information to their visitor and also understand who is engaging with their parks and trails. Learn how to reach and understand new audiences, using everything from apps that get people outdoors to crowdsourced data. Specifically, we'll talk about an exciting new Visitor Analytics Tool that enable park managers to view data from Strava and the crowd to better understand trail visitors and how open trail data can enable better interactive maps and mobile applications for engaging your visitors.

*Speaker(s): Ryan Branciforte, CEO Trailhead Labs. Ryan cofounded and helps to lead Trailhead Labs, a team of innovators making an impact by building technology products and services to better engage people with the outdoors. Ryan has nearly 20 years experience in conservation and outdoor technology. Until late 2013, he led programs at the Bay Area Open Space Council where he led an innovative regional conservation plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. He also cofounded Transit & Trails, a web and mobile app for connecting people to parks and trails without a car. Before the Council, he started his career with the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park.*

[ryan@trailheadlabs.com](mailto:ryan@trailheadlabs.com)

**Trash to Treasure: Partnering with Utilities for Trails** Room #204

Through innovative partnerships, the Village of Glenwillow has developed a robust, multilayered trail and park system that boosts economic development. Development in the Village is balanced by the presence of significant natural resources, particularly along Tinkers Creek and Beaver Meadows Creek with their related floodplains, regionally significant utilities, industrial history and new development. Glenwillow has a rich history tied closely to the Austin Powder Company, which closed in 1972. Other landmarks include multiple closed solid waste landfills, the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad, and large electric transmission lines with a significant substation. The Village has worked diligently to retain their natural beauty, recreational connections and historic atmosphere within a two square mile foot print intertwined with these large landmarks. The presentation will discuss the innovative development methods used, partnerships developed and regional cooperation garnered for success.

*Speaker(s): Katherine G. Holmok is Director of the Parks, Trails and Green Infrastructure Group at Environmental Design Group. She has been able to hone her skills developing the master plans and inventory of the 12 county North Coast Inland Trail System, creating bikeway master plans for upper Lorain County to apply for funding opportunities, and design and construction of miles of trails through park facilities. Her skills specifically enable her to create a fundable trail that is aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sensitive.*

[kholtok@envdesigngroup.com](mailto:kholtok@envdesigngroup.com)

*Peggy A Spaggins, Economic Development Director Village of Glenwillow, is currently responsible for economic development activities including business incentives and grants. She has over 30 years' experience working in public organizations, including serving as Township Administrator for Copley Township (Summit County); Program Administrator for the Federal Workforce Investment Program in Geauga, Ashtabula and Portage Counties; and Clerk of Council for Summit County Council. She also served 12 years as an elected official, on Macedonia City Council. Ms. Spaggins has worked on trail development and construction in various communities, including planning trail design, funding and oversee construction. She was responsible for receiving a grant for trail construction from ODNR in 2016. Mrs. Spaggins earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State University, and a BA from Cleveland State University. While serving at Copley Township, she completed the Leadership Academy under the Ohio Township Association.*

[pspraggins@glenwillow-oh.gov](mailto:pspraggins@glenwillow-oh.gov)

**Connecting with Academic Communities: Cultivating the Next Generation of Trail** Room #302,303

This interactive workshop will provide trail professionals with an overview of how to develop an effective partnership with academic institutions. The session will included a combination of experiential co-creating exercises, lectured information and group discussion. Participants will be provided key resources, and information on Best Practices. Tips on how to effectively manage students in internships, service learning and other career development programs. Participants will learn how to set up a win-win partnership that allow them to recruit affordable help for day to day operations, specific projects or special events while also helping to attract and mentor new trail professionals

*Speaker(s): Tom Mullin joined the faculty of Unity College in 1999. He is currently an Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources. Tom has been interested in all things outdoors beginning as a teenager with an Explorer Post and in New England for the past 25 years. He was a founder of the National Association for Interpretation as well as a, Life Member and received the Fellow Award in 2004. Over the years he has worked for county, state and federal park agencies, been the ED of two different land trusts and coordinator for Maine Project Learning Tree. He is a long-time board member, current Secretary/ member of the executive committee and board of directors for NAI. Tom serves as chair of the steering committee for the Waldo County Trails Coalition, Maine Woods Forever Roundtable, Friends of Sears Island and serves on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Stewardship Council as a member at large*

[tmullin@unity.edu](mailto:tmullin@unity.edu)

**Playing with Fire: Sparking Creativity in Diversity Work** Room #304

Time to talk, listen, think, share, and play. Through a series of creative activities that will spark conversation and allow you to reflect on the work we all can do to bring a help create and sustain a new generation of trail enthusiasts of color. We will play some and think some -- moving everyone toward at least three tangible take homes to implement back on your trail, in your community, and in yourself. Come prepared, not with answers, but ideas about how we can do this work together.

*Speaker(s): Diane Banta, National Park Service, is an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Starting her career in the IL DNR Youth Conservation Corps, she then joined the NPS working previously at Mammoth Cave, Cape Hatteras, Smoky Mountains, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and Cuyahoga Valley NP. With 35 years of service, Diane now works in Illinois with non-profit organizations and state and local government to preserve open space, greenways planning and trails projects. E-mail: [diane\\_banta@nps.gov](mailto:diane_banta@nps.gov)*

*Lelia R. Mellen – Co-Lead Rivers & Watersheds – works for the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program as the National Water Trail Leader and the Director of New Hampshire Projects. This is a position she has held for over 20 years and as such she works with national water-oriented groups, community groups, local and state agencies, and non-profits to help them with their conservation initiatives. These groups ask for assistance on river recreation and protection, open space protection and trail work. Lelia has helped with organizational development, fundraising, river and water trail management, trail building, event planning, and open space protection. In essence, she grasps the conservation needs and desires of the group and tries to help them meet their goals. Lelia received her Master of Environmental Management from Duke University and her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Dartmouth College. [Lelia\\_Mellen@Nps.gov](mailto:Lelia_Mellen@Nps.gov)*

**What the GTFS is going on! Transit and Inter City Bus Access to the National and Regional Trail Networks** Room #305

This is an abstract for a panel on inter-city bus and transit access to the Congressionally designated National Trails: in particular the Appalachian, the Continental Divide, Pacific Crest and the North Country National Scenic Trails. All of the trails mentioned have transit and inter city bus access to some degree, and many use a network of private vehicles as shuttle services to and from trailheads. They also recognize the need to get better non-private vehicle access to the trailheads as use of the National Scenic Trails has increase due to the recent movies "A Walk in the Woods" and "Wild". Many of the designated Trail Towns along these trails derive a major economic benefit from the long distance trails and are discovering that transit and/or inter city bus service would bring additional visitors without increasing impacts on traffic and parking in the small towns and cities that serve as access to the National Trails. More international visitors who regularly travel without personal vehicles as well as urban youth, and underserved populations can get access to trails and the outdoors without needing to rent or own a private vehicle.

*Speaker(s): Nathan Caldwell is the Assistant Transportation Program Manager for the US Fish and Wildlife Service [nathan\\_caldwell@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_caldwell@fws.gov)*

**Ohio Trails Partnership** Room #306

Hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and paddlers working together? The Ohio Trails Partnership (OTP), formed in the 1990's to bring the non-motorized trail community together, is experiencing a renewal. Join us for a presentation by representatives of trail groups who are part of OTP. We all prefer our own trail, we have our own design standards, and we all work with our land management partners. But, what do we do when there is no other option than to share trail, how do we agree to disagree yet remain partners on statewide issues of mutual concern? Join the conversation, be part of the solution.

*Speaker(s): Andrew Bashaw is the Executive Director of the Buckeye Trail Association, a leader in building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of Ohio's State Trail since 1959. He transitioned to the BTA from the position of North Country Trail Association's Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania. Andrew's prior experience includes several years as an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer focused on sustainable forestry in Appalachian Ohio and several terms with the Student Conservation Association. Andrew's educational background includes a BS in environmental geography from Ohio University and an MS in geography from Oklahoma State University. Andrew, his wife Claudia and daughter Adelaide live and work near the Buckeye Trail in southeast Ohio in a micro-region called the Little Cities of Black Diamonds. [director@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:director@buckeyetrail.org)*

*Tom Green, President, Ohio Horseman's Council, is a graduate of Kenyon College and The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law and is a member of the American, Ohio State, and Dayton Bar Associations and a certified mediator for the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. In addition to serving as OHC's president, Tom's commitment to community service is seen in his leadership and service with organizations such as the Clean Ohio Trails Fund Advisory Board (member), the Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (volunteer), Rhythm in Shoes, Inc. (president, board of directors), Kettering Rotary Foundation (founding board member), and teaching trial practice at the University of Dayton School of Law. [vicepresident@ohiohorsemanscouncil.com](mailto:vicepresident@ohiohorsemanscouncil.com)*

*Andy Williamson currently serves as the IMBA Great Lakes Region Director, supporting local off-road cycling organizations and land managers in the creation, protection, and promotion of rails across the region. Previously, Andy held the position of Outdoor Recreation Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio. He is founder of the Miami Valley Cycling Summit, sits on the City of Dayton's Bike/Walk Task Force and serves on the Board of Directors for Bike Miami Valley, the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) and UpDayton. As an outdoor professional, advocate and enthusiast Andy enjoys all forms of active outdoor endeavors. [andy.williamson@imba.com](mailto:andy.williamson@imba.com)*

*Amy Dingle Job Title: Director of Outdoor Connections, Organization: Five Rivers Metroparks  
Email Address: [amy.dingle@metropark.org](mailto:amy.dingle@metropark.org)*

*Eric Oberg, Director of Trail Development, Midwest Regional Office, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Email Address: [eric@railstotrails.org](mailto:eric@railstotrails.org)*

**Monday, May 8 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM Concurrent Sessions**

**Reducing Crime One Trail at a Time** Room #307,308,309 Since trails are often community focal points, crime on the trail can be perceived differently than crime on the street—it may generate more attention that prevents or inhibits use on trails. While studies have shown that trails themselves do not generate crime, in many urban areas, perceived safety is serious, and even the perception of trail safety creates a stigma for trails as a public facility. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a proactive crime fighting technique in which the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear of and incidents of crime. Using a multi-disciplinary, multi-pronged approach to trail planning and design, law enforcement, landscape architects, city planners, and resident volunteers can create a climate of safety on trails. This session will explore methods to enhancing trail security and safety perceptions through environmental design. Presenters will discuss tackling CPTED design strengths and challenges, using programs and partnerships, and the nuts and bolts of safety audits, corridor assessments, and design review.

*Speaker(s): Jamie Rae Walker, Assistane Professor and Extension Texas A&M Extension. Jamie Rae Walker, Ph.D. has worked in community planning and implementation for over 17 years. She provides community technical assistance in evidence based planning. She has presented and facilitated over 150 sessions. Jamie's professional involvement includes TRAPS, Extension Specialist Association and recipient of Center for Disease Control grant projects for improving access to physical activity amenities. Jamie was honored with the TRAPS Educator Award, AgriLife Superior Service Team Award and USDA Team Awards. [jamie-rae-walker@tamu.edu](mailto:jamie-rae-walker@tamu.edu)*

*Brittain Storck, Senior Associate Alta Planning + Design. Britt is a professional landscape architect with a background in natural resource-based recreation projects, greenway and trail design, and active community design and planning. Britt is Alta's trail expert and NICP CPTED professional. Britt has managed projects across the nation and cultivated an instinctual understanding of the complexities associated with design of open spaces and public trails in all landscapes. She approaches her work with the belief that each project provides the opportunity for community to activate, transforming its health, stimulating its economy, and boosting overall quality of life of its people. [brittstorck@altaplanning.com](mailto:brittstorck@altaplanning.com)*

*Lisa Beyer, PLA Senior Associate, Alta Planning + Design. Lisa is a landscape architect and urban designer, passionate about cities, design and community. Her love of urban landscapes informs a long-standing commitment to planning, design, and implementation of high-performance green infrastructure and public realm projects. Lisa joined Alta Planning + Design in 2016 to help lead and grow the landscape design practice in Northern California. Alta is a leader in active transportation planning, design, and implementation, with expertise in trails, Complete Streets, parks and open spaces, wayfinding, and much more. Prior to joining Alta, Lisa provided landscape and green infrastructure design and planning expertise as an on-site consultant to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. She was responsible for watershed-based planning, green infrastructure project design, program and policy development and outreach. Lisa served as lead landscape architect for Sunset Boulevard Greenway and Baker Beach Green Street projects. These early green infrastructure projects are the first landscape based stormwater management projects to be implemented by the City as part of the 6.9 billion Sewer System Improvement Program. From 2008 to 2011, Lisa worked for the Philadelphia Water Department's Office of Watersheds in the Sustainable Stormwater Program. She was responsible for the planning, design and implementation of the land-based stormwater infrastructure programs outlined in Philadelphia's precedent-setting Green City, Clean Waters Plan. Lisa managed the development of the Green Public Open Space Program, the Maintenance Program, landscape design for Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) projects, project management, and policy development for green infrastructure implementation. [lisabeyer@altaplanning.com](mailto:lisabeyer@altaplanning.com)*

**Controlling for Conflicts: Principles of Trail Design in Close Proximity to Roadways.** Room #310,311 Bicyclists and other users seek out trails because they afford the opportunity to exercise and explore without worrying about operating in a traffic flow with cars and trucks. But most trails have to cross roadways at some point, or run alongside roads to connect into or through settled areas. In these situations user safety and satisfaction is directly related to managing and mitigating conflicts between trail users and motor vehicles at roadway and driveway crossings. The trail design experts from Sprinkle Consulting will help attendees understand the fundamentals of trail design to mitigate conflicts with motor vehicles, and then apply these principles in a hands-on design exercise to be reviewed by the presenters and fellow participants. Topics include assigning priority at intersections, selecting the appropriate traffic control, unseen conflicts on paths parallel to roadways and conflict mitigation strategies.

*Speaker(s): Theodore A. Petritsch, P.E., PTOE, LCI –is a nationally recognized expert on pedestrian and bicycle facilities design, operations and safety. Before joining Sprinkle Consulting, Mr. Petritsch was with the Florida Department of Transportation for eleven (11) years. There he served for six years as Florida's Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator in the FDOT's Safety Office. Prior to that tenure, he served as a Traffic Operations Engineer. He is the Engineer of Record on numerous projects including bike lane designs, urban shared use paths, rail trails, roundabouts, sidewalks, and midblock crossings. Mr. Petritsch works on the local, state and national levels developing guidelines for the design and operation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Early in his career Mr. Petritsch co-authored the widely used Florida Greenbook chapters on pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, traffic calming, and residential street design. [tap@sprinkleconsulting.com](mailto:tap@sprinkleconsulting.com)*

*Chris Fellerhoff, MLA of Sprinkle Consulting is a planner and landscape designer who works nationwide on bicycle and pedestrian facility design projects, area-wide bicycle and pedestrian plans, and multi-modal research projects. His design experience includes on-street bicycle lanes, bicycle-friendly shoulders, shared-use pathways (including facilities adjacent to roadways and independently aligned trails), and trail and pedestrian crossing treatments. He coordinates metropolitan area-wide operations evaluations for non-motorized modes of travel, maps non-motorized facilities and conditions, and performs facility demand analyses. Mr. Fellerhoff also programs and conducts public workshops soliciting citizens' input regarding facility improvement needs and facilitates training workshops and charrettes for design professionals. Mr. Fellerhoff's mix of public and private sector projects, and his public speaking skills, have led to his serving as a co-instructor for the Florida PDH certified courses on bicycle and pedestrian facilities design and National Highway Institute's Bicycle Facility Design and Pedestrian Facilities Design courses. [cbf@sprinkleconsulting.com](mailto:cbf@sprinkleconsulting.com)*

