

Footnotes

Newsletter for the Foothills Trail Conference . www.foothillstrail.org

“ODYSSA“ TALK HIGHLIGHTS FALL PICNIC

Although some sporadic rain pelted the Gorges State Park picnic shelter, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 65 attendees of the FTC Fall Picnic on September 8th. After unloading supplies, food, etc., the initial “wave “ of arrivals followed Steve Pagano, Board Member and Manager of Gorges Park, to the new Gorges Visitor Center for a tour of the facilities. Steve gave a very informative tour of the new facility which contains park offices, classroom and auditorium spaces, and several displays that highlight various features unique to the mountain environment – such as the amount of rain that falls each year !! He also pointed out the tremendous views that can be seen from the windows and decks of the building.

When the second tour group headed to the Visitor Center, Les Storm and Jerry Harvey began to prepare the hamburgers and hotdogs for the picnic – under the protective cover of the Foothills Trail tent! Although a brief rain shower made the cooking a challenge, the two of them successfully prepared the main food items for the group. Thanks Jerry and Les! ! In addition to the grilled burgers and dogs there were plenty of delicious side items that had been brought by the members who attended. Thanks to all who brought something ! !



The highlight of the first-ever Fall Picnic was, of course, a presentation by Jennifer Pharr Davis - AT trailname “Odysa“. As her father, Yorke Pharr, looked on, she recounted the trials and extreme exertion that were necessary to accomplish hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in just 46 days! Although her husband, Brew Davis, was not present, she made it plain that he played a huge role in helping her accomplish her record-breaking journey. She also delivered a message of what has motivated her and what she hopes will motivate others to get out and enjoy the natural world by hiking in it. As an expectant mother-to-be, she also revealed how she is having to adapt to changes in her life, and how she is looking forward to meeting those challenges. Those who were lucky enough to attend the picnic thoroughly enjoyed her company and her presentation!!

JOHNSON CONTROLS DONATION

The Executive Director of the Foothills Trail Conference, Heyward Douglass, accepts a check for \$ 1,000 from Dennis Yount, Site Manager of the Johnson Controls Seneca Plant. Johnson Controls, a world-wide technology and manufacturing company, as part of their environmental stewardship program called Blue Sky, has donated money for several years to the Foothills Trail Conference to help them maintain the Foothills Trail. The popular, 77-mile, hiking trail runs between Oconee State Park and Table Rock State Park, crossing the Jocassee Gorges and over Sassafras Mountain, South Carolina's highest peak. The grant this year will be used to purchase new maintenance tools.

In addition to monetary support from the company, employees of the Johnson Controls plant in Seneca also do volunteer work on parts of the Foothills Trail. They have contributed many hours of their time clearing debris and vegetation from the side of the trail in Oconee County.



Pictured left to right are Ken Hunt and Mary Williams of Johnson Controls. Jerry Harvey, Mike Despeaux, Joe McCall and Heyward Douglass of the Foothills Trail Conference. Dennis Yount of Johnson Controls.

FTC Board Nominations - 2012

The FTC Board election will take place at this year's Annual Meeting. The bylaws for selecting and nominating candidates are listed below. If you would like to make a recommendation to the nominating committee, please contact Bill Baskin at wpb3@ftc-i.net or 803.428.7602.

Article 6

2. Procedure for Board Nominations:

- (a) A nominating committee consisting of three (3) or five (5) board members shall be appointed by the chairman, for the purpose of seeking qualified board candidates. The nominating committee shall allow conference members, in addition to board members, to make recommendations and to thus participate in the selection of board candidates.
- (b) In addition to making recommendations to the nominating committee, conference members may make nominations by filing a document, bearing signatures of at least ten (10) members, with the nominating committee at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Annual Foothills Trail Conference Membership

Your membership to the Foothills Trail Conference is vital to the Foothills Trail, the southeast's best hiking trail. With the Trail traversing the property of EIGHT different landowners, for over 35 years the FTC has been a single voice committed to keeping this footpath well maintained. In addition, we promote the Trail to the hiking community and we publish the official trail map and guide. Your support gives us the resources and support necessary to continue these efforts. Thank you for your commitments in the past, and we look forward to your continued support.

