

FRIENDS OF THE **Mountains-to-Sea Trail**

40 YEARS AND COUNTING

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members and Friends of the MST:

2017 was an anniversary to celebrate the progress we've made since the Mountains-to-Sea Trail concept was first expressed 40 years ago and to dream big about the trail's promising future. We are pleased to offer this annual report of accomplishments by Friends of MST and other trail partners. The highlights include:

- More than 3,000 friends and supporters of the MST took part in 40th anniversary events; 820 volunteers contributed 35,800 hours; and membership in Friends of the MST grew by 21% to surpass 1,200.
- More than 1,700 hikers took part in MST in a Day, an incredible logistical feat to hike the
 entire 1,175 mile length on September 9, 2017— the 40th anniversary of the day when
 Howard Lee, then N.C. Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development,
 called for construction of a statewide hiking trail.
- Our 40th anniversary fundraising campaign raised 274,838 for special projects to develop
 the trail and raise awareness.
- We published an authoritative three-volume set of guidebooks and launched a robust, responsive website.
- In our busiest hiking year, 14 hikers completed the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in 2017 including National Geographic Adventurer Jennifer Pharr Davis who took on the challenge to raise awareness of the trail.
- The Blue Ridge Parkway completed an environmental assessment which paved the way to close the only remaining gap in the MST in the North Carolina mountains.
- The N.C. General Assembly voted unanimously to add the Coastal Crescent as an official route of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through southeastern North Carolina.
- Using state bond funding, State Parks acquired the 60-foot "Carter Falls" outside Elkin so that it could be incorporated into the MST route.

Like the best gifts passed from one generation to the next, this trail is being made by hand. We encourage you to join hands with us — as a member and volunteer — to craft a trail legacy for North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Steve Metcalf
Board President

Kate Dixon

Executive Director







The year 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a fitting interval to reflect on how far we've come and to consider where the trail will lead in the years ahead.

Friends and supporters of the trail celebrated the milestone anniversary with multiple events throughout the year. More than 3,000 trail enthusiasts participated in 40th anniversary events.

Forty years after the idea of a statewide trail showcasing North Carolina's natural treasures captured the public imagination, the trail is a reality with 700 miles of trail, unpaved forest road and beach, and 475 miles of connector roads linking trail segments.

With each passing year, the profile of the MST becomes more distinctive as volunteer trail crews add miles of new trail. awareness of the trail spreads, and more hikers enjoy the rewards and challenges of experiencing the natural beauty of North Carolina one step at a time.

CELEBRATING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of the MST came together in Elkin in March 2017 at a special three-day Gathering of Friends to celebrate significant trail mileposts, conjure big visions for the next 40 years and kick up our heels at the Hiking Boot Gala. The Town of Elkin and the Elkin Valley Trails Association were delightful hosts for the Gathering of Friends with a busy schedule of hikes, paddles, tours, art walks and a Revolutionary War reenactment.

The anniversary year goals established by the Board of Directors were to create more public awareness of the MST and raise more money to support trail construction and maintenance. We are pleased to report that we achieved both goals.

The Board of Directors set a goal for the 40th Anniversary fundraising campaign of raising \$200,000 to build bridges and board walks, support trail volunteers, and add signs along the trail. We are delighted to report that the generous support of many individuals and businesses allowed us to exceed the campaign goal. We raised a total of \$274,838 in cash donations, in-kind gifts and gifts at events.

The funds raised are being used as follows:

- \$105,070 to raise awareness through a new website, trail guide books, and 40th anniversary events
- \$59,884 for the design and permitting of bridges and boardwalks
- \$59,884 for signs and kiosks
- \$50,000 for tools and construction materials for trail volunteers. Of this, \$40,000 has been invested in the endowment to provide ongoing steady funding.

Cover: The Keith Family took part in MST in a Day on the Outer Banks in memory of Norman Keith. Photo by Patti Keith. Screened left: Photo of the rare Balsam Mountain Gentian, Gentiana latiden. Photo by Jacob Rose. Above from left: The Solomon Dixon family, Nichelle Waller and her sister Judy Melvin, and Bruce and and Helen Dibenedetto were seven of the more than 1700 people who took part in MST in a Day.