**Monday, May 8 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM TRAILx Sessions**

<b>It's a Two-Way Street: Improving Safety and Connectivity with a Two-Way Cycle Track</b>	Room #106	<p>The City of Xenia, Ohio, is poised to become one of few communities to construct a protected, two-way cycle track on an existing roadway. Xenia's downtown faces unique assets and challenges stemming from a nearby hub of four regional bike paths as well as two U.S. routes. These factors bring a unique and concentrated confluence of bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles into a densely developed area. Existing infrastructure does not effectively balance the safety needs of these various modes of travel. A multi-modal safety study of the downtown area recommended the establishment of a "road diet" on the existing five-lane roadway, replacing one of the travel lanes with a two-way protected cycle track. Improvements to intersections and bike/pedestrian crossings were included to reduce vehicular crashes and improve pedestrian/bike comfort and safety. This presentation highlights the vision and design/funding strategies that led to this impactful, innovative project.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Brain Forschner is a strategic project leader for the City of Xenia, spearheading and managing various projects in economic development, parks and recreation, and infrastructure improvement that accomplish the City's growth and revitalization objectives. Mr. Forschner also leads the City's Planning and Zoning Department, which advises City leaders on land use and development policies and decisions, reviews development applications, and enforces the City's Zoning, Subdivision and Property Maintenance Codes. Mr. Forschner also authored the City's award-winning 2013 comprehensive plan called "X-Plan," which includes the proposed downtown cycle track among its top priorities for downtown revitalization and transportation improvement. <a href="mailto:BForschner@ci.xenia.oh.us">BForschner@ci.xenia.oh.us</a></i></p> <p><i>Beth Sliemers is a traffic engineer with LJB Inc., who has more than 15 years of experience and specializes in transportation planning and traffic engineering. She has focused her experience on corridor master planning, regional transportation and thoroughfare planning, intersection safety studies, site access and impact studies, interchange modification/justification studies, signal design and signal system timing. Ms. Sliemers also has public involvement experience collaborating with public and private agencies to create solutions to local and regional transportation challenges, with specific emphasis on complete street design and implementation. Ms. Sliemers is the incoming President of the Ohio Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and has given well-received presentations on the topic of traffic engineering and transportation planning at conferences sponsored by APWA, ITE and ODOT. She has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Ohio State University. <a href="mailto:BSliemers@LJBinc.com">BSliemers@LJBinc.com</a></i></p>
<b>Operating Hut - to Hut Systems: Technical Field Lessons</b>	Room #202,203	<p>What lessons has USA learned about operating a chain of backcountry accommodations? Learn from research on the experience of U.S. operators of systems of huts, cabins, tents, or yurts, for hiking, biking or skiing. We will present an overview of how such systems work and the challenges in planning, permitting, building, and operating them in the USA. Based on discussions with hut operators and the land management community, we will present a U.S. perspective on topics such as: • site selection, facilities design, and backcountry aesthetics; • regulatory framework (e.g. EIS, EA) and working with government officials; • working with community and environmental organizations; • fees, financing, insurance, business models, safety and insurance; • waste and gray water management; • logistics for provision of supplies for hut operations; • levels of amenities offered; user policies; and • recruiting, education and training for hut caretakers. Participants will receive a much more detailed checklist with resources for further information.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Sam Demas is an independent researcher working to understand the situation and outlook for hut-to-hut type accommodations systems in the USA. His work is aimed at informing a discussion of how hut (yurt, cabin, etc.) systems might fit into the recreational opportunity spectrum of the USA. To this end, he also studies a wide range of accommodations systems for long distance human-powered travellers in other parts of the world to see what we might learn from lessons abroad. Sam is a retired academic librarian and avid long distance walker. He is editor of <a href="http://www.hut2hut.info">www.hut2hut.info</a>, a key resource on accommodations systems for walkers, skiers and bikers. <a href="mailto:sdemas@carleton.edu">sdemas@carleton.edu</a></i></p> <p><i>Joe Dadey is Interim Executive Director of Adirondack Hamlets to Huts, a brand new hut system in its final planning stages. He and his business partner Jack Drury have run a model planning process and developed great techniques for working with state agencies and local businesses, government officials, and community groups. Joe has a B.S. in Forest Biology, a M.S. in Outdoor Recreation, and a PhD in Environmental Policy and Communications. He worked for two seasons as an Assistant Forest Ranger in the Adirondacks High Peaks and leading 40-day wilderness expeditions with adjudicated youth. Joe worked for 20 years as a professor, including 8 years running the Recreation, Adventure Travel and Ecotourism program at Paul Smith's college. He has led numerous month-long outdoor leadership expeditions and taught a range of environmental and tourism-related courses. Joe is a highly experienced wilderness guide, teacher, and specialist in sustainable eco-tourism. <a href="mailto:joedadey@gmail.com">joedadey@gmail.com</a></i></p>
<b>How Multi-County Trails are Creating Economic Growth in WV, VA &amp; KY</b>	Room #204	<p>Learn how seven counties in one state came together under an Authority to develop trails which in three years of the first trail opening has resulted in \$16.6 million in private development, 47 new businesses opening, 15 existing businesses expending, and 200 new jobs. Find out how nine counties in another state have built six trail systems that have attracted so many people, they do not have enough lodging to house everyone. And learn how another state is working on developing their own Authority so they can partner with the other two states to become a three-state international destination through trails.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Debby Spencer, President WMTH Corporation</i>  <b>WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN (WMTH) CORPORATION</b> is a hands-on economic development DBE firm that specializes in working with communities to find unique and innovative ways to help them grow in the areas of tourism, business, and rural development. WMTH specializes in trail development and adventure tourism with previous projects in KY, WV, VA, TN, MO, SC and AR. Debby Spencer, president and owner of WMTH holds a Master's degree in tourism, research, and marketing and a double major in Interior Design and in Construction with an emphasis in Architectural Drafting. Prior to starting her own company, Ms. Spencer was the Vice President in charge of Tourism Development for a quasi-state economic development agency covering a 45-county area in West Kentucky. Over the past ten years, WMTH has worked primarily on Adventure Tourism and multi-county trail initiatives in the coalfield communities of East Kentucky, West Virginia and Southwest Virginia as a means to stimulate private investment and P3 initiatives and held entrepreneurial workshops to encourage development. <a href="mailto:spencerdebby@aol.com">spencerdebby@aol.com</a></p> <p><i>Dr. Steve Spencer has taught in the Recreation and Park Administration Program at Western Kentucky University for 25 years. He has served as graduate coordinator for the Masters Program in Recreation and Sport Administration and currently teaches the capstone course (Recreation Administration) in the Recreation Administration Major. He also coordinates the Outdoor Leadership Program, a minor in the School of the Kinesiology Recreations and Sport. He is a certified American Canoe Association instructor trainer, certified Outdoor Leader through the Wilderness Education Association, a Hunter/Bowhunter Education Instructor/Master Trainer, a Wilderness First Responder Trainer (1997-present) and holds numerous additional certifications in outdoor education. He has served on the Warren County Parks Board for 20 years, as an ex-officio member of the Bowling Green Greenways Committee since its inception, and has evaluated rivers for blueways status in five states and created a blueways that connects into seven counties. <a href="mailto:steve.spencer@wku.edu">steve.spencer@wku.edu</a></i></p> <p><i>Tyler Spencer, University of Louisville</i></p>

<b>“OMG, I just got sued”: Understanding Legal Issues Affecting Rails to Trails Conversions</b>	Room #302,303	This session will help trail managers understand the assistance that Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s (RTC) legal program provides to trail activists, trail managers and their legal counsel in response to legal questions on implementation of railbanking, rails-to-trails conversions and related policy issues, including compliance with historic preservation and environmental laws. This session will also address legal challenges that rail-trail managers may face and how to avoid or respond to them. A facilitated discussion will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences.
<p><i>Speaker(s): Andrea Ferster General Counsel Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</i>  <i>Andrea Ferster is an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C. Her law practice focuses on litigation to enforce environmental and historic preservation laws, transportation advocacy, tax exempt organizations, enforcement of local zoning and land use ordinances, and trail and greenway planning. In addition to serving as general counsel for RTC, her clients include the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Sierra Club and numerous D.C.-based neighborhood and community organizations. She is a leading national expert on federal historic preservation law and on the legal framework governing “rail-trail” conversions, and she has written and lectured extensively on these topics. Andrea received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in 1979 and her J.D. from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1984. <a href="mailto:afenster@railstotrails.org">afenster@railstotrails.org</a></i></p>		
<p><i>Eli Griffen, Trail Development Resources Manager Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</i>  <i>Eli Griffen joined RTC as a student intern for the policy team in January 2012. Upon graduation from college, he became a short-term assistant doing many of the same tasks he did before—but this time with a paycheck! An unexpected temporary opening at the front desk at RTC headquarters gave Eli the opportunity to try his hand at customer and member services until—low and behold—he was able to settle in comfortably as trail development and TrailLink coordinator. His primary responsibilities include managing the Early Warning System, which alerts local communities to upcoming railroad abandonments, and providing technical assistance to those interested in developing new rail-trails. For TrailLink.com, Eli audits and enhances RTC’s vast database of trails. Although his introduction to RTC was a bit unusual, Eli maintains that it was for the best: “The bouncing around actually gave me great insight into how the organization functions and made me realize just how committed and passionate every single employee here is,” he affirms. <a href="mailto:eli@railstotrails.org">eli@railstotrails.org</a></i></p>		
<b>Building Healthy Communities on the Navajo Nation</b>	Room #304	<p>Launched in 2015, the Navajo Nation Trails Initiative was developed to promote trails as pathways to physical, emotional and spiritual health, and to promote ecotourism across the stunning landscapes of the Nation. The Navajo Nation, which encompasses an area the size of New England, struggles with high unemployment and poverty. This initiative has been designed to build from the ground up, with local communities initiating trail programs that they determine best meet their needs. Since its inception the program has grown rapidly. Several trails have been completed, and projects are in various stages of development in more than a dozen communities. Challenges have included educating Navajo Nation departments that must provide permitting, meeting the demand for training and assistance, raising funds and staying abreast of the wave of enthusiasm for developing sustainable trails on the Navajo Nation.</p>
<p><i>Speaker(s): Mark Flint, owner of Southwest Trail Solutions LLC., has been giving his time and skills to the Navajo Nation Trails Initiative since the inaugural task force meeting in October 2015. He has been designing trails for 22 years, including 19 years of design in Arizona, and is a recognized authority in sustainable trail design, particularly in a desert environment. He has conducted numerous workshops and conducted training sessions at national, state and local conferences, including the International Trails Symposium. He is the author of a manual, “Desert Trails: Designing and Building Trails in a Harsh and Demanding Environment,” published by Arizona State Parks, which is considered a must-read for anybody working on trails in the Desert Southwest. <a href="mailto:markflint@dakotacom.net">markflint@dakotacom.net</a></i></p>		
<p><i>Ki-Jana Martinez is a Isnd grant intern and student-athlete at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona on the Navajo Nation, adjacent to the Chuska Mountains. KJ planned and organized a community effort to build trails around the college for enjoyment and exercise. One of the trails, “Loop Side,” is an all-weather surface for year-round use, and the other, “Pinon Trail,” is a reroute of a popular cross-country trail, replacing an eroded fall line with a sustainable contour route. He organized a Run Summer event for runners and walkers to celebrate the completion of the trail, co-hosted by the Indian Health Service (IHS), which values the Navajo Nation Trails Initiative as an element in overturning diabetes and health problems on the reservation. KJ is assisting other communities in establishing their own trails because he is committed to bringing scenic trails to the remarkable landscapes of the Navajo Nation to benefit the Navajo People. <a href="mailto:kmartinez@dinecollege.edu">kmartinez@dinecollege.edu</a></i></p>		
<p><i>Benjamin Sorrell with the Navajo NAtion Museum was born in Gallup, New Mexico. While studying Ethno-Anthropology at the University of Arizona he worked very closely with the Arizona State Museum on campus where he began his cultural career. As an employee of the Navajo Nation Museum in the Navajo Nation capital, Window Rock, Ben developed a template for navigating a trail project through the various Navajo Nation regulatory agencies, also was the administrative liaison for an incentive program that helped 10 communities develop trails across the Navajo Nation. As an avid hunter, hiker, fisherman and lover of wild places Ben fully supports and believes in developing trails across the Navajo Nation as well as the conservationist principles and healthy lifestyles that come from their development and usage. <a href="mailto:ben@navajonationmuseum.org">ben@navajonationmuseum.org</a></i></p>		
<b>Active Tourism Comes to Town! Making Active Transportation Work for Community Health and Economy</b>	Room #305	<p>We all know that active tourism can be a perfect catalyst to increase local active transportation opportunities. But the challenge is to make it work in areas that are less scenic and with diverse populations that are new to the idea of active lifestyles. Learn about how one of the most socio-economically challenged areas in the entire United States, located along the Texas/Mexico border in the heart of South Texas, is aggressively pursuing a county-wide active tourism plan that can transform the area. Ultimately, the plan will pay huge dividends for local populations by increasing access to trails, jump-starting tourism related businesses, and helping to promote healthier lifestyles. The plan will also help to introduce new and diverse communities to the benefits of an active lifestyle. If it can work here, it can work wherever you are.</p>
<p><i>Speaker(s): Originally from the Caribbean, Jim Carrillo is the Director of Planning for Halff Associates Inc. in Austin, Texas. Jim is a registered Landscape Architect and a certified planner. For over 30 years he has been involved in many major planning efforts that promote sustainability and active transportation across the Southwest United States. He has led multiple trail plans and bicycle master plans that cover thousands of miles in both urban and rural environments. His work has been widely recognized for design and planning excellence, and he was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2012. <a href="mailto:jcarrillo@halff.com">jcarrillo@halff.com</a></i></p>		
<p><i>Dennis Blind joined Halff Associates in 2016 as the Regional Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture in Oklahoma City. He has more than 35 years of planning, design, land development, real estate brokerage, management, and finance experience. Dennis’ diverse experience includes public sector, private sector, not-for-profits, and philanthropic foundation clients. Over his career, Dennis has helped develop multiple renowned trail corridors, including the outstanding Razorback Trail in Northwest Arkansas. He brings this experience to the many trail and active transportation efforts he has guided. <a href="mailto:dblind@halff.com">dblind@halff.com</a></i></p>		

**At the Cross-Roads: People, Trails, and Technology - Quad Cities** Room #306 The Quad Cities straddles the Mississippi River in Illinois and Iowa, and boasts a healthy network of trails and connected parks and green spaces. The community has many individuals and groups who are working hard to develop, maintain, and promote the trails in the region. Information about these valuable opportunities for physical activity was located in many, disparate locations. Meanwhile, community leaders have been working since 1999 to improve the health of Quad Cities residents through the multi-sector collaborative organization, Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI). Fueled with this people power, the existing trail network, innovative technology, and funding from the Centers for Disease Control, partners rallied across sectors. In January 2016 the team introduced QCTrails.org, a new website highlighting over 300 miles of land and water trails in the Quad Cities and began efforts to increase awareness of the new tool and opportunities to find trails for physical activity.

*Speaker(s): Joe Taylor, President and CEO of the Quad Cities CVB, has degrees in History from Black Hawk College, Moline, Illinois and Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois. He was a newspaper reporter and editor for 10 years before accepting his first tourism position at the Galesburg, Illinois Chamber of Commerce. He has been employed with the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau since its inception in 1990. He served as Director of Marketing and Communications before being named President/CEO in 1998. He has always had a personal interest in hiking and trail advocacy, but with his offices in the Quad Cities located adjacent to his community's trails, he simply looks out his office window to know how important trails are to recreation, community development, and health and wellness. He co-hosted the National Trails Symposium in the Quad Cities in 2006, served on the board of American Trails, Inc. from 2006-2013, and his office currently serves as the headquarters of the American Discovery Trail. [jtaylor@visitquadcities.com](mailto:jtaylor@visitquadcities.com)*

**Monday, May 8 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM Concurrent Sessions**

**Los Dos Caminos: Bridging Borders Across the Centuries** Room #106 El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trails commemorate a vital but often overlooked and underappreciated part of our past. The Caminos Reales introduced European civilization to the indigenous peoples in the American Southwest who were already using components of the roads for trade, communication, and other activities. The trails transcended today's borders. They began in Mexico City and spread north through Mexico, including the American Southwest. Congress recognized this by creating two national historic trails that share unique mandates that promote collaboration between Mexico and the U.S. in the trails' development. This session will explore the complex history and geography of the "los dos caminos," identify some of the ways the two countries have sought to commemorate the trails, and discuss the challenges and successes of working towards the goals of creating international trails

*Speaker(s): Terry Heslin is the Lead Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He also serves as the BLM New Mexico Trails and Travel Management lead in addition to serving as the NSHT Lead/Co-Administrator for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Terry has been at the New Mexico BLM State Office since July, 2015. Before his current position, Mr. Heslin was employed in a similar capacity with the BLM Idaho State Office in Boise where he worked for fifteen years. [theslin@blm.gov](mailto:theslin@blm.gov)*

*Aaron Mahr: A historian by training from the University of New Mexico, Aaron Mahr is the superintendent of the National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region office, which includes administrative authority over nine of the national historic trails in the National Trails System. His long history in the National Park Service is characterized by building relationships with diverse and underrepresented communities to form common goals that contribute to the NPS mission and program objectives. He's served as a park historian and program historian, a regional coordinator for the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and now as superintendent. [aaron\\_mahr@nps.gov](mailto:aaron_mahr@nps.gov)*

*Steven Gonzales: Steven's graduate work at Texas State University focused on case studies of national scenic and historic trails from across the country and the measures they took to get their trails on the ground. In addition to serving as executive director of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, Steven is a former board member for the Partnership for the National Trails System and is a member of the advisory committee for the Connecting Trails to Parks project between the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, National Trails System Intermountain Region office, and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program.*

**Trail Communities take Flight: Lessons learned from successful Trail Towns** Room #202,203 The Trail Town concept was first developed to help communities along the Great Allegheny Passage better capture the economic benefits of trail-based tourism. More than a decade later, individual communities, regional economic development organizations, state tourism programs and long-distance trail systems have created formal Trail Town and community programs to cultivate community pride, build interest in trails as a resource, support sustainable economic development, and engage communities in the care and conservation of trails. Engage with a panel of leading Trail Town and community administrators about how these programs support local economies by providing resources, training, and communication. Through the growth of sustainable outdoor recreation, these programs advance wellness to a diverse family of users while expanding awareness about trails as a vital asset to communities.

*Speaker(s): Amy Camp, owner of Cycle Forward, is a trails and tourism consultant, a placemaker, and a professional coach. She helped to launch the nationally-recognized Trail Town Program® in 2007, and now consults communities on how they can rethink trails and tourism. She consults and leads workshops throughout the U.S. and Canada. A list of consulting projects is available at [www.cycleforward.org](http://www.cycleforward.org). Amy is on the Board of American Trails, serving as Board Secretary and Chair of the Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program. [amyrcamp@gmail.com](mailto:amyrcamp@gmail.com)*

*Julie Judkins, Director of Education and Outreach Appalachian Trail Conservancy Remaining relevant for future generations is vital to keeping the Appalachian Trail and all its natural and cultural treasures protected. As the Director of Education and Outreach, Julie Judkins is responsible for developing and directing the ATC's broader relevancy initiatives to ensure programs, staff and partners reflect, invite and welcome all to the Trail. Julie has been with the ATC since 2004 and manages the Appalachian Trail Community program among other duties. [judkins@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:judkins@appalachiantrail.org)*

*As Director of Trail Development for the North Country Trail Association, Andrea Ketchmark oversees trail development programs in seven states along the North Country National Scenic Trail, including NCTA's Trail Town program. A big part of the job involves empowering a diverse group of remote volunteers with the skills, knowledge and attitude needed to build relationships with diverse partners like local governments, land managers, private landowners and communities to build, maintain, and protect the North Country National Scenic Trail. [aketchmark@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:aketchmark@northcountrytrail.org)*

*Angie is the Trail Town Program Coordinator for the Buckeye Trail Association, a volunteer position she's held since 2013, working to engage and recognize communities for their trail promotion and protection efforts. Angie is an Outdoor Recreation Coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks, leading backcountry programming and outreach in the greater Dayton region. She previously worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy focusing on the A.T. Community and Trail to Every Classroom programs in Southwest and Central Virginia and has a passion for connecting people and communities to trails.*

*Seth Wheat, Director of Tourism Development, Kentucky Department of Tourism. In this role, he oversees the Kentucky Adventure Tourism Program and sports tourism initiatives. Prior to joining the Department of Tourism in October of 2016, Seth worked in the Adventure Tourism Program where he helped implement the Kentucky Trail Town Program, the Cross Kentucky Master Trail Plan and managed all digital content. Seth is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee but grew up in Pikeville, Kentucky. He studied Political Science at Georgetown College, and has worked for the Commonwealth of Kentucky since June of 2010. An adventure enthusiast himself, Seth enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and paddling. [seth.wheat@ky.gov](mailto:seth.wheat@ky.gov)*

