

Fall 2020

Footnotes

Newsletter for the Foothills Trail Conservancy - - www.foothillstrail.org

45 Thrive Campaign a Complete Success

45 THRIVE

Plan - Prosper - Protect

At an FTC Board meeting in March 2019, the idea of a reserve fund, or endowment, was first put forth by Glenn Hilliard, the original chairman of the Foothills Trail Conference, and a long-time supporter and advisor to the Conservancy. He felt that if the Conservancy was to be a viable entity for years to come that it needed to create a monetary reserve to be able to absorb hard financial times or take care of large expenses related to maintaining the Trail.

A Development Committee was formed and tasked with formulating ideas for how to create this fund, how much it should contain, who would control it, what it could be used for, and how it could be accessed. The committee would report their ideas at the next Board meeting.

By the September 25, 2019 Board meeting the Development Committee, chaired by Becky Gilstrap, had begun to gather ideas for a fund-raising campaign that would be conducted in 2020. Various ideas were discussed as to who to approach, the timing of the campaign, what amount to raise, and how long it should go on. Glenn Hilliard continued to offer assistance and put the committee in touch with a friend that was a professional fundraiser to give additional counsel on how to conduct a proper and successful campaign.

Becky and her committee began to develop promotional material to inform potential donors about the Conservancy's needs and reasons for establishing an endowment. The name "45 Thrive" for the campaign was chosen and represented the 45th anniversary of the FTC and the goal of helping the Conservancy to thrive for years to come. The entire Board was also challenged to donate to demonstrate their commitment to the 45 Thrive campaign.

The ultimate goal of the 45 Thrive campaign was to raise a total of \$300,000 which was to be placed in an endowment fund and managed with the help of a major investment company. From January through May of this year, beginning with a donor's "Celebration", the Development Committee and members of the Board personally contacted potential donors, made phone calls, and advertised the campaign through letters, email messages, social media and the FTC website. The lofty goal was achieved when pledges and donations ultimately exceeded \$300, 000!

The Foothills Trail Conservancy wishes to thank everyone who made a contribution, large or small, that made this ambitious campaign a huge success. Each gift to our 45 Thrive Campaign is an investment to ensure that future generations can explore the natural beauty along the Foothills Trail for many years to come.

Signage to Hilliard Falls

One of the nicest waterfalls on the Foothills Trail now has a set of signs directing hikers to its location. Hilliard Falls is located 5.8 miles east of the Bad Creek access and 3.9 miles west of the Horsepasture River bridge, but the only sign indicating its presence was at the spur trail to the waterfall itself.

As the result of a donation made to the Conservancy, five signs, matching the style of other Foothills Trail signs, were purchased and mounted on wooden posts in the Fall of 2019. During the Fall and Winter of 2019, when opportunities arose to reach the site for each sign, they were installed at the appropriate spots.



THE SILENT AUCTION IS BACK!!!

It is time for our second annual silent auction to raise money for the FTC! Please remember to stop by our FTC store at the meeting for great deals on all of our Foothills Trail merchandise as well. What great opportunities to get some holiday shopping done! We will be able to accept cash or check only as we don't have access to wifi at the event!
Thank you for your continued support of our trail!

Foothills Trail Conservancy 46th Annual Meeting

Oconee State Park—November 6, 7, and 8, 2020

Deadline for Registration is November 4 , 2020

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

Every year the Foothills Trail Conservancy 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 6

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 Dinner in the Barn (BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC!) Presentation on the Monarchs of Mexico by Heyward Douglass , FTC Executive Director

Saturday, November 7

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast in the Barn (catered by Manna from Heaven)
9:30 a.m.	Hikes Depart (see enclosed hike list) Lunch on your own
10am– 5pm	Hike, complete the scavenger hunt, enjoy the park!
5:00 p.m.	Social Hour in the Barn– BYO Special Beverages with Snacks and Drinks by FTC Silent Auction Begins (continues until the end of the evening)
6:00 p.m.	Supper (catered by The Hungry Hiker)
7:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting Special Program by Bill Robertson and Pam Shucker Business Meeting, Door Prizes

Sunday, November 8

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast in the Barn (Continental)
9:30 a.m.	Hike Departs (see enclosed hike list) Volunteers help with cleanup

FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONSERVANCY

*Hikes meet at the **designated meeting spot** at 9:30 am.*

Wear suitable clothing and appropriate footwear.

HIKES ARE LIMITED TO 10 PEOPLE.

