



Footnotes

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

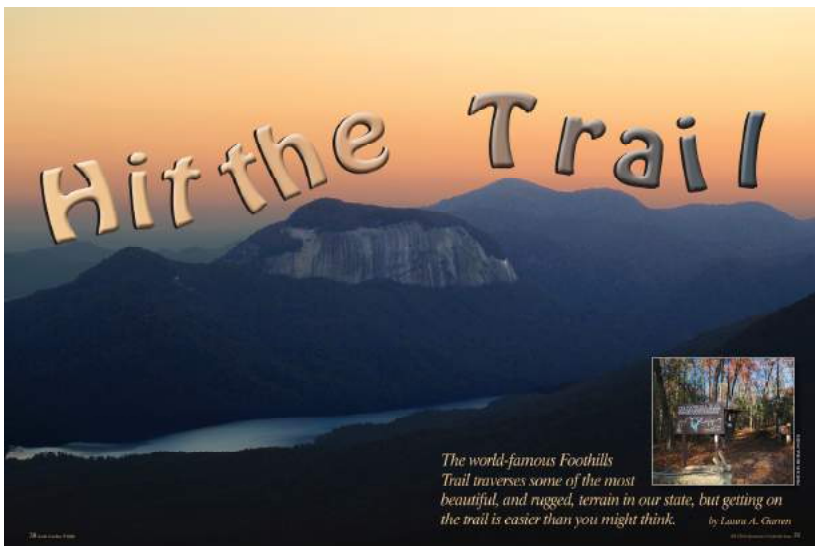
FOOTHILLS TRAIL FEATURED IN *SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE*

The August issue of *South Carolina Wildlife* Magazine included a feature article on the Foothills Trail. Published by the SC Department of Natural Resources since 1954, the award winning magazine is devoted exclusively to showcasing the state's natural resources and recreational opportunities. An excerpt of the article is printed below. To enjoy the full article, written by Greenville freelance writer Laura Garren, visit the following website: <http://www.scwildlife.com/pubs/julyaug2013/foothillstrail.html>

The Foothills Trail winds through a scenic and diverse landscape — deep mountain hollows rarely visited by the sun; ridges offering stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains; sun-flecked glens that look like they should harbor hobbits; rushing streams that cascade over rocks and transform into waterfalls. Wildlife, including bears, deer, turkey, hawks, eagles, woodpeckers and a plethora of other birds, abound. The trail's eastern end is anchored by Table Rock State Park. The western-most section winds along 8.5 miles of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. In between lies Sassafras Mountain (South Carolina's highest peak at 3,553 feet); the untamed wilderness of the S.C. Department of Natural

Resources-managed Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges (recently named one of the fifty "Last Great Places" by *National Geographic* magazine); and much, much more. The trail is an amateur botanist's

paradise, where observant hikers might see everything from common —but beautiful — plants such as Jack in the pulpit to fern species that grow nowhere else in North America or the rare Oconee bell, endemic only to the cool, damp recesses of the Gorges.



FALL PICNIC AT GORGES STATE PARK

As it should be, a hint of fall was in the air at Gorges State Park on September 14, when the FTC Fall Picnic was held. Steve Pagano, Park Manager and FTC Board Member, even had a fire going in the fireplace when members arrived. The crackling fire made for great atmosphere during the festivities. Instead of the usual hamburgers, FTC Executive Director, Heyward Douglass, found that Ye Olde Sandwich Shop in Seneca cooked some mighty good grilled, BBQ'd, and fried chicken, so that was the main dish for the meal. The choices of dishes made by the members were too numerous to fit on one plate, and several attendees made one (or more) trips to the table in order to sample them all !! The desserts that were brought were simply scrumptious and were also sampled multiple times !! Umm, umm, GOOD! If you attended the picnic, you now know what an HWA is all about (that would be a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid). A former graduate student at Clemson University, Layla Burgess, gave a very informative presentation about the small insect that has been devastating the Hemlock trees in SC and surrounding states. She gave a history of how it came here, what has been done to fight it, and what to hope for in the future.



FTC Board Nominations - 2013

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 send to info@foothillstrail.org.

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.