<b>You Can Get There: Regional Trail Wayfinding Within and Beyond the Standards</b>	Room #204	<p>Wayfinding systems are essential tools for legible trail systems. Wayfinding elements clarify routes, enhance awareness, economic investment, and environmental benefits, all while contributing to community pride. Funding for guide signs can require federal standards are adhered to but numerous municipalities, are pushing the boundaries of the technical requirements in order to achieve effective wayfinding systems that include local community character. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) set out to establish a long-needed identity on two major trails, and create a document to guide sign implementation on all new federally-funded trails in the future. This session will focus on wayfinding best practices and technical guidance for bicycle, pedestrian and trail networks in urban and rural areas. It will also showcase the NIRPC Case Study where you can learn how this landmark document came to reality, and how 10 public entities are now using the guide for new signs along local routes.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mitch Barloga serves as the Transportation Planning Manager and Active Transportation Planner for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), and has 20 years of experience in municipal and regional planning. His primary duties include working with all governmental entities in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties on transportation planning and programming. He also aides in securing funding for developing and improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the NIRPC region and beyond. Mitch received a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago after undergraduate studies in Landscape Architecture at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Mitch serves as a Board Member of the Greenways Foundation of Indiana, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is also a founding member of Crown Point Safe Pathways, and actively participates with the regional non-motorized advocacy group, South Shore Trails. <a href="mailto:mbarloga@nirpc.org">mbarloga@nirpc.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Emily Duchon is a Senior Design Associate at Alta Planning + Design. For 10 years, she has been helping communities design and implement innovative active transportation solutions, taking projects from master plans through concept design, construction drawings and administration. Emily's creativity, energy, and experience in ecological design give her the tools to create vibrant public spaces and transportation networks. Emily co-leads Alta's wayfinding group and advises on wayfinding projects across North America. Her experience spans a wide range of scales and project types from creating master plans and wayfinding guidelines for county-wide bicycle and trail networks, to complete street corridors down to pocket trail and pop-up plaza <a href="mailto:designsemilyduchon@altaplanning.com">designsemilyduchon@altaplanning.com</a>.</i></p>
<b>Federal Transportation Funds for Trails</b>	Room #302,303	<p>The Federal Highway Administration's transportation programs can help create safe, accessible, attractive, and environmentally-sensitive communities where people want to live, work, and recreate. This session will describe Federal surface transportation programs to fund trail projects for transportation and recreation.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Christopher Douwes is a Community Planner with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in Washington DC. He has managed the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) since 1992, Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities since 2003, Transportation Alternatives (TA) since 2012, and has assisted with Pedestrian and Bicycle Activities since 1992. He manages contracts and cooperative agreements for research, technology development, technical assistance, and training for trail-related activities. Christopher received his Masters of Science in Transportation from Northwestern University in 1990. <a href="mailto:christopher.douwes@dot.gov">christopher.douwes@dot.gov</a></i></p> <p><i>D'Juan Hammonds, Program Manager Ohio Department of Natural Resources, is a native and current resident of Columbus, OH. He received his Bachelors of Science degree in Biology from the University of Cincinnati and a Masters of Public Administration in Government. D'Juan has managed the State of Ohio's Recreational Trails Program and the Clean Ohio Trail Fund over the last eight years through the Department of Natural Resources. D'Juan also enjoys Ohio's many recreational trails and officiating high school and youth athletics. He is an active member in his fraternal organizations and enjoys giving back to the public through work, volunteer services, and mentoring programs. <a href="mailto:djuan.hammonds@dnr.state.oh.us">djuan.hammonds@dnr.state.oh.us</a></i></p> <p><i>Laura Toole started with FHWA in June 2013 as a participant in the Professional Development Program. She became a Planning and Environmental Specialist in the Ohio Division in February 2015 and has managed the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Recreational Trails Programs since that time. Before joining FHWA, Laura worked as a graduate and undergraduate research assistant at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute in the Center for Truck and Bus Safety. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Master of Industrial Engineering Degree with a focus on Human Factors Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). <a href="mailto:laura.toole@dot.gov">laura.toole@dot.gov</a></i></p>
<b>Investment Opportunity: How to Make Your Trail Irresistible to Private Funders</b>	Room #304	<p>As public funding becomes less reliable, the success of your project may depend on developing creative funding solutions with the private sector. Ever wonder how trail projects get access to hundreds of thousands, or in some cases, millions of dollars in private money? This panel includes presenters that have successfully courted private foundations to give you a holistic view of how projects can be pushed to the next level by engaging the private sector. You will learn about the trade-offs between public and private funding sources, how to identify potential funders in your community, ways to align your project with their priorities. Participants will also walk away with approaches for assembling the right partnerships, gathering relevant information, and techniques for effectively communicating with private funders. To demonstrate these best practices, panelists will share their success stories in Robbinsville, NC (population 700), Akron, OH, and Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Don Kostelec, AICP, is a Senior Planning Associate with Alta Planning &amp; Design in Boise, Idaho. Don has applied Health Impact Assessments and other various integrated health/planning efforts in North Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee, Utah and Idaho. This includes Health Impact Assessments on Parks &amp; Recreation Plans, greenway system plans, trail design/feasibility studies and active transportation plans. Don has also led design efforts for greenway studies, on-street bike lanes and ADA compliance. Prior to joining Alta, Don led his own company—Kostelec Planning—for five years, where he worked in more than a dozen states with numerous local, state and federal clients. He began his career in Boise as a Transportation Planner and Planning &amp; Programming Manager for Ada County Highway District. <a href="mailto:donkostelec@altaplanning.com">donkostelec@altaplanning.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Daniel M. Rice is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio &amp; Erie Canalway Coalition, headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Rice is a native of Ohio, with a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster and M.A. in American History from the University of Akron. The Ohio &amp; Erie Canalway Coalition (OECC) is the regional non-profit organization working for the conservation, development and interpretation of the natural, historical and recreational resources along the Ohio &amp; Erie National Heritage Canalway from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, Ohio. Since 1994, Mr. Rice has worked with over 150 community partnerships and raised over \$50 million in development funds for the preservation of historic structures, the development of the 101-mile multi-use Ohio &amp; Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the conservation of natural resources along the Ohio &amp; Erie National Heritage Canalway, and received numerous national and regional awards for his work. <a href="mailto:drice@ohioeriecanal.org">drice@ohioeriecanal.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Patrick Starr is Executive Vice President of the PA Environmental Council where he is responsible for integrating PEC's program activities statewide. PEC is a leader of regional-scale trail planning and collaborates with dozens of trail sponsors, most notably, the Circuit, metropolitan Philadelphia's trail network, and the Power of 32+, a network of trails connecting Pittsburgh with other industrial heartland cities. Patrick is Pennsylvania Vice Chair of the Circuit and helped create it. PEC was instrumental in obtaining a TIGER grant for \$23 M that constructed ten Circuit segments in Philadelphia and Camden and attracting an additional \$10 M in private funding support. Patrick has presented about the Circuit in 2014 at the Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways &amp; Trails Summit and at the Pro Walk Pro Bike Pro Place bi-annual conference held in Pittsburgh. Patrick has an Urban Studies degree from the University of Pennsylvania, resides in Center City Philadelphia, and considers himself a connoisseur of the good urban life. <a href="mailto:pstarr@pecpa.org">pstarr@pecpa.org</a></i></p>

**Progress Through  
Partnerships: Bridging  
Communities Together**

Room #305

Discover how one bridge connected partner organizations, such as ODNR, Army Corps of Engineers, volunteers, and many public and private interest groups to overcome challenges and create an awe-inspiring destination. A 103' long swinging bridge is a wonderful attraction to draw visitors into the heart of a park and its hidden treasures. We will explore how to build the necessary partnerships, tackle technical difficulties that are sure to arise, and connect the community to your newly completed trail project.

*Speaker(s): Erin Shaw is starting her tenth year with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. She is a full time Park Naturalist. She graduated with a master's degree in Education. She received the 'Teacher of the Year' award in 2014. Erin's passion for nature education is reflected in her programs, projects, and the people she works with. Over the past nine years, Erin developed a volunteer base that started with zero people and is now over one hundred. She is active in the community and understands the importance of outreach, networking and building partnerships. [erin.shaw@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:erin.shaw@dnr.state.oh.us)*

*Sarah Blair is beginning her fourth year as a Naturalist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. She was awarded the OCVN Naturalist Excellence Award in 2014 and is a firm believer in the power of partnerships and volunteers to strengthen our parks and natural areas. [sarah.blair@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:sarah.blair@dnr.state.oh.us)*

*Jonas Kitchen, with ODNR, started his adult life in the military. He cross trained into four different Military occupational specialties, and helped reinvent the standard for performance in the field of patriot missiles. After exiting the service, he developed a strong construction background, learning trades from a master shipbuilder, which fostered a problem-solution mindset. During the time of the project he was, and still is a valuable volunteer asset to the Caesar Creek Community. [jonas.kitchen@gmail.com](mailto:jonas.kitchen@gmail.com)*

**Sustainable Trails, the  
Forest Service, and You –  
Strategy and Practice**

Room #306

Recognizing the need to address a substantial trail maintenance backlog and shift toward a more sustainable system of trails, the Forest Service has listened to and worked with hundreds of partners, volunteers and employees nationwide to develop its new National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System. This session will provide an opportunity to learn more about this recently published strategy, which serves as a call to action for agency personnel, partners and friends to incorporate approaches and innovative solutions to achieve a vibrant system of trails that are collaboratively stewarded and socially, ecologically and economically sustainable. In addition, this workshop will introduce the Sustainable Recreation Strategy for trails being implemented in the Southern Region of the Forest Service, present definitions and how they are applied to trails, and provide real life examples of how they are being used in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service to help with assessing an existing trail system and developing priorities for moving to a sustainable trail system.

*Speaker(s): Jaime Schmidt is the U.S. Forest Service's Assistant National Manager for Trails and National Trail Information Coordinator. In addition to helping lead the agency's Trail program, she leads the agency's integrated efforts for providing quality trail management and visitor information. Jaime serves as Co-leader of the Federal Trail Data Standards and has over 20 years of Forest Service recreation and trail management experience in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana. She has also worked in land management planning, interpretive planning, and conservation education in Brazil, Honduras, and Ecuador through the Forest Service International Program and the US Peace Corps. [jtschmidt@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtschmidt@fs.fed.us)*

*Debbie Caffin has worked in trails in various positions over her entire 27 year career. She started her career in trails working for the State of Florida as the Trails Planner for the Department of Natural Resources. She then was hired with the US Forest Service, National Forests in Florida as the Trail Program Manager for the Florida National Scenic Trail. The past 16 years she has been the Trails Program Leader for the Southern Region of the FS in Atlanta, GA. Debbie's undergraduate degree is from the University of Florida in Wildlife Ecology and she has a Master's of Science in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management from Clemson University. When not at work Debbie is usually outdoors enjoying a trail. [somewhere.dcaffin@fs.fed.us](mailto:somewhere.dcaffin@fs.fed.us)*

*Jeff Mast has worked in various roles related to planning and recreation during his career, including time as the Transportation Program Manager for a Regional Planning Commission in Vermont and as the Transportation Program Manager for the Northeast Region of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The past two years he has been the Trails & Dispersed Recreation Program Manager for the Pacific Northwest Region before recently being named the Assistant National Trail Program Manager. Jeff's undergraduate degree is from Colorado State University in Political Science and he has a Master's in City and Regional Planning, specializing in Transportation Planning, from Clemson University.*

**The 787 of Trails: Mega Scale Trails that will get you far!**

Room #307,308,309

Mega trails represent community partnerships from one town to the next, or in some instances country to country. They also represent stories of hard working individuals in fields ranging from advocacy to maintenance. The communities behind these trails ensure that these destination trails well represent their culture and history. In this session, speakers will discuss how they fit into their regional trail system, or regional system of trails have come to be or are underway. Speakers include Samantha Browne, Chief of the Office of Greenways and Trails from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's. Andy Hamilton serves as the president of the 9/11 Memorial Trail will share his experience in creating this a tribute to the fallen men and women who perished on September 11, 2001. Mike Rose will provide an update to the C Link Trail in the Coachella Valley. Brian Ruscher will moderate the panel, and organize speakers information.

*Speaker(s): Samantha Browne is the Bureau Chief for the Office of Greenways and Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. She has helped to plan, design, construct and manage the statewide trail system in Florida. This system has over 3,000 miles of land trails and nearly 2,000 miles of water based paddling trails. Samantha brings a unique perspective to the development of mega trails, having recently helped to implement statewide policy and funding for two mega trails in the statewide land trails system. In her work, she is responsible for overseeing the work of only a handful of staff that coordinate with the third largest state in the Union.*  
[samantha.browne@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:samantha.browne@dep.state.fl.us)

*Andy Hamilton with the 9/11 Memorial Trail and the East Coast Greenway has a great dedication and passion for the East Coast Greenway vision. He has served as a Pennsylvania state committee chair of the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) and a member of ECGA's Board of Trustees. Andy is now the ECGA Mid-Atlantic Coordinator. Andy also serves as the Chair of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Trail Committee, and other bicycle steering committees. Andy's professional experience lies in landscape architecture, and planning. He spent two decades working on regional and local design, planning and economic develop projects of corridors, communities and regions. Alternative transportation and greenways are important to Andy, his focus is to help communities to realize the opportunities for their communities to increase the quality of life and offer people opportunities for a healthier life. Andy lives in Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia and looks forward to touring a completed September 11th National Memorial Trail.*  
[andy@greenway.org](mailto:andy@greenway.org)

*Mike Rose with Alta Planning + Design is an Urban Planner and Registered Landscape Architect with over 18 years of experience with the last 13 focused on planning and designing trails and active transportation projects. Mike is a graduate of the University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Program and earned a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University, where he is now adjunct faculty teaching Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Design. He is currently a Vice-President at Alta Planning + Design's Portland Office and leads a group of designers there as well as leading the firmwide trails design group. He has done trail planning and design all over North America with projects on the California Coast, as far east as Huntington, WV and as far north as Saskatoon, Canada. CVLink in Coachella Valley, CA is Mike's biggest focus right now. It's a 50 mile pathway that will connect the entire Coachella Valley.*  
[MikeRose@AltaPlanning.com](mailto:MikeRose@AltaPlanning.com)

*Brian Ruscher worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Under Samantha) from 2013-2016. In 2015, he was recognized as a Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leader Scholarship award winner. In 2016, he Joined Alta Planning and Design to build upon previous efforts he completed earlier in his career. Brian has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Florida State University, where he focused his studies in community health and environmental planning. His work has been centered around Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Master Plans, Operations and Maintenance Planning, intergovernmental coordination, community engagement, and safety planning.*  
[brianruscher@altaplanning.com](mailto:brianruscher@altaplanning.com)

**PTBA Technical Track - Mountain Bike Facilities**

Room #310,311

Recent innovations in mountain biking facilities have left many land managers confused. What is a bike park, a flow trail, a pump track? Who do these facilities serve, what do they cost to develop, and how is risk and maintenance managed? Two of the country's leading mtb facility planner-designers, Scott Linnenburger of Kay-Linn Enterprises and Woody Keen of Trail Wisdom, will provide a comprehensive classroom exploration of these facilities and provide best (and some not so best) practices examples from around the world.

*Speaker(s): Scott Linnenburger has nearly 20 years of experience in recreation/trail development, conservation planning, and environmental restoration projects. His successful work on more than 100 trail projects in the federal, state, local, and private sectors demonstrates a keen ability to assist clients in developing projects that fulfill their mission, protect natural resources, and enhance community sustainability. After developing the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Trail Solutions, Ride Center and Gateway Trail programs, Scott founded Kay-Linn Enterprises to provide professional consultation and project management services. With multiple bike park and mountain bike-optimized trail projects in development around the country, Linnenburger has a finger on the pulse of the current desires of the mountain biking community, innovative opportunities present on public and private lands, and concerns of land managing professionals in developing these outside-the-box facilities.*

**Tuesday, May 9 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Trail Talks (Breakfast with an Expert)**

**A Path to Success: How to Finance Your Mission and Objectives**

Room #103

All too often, parks and recreation departments, trail organizations and their partners may not have all of the money in hand needed to complete their trail project. Sometimes they've received a reimbursement style grant but don't have the liquid cash to spend in order to seek reimbursement. Other times, a priority property is listed on the market, and if they want it for the trail, they need to move faster than it takes to apply for and receive funds. This workshop is designed to help trail-centric professionals understand bridge financing and to give them new tools and techniques to complete their priority projects – from local neighborhood trail hubs to national scenic, historic, and recreation trail corridors. Case studies include trail acquisition, construction, stewardship, planning and community collaborations.

*Speaker(s): Caitlin Guthrie provides bridge financing and technical assistance to advance conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout the United States and Canada. She has spent the past eight years furthering land conservation, stewardship, public access and ecosystem restoration. Prior to joining The Conservation Fund, Caitlin served as Conservation Projects Manager for Capitol Land Trust in Olympia, Washington, and served in a number of roles for the organization, including Interim Director. She led efforts to raise several million dollars to create new parks and natural areas, and to recover natural systems for the benefit of current and future generations.*  
[cguthrie@conservationfund.org](mailto:cguthrie@conservationfund.org)

*Reggie Hall directs The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Program, which provides financing and technical assistance to local conservation projects across the United States and Canada. He has conserved hundreds of thousands of acres across the U.S and Canada so far in his career. Reggie is a frequent faculty member at local, regional and national conservation conferences, and has received numerous awards for his work to protect America's special places including a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 5 Division of Realty Service Award, a U.S. Department of the Interior Partners In Conservation Award and a National Trust For Historic Preservation Award For Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation.*  
[rhall@conservationfund.org](mailto:rhall@conservationfund.org)

<b>Fully Loaded But Not Too Heavy for Takeoff! Collaborative Trail Development in East King County, WA</b>	Room #103	<p>Rails to trails projects, including those with multiple jurisdictional owners, plus public easement owners, and with rail-banked sections, are complicated but not unique. How do we work together to move these projects forward - both across sectors and across geographies?</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Vicky Clarke is the East King County Policy Manager for Cascade Bicycle Club, and is Cascade's staff lead to the Eastside Greenway Alliance. Vicky has worked in the sphere of government collaboration and transportation policy since 2008, and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington. <a href="mailto:vicky@cascade.org">vicky@cascade.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Erica Jacobs is a Special Projects Manager with King County Parks. She is the project manager for the Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Trail project. Erica earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Western Washington University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington. With a passion for regional public service delivery and finding solutions to growth management challenges, Erica has worked in planning and project management roles on multi-jurisdictional projects with King County for the past 18 years.</i></p> <p><i>David Shaw is a Senior Park Planner with the City of Redmond. He is the project manager for the Redmond Central Connector construction project. Dave earned a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from Utah State University and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University.</i></p>
<b>2700 hours: Freeing yourself from the Technology Boulder Unharmd</b>	Room #103	<p>Much like Franco in 127 hours, trails managers at parks feel that they are trapped between a bureaucratic boulder, in which they either (a) succumb to status quo methods or (b) release themselves but hurt the system or themselves in the process. At Arizona State Parks, we have successfully removed the boulder for technological innovation by hiring 3 AmeriCorps GIS Interns (2700 hours of service) to update our geographic information systems. Learn how to manage, connect, and strategize with a GIS team to have data at your fingertips and fly above trail needs.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mickey has worked for State Parks for over 44 years. He has managed five Maine State Parks and promoted to Supervisor of Outdoor Recreation. In that capacity, he was responsible for three grant programs including the Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund. In 2014, he moved to Arizona as grant administrator for Arizona State Parks. In less than 2 years, he converted all 800 + project files to digital format and the section is now paperless. These efficiencies have allowed the section to take on additional responsibilities and new programs. He has presented at the annual APRA and several statewide conferences on funding opportunities. He also has assisted with developing an asset inventory to generate a comprehensive plan for setting priorities and schedules for capital repairs and maintenance at state parks. <a href="mailto:mrogers@azstateparks.gov">mrogers@azstateparks.gov</a></i></p>
<b>How to P.L.A.N. (People/Land/Actions/Network) for a More Walkable &amp; Bikeable Community</b>	Room #103	<p>These detailed plans engage community members to identify priorities for creating a safe, attractive walking and biking environment for people of all ages and abilities. A non-motorized transportation plan adopted by local government will serve as official documentation of your community's need and readiness for improvements to pedestrian and bicycling facilities. Having these plans developed to a certain level of readiness provides opportunities to incorporate into future transportation projects or apply for funding to design and/or construct these projects.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Troy Hearn, Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Program Coordinator – Kentucky; <a href="mailto:troy.hearn@ky.gov">troy.hearn@ky.gov</a></i></p>
<b>MEGA Events: How to Get 150, or More, Perfect Strangers to Build Some Awesome Trail</b>	Room #103	<p>Organizing a large (100+ volunteers) trail building event can be a daunting task for a fledgling trail organization. The Ozark Trail Association was founded in December 2002. Since September 2003 it has held at least two Mega events per year. The sizes of the events have continually grown. There is a lot of effort required to organize a large event and the risks associated with a poorly run event are real, but the rewards for success are substantial. These rewards include both the tangible results the day of the event and intangible rewards realized in the long run. Our presentations will cover the key tasks that a trail organization needs to accomplish to have a successful large event.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Jeff Goetter is an Air force veteran who has been a member of the Ozark Trail Association (OTA) since December 2002. For the last twelve years he has served on the OTA Board of Directors as the Board Secretary and since joining he has participated in over 300 OTA events contributing over 1800 hours of his time. Most know him as Chef Jeff for cooking for the hungry trail volunteers at the semi-annual OTA Mega events. In 2004 the American Hiking Society recognized Jeff as the Volunteer of the Year for the State of Missouri. <a href="mailto:jeff.goetter@ozarktrail.com">jeff.goetter@ozarktrail.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Kathie Brennan is a seasonal naturalist for Trail of Tears State Park and a twice retiree who has been involved with the OTA since 2005 when a chance conversation introduced her to the trail. She serves as an OTA Board Member, as the Construction &amp; Maintenance Committee Chairperson, and as the Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator. She is a family camper, floater, and hiker of the trails and rivers in Missouri. She loves meeting the very diverse group of volunteers from all over the state, but also as a USFS certified sawyer and crew leader she gets to share her passion for the outdoors with kids of all ages at events big and small.</i></p>
<b>Outside The Box: Activating a Trail System for an Active Population</b>	Room #103	<p>Colorado is a state that is full of outdoor enthusiasts. With a plethora of outdoor recreation opportunities to choose from, residents are selective in choosing activities and settings that not only meet their needs but also provide stimulation and enjoyment. All outdoor recreation programs across the nation face the challenge of providing opportunities for their patrons that not only get people out, but also brings them back for more. We live in a society that often puts outside experiences as a low priority but there are ways our industry can think outside the box to bring people outside on a regular basis...and keep them coming back.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Hans Reichgelt, <a href="mailto:hreichge@cityofwestminster.us">hreichge@cityofwestminster.us</a></i></p>