MST Communities Conference

In May 2017, the town of Elkin served as host of the 2nd MST Communities Conference which attracted 60 elected leaders and local government staff from across the state. The conference offered an opportunity for policy makers and tourism officials in towns and communities along the trail route to learn how to build trail, promote their sections of the MST and serve the needs of trail users. The route of the MST goes through 37 counties and 41 towns.

Those who attended the conference got to see how Elkin has used the presence of the MST to strengthen its local economy and enhance the quality of life and recreational opportunities for its citizens.

All in a Day's Hike

On Saturday, September 9, more than 1,700 hikers took part in a collaborative boots-on-the-ground effort to hike the entire 1,175-mile length of the MST from Clingmans Dome to Jockey's Ridge State Park in a single day. Longtime board member Jerry Barker proposed the idea. The American Hiking Society believes it was the first time one of the nation's long trails had been hiked in its entirety in a single day.

The MST in a Day event honored the date in 1977, when Howard Lee, then N.C. Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development, gave a visionary speech at a National Trails Symposium calling for a trail spanning from North Carolina's mountains to sea. The speech is considered the catalyst to the establishment of the MST.

Forty years after delivering his speech, Howard Lee joined the more than 1,700 people who participated in the MST in a Day hike. He walked a trail section at Jones Lake State Park with Exploring N.C.'s Tom Earnhardt.

INCREASING AWARENESS

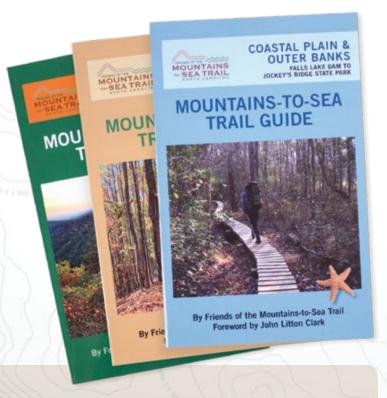
Many measures reflect the heightened awareness of the MST.

Membership in Friends of the MST increased by 21 percent in 2017 and is now more than 1,200 members strong. Friends also raised its profile on social media. The number of fans of the Friends' Facebook page increased by 21.5 percent to 12,076.

Website

Friends of the MST launched a beautiful new, easy-to-navigate website in January 2017 to provide more information about how to hike the MST and offer online visitors an interactive visual experience. The trail segment pages of the new website attracted more than 27,600 hits from July to December 2017.

The interactive map feature on the new website allows online visitors to explore multiple aspects of the trail including





In 1977, Howard Lee called on N.C. trail enthusiasts to build a "STATE TRAIL FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST, A TRAIL LEADING THROUGH COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS NATURAL AREAS. THE TRAIL CAN DRAW PEOPLE TOGETHER AND HELP US KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT OURSELVES AND HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR NEIGHBORS BETTER."

Howard Lee and Doris Hammett, founding MST leaders, enjoy the 2017 Gathering of Friends. Photo by Carolyn Mejia.





trail segments, day hikes, parking areas, and trail alerts for bridge closures and changes in trail routes. The interactive map had more than 23,000 hits in the second half of 2017.

Hiking Guides

In February 2017, Friends accomplished a longtime goal of publishing a complete trail guide in three regional volumes. Friends sold more than 1,700 guidebooks in 2017 and began work on second editions.

Chapters of the guidebooks covering individual trail segments were also made available on the website, and more than 10,000 trail guide chapters were downloaded in 2017.

The University of North Carolina Press was impressed with the guidebooks and invited Friends of MST to collaborate in producing a guide to day hikes on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Jennifer Pharr Davis

World-renowned hiker and National Geographic Adventurer of the Year Jennifer Pharr Davis, a North Carolina native, took on the challenge of thru hiking the MST to raise awareness of the trail during its 40th year.

Jennifer began the hike at Clingmans Dome on August 15. Her husband Brew provided logistical support for her hike, and he and their 4-year-old daughter Charley and 1-year-old son Gus joined her frequently on the trail.

Along the way, Jennifer made guest speaking appearances in Asheville, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Wilmington. Her

appearances attracted more than 800 people. She also kept a lively blog of the people and adventures she encountered as she hiked. Her blog posts are archived on the website.

