American Trails presents the
2017 NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL TRAILS AWARDS

May 7-10, 2017
Dayton, Ohio
Presented at the 23rd International Trails Symposium
Thank you for joining us for the National and International Trails Awards Program at the 2017 International Trails Symposium. American Trails presents these biennial awards to recognize the tremendous contributions of volunteers, professionals, and other leaders who are working for the advancement of trails across the country and around the world.

To read more about the 2017 award winners visit www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2017.

Tonight’s program will include a keynote address and the kickoff celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m. with a giveaway (learn more on page 3), followed by a book signing.

Recognition Onsite for Award Winners:
We will present the following awards during the following events at the 2017 International Trails Symposium in Dayton, Ohio:

- The State Awards: Outstanding Trail Leaders were presented at the Welcome Reception on Sunday, May 7, 2017
- The Hulet Hornbeck Lifetime Service Award will be presented at the Closing Luncheon on Wednesday, May 10, 2017
- All other awards will be presented during the Awards Banquet on Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Special Thanks!
A special thank you to the sponsor of the Happy Trails Hour just prior to the Awards Banquet:

A special thank you to the students within the Design Department at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio for designing this program.
Designers: Michaela Reynolds, Abbie Bostic, Olukorede Megbope, and Nimisha Hirani

Cover photo courtesy Five Rivers MetroParks
Giveaway!!!

Win a Professional Services Package! (value $5,000)

Alta Planning + Design is offering their professional services, valued at $5,000, for one lucky attendee of our National and International Trails Awards Banquet. The drawing will take place at the end of this evening’s program, following the keynote. You must be present to win.

Professional services offered includes the following:
- A consultation over the phone about your project/need
- Proposal that outlines timeline, approach, and deliverable
- Opportunity for collaboration with expert and technical staff
- A digital “deliverable,” a weblink to file of the final product


Alta creates active communities where bicycling and walking are safe, healthy, fun, and normal daily activities. They are a planning and design firm with multiple offices across the country with 200 expert planners, landscape architects, engineers, designers, and encouragement specialists. In addition to their leadership in active transportation planning, design, and implementation, they provide expertise in trails, Complete Streets, parks and open spaces, wayfinding signage systems, traffic analysis, GIS modeling, encouragement activities, healthy community policies, bike share programs, and much more.

*Scope and suitability to be determined by Alta
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
This award recognizes a project that demonstrates integration of accessibility characteristics into its design and construction.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is a 2,600-acre natural area in southeastern Pennsylvania that is famous for the world’s first refuge for birds of prey. The Hawk Mountain South Lookout provides scenic views across the Lehigh Valley and the National Scenic Appalachian Trail.

The steep grade to the lookout limited many individuals from viewing migrating birds of prey. Two years of planning and consultation led to the new accessible Silhouette Trail, named for a series of metal raptor silhouettes at the sanctuary’s entrance. The trails’ smooth, natural pathway is ADA-compliant with a gentler slope averaging eight percent. Trail enhancements include benches with a middle handrail, accessible trailside restrooms, and upgrades and access to the educational area and viewing platform.

The Silhouette Trail opened on July 26, 2015. The sanctuary credits the project success to its broad planning team, which helped evaluate plans, tested accessibility during construction, and before public use. This project is described as “one of the greatest inclusionary outcomes in the entire region.”
Waldo County Trails Coalition

This award is given to a partnership which benefits agencies or services within the field of trail planning, design, or implementation.

The Waldo County Trails Coalition is a collaborative project of nine Waldo County organizations working to create a 47-mile year-round recreational footpath stretching from Unity to Belfast, Maine.

The Coalition’s objectives are to support community wellness by creating more opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, nature observation, and to deepen our sense of place. The Coalition envisions the trail as a way to raise environmental awareness, support the working landscape, connect and strengthen communities, and support economic opportunity for farms and area businesses through tourism.

In 2012 work began on the 47-mile Hills to Sea Trail. Volunteers helped with the trail layout, cut, and establishing the trail. Over 60 land owners granted permission for the public to cross their land. The last section was completed in September 2016. The trail is open to hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Without the support of local towns, citizens, businesses, nonprofits, and schools, the trail would not have come to pass.
City of San Jose and Callander Associates

This award recognizes a trail project that demonstrates innovative planning and design techniques while making a positive contribution to the community it serves. (Level One category – less than $500,000)

San Jose, California has one of the nation’s largest urban trail networks. Over 57 miles of trails are developed and open to the public. The proposed eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail poses many constraints due to the lack of right-of-way, street crossings, intersections, a major highway, active rail, and heavy industry.