<b>Where the Path Meets the Pavement: Low Stress Connections to Downtown</b>	Room #103	<p>Development and restricted right-of-way in urbanized areas often limits the ability for trails to successfully connect with construction to parks and greenspaces, leaving many urban destinations just out of reach. Providing walkways and low-stress bicycle connections between trails, downtown districts, residential neighborhoods, and community spaces is vital to creating an efficient and connected non-motorized transportation network and positioning trails to reach their full transportation potential. Creating these connections may require the use of experimental design features that may not have initial support from the public, local jurisdictions, or state DOT's that provide funding. Innovative and interactive outreach strategies may hold the key to gaining acceptance and ultimately implementing such facilities. This presentation will offer participants creative and innovative design solutions to transition trails to low stress on-road facilities and educate participants about the benefits of linking trails to protected bicycle facilities. Presenters will provide examples of innovative outreach strategies to introduce and build consensus on experimental facility design elements new to their community.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Jon Conner has more than 31 years of experience in landscape architecture and the planning and design of non-traditional transportation improvement projects. He has been the lead Project Landscape Architect on numerous trail, highway, transit revitalization and streetscape design projects throughout the mid-Atlantic Region. He has extensive experience at all levels of project development from conceptual engineering alternatives through final construction documents. Mr. Conner is JMT's Landscape Architecture practice leader and is JMT's liaison to the National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC). Mr. Conner is currently serving on the Coalition's National Speakers Bureau. In this role, he is available to assist municipalities with development and implementation of Complete Streets Policies through half day workshops and presentations. This service is available to municipalities through the NCSC. He is also a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. <a href="mailto:jconner@jmt.com">jconner@jmt.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Angie Hernandez is a graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. degree in Regional and Environmental Planning . She has worked as a transportation planner, in both public and private sectors across the country. She has worked with a variety of state agencies, cities, and community groups, providing consultation, public workshops, and planning services to create healthy, livable, multi-modal communities and places where walking and biking is a comfortable and viable form of transportation. Ms. Hernandez currently works as a planner with JMT providing planning support on multi-modal transportation planning projects and master planning efforts across the Mid-Atlantic Region. She formerly served as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the Montana Department of Transportation, and Montana Recreational Trails Program committee member. Ms. Hernandez was recently elected as the Vice President for the Young Professional's in Transportation (YPT) Baltimore Chapter. In this role, she assists in creating meaningful opportunities for young transportation professionals in the Baltimore Region to learn, serve in leadership roles, and network with peers and senior professionals in the transportation industry. She is also a member of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association.</i></p>
<b>Transitioning to a More Accessible Network</b>	Room #103	<p>Over the last twenty-five years municipalities have struggled with the issue of identifying existing accessibility issues and tracking progress made towards accessibility. Geographic Information Systems have been proven to be a powerful tool for planning and managing trails and therefore should be expanded to include compliancy assessments. Using a customized GIS collector app, field inspectors will be able to catalog existing pedestrian accessibility deficiencies along trails. Once trails have been cataloged, deficiencies can be attributed with costs and prioritized based upon level of compliance and trip frequency. Based upon the prioritization and budgetary constraints, municipalities will be able to identify projects with logical termini that help promote a more accessible and inclusive network of trails to promote use of the network for all members in a community!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Jennifer Ray has more than 17 years of experience in transportation planning, engineering and facilitation in Maryland and several other state and local agencies in the mid-Atlantic region. She has extensive experience in transit stations, land use considerations, and public participation in a variety of formats including town hall and community association meetings, public meetings and hearings as well as leading various strategic committees and consensus building. She has provided short-term and long-range transportation solutions for intersections, park and ride facilities, corridors, and towns. She has particular expertise in strategic planning for public transportation, bicyclists and pedestrians. Ms. Ray has also been exceedingly active in working with local, state and national non-profit and not-for-profit organizations. In particular, Ms. Ray has been a member of the Junior Chamber (Jaycees) since 2001 during which time she has served as a local Chapter President (Northern Baltimore County Junior Chamber), the State President (Maryland Junior Chamber) a National Vice President, and in 2015 served as the National President for the United States Junior Chamber. In this role, she traveled the country working with the state-level Junior Chambers assisting them in conflict resolution, working with their state committees and leading seminars teaching various communication and leadership skills. In addition, Ms. Ray serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels of Central <a href="mailto:maryland.jray@jmt.com">maryland.jray@jmt.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Marian Batton has more than 22 years of experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and has worked with a variety of state agencies and cities, promoting the effective use of technology to collect and analyze data efficiently and comprehensively to support decision making. She has extensive experience at all levels of GIS program management. Ms. Batton currently works as a Senior GIS Analyst with JMT with focuses on utility infrastructure, ADA compliance and TMDL programs. She coordinates with various groups within JMT collecting field data to implement Collector for ArcGIS to streamline the process and subsequent analysis of the field data. Ms. Batton was an adjunct professor for McDaniel College for 2 years teaching an introductory course in GIS within the Environmental Studies department. In addition, she has volunteered with the Capital Area Food Bank to conduct all-day GIS training sessions with other members of the JMT Technology Group..</i></p>
<b>Ask the Lawyer - "Legal advice: 5 cents"</b>	Room #103	<p>Legal challenges can sometimes be the most daunting to a trail project whether you are a public agency or a non-profit. Come with your questions, challenges and have a chat with Andrea Ferster. Andrea is the general Counsel for Rails-to-Trails-Conservancy and is an expert in legal issues pertaining to trail conversions, railroad issues, historic properties and more. Enjoy coffee with a lawyer at a fraction of the going rate!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Andrea Ferster General Counsel Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, is an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C. Her law practice focuses on litigation to enforce environmental and historic preservation laws, transportation advocacy, tax exempt organizations, enforcement of local zoning and land use ordinances, and trail and greenway planning. In addition to serving as general counsel for RTC, her clients include the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Sierra Club and numerous D.C.-based neighborhood and community organizations. She is a leading national expert on federal historic preservation law and on the legal framework governing "rail-trail" conversions, and she has written and lectured extensively on these topics. Andrea received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in 1979 and her J.D. from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1984. <a href="mailto:afenster@railstotrails.org">afenster@railstotrails.org</a></i></p>
<b>Next Generation Trail Stewards &amp; the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps</b>	Room #103	<p>Young people are hungry for opportunities that make a difference in their communities. Corps represent a way to engage these passionate future leaders in trail work and advocacy. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) initiative is a bold national effort to put thousands of America's young people and veteran's to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors. This presentation will include analysis of the value of working with Corps (financial, social, and educational) and techniques (statutory and US DOT encouragement) for partnering with Corps programs along with an understanding of the unique opportunity 21CSC presents to leverage partnerships to benefit America's trail infrastructure and develop the future workforce. The presentation will include case studies of established Corps trails programs to illustrate spectrum of options for trail managers. A Corpsmember will also speak about their experiences in trail work.</p>

**A Path to Success: How to Finance Your Mission and Objectives** Room #103

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Reggie Hall directs The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Program, which provides financing and technical assistance to local conservation projects across the United States and Canada. He has conserved hundreds of thousands of acres across the U.S and Canada so far in his career. Reggie is a frequent faculty member at local, regional and national conservation conferences, and has received numerous awards for his work to protect America's special places including a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 5 Division of Realty Service Award, a U.S. Department of the Interior Partners In Conservation Award and a National Trust For Historic Preservation Award For Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation. [rhall@conservationfund.org](mailto:rhall@conservationfund.org)

**Tuesday, May 9 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Concurrent Sessions**

**Creating 21st Century Trail Networks - Setting a Bold Vision & Reaching Beyond the Choir (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy)** Room #106

The trails community is good at engaging the "usual suspects". But a bold, inclusive vision for a regional trail network can't be built by just planners and trail advocates. To build coalitions as diverse of the communities that they represent, the trails community must engage people that have not typically been included in trail development discussions. Learn how Baltimore MD, Washington D.C., and West Virginia are bringing new voices to the table.

*Speaker(s):* Katie Harris is the Trails Coalition Coordinator at Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). Her background in consensus-based decision making and environmental conflict resolution sets the stage for her current role, coordinating and managing the Capital Trails Coalition, a collaboration of public and private organizations, agencies, and citizen volunteers working to advance completion of an interconnected network of multi-use trails for metropolitan Washington, DC. When she's not on her bike, you can find her kayaking or fly fishing the urban waters of the nation's capital. [katie.harris@waba.org](mailto:katie.harris@waba.org)

Ana Valenzuela serves as RTC's GIS Analyst, providing technical and analytical assistance for all things GIS. She is passionate about using GIS to create innovative solutions for complex problems, especially those concerning sustainability and equity. She has worked with a variety of nonprofits/NGOs, including the World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank, with a primary focus on environmental policy and GIS analysis. Ana was born and raised in Alabama, where she learned to appreciate good food and the outdoors. Originally hoping for a career as a classical musician, she shifted to a more lucrative History focus. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Public Policy from George Washington University. [ana@railstotrails.org](mailto:ana@railstotrails.org)

Jim Brown has known the value of trails—connecting people to nature and bringing tangible benefits to local communities—since his first job on the Gwynns Falls Trail in Baltimore. Now, as RTC's trail development manager, he continues to put his passions to professional use by providing technical assistance to communities pursuing new trails, managing various capacity building programs within RTC's Metropolitan Grants Program and working with individuals to solve issues related to their favorite trails in regions across the country. Jim has experience in urban environmental education and international nonprofit issues; previous professional credits include working for the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and serving as a natural resource management Peace Corps volunteer in rural Tanzania. He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in landscape architecture, and his academic research and proposed projects have been presented at international greenway planning conferences. [jim@railstotrails.org](mailto:jim@railstotrails.org)

Anna Withrow is a Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist at the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, where she oversees the Center's Technical Assistance Team, as they manage brownfield cleanup and redevelopment projects. Anna works with local project stakeholders to preform site analyses, facilitate visioning meetings, create conceptual plans, and apply for funding, along with various other tasks to move redevelopment projects forward. Anna has experience with hand rendering, site mapping, place analysis, parcel search, stakeholder engagement, mixed-media design, construction drawing, meeting and event facilitation, document layout and printing, and narrative photography. Her professional interests include riparian restoration, stormwater management, whole-systems thinking, urban agriculture, and historic preservation. Anna earned her master's degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design at West Virginia University. She also has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education, and has experience teaching in Southern West Virginia. [anna.withrow@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:anna.withrow@mail.wvu.edu)

**“Why Water Trails? Local Economic Benefits, Statewide Networks, and National Tools”** Room #202,203

Paddling on water trails is nationally recognized as an increasing and emerging recreational activity. However, water trails mean more than just recreation. Join this exciting, interactive session where local, state, and national experts creatively explore economic and other significant benefits of water trails. Discussion will include planning and development tools, the State of Ohio and National Park Service programs, and lessons learned from local experiences. Attendees will learn how to connect economics with tourism to increase support for rivers and water trails and play an interactive game to show the economic power of water trails. This session will feature a toolbox of water trail research compiled and created by the National Park Service and their supporting partners to assist with water trail and access development, landowner concerns, signage plans, and other resources to utilize during the public planning process.

*Speaker(s):* Sarah Hippensteel Hall, PhD – Manager, Watershed Partnerships – Miami Conservancy District; Sarah believes that water is a critical element for community health and prosperity and communities who enjoy their rivers are more likely to protect their water. She currently serves as the Manager of Watershed Partnerships for the Miami Conservancy District, a 101-year old watershed agency. She builds diverse partnerships that protect and promote water. Sarah helped lead the creation of the nation's first successful nutrient trading program. She graduated from Antioch University in 2010 with a PhD in Leadership and Change. She also teaches undergraduate courses in leadership studies, and resource scarcity and conflict. In 2012 she was presented with a Distinguished Service Award by the Water Management Association of Ohio. In 2015 she was selected to give a TedX Talk on water.

Lelia R. Mellen – Co-Lead Rivers & Watersheds – works for the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program as the National Water Trail Leader and the Director of New Hampshire Projects. This is a position she has held for over 20 years and as such she works with national water-oriented groups, community groups, local and state agencies, and non-profits to help them with their conservation initiatives. These groups ask for assistance on river recreation and protection, open space protection and trail work. Lelia has helped with organizational development, fundraising, river and water trail management, trail building, event planning, and open space protection. In essence, she grasps the conservation needs and desires of the group and tries to help them meet their goals. Lelia received her Master of Environmental Management from Duke University and her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Dartmouth College. [Lelia\\_Mellen@Nps.gov](mailto:Lelia_Mellen@Nps.gov)

Douglas Leed has administrated the Ohio Water Trails Program, maintained and updated the Ohio Motorized Boating Facilities and Stream Access databases, and served as Recreational Planner for the Division of Watercraft since 2007. He has worked for ODNR since 2001, previously working with the Division of Mineral Resources Management in the Engineering Section designing Abandoned Mine Land reclamation projects. Douglas obtained a Bachelors degree from Miami University where he majored in Architecture and minored in Landscape Architecture. In his spare time, Douglas enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and kayaking as well as playing guitar, audio engineering and recording, and watching movies. [douglas.leed@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:douglas.leed@dnr.state.oh.us)

