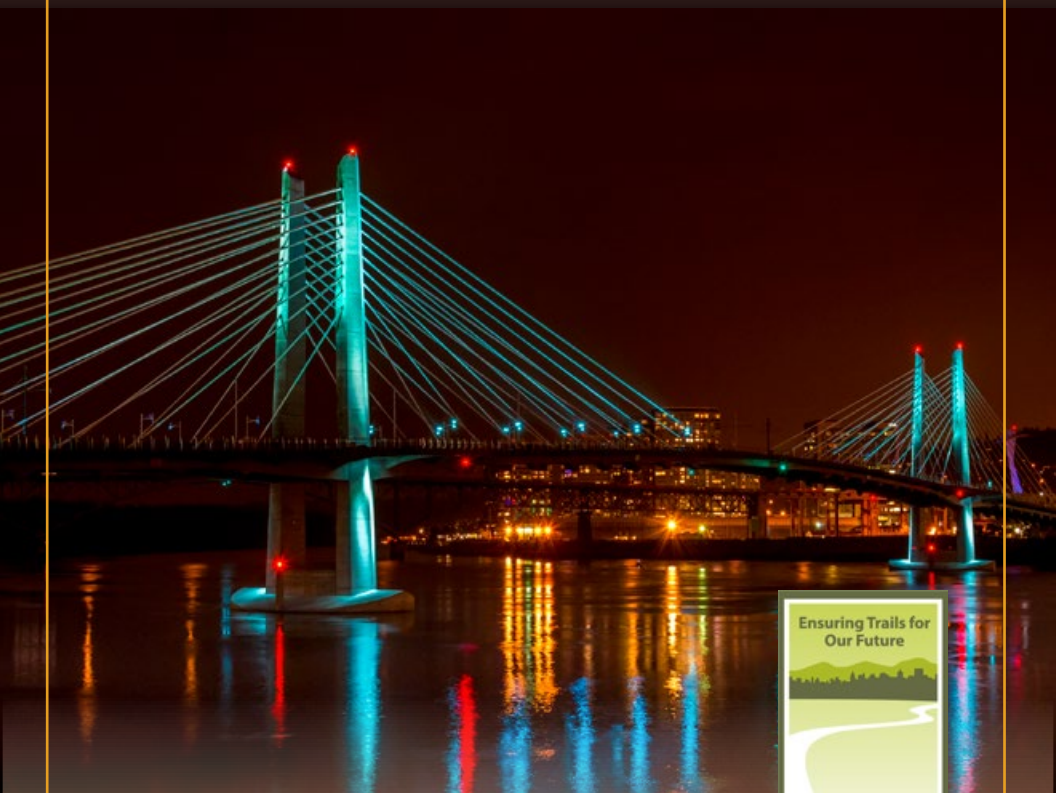


# American Trails

*presents the*

## 2015 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRAILS AWARDS



*Presented at the 22nd International Trails Symposium  
May 19, 2015  
Portland, Oregon*



**American  
Trails**

Also featuring the Professional TrailBuilders Association Awards





Tonight's banquet is sponsored by REI



Thank you for joining us for the National and International Trails Awards Program. 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 2015 Award Winners, visit [AmericanTrails.org/awards/2015](http://AmericanTrails.org/awards/2015).

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# THE PROFESSIONAL TRAILBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

## Roger and Harvey Bell Award

*This annual award recognizes individuals or companies that have shown excellence in professional trailbuilding and have had significant impact on the trail building industry. The recipient has shown outstanding achievements in trail design and/or construction.*

### Mike Shields

*“Mike is one of America’s foremost authorities in almost every aspect of trail and bridge design and construction, yet he is humble, honest, and generous with his time to those who want to learn. I am privileged to call him my friend.”*

*- Jon Underwood, PTBA Member*



The PTBA would like to honor Mike Shields (Alaska) for his dedicated efforts toward improving the trailbuilding industry as a whole, and training the individuals in the industry in many of the skills that are rapidly being lost. Since 1972, Mike has taught trail design and layout, trail construction and maintenance, terrain dynamics, blasting, rigging, bridge construction, crew management, and field contract administration to many professionals and crews throughout the country. The PTBA membership appreciates Mike’s generosity in sharing these important skills.

# THE PROFESSIONAL TRAILBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

## Jerry Morrison Trail Blazer Award

*This brand new award honors the legacy that Jerry Morrison has had in shaping the trailbuilding industry as we know it today. This award recognizes an individual or company that has demonstrated exceptional innovation in the design, development and implementation of tools or techniques that have advanced the trailbuilding industry.*

## Clayton Larkin of Canycom Incorporated

Canycom's hauling equipment has contributed greatly to thousands of trail projects—and all types of projects—in many environments around the country. Canycom's equipment has saved millions of dollars industry-wide by making hauling more efficient and less costly, and it is safe to operate in experienced hands. Canycom has changed how PTBA members solve difficult trail problems, including wet ground, moving bridge materials, and paving. The members of PTBA would like to express their gratitude to Clayton Larkin and Canycom for greatly improving the trail building industry as we know it.





**IN MEMORIAM**



To those in the trails community we have lost...