Membership Levels:

- Oconee Individual \$20
- Oconee Family \$30
- Table Rock \$50
- Chattooga \$100
- Sassafras \$250
- Pinnacle \$500
- Additional Contribution \$_____

Name: _____

(Please include any changes to the following below)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Approx. years of membership _____

Age group: 20-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71-80 81-90 91-100

I am interested in volunteering. I have the following skills to offer:

Thank you for renewing your membership to the FTC!

Please mail this form with your membership and/or contribution to:

Foothills Trail Conference
Membership Renewal
PO Box 3041
Greenville, SC 29602

You may also renew online at www.foothillstrail.org and click "Join Today".

Foothills Trail Conference 38th Annual Meeting

Oconee State Park November 2, 3, and 4, 2012

Deadline for Registration is October 23, 2012

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! 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 2

- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (See enclosed hike list)
- 3:00 p.m. Volunteers gather to help set up
- 6:00-9:00 p.m. Friday Night Social Hour. Light potluck supper and Presentation featuring the "Woods Women"

Saturday, November 3

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in Dining Room
- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list)
- Lunch on your own
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour – BYO Special Beverages and Sassafras Mountain improvements presentation by Clemson Architecture Students.
- 6:00 p.m. Hunting Camp BBQ will cater a delicious BBQ supper.
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting Special Guest Speaker, Winton Porter (See enclosed bio and background).
Business Meeting - John Park, FTC Board Chairman
Door Prizes

Sunday, November 4

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

Foothills Trail Conference 38th Annual Meeting

Registration Form

Oconee State Park November 2, 3, and 4, 2012

Deadline for Registration is October 23, 2012

Participants: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate the number of people in your party below.

Check to register for the entire weekend. I can only attend Saturday Evening
(includes meal and activities)

Adults \$30 per person

Adults \$20 per person

Children (12 and under) \$10

Children (12 and under) \$5

Family \$80

Family \$50

College Student \$20

College Student \$12

Scouts \$10

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 _____ Hike 2 _____

Saturday Hike 3 _____ Hike 4 _____ Hike 5 _____ Hike 6 _____ Hike 7 _____ Hike 8 _____ Hike 9 _____

Sunday Hike 10 _____ Hike 11 _____

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 prepare breakfast _____ I can help clean up _____

Sunday Breakfast: I can help prepare breakfast _____ I can bring a dish to share _____

Sunday Breakdown: I can help with breakdown/cleanup (10-11am) _____

Please mail your registration and payment to:

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

FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONFERENCE

Friday

#1—Sloan Bridge to Ellicott's Rock on Fork Mountain Trail. Enjoy the colors of fall along the mystical Chattooga River and explore the Ellicott's Rock area with Cathy Reas Foster, Foothills Trail Conference board member. The hike begins on the Chattooga River Trail at Burrells Ford with a stop at Spoon Auger Falls before connecting to the Foothills Trail that leads up river to Ellicott's Rock. After lunch and adventures finding the rock, hikers will take the Fork Mt. Spur Trail and finish at Sloan Bridge. Shuttle required. This 12-mile hike is rated very strenuous with an elevation gain of 3,000 ft. Bring lunch, snacks, water, hiking shoes, and a camera! Meet Cathy at Sloan Bridge at 8:30 a.m.

#2—Lee Falls Hike. This hike will begin by assembling at the parking lot in Oconee State Park below the Ranger's office and store at noon on Friday, November 2, 2012. We will carpool to the trailhead for a 1.6 mile hike one way, (3.2 round trip). This is an out and back hike. This hike is rated difficult because of the first two crossings of a fairly large stream, Tamassee Creek and particularly for the last ¼ mile to the falls which is steep and scrambling over boulders and trees. The majority of the hike is an easy walk through 4 meadows and some forest walking. This 90' waterfall is one of the most spectacular in the Upstate and one of my top favorites. The flowers are always great while still in season. Be prepared for wet feet and beautiful pictures. Led by Dan Whitten.