The City of San Jose’s Department of Parks and Recreation & Neighborhood Services SKY Lane Vision Study offers one possible solution for urban trail development along a highly constrained corridor by evaluating the possibility of a 1.7-mile aerial trail through southeast Downtown San Jose.

The elevated nature of the trail provides an opportunity to create a destination trail with travel opportunities to several special event venues and connectivity to Downtown San Jose. The trail structure itself will incorporate natural light and green roof elements along with creative use of solar and kinetic energy to serve as a cultural and artistic beacon.

SKY Lane resolves significant barriers that limit options for traditional “on the ground” trail development.
Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan
This award recognizes a project that demonstrates innovative planning and design techniques while making a positive contribution to the community it serves. (Level Two category – more than $500,000)

The Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan seeks to provide residents and visitors alike with a sustainable, healthy, and authentic way to experience the region’s unique landscapes and history in Montana. By connecting existing and proposed trails, the project will provide a 180-mile world-class trail system linking Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, two state parks, many local parks, and gateway communities over three states.

The Plan addresses concerns in developing the trail system. Sixteen projects were identified with a clear and manageable guide to implementation. Projects ranged from major renovations on existing trail segments to new trail construction. Project information included cost estimates, identification of special environmental challenges, potential stakeholders, and compatible funding programs.

The Greater Yellowstone Trail seeks to build upon past successes and focus future efforts on developing a world-class long-distance trail that will deliver an authentic and sustainable tourism experience while benefiting local communities.
Cleveland Metroparks Trail Ambassador Volunteer Program
This award recognizes innovative and successful strategies for promoting and increasing trail use and understanding.

Cleveland Metroparks in Ohio serves over 44 million visitors annually. The 23,000+ acre park district is open 365 days per year. The park has 300 miles of trails, including all-purpose trails, hiking trails, and bridle paths. Volunteers with the Trail Ambassador program help provide an exceptional guest experience by interacting with the public to provide assistance, guidance, and education.

The program was launched in 2005 as part of the Cleveland Foundation’s Successful Aging Initiative. The program was developed to provide a unique, outdoor, active, and ongoing volunteer opportunity for individuals age 50+. Eligibility later expanded to include participants over the age of 30.

The program is an innovative and successful strategy to engage and educate both volunteers and the public. The program builds rapport between the public and Cleveland Metroparks through positive guest interaction and enriches the lives of program participants. The experiences gained from participants illustrate the many positive impacts of trails.
Quad City Health Initiative, Be Healthy QC Coalition, and Bi-State Regional Commission

This award recognizes a community’s commitment to improving access to trails and promoting their use and importance for increasing physical activity.

The Quad Cities’ trail network is located at the intersection of two national trail systems, the American Discovery Trail and the Mississippi River Trail. In 1999, the Quad City Health Initiative was established to improve health in the region. In 2013, the Be Healthy QC Coalition (BHQC) was formed to create a culture of wellness that supports healthy eating and active living.

BHQC’s objective was to increase access to the network of trails and connected greenspaces within the community by creating an interactive trails website. The challenge was to capture people power, form partnerships, collect vast amounts of information, make it available in a single web-based trail map, and get the word out about this new resource. Project staff participated in community events and health and wellness fairs, along with a community-wide education and communication campaign.

The new trail locator website, QCTrails.org, aids visitors and residents in finding area trails connecting to the national trail network. It increases opportunities for recreational and fitness activities and adds to the livability of the community.
Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service

This award recognizes an extraordinary trail project that occurred outside the United States, which demonstrates innovative planning and design techniques while making a positive contribution to a specific country or region of the world.

On December 23, 2015 a group of 24 walkers from around the world, aged from six to 70, stepped onto a catamaran called The Blade, and launched a brand-new tourism product for Tasmania – the Three Capes Track.

The Three Capes Track is the largest track-related project in the history of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). This visitor experience features a four-day, three-night, 28.5-mile easy to moderate bushwalk through the Tasman National Park on the Tasman Peninsula with views of the three capes.

The track is constructed of gravel, timber boardwalk, and stone, with timber bridges. The overnight cabins were designed and developed to have minimal environmental impact and are self-sufficient in terms of water and energy storage. The PWS collaborated with the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and a public artist for trackside art and furniture.