<b>Patience, Persistence and Equity in the Heart of Inner Cities</b>	Room #204	<p>Developing trails within lower economic neighborhoods face not only physical space shortcomings, they also deal with perception problems that trail development will be risky, underused, and collection zones for graffiti and trash. In the case of the west side of Columbus, many years of bike/pedestrian planning resulted in little action and a common belief that the Camp Chase railroad through the heart of the community was off limits and not feasible. In Camden, NJ, stakeholders prepare to welcome new companies and institutions and face the challenge of accommodating double the number of commuters expected to travel in and out of the city daily while improving transportation access for its current residents. A call to action has begun to address this new challenge with building a new transportation network to include a bicycle and pedestrian plan for all.</p>
		<p><i>Speaker(s): Brad Westall is a Landscape Architect with Columbus Recreation and Parks. As Planning Manager, his projects concentrate on assemblage, design, and construction of the Columbus greenways network. The city's ongoing trails development is one of the leading greenways programs in the Midwest, with over 90 miles of existing paths and projects currently under design and construction. He is a founding member of the COG (Central Ohio Greenways), a collective of advocates, park agencies, government leadership, and trail builders. He is also the program manager for Columbus' CoGo Bike Share. <a href="mailto:brwestall@columbus.gov">brwestall@columbus.gov</a></i></p>
		<p><i>Valeria Galarza graduated from Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, New Brunswick where she earned a bachelor's in Public Health. Following undergrad in 2002, she was selected for New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Latino Fellowship Institute which placed her as an intern at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation where she gained her initial exposure to the public health field. She later earned her Master's in Health Education from St. Joseph's University. She has been leading "Get Healthy Camden", formally New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids-Camden, for five years advocating for policy and environmental changes to support healthy eating and physical activity in the City of Camden. <a href="mailto:vgalarza@coopersferry.com">vgalarza@coopersferry.com</a></i></p>
<b>Managing International Trail Destinations – The Keys to Success</b>	Room #302,303	<p>Have you ever thought about hiking the trails through the Himalaya's or the Canadian Rockies? Although these trail systems are at different sides of the world, they share many similarities. Like all great trail systems proper management, planning and maintenance are key to success. Pranil Upadhayay, Great Himalaya Trails Management Adviser, and Mark Schmidt, Parks Canada Trail Advisor, will present on current standards and guidelines that have lead to successful trails.</p>
		<p><i>Speaker(s): Pranil Upadhayaya will be presenting about the nationally prioritized interventions in the Great Himalaya trails (GHT) of Nepal for its sustainable management. Backed by the newly formulated standard policy and operational guidelines and GHT/Greeflag Trails trained and certified trail auditors, Nepal's Great Himalaya Trails are moving from great to good and sustainable trails in terms of trail development planning, management, construction and maintenance. This is going to offer meaningful experience for trail uses and increased benefits to local communities. <a href="mailto:pranil.Upadhayay@Samarth-Nepal.com">pranil.Upadhayay@Samarth-Nepal.com</a></i></p>
		<p><i>Mark Schmidt will be presenting on the integration of Parks Canada's Trail Principles (physical, ecological, managerial, and social sustainability) and will share how these principles are being used to ensure that trails we use today will be around for future generations, how these trails are managed and how Parks Canada is moving from good trails to great trails. <a href="mailto:mark.schmidt@pc.gc.ca">mark.schmidt@pc.gc.ca</a></i></p>
<b>Cooperative Management at its Best - The National Trails</b>	Room #304	<p>There are trail systems throughout the United States within parks or forests, as well as types of trail systems supporting hiking, bicycling, sledding, and more. However, the National Trails System is a unique set of extended trails representing geologic features, historic and cultural routes of travel, and prime recreational experiences, all identified within the National Trails System Act of 1968. The management structure for National Scenic and Historic Trails will be explained with key examples of cooperative management responsibilities spanning thousands of miles of trails and historic routes across the United States.</p>
		<p><i>Speaker(s): Rita Hennessy, Program Lead, National Trails System National Park Service, <a href="mailto:rita_hennessy@nps.gov">rita_hennessy@nps.gov</a>; Deb Salt, Program Lead, National Trails System, Bureau Of Land Management, <a href="mailto:debsalt@blm.gov">debsalt@blm.gov</a>; Jaime Schmidt, Program Lead, National Trails System, United States Forest Service, <a href="mailto:jschmidt@fs.fed.us">jschmidt@fs.fed.us</a></i></p>
<b>Welcome Back to the Backbone</b>	Room #305	<p>Experience the adventure of the first horseback ride to reopen the inimitable Backbone Trail...67-miles of spectacular but exceptionally rugged terrain from Pt. Mugu State Park in Ventura County to Will Rogers State Historic Park in Santa Monica historic Backbone Trail. Join the Backbone Trail Cowgirls for a panel presentation from this appropriately strong riding quintet of women, led by famed 81-year-old former Tevis Cup endurance rider, Ruth Gerson. The Backbone Trail was officially designated as a National Recreational Trail on June 4, 2016, patched together, segment by segment, over more than 40 years. In all, 180 properties were stitched together to create the trail. Want to be inspired? Come learn about how perseverance, a sense of purpose, and partnerships brought the Backbone back to California and National Recreation Trail enthusiasts.</p>
		<p><i>Speaker(s): Jan Hancock, the equestrian representative on the American Trails Board of Directors, strives to bring new information to the trails community at every International Trails Symposium. Jan is involved in multiple national trails projects and programs involving equestrian trail planning, design, construction and maintenance through her company, Hancock Resources LLC. As a national equestrian leader in the trails community, Jan is focused on bringing leading-edge equestrian projects and programs to the forefront of learning opportunities offered by the American Trails International Trails Symposium to all Symposium attendees. <a href="mailto:hancockjan@aol.com">hancockjan@aol.com</a></i></p>
<b>Beyond Park Boundaries</b>	Room #306	<p>Connecting communities with their parks and public lands by trails and other active transportation/recreation (biking and walking) initiatives provides a multitude of benefits, including alleviating vehicle congestion, encouraging climate-friendly travel options, promoting protection of park resources, and encouraging equitable access, especially for youth and low-income populations. Join the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center, and Adventure Cycling Association to learn best practices, case studies, and resources to increase active transportation connectivity between communities, national parks and tourist destinations, to be featured in a new Active Transportation "how-to" guidebook.</p>
		<p><i>Speaker(s): As the Travel Initiatives Coordinator for Adventure Cycling Association, Saara manages national partnerships and projects to improve bicycle travel conditions. She works with tourism, recreation, and transportation agencies, the National Park Service, Amtrak, state parks, and bicycle/trails groups to build bicycle tourism and promote multimodal travel. She also provides support and technical assistance to develop the US. Bicycle Route System. Saara is also a board member of Bike Walk Montana, the statewide bicycle advocacy group in Montana. <a href="mailto:ssnow@adventurecycling.org">ssnow@adventurecycling.org</a></i></p>
		<p><i>Jessica Baas, Community Planner USDOT Volpe Center. As a community planner at the USDOT Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA, Jessica's work has focused on active transportation, livability, and public lands. While at the Volpe Center, she has worked on numerous projects for the National Park Service, including nation-wide projects on transit and active transportation in national parks, as well as unit specific transportation planning at parks in the Mid-west and Northeast. Jessica received her master's in urban planning from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and her bachelor's in environmental science from the University of British Columbia. Jessica enjoys exploring the outdoors in New England, and her favorite activity to date is biking at the Cape Cod National Seashore. <a href="mailto:jessica.baas@dot.gov">jessica.baas@dot.gov</a></i></p>
		<p><i>Krista Sherwood is a Transportation Planner for the National Park Service in the Washington office. Through her work with NPS, Krista manages a variety of active transportation projects and provides program and policy support to NPS regions and parks on transportation partnership efforts that enhance connections between National Parks and their surrounding communities. <a href="mailto:krista_sherwood@nps.gov">krista_sherwood@nps.gov</a></i></p>

<b>Reclaiming Cleveland: Urban Trails in a (Former) Rust-Belt City</b>	Room #307,308,309	<p>This track will cover how Cleveland Metroparks and several partnering organizations have been leading the charge to develop urban trails in Cleveland, Ohio, to better connect residents to the Cuyahoga River and the shores of Lake Erie, and to develop a robust alternative transportation network. Development of two key trail projects will be covered: The Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail Lake Link and the Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER grant project. Covered will be planning and consortium building efforts that provided the necessary interest and momentum for these projects; implementation and assembly of funding from philanthropic, local, state, and federal sources like the TIGER grant program; and the realities of designing and building urban trails.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Sara Byrnes Maier is a Senior Strategic Park Planner at Cleveland Metroparks, where she focuses on long-term trail planning. She led the application team that received a \$7.95 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for the "Re-Connecting Cleveland" project in 2016. Previously, she worked as a transportation planner for the metropolitan planning organization for Northeast Ohio, where she was involved in developing the American Planning Association's (APA) 2015 Daniel Burnham Award-winning Vibrant NEO 2040, a 12-county sustainability framework plan for Northeast Ohio, and in commercial real estate banking. Sara has a Master's degree in Urban Planning, Design and Development from the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Tulane University in New Orleans. She has served as Treasurer of the Cleveland Section of the American Planning Association since 2008.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:sbm@clevelandmetroparks.com">sbm@clevelandmetroparks.com</a></p> <p><i>James Kastelic holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Kansas and a Master of Arts degree in Urban Geography from Kent State University. He currently is a Research Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer at the Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. He previously served as Deputy Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, where he directed studies involving comprehensive planning, land use regulation, regional impact analysis, environmental resource assessment and site analysis. Jim also served as Senior Park Planner for Cleveland Metroparks, where his responsibilities included grant writing, identifying and evaluating opportunities to conserve open space consistent with the Park District's mission and developing local and regional partnerships through outreach with public, private and non-profit stakeholders. From 2014 - 2016, he served as Program Director for the Trust for Public Land's Ohio office, where he provided project management assistance for trail projects in Cleveland's Flats District.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:jmkastelic@aol.com">jmkastelic@aol.com</a></p>
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<b>PTBA Technical Track - Sustainable Trails 101</b>	Room #310,311	<p>What is a sustainable trail? What are the practical parts and pieces to designing a sustainable trail, on the ground? In this session we will cover eight basic elements of practical sustainable trail design for natural surface trails, from planning to water control to maintenance.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Jon Underwood is currently the President of the Professional Trailbuilders Association, and has been an enthusiastic user of all types of trails since early childhood, and a professional trail builder since 2006. He specializes in design, layout, and mechanical construction of all types of trails, from mountain bike singletrack to skate ski trails and ATV trails. His company, Happy Trails, Inc., has designed and constructed trails all over Alaska.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:happytrailsak@gmail.com">happytrailsak@gmail.com</a></p>
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**Tuesday, May 9 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions**

<b>Creating 21st Century Trail Networks - How to Build the Trail Network of Your Dreams with 21st Century Tools and Data (Rails-to- Trails Conservancy)</b>	Room #106	<p>The trail world has evolved into a powerful force in communities large and small over the past few decades. With this increased importance and acceptance the responsibility of trail planners, managers and advocates to have hard data on a multitude of issues has also become paramount. This session brings professionals from around the country to explore how data, metrics and advanced tools are being used to further the development of trail networks.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Ana Valenzuela serves as RTC's GIS Analyst, providing technical and analytical assistance for all things GIS. She is passionate about using GIS to create innovative solutions for complex problems, especially those concerning sustainability and equity. She has worked with a variety of nonprofits/NGOs, including the World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank, with a primary focus on environmental policy and GIS analysis. Ana was born and raised in Alabama, where she learned to appreciate good food and the outdoors. Originally hoping for a career as a classical musician, she shifted to a more lucrative History focus. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Public Policy from George Washington University.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:ana@railstotrails.org">ana@railstotrails.org</a></p> <p><i>Barry Bergman, Trail Development Manager, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</i> Growing up, the vacations of choice in Barry Bergman's family always seemed to revolve around travel, camping and hiking, so it's hardly a surprise he ended up working at RTC. But Barry has a special place in his heart for rail-trails. "While in graduate school in western Massachusetts, biking was a great way to get to class, except for the harrowing roadway crossing over the Connecticut River," he says. "Once the abandoned railroad bridge was rehabbed for the Norwottuck Rail Trail, it was something I appreciated every day." Prior to joining RTC, Barry spent 17 years as a public sector transportation planner, focusing on helping to create more balanced, less auto-centric transportation systems. His work included leading the Baltimore region's first-ever bicycle, pedestrian and greenways plan as well as some more on-the-ground experience in Alameda, Calif., where he updated the city's bike plan and partnered closely with the local transit provider.</p> <p><a href="mailto:barry@railstotrails.org">barry@railstotrails.org</a></p> <p><i>Christiaan Abildso is an assistant professor in the School of Public Health at West Virginia University. He earned his PhD in Kinesiology and MPH from WVU, a Master's Degree in Counseling from Boston University, and an undergraduate degree in Business and Economics from McDaniel College. He serves as the Program Director of Research and Evaluation in the WVU Health Research Center, where he and his colleagues work at the intersection of public health and community development. Dr. Abildso's research interests include health promotion program evaluation and determinants of physical activity, including policy and the built environment. Dr. Abildso has published numerous studies about these topics, including local rail trail impacts, and is currently working on a project to assess economic impacts of the Mon River Trails in Monongalia County.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:CGABILDSON@hsc.wvu.edu">CGABILDSON@hsc.wvu.edu</a></p> <p><i>Chris Linn manages the Office of Environmental Planning at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and leads DVRPC's Regional Trails Program – an \$18 million grant and technical assistance program to plan and build the Circuit Trails, Greater Philadelphia's regional trail network. Chris helped create the Circuit brand and the Circuit Coalition, a group of trail builders and champions working together to complete the Circuit. Chris was instrumental in incorporating the Circuit into DVRPC's long-range transportation plan, and in an action to place \$15 million in Circuit trail projects on the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In 2014, Chris initiated DVRPC's permanent bicycle and pedestrian counting program, employing 16 permanent counting stations on trails across the region and making the data available through a public-facing website.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:clinn@dvrpc.org">clinn@dvrpc.org</a></p>
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<b>Soaring with Synergy: Partnering for Trails Excellence in Acadia National Park</b>	Room #204	<p>Want to learn how to build a successful drop-in volunteer program through partnership? Does having 800 volunteers donate over 13,000 hours for trail maintenance in one season seem impressive to you? Then join Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff as they share their stewardship program model with you. This partnership model was used to launch a drop-in volunteer program in Virgin Islands National Park. Included in this session will be group discussion, exercises on leading volunteers, and hands-on practicums on trail maintenance techniques such as brushing, drainage, and bog walk construction. The more we help each other grow, the better protected our special places will be.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Dianna McKeage is the volunteer coordinator at Acadia National Park. She has a B.S. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, over ten years with the national park service, and five seasons of trail maintenance experience. Working with inspiring people to maintain invaluable resources is the best job she has ever had. <a href="mailto:dianna_mckeage@nps.gov">dianna_mckeage@nps.gov</a> Paige Steele is the conservation projects manager at Friends of Acadia. She has a B.A. in Ecology and Visual Arts, over fifteen years experience with outdoor programming, and over nine years with volunteer programs. She is a Registered Maine Guide who loves to play outside. <a href="mailto:paige@friendsofacadia.org">paige@friendsofacadia.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Dana Petersen is the stewardship coordinator at Friends of Acadia. He has a B.A. in English and a teaching license from Montana State University, six seasons of trail maintenance experience with the US Forest Service, and three years of teaching experience in Montana and Maine. He can tie several knots. <a href="mailto:stewardship@friendsofacadia.org">stewardship@friendsofacadia.org</a></i></p>
<b>Assessing Trails: New Technology Solution Unveiled</b>	Room #302,303	<p>The session will introduce a state-of-the-art technology solution for trail assessment. This new scientific approach to assessment removes the subjective variability inherent in current approaches. The methodology incorporates geospatial technologies used in other industries to produce measurable baseline conditions as well as subsequent changes. These results can then be converted into trail maintenance and reconstruction data that will guide in the management of trail resources, prioritization of agenda and real time data on existing conditions. Data results can be processed from the office to set up a strategic management plan based on definitive measurements rather than subjective observations. Join Matt Woodson (President of Okanogan Trail Construction) for the unveiling of this groundbreaking trail technology.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Matt Woodson started his company, Okanogan Trail Construction, when he began contracting for the Forest Service in 1983. Throughout the 80s, he performed extensive trail restoration, reconstruction and maintenance in the northern Cascade Mountains. Through years of experience repairing improperly built trails, Matt became familiar with problems inherent in poor trail design, as well as how to correct them. By 1995, he began building new trails from design to finish, enabling him to implement sustainable improvements throughout his work. Now for over thirty years, Matt has been building trails for a variety of clients throughout the United States, including USFS, BLM, cities, non-profits and private organizations. He donates much of his time and efforts to teaching about sustainable trail construction and leading groups. Some of his recent donations include trail trainings through REI and IMBA Affiliate DFMB, as well as crew leadership training for the Maricopa Park and Trail Foundation. <a href="mailto:matt@otctrails.com">matt@otctrails.com</a></i></p>
<b>Elected Officials Panel -- The Importance of Political Leadership</b>	Room #304	<p>In this session, you will hear about successful tactics employed by legislators to establish funding mechanisms that support trail development demanded by constituents in their respective states. A key focus will be on generating 'buy in' for these initiatives among key stakeholder groups, including legislative and agency bodies as well as competing interest groups. This panel of political leaders will discuss the importance of active transportation in helping local communities to thrive via economic development, health &amp; safety, environmental sustainability and inclusiveness/diversity. An important aspect of this discussion will be highlighting strategies used to ensure that the citizens these state electeds represent are positive and supportive of their efforts to facilitate bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Tom Henry is serving in his third term as Mayor of Fort Wayne. Leading Indiana's second largest city, Mayor Henry is making government the best it can be for residents and businesses by demonstrating a commitment to engagement, innovation, and performance. Mayor Henry has a strong record of successes in neighborhood infrastructure improvements, downtown development, job creation, business expansions, advances in public safety, and enhancements to the City's world-class park system. Before being elected Mayor, he served from 1983-2003 on Fort Wayne City Council, representing northwest Fort Wayne. Mayor Henry has lived in Fort Wayne almost all his life and began his career in the private sector as CEO of a group purchasing organization serving hospitals. He then went on to become a successful small business owner of a local insurance agency and healthcare consulting firm.</i></p> <p><i>Bob Taft began his career in public service as a Peace Corps Volunteer, working as a schoolteacher in Tanzania, East Africa right after graduating from college. He went on to get a masters degree in government from Princeton and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati. His first job in government was with the Bureau of the Budget in the State of Illinois. He has served as an elected official in Ohio for 30 years, as a member of the state legislature, a county commissioner, Ohio Secretary of State and, most recently, as Governor of Ohio (1999-2007). In his role as Governor, he focused on improving schools, reforming Ohio's taxsystem and attracting advanced, high paying jobs. Taft secured legislative and public support for his initiative, the Clean Ohio Fund, which enabled Ohio communities to clean up polluted sites for redevelopment, protect river corridors and build recreational trails for cycling and hiking. Former Governor Taft is currently a Distinguished Research Associate with the University of Dayton, teaching political science courses and working with state and federal student internship programs.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Nan Whaley</i>  <i>Nan Whaley is a proud to have chosen Dayton as her home. Originally from Indiana, Nan attended the University of Dayton and has lived in Dayton ever since. She has resided in the Five Oaks neighborhood since 2001 where she lives with her husband, Sam. Nan's career is distinguished by her commitment to public service, civic involvement and interest in local government. First elected to the Dayton City Commission in 2005, Nan has also served on the Montgomery County Board of Elections and as a deputy to Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith. She is a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church and a graduate of Leadership Miami Valley. She currently serves on Greater Ohio's Community Revitalization Committee, the Learn to Earn Executive Committee for Education, the Montgomery County Planning Commission, and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees. She led the community in creating a county-wide landbank system to address the local housing crisis with a more regional approach and serves on the Montgomery County Landbank Board. As chair of the Bike Walk Dayton Committee, Nan strives for Dayton to become a Bicycle Friendly Community. Mayor Whaley believes that strong neighborhoods and economic stability can only be achieved through a community-wide focus on education. Nan has her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Dayton and received her Master's of Public Administration from Wright State University where she has served as an Adjunct Professor.</i></p> <p><i>Dennis Tyler grew up on the south-side of Muncie, Indiana and is a graduate of Muncie Central High School. He proudly served as a Line Captain for the Muncie Fire Department before retiring after 42 years of service. On January 4th, 2006, he was sworn into office as a State Legislator, where he served District 34 honorably for six years. At the Statehouse, Tyler had the privilege of serving on committees that focused on veteran's affairs, public safety, employment labor, pensions, roads and transportation, autism and government reform. During his tenure in the general assembly, Tyler was a strong advocate for victims of violent crimes, introducing legislation on intestate succession, which states that a parent may not receive an intestate share of the estate of the parent's minor or adult child if the parent was convicted of causing the death of the child's other parent. Tyler resigned from the Legislature in December 2011 to assume the duties of Mayor effective January 1, 2012. Mayor Tyler has been active in many community organizations, including United Way of Delaware County, the Knights of Pythias Lodge #37, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles #231 in Muncie. He has also been the Chairman of Labor and Industry Board of the NAACP since 2010. Mayor Tyler enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Vickie, along with their three children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.</i></p>

**Making a Difference for Trails – Partners, Youth, and the Future** Room #305 This session will explore two exciting approaches being implemented to increase partner and volunteer assistance on behalf of trails. In the first portion of the session, Forest Service and key partner representatives will discuss the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act—the first major Congressional trails legislation since the National Trails Act— which was signed into law in November 2016. Learn more about the new law, which requires the agency to apply a series of approaches with the overarching goal of substantially increasing partner and volunteer contributions to address Forest Service trail maintenance backlog. The second portion of the session will focus on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps initiative that’s putting thousands of young people and veteran’s to work across the country as they work to protect, restore, and enhance America’s great outdoors. Learn about the value of and techniques for partnering with Corps programs to leverage partnerships to benefit America’s trail infrastructure and develop the future workforce

*Speaker(s): Jaime Schmidt is the U.S. Forest Service’s Assistant National Manager for Trails and National Trail Information Coordinator. In addition to helping lead the agency’s Trail program, she leads the agency’s integrated efforts for providing quality trail management and visitor information. Jaime serves as Co-leader of the Federal Trail Data Standards and has over 20 years of Forest Service recreation and trail management experience in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana. She has also worked in land management planning, interpretive planning, and conservation education in Brazil, Honduras, and Ecuador through the Forest Service International Program and the US Peace Corps. [jtschmidt@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtschmidt@fs.fed.us)*

*Marie Walker, Chief Operating Officer, The Corps Network; [mwalker@corpsnetwork.org](mailto:mwalker@corpsnetwork.org)*

**Pocket Trails and Unexpected Places: Small Trails, Big Impact** Room #306 You can build trails in places you don’t expect, and those places don’t have to be huge expanses of untouched wilderness. Local public health advocates and professional trail designers present a session about how your community can build trails in places you thought were unbuildable, unusable, or undesirable. Thrive Allen County presents the story of the Lehigh-Portland Trails, focusing on how relationships were key in making the trails possible, and Alta Planning and Design presents examples and technical guidance for fitting trails into unlikely spaces.