She finished at Jockey's Ridge State Park on November 18, accompanied by her family, a group of Dare County Special Olympians, and numerous MST friends.

Jennifer Pharr Davis told the Smoky Mountain News, "IT WAS SO INCREDIBLE TO WALK A TRAIL THAT IS STILL BEING BUILT. YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING."

The feeling of being part of something bigger is a sentiment that many members of the Friends of the MST share.



Each year, more and more MST hikers are completing the 1175-mile trek across the state—an indicator of the trail's increasing popularity. Fourteen people, the most in a single year, completed the trail in 2017.

The 2017 class of completers includes Jennifer Pharr Davis, Jude Rodrigue, Blake Hancock, Francisco Miller, Mary Ann Nissley, Annie Porche, Kristen Keane, Erin Schaberg, Brad Beavers, Miriam Ash-Jones, Jason Nieuwsma, Carla Gardner, Kasie Taylor and Jerry Barker.

The accomplishment of the class of 2017 pushes the total number of hikers to finish the trail to 92.

Thanks to funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C., Jennifer Pharr Davis led eight special hikes, including ones for women from McDowell County and students at N.C. A&T. Photos by Betsy Brown.



local governments, the generosity of members, and diligent, creative and occasional back-breaking labor by volunteers, exciting progress continued to be made in building new sections and keeping the existing trail open and enjoyable for all.

Some highlights of the year include:

Trail Planning & Approval

SEGMENT 1 | The Blue Ridge Parkway, after completing an environmental assessment, approved construction of new trail to bypass the Rattlesnake and Sherrill Cove tunnels on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This decision cleared the way, after years of negotiation among multiple parties, to close the only remaining gap in the MST between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Waterrock Knob.

SEGMENT 9 | More than 100 MST supporters participated in the trail planning process as Orange County and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority worked to define a conceptual route for the MST from Saxapahaw to Hillsborough through rural southwest Orange County and around Cane Creek Reservoir.

SEGMENT 12 | Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site agreed to work with Friends to build a 3.5-mile addition to its trail system. This new trail will be a great addition to the MST in southern Johnston County as MST hikers are always intrigued by the battlefield as they pass it on the current road route.

New Trail Construction & Campsites

SEGMENT 5 | Four new backcountry campsites designed for MST thru-hikers and section hikers were constructed by volunteers along the Blue Ridge Parkway in August 2017: NPS Backcountry site H1, Old Johns Road; NPS Backcountry site H2, Goshen Creek; NPS Backcountry site H3, Deep Gap; NPS Backcountry site H4, Obids Creek.

SEGMENT 6 | The Elkin Valley Trails Association constructed two half-mile sections of MST including the Carolina Heritage Vineyard Trail and the Isaac's Trail with parking on Carter Mill Road. The group also built a restroom facility to serve MST hikers in the town of Elkin.

SEGMENT 9 Volunteers with the Upper Haw River Task Force completed two new sections of MST totaling 4.2 miles. A 2.2-mile trail in the new County Farm Park in eastern Guilford runs along the edges of farm fields and grape vineyards, through woodlands, and past rock outcroppings and a creek before ending at a pond. The new 2-mile trail in Alamance follows the Haw River through the Challenge Golf Course in Graham. Currently, this trail is accessible from the Longmeadow trail head on Valley Drive but will eventually connect to the Sellers Falls section of MST to the north and to other trail sections downstream to Saxapahaw.









Land Acquired

SEGMENT 6 | The N.C. Council of State in August 2017 approved the purchase of the 43-acre Carter Falls property from Daniel J. Park, an attorney in Elkin. The MST is planned to cross this gorgeous property, just below a 60-foot natural waterfall. The state used Connect NC Bond funds to make the \$350,000 purchase. The Connect NC Bond designates the MST as a priority project.

The state also accepted Daniel Park's public-spirited gift of a conservation and trail easement on 11 additional acres of adjacent property along Big Elkin Creek. The conservation easement and trail easement protect the land from development and allow construction of the MST. When completed, this section of trail will eliminate two miles of walking on roads.

The land, located in eastern Wilkes County, is to be developed as a public park leased by the state to Wilkes County. Volunteers with the Elkin Valley Trails Association are taking the lead in raising money for infrastructure for the park and have agreed to maintain the property once built.