Friday

#1 ----Upper Whitewater Falls to Lower Whitewater Falls. Join **Cathy Foster**, FTC Board member and Master Naturalist, on this hike which will take in the two highest waterfalls in the eastern U.S. Both of them have impressive views. The hike will be approximately 10 miles in length and should be considered moderately strenuous due to the length. Bring lunch, snacks, and drink. A camera is highly recommended. Meet at the **Barn**. The hike will begin and end at Bad Creek. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday

#2— Sassafras Mountain to Beech Bottom Falls. Join **Rocky Nation**, FTC Board member, on this 5-mile hike that will begin at the viewing tower at the summit of Sassafras Mountain, which should be surrounded by spectacular Fall color! After taking in the impressive views at the highest point on the Foothills Trail, take an easy hike of about 2.7 miles, down to Chimneytop Gap. From the Gap the hike will continue 1.1 miles (2.2 total) to see **Beech Bottom Falls**. Meet at the **Barn** to carpool to Sassafras Mountain. Some vehicles will be left at Chimneytop Gap. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. A camera is recommended. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#3— Lake Trail. Enjoy the Fall colors and learn some natural history lessons around the Lake Trail with **Tricia Kyzer**, FTC Board member and Master Naturalist. This easy, family-friendly 1.9-mile loop trail passes through a forest that includes oak-hickory, scattered pines, and mountain laurel which should be beautiful with Fall color. Bring water and a hand lens and/or binoculars. Meet at the **swimming area/Bathhouse**. 9:30 a.m. to noon.

#4— Geology Hike on the Chattooga River. Join **Bill Ranson**, FTC Board member and retired Furman Professor of Geology, on a hike along the Chattooga River to view geological formations and discuss the processes that formed them. Dr. Ranson will also discuss the use of the new **Guide to the Geology of the Foothills Trail**. Meet at the **Barn** to caravan to Burrell's Ford. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and a camera of course! 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#5— Palmetto Trail and Issaqueena Bike Park. Take a look at one of the newest portions of the Palmetto Trail and the newly constructed Issaqueena Bike Park with **Bobbie Wilhite**, FTC Board Member and Master Naturalist. Meet at the **Barn**. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING 2020 HIKES AND OUTINGS!!

Saturday, continued

#6— **Cheohee Rd to Pigpen Falls.** Join **Royce and Cary Caines**, FTC Trail Captains, on this easy 3.3-mile hike to one of the prettiest small waterfalls in the upstate. The 20-ft waterfall makes a short drop into a nice pool. Along the way, the Caines will show all the improvements they have made on this section, as well as a small waterfall that they have exposed as part of their trail maintenance activities. Fall colors surrounding the waterfalls should make for great photographs! Bring snacks, lunch, and a drink. A camera is certainly recommended. Meet at the **Barn**, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#7—**Maintenance Hike(s).** Help out with upkeep on the Foothills Trail with FTC. Work will be done on several places on the Trail, so plenty of strong backs are needed! Bring gloves, lunch, and plenty to drink. Tools will be provided. Meet at the **lower parking lot**, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday

#8— **Ellicott Rock.** Join **Carter Collins**, SAWS Wilderness Specialist, on a moderate to strenuous hike of 7.2 miles to the corner of SC, NC, and GA. This somewhat elusive, and very historic spot, seems to baffle a lot of hikers trying to find it on their own, so going with a leader that knows the exact location is what you want to do. Along the way Carter will discuss various aspects of wilderness areas. A camera is recommended. Bring snacks, lunch, and plenty to drink. Meet at the **lower parking lot**, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt and Fun for All!



Don't forget about our FUN Scavenger Hunt for ALL ages! Scavenger hunts and instructions will be available at the registration table. These can be completed at your own pace. Prizes are available for those who complete the hunt and a few lucky participants will win an extra "grand prize"!



We will have to forego some of our other family friendly games and activities due to the CDC regulations involving sharing items and sanitation. Thank you for understanding! Feel free to bring your own activities this year. :)

Membership Renewal—Due January 31st

Foothills Trail Conservancy Membership Information

Your membership to the Foothills Trail Conservancy is vital to the Foothills Trail, the Southeast's best hiking trail. With the Trail traversing the property of EIGHT different landowners, for 46 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.

NOTE: *Our membership year runs January through January.*

We have a variety of Membership Levels

- ☐ Senior/Student Individual \$15
- ☐ Oconee Individual \$25
- ☐ Gorges Family \$40
- ☐ Table Rock \$50
- ☐ Chattooga \$100
- ☐ Sassafras \$250
- ☐ Pinnacle \$500

You must be a current FTC member to attend the Annual Meeting. You may sign up for the membership at our registration table at the event if you are not a 2020 FTC Member.

**You may renew online at www.foothillstrail.org
and click “Join Today”.**

Membership forms may also be completed and mailed to:
**Membership Renewal
PO Box 3041
Greenville, SC 29602**

Foothills Trail Conservancy 46th Annual Meeting

Registration Form

Oconee State Park- November 6, 7, and 8, 2020

Deadline for Registration is November 4, 2020

Participants: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate the number of people for each category below.

____ Register for the entire weekend.	____ I can only attend Saturday Evening (includes meal and activities)
____ Adults \$35 per person	____ Adults \$25 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 _____

Saturday: Hike 2 _____ Hike 3 _____ Hike 4 _____ Hike 5 _____ Hike 6 _____ Hike 7 _____

Sunday : Hike 8 _____

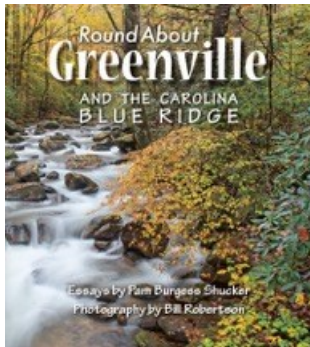
Volunteers are GREATLY appreciated!!