Pocket trails are short trails that often exist in unlikely locations. They can open up areas to new users and enhance connectivity between larger trails or between neighborhoods. Opportunities for pocket trails are often found where barriers are normally perceived, such as a lack of easements, environmental, geological, or topographic constraints, or, increasingly, a change in perception of what constitutes an appropriate space for a trail. Just as pocket parks have been able to bring access to open space through an incremental process, they can also be used to provide new public uses around museums, concert halls, and cultural institutions, improve local connectivity, and solidify and enhance existing trail networks.

*Speaker(s): James Powell is a Design Associate at Alta Planning + Design, where he specializes in trail feasibility, construction, and regional planning. He has provided management, design, and analysis services on projects throughout California, including complete streets projects in both small towns and cities, equestrian and multi-use trail planning at neighborhood and countywide scales, and trail construction in coastal, urban, and agricultural settings. He has recently completed feasibility studies for two pocket trail projects in Los Angeles. James is an ASLA member, and received his Masters of Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. E-mail: [jamespowell@altaplanning.com](mailto:jamespowell@altaplanning.com)*

*David Toland is the first executive director of Thrive Allen County, a nonprofit coalition that works to improve quality of life and economic conditions in Allen County, Kansas. A seventh-generation Allen Countian, Toland oversees a coalition known statewide for its innovative approaches to improving healthcare access, healthy lifestyles and economic development in a small, rural Kansas county. During his time at Thrive, Allen County’s county health ranking has improved 15 points; a new critical access hospital has been built; a new federally-qualified health center (FQHC) has opened; 8 new miles of free walking trails have been constructed; new manufacturing jobs and retail businesses have been recruited to the county; and a new sense of optimism and countywide unity has taken hold among residents and businesses. E-mail: [david.toland@thriveallencounty.org](mailto:david.toland@thriveallencounty.org)*

*Emily Duchon is a Senior Design Associate at Alta Planning + Design. For 10 years, she has been helping communities design and implement innovative active transportation solutions, taking projects from master plans through concept design, construction drawings and administration. Emily’s creativity, energy, and experience in ecological design give her the tools to create vibrant public spaces and transportation networks. Emily co-leads Alta’s wayfinding group and advises on wayfinding projects across North America. Her experience spans a wide range of scales and project types from creating master plans and wayfinding guidelines for county-wide bicycle and trail networks, to complete street corridors down to pocket trail and pop-up plaza designs. E-mail: [emilyduchon@altaplanning.com](mailto:emilyduchon@altaplanning.com)*

**Better Living Through Trails - The Power of Natural Surface Trails and Bike Parks in Your Community** Room #307,308,309 Access to neighborhood singletrack, community bicycle playgrounds, bike parks, and other types of natural surface trail access is key to growing the future cycling community & both the on and off-road bike market. Dozens of communities have already begun design and construction of facilities that will change the way we think about bicycling infrastructure and mainstream the concept into our everyday lives. It is more important now than ever to ensure our youth, families, and underserved populations and communities have access to natural surface riding opportunities. The intimate memories created during exploration on a bicycle are what creates adult cycling enthusiasts, consumers, and most of all, advocates to protect, enhance, and create great experiences for future generations. Participants will learn about the components of a bike park, how to incorporate them into their community, and some tips on resources, support, and tactics to make their vision a reality.

*Speaker(s): Serving as IMBA’s Director of Program Development Andy Williamson supports 200+ local non-profit trail organizations, partners and land managers in helping to protect, enhance, and create new trail opportunities across the US in addition to serving as the Region Director for Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Whether it was leading trips across the country for a university outdoor program, managing a park district outdoor recreation program, or as a dedicated volunteer and advocate he has spent the last 15 years working to educate and inspire people to get out and live and has been invested in insuring everyone has a place to find their own adventure. [andy.williamson@imba.com](mailto:andy.williamson@imba.com)*

**PTBA Technical Track - Cartography 101** Room #310,311 Cartography 101 focuses on the fundamentals of cartographic theory and creating quality maps. This session is for everyone—no GIS experience required—and it starts with a philosophy of maps, including how graphic design and psychology relate to maps and wayfinding. The core of the session is about creating maps. First, a discussion about data types and sources, basic design concepts such as colors, line weights and font choices, and how these elements are stirred together to create an easy to use map that meets our goals. Next is an interactive map-making exercise, with the group and presenter collaborating to create a map (or two) during the session. Like a choose-your-own-adventure book, we will have the opportunity to try different ideas and see how they look in a map. Wrapping it up will be a review of map distribution options, from online to paper prints to smart phone apps.

*Speaker(s): This next presenter may, literally, have a ton of maps in his personal collection. In his travels as a professional trail contractor, and as an avid hiker and mountain biker, he has sampled some of the finest trails in North America, with maps of dubious quality sometimes leading to epic adventures, or lots of just driving around in circles. Ben has a bachelors degree in philosophy and environmental studies, and a masters of public administration in planning and development, where his research focused on natural surface trails in city parks. He founded Linear Active LLC in 2012, and since then his team has provided trail planning, construction, or cartographic services in 7 states, and for projects from the federal to local level. If you love maps as much as he does you are in the right place today. [ben@linear-active.com](mailto:ben@linear-active.com)*

**Tuesday, May 9 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Mobile and Featured Workshops**

**American Trails Mobile Workshops** Meet buses at 5th St Entrance Where applicable, transportation is included in the cost for mobile workshops. Helmets are provided for all bike tours but attendees are welcome (and encouraged) to bring their own if they have them. Some bike workshops allow you to bring your own bike (some for a reduced fee). Please review descriptions for each mobile workshop for more details.

<b>Trail Fundamentals and TMOs (Featured Workshop)</b>	Room #106	During this hands-on training session, learn how to develop Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) and apply 5 key trail management concepts: Trail Type, Trail Class, Managed Use, Designed Use, and Design Parameters.
<b>Wednesday, May 10 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Trail Talks (Breakfast with an Expert)</b>		
<b>Come Together: Trails, Tourism and Teamwork</b>	Room #103	<p>Come Together: Trails, Tourism and Teamwork Trails have a strong constituency of state agencies, trail groups and grass roots supporters. Beyond leisure pursuits, trails drive economic activity. This activity is identified as active tourism, which is travel that combines adventure, ecotourism and cultural tourism. It is low-impact, ecological, socially compatible and high quality, and trails are essential amenity. Yet the trails and tourism industries are often disconnected. Research suggests a history of one-sided communication instead of a mutual dialogue, as well as misunderstandings of how the tourism industry can assist the trails world. So, how do we communicate with the tourism industry? First, we must learn about the tourism industry and how it operates. For this conversation we will use examples found in Detroit, Holland, Traverse City, Mackinac Island and Marquette as all use trails a tourism amenity to create a stronger region for residents and travelers alike.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mary McGuire Slevin is the assistant director of Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance where she provides assistance and outreach to advance the trails movement by strategizing with executive director and board on new initiatives to meet the needs of trail groups and trail users in Michigan. Mary has a multifaceted background across the Humanities and holds her bachelors degree Harvard University where she focused on the History of Art and Architecture and Environmental Management. She has utilized her humanities background as executive director of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau, in museum careers at the Harvard University Art Museums and as gallery director of the Golden Door Gallery of Far East, Asian and African Art on Martha's Vineyard. Mary was selected as the Ecotourism Consultant for Shiga, Prefecture, Japan by the honorable Governor Yukiko Kada. <a href="mailto:mary@michigantrails.org">mary@michigantrails.org</a></i></p>
<b>What Trail Networks Mean To You</b>	Room #103	<p>Rails-to-Trails Conservancy invites you to join its vice president of communications, Brandi Horton, for a discussion about what trail networks mean to you. RTC is gathering insights about the benefits that regional trail networks bring to people and places. At this session, you will have an opportunity to provide your perspectives about the ways that trail networks affect people's lives, and contribute to key issues such as transportation, health, the economy, social equity and the environment.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Brandi Horton, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</i></p>
<b>Food and Shelter on Global Trails: Huts, Yurts, Cabins, Hostels, Inns, etc.</b>	Room #103	<p>Learn from research on the experience of U.S. operators of systems of huts, cabins, tents, or yurts, for hiking, biking or skiing. We will present an overview of how such systems work and the challenges in planning, permitting, building, and operating them in the USA.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Sam Demas is an independent researcher working to understand the situation and outlook for hut-to-hut type accommodations systems in the USA. His work is aimed at informing a discussion of how hut (yurt, cabin, etc.) systems might fit into the recreational opportunity spectrum of the USA. To this end, he also studies a wide range of accommodations systems for long distance human-powered travellers in other parts of the world to see what we might learn from lessons abroad. Sam is a retired academic librarian and avid long distance walker. He is editor of <a href="http://www.hut2hut.info">www.hut2hut.info</a>, a key resource on accommodations systems for walkers, skiers and bikers.</i></p>
<b>Trails in the Trillion Dollar Bill</b>	Room #103	<p>Talk of an American infrastructure bill is in the air, but will it include funding for trails? Rails-to-Trails Conservancy invites you to join a discussion about our nation-wide campaign to ensure trails have a place at the trillion-dollar infrastructure table. A project-based bill has not been confirmed but even so, governors, tourism groups, and others are collecting and submitting lists of the highway, bridge and other mega projects they want funded. Don't let your trail or trail system miss out! Attend this session to share your trail project(s) and learn how you can be a part of this national campaign. Help make the powerful case that trails belong in an infrastructure bill.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Leeann Sinpatanasakul, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</i></p>
<b>Going With the Flow: Planning, Developing and Building Water Trails</b>	Room #103	<p>In the State of Ohio, canoe and kayak registrations have steadily increased and are now doubling every 10 years. This presentation will discuss how to identify bodies of water as potential water trails, how to plan for, develop and build water trails in your local/regional area, address issues and challenges typically associated with opposition to water trails and the many benefits obtained with water trail building and implementation.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Douglas Leed has administrated the Ohio Water Trails Program, maintained and updated the Ohio Motorized Boating Facilities and Stream Access databases, and served as Recreational Planner for the Division of Watercraft since 2007. He has worked for ODNR since 2001, previously working with the Division of Mineral Resources Management in the Engineering Section designing Abandoned Mine Land reclamation projects. Douglas obtained a Bachelors degree from Miami University where he majored in Architecture and minored in Landscape Architecture. In his spare time, Douglas enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and kayaking as well as playing guitar, audio engineering and recording, and watching movies. <a href="mailto:douglas.leed@dnr.state.oh.us">douglas.leed@dnr.state.oh.us</a></i></p>
<b>Lead with Yes for Universal Access – How to Assess and Improve Facilities and Attitudes</b>	Room #103	<p>Join staff from Cleveland Metroparks for a lively dialogue about the challenges and opportunities they've experienced in the quest to improve access to trails and other park features. Initiated with the goal of achieving compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Cleveland Metroparks effort involves team members from all aspects of park design, programs, and operations. Training sessions, staff-led field inspections, and public meetings have transformed the effort from a technical administrative task into a more personal challenge to engage the broader community by removing barriers to programs and facilities. An ADA transition plan is the official result of the effort; greater awareness and responsiveness of staff is perhaps an even more important outcome.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Sean E. McDermott, P.E. As the Chief Planning and Design Officer, Sean is responsible for long range strategic planning in concert with design and construction of the Metroparks capital improvements throughout the Park District and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Prior to joining the Metroparks in 2013, Sean managed retail, commercial and multi-family projects nationwide for a Cleveland based real estate developer. Sean holds a Bachelors of Civil Engineering from the University of Dayton and a Masters of Urban Planning, Design and Development from Cleveland State University, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio and a member of the 2015 Cleveland Bridge Builders <a href="mailto:class.sem1@clevelandmetroparks.com">class.sem1@clevelandmetroparks.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Kelly is motivated by the opportunity to contribute to Greater Cleveland by connecting citizens to parks, trails, and open space. A Senior Strategic Park Planner for Cleveland Metroparks, she prepares master plans, addresses strategic initiatives, and works with partners to improve the health, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability of the community with vibrant parks and trails. Kelly consulted on park, camp, trail, and sustainability projects throughout the country prior to joining the Metroparks in 2014. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University and is a licensed Landscape Architect in the State of Ohio. <a href="mailto:kbc@clevelandmetroparks.com">kbc@clevelandmetroparks.com</a></i></p>
<b>The Positive (and sometimes unintended!) Benefits of Cultivating Your Trails Community</b>	Room #103	<p>Hikers, runners, mountain bikers and equestrians are passionate about their trails. Intentional communication and relationship-building with them can reap many rewards. Cleveland Metroparks has successfully raised money, levy support, volunteers and been aided in trail management issues by its trail user groups. But this didn't happen by accident. It takes staff time and effort to cultivate the relationship with trail enthusiasts. Join this table talk to share and discuss your success stories!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Nancy Desmond has worked at Cleveland Metroparks for 18 years in a variety of positions. In the last 4 years, she's been able to incorporate her personal passion for trails into her job. Nancy serves as the liaison to the trails community, working with hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and runners. This work has had many advantages for the Park District including volunteer recruitment and financial support for trails. <a href="mailto:nd@clevelandmetroparks.com">nd@clevelandmetroparks.com</a></i></p>

<b>Trail Events for Fun &amp; Profit</b>	Room #103	<p>Deadwood ~ Crazy Horse ~ Custer, South Dakota. All of these Old West towns are located along the 112 mile George S. Mickelson Trail in the Black Hills of South Dakota. They all host an endurance running event. They all benefit economically from these events. Over the last 15 years, these events have contributed over \$26,000,000 in tourism dollars to the local economy. More than \$100,000 of that has gone back to the maintenance of the trail. Jerry Dunn, a.k.a. America's Marathon Man created, organized and directed all of these events. He will share with you how he took an idea and built it into a business.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Jerry Dunn, founder and CEO of Lean Horse Productions has been in the event production business since 2002. He has created and directed 4 successful running events on the George S. Mickelson Trail in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. He is currently working with RTC to organize the inaugural Opening Day Trail Fun Run on April 8th, National Trails Day, on one of the trails in the Washington DC area. He is known in some circles as America's Marathon Man. He holds a BA in Marketing from Indiana University. He's been running for over 40 years. His active retirement goal is to get more runners and walkers on the trails of America.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:jerry@leanhorse.com">jerry@leanhorse.com</a></p>
<b>Trail of Hope: Hiking Trails Between Conflicted Communities</b>	Room #103	<p>Negev Highland trail as a case study It's typical for the Middle-East to have very different communities "sharing" what seems to be very tiny areas. It's typical for these communities to live in fear and suspicion of each other, a fact which often makes short geographical distances seem impassable. This state of existence is not to be confused with the intimate dislike neighbours tend to develop towards each other. It's more likely to be completely impersonal, rooted in political and traditional disputes. Rather, it hinges on people seldom or never meeting each other. Connecting these communities with a series of trails creates mutual interest between them, and lays the foundation for essential dialogue. This is, literally, walking the walk. The Negev Highland trail was founded in 2014 and engulfs a variety of Jewish and Arabic communities over a relatively short span. Alongside the economical and commercial benefits to local communities, the project aims at creating a wide base for cooperation and establishing a certain reciprocity that, until recently, seemed unlikely. The Negev Highland Trail's current success is indubious, though it should be measured through the years. The many challenges it faces include great cultural differences and an inherent distrust. If thoroughly successful, this project is to become a model that can be reproduced both in Israel and elsewhere. Can we hope for nature, tourism and education to compensate for the impact of old-rooted hatred and divisive politics?</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): After mastering a wide range of navigation and field skills in his service in a specialized reconnaissance unit in the IDF, Shai Yagel has taken his vast knowledge and his passion for nature to the civil society. Travelling over 60 countries around the world, he acquired great experience in the area of making and marking trails, as well as in botanics, zoology, society and ecology. During 5 years he was involved in the creation and maintenance of some 6000 miles of trail as a part of his job as the field-manager of the Israeli Trails Comitee and by now he's one of the most known and appreciated specialists for outdoors in Israel. In recent years Shai has been more and more implicated in the possible relations between nature-trails and the communities through which they may pass and that inhabit the area. This led to cooperation with international organizations such as Shatil Foundation and Abraham Path. In 2014 he established the Negev Highland Trail with Raz Arbel. This trail is A multi day hike that crosses various Jewish and Arabic communities and that aims at the developmnet of sustainable local economy as well as dialogue and mutuality. Shai Yagel was born in a Kibutz in the north, dragged to the city by his family when he was a teen and finaly left it a couple of years ago to go and reside in the desert with his wife and children. <a href="mailto:shaiyagel@gmail.com">shaiyagel@gmail.com</a></i></p>
<b>Trails and Transit and Utilities, Oh My! - Planning for a Trail in a Corridor with a Multi-Use Vision</b>	Room #103	<p>The Eastside Rail Corridor will be the location of the Pacific Northwest's next great shared-use trail. However, the trail shares its right of way with easements for future transit and major utilities. This trail talk will examine the specific challenges King County Parks faced in developing a trail master plan for the corridor within the context of multiple jurisdictions, a guiding multi-use vision for the corridor to support trails, transit, and utilities, and a constrained right-of-way. The talk will describe the constraints and opportunities presented by the corridor, the importance of trail design guidelines and standards in this context, and the manner in which the alternatives analysis informed the decision making process.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Erica Jacobs is a Special Projects Manager with King County Parks. She is the project manager for the Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Trail project. Erica earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Western Washington University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington. With a passion for regional public service delivery and finding solutions to growth management challenges, Erica has worked in planning and project management roles on multi-jurisdictional projects with King County for the past 18 years. <a href="mailto:erica.jacobs@kingcounty.gov">erica.jacobs@kingcounty.gov</a> Jenny Bailey a senior planner and project manager at an engineering firm, she has worked with King County and other agencies for over 15 years to plan and develop regional trails (shared use paths). During that time, she has participated in planning efforts for over 75 miles of trail. For the past three years, she has worked with Erica Jacobs in preparing the Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Trail Master Plan.</i></p>
<b>Organizing and leading a Volunteer Trail Group: how to find those key people and keeping them motivated!</b>	Room #103	<p>Want more volunteer trail support from your community? Let's get together and talk about grass root efforts on forming a sustainable volunteer trail group and how to keep them motivated!</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Diana Druga is the president of a newly formed non-profit volunteer trail group in Harrison County, WV. Harrison Rail Trails (HRT) was a grass root effort that began in 2015 and became formally organized as a non-profit public charity in 2016. HRT's mission is to assist the Harrison County Commissioners in gaining rail-trail support from the community on their newly reopened rail-trails, to help improve and maintain the trails, and to complete their portion of the Industrial Heartland Trail circuit. Diana and HRT, in 2016, hosted 7 community &amp; family bicycle rides, 16 regularly scheduled walking groups on the rail-trails, and various other rail-trail events that were community focused. <a href="mailto:HRTS.WV@gmail.com">HRTS.WV@gmail.com</a></i></p>
<b>Ancient Trails, New Journeys: Preparing Nepal's Rural Trails for Future</b>	Room #103	<p>Since 1950s, Nepal's ancient trails along the Great Himalaya (GHT) have been offering new economic potential through trekking tourism. But the haphazard expansion of motor roads, lack of timely improvements and natural disasters such as snow storms in Annapurna in 2014, occasional floods and earthquake in 2015 have resulted not only in the slowdown of visitors and their spending but also in the non-fulfillment of visitor expectations. Thousands of people risk losing their occupation. The key actors of tourism industry consisting of public and private sector of Nepal have been working to address these issues by improving trail infrastructures, safety and service standards of tourist enterprises and destination organizations with GHT as the brand proposition. This presentation highlights the initiatives and lessons learnt in an effort to restore, develop and transform these ancient trails to sustainably benefit local communities, entrepreneurs and satisfy visitors now and in future.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): From 1996 – till date, Mr Nar Bahadur Lama has been working on various organizations, in the fields of community development and sustainable tourism in Nepal. During 2002- 2006, he managed an Eco-tourism project in Humla, West Nepal supported by UNESCO, and Nepal Trust UK. The project helped showcase Humla in west Nepal as a new destination. During 2008 - 2010, he managed Great Himalaya Trail Development Pilot project in Nepal, a project supported by SNV Nepal and UNWTO. The project established the Great Himalaya Trail and enhanced capacities of stakeholders involved. Since 2015, Mr Lama has been working in SAMARTH Nepal Market Development Program, a DFID funded program which currently manages the Great Himalaya Trail. Mr Lama is also a founding member of the Great Himalaya Trail Nepal Alliance. He has a BA Degree in Rural Development, and has studied Masters of Arts (Rural Development) at Tribhuvan University. <a href="mailto:jyungmet@gmail.com">jyungmet@gmail.com</a></i></p>

