



FRIENDS OF THE  
Mountains-to-Sea Trail

# A TRAIL OF ADVENTURE & DISCOVERY

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Members and Friends of the MST:

2018 was a year of record breaking rain that tested the grit and determination of trail crews and hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Despite the challenging weather, we achieved much during the year. It's a reminder of how much we can do when we work together with a common focus. We are pleased to submit this annual report of accomplishments by Friends of MST and our trail partners. The highlights include:

- The finalization of the route of the MST that extends 350 miles from Clingmans Dome to Stone Mountain, the longest continuous stretch of trail. The perseverance required to weave the trail across western North Carolina's rugged mountains offers inspiration to volunteers working to build the Piedmont and Coastal sections of the MST.
- The release of a strategic plan for the Coastal Crescent route of the MST, identifying focus areas for trail construction. The route through southeastern North Carolina takes hikers through areas of historic importance and ecological significance in Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender and Onslow counties.
- Eleven miles of new trail opened statewide.
- A total of 514 hikers and paddlers celebrated the MST's 41st birthday on the weekend of September 7-9 by hiking and paddling 3,276 miles all over North Carolina.
- New roadside signage giving the MST more visibility. Volunteers mounted MST signs along connector roads to clarify the route for hikers. Dubbed the "Big Screw In," the signage campaign focused especially on the counties along the Coastal Crescent route.

The MST is a trail of adventure and discovery and an extraordinary work in progress. It showcases the diverse beauty of our state, offers a recreational resource to local communities and provides economic opportunity to businesses that serve the hiking community. The mission of the Friends organization is to bring together volunteers and communities to build the trail. That is where we need your help.

Each year, almost 1,000 volunteers devote more than 32,000 hours of work on the MST. More than 1,000 families, individuals and supporters in North Carolina and 24 other states donate funds to maintain the strong momentum of trail planning and construction that we have achieved. If you are a Friend of the MST, we thank you for the positive impact you are making.

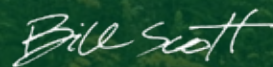
If you have not yet become a member of the Friends, we encourage you to join our ever expanding ranks of enthusiastic volunteers and supporters. Visit our website or call our office to learn how you can help.

See you on the trail!

Sincerely,



Steve Metcalf  
*Board President 2018*



Bill Scott  
*Board President 2019*





The year 2018 tested the perseverance of trail builders and hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It was a year of record-breaking rainfall and hurricanes Michael and Florence that caused catastrophic flooding in parts of North Carolina. Despite the adverse weather, 2018 was a year of surprising progress on the MST.

The year marked the finalization of the MST route in Western North Carolina after decades of work. It saw progress in the Piedmont, and a strategic plan for an alternate route in the Coastal Plain. The number of hikers completing the MST surpassed 100 by year's end. It also included a first—a collaborative GoFundMe campaign by Friends and MST neighbors to rebuild a bridge destroyed by one of the hurricanes—that could serve as a model for future grassroots fundraising efforts.

The MST extends 1,175 miles across North Carolina from Clingmans Dome in the Smokies to Jockey's Ridge on the Outer Banks. It includes approximately 700 miles of footpath, unpaved forest roads and beach and about 475 miles of connector roads linking trail segments. Each year, dedicated trail crews complete more miles of new trail and press toward the goal of a linear park of natural wonders spanning North Carolina.

## TRAIL ROUTE FINALIZED IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Long distance hiking trails are dynamic and ever changing. Still, the MST reached a milestone in Western North Carolina that was cause for celebration and reflection. Decades of negotiations among federal, state and

non-profit agencies over the trail route and thousands of hours of work by volunteers in remote terrain culminated in the linking of the last six-tenths of a mile of MST in western North Carolina in October 2018.



The 346.8-mile route traverses some of the highest mountains in the Eastern United States. Extending from Clingmans

Dome to Stone Mountain, it is the longest continuous section of the MST to date. The route bypasses the Rattlesnake and Sherrill Cove tunnels on the Blue Ridge Parkway and provides for the use of a section of dirt road on the Cherokee Reservation. It saves a significant amount of road walking and greatly enhances the hiker experience.



“ANYONE WHO LENT A HAND THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINS CAN BE PROUD TO BE PART OF LEAVING THIS LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

Les Love, trail maintainer and president of Foliage Concepts

Hiking the Smokies. Photo by Mary Stewart.

A ribbon cutting was held in October attended by representatives of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, N.C. State Parks, Carolina Mountain Club, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, Friends of the MST and many others.

The perseverance of volunteers in the mountains will inspire MST supporters in the Piedmont and Coastal MST sections to overcome challenges and obstacles as they work to build the trail across the rest of the state.

## CHARTING THE TRAIL'S ROUTE THROUGH THE COASTAL PLAIN

Friends of the MST released a strategic plan for the Coastal Crescent route in the winter of 2018. The route was developed to provide a way for MST hikers to explore the biologically-diverse southeastern part of the state.

The 270-mile route encompasses areas of historic importance and ecological interest in Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender and Onslow counties. It leads hikers through the Cape Fear Arch and Onslow Bight, two areas recognized as among the most ecologically significant in the United States. They are home to rare species and include longleaf pine savannas, Carolina bays, pocosins and barrier islands. Many MST hikers currently use the Coastal Crescent to complete their hike.