Trail Maintenance

Without maintenance there would be no MST. Throughout the year, volunteers quietly and patiently lop branches that are growing into the trail, clean water diversions, repair bridges, repaint blazes, and fell hazardous trees. After storms hit, they visit the trail as soon as possible to assess damage and determine a course of action to open it again.

More than 70 percent of volunteer hours and financial support donated to Friends of MST are used for trail construction and maintenance. A total of 820 volunteers contributed 35,800 volunteer hours to the MST in 2017.

Below are descriptions of a few of the more complex maintenance projects accomplished by volunteers in 2017.

SEGMENTS 2 AND 3 | Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and along the Blue Ridge Parkway in mid-September. By September 30, the Carolina Mountain Club reported that volunteers had cleared nearly 500 trees that were blocking their 140-mile section of the MST.

Craig Yow, Facility Manager of the Blue Ridge Parkway, wrote "THAT IS AMAZING. WE DID OUR TREES WITH THE HELP OF CHIPPERS, LOADERS, AND OUR MINI-EXCAVATOR WHILE YOU ARE ALL DOING YOURS BY HAND."

SEGMENT 3 | The High Peaks Trail Association raised money and coordinated a complex and difficult project to rebuild a badly-eroded one-mile section of the MST as it follows the Mt. Mitchell Trail. Funding came from a federal Recreational Trails Program grant with a match from private donations, and the work was carried out by a professional trail building company.

SEGMENT 4 | Twenty-two volunteers in the Central Blue Ridge Task Force spent two days completing the finish work on more than 100 water diversions dug by machine on a 2-mile

Left: Volunteers with the Upper Haw River Task Force repaired a 237-foot boardwalk along the Greensboro watershed lake section of the MST. Photos by Greg Yahn and Germaine Yahn. Above: Carter Falls in Wilkes County was purchased by State Parks to become part of the MST. Photo by Joe Mickey.

badly eroded stretch of MST near Chestnut Mountain. Later in the year, 36 volunteers repaired 1.25 miles on the south end of Linville Gorge in a joint project organized by Friends of MST, the US Forest Service, Tanawha Adventures and Wild South.

SEGMENT 8 Over seven summer workdays in less than a month, the Upper Haw River Task Force repaired a 237-foot boardwalk that had been severely damaged by heavy rains. The heavy, skilled work entailed realigning and repairing much of the boardwalk and building an entirely new 8-foot section to replace one that had been carried into the Greensboro watershed lakes during the storm.

SEGMENT 10 | The Falls Lake Task Force began a challenging project to replace a washed out bridge with a 40′ fiberglass bridge made of parts pre-fabricated to be assembled on site. Materials, including bags of concrete and other building material, were carried more than a mile to the site via wheelbarrow, ATV and boat. Funding for the bridge was provided by the Triangle Community Foundation, Durham County's Matching Grants Program, and friends and family who gave in memory of Dustin Powers.

SEGMENT 15 Volunteers with the Onslow Bight Task Force hand-carried lumber and other materials for almost two miles to construct two substantial bridge and boardwalk installations over soggy areas and streams on Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County. One of those installations, known as "Mad Bear Crossing" because of a local bruin who chewed and clawed some of the bridges, spans an extraordinary 228 feet.

TRAIL DESIGNATIONS

When new trail is complete and open to the public, the land managing agency may apply to have it designated by the N.C. Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources as an official part of the MST. Three sections of trail were officially designated in 2017.

- Two miles of the Riverwalk in Hillsborough (**SEGMENT 9**)
- Five miles of greenway in downtown Morehead City (SEGMENT 17)
- Ten miles of trail at the North River Wetlands Preserve in Carteret County (SEGMENT 17)

COASTAL CRESCENT

In 2017, the N.C. General Assembly unanimously approved legislation signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper adding the Coastal Crescent as an official route of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through southeastern North Carolina. The primary sponsors of the legislation were Senator Brent Jackson of Sampson County and Representatives Phil Shepard of Onslow County, Pat McElraft of Carteret County, and Larry Strickland and Donna McDowell White, both of Johnston County.

