

**2018 Retiring Board Member Bios**  
**Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail**

**Tiffany Consoli** has just launched a Raleigh franchise of Pool Scouts, a pool service company. She decided to start her own business after 13 years at REI, including 12 years as manager of the Raleigh and Cary stores. When she was manager of the newly-opened Raleigh store in 2007, she arranged for Allen de Hart to be recognized for his work with trails and the MST with a special grant of \$20,000 in 2007. Originally from Texas, she first developed a love of hiking, backpacking and the outdoors in Colorado. Tiffany lives in Raleigh with her partner Stacey. She joined the Friends' board in 2016, and she has chaired the Nominating Committee. She currently serves as Treasurer and is on the marketing committee.

**Jay Coward** is an attorney with Coward, Hicks and Siler in Sylva. Jay has been active in civic affairs his entire career including serving as the chair of the boards of Webster Enterprises, Jackson County Board of Elections, and Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, The Pinnacle Park Foundation and the Sylva First Baptist Church Board of Deacons. He served as a Jackson County Commissioner from 1994 to 1998. Jay was born in Chapel Hill, and now lives in Sylva with his wife Renee. He was elected to the Friends' Board in 2013 and chairs the Trail Communities Committee and is on the MST sign committee.

**Howard Lee** has held many leadership positions in North Carolina including Mayor of Chapel Hill, Secretary of the NC Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, NC Senator from Orange County, Chair of the NC Board of Education and Executive Director of the NC Education Cabinet. He is also founder and President of the Howard N. Lee Institute, a non-profit which focuses on erasing the achievement gap and improving academic performance for minority males. In 2015, Howard received the North Carolina Award, the state's highest civilian honor, for his lifetime of public service. In 1977, when Howard was Secretary of the NC Department of NRCD, he gave the speech which recommended creating the MST. Howard was born in Georgia and lives in Chapel Hill with his wife Lillian. Howard has served on the Friends' Board since 2013, and he has served on the Nominating and Partnership committees and is on the marketing committee.

**Steve Metcalf** is principal of The Policy Group, a government relations firm which represents clients in the NC Legislature and US Congress. He is a former NC Senator from Buncombe County and also served as Buncombe County Manger. As Senator, Steve Metcalf was the primary sponsor of the NC Clean Smokestacks bill, one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation in North Carolina history. He serves on the Board of Visitors for Appalachian State University and on the Board of Directors of the Manna Food Bank in Asheville. Steve was born in Buncombe County, and he and his wife Donna live in Weaverville. He was elected to Friends' Board in 2013, and he served as Vice President and chair of the Nominating Committee in 2014 and the Partnership Committee in 2015. Steve was elected Board President in 2016 and is on the committee working to develop a three-year fundraising plan.

**B Townes** is the retired Vice President for Development at Wilkes Community College. While at WCC, he created and ran MerleFest, the biggest Americana festival in North Carolina. B previously served on the Friends' Board from 2009 to 2011, and he has been a regular trail volunteer in South Ashe County. B is originally from Danville, Virginia, and he and his wife Martha live in Boomer. B is very active in the beekeeping community through his work as president of the Beekeepers of Wilkes and the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. He educates the public about beekeeping through courses and presentations on plants, nectar and pollen. He rejoined the Friends' Board in 2016, and he has chaired

the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund committee. He currently serves on the committee to write a three-year fundraising plan.