Now, the Friends' goal is to relocate sections of the route still on road to dedicated hiking trail. The strategic plan identified eight focus areas where opportunities exist to construct nearly 70 more miles of hiking trail. In November, Friends received a \$100,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to support its work to plan and build those new trail miles.

“I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH WHAT A BOLD, VISIONARY MOVE IT WAS FOR FRIENDS OF THE MST TO UNDERTAKE THIS COMPLETE REROUTE OF NEARLY HALF THEIR TRAIL! IT'S UNPRECEDENTED.”

P.J. Wetzel (hiker, earth scientist and author of Heart and Sole blog), writing about the Coastal Crescent route

## THE 41ST BIRTHDAY HIKE

More than 500 people hiked and paddled 3,276 miles across North Carolina to celebrate the MST's 41st birthday on the weekend of Sept 7-9. September 9 is considered the anniversary of the MST. On that date in 1977, Howard Lee, then N.C. secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development, made a speech at a National Trails Symposium and called for a trail reaching from North Carolina's mountains to sea. The speech is considered the catalyst to the establishment of the MST.





## RAISING FUNDS: GREAT IDEAS THAT KEEP GIVING

At a strategic planning retreat in January 2018, the Friends board recognized the need to expand fundraising to realize the dream of a continuous, natural surface footpath connecting communities and natural areas across North Carolina. They immediately set to work to develop a workplan to do just that with the help of fundraising counsel Hunter Kemper of Asheville. Board members are digging deeper in their own pockets, thanking MST donors for their gifts, and reaching out to friends, family and local businesses. If you would like to help expand this critical work, we welcome help from all MST enthusiasts.

2018 also marked the five-year anniversary of the special MST license plate, which raises awareness of the trail as well as needed funds. The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles started printing the special plates in 2013 when Friends of MST delivered orders for the first 300. DMV returns \$20 of the \$30 annual cost of each plate to Friends, and, as of the end of 2018, Friends had received a total of \$57,160 in license plate revenue.

Special thanks to Don Bergey, a longtime volunteer and former board member, who made it his mission to see cars and trucks from Clingmans Dome to the Outer Banks sporting MST plates.

## TRAIL SIGNS: "HOT, SWEATY AND FIRE ANTNY WORK"

Volunteers fanned out across the state to place MST signs along road sections of the trail. The first phase of the signage campaign focused especially on the Coastal Crescent route in southeastern North Carolina. The goal of the campaign, nicknamed the Big Screw In, is to make the MST route clearer for hikers and raise the visibility of the trail to motorists too.

Despite the nickname of the sign initiative, putting up the signs was more complicated than simply screwing signs onto sign posts. After the N.C. General Assembly approved the concept, Friends worked with each N.C. DOT Division to gain authorization for specific sign locations. Jim Grode, the Friends' Trail Resource Manager, biked all the Coastal Crescent road sections to pinpoint with GPS the preferred sign post locations and identify places where blazes are needed to make the route clearer to hikers.

He sent a spreadsheet of information to each N.C. DOT Division. After the N.C. DOT approved the locations, Friends volunteers fanned out to put up the signs.

The signs were paid for by money raised specifically for signage as part of the 40th anniversary campaign.



Volunteers install signs along the road sections in the Coastal Plain. *Photos by Jerry Barker.*







## TRAIL COMPLETIONS: SURPASSING THE CENTURY MARK

The number of hikers to complete the MST surpassed 100 during 2018, reflecting the appeal of the long-distance trail in the hiking community. While most people use the trail for day hikes or weekend backpacking trips, some hardy individuals take on the inspiring challenge of backpacking the MST from end to end.

The class of 2018 includes 11 completers: Jason “Abe Lincoln” Murrell, Roger Holland, Dianna M. Morris, David “S2S” Nutt, Deirdre “Beerdra” Smith, Debra “Latte” Rezeli, Jeff “Sketchy Guy” Rezeli, Mary “Angel” Stewart, Kenny “Bonehead” Capps, Danny “JackRabbit” Wilcox, and Danelle Hallenbeck.

“I HIKED ROUGHLY TWO MILES ALONGSIDE A FAMILY OF DOLPHINS ON MY LAST BEACH DAY.”

Danny “Jack Rabbit” Wilcox, 2018 MST Completer

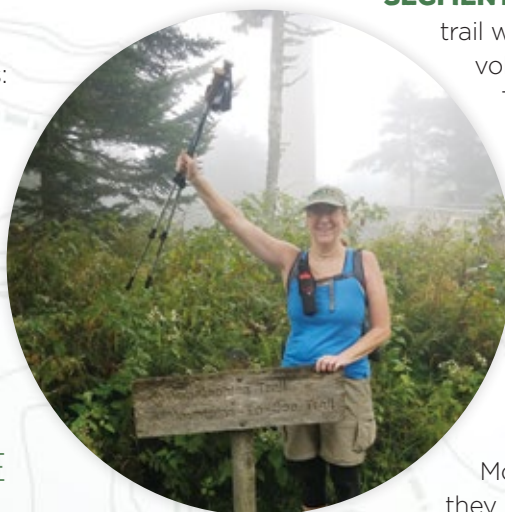
## BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THE MST

Thanks to strong partnerships with land