Saturday

#3—Upper Whitewater Falls to Lower Whitewater Falls and Bad Creek. Join Master Naturalist and Foothills Trail Conference board member Dan Whitten on this strenuous 6-mile walk that will start at Upper Whitewater Falls and continue to Lower Whitewater Falls, finishing at Duke Energy's Bad Creek Hydro Project. Shuttle required. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#4—Bartram Trail Hike to Rabun Bald. John Ray, Foothills Trail Conference member, will lead a hike on the Georgia section of the Bartram Trail from Beegum Gap (3,600 feet) to the summit of Rabun Bald, at 4,696 feet Georgia's second highest mountain and the highest in a semi-primitive state. The hike will follow the old fire tower road to the summit in 1.6 miles and return the same way. Outstanding views of three states are available from the observation tower. The drive from Oconee State Park to the trailhead is more than an hour. This hike is limited to 15 people or three cars because of parking limitations at Beegum Gap. Wear hiking shoes and bring lunch, water, camera and binoculars. This hike will be strenuous. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING 2012 HIKES AND OUTINGS!!

#5—Oconee Family Nature Walk. Learn about plants and animals on an easy walk around Oconee State Park with Dr. Rocky Nation, naturalist and professor at Southern Wesleyan University. Bring a drink and a magnifying glass and/or binoculars. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30-11 a.m.

#6—Fall Color Hike. Join Master Naturalist and Foothills Trail Conference member Steve Marlowe on a moderate 5-mile walk of gorgeous fall colors on the Foothills Trail from Whitewater Falls to Sloan Bridge. Shuttle required. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#7—Yellow Branch Falls. Plinio Beres, river ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, will lead this moderate 3-mile round-trip walk to one of the prettiest cascades in Upstate South Carolina. This out-and-back trail leads hikers to the base of a spectacular 50-foot vertical cascade. On the way, the trail passes through groves of dignified hardwoods and crosses meandering creek bottoms. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#8—Gorges State Park Visitors Center Tour. Visit the beautiful new Visitors Center at Gorges State Park with one of the area's most breathtaking views of the Jocassee Gorges region. Gorges State Park Ranger Kevin Bischof will give a guided tour of the new center and some of the nearby areas in the North Carolina state park. Meet at Gorges State Park at 10:30 a.m. The Grassy Ridge entrance of Gorges State Park is about 8 miles from Upper Whitewater Falls on NC 281.

#9—Maintenance Hikes. Help out with upkeep on the Foothills Trail with Foothills Trail Conference board members Les Storm and Jack Hudish and others. There may be more than one maintenance hike, so plenty of strong backs are needed! Bring gloves, a favorite tool, lunch and plenty to drink. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday

#10—Long Creek Falls. Join Jerry Harvey, Foothills Trail Conference board member, on a moderate hike of about 1.8 miles (one-way) down to Long Creek Falls (last 200' steep down), a popular stop for paddlers on Section Four of the Chattooga River. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#11—Tamassee Knob. Join Bobbie Wilhite, Foothills Trail Conference board member, on this moderate to strenuous round-trip hike of about three hours on the Tamassee Knob Trail within Oconee State Park. The Tamassee Knob Trail features a number of scenic overlooks. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. Bring lunch and water. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WINTON PORTER

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AT 2012 ANNUAL MEETING



Ever since starting his lawn-mowing business at age 10, author Winton Porter has found it hard to stay indoors. At 21 he opened his own B. Bumblefoot and Co., producing hiking sticks for retailers throughout the U.S. southeast. And for years he tried the corporate route—selling gear and managing operations at such retailers as REI in Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Atlanta. In 2001, at age 35, he ransacked his 401k and bought the venerable Mountain Crossings store, a hiker’s Mecca deep in the Georgia woods near the southern end of the Appalachian Trail. It’s a blissful match for the lifelong outdoorsman and natural-born storyteller. Now called the Guru of the Appalachian Trail, Winton is famous for his “shakedown” to help weary hikers lighten their loads. Winton’s knowledge and expertise has also recently landed him an endorsement deal with Patagonia Footwear’s new “Zero Impact Backpacking Boot”. When he’s not busy selling boots and shipping hikers’ boxes home, he’s writing about the zany adventurers that populate the trail and his store. Winton’s memory for dialogue, eye for detail, compassion for those in trouble, and gift for humor come together in the 27 chapters that make up his first book.