**National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act** Room #103

The NFS Trails Stewardship Act, the first major Congressional trails legislation since the National Trails Act, was signed into law on November 28th, 2016. The law provides a series of requirements to be met by the Forest Service with the general overarching goal of substantially increasing partner and volunteer contributions to the trail maintenance backlog within the National Forest System trails network. There are also a series of deadlines and benchmarks within the law pertaining to implementation. In this panel presentation Forest Service and key partners (still to be determined, but ideally including Back Country Horsemen, The Wilderness Society, and others will discuss the origins, requirements, and implementation of this new trails legislation.

*Speaker(s): Jaime Schmidt is the U.S. Forest Service's Assistant National Manager for Trails and National Trail Information Coordinator. In addition to helping lead the agency's Trail program, she leads the agency's integrated efforts for providing quality trail management and visitor information. Jaime serves as Co-leader of the Federal Trail Data Standards and has over 20 years of Forest Service recreation and trail management experience in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana. She has also worked in land management planning, interpretive planning, and conservation education in Brazil, Honduras, and Ecuador through the Forest Service International Program and the US Peace Corps. [jtschmidt@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtschmidt@fs.fed.us)*

**Wednesday, May 10 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Concurrent Sessions**

**Creating 21st Century Trail Networks- Creating a Trail Network Brand that Inspires (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy)** Room #106

Brands are powerful. They create personal connections and inspire emotion. They're used to sell products, ideas ... even places. Harnessing the power of brand is important to building successful 21st century trail networks. In this session, you will learn about place branding and how it can be applied to trail networks. You will explore case studies from the Circuit Trails in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the Ohio Tourism Association that put trails at the center of effective brand and marketing campaigns.

*Speaker(s): Brandi Horton serves as Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Vice President of Communications. She has dedicated her career to communications for social change and is passionate about creating communities that promote health and well-being. For more than 14 years, she has partnered with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to leverage communications strategies to organize and engage audiences in support of social good. She brings diverse, comprehensive public relations and integrated marketing experience to the RTC team, with a skill set spanning earned, paid, owned and shared media strategies that advance nonprofit advocacy agendas. She lives in Arlington, Virginia with her family, where she regularly frequents the Four Mile Run and Washington & Old Dominion trails en route to work, the playground and little league games. [brandi@railstotrails.org](mailto:brandi@railstotrails.org)*

*Melinda Huntley, Ohio Tourism Association, started her career in public relations at Cedar Point. She led the Lake Erie Shores and Islands/Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, and she developed sustainable tourism opportunities as Tourism Director for Ohio State University's Ohio Sea Grant College Program. Huntley received the 2011 Paul Sherlock Award, the highest honor bestowed to an Ohio tourism professional. In 2012, she brought this energy to Columbus as the director of the Ohio Travel Association, the trade association for Ohio's travel-related businesses including museums, attractions, visitors bureau, hotels, restaurants, etc. In the last two years, the Ohio Travel Association has worked with Ohio State University on an assessment of travel industry needs, redefined the Ohio Department of Education vocational learning standards for hospitality and tourism jobs, and met with educators throughout the state. Huntley has a master's degree in public policy and administration from the OSU John Glenn School of Public Affairs. [director@ohiotravel.org](mailto:director@ohiotravel.org)*

*Elizabeth "Liz" Thorstensen serves as vice president of trail development at RTC where she shapes and oversees the organization's trail development projects and programs. Liz has a broad background of experience in urban planning, with a focus on the intersection of sustainable communities and economic development—including writing three major publications to educate the economic development profession on this important topic. Liz is passionate about the transition to a more sustainable economy and the role that trails and active transportation play in that transition. Prior to joining RTC, Liz served as vice president of knowledge management and economic development practice at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), where she led IEDC's knowledge management team. In 2010 she co-led IEDC's partnership with the White House and the U.S. Economic Development Administration to deliver immediate economic recovery technical assistance to 21 Gulf Coast communities impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Liz earned her bachelor's degree in Geography and GIS from the University of Maryland and holds master's degrees in Urban Planning and Local Economic Development from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the London School of Economics, respectively. [liz@railstotrails.org](mailto:liz@railstotrails.org)*

**A Town of Many Trails: The Unique Story of Milford, Ohio and how it's Leveraging its 8 Long Distance Trails** Room #202,203

Milford, Ohio is situated at the "junction" of 22,000 miles of long distance hiking, biking, and paddling trails and was designated Ohio's first "Trail Town" of the Buckeye Trail (BT) and North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT). Find out how this quaint community on the outskirts of Cincinnati has taken advantage of its unique trail story to leverage its location and maximize its status as a designated Trail Town. From the legacy of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, Little Miami State and National Scenic River, Ohio to Erie Trail, American Discovery Trail, Sea to Sea Route, Adventure Cycling's Underground Railroad Bicycle Route, BT, NCT and more; Milford is known for trails! Get an overview of the trails and hear from the BT and NCT Trail Town Coordinator, along with city and business leaders.

*Speaker(s): Brent is the Outdoor Recreation Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks and for the last 11 years has worked to help shape Dayton, Ohio into the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest! Brent is co-founder of several Dayton area events including Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience, The Adventure Summit, and Bike To Work Day Pancake Breakfast. Prior to working for Five Rivers MetroParks Brent hiked several long trails including the Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Buckeye Trails. He co-founded the Junction Trail Festival in Milford, Ohio in 2006 to help bring awareness to the unique trail assets that come together in this Trail Town. Brent also served on the Planning Team for this International Trails Symposium. [banslinger@metroparks.org](mailto:banslinger@metroparks.org)*

*Angie is the Trail Town Program Coordinator for the Buckeye Trail Association, a volunteer position she's held since 2013, working to engage and recognize communities for their trail promotion and protection efforts. Angie is an Outdoor Recreation Coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks, leading backcountry programming and outreach in the greater Dayton region. She previously worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy focusing on the A.T. Community and Trail to Every Classroom programs in Southwest and Central Virginia and has a passion for connecting people and communities to trails. [angie.sheldon@metroparks.org](mailto:angie.sheldon@metroparks.org)*

*Pam Holbrook has been the Assistant City Manager for the City of Milford for the past ten years where her major focus has been community and economic development. She has worked with several different organizations to bring events to downtown Milford including the Market to Market Relay, Milford Adventure Challenge, and the Sunflower Revolution. The City recognizes that there is a relationship between recreation, tourism, and creating a sense of place that can translate into employment opportunities within the community. [pholbrook@milfordohio.org](mailto:pholbrook@milfordohio.org)*

*Emily White is the owner of Roads Rivers and Trails (RRT), a retail outdoor store in Milford, Ohio. She's visited 47 of 50 states, has guided multiple trips in Alaska, and has traveled and backpacked all over Europe as well as sections of the Appalachian Trail. Emily's deep love for the outdoors and a college degree in business helped to springboard her entrepreneurial dreams in 2010 when she opened RRT with her husband Joe and her cousin Bryan. Through RRT the three have worked hard to continue the efforts in building their local outdoor community. [rt@roadsriversandtrails.com](mailto:rt@roadsriversandtrails.com)*

<b>Electric Bicycles: A Primer on the Technology &amp; Land Manager Tools (and try one!)</b>	Room #204	<p>As a transportation and recreation option, as well as on public lands, e-bikes represent an opportunity to reduce vehicle use and emissions; provide increased opportunities to bicycle for individuals with physical barriers; and provide a unique, emissions- and noise-free recreation activity, resulting in an increase of their use on public lands. The user base for electric bicycles grows annually, and land managers are faced with e-bike management decisions. Most land management agencies and parks departments, however, do not have a policy for eMTB access. This session covers what an e-bike is, who rides one, technical specifications, regulatory options, what areas currently allow them, resource and user studies, management examples, and tools, reports, studies and stories that have been developed. Of particular interest to land managers will be a presentation on the eMTB Land Manager Handbook, a guide to environmentally and socially sustainable management of eMTBs, developed in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management. The handbook provides general classification of eMTBs, best management practices associated with methods of travel, and land use planning and implementation considerations to educate federal, state, and local land managers. In addition, the last hour of this core session will allow participants to test ride an electric bicycle to understand how similar they are to regular bicycles and understand how they can be managed.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Morgan Lommele, manages the joint partnership between the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association and PeopleForBikes to improve access for people who want to ride electric bicycles and electric mountain bikes. This work involves coordinating strategic state-by-state advocacy campaigns; representing the bicycle industry in policy negotiations; building relationships with and between policy makers, non-profits, academia, and industry partners; writing letters, blog posts, planning documents, and memos; and tracking electric bicycle-related legislative and policy issues. Morgan holds B.A.s in International Affairs, Sociology and German from the University of Colorado, and a M.S. in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver. E-mail: <a href="mailto:morgan@peopleforbikes.org">morgan@peopleforbikes.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Chris Bernhardt's passion is sharing the outdoors with others. Using his 30 years in the AEC industry he has developed model trail projects in locations from Switzerland to China, creating facilities that tangibly improve people's lives through recreation. <a href="mailto:chris@sentieros.com">chris@sentieros.com</a></i></p>
<b>Emerging Leaders Wrap-Up Session: 20-Something Vision and Assessment of 2017 ITS</b>	Room #206	<p>The Emerging Leaders scholarship team will present on their ITS experience and how the week fits into their own paths. If you attended the 2015 Emerging Leaders session, you know that the session included a dynamic, entertaining, and thoughtful intergenerational exchange. We expect nothing less in 2017!</p>
<b>Large Landscape Planning for National Trails Conservation: An Alaskan Case Study</b>	Room #302,303	<p>The 55,000 miles of congressionally-designated National Scenic and Historic Trails around the country connect with 70 wildlife refuges, 80 National Parks, 90 Bureau of Land Management areas, 90 National Forests, 123 Wilderness Areas, and 100 major metropolitan areas. Increasingly, federal agencies are realizing that the values these Trails were originally established for require managing the larger landscape adjacent to these routes. This presentation will touch on the policy of the three primary federal managers of National Trails (NPS, USFS, and BLM), with a focus on BLM's comprehensive management policy. Along with reviewing land use planning methods to proactively manage these trails and surrounding landscape, the presentation will introduce methods of including National Trails values in NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) proceedings for projects that could affect a trail or surrounding landscape. The presentation will draw on examples from BLM management of the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Alaska.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Kevin Keeler has been in public land management in Alaska since 1984. For the past 13 years he has been with BLM as the federal Administrator of the Iditarod National National Historic Trail, a 2,400 mile interagency system of trails between Seward and Nome, Alaska. Kevin develops partnership support for the Trail, leads maintenance for five shelter cabins and 200 miles of BLM managed sections of the Trail, and represents the Trail in BLM land use planning, and permitting for construction projects that can affect the Trail. Field work access typically involves long-distance snowmobile trips in the winter, or the use of helicopters in the summer, for which Kevin is a BLM Helicopter Manager. He is also a Resource Advisor for wildland fires around the country, overseeing the repair and restoration of fire lines. Kevin also sits on the Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission and Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board. <a href="mailto:kkeeler@blm.gov">kkeeler@blm.gov</a></i></p>
<b>Accessibility in the Outdoors: Developed Outdoor Recreation Assessment Process (DORAP)</b>	Room #304	<p>Access to developed outdoor recreation areas is critical for the inclusion of all Americans. An assessment process has been created to systematically collect information about outdoor recreation elements and evaluate whether they comply with different guidelines and standards. The Developed Outdoor Recreation Assessment Process (DORAP) is a process for evaluating different types of constructed features, access routes, and trails in outdoor recreation areas for compliance with applicable federal guidelines. The goal of gathering the information is to create an ADA-required transition plan that describes what you have now and how you will systematically provide increased access to your facilities and programs over time. Increased recreation facility information will enhance enjoyment of your resources by individuals of all abilities, including older adults, families with young children, people with disabilities, and their families and friends.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Since 2014, Todd Ackerman has been an assessment coordinator and a consultant for Beneficial Designs, assessing accessibility in pedestrian right-of-ways, on college campuses, and in outdoor recreation areas. He has traveled across the United States and Canada training trail assessment coordinators at conferences and company-funded trainings in the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) and the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP). He has also worked with the Nevada Recreational Trails Program to assess project proposals. <a href="mailto:todd@beneficialdesigns.com">todd@beneficialdesigns.com</a></i></p>
<b>Moving Kids from Trouble to Trails</b>	Room #305	<p>Idle hands are the devil's workshop. This old cliché has some relevance when it comes to keeping kids out of trouble. One proven way to do that is to reward good behavior with trail riding. This session will talk about 2 programs that have done just that. The first program is the National Youth Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM). This program often partners with Police Activity League (PAL) programs to work with kids in rough neighborhoods. The second program is Discover Today's ATV. This program has been used in conjunction with schools to reward kids attendance and performance in the classroom.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mark Speller is the National Director of the National Youth Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM). He actively takes part in and oversees the development, growth and expansion of a nearly 50-year organization dedicated to mentoring and sharing the fun of the outdoors with kids who might not necessarily get the chance. Mark, who has been with NYPUM since 2009 takes all that NYPUM has the potential to provide youth very seriously. Advocacy is a big part of his role as well as bridging relationships inside, and outside the industry of action sports. Some of the work that has provided great satisfaction and promise has been the endorsement with other stakeholders for development of riding locations closer to urban centers. He has worked with the city governments of Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA and has discussed the idea with government stakeholders in Cleveland. That bridge work has resulted in the finalizing of statewide project/partnership with California State Parks Off-Highway Division and law enforcement. This initiative intends to provide regular outdoor experiences for youth across the state. Mark resides just outside of Boston with his wife, Liz. His other love is teaching and spends a good amount of his time lecturing and teaching at his alma mater. <a href="mailto:msspeller@nypum.org">msspeller@nypum.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Russ Ehnes is the Executive Director of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). He has lived in Great Falls, Montana his entire life. He began riding motorcycles with his family when he was five. He has enjoyed trail riding as well as competitively racing motorcycles until the mid-eighties. Since then Russ has turned his attention to off-road advocacy, dual-sport riding, and trail riding with his wife, two children, parents, and friends. He is the current Past-President of the MTVRA and is President of the GFTBRA. Russ is the current Chairman of the Montana OHV Grant Advisory Committee. Russ has been an active participant in several US Forest Service Travel Planning and Forest Plan Revision processes in Montana and is currently a member of the Federal Advisory Committee for the Forest Service Planning Rule. <a href="mailto:russehnes@nohvcc.org">russehnes@nohvcc.org</a></i></p>

**Rails With Trails: Finding the Safety, Liability, and Mobility Sweet Spot** Room #306 Rights of way adjacent to railroad tracks present unique opportunities for development into trails. Rails with trails, as they are called, can link communities, provide opportunities for recreation, and improve access to rail transit. However, concerns about liability, safety, security, and trespassing are justifiably common. This session will introduce a U.S. DOT research effort aimed at learning more about the state of the practice of rails with trails, and will feature speakers who will discuss their challenges and successes in implementing rails with trails.

*Speaker(s): Since 2010, Jared Fijalkowski has worked with various federal agencies to improve their transportation planning, program delivery, public involvement, and stewardship and oversight initiatives. His work covers several aspects of transportation, including transportation and health, public involvement, nonmotorized transportation, transportation equity, rail transportation, and transportation planning. Prior to working at the Volpe Center, Mr. Fijalkowski was a transportation planner for the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, where he focused on bicycle and pedestrian planning, public involvement, and congestion management. [jared.fijalkowski@dot.gov](mailto:jared.fijalkowski@dot.gov)*

**International (WTN) - Trails and Nature: Connecting Communities to Biodiversity and Environmental Responsibility** Room #307,308,309 Trails, Conservation and Biodiversity are a natural confluence point. The World Trails Network presents a Position Paper on conservation and trails and the role trails can and do play in fostering community engagement with projects linked to nature. Promotion of ecological corridors through long distance trails, addressing climate agreements linked to restoration funding and building communities of action is explored in this session. Litter and trash on trails is a global issue, a case study from South Africa highlights the role trail clean-ups play in bringing communities together and espousing values that engage multiple-stakeholders in keeping trails trash-free. How do we as trail users collaborate with conservation agencies for increased stakeholder and broader community engagement when it comes to trails? How can long distance trail corridors in Brazil unlock a conservation and trail economy?