Foothills Trail Conference 39th Annual Meeting

Table Rock State Park Pavilion November 1, 2, and 3, 2013

Deadline for Registration is October 28, 2013

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 1

- 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 by Rocky Nation

Saturday, November 2

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list)
Lunch on your own
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour – BYO Special Beverages
- 6:00 p.m. Hunting Camp BBQ will cater a delicious BBQ supper.
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting Special Guest Speaker, Bill Robertson
(See enclosed bio and background).
Business Meeting - John Park, FTC Board Chairman
Door Prizes

Sunday, November 3

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

FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONFERENCE

Friday

#1—Table Rock. Take an Fabulous Friday Foray with **Cathy Foster**, FTC Board Member and Master Naturalist. This is the hallmark mountain trail of the South Carolina upstate, and a Friday tradition for FTC annual meetings at Table Rock State Park. Keep in mind that the hike to the top of Table Rock Mountain is a VERY strenuous walk of about 7.2 miles (out and back). The Table Rock National Recreation Trail ascends 2,000 feet to the summit of the imposing granitic dome, Table Rock Mountain (3,157 feet). Meet at Carrick Creek Interpretive Center. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday

#2—Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve. Join **Bobbie Wilhite**, FTC Board Member and Master Naturalist, on the trail at Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve, a moderate round-trip hike of about 5.4 miles, to one of the area's real beautyspots. If you haven't seen the viewing platform overlooking The Narrows, this is a hike that you won't want to miss! Bring lunch and water. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion. Hikers will be driving to the hike site. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#3—Lake Jocassee / Foothills Trail. A pontoon boat ride on Lake Jocassee from Devils Fork State Park will get hikers to the Rock Creek section of the Foothills Trail, which is just southeast of the Toxaway River bridge. After a moderate hike of 3.9 miles led by Board Member and Master Naturalist **Dan Whitten**, hikers will arrive at the Laurel Fork Creek access. After viewing Laurel Fork Falls, hikers will be picked up by boat for the return to D. Fork. Captain Brooks Wade will narrate during the boat ride from and back to the park. Due to the necessity of the boat shuttle this hike is limited to 12 participants and there is a charge of \$30 for each hiker. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion at 9:30 am to carpool to Devils Fork. Return to Table Rock by 4:30 pm.

#4—Sassafras Mountain to Chimneytop Gap. Start at South Carolina's highest point at 3,553 feet, and it's all downhill from there! Join **John Park**, FTC Board Chairman, on an easy-to-moderate hike of about 2.7 miles on the Foothills Trail. The hike will begin at the end of the parking lot with a breathtaking view from the new overlook which was constructed by Clemson University architecture students. Bring lunch, water, camera and binoculars. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion. Hikers will be driving to the hike site. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**PULL-OUT PAGES FOR
MEMBERSHIP AND 2013 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 almost 40 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 39th Annual Meeting
Registration Form
Table Rock State Park Pavilion November 1, 2, and 3, 2013
 Deadline for Registration is October 28, 2013

Participants: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate the number of people in your party below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check to register for the entire weekend. | <input type="checkbox"/> I can only attend Saturday Evening
(includes meal and activities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults \$30 per person | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults \$20 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 _____ Hike 8 _____
 Sunday Hike 9 _____

I can volunteer to help with:

- Setup on Friday: 3pm-5pm _____
 Friday Night Social: I can bring a dish to share _____
 Saturday: I can help with setup/cleanup Sat AM _____ PM _____ I can help with registration _____
 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

**PULL-OUT PAGES FOR
MEMBERSHIP AND 2013 ANNUAL MEETING**

ANNUAL MEETING 2013 HIKES AND OUTINGS!!

#5— Pinnacle Lake Trail. Enjoy the fall colors and learn some natural history lessons around the Pinnacle Lake Trail with **Steve Marlow**, a Master Naturalist and professional photographer. This moderate, 1.9-mile loop trail passes through a forest that includes oak-hickory, scattered pines, and mountain laurel with a striking view of Table Rock. Bring water and a hand lens and/or binoculars. Meet at the swimming area parking lot. 9:30 a.m. to noon.

#6—Bald Knob Overlook. Trek along with **Scott Stegenga** up Pinnacle Mountain Trail to take in a stunning view from Bald Knob. The landscape below should be gorgeous with its robe of fall colors. This route, which is the beginning of the Foothills Trail, is strenuous at the upper section and will be about 7 miles round trip. Meet at the Carrick Creek Nature Center deck near the trail head. Bring water and lunch. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#7—Rainbow Falls. Meet at Pinnacle Pavilion to carpool to Gorges State Park. Join Ranger **Torry Nergert** on a relaxing 3.5 mile roundtrip hike to Rainbow Falls on the Horsepasture River. Torry will give a cooks tour of the visitor center before departing, so if you have not seen it, this is your chance. Bring lunch and a drink. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#8—Maintenance Hikes. Help out with upkeep on the Foothills Trail with FTC Board Member **Les Storm**, Trail Captain **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 Pinnacle Pavilion. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday

#9— Moonshine Falls. Join **Jerry Harvey**, Foothills Trail Conference Board Member, on a moderate, 3-mile (1-way) hike into beautiful Moonshine Falls. A 40-foot long, 6' high cable crossing over Matthews Creek is required along with a 50-yard descent (moderately difficult) to the base of the falls. Meet at the Pinnacle Pavilion to carpool to the Asbury Hill Camp and Retreat Center off Hwy 276. Bring lunch, water and camera; hikers will drive to the trailhead. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