All walkers receive a guidebook which provides stories that interpret the natural and cultural values of the track and nearby ecosystems. In the first year of operation, nearly 10,000 have walked the Three Capes Track.
This is a NEW award for the 2017 International Trails Symposium that combines the Trail Advocacy and Trail Worker Awards – and more! The Outstanding Trail Leaders awards recognize individuals who have made compelling and significant contributions to the trails movement in their home states. Any area of trail excellence or achievement— advocating, designing, building, using, maintaining, promoting, decorating, adapting technologies for trail use, etc. – could be grounds for receiving this honor. One award per state (some exceptions apply).

Learn more about these worthy recipients on pages 12-25.

These awards were presented during the Welcome Reception on Sunday, May 7.
Steve Newton (Alabama)

Steve is a passionate advocate for safety in off-highway vehicle access in Alabama.

Steve began the Alabama affiliate of the Baja SAE® that works in conjunction with the Polaris Recovery Team. This program promotes the continued development, safety, and use of OHV riding and recreation. Over 100 universities participate in this event each year with attendees from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Steve is the program liaison across the United States and a member of the recovery team.

Steve is a volunteer with the Cheaha Trail Riders and has organized travels to OHV parks in Alabama, Tennessee, Kansas, and other OHV parks across the United States. This award winning club has designed and helped build and fund four OHV parks in Alabama and one in Mississippi.

Steve is the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council representative for Alabama, serves on the Alabama Trails Commission, and is a member of the Alabama Recreation Advisory Board for Recreation Trails Funding Program.
Governor John Hickenlooper (Colorado)

Governor John Hickenlooper has elevated trails to a new level in Colorado. In his 2015 State of the State address, Governor Hickenlooper outlined the Colorado the Beautiful initiative to link outdoor spaces and connect more people to those places. The vision is: That within one generation, every Coloradan will live within a 10-minute walk of a park, trail, or open space area.

Hickenlooper announced Colorado would build the most comprehensive outdoor recreation map ever created in the state to include all trails, open spaces, parks, and protected lands, with publication planned in 2016. He also stated that agencies would identify the 16 most important trail gaps, missing trail segments, and unbuilt trails across the state and elevate them to priority projects.

“Colorado Beautiful, we believe, is not only about connecting our parks, trails and scenic lands, but about connecting people to the outdoor delights that set Colorado apart as a special place,” Hickenlooper said. “It’s important to bring our newest generations outside, away from electronic distractions and into the splendor of our waterways, forests, wildlife, grasslands, mountains, and canyons.”
Marcie Moore (Georgia)

Marcie is an employee of Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation in Georgia. Marcie manages the County’s Greenway program and oversees the planning, land acquisition, trail design, and construction of greenway corridors throughout the County. Marcie was instrumental in advancing the national award winning E-911 Help Locator System. This system has provided faster response time by emergency personal on the county’s trail system.

As part of the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Trail Team, Marcie leads the trail mapping efforts to GPS locate over 125 miles of paved and unpaved trails within the County’s park system. Marcie’s efforts have gone beyond the work of this committee. She has been a key person in reaching out to the larger states trail users in providing presentations at several local, state, and national conferences.

Marcie has assisted in developing continuity throughout the divisions’ operations and her leadership has improved relations with many of the trail user groups that utilize the Gwinnett Parks Trail system.
David Nash (Hawaii)

The International Mountain Bike Association chapter, Oahu Mountain Bike Ohana (OMTB), is a nonprofit organization for bicyclists on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. Led by mountain cyclist, David Nash, the organization’s sole purpose is to facilitate and implement projects that expand bicycle riding opportunities.

The development of a new subdivision in the Kailua region of Oahu posed limited access to an actively used hiking and biking trail. The OMTB facilitated this multi-organization project to keep trail access open without inconveniencing residents, by aligning the trail to avoid private property. The Ohana Trail was planned and completed in 2016.

Turning the potential loss of a public resource into an expansion of outdoor recreation has been an extremely positive contribution and an excellent example of collaborative stewardship. Trail use has expanded beyond the mountain biking community to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. OMTB has exhibited exemplary service in trail and community development by taking the initiative to develop and maintain the Ohana Trail.
Tom Laws (Idaho)

Tom demonstrates a resounding commitment to the bicycle and pedestrian network of southwest Idaho – locally known as the Treasure Valley – home to over 500 miles of trails and pathways, including nearly 50 miles of paved pathway on the Boise River Greenbelt system and 190 miles of trails in the scenic Boise foothills.