The Coastal Crescent charts a 270-mile route through Southeastern North Carolina traversing historic and biologically diverse areas in Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender and Onslow counties. Community leaders along the route are excited about the economic potential of the MST to their communities. Many hikers who are walking across North Carolina on the MST currently use the Coastal Crescent (MST SEGMENTS 12 TO 15) to complete the hike.

With funding from Duke Energy, Friends continued work on a strategic plan for the Coastal Crescent route. Goals for the plan are to engage citizens and community leaders in 1) developing a vision for the trail and 2) identifying opportunities for moving road sections of the route onto trail.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

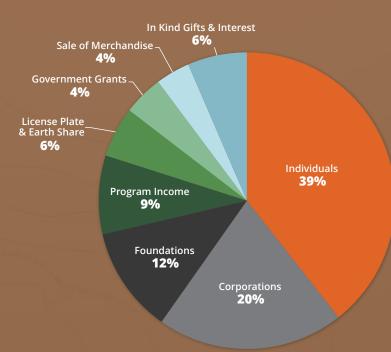
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

ASSETS	12/31/2017	12/31/201
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$329,164	\$ 153,941
Grants Receivable	84,528	257,235
Pledges Receivable	30,306	68,715
Other Receivables	3,810	1,090
Merchandise Inventory	5,313	3,725
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	7,222	3,810
Net Fixed Assets	15,856	7,554
Deposits & Long-term Pledges	3,085	25,942
Beneficial Interest (Endowment)*	63,739	17,709
TOTAL ASSETS	\$543,023	\$ 539,721
IABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
	\$11,151	\$ 944
Accounts Payable		¥ 277
Accounts Payable Deferred Revenue	65,676	53,806
Deferred Revenue		
Deferred Revenue Net Assets	65,676	53,806
Deferred Revenue Net Assets Unrestricted, available for operations	65,676 251,235	53,806
Deferred Revenue Net Assets Unrestricted, available for operations Unrestricted, board designated	65,676 251,235 17,478	53,806 205,963 14,352

^{*} The endowment is held at the NC Community Foundation.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Total Income = \$392,837

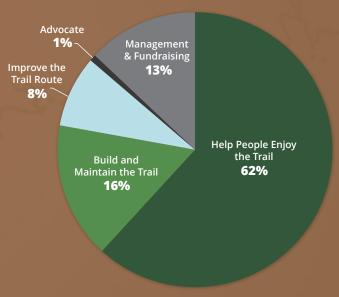


"LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON, WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT MORE THAN 1700 PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER COMPLETED 100% OF THE MST HIKING ROUTE. I'D SAY THAT IS AN ASTOUNDING, WONDERFUL, OVER-THE-MOON ACCOMPLISHMENT. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!"

A letter to members from Jerry Barker, who inspired Friends to organize MST-in-a-Day

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA

Total Expenditures \$411,612



Value of Volunteer Labor

In 2017, MST volunteers worked 35,806 HOURS assigned rate of \$21.88 per hour, these volunteers **DONATED TIME WORTH AN** ADDITIONAL \$768,755 to the MST.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IANUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017

Steve Metcalf, President, Weaverville
John Lanman, Vice President, Boone
Bill Scott, Treasurer, Clinton

Carolyn Sakowski, Secretary, Winston-Salem

Jerry Barker, Raleigh

Don Bergey, Winston-Salem

Jake Blood, Burnsville

Tiffiny Consoli, Raleigh

Jay Coward, Sylva

Chris Grams, Raleigh

Howard N. Lee, Chapel Hill

Johnny Massey, Garner

Carolyn Mejia, Wilmington

Tammy Proctor, *Hampstead*

B Townes, Boomer

STAFF

Kate Dixon, Executive Director

Betsy Brown, Outreach Manager

Shelagh Doyle, Membership Coordinator

Jim Grode, Trail Resource Manager

The MST in Doughton Park. *Photo by Joe Mickey.*

2017 FRIENDS OF MST MEMBERS

Thru-Hike Society (\$10,000+) (# of years a member)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC, Durham (3)
Dominion Foundation, Richmond, VA (1)
Duke Energy Foundation, Raleigh (3)
Great Outdoor Provision Co., Raleigh (17)
Mast General Store, Valle Crucis (8)
REI, Raleigh (17)