**SUSAN “BUTCH” HENLEY**

**JAMES HOLDEN**

**CARL MAY**

**JERRY MORRISON**

**JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

**BARBARA WALKER**

**NEPAL CLIMBERS**

**AND OTHER FRIENDS...**



To read more about these important figures and their work, please visit  
[AmericanTrails.org/memorial](http://AmericanTrails.org/memorial)

# AMERICAN TRAILS CELEBRATES THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN TRAILS

*Marianne Fowler, Senior Strategist for Policy Advocacy, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*

From the trails that loop Fort McHenry, to our beloved Appalachian Trail, to the Cowboy Trail spanning Nebraska and the Medicine Bow running through sacred Native American Lands, as far west as California's Chappie-Shasta Trail, America is blessed with a sweep of trails that bridge our ginormous continent. It is a magnificent heritage and playland for which we are rightfully proud and extremely grateful. But it did not come cheaply and is pricey to maintain. America's public lands, agencies, policies, and budget do yeoman's duty in service to our nation's trail system. Let us celebrate this legacy and our right to enjoy



it, while acknowledging that which is done for trails under the exegesis of our federal government. Let us define the tax dollar contribution we make to trails each year and recognize that without informed advocacy and vigilance it could all be lost.

**Please note: Attend Wednesday Trail Talk to continue the conversation.** *You are invited to continue this conversation tomorrow, May 20, at 7:00 a.m. during Trail Talk in the Oregon Ballroom. Join Marianne for a roundtable discussion regarding strategies to not only protect, but to continue to grow these investments, as well as how we can best engage in the process and help shape the future of trails.*

# 2015 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRAILS AWARDS



## TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARDS

This award is given in recognition of successful efforts to influence public policy relating to trail planning, trail protection, trail development, or maintenance.

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## TRAIL WORKER AWARDS

This award recognizes an individual that has made outstanding contributions and provided consistent support for trail planning, development, or maintenance. It is intended to recognize the efforts of a private or public sector individual working for enhanced trail recreation on either the local, state, or national level.

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# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Silas Chamberlin

Although relatively early in his career, Silas Chamberlin has demonstrated a deep commitment to promoting trail development through Pennsylvania. Silas has conducted extensive research on the history of hiking and trails and in 2014 he completed his dissertation “On the Trail: A History of American Hiking,” the first comprehensive national history of the American hiking community and its efforts to build, maintain, and promote trails from the mid-nineteenth century to present. His current research project focuses on addressing opposition to rail trails.



Silas played a key role in the establishment of the multi-municipal Delaware & Lehigh Trail Alliance, a partnership of more than 100 federal, state, and local stakeholders in the development and stewardship of the 165-mile D&L Trail. Silas was previously a Regional Advisor with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In this role, he helped advance a statewide vision for trails by facilitating cooperative efforts between the state’s trails and conservation agencies. In 2011, he was appointed to Pennsylvania’s Statewide Trails Advisory Committee as chairman of the Stewardship Subcommittee. Silas is now Executive Director of the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area.

# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Terri Collins

State Representative Terri Collins serves in the Alabama State Legislature and has been instrumental in advancing state trails by serving on the Education, Ways & Means, Economic Development & Tourism, and Education Policy Committees. In 2012, Terri was appointed to the Trails Commission, which has benefitted from her pro-Alabama stand for recreation and health and her recognition of the opportunity for trails to create jobs. Several new trails—Rock Ridge Equestrian Trail and the Richard Martin Rail Trail, plus numerous signed scenic bike trails—have been developed within her district in the last few years.



As a State Representative, Terri has worked with several different groups of trail users. She has been active in two Alabama Trails Conferences and helped organize the last Trail Summit held in April 2014. Her efforts to communicate with trail groups and organizations have helped her address issues of trail use and have advanced Alabama's economy and tourism.

# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (Evergreen) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Seattle, Washington that serves as Washington State's largest mountain bike advocacy and trail stewardship group. It has 10,000 followers and regional chapters across the state. Evergreen's mission is to create and protect sustainable mountain biking opportunities throughout Washington through advocacy, stewardship, educational programs, and social and recreational opportunities.



Evergreen's staff, board, and volunteers lead successful efforts to influence public policy relating to multi-use trail planning, trail protection, trail development, and maintenance across Washington State. Evergreen advocates for trail access and funding with city, county, state, and federal officials.

Currently, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is advocating for trail access and funding with 13 city, county, state, and federal officials for a wide variety of trails and is planning 23 projects on local, state, federal, and privately owned land.

# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Roy Garrett

Roy Garrett has been a strong advocate for motorized recreational trails and education in the state of Indiana for over 40 years. Roy is a lifelong off-road motorcyclist who began years of advocacy by serving as a congressman for the



American Motorcyclist Association. In 1994, Roy founded Discover Indiana Riding Trails (DIRT). He has been either president or vice president of DIRT ever since. As a leader with DIRT, Roy helped reform policy and promote responsible off-road riding through education. He also pushed for more motorized recreational trails throughout Indiana.

Roy has also represented Indiana on the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), served on the Indiana Trails Advisory Board, and played an instrumental role in the development of Redbird State Recreation Area (SRA), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' first year-round motorized property. Roy's advocacy has resulted in the development of miles of trail, numerous policy changes, and the education of hundreds.

# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Scott Schilling

Scott Schilling is founder and President of TRAIL (Transportation Recreation Alternatives In Louisiana), a trails advocacy group based in Lafayette, Louisiana. Scott founded this organization nine years ago in order to improve the recreation and transportation options in his community. TRAIL's efforts include funding a marketing program to promote safe road cycling, purchasing properties to add to existing parks for the development of hiking trails, and providing the matching portion of grant requests submitted by other organizations.



TRAIL has been a leading proponent of the Atakapa-Ishak Trail, a pedbike trail traversing the length of the Lafayette metro area, and has been a party to four successful grants for the construction of the Trail. TRAIL has efforts to increase bicycling safety in the community, including the addition of bicycle lanes and the installation of Share The Road signs and map kiosks along routes.

# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Bruce Stuart

Bruce is the President of the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club (CVRTC), a group of railroad motorcar enthusiasts that help with trail maintenance on a variety of trails around New Hampshire.

When recent local trail development projects caused some concern for motorcar enthusiasts who felt they were being denied use of the trail to accommodate other trail users, Bruce's dedication to his recreational pursuits and railroad corridor history brought all of the interested groups together to talk about alternative design plans.

The final product was a trail that was better for motorcars and all other users of the trail. The Cotton Valley Trail is the only known multi-use trail in the U.S. that allows motorcar use along with traditional trail users.

In 2014, Bruce was instrumental in getting Railroad Motorcars added to New Hampshire's statutory list of permitted trail users and ensured passage of the bill with unanimous support.



# TRAIL ADVOCACY AWARD

## Archie T. Thompson

Archie Thompson has been advocating for blueways in South Carolina for over 20 years. In the late 1990's Archie began speaking with a local outfitter regarding the concept of developing a countywide system of water trails. From that initial concept, Archie began to develop partnerships with local and state government. After advocating throughout the region, Archie's concept began to take shape. Today, the Berkeley County Blueways paddling trail system identifies over 23 trails and over 175 miles of total water course.



Archie also advocated at the state level for the development of an organization to promote paddle trails across South Carolina. He now manages a Facebook page, "PaddleSC," whose goal is to create a statewide clearinghouse for water trails across the state of South Carolina. Archie is actively involved in developing a "Lowcountry Regional" blueways master plan, and he serves as the volunteer coordinator for Berkeley County Blueways system.

# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Tate Connor

Tate Connor works for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). When the NYSDEC undertook the tremendous task of planning a multi-use trail in the Adirondack Park, Tate was named Senior Project Leader. While it took a partnership to make this trail viable, Tate spearheaded efforts and logged over 2,000 hours on the planning, design, and building of the trail, spending weeks away from home and working through snow and other adverse weather conditions.



Tate helped recruit numerous volunteers to assist with what turned into a 2-year project that was just completed in 2014. The effort required over 10,000 cumulative hours from those involved. The multi-use trail is currently open as a “community connector” snowmobile trail during the winter months and a multi-use trail during the rest of the year. Tate’s efforts and leadership made the trail a reality in the Adirondack Park.



# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Emile and Rita Croteau

Emile and Rita are a husband-and-wife team that makes a dominant trail maintenance force in New Hampshire. They are founding members of the Millsfield Pond ATV Club and spend countless hours improving trails in the Millsfield, New Hampshire area. Emile spends winter months grooming trails for the White Mountain Ridge Runners, and in the summer, the pair can be found working on the trail seven days a week.



Emile and Rita take the lead on countless efforts and ensure projects are completed. They are very active in fundraising for the Millsfield Pond ATV Club as well as for the maintenance of trails. Under their stewardship, the area trails feature consistent signage and are highly maintained.

# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Andrew Fulks

Andrew Fulks is Board President and a founder of Tuleyome, a nonprofit conservation organization in California, in addition to managing several hundred acres of land as the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve Manager. Andrew is founder of Yolohiker.org, a local trails webpage, and is co-founder of the Capay Valley Hiking Club.

One of Andrew's most significant accomplishments is the efforts he led to open Barryessa Peak to the public after being land-locked for over 150 years. Efforts

to splice together public and private components took almost 15 years. The trail to Barryessa Peak was hand-cut by Andrew and a group of volunteers and is now considered one of the premiere "marathon" trails of northern California.

Andrew's efforts have enhanced the lives and health of his community. His dedicated love of the outdoors has resulted in making spectacular landscapes accessible to the public.



# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Sam Jarrett

Sam Jarrett is an eight-year veteran of the Department of Natural Resources. As Recreation Manager for the Snoqualmie Unit of South Puget Sound, Sam is responsible for administering public use of 56,000 acres of land and 110 miles of trail receiving more than 800,000 user visits each year.

When he came to the Snoqualmie Unit, Sam faced decades of conflict between user groups and severe overcrowding on trails. To address this, Sam saw the need to expand trail inventory while simultaneously working to improve relations between user groups. To this end, he launched a number of initiatives. He restarted the Snoqualmie Unit Advisory Committee, launched a Volunteer Forest Watch program, and secured over \$1.5 million dollars of grant funds for trail planning and maintenance.

In addition to these efforts, Sam developed a conceptual plan for new multi-user trails, envisioning a network of 21 miles of trail designed to be low-maintenance. In this way, Sam has doubled the available mileage of trails for cyclists and has improved the long-term outlook for trails in the region.



# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Michael Kuepper

In December 1999, Mike Kuepper started the Friends of the Nickel Plate with a vision of transforming a former railroad corridor into a trail near his hometown of Peru, Indiana. Today, the 37-mile (and growing) paved Nickel Plate Trail connects ten communities.

As President of the Friends of the Nickel Plate, Mike has been involved in every step of the process, from planning and land acquisition to development. Mike led the group when it first acquired the Nickel



Plate Corridor from the Norfolk Southern Rail via the Federal Railbanking program. As a volunteer-driven not-for-profit, the Friends of the Nickel Plate relies solely on donations and grants to develop the trail. Mike has successfully secured a number of Indiana trail grants and has personally managed them.

Mike has not stopped at the accomplishment of putting the Nickel Plate Trail on the ground; he continues to work toward improving and expanding the trail for the future.

# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Ken Neubecker

Ken Neubecker of American Rivers has worked tirelessly with partners in Eagle County, Colorado to enhance recreational opportunities along the Eagle River and protect ecologically and recreationally valuable parcels of land through the Eagle River Blue Trail. Ken provided strong support for the acquisition and improvements of numerous protected areas which will greatly improve access to the Eagle and upper Colorado rivers. Ken also developed a communications plan for the Blue Trail, an essential component of the outreach strategy.



Through his extensive outreach efforts, Ken has gained support from all involved municipalities, the county, and the Bureau of Land Management, along with local preservation organizations. It is because of Ken's leadership and collaboration with partners that the communities in Eagle County, Colorado have a deep connection to their hometown river.

# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Raymond Pellerin

Since retiring from his business career, Raymond Pellerin has dedicated his time and efforts to the annual Tour du Teche Kayak and Canoe Race, a marathon race spanning the entire 135-mile length of Bayou Teche in Louisiana. To make this three-day event successful, Raymond spearheaded collaboration between numerous stakeholders, including four Parishes and local Native American Tribal Lands, and joined forces with a local organization to keep the Bayou Teche clean.



Over the years, Raymond has expanded his efforts, including developing the Petit Tour du Teche (for ages 5-17), creating instructional paddle day camps, and creating a mobile command center on the Bayou Teche to ensure it is a favored destination for racers and recreational paddlers for years to come.

For the last six years, Raymond has committed himself to creating a world class event that showcases the culture and lifestyle of south Louisiana, preserves the Bayou Teche Paddle Trail, and keeps the Bayou clean.

# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Jeff Potter

Jeff Potter is the Trails Coordinator for Muscle Powered, an organization dedicated to a walkable and bikeable Carson City, Nevada. Jeff's vision of a trail that would traverse the sierra front above the state capitol came to fruition with the Ash to Kings Canyon Trail, a precedent-setting project for Nevada's Recreational Trails Program. After years of dreaming of the trail, Jeff took on the project which broke ground in 2012.

Jeff personally led the project by coordinating efforts from multiple agencies, land owners, and user types. He oversaw design and construction and developed partnerships necessary for the project's completion.

Jeff was instrumental in gathering over 1,000 volunteers and not only instructing them in the construction of the trail, but also educating them in planning, design, sustainability, and stewardship. He and fellow volunteers spend their off-time putting the final touches on the 7-mile trail and plan to open it to the public in 2015.



# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Shawn Redfield

Shawn Redfield has served as the volunteer Trail Director for the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) for the past three years. Shawn was a long time Arizona Trail volunteer who retired from the Bureau of Land Management. He hiked the entire Arizona National Scenic Trail where his passion for the trail developed into his willingness to volunteer for the ATA.



Shawn manages the Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program and coordinates the activities of more than 60 volunteer Regional and Segment Stewards, who plan, organize, and conduct all of the year-round maintenance work on the 43 passages of the 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail. He also works in partnership with land managing agency volunteers, trail crews, and staff to provide a high quality trail and trail experience.

Shawn's success in managing the ATA programs for trail planning, development, construction, maintenance, and sustainability has been exemplary. His leadership helped bring the Arizona Trail to completion in 2012, and helped ATA achieve the prestigious position of becoming only the third of the twelve National Scenic Trails to be fully completed.



# TRAIL WORKER AWARD

## Mike Rooks

Mike Rooks is Park Foreman at Little Mulberry Park in Gwinnet County, Georgia. As a dedicated county park worker, Mike routinely repairs and maintains more than 15 miles of equestrian, hiking, and cross country running trails contained within the 900 acre park.

Mike leads his team and repairs, redirects, and—in extreme situations—constructs new trails that provide safe recreational enjoyment to the 800,000 plus county residents. He works to not only maintain the trail system but also improve the local flora and fauna one finds along the pathways. Planting native ground cover, removing invasive species, and weekly safety checks for dangerous limbs, encroaching plants, or erosion are just a part of what Mike oversees to make the park safer and more enjoyable for all users.



# OUTSTANDING MEDIA AWARD

*This award recognizes significant and sustained efforts to provide positive public exposure and education in the field of trail use, planning, design, implementation, or policies.*

## Governor's 100 Missouri Miles

In celebration of Missouri being named “Best Trails State” by American Trails in 2013, Governor Jay Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge in June 2013. The new initiative was designed to encourage Missourians to complete “100 Missouri Miles” of physical activity during the year while promoting the outstanding trails in the Show-Me State.

The campaign encouraged Missourians to post photos and share their outdoor experiences. On [100MissouriMiles.com](http://100MissouriMiles.com), participants could easily track their miles and find nearby trail resources to explore. The website also featured the total mileage of the Governor and First Lady, offering participants the opportunity to compare their progress.



As of July 31, 2014, 20,862 participants completed over 2 million miles with the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge. Through social media outreach, partnering across multiple agencies, and introducing innovative challenges to engage additional user groups, the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge has increased the awareness of Missouri's trail resources and the benefits of getting outdoors.

Missouri's 2013 “Best Trails State” award has truly been an award that keeps on giving.

