

Footnotes

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

JOHNSON CONTROLS A Major Contributor to the FTC



Tucked away between Seneca and Walhalla is a manufacturing plant that is part of a world-wide company known as Johnson Controls. Although it produces many types of products in its far-flung operations, the one that is produced at the Seneca, SC, plant is a battery case. Chances are, if you open the hood to your car, the battery case inside will have been manufactured at the Seneca plant. Johnson Controls produces a huge share of the world market for these ever present car parts!

Several years ago, the company began a “green“ initiative known as the Blue Sky Project, and as part of this program, the Foothills Trail Conference has been given a monetary grant to help, primarily with its trail maintenance activities. This has made

it possible for the Conference to buy tools and other materials used to keep the Trail in tip-top shape.

Another aspect of the Blue Sky Project is that the company encourages its employees to contribute their time and energy on a volunteer basis to help the group that gets the monetary grant. Johnson Controls employees, sometimes with their family members, have performed maintenance on several sections of the Foothills Trail, primarily cutting back vegetation to keep the Trail open for hikers, backpackers, and Fishermen. Since most of the Trail above Walhalla traverses National Forest land, this is also of great benefit to the U.S. Forest Service.

According to Heyward Douglass, Executive Director of the Foothills Trail Conference, Johnson Control employees, sometimes more than a dozen, have helped clear portions of the Trail that were getting overgrown, especially in the spring and early summer. Douglass said the Saturday they were scheduled to work this summer was a particularly hot one, but seven hardy volunteers from the company tackled a parking area, trailside growth, and cleared brush obscuring a directional sign. After several hours of hot, sweaty work, the Conference treated the volunteers to cold drinks and ice-cold watermelon. “As hot as it was, we were very grateful that they came out at all!, said Douglass.



Foothills Trail Conference 42nd Annual Meeting

Oconee State Park—November 4, 5, and 6, 2016

Deadline for Registration is November 1, 2016

(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 Oconee 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 4

- 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 and presentation on Jocassee Loons by Brooks & Kay Wade

Saturday, November 5

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Meeting Room (catered by Martha's Cafe)
- 9:30 a.m. Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list)
- Lunch on your own
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour in the Barn – BYO Special Beverages with Snacks and Drinks by FTC
- 6:00 p.m. Hunting Camp BBQ will cater a delicious BBQ supper.
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
Special Guest Speaker, John Cely
(Congaree National Park)
Business Meeting, Steve Pagano, FTC Board Chairman
Door Prizes

Sunday, November 6

- 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 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

Foothills Trail Conference 42nd Annual Meeting

Registration Form

Oconee State Park- November 4, 5, and 6, 2016

Deadline for Registration is November 1, 2016

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 (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 2016 HIKES AND OUTINGS!!

Saturday, continued

#5 — **Lower Bearwallow Falls Hike and Visitor Center Tour:** FTC Board Chairman and Park Superintendent **Steve Pagano** will lead a hike to Lower Bearwallow Falls, Dan's Falls, and Lime Kilns in Gorges State Park in NC, and then tour the visitor's center that includes a breathtaking view of the Jocassee Gorges area. The hike will involve some off-trail clambering and will be moderate to strenuous. Bring snacks, lunch, and plenty of water. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#6 — **Sassafras Mountain to Chimneytop Gap.** Join **Greg Lucas**, Foothills Trail Conference Board Member, on an easy hike of about 2.7 miles, which will include a look at the recent changes and construction on the top of Sassafras Mountain. Of course the views from Sassafras can be worth the trip, especially with fall color. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#7 — **Maintenance Hikes.** Help out with upkeep on the Foothills Trail with Foothills Trail Conference board member, **Rocky Nation**, 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 (lower parking area). 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday

#8 — **Yellow Branch Falls Hike.** Join Master Naturalist and Board member **Bobbie Wilhite** on a moderate to somewhat-strenuous 5-mile hike with gorgeous fall colors to the unique Yellow Branch Falls. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Meet at Oconee State Park lodge. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2016 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 2016 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 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!

WATERFALLS & WILDFLOWERS

In the Southern Appalachians

-- Thirty Great Hikes --

Author TIM SPIRA, a Clemson University professor for many years, has combined two of the favorite reasons for going on a hike and produced a practical and informative guide to enjoying more than two dozen hikes in the southeast.

If you love waterfalls, here are some of the best hikes in the Southern Appalachians. And if you love plants – or would simply like to learn more about them – you will be in hiking heaven: naturalist Tim Spira’s guide-book links waterfalls and wildflowers in a spectacularly beautiful region famous for both. Leading you to gorgeous waterfalls in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia, the book includes many hikes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. As he surveys one of America’s most biologically diverse regions, Spira introduces hikers to the “natural communities” approach for identifying and understanding plants within the context of the habitats they occupy.

Each of the 30 hikes includes a detailed map and GPS coordinates, as well as a lively trail description highlighting the plants you are most likely to see – as well as birds and other animals – along the way. It also includes an associated plant species list.

Also featured in the book are beautiful color photographs of the 30 destination waterfalls, 125 plants, and more. The guide includes detailed descriptions of 125 key plant species, 22 drawings to help identify plant structures, and a glossary of botanical terms. You can read more at www.wildflowerecology.blogspot.com. Published by UNC Press, the guide is available in bookstores or online.