Section-Hike Society (\$5000-\$9999)

Farm to Feet Socks, Mount Airy (2)
First Citizens Bank, Raleigh (4)
Gipson Family Foundation, Raleigh (2)
John S. Manuel, Durham (10)
Patagonia, Raleigh (8)

Weekend Backpack Society (\$2500 to \$4999)

Anonymous (4)

Appalachian Mountain Brewery, Boone (1)

Jerry & Sandy Barker, Raleigh (10)

Danielle Bernstein, Asheville (11)

The Bresler Foundation, Rockville, MD (4)

Bull City Running Co., Durham (9)

Kate Dixon & Dan Wilkinson, Raleigh (11)

Harold Erickson, Durham (2)

Bill & Darby Scott, Clinton (5)

Table Rock Ultras/Tanawha Adventures, Morganton (4)

1000-Mile Society Members

(\$1000 to \$2499 or \$500 if volunteered 75 hours or more)

DeWana Anderson, Carrboro (7)

Anonymous (1)

Anti Gravity Gear, Wilmington (8)

Bernard & Holly Arghiere, Asheville (9)

Beverly Bell & Lucy Piner, Hillsborough (7)

Donald B. Bergey, Winston-Salem (10)

Blue Ridge Hiking Company, Asheville (3)

Lewis & Barbara Boyles, Durham (15)

Jeff, Amy & Lalan Brewer, Raleigh (18)

David & Laura Bourne, Asheville (1)

John & Ann Campbell, Raleigh (3)

Richard Cavallaro, Raleigh (2)

H Manly & Mary Robertson Clark Family Foundation, Clinton (1)

The Colorful Palate, Arden (1)

Crawford Crenshaw & Laurie Dunn, Raleigh (10)

Carl & Dianne deAndrade, Elizabethtown (3)

Fred Dietrich & Jenny Tenor, Durham (8)

Shirley Drechsel & Wayne Vaughn, Graham (9)

Foliage Concepts, Asheville (8)

Dan Hill, Durham (2)

Roger Holland & Carla Gardner, Plano, TX & Emerald Isle (3)

John & Margaret Lanman, Blowing Rock (10)

Patti Keith, Sanford (7)

Russell & Elaine Leiman, Durham (4)

Luke Lucas, Chapel Hill (6)

Mike Malaska, Glendale, CA (7)

Johnny & Carleen Massey, Garner (12)

Val & Dan Matena, Charlotte (1)

Francis & Joe McClernon, Durham (3)

Steve & Donna Metcalf, Asheville (5)

Eric Motzno, Raleigh (10)

NC Division of Parks & Recreation (10)

J. Greg & Mary Ann Poole, Jr., Raleigh (8)

Rich & Marilyn Preyer, Hillsborough (7)

Christine Stinson, Ferrum, VA (5)

B & Martha Townes, IV, Boomer (11)

Jimbo Ward, Raleigh (1)

Carroll Webber, Clinton (6)

Donnie & Becky Williams, Jonas Ridge (8)

Shawn & Charlotte Williams, Bryn Mawr, PA (11)

Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, Raleigh (10)

Day-Hike Society (\$500 to \$999)

Bob Benner, Morganton (15)

Blue Ridge Hiking Club, Banner Elk (7)

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Winston-Salem (4)

Clay & Leigh Bordley, Durham (6)

Joel S. Bulkley, Chapel Hill (3)

Clay's Power Equipment, Raleigh (9)

Gordon Ferguson & Bobbi Owen, Chapel Hill (11)

David & Lucy Fountain, Raleigh (9)

G & B Energy, Elkin (1)

Joe Van Gogh, Hillsborough (1)

Joel Goodwin, Henderson (1)

Chris Grams, Raleigh (1)

Virginia Guilfoile, Chapel Hill (5)

Robert & Melissa Gunther, Asheville (1)

John & Anita Howell, Chapel Hill (10)

Peter & Sandra Jacobi, Durham (10)

Mary Norris & Pat Oglesby, Chapel Hill (8)

David & Nancy Piet, Pittsboro (2)

Megg & Robert Rader, Raleigh (5)

Amy Stinnett, Kernersville (1)

Ronnie Weed, Durham (3)

Glenn Wells, Winston-Salem (2)