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

Setup on Friday:	3pm-5pm _____
Friday Night Social:	I can help Serve drinks ____ Sanitize/clean ____ Other as needed ____
Saturday: Breakfast:	I can help Serve coffee/drinks ____ Sanitize/clean ____ Other as needed ____
Saturday Dinner:	I can help Serve drinks ____ Sanitize/Clean ____ Other as needed ____
Sunday Breakfast:	I can help Set up ____ Serve coffee/drinks/food ____ Sanitize/clean ____
Sunday Breakdown:	I can help with breakdown/cleanup (10-11am) _____
Throughout the weekend:	Can help with sign in/silent auction/store or other similar duties _____

Please mail your registration and payment to:

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



“Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge “

Pam Shucker and Bill Robertson, both Greenville natives, will present a program on their book “Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge”. They published their book to entice others to explore, appreciate, and enjoy the spectacular natural area they call home. Pam, a certified Master Naturalist, has spent a 30-year career as an environmental writer, speaker, and teacher. Bill, after leaving a corporate career in mid-life, has spent 20 years taking photographs that are not only appealing to the eye, but soothing to the soul. Bill and Pam will share some of the memorable experiences they have had while hiking and exploring the Blue Ridge Mountain areas around Greenville. They will encourage you to experience a handpicked selection of special spots that they know well; places that invite you to slow your pace, become aware, and reflect on Nature’s marvelous gifts.



The book may be purchased at M. Judson, Mast General Store, Appalachian Outfitters, and on Amazon. Bill and Pam will also have the book available at the meeting and will sign autographs.



Guidelines and Precautions for the 2020 Annual Meeting

We will be following the CDC guidelines at this year’s meeting to ensure a fun AND safe time for all of us! Please take note of the following requirements and suggestions and feel free to let us know if you have any questions!

- ♦ Masks should be worn at all times while inside, until seated with your group.
- ♦ Seating will be spread out to assist with social distancing guidelines.
- ♦ Food and drinks will be served by catering staff and/or FTC volunteers.
- ♦ Friday night’s dinner will NOT be potluck. Please bring your own food for your family/group to be enjoyed in the Barn.
- ♦ Please be aware of those around you and practice social distancing (6 feet apart) with people that are not in your family/group.
- ♦ Hikes will be limited to 10 people to ensure the ability to social distance.
- ♦ We will have cleaner and hand sanitizer throughout the meeting for you, and our cleaning volunteers, to ensure your environment is as clean as possible!
- ♦ We appreciate your patience with our volunteers and staff as things may move a bit slower while we are taking these added precautions for your safety and well-being!

Volunteers improve FHT within Table Rock State Park

At the Annual Meeting in November 2019, members of the Conservancy built over 100 feet of boardwalk in Table Rock State Park – a very noteworthy project that was accomplished with funds donated by REI. Prior to the Annual Meeting a local Boy Scout, as his Eagle project, installed steps and a handrail at a point on the Trail that allowed hikers to bypass a very large area of tree roots. The boardwalk project was continued in January 2020, when another 40 feet of boardwalk was added in the area immediately beyond the portion constructed at the Annual Meeting.

In addition to the boardwalk construction, on the January 4th workday volunteers also removed several blowdowns, improved parts of the trailbed and several stream crossings, and drained several wet areas.



Another workday, with 30 volunteers, was held on January 25, 2020, and it concentrated on the part of the Foothills Trail below the Mill Creek Falls spur. During this outing, the volunteers divided into teams and worked on separate major projects. One team, led by FTC Chairman Steve Pagano, filled in a huge rootball hole and built a new trail around it, making it much safer to traverse!

While another team worked along the trailsides to remove stickers and other heavy vegetation, a third team cleared a complicated blowdown at the stream crossing below a waterfall. They also added boulders to the crossing to make it easier to negotiate. Just be-

yond the waterfall, a fourth team constructed a reroute at a spot known as “the squeeze” - a very narrow area between boulders that was difficult to get through. This reroute made life easier for all hikers, but backpackers in particular!!

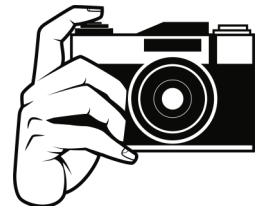
In late June, Dan and Gail Johnson spent nearly 30 hours over three days reblazing the Foothills Trail through the park to the boundary near Drawbar Cliffs.



2020 ANNUAL MEETING PICTURE SHOW

Do you have some great pictures of your fun along the Foothills Trail? At the 2020 Annual Meeting we will have a slideshow of digital pictures taken along the Trail. 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!



Foothills Trail Conservancy
PO Box 3041
Greenville, SC 29602

WWW.FOOTHILLSTRAIL.ORG

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[www.facebook.com/
foothillstrailconservancy](http://www.facebook.com/foothillstrailconservancy)



Instagram: @FoothillsTrail



Twitter: @TrailFoothills

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to all our Trail Captains and hard-working volunteers who ensure the trail stays maintained and in tip-top shape.