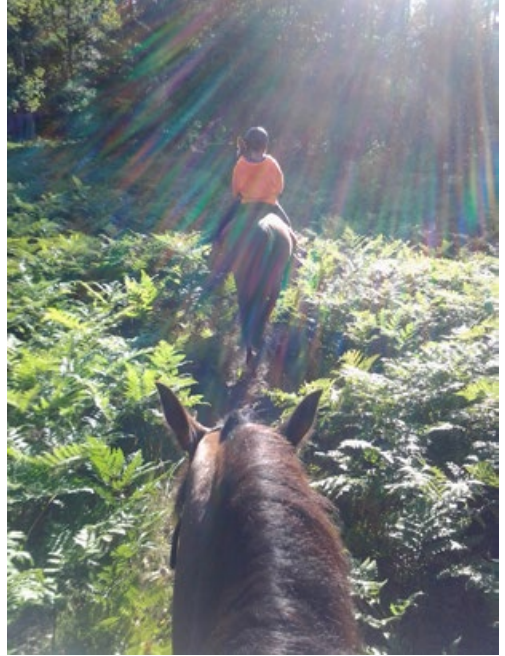
# FRIENDS OF TRAILS AWARD

*This award recognizes a friends volunteer group which has shown outstanding support of their local trail(s).*

## Michigan Trail Riders Association

Since its creation in 1963, the Michigan Trail Riders Association (MTRA) has continually worked toward developing, maintaining, and expanding a system of camps and trails stretching across the State of Michigan. MTRA maintains 500 miles of trail and 18 trail camps in partnership with the United States Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Every year the MTRA organizes at least five Trail Rides and two Work Bees as well as various other “repair” activities to maintain the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail. The Trail Rides run from May to October, varying from 8 to 22 days in length.



The MTRA wants to help everyone enjoy the sport of horseback riding and promote a love of the outdoors in a unique way: by riding the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail. Thanks in large part to MTRA, this trail has been in existence for over 50 years with over 200 Trail Rides and countless hikers and individual horseback riders.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

*This award honors a trail organization that performs exceptional community service relating to but beyond trail work.*

## Northwest Youth Corps

Since 1984, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) has been building trails to the future for more than 18,000 diverse young people through opportunities to improve the natural environment. NYC's conservation programs include residential ("camping") crews serving across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California, and Arizona; community "day" crews in Oregon; and a fully accredited Outdoor High School at its campus in Lane County, Oregon.

Engaged in more than just trail work, youth and young adults become citizen stewards through NYC's mix of academic, workplace, and life skill education, and are empowered to make a difference in their respective communities.



Between August 1, 2012 and July 31, 2014, Northwest Youth Corps crews supported recreational infrastructure through an estimated 198,863 project hours, including the construction of 30 miles of new trail and maintenance of 669 miles of existing trail. NYC's programs improve participants' skills in the areas of community engagement, attitude toward public lands, environmental activism, teamwork, self-responsibility, grit, communication, and critical thinking.

# STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AWARD

*This award recognizes a trail-related product, process, or service that has significantly met a need, addressed an issue, or increased efficiency in trail design, development, or maintenance.*

## Single Track, LLC

Single Track, LLC's Single Track ST 240 is a machine being described as a “game changer.” Trail builders and land managers face the challenge of keeping up with their workload and completing extensive upgrades yet preserving the natural setting and providing trail users with the outdoors experience they seek. Large equipment usually required to do this work often obliterates the character of a trail and destroys its natural environment.



Trail advocate Barrett Brown designed the ST 240 to solve these problems in a commercially viable way. The machine's 6-way dozer blade, 32-horsepower engine, and 24-inch minimum width get tough jobs done in tight spaces—and with full remote controls so the operator can be in the seat or up to 150 feet away.

One trail specialist who uses the ST 240 said, “Since trail users don't have to worry about their trails disappearing along with the character of their sport, single track riders are now teammates and supporters of [our] trail program instead of opponents.”

# TRAILS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

*The nominee must work for an agency at the federal, state, or local level and must have demonstrated significant and consistent support of trail planning, design, or implementation through strong leadership and/or legislative efforts. The nominee may be an elected official, a paid employee, or a volunteer.*

## Karl Knapp

Karl Knapp's 35-year career with California State Parks has been marked by commitment, leadership, and vision. Karl started out as a Park Aide and worked his way up before joining Executive Management. At each level of his work, he has impacted thousands of visitors in California State Parks and has dedicated himself to the improvement of these trail systems.



Throughout Karl's career, he has focused on creating solutions to trail management challenges. He was instrumental in the development of the Trails Handbook and Trail Design and Maintenance Training Series. Karl also developed a process-based trail maintenance budgeting system used by trail managers, contractors, and crew supervisors. Karl's trail design, woodcraft, and technical skills have enhanced countless trails across the State.

Karl is committed to training the next generation in effective and sustainable practices. He has fostered a partnership between California State Parks and the California Conservation Corps, which involves training and trail work experience for young adult members under Karl's leadership. Karl is a recognized leader, sharing his expertise across the State and at a national level. His hard work and tireless advocacy have left a lasting impact in California State Parks.

# TRAILS AND THE ARTS AWARD

*This award recognizes outstanding public art projects, interpretive signs, or other creative structures associated with trail-related improvements.*

## City of Redmond

The City of Redmond, Washington is actively shaping investment and policy to ensure that its community is inspired and connected by arts and culture. Artists and landscape architects influence every park and public place. Beyond the physical form of spaces containing and being shaped with art, these places are designed to become a catalyst for ephemeral arts and cultural programming.

Mayor John Marchione led Redmond in the acquisition and development of the Redmond Central Connector, a 3.9-mile rails-to-trails pilot project for integrated art and landscape design. The first phase of the Connector is a one-mile trail with integrated art that opened in December 2013. It is expected to attract more than 200,000 people annually. Landscape architects and artists worked together to develop the trail's master plan with an art and design element.



The City is activating the Connector for performances and cultural events. The community has enjoyed festivals, live music, markets, bike rides, and more. In the fall of 2014, an artist-designed Moving Arts Center will find a new home on the Connector in a newly designed landing.