Andy & Sondra Wilkinson, Perdido Beach, AL (9)

John Wilson, Chapel Hill (3)

Other Corporate & Organization Members

8 Dot Graphics, Raleigh (1)

BSA Troop 101, Greensboro (3)

Byrd's Branch Campground & Country Store, Elkin (3)

Companion Animal Hospital of Wakefield, Raleigh (1)

Emerge Ortho PA, Durham (4)

Foothills Outdoor & Recreational Group, Newton (1)

The Landmark Project, Greenville, SC (1)

Medic Solo First Aid, Charlottesville, VA (1)

Miller's Camping, Laurel Springs (3)

Outdoor Bird Company, Raleigh (4)

The Rockford Inn Bed & Breakfast, Dobson (2)

Walmart, Wake Forest (2)

Yes Solar Solutions, Cary (1)

Local Governments

Visit Alamance, Burlington (4)

Alleghany County Parks & Rec, Sparta (2)

Town of Bethania, Bethania (8)

Alliance for Historic Hillsborough (1)

Surry County Parks Department, Dobson (5)

Matching Gifts

AmazonSmile Foundation (3) Duke Energy (2) GSK (6) GE Foundation (6) IBM, Armonk, NY (9)

In-Kind Gifts

Big Apple Bagels, Raleigh (3) Capital Ford, Raleigh (1) City BBQ, Cary (1) Costco, Raleigh (1) The Fresh Market, Raleigh (8) Harris Teeter, Raleigh (1) Jimmy Johns, Raleigh (1) Kohl's, Raleigh (8) Metro Diner, Raleigh (1) Raleigh Fireman's Club, Raleigh (9) Starbucks, Raleigh (8)

17-Year Members

Lillian A. Benton, Bunn Mike & Ruth Simpson, Greensboro Dwayne Stutzman & Sara Davis, Crestview, FL Donald & Jean Walton, Mills River

16-Year Members

Carol Banaitis, Raleigh

15-Year Members

J. Michael Davis, Charlotte Joe, Laura & Michael Mavretic, Raleigh David Thoenen, Raleigh

14-Year Members

Nancy L. Cormany, Raleigh Robert & Sarah Dixon, Fuguay-Varina Dewey & Martha Fox, Morganton Tom & Marian Jerdee, Black Mountain Stephen Meehan, Raleigh Joe & Jo Ann Swofford, Clyde John C. & Kathy Underhill, Cary

13-Year Members

Robert Cline, Burlington Jim & Jennie Hallsey, Fleetwood Alan Householder, Sevierville, TN I. Wayne Mangum, Raleigh James L. Spencer, III, Brevard Billy & Deborah Williams, Hickory

12-Year Members

William J. Bretz Kenneth & Carol Deal, Asheville John French & Robin L. Wright, Raleigh Elizabeth King, Cary Richard McDowell, Raleigh L.P. McElroy, Waynesville George C. Rawlins, Reidsville Gregory Scott, Raleigh Ronald Walker, Sandy Springs, GA

11-Year Members

Paul Black, Huntsville. AL Piet B. Bodenhorst, Asheville Richard Bostic, Raleigh David DeHart, Raleigh Thomas Dillon & Grace Mauney, Beverly Duval, King J. Scott Kanich, Chapel Hill W. Phil Kanoy, Thomasville David & Susan Lennox, Stone Mountain, Alice S. Monk, Mocksville Ken Parker, Wake Forest David B. Rittlinger, Wake Forest David Royster, Lexington, KY Boyce R. Staton, Erwin, TN James B. Suiter, Carrboro Matthew Terribile, Raleigh Thomas & Janis Wade, Durham

