

# Footnotes

Newsletter for the Foothills Trail Conference . [www.foothillstrail.org](http://www.foothillstrail.org)

## MAINTENANCE TAKES CENTER STAGE IN 2017



There is always a need for maintenance on the Foothills Trail simply because it is a 77-mile trail that winds its way through forestland along the edge of the SC / NC mountains. However, the word for the day in 2017 has been **MAINTENANCE**, and lots of it!! The fires at Table Rock and Whitewater Falls generated huge needs for repairs, and partnership activities with the U.S. Forest Service, Make-a-Wish, Greenville Natural History Association, and Johnson Controls also added many volunteer hours to the total so far this year.

After the Pinnacle Mountain/ Table Rock fire ended, the portion of the Trail within Table Rock State Park and some of the adjacent lands within the Jocassee Gorges had to be closed until the fire damage could be repaired and the Trail made safe again. FTC volunteers worked with State Park employees to clear the Trail of fallen debris, including one session in almost knee-deep snow on Pinnacle Mountain! In coordination with a Duke Energy crew a number of FTC volunteers also carried in lumber to rebuild/ replace a bridge burned out by the fire.

Although the FTC was not able to directly help with the replacement of the burned-out staircase at Whitewater Falls, the FTC consulted closely with the Nantahala District of the U.S. Forest Service to initially reroute the Trail away from the Whitewater Falls area, and then to get it reopened around and below the falls. A huge workday on April 1, which involved FTC volunteers, as well as participants from Make-a-Wish and the Greenville Natural History Association, made needed repairs, rerouted an eroded portion of the Trail, installed shortcut fences, and rehabbed a rockfall area. This one day alone totaled over 100 volunteer hours!!

# Foothills Trail Conference 43rd Annual Meeting

## Table Rock State Park—November 3, 4 and 5, 2017

Deadline for Registration is November 2, 2017

(to see a map of the park, please check our website)

Every year the Foothills Trail Conference holds an Annual Meeting weekend for our members that is filled with exciting hikes, great speakers, delicious meals, and fellowship with other FTC members. This year's Meeting is just around the corner, and we have an exciting weekend planned for all to enjoy! To reserve a campsite, please contact Table Rock State Park online. Make sure to register early to reserve your hikes and a place at the table for a great weekend of outdoor adventure and fellowship with the FTC!

### FTC Annual Meeting Schedule

#### Friday, November 3

- 9:30 a.m. Hike Departs (See enclosed hike list)
- 3:00 p.m. Volunteers gather to help set up
- 6:00-9:00 p.m. Friday Night Social Hour. Potluck supper;  
Presentation on Petroglyphs by Gene Johnston;  
Slideshow by Bill Robertson

#### Saturday, November 4

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Pavilion (catered by Aunt Sue's)
- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list)  
Lunch on your own
- 10am– 5pm Various Activities in the Pavilion
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour in the Pavilion – BYO Special Beverages  
with Snacks and Drinks by FTC
- 6:00 p.m. Henry's Smokehouse BBQ will cater a delicious BBQ  
supper.
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting  
Special Guest Speaker, Mac Stone  
(A presentation of nature photographs)  
Business Meeting, Door Prizes

#### Sunday, November 5

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Meeting Room (Continental)
- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list)  
Volunteers help with cleanup

**PULL-OUT PAGES FOR  
MEMBERSHIP AND 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

# Foothills Trail Conference 43rd Annual Meeting

## Registration Form

**Table Rock State Park- November 3, 4, and 5, 2017**

Deadline for Registration is November 2, 2017

Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the number of people for each category below.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Register for the entire weekend. | <input type="checkbox"/> I can only attend Saturday Evening<br>(includes meal and activities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults \$35 per person           | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults \$25 per person   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children (12 and under) \$10     | <input type="checkbox"/> Children (12 and under) \$5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$80                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Student \$20             | <input type="checkbox"/> College Student \$12   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scouts \$10                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Scouts \$7   |

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We plan to attend the following. Please indicate the number of people:**

Friday Night Social/Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Evening Social \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Supper \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Meeting/Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to register for the following hikes. Please indicate the number of people:**

Friday : Hike 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday: Hike 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Hike 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Hike 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Hike 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Hike 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Hike 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday : Hike 8 \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteers are GREATLY appreciated!!**

**\*\*I can volunteer to help with:**

Setup on Friday: 3pm-5pm \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday Night Social: I can bring a dish to share \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday: Breakfast: I can help with setup/cleanup Saturday morning \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Breakfast: I can help prepare breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ I can bring a dish to share \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Breakdown: I can help with breakdown/cleanup (10-11 am) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your registration and payment to:**

Foothills Trail Conference - Annual Meeting  
PO Box 3041, Greenville SC 29602

# ANNUAL MEETING 2017 HIKES AND OUTINGS!!

## Saturday, continued

#5— **Jumping Off Rock.** This drive leads to one of the most impressive views in all of SC, and fall colors should be rampant in the Jocassee Gorges down below the overlook. Led by **Greg Lucas**, FTC Board member and Jocassee Journal editor, the outing will allow participants to see the length and breadth of Lake Jocassee. Meet at the Pinnacle Pavilion 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#6—**Raven Cliff Falls.** Join **Dan Whitten**, FTC Board member and Master Naturalist, on this easy-moderate 4.4-mile hike to one of the iconic waterfalls in the upstate. The 400-ft waterfall has several short drops and one long plunge before it disappears into the trees below the overlook platform. Fall colors surrounding the waterfall should make for great photographs ! Bring snacks, lunch, and a drink. A camera is certainly recommended. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion to carpool to Caesar's Head State Park. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#7—**Maintenance Hikes.** Help out with upkeep on the Foothills Trail with FTC Board Member **Rocky Nation**, Trail Captain **Jack Hudish**, and others. There may be more than one maintenance hike, so plenty of strong backs are needed! Bring gloves, lunch and plenty to drink. Tools will be provided. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Sunday

#8— **Petroglyph Site** -Join **Gene Johnston**, Master Naturalist, avid hiker, and petroglyph lover, on a hike to see the unique petroglyph site just below the Foothills Trail near Pinnacle Mtn. Gene will describe the recent archeological study about the petroglyphs that was conducted recently at this spot and nearby. Carpooling will be necessary due to the rough road leading to the beginning of the hike. This will be limited to 15 people. Meet at the Pinnacle Pavilion to carpool to the " trailhead ". Bring lunch, snacks, water and camera;

### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING PICTURE SHOW

Do you have some great pictures of your fun along the Foothills Trail? OF COURSE YOU DO! In this day of digital pictures, everyone shoots up a storm. At the 2017 Annual Meeting we will have a slideshow of digital pictures taken along the Trail. They may be waterfalls, hikers, camping, wildflowers, sunsets, animals—anything you think others would enjoy. You may email pictures to [info@foothillstrail.org](mailto:info@foothillstrail.org) or bring the picture files on a standard USB thumb drive and we'll load them onto a picture show computer. The digital slideshow will run at various times throughout the weekend. By sending your pictures, you are also giving us permission to use them on our social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as our website. Thanks!

# FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AT 2017 ANNUAL MEETING MAC STONE

## ACCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER HEADLINES 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Mac is an acclaimed photographer and natural history communicator. Blending science and



aesthetics, he uses iconic imagery to further conservation goals across the globe. His work has been published widely in BBC, National Geographic, Garden and Gun, World Wildlife Fund and many others. In South Carolina, his aim is to connect the public with the wonders and importance of the Upstate's wild places. He is presently Executive Director of Naturaland Trust, a Greenville-based organization that has worked to preserve special places in the upstate for over 70 years.

Mac Stone is from Gainesville, Florida, and growing up exploring the springs, swamps, and hammocks of North Central Florida, he developed a passion for photography at a young age. Over the years his camera has carried him to some of the most remote and imperiled areas this side of the globe. For six months, Stone lived in Ecuador during the presidential overthrow of 2005 and worked with Wildlife Conservation Society biologists in the Amazon rainforest. Soon after, he moved to Honduras and lived in a small village along the Cangrejal River. For two years he taught photography to underprivileged youth as a way to raise environmental awareness in the region. Some of the students have gone on to win international acclaim and start up their own eco-tourism businesses. Through photography, Stone strives to start new conversations and expose the dynamic relationship between mankind and the natural world.

Currently, his work focuses on America's swamps in an attempt to change public opinion towards our country's wetlands. After spending five years living and working in the Everglades watershed, he released a coffee table book about the heralded River of Grass. [Everglades: America's Wetland](#), published in October of 2014, has won a silver medal with the Florida Book Awards and is now in its second printing. To see some of his photos visit [www.macstonephoto.com](http://www.macstonephoto.com).