# TRAILS FOR HEALTH AWARD

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

## Get Your Tail on the Trail

Get Your Tail on the Trail is a program presented by The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) with St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN). By connecting the community to the opportunities along the 165 mile D&L



Trail in Pennsylvania, this program increased the community's awareness of health-related issues and improves its overall health status.

The program offered monthly events for people to be active through guided bike rides, walks, and runs on the D&L Trail. The events were dynamically promoted through both organizations via social media and television, as well as the website and trail tracker. By linking St. Luke's healthy lifestyle expertise with D&L's recreational and heritage leadership, the program was a success.

In 2014, there were 4,136 registrants who tracked 340,287 miles; 780 participants have completed the 165 mile challenge, 313 have completed the 330 mile super challenge, and 163 have met the 495 mile triple challenge.



# OUTSTANDING TRAIL SHARING AWARD

*This award recognizes innovative and successful trail sharing efforts, programs, and systems.*

## Northumberland County Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area

The Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) consists of 6,500 acres of county-owned abandoned coal land whose trails have been developed into a motorized and nonmotorized recreation facility. In January 2013, the AOAA Authority was presented with a unique opportunity when the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection began a reclamation project on 85 acres on the eastern portion of the Adventure Area. The vision for the AOAA is to provide “Recreation opportunities for off-highway vehicles, economic development, and conservation of natural resources.”



The AOAA accommodates a wide variety of recreational opportunities. In addition to ATV and motorcycle riding, snowmobilers will enjoy riding when snow cover allows. The nonmotorized uses include horseback riding, bicycling, and hiking. In developing the trail system, consideration has been given to providing separate trails where possible for different uses.

Further, management and operational policies of the AOAA are focusing on efforts to educate all visitors, whatever their recreational interest, on trail safety. In addition, educational efforts will promote trail etiquette for every mode of travel and sharing the trails with others they encounter.

# PARTNERSHIP AWARD, LEVEL ONE

*This award is given to a partnership which benefits agencies or services within the field of trail planning, design, or implementation. (Level One category: a partnership consisting of two entities.)*

## American Conservation Experience and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

American Conservation Experience (ACE) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) of the U.S. Forest Service have been partnering on trail projects since 2009. This partnership has enabled American Conservation Experience to provide opportunities for young adults, 18-25 years old, from around the country to engage in meaningful trail and conservation work on the public lands of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Between September 2013 and July 2014 these two organizations partnered together to complete the new 2.5-mile long Monument Pass Trail in South Lake Tahoe, California. This trail now provides a key connector to some of the most popular trails in the Lake Tahoe Basin (some of which LTBMU and ACE built in 2011). By partnering on this project together, over 50 young adults from around the country were able to gain valuable experience building a brand new sustainable multi-use trail. Corps members learned the importance of proper trail design, both to enhance the user experience and mitigate erosion issues.



# PARTNERSHIP AWARD, LEVEL TWO

*This award is given to a partnership which benefits agencies or services within the field of trail planning, design, or implementation. (Level Two category: a partnership consisting of more than two entities.)*

## City of Asheville and New Belgium Brewery

Many successful partnerships contributed to the completion of the New Belgium Section of the larger French Broad Greenway in Asheville, North Carolina. The half-mile greenway completes a critical part of a larger planned greenway system, becoming a key artery in the intermodal system that connects many points of the city.

The French Broad/New Belgium Greenway is located in the River Arts District, a transitioning post-industrial landscape being revitalized into one of the East's most vibrant outdoor recreation/art/and brewery destinations. The site of the future brewery sat underutilized along this riverfront for many years—a visible eyesore from downtown and



Interstate 26. In 2012 plans were underway to build the LEED certified brewery on the 18 acre site, showcasing the greenway as a key feature. The brewery will be a major tourist attraction and employer, and will provide long awaited riverfront access and off-road bike/pedestrian connections.

The City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County were critical partners to seeing the New Belgium Brewery and the greenway to fruition.

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

*This award recognizes an outstanding partnership—outside of the United States—that enhances the trails movement within a specific country or countries.*

## Red Latinoamericana de Senderismo (Latin American Hiking Network)



Red Latinoamericana de Senderismo (Latin American Hiking Network) was founded on October 6, 2012 in Piriápolis, Uruguay, during the First Conference for Planning and Management of Trails in Mercosur.

Various public and private institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela solidified efforts to collaborate

by signing an agreement to foster democratic hiking in Latin American countries. This innovative document, called the Declaration of Piriápolis, defined the principles and bases for action of a Hiking Network in Latin America.

Since its establishment, the network has developed an extensive website with resources for hiking in Latin America; created a forum to integrate individual hikers and hiking organizations of Latin America; created the Latin-American Review of Hiking and Trails; and adopted and disseminated the Pega Leve campaign, an effort to minimize impact in natural areas.



# PLANNING AND DESIGN AWARD, LEVEL ONE

*This award recognizes a project that demonstrates outstanding planning, design, and implementation that enhances the trails movement in a specific location. (Level One category: less than \$500,000.)*

## Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway is a nonprofit, all volunteer 501(c)3 organization with a mission to create a hike/bike trail along the entire 116-mile length of the Truckee River, from Tahoe City, California, to Pyramid Lake, Nevada. It was founded in 2003 and is 75% complete after 11 years of progress.