In his time as a bicycle and pedestrian planner, Tom has made compelling and significant contributions to the pathway and trail network by advocating for increased use of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, promoting COMPASS’ active transportation planning efforts, and leading the effort to install the state’s first comprehensive system of automated bicycle and pedestrian counters.

Tom has demonstrated tremendous value to local and regional agencies and organizations, planners, elected officials, and the public. The progress he has instigated in identifying regional infrastructure needs and opportunities has and will continue to impact current and future bicycle and pedestrian pathway, trail, and sidewalk planning.
Paul Arlinghaus (Indiana)

Paul has been involved at nearly every level of trail development, including design, construction, and maintenance on over 100 miles of mountain bike trails in Indiana. Paul has not only spent hundreds of hours a year working on trails, but he maximizes the effort by leading organized workdays and training fellow volunteers on trail building techniques.

Paul served as president of the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) from 2006 to 2015, and continues to provide leadership as their Secretary and Chair of the Trails Committee. Under his leadership, mountain biking in central Indiana has grown immensely with HMBA becoming a top 10 International Mountain Bicycling Association chapter.

One of Paul’s biggest successes has been trail access. This year he helped open some of the first miles of mountain bike trails in Yellowwood State Forest.

Paul’s decade of hard work on and off the trail has not only benefited current and future mountain bikers, but also a variety of other trail users, Indiana’s parks and forests, and the economy of a number of small communities as they become tourism destinations for mountain bikers.
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser (Louisiana)

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser has been a recreational trails advocate and builder for over a decade. Lt. Gov. Nungesser worked to establish the first two motorized trails facilities in Louisiana that are owned and operated by a local government.

As president of Plaquemines Parish Government, Billy planned, designed, funded (with RTP support), and built two motorized parks in the Greater New Orleans area and presently serves all Louisiana motorized trails users.

In 2015 he also worked to establish and support a nonmotorized trails facility for hiking and horseback riding in the New Orleans metropolitan area.
Sally Hausken (Minnesota)

Sally Hausken has done what many thought was impossible in a small, rural based community in west central Minnesota. She has inspired and led hundreds of people to become volunteers to environmental causes, she has been a mentor to the young and old of our community, and she is personally responsible for organizing a broad array of local groups which have made Detroit Lakes a place where the environment matters.

Her work has led directly to the preservation of 117 acres of some of the most sensitive and valuable natural areas in Minnesota, the Sucker Creek Preserve. The Preserve has accessible paths, unimproved trails, marsh walks, trout stream, amphitheater, and interpretive signs coalesce to embrace and expand one’s senses in new, restful nature learning. Children, youth, students, adults, and groups of all ages can find a perfect learning lab for the natural world.

Sally serves as a model for citizen involvement. Sally has invested in the future by preserving and maintaining trails for all of us to explore and learn from.
Vince La Plante (Nevada)

Vince is an established trail builder having constructed some of the most complex multi-use trail systems in the intermountain west and in Nevada. He insists on high quality standards and is an expert in traditional and modern techniques and skills regarding trail construction and maintenance.

Vince started work as a trail crew member with the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service. After a few seasons Vince decided he wanted to teach and hand down his knowledge to upcoming trail crews. Vince continues to keep traditional skills associated with trail work alive. From dry stone masonry, to hand drilling and breaking rock, rock and log retaining walls, rock step layout and construction, work with crosscut saws and other traditional tools, working with pack stock, backcountry logistics, camp set up, trail construction and maintenance – Vince has been handing these skills down for years.

Vince currently works as the Trails Coordinator for the Nevada Conservation Corps with the Great Basin Institute. In this capacity he has influenced many trail crews and trail systems throughout the State of Nevada. When not at work, you can find Vince enjoying the remote backcountry of the Sierra Nevada’s.
Nick Ybarra (North Dakota)

Nick has been the leading force in saving the legendary Maah Daah Hey trail in western North Dakota. He has put in thousands of man hours and leads the volunteer effort with his nonprofit Save the Maah Daah Hey Foundation. Over 100 miles of trail has been revived from extinction and maintained for mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Nick also promotes multiple mountain bike races during the summer and winter on the trail.

It takes dedication to volunteer your time to do manual labor. It takes dedication to spend your weekend in the middle of nowhere and work all day. It takes dedication to carry equipment under the blazing sun with no shade in sight. Because of Nick’s dedication, volunteers make 10 mile treks in temperatures over 90 degrees so that this trail is available for the enjoyment of anyone who wants to use it.