*Speaker(s): Anna Carolina Lobo has nine years of experience with public use management of Protected Areas in both public agencies and private institutions. In WWF Brazil she's being working with Protected Areas in a mosaic landscape/seascape perspective, aligning sustainable use and conservation efforts, as a tool to promote sustainable territorial development. Long distance trails are considered an important strategy to promote conservation - connecting protected areas, strengthening ecological corridors and promoting sustainable business in the priority landscapes of the Atlantic Rainforest Program. For six years she worked as Ecotourism Manager at Forest Foundation (Protected Areas Agency of Sao Paulo State Government) and for two years Anna Carolina was worked as Institutional Affairs and Project Coordinator of Semeia Institute (Brazilian Private Foundation dedicated to bring together public and private entities to develop management models for National Parks, with a special focus on tourism). Anna has served as counselor in the following Government's Boards: Tourism, Environmental and Geological Monuments, and is a Post-Graduate in Environmental Management, has a Bachelor of Tourism Management degree and is the author, co-author and coordinated nine articles and books on Natural Protected Areas and public use. [annalobo@wwf.org.br](mailto:annalobo@wwf.org.br)*

**PTBA Technical Track - Stages of Design and Layout** Room #310,311 You need money to commission a good trail design. But you need a trail design before you ask for money. And you need a design before you can get permission from a land manager to build a trail. But you need permission from the land manager before you spend money on a design! How do you solve this chicken-and-egg dilemma? What are the strategies to get you to a good design? What comprises a construction-ready layout? In this session we will answer these questions and help you figure out how to bring a great trail to life.

*Speaker(s): Jon Underwood has been an enthusiastic user of all types of trails since early childhood, and a professional trail builder since 2006. He specializes in design, layout, and mechanical construction of all types of trails, from mountain bike singletrack to skate ski trails and ATV trails. His company, Happy Trails, Inc., has designed and constructed trails all over Alaska. [happytrailsak@gmail.com](mailto:happytrailsak@gmail.com)*

**Wednesday, May 10 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions**

**Creating 21st Century Trail Networks- Leveraging Public & Private Funding for Trail Infrastructure (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy)** Room #106

Hear from a panel of trail funders, partners and advocates about the challenges faced, tools leveraged and best practices applied while securing the financial resources needed to build out trail networks in their communities.

*Speaker(s): Meg Daly is Founder and President of Friends of The Underline, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization leading the initiative to transform the underutilized land below Miami's MetroRail into a 10-mile, urban trail, linear park and living art destination ([www.theunderline.org](http://www.theunderline.org)). The Underline has partnered with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and Transit Departments. They also have endorsements from Miami-Dade County, the cities of Miami, Coral Gables, South Miami, and the Village of Pinecrest, the University of Miami, and numerous organizations. A 30-year sales and marketing veteran, Meg owned First Media Direct, a breakthrough target marketing company catering to the broadcast television industry. She has also held executive marketing and management positions in the public relations, advertising, technology, and real estate industries. Meg has a BA in English from Vanderbilt University and has served on a number of philanthropic boards. She is a member of the TransitAlliance Board of Directors, Miami Dade County Parks Summit Planning committee, Miami Dade County Neat Streets committee and the Bike305 Executive Committee. For her love of community and desire to serve others, she was named one of Miami's Angels by the Miami Herald. [meg.daly@theunderline.org](mailto:meg.daly@theunderline.org)*

*Laura Cohen has more than 20 years' experience working at the intersection of recreation, active transportation, active living and sustainable communities. As Director of the Western Region (comprising 6 western states), Laura is responsible for carrying out Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's mission to create healthier places for healthier people by creating networks of trails and connecting corridors. Over the past decade, Laura has successfully advocated to protect and expand hundreds of millions of dollars in bicycle, pedestrian and trail funding in California. She is a frequent speaker at conferences on active transportation policy, and has conducted bicycle/pedestrian/trail policy and design training workshops in dozens of communities. Laura founded and chairs the Bay Area Trails Collaborative, a network of more than 40 organizations and agencies working to complete a world class network of trails in the S.F. Bay Area, and she co-founded the Caltrans Active Transportation and Livable Communities Advisory Group which has helped transform Caltrans into a better partner in serving bicyclists and pedestrians. Laura holds a B.A. in Political Science from U.C. Santa Barbara, and a law degree from U.C. Berkeley Law School. [laura@railstotrails.org](mailto:laura@railstotrails.org)*

*Megan Folkerth, program officer Interact for Health. Megan coordinates Interact for Health's Active Living and Tobacco-Free Environments work. Before coming to Interact, Megan was a Senior Health Educator with the Northern Kentucky Health Department for more than five years. There she focused on policy and system and environmental changes in the tobacco prevention and cessation program, as well as worked in Covington on healthy eating and active living initiatives. Megan also worked at the Center for Closing the Health Gap as a Community Health Program Coordinator. In 2013 Megan received the Legacy Next Generation Leader Award for Community and Social Services and in 2012 she was a Balderson Leadership Project Award Runner-Up. Megan holds a Master of Public Health in health promotion and education from Wright State University and earned a certificate of public health leadership from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. She also holds a bachelor's degree in athletic training from Marietta College. Megan is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a member of the Ohio Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education. [mfolkerth@interactforhealth.org](mailto:mfolkerth@interactforhealth.org)*

*Jim Denova is Vice President of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and has primary responsibility for the Foundation's Education agenda in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Jim holds a Ph. D. from the University of Pittsburgh with a concentration in social research and has over 35 years of experience in nonprofit administration and philanthropy. Prior positions include: Program Director for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Research Director for the Community College of Beaver County, Senior Program Officer for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Executive Director of The Forbes Fund. He has served on the boards of Philanthropy West Virginia, Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania, the Women's Center and Shelter, the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, and the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics. Jim has received awards from the Children's Defense Fund, the Harless Center, the Mon Valley Initiative, and the Association of Educational Service Agencies. [JDenova@benedum.org](mailto:JDenova@benedum.org)*

*John Mitterholzer is the George Gund Foundation's senior program officer for the environment. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2008, he was a program officer at the Cleveland Foundation. He has also served as executive director of the downtown revitalization program in Nashua, N.H., and as a field representative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has a B.A. in history from Baldwin-Wallace University and an MA in history from the University of Memphis. John currently serves as the chair of the board of the Funder's Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, on the steering committee of the Climate and Energy Funders Group and on Mayor Frank Jackson's Sustainable Cleveland Stewardship Council. John is married to Wendy and has two children, Javon and Max. [jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org](mailto:jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org)*

*Katie Guerin, Head of Strategic Initiatives. A defining moment for RTC's Katie Guerin: being assigned to ride the bus for a journalism class project while studying at the University of South Carolina (USC). It was a mode of transportation, she says, that was "so foreign to me, I might as well have been told to jump in a clown car and head for the circus." A native of Columbia, S.C., a town dependent on driving, the experience was an eye-opening one. Since moving to Washington, D.C., back in 2008, she has grown a great appreciation not only for public transportation, but for the impact that a trail and bike system can have on a community and the health of its inhabitants. Since graduating from USC, Katie is proud to say that now, "even little old Columbia has jumped on the rail-trail bandwagon." In July 2012, the city opened its Vista Greenway, a converted railbed that connects several parts of downtown for walkers and bicyclists. An avid Gamecock fan and runner, Katie got her feet wet and D.C.-ready as a press secretary on Capitol Hill. She comes to RTC from a consulting firm where she fundraised for a variety of organizations ranging from a land conservation trust to a sailing hall of fame. [katie@railstotrails.org](mailto:katie@railstotrails.org)*

<b>Google Trekker: Dayton's Experience Capturing Over 600 Miles of Trail</b>	Room #202,203	<p>Learn about the Google Trekker Loaner program and how to get your trails on the map from a team who recently "trekked" over 600 miles of trail in the Dayton region. Five Rivers MetroParks partnered with Outdoor Adventure Connection, Dayton Hikers and dozens of others trail partners to capture 360 degree images of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, water and paved trails. Hear how the program works, tips and tricks of trekking and lessons learned. The presentation will include a Q &amp; A session with a representative from Google.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Brent Anslinger is the Outdoor Recreation Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks and for the last 11 years has worked to help shape Dayton, Ohio into the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest! Brent is co-founder of some of the region's largest outdoor adventure events including Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience and in addition is involved in outdoor recreation programming, advocacy, and facility development. Prior to working for Five Rivers MetroParks Brent hiked several long trails including the Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Buckeye Trails and worked around the country from California to Maine. Brent also serves on the Planning Team for the 2017 International Trails Symposium taking place in Dayton in May 2017. <a href="mailto:banslinger@metroparks.org">banslinger@metroparks.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp is the Chief Adventure Officer for Outdoor Adventure Connection, which specializes in educational backcountry adventures. Andy's passion is long distance hiking. He has backpacked over 14,000 miles including four end to end hikes of the Appalachian Trail. In addition he has hiked many state trails including the Buckeye Trail, Ohio To Erie Trail, Sheltoewe Trace, Long Trail, Ozark Highlands Trail, Colorado Trail, Superior Hiking Trail and the Bartram Trail. Andy is founder and leader of the Dayton Hikers group, the largest outdoor recreation group in Dayton, Ohio, and a Leave No Trace Master Educator. When Andy is not hiking he spends his time volunteering and partnering with Five Rivers MetroPark to promote area trails and create a vibrant trail community. <a href="mailto:andy@outdooradventureconnection.com">andy@outdooradventureconnection.com</a></i></p> <p><i>Angie Sheldon is an Outdoor Recreation Coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks leading backcountry programming and advocacy in Dayton, Ohio the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest! She has thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail and enjoys spending time outside hiking and camping with her family. <a href="mailto:asheldon@metroparks.org">asheldon@metroparks.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Jordan Hart is an Outdoor Recreation Program Specialist for Five Rivers MetroParks helping to support cycling, backcountry and paddling programs in Dayton, Ohio the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest! He has a background in photography, is a local scout leader and travels as much as possible, including a recent cross county bike tour. <a href="mailto:jhart@metroparks.org">jhart@metroparks.org</a></i></p>
<b>Data Informed Decision Making: Building a Volunteer Based Data Collection Program on Multi-use Trails in Connecticut</b>	Room #302,303	<p>Attendees of this session will learn about the inspiration for, development of, and lessons learned in the pilot year of the Connecticut Trail Census (CTTC), an innovative statewide volunteer based data collection program on twelve multi-use (bicycle/pedestrian trails) trails in urban and rural communities. The goals of the Census are: to understand when, who, how, and why people make use of trails, obtain multi-year information about use, user demographics, economic impacts, health impacts and trail amenities for identification of patterns and trends, promote active citizen participation in monitoring and advocacy, and encourage sound trail building and maintenance programs. The Census involves a trail user intercept survey assessed by trained volunteers and infrared user counts. This presentation will provide an overview of the CTTC, including data collected from focus groups in the design of the Census, reflections on the innovative volunteer based data collection format and intercept survey data collected in 2017.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Aaron Budris, Senior Regional Planner Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments <a href="mailto:ABudris@nvcogct.org">ABudris@nvcogct.org</a></i></p>
<b>Build a Sustainable Trail that Lasts 100 Years</b>	Room #304	<p>We plant trees for our Grandchildren to enjoy, why should we expect any less of the trails we build. The challenges of balancing ecological protection, physical management and social demands on natural surface hiking, equestrian, mountain biking and multi-use trails can be overwhelming. However, it is possible to meet these challenges by creating sustainable trails that are designed to last into the next century. We'll cover the critical components and processes necessary for truly sustainable trail design and construction, along with engaging all your agency departments, stakeholders, user groups and volunteers. What is a sustainable trail?</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Mike Osborne is a Park Manager with Five Rivers MetroParks of Dayton, Ohio. In his 11 years with Metroparks, he has worked as a Park and Trail Technician and Park Manager, helping to develop, build and maintain the 29 mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail and worked in design, construction and repair throughout MetroParks' 75 miles of hiking trails and 30 miles of Equestrian Trails. He's conducted staff, public and volunteer design and construction trainings and sits on the Strategic Trails Initiative Committee. Now, serving as Chairman of the Trails Manual Sub-Committee, he helped develop Five Rivers MetroParks Trail Design and Maintenance Standards Manual. He an avid outdoorsman and Scout leader with over 45 years experience hiking and camping across the United States. <a href="mailto:michael.osborne@metroparks.org">michael.osborne@metroparks.org</a></i></p>
<b>Promoting Open Space with Equestrian Access: "A Horse is a Horse of Course"</b>	Room #305	<p>"A Horse is a Horse of Course" Whether you are a seasoned hiker, mountain biker, horseback rider, trail manager or just enjoy being out in nature, this workshop may be for you. If you would like to be more effective as a public land manager or a volunteer while advocating for or managing shared use trails that include Equestrians, sign up for this one. We will be examining how to assess your trail and what attributes are beneficial to accommodate horse use while reducing user conflict, providing a more comfortable experience for all trail enthusiasts, and promoting open space. Equestrian or shared use trails that include horses are under promoted and not understood. It is important for land managers and trail advocates to learn how sustainable equestrian trails can be included as well as support open space enjoyed by all.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Bud &amp; Gwen Wills both grew up on the back of a horse. No longer involved in showing they have enjoyed trail riding throughout the country. Some of their most enjoyable times have been working cattle with friends in Oklahoma, guiding elk hunters in northern New Mexico and assisting National Forest Service suppling wilderness camps and packing in trail materials for trail crews. Becoming concerned about the loss of public lands to the equine user across the country in 2001 they became involved with the Pennsylvania Equine Council to develop The PEC Trail Stewardship Program. They present 3-Day and 1-Day Programs to non-motorized trail volunteers as well as agency personnel about trail layout, construction and maintenance as well as 2-Day Packing Clinics. . Both Bud and Gwen are Leave No Trace, LNT masters. Traveling throughout Pennsylvania and the surrounding states they present LNT/ Ride Smart land ethics and outdoor skills programs. Bud and Gwen individually set on several state and national trail related committees related to equine and trails.</i></p>
<b>Connecting Communities: Integrating Transportation and Recreation Networks</b>	Room #306	<p>The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published several reports in 2015 through 2017 to help communities achieve safe, accessible, comfortable, and connected multimodal networks. The Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation is a report that will guide pedestrian and bicycle initiatives and investments through 2020-21, including efforts to aid in completing networks. When building networks, practitioners may face challenges when including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure into the existing system. Several new design publications highlight ways that planners and designers can apply the design flexibility found in national design guidelines to address common design challenges and barriers. These publications focus on reducing multimodal conflicts and achieving connected networks, so that walking and bicycling are safe, comfortable, and attractive options for people of all ages and abilities.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s): Christopher Douwes is a Community Planner with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in Washington DC. He has managed the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) since 1992, Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities since 2003, Transportation Alternatives (TA) since 2012, and has assisted with Pedestrian and Bicycle Activities since 1992. He manages contracts and cooperative agreements for research, technology development, technical assistance, and training for trail-related activities. Christopher received his Masters of Science in Transportation from Northwestern University in 1990. <a href="mailto:christopher.douwes@dot.gov">christopher.douwes@dot.gov</a></i></p> <p><i>Laura Toole started with FHWA in June 2013 as a participant in the Professional Development Program. She became a Planning and Environmental Specialist in the Ohio Division in February 2015 and has managed the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Recreational Trails Programs since that time. Before joining FHWA, Laura worked as a graduate and undergraduate research assistant at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute in the Center for Truck and Bus Safety. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Master of Industrial Engineering Degree with a focus on Human Factors Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). <a href="mailto:laura.toole@dot.gov">laura.toole@dot.gov</a></i></p>

<b>Trail Science Research on the Appalachian Trail: Improving the Sustainability of Trail Management</b>	Room #307,308,309	<p>The Appalachian Trail has been the focus of the largest and most comprehensive recreation ecology trail science study ever conducted, funded by the National Park Service and administered by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. In this session, we present trail sustainability "Best Management Practice" implications and lessons learned following year two of this 4-year study. Research findings related to sustainable trail design, maintenance, and camping management will be presented and discussed. What are the key elements of a sustainably designed trail? What's the most effective method for draining water from trails? How can trail stewards limit campsite expansion and resource impacts? Our focus is on conveying "usable knowledge" applicable to all natural-surfaced trails.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s):</i> Dr. Jeff Marion is a Research Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor at Virginia Tech University. His research specialty is Recreation Ecology, in which he investigates the environmental impacts of visitor use in protected natural areas, primarily national parks. His research has focused on visitor impacts to formal and informal trails and campsites. He was a founding member of the Leave No Trace Board of Directors, chaired the committee that guided development of the Leave No Trace principles, practices, and educational courses, and authored the LNT Center's book "Leave No Trace in the Outdoors." <a href="mailto:jmarion@vt.edu">jmarion@vt.edu</a></p> <p>Dr. Jeremy Wimpey is the owner and principal of Applied Trails Research, a firm that provides trail and outdoor recreation planning, design, assessment and management services to a variety of public land management agencies and private landholders. He completed his PhD in Recreation Ecology and Geospatial Environmental Analysis at Virginia Tech in 2009. His firm also specializes in training, community involvement, and geospatial services for planning and management activities. <a href="mailto:appliedtrailsresearch@gmail.com">appliedtrailsresearch@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Johanna Arredondo completed her undergraduate degrees at Virginia Tech in Natural Resource Conservation and Forestry in 2013. She has worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a Wilderness Ranger for four seasons with the Sierra National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. She has also worked as a backpacking instructor and trail crew participant and overseer. This past summer she led a field research crew responsible for assessing resource conditions on the southern third of the Appalachian Trail. She is currently a Master's graduate student at Virginia Tech studying recreation ecology. <a href="mailto:johanna@vt.edu">johanna@vt.edu</a></p> <p>Fletcher Meadema completed his undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech in Architecture in 2012. He has been a Ridgerunner for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for three seasons, performing educational outreach and trail management functions. He has been a trail maintainer and trail crew member, has hiked half of the Appalachian Trail and thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail. This past summer he served in the field research crew responsible for assessing resource conditions on the southern third of the Appalachian Trail. He is currently a Master's graduate student at Virginia Tech studying recreation ecology. <a href="mailto:fmeadema@vt.edu">fmeadema@vt.edu</a></p>
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<b>PTBA Technical Track-Bridges 101</b>	Room #310,311	<p>Introduction to the basic types of trail and pedestrian bridges by Tri-State Company, Inc. Includes discussion of the basic considerations of bridge design. Discussion of site selection, the "physics of bridge functioning", dead load, live load, and moment of load. The presentation includes photos, drawings, and animations. This presentation was one of the highlights of the 2010 West Virginia State Trails Conference.</p> <p><i>Speaker(s):</i> Charlie Dundas, Tri-State Company. "Charlie" began building trail, as a volunteer in 1958, while a Boy Scout. His company, Tri-State Company, has been building trail, professionally, since 1987. Tri-State's market niche is remote site construction, often employing helicopter support. In the course of 24 years, they have built, designed, reconstructed or maintained over 500 miles of trail. They are, perhaps, better known as the "bridge people", having built numerous bridges to include: cable suspension, glu-lam, steel, heavy timber, and their specialty, unique curvilinear screw laminated bridges/elevated walkways. Charlie views his company as more than a trail building company, he sees it as engaged in the art of "recreational infrastructure". <a href="mailto:tristate@ntelos.net">tristate@ntelos.net</a></p>
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**Thank you for attending the 23rd International Trails Symposium - Dayton, Ohio - May 7-10, 2017**

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