The first project west of Reno, entering California, was to extend existing trails in Reno westward and upstream along the Truckee River. Doing so was difficult, because the canyon is narrow and the flat bottom area is already



occupied by Union Pacific Railroad, Interstate 80, and the river. The solution was a cost-effective river crossing allowing for a unique partnership between a public utility and a trails nonprofit.

Through careful trail planning, the Fleish suspension bridge will be the only trail bridge needed over the Truckee River in the 13-mile California Canyon, which improves the likelihood that the entire trail will be completed within 5-10 years. Completion of the project has now opened the Truckee River canyon across the state line.

# PLANNING AND DESIGN AWARD, LEVEL TWO

*This award recognizes a project that demonstrates outstanding planning, design, and implementation that enhances the trails movement in a specific location. (Level Two category: between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million.)*

## City of Winters, Putah Creek North Bank Trail

Located in Winters, California, the Putah Creek North Bank Trail is the public access portion of the larger Putah Creek Nature Park project that includes over five phases along the Putah Creek corridor.

The north bank trail connects the historic downtown and Rotary Park with the creek and the surrounding neighborhoods via a gracefully undulating trail that travels along the creek and preserve. The trail includes a wooden pedestrian overlook deck placed under the historic railroad trestle pedestrian bridge. The trail was designed to have enhanced accessibility and allows emergency vehicle access to the remote areas of the trail.



With completion in February of 2013, the success of the project is demonstrated by the numerous users who travel it every day. Small children can ride their bikes from home to downtown without entering streets, elderly and those with disabilities can easily access the beauty of the creek because of the gentle grades of the path, and wildlife can be viewed nesting and flourishing along this successful habitat corridor.

# PLANNING AND DESIGN AWARD, LEVEL THREE

*This award recognizes a project that demonstrates outstanding planning, design, and implementation that enhances the trails movement in a specific location. (Level Three category: \$1.5 million or more.)*

## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan defines a 50-mile network of multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trails spanning the length of Santa Cruz County, California, and spur trails connecting to neighborhoods, schools, parks, coastal access areas, transit hubs, commercial centers, and existing trails. The Master Plan merges multiple community priorities (namely separated bike/pedestrian facilities for active transportation purposes and facilities that provide coastal connectivity) into one cohesive planning document. It divides the approximately \$127 million network into 20 trail segments that can be constructed as funding becomes available.



After over a decade of advocacy, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network was solidified by the adoption of the project's Master Plan in final form in November 2013. As a result of the Plan's adoption in 2013, initiatives to raise private funding to leverage public funds began in full earnest with significant commitments made to supplement an initial funding allocation.

# INTERNATIONAL PLANNING AND DESIGN

*This award recognizes an outstanding project—that occurred outside the United States—that demonstrates outstanding planning, design, and implementation that enhances the trails movement in a specific country or countries.*

## Fundación Caminando Panama

The Caminando Panama Foundation is working on two projects simultaneously focused on rescuing Panama's two trans-isthmian colonial routes: the Camino de Cruces (Crosses Road) and the Camino Real (Kings Road). These Caminos are the grandparents of the Panama Canal.



The recovery of the Camino Real began in 2013. The project's goal is to provide community members living within the National Park's buffer zone with an economic alternative to their subsistence based livelihood, while at the same time rescuing a historic treasure.



Until last year, sections of the Camino de Cruces had been lost for over 40 years. After searching for several months, a group funded by Caminando Panama found the Camino. Since the rediscovery, Caminando Panama has continued to fund its maintenance while coordinating volunteer-based trail maintenance days to ensure public access.

Due to the attention both of these projects have generated in the national press there is now legislation being prepared that would proclaim these two Caminos National Heritage Sites with the idea of elevating them to World Heritage Sites.



# KIDS AND TRAILS AWARD

*This award honors efforts to engage children and youth in outdoor experiences using trails.*

## Wildlands Conservancy's Bike and Boat Program

Wildlands Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust located in the Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania. The Conservancy currently educates more than 14,000 school-aged children each year through Environmental Education and experiential recreation programs.



Its Bike & Boat Program is a model of experiential Environmental Education programming and has connected tens of thousands of kids to the Lehigh River Water Trail and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail while promoting healthy active lifestyles for nearly 15 years. Participants engage in an exploration of the Lehigh River Water Trail and Lehigh Canal Towpath (Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail) by canoe and bicycle. The approach encourages intellectual and ethical development, personal growth, civic and social responsibility, and career exploration and serves as an introduction to life-long, healthy recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, and biking.

Since the program's inception, nearly 40,000 participants have taken part in the Bike & Boat Program. From August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2014, a total of 7,880 participants took part in the program from 19 different school districts across the region.

# INTERNATIONAL KIDS AND TRAILS

*This award honors efforts—that occurred outside the United States—to engage children and youth in outdoor experiences using trails.*

## Pemberton Camp School, Australia

Pemberton Camp School is a residential camp school that provides outdoor educational programs for children. Located in the small timber town of Pemberton, West Australia, the camp school collaborates with teachers to get kids out on the trail by offering week-long camps and an after school program.

Students undertake outdoor education and environmental programs with a strong focus on leadership and team building. One highlight of the camp is the mountain bike program, where students enjoy learning on the Pemberton Mountain

Bike Park single track. The program commences with mountain bike familiarization and skills progression on a range of single track and technical trail features so that each student learns and gain confidence. The pump track is the most enjoyable element that completes the program. Additional programs also feature bushwalking, canoeing, and environmental education programs.

Pemberton Camp School provides a rich and wonderful experiential journey and enables kids to get out and enjoy life through trails.