Without Nick organizing and leading work days and volunteer efforts, the Maah Daah Hey trail would not be as useable as it is now. Because of Nick and other volunteers, the Maah Daah Hey lives on another year to share its views with the world.
Andrew Bashaw (Ohio)

The Buckeye Trail Association builds, maintains, and promotes the use of a 1,400 mile statewide trail. As Executive Director, Andrew Bashaw successfully coordinates the efforts of some 50 active volunteers and a small part-time staff.

Andrew wants people to enjoy their experiences along Ohio’s premiere long-distance hiking trail. He dreams big and always pushes himself and the organization to accomplish more together. Andrew has been instrumental in negotiating reroutes of the Buckeye Trail through places such as Glen Helen Nature Preserve and the Nature Conservancy’s Edge of Appalachia preserve system.

For the past several years Andrew has made efforts to bring all the trail constituency groups in Ohio together with one voice. He also promotes Ohio’s trails through political advocacy and community awareness.

The mantra of the Buckeye Trail Association is “together we can.” Andrew’s efforts are the glue that brings all aspects of the association together. No matter what the activity, Andrew is always first to say thank you for your work.
Ralph Protano (Ohio)

In 2012, Ralph was hired by Ohio’s Cleveland Metroparks to start up a new Trails Division. In the last couple years his efforts have come to fruition, yielding artistic and sustainable trail design and a tiered volunteer program where volunteers can advance according to their level of interest.

Ralph believes in creating the lowest possible natural resource impact and the best possible user enjoyment by building trails in harmony with the existing terrain. Trails are made from natural materials, blend with the environment, and last for generations. Ralph likes to point out, there are no straight lines in nature. His trails meander with the terrain, creating a pleasing user experience and blending the built environment into the natural one.

In 2015, Ralph further expanded his knowledge of conservation by earning a master’s degree in Natural Resources while working full-time.

Cleveland Metroparks constantly strives to balance recreation with conservation. Ralph is uniquely qualified as a trails designer to strike this balance through his sustainable designs, environmental ethic, and work with user groups to understand their preferences.
Diana Druga (West Virginia)

Diana has lived and worked in the Clarksburg, West Virginia area for nearly 25 years. She is an avid bicyclist and hiker, and a long-time member of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

In 2016, Diana became the first President of the newly formed Harrison Rail Trails (HRT), Inc. She built the Board of Directors, led the organizational development of the group, and has shown her skills as an avid information-sharing leader.

Diana started a weekly Gratitude Walking Group. Sidewalk-chalked positive messages are written on the asphalt section of the trail each week. Diana has dedicated herself to spending time on the trail during various times of the day and night in all types of weather. Diana also organized a self-defense workshop on the rail-trail.

Working in close cooperation with the county, Diana and HRT have partnered to rehab and extend the rail-trail system. The future is bright for making connections and getting more people using the trails, resulting in additional active lifestyle opportunities for Clarksburg residents.
Tim Malzhan (Wisconsin)

Tim is the Field Operations Director with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the nonprofit arm of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Tim started with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (now the Ice Age Trail Alliance) in 2000 after through hiking the trail in 1991.

Tim participated in Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and saw the need for a similar system along the Ice Age Trail. The Mobile Skills Crew, a group of volunteers who are trained in advanced trail construction and crew leadership techniques, held their first event in 2002. Tim also started the “trails notebook” series. These notebooks give standards and direction to the trail building efforts of volunteers statewide.

Tim says that “trail building is people building.” He believes that the work the volunteers do not only touches the volunteers in profound ways, but also carries on to people who use the trail. His gratification for the volunteers he works with shows in everything he does. His dedication to the trails community shows through the stories and laughter around project campfires by those who have been touched by his work.
Hulet Hornbeck | October 14, 1919 – January 7, 2012

*About Hulet Hornbeck and the relationship to the Hulet Hornbeck Lifetime Service Award:*

Hulet was a long-time American Trails Board Member, conservationist, and avid trails, open space, and parks advocate. He created his legacy through trails during 20 years of land acquisition for the East Bay Regional Park District in central California, as well as with over 45 years of volunteer work with numerous trails and conservation organizations.

Hulet organized the 1st National Trails Symposium in 1971 and was a founding Board Member of the National Trails Council, predecessor to American Trails. He then actively and enthusiastically served on the National Trails Council for 17 years and on the Board of Directors for American Trails for over 16 years. Hulet inspired the American Trails Board throughout the years with his zest for life, keen strategic mind, integrity, wisdom, and unwavering vision, love, and passion for parks and trails and for the preservation of open space.