10-Year Members

Sindy Barker, Chapel Hill Bill Borden, Raleigh James T. Bowles, MD, Cullowhee Jeffrey N. Branin, Wake Forest Charles L. Braswell, Jr., Garner James L.S. Cobb, Raleigh Edna Collins, Durham Lenwood Collins, Greensboro Carolyn Crump, Carrboro James F. Delark, Charlotte Will & Donna Farmer, Wake Forest William Flournoy, Raleigh Robert Glenn, Jr. & Constance Winstead, Karl Gottschalk, Durham Wilbur & Jane Gurganus, Jacksonville Mary Hagan, Hawkins, TX Richard L. Hibbits, Raleigh Helen A. Holbrook, Havelock Bill Holman & Stephanie Bass, Pittsboro Ray Huger & Beth McKee-Huger, James D. Johnson, Raleigh Robert & Laura Johnson, Statesville Philip & Emily Keel, Robersonville JoEllen Mason & Tammy Mason, Durham Steven Mierisch, Clemmons Charles F. Moeller, Morganton Maurita Paprocki, Durham Margaret Parker, Kennett Square, PA Allmuth & George Perzel, Glendale Phil Piaski, Claremont David G. Rice, Winston-Salem Carolyn Sakowski & Alton Franklin, Steven M. Schewel & Lao Rubert.

Robert Seymour, Chapel Hill

Albert Woelfle, Wake Forest

John Willis, Hillsborough

9-Year Members

Eddy Bakeberg, Lansing

Mike Bianco, Greensboro

Blair Bowers, Chapel Hill

Alex Ashton, Julian

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Jill Anderson

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Patti Keith

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Andrew Snyder

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Doug Blackford & Martha Cutler Doug Knight Daniel Paige Douglas Thompson

In Honor of Gregory Scott

The NCSU Horticulture Department

Angela Noffsinger, Manteo

Thank you to the 820+ VOLUNTEERS who together worked more than **35,800 HOURS** to build, maintain, and promote the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in 2017. These volunteers worked in 22 TASK FORCES - each responsible for building and maintaining a specific section of the trail – and on other projects to promote the trail within their communities.

Mountain Region Hours

Carolina Mountain Club 12,174 High Peaks Trails Association 685 Central Blue Ridge 2,946

Bald Knob 325

Grandfather 455

Watauga 431

South Ashe 997

North Ashe 164

Alleghany 29

Piedmont Region Hours

Elkin Valley Trails Association 4,599 Hanging Rock/Pilot Mtn 147 Sauratown Trails Association 540 West Guilford 50 Upper Haw River 2,181

Orange County 263

Eno River **1,592**

Falls Lake 5,104

Coastal Plain & Outer Banks **Hours**

Agriculture Heartland 35

Carolina Bay 140

Onslow Bight 1,575

Carteret Wildlife Club 88

Outer Banks 103

MST in a Day **HOURS**

521

Other Volunteer Projects Hours



The HONOR ROLL below recognizes volunteers who are members of Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and contributed 75 hours or more to build, maintain, and promote the trail in 2017.

Karl Anderson Jeff Brewer Aram Attarian Donna Burch Robert Ball Haley Burch* Roger Bardsley David Butler Jerry Barker Scott Campbell Bob Beach* Woody Cheek **Gregory Bechtel** Richard Clark Beverly Bell Jim Cobb Curtis Belyea Diana Dagenhart Don Bergey Peter Dahl Rod Birdsong Carol Deal Bill Blackley* Ken Deal David Bland Carl DeAndrade Piet Bodenhorst **Joel Deaton** Bill Boyarsky* Tom Dillon

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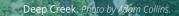
Bob Johnson Laura Johnson Margaret Lanier Les Love Steve Lund* Denise Lyon John McCulloch* Dennis McGill Candace McGuire Steve Meehan Joe Mickey* Steven Mierisch* Richard Moore Barbara Morgan Eric Motzno

Mike O'Neill* Arlene Pace **David Pace** John Pepin Phil Piaski George Poehlman Allen Poole Brian Rollins Don Russ **Gregory Scott*** Luke Simmons Mel Skiles* **Greg Smith** Rocko Smucker

Dee Neil*

Tim Supple* Jason Taylor* Steve Terrill Chris Underhill Doug Veazey Richard Vitolo Vance Waggener Tom Weaver* Chris Werbylo* Shelton Wilder Bill Williams Donnie Williams Harry Wilson Germaine Yahn* Greg Yahn*

^{*} Volunteered 250-hours or more



TAKE A HIKE



This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Allen de Hart, our founder and friend, who worked indefatigably for the MST from 1977 until his death in 2016.

Photo by Randy Johnson.



3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 210, Raleigh, NC 27609 919.825.0297 | info@mountainstoseatrail.org

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