# CORPORATE AWARD

*This award honors a business or corporation which has demonstrated significant, sustained, and exemplary service to trails planning, implementation, and/or recreation.*

## REI

Since 1976, REI has provided more than \$44 million to nonprofit organizations to steward and enhance America's outdoor spaces. Between August 1, 2012 and July 31, 2014, REI donated \$7.2 million to more than 500 local and national groups that take care of America's parks and trails. While the company is a major funder of park and trail programs nationwide, the funding process begins with local store teams who endorse nonprofits with whom they have forged meaningful partnerships.



While REI's annual park and trail stewardship grants total millions annually, the average grant is typically in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. This provides critical support to small, local nonprofits that provide "hands on" support to park and trail managers nationwide. REI's corporate headquarters requires a detailed follow up report each year from all recipients, ensuring accountability and excellent value for their grant dollars.

REI doesn't just send a check; staff shows up for trail workdays in force to collaborate with grantees and local nonprofits, often bringing volunteer acknowledgements, t-shirts, and raffle items with them to enhance the experience.

# BEST TRAILS STATE AWARD

*This award recognizes a State which is facilitating an outstanding statewide system of trails.*

## State of Oregon

Since the time of the Oregon Trail, the spirit of trails has not left the State of Oregon. In 1903, the Olmsted Brothers proposed a 40-mile Loop trail around Portland; today the Intertwine

Alliance proposes a 450 mile system of trails. Dr.

Sam Dickens envisioned a trail along Oregon's scenic coastline in the 1950s; today a 384 mile trail is providing millions with access to Oregon's beaches.



As early as 1899, a bike path was being discussed to connect the communities in Jackson County; now there are two regional trails being developed to connect eight communities over 52 miles.

Oregon continues to emerge as a leader in trail planning and initiatives. Oregon was the first state to have a statewide water trails plan and the first to have state-designated scenic bikeways. Bicycling Magazine named three Oregon cities in the top 25 of best bike cities in America. IMBA has four Epic trails selected in Oregon. The state boasts 78 National Recreation Trails, three National Scenic Trails, and 16 historic trails.

Oregon's tourism slogan is "The land of dreamers." The trails community has truly come together to realize those dreams.

# LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

*This award recognizes an individual demonstrating longstanding, significant, and exemplary service to trails planning, implementation, and recreation.*

## Mel Huie

Mel Huie has been an enthusiastic supporter, advocate, and planner of trails in the Portland area for more than three decades. Mel is a founding member of the Parks and Trails Department at Metro regional government, and as Metro's Trails Coordinator, Mel has worked on virtually every major trails project in the region.

Mel's outstanding leadership and advocacy have increased cooperative efforts for trails, including the development of the first Parks and Trails Forum in 1988 (now the Quarterly Trails Forum), managing annual trail counts, and garnering an estimated total of \$25 million for local trails. Mel was also the project manager for the development of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan, adopted by the Metro Council in 1992 and still in use today. This plan details the vision and framework of a regional system of natural areas, open spaces, trails, and greenways.

Throughout his career, Mel has developed an astounding network of trail supporters and advocates in the region and has showed tireless commitment to making Portland a better place to walk, bike, and live.



In memory of

# HULET HORNBECK

October 14, 1919 - January 7, 2012

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, 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. This award is "for an individual that, like Hulet Hornbeck, exemplifies long-standing vision and wisdom in support of trails." It is the highest honor celebrated in the national trails community.

*"Hulet once said, 'Trails are the firestorm of the last two generations—from coast to coast and border to border.' Your vision and life work inspired this movement! You are our modern day John Muir. What Muir did for Yosemite, you have done for the East Bay and the nation. You represent the very best of humanity and continue to inspire us daily!"*

- Pam Gluck  
American Trails Executive Director and Friend

# HULET HORNBECK AWARD

*This award is for an individual that, like Hulet Hornbeck, exemplifies long-standing vision and wisdom in support of trails.*

## Steve Griswold

Steve Griswold dedicated his career in service to championing good trail practices and molding successful trail programs and crews within countless National Parks across America.



For his Master's thesis, Steve produced the trail manual "A Handbook on Trail

Building and Maintenance," one of the very first published trail manuals. It is now in its 5th edition and to this day it is a reference for many National Park master plans, including Yosemite and Sequoia. The Parks Steve didn't reach in person he often reached by way of his trail manual.

After some backcountry seasons in Yosemite, Steve went on to be Trails Foreman at King's Canyon, Big Bend, Haleakala, Rocky Mountain, and Olympic National Parks. Steve was a contributor to the Master Plans at Grand Canyon, Golden Gate, Rocky Mountain, Yosemite, and Acadia National Parks. He was also a founding member of the Trails Forever Initiative at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which went on to become the largest volunteer program in the country.

Steve retired from the National Park Service in 2013, but his colleagues, crews, and trails across America continue to feel the impact of his work.

# ANNIVERSARIES



- 5 years – Arizona Trail became a National Scenic Trail
- 15 years – BLM National Landscape Conservation System
  - 20 years – Frisco Highline Trail, Missouri
  - 25 years – Bay Area Ridge Trail, California
  - 25 years – Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Oregon
  - 25 years – FHWA's Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- 25 years – National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)
  - 30 years – Florida National Scenic Trail
  - 40 years – Back Country Horsemen of America
  - 50 years – National Recreation and Park Association
- 50 years – Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Texas
  - 50 years – Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
  - 50 years – Idaho State Parks and Recreation
    - 50 years – The Wilderness Act
    - 65 years – Round Up Riders of Colorado
    - 90 years – Appalachian Trail Conservancy
  - 100 years – National Park Service (building to 2016)