In 2006, American Trails created a special National Award in Hulet’s honor, the Hulet Hornbeck Award, and starting with the 2017 Symposium, we have combined this special award with our Lifetime Service Award and now call it the Hulet Hornbeck Lifetime Service Award. It is the highest honor celebrated in the national trails community.
Reese Lukei Jr.
This award is for an individual that, like Hulet Hornbeck, exemplifies long-standing vision and wisdom in support of trails.

Reese Lukei, Jr.’s long and productive career with trails began with his interest and dedication to the outdoors and migratory birds in the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Chesapeake Bay in Virginia.

Reese has an extensive list of volunteer positions and awards. His leadership talents surfaced in the trail community in 1981 when he became President of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club. Reese has been a Board Member for the Appalachian Trail Conference and the American Hiking Society, became the American Discovery Trail National Coordinator, is the Co-Founder and Board Member of the American Discovery Trail Society, and served on many trail, bikeway, and birding committees.

Reese’s keen sense of purpose and visionary ideas have helped organizations to grow and prosper. His legacy in the trail community is documented in his personal trail of successes. During his 35 years of successful leadership he has mentored many of the current trail leaders today.

Reese has hiked in all 50 states, every province and territory of Canada (except Labrador), 72 countries including the North Pole and Antarctica, the entire Appalachian Trail, and banded more than 10,000 raptors.

Reese is an example of a complete, well-rounded person who has a vision, sees an opportunity, then goes out and makes it happen. All while creating lifelong friendships that transcends all else.
In Memoriam

To those in the trails community we have lost...
David Burwell
Co-Founder and Former President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Deb Hubsmith
Founder, Safe Routes to School

Gudy Gaskill
President Emeritus, Colorado Trail Foundation

Mary Anderson
Co-Founder, REI

Tom Neenan
CEO, Iowa Trails Council

And other friends.

To read more about these important figures and their work, please visit www.AmericanTrails.org/memorial.
Keynote and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System

After we celebrate this year’s award recipients, we will turn our attention to a visual and audio celebration of the kickoff of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System.

In 2018, America will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our National Trails System. But the party has already started! Join the National Trails 50th Birthday celebration by sharing your stories, photos, or favorite memories, or by simply getting out on the trail – and maybe bringing along a friend.

With the 1968 passage of the National Trails System Act, America was given a gift – the creation and protection of some of our favorite places to discover and engage with the great outdoors. National Scenic Trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, celebrate outdoor adventure; and National Historic Trails, such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, allow us to walk through history.

We look forward to high caliber speakers including:

Bob Ratcliffe  
National Park Service, Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Gary Werner  
Executive Director  
Partnership for the National Trails System

Marianne Fowler  
Senior Strategist for Policy Advocacy  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
The Keynote Speakers for the Kickoff of the 50th Anniversary are Robert and Martha Manning

Robert Manning is Professor Emeritus in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. He teaches and conducts research on the history, philosophy, and management of national parks and wilderness. He is the founding Director of the Park Studies Laboratory which conducts a long-term program of research for the U.S. National Park Service and other agencies, and is the author of several books about the national parks. Martha Manning is an artist specializing in fiber, clay, and printmaking. Her work has been featured in national shows and publications.

Robert and Martha have hiked dozens of long-distance trails and multi-day walks on six continents and write books to encourage others to walk more in their everyday lives and to try long-distance walking. Their books, “Walking Distance: Extraordinary Hikes for Ordinary People” and “Walks of a Lifetime: Extraordinary Hikes from Around the World,” have been called “beautiful” and “inspiring” and are endorsed by the Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, and American Hiking Society.

**Book Signing:** Robert and Martha will do a book signing for both of their books immediately following this evening’s program from 9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. If you have not already purchased your books, you can do so in the theatre lobby.

**Giveaway!!!**
Make sure you stick around for the entire program. American Trails is extremely excited to announce a drawing for a $5,000 package of professional services from Alta Planning + Design. The drawing is only available to those in attendance, so don’t leave early! You must be present to win. (Learn more about this giveaway on page 3 of this program.)

**Join us for a movie!**
Feel free to stick around for a free showing of the newly produced videos highlighting the National Trails System, produced by the National Park Service and the American Hiking Society. Don’t miss this special night celebrating trail leaders across the nation and the kickoff of the 50th Anniversary of our National Trails System.