BILL ROBERTSON

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AT 2013 ANNUAL MEETING



After spending most of his life working in advertising in the western states, Bill returned to Greenville and became interested in photography. Bill is an avid hiker who first carried a simple point-and-shoot camera to chronicle the trips he led throughout the nearby mountains. Soon his photography turned into an all-consuming passion that he maintains to this day. In 1999 he made a life-changing decision to make photography his life endeavor. Bill's photographs of waterfalls, mountain streams, wildflowers, landscapes, crisp winter scenes and the four seasons portray his passion for nature photography. As a professional photographer his work is featured in many local businesses,

including St. Francis Hospital. An outdoorsman and avid hiker, Bill Robertson has taken scenic and nature pictures from the west coast to the east coast, but particularly enjoys bushwhacking to out-of-the-way waterfalls. He is a Greenville resident, and is intimately familiar with the mountainous areas of South Carolina and North Carolina, which, of course, is heavily populated with waterfalls. In addition to his passion for waterfalls, he is also very fond of taking scenic and wildflower pictures. You can get a preview of his work on his website at www.brphoto.net.

THERE'S ALWAYS WORK TO BE DONE

BSA Troop 1 from Savannah, GA performed trail maintenance to prevent erosion on the connector trail leading from Big Bend to the Foothills Trail. They also camped several nights on the Trail at Oconee State Park.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This will be my last message to you as chairman of the Foothills Trail Conference board. Coming this year-end, I will have served as chair for three years, and I think it time to turn the reigns over to someone else. I will remain on the board and serve in whatever capacity I am needed. Since I have the opportunity to write this message to a somewhat captive audience, I'd like to bring up something for your consideration. Over the nearly 40 years of the Foothills Trail, there have been many changes along the trail, in the surrounding lands, in the local communities, in our society and government (local and national), in technology, in recreation, and the list could go on and on. Yet, despite all the changes going on, the Foothills Trail has remained pretty much the same as it was when first developed. I believe this is a good thing, too. But with changes come challenges, and this is where the Foothills Trail Conference is important. The FTC is the only entity looking out for the interests of the entire Foothills Trail outpath. I say this is not to diminish the support and work of the USFS, State Parks, DNR, or Duke Energy, because their support of the FTC and Trail is very important. Rather I say this so it is understood that the FTC is the public face of the whole Foothills Trail, and therefore has responsibility to the general public to see that it is taken care of. In the past we have done this well by fostering a strong membership base of support for trail enjoyment, promotion and maintenance. This will continue to be important, but I think there is more that will be required to ensure the Foothills Trail remains THE premiere hiking and backpacking only footpath in South Carolina. The FTC board has taken on the challenge to do more in several ways: established stronger relationships with the stakeholders along the Trail, improved our financial strength, hired an executive director, and worked to promote the Trail to local business and political leaders. We as a board will continue to do these things, and will be taking on more as well. So here is the catch in this message, because you are all so important to the Trail, and you have given such great support for the Trail - there is more that I'd like to ask you to do as well. I'd ask that you be more vocal ambassadors for the Foothills Trail. As we have been promoting the trail we have found that there are many in our communities that do not know of the Foothills Trail - right in their own backyard! Those that are hikers probably know of it, but those that are not outdoor enthusiasts probably don't. Yes, you talk about the Trail to your hiking friends, but what about those that are not hikers? Do they know how important a recreational resource the Trail is? How important an economic resource the Trail is? Probably not. So this is my request to you - be the person that tells them, at neighborhood gatherings, around the pool, at a business lunch, at social events. It should be easy to talk about something you love, so I'm sure you'll do a good job!

happyhiking, John

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 2013 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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Bill Baskin, Secretary
Mike Despeaux
Cathy Reas Foster
John Garton, Emeritus
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Greg Lucas
Rocky Nation
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John Park, Chairman
Mike Stafford, Emeritus
Scott Stegenga
Robert Stephenson
Les Storm, Vice Chair
Brooks Wade
Dan Whitten
Bobbie Wilhite
Heyward Douglass-Executive Director

'LIKE' THE FTC ON FACEBOOK



Be sure to check out the Conference's page on Facebook for the latest in activities, updates, notices, and plenty of photos of interesting and beautiful places on the Foothills Trail. There is a link to the page on the FTC website homepage. Just scroll down a little ways and the Facebook logo is on the left. Click on it and it will connect you to the page.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Les Storm, maintenance coordinator, and all our Trail Captains who worked extra hard this year on a very wet trail.