Notable Quotes & Achievements:

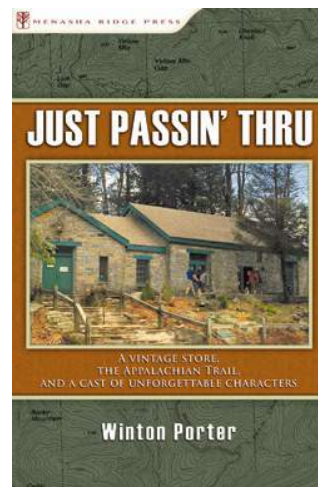
- "Just Passin' Thru is a work of genius."-Former assistant secretary of state for the State of Iowa, Scott Ourth
- "For a guy whose job has him posted in the middle of nowhere, Winton Porter certainly draws a crowd." -Bo Emerson, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- "The Appalachian Trail Guru" – Backpacker Magazine
- "Winton is a classic country storyteller. In his words you also get the sounds, the smells, and the scenes—smoothly crafted to get under your skin." –Brian B. King, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

JUST PASSIN' THRU

By: WINTON PORTER

Awards:

- WINNER OF THE "GEORGIA AUTHOR OF THE YEAR 2010" AWARD
- HONORABLE MENTIONS "NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD" NOBA
- TOP FINALIST AT THE BANFF BOOK FESTIVAL



SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN PRESS CONFERENCE

Dozens of environmental supporters were in attendance, despite periodic rain showers, to hear South Carolina's senior Senator, Lindsay Graham, make remarks announcing improvements that are planned for the summit of Sassafras Mountain, the highest point in South Carolina, and a trailhead for the Foothills Trail. Some of the improvements had already taken place, such as the newly paved road from Rocky Bottom to the parking lot near the summit, and a viewing platform constructed by SC DNR.



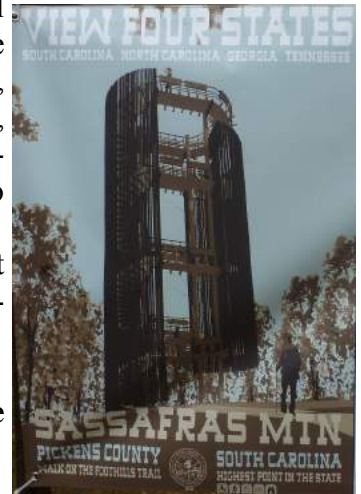
Most of the Foothills Trail Board was present to hear Senator Graham; Alvin A. Taylor, SC DNR Director; Michael Leonard, Vice Chairman of the Conservation Fund; and Jennifer H. Willis, Chairperson of Pickens County Council, and others give their thoughts on how environmentally and historically significant the area around Sassafras Mountain is and the need for it to become better known to the public in general.

A brief synopsis of the overall project, which will include handicap access to the summit, several strategic viewpoints,

and a viewing tower, was given by Dan Harding, an architecture professor at Clemson University, who has been engaged by SC DNR to develop concepts for the summit area.

The Foothills Trail Conference is well “plugged in” with this project and is looking forward to the additional attention the Trail will receive when these improvements are made.

Additional information on the project will be presented at the annual meeting during the Saturday social hour.



2012 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 2012 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. 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 during the Saturday evening social hour and dinner.

Foothills Trail Conference
PO Box 3041
Greenville, SC 29602
WWW.FOOTHILLSTRAIL.ORG

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John Park, Chairman
Mike Stafford, Emeritus
Scott Stegenga
Robert Stephenson
Les Storm, Vice Chair
Dan Whitten
Bobbie Wilhite

DATES TO REMEMBER



FTC Membership Renewal

FTC Annual Meeting
Oconee State Park

Friday, November 2 - Sunday November 4

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to all who made our first Fall Picnic
at Gorges State Park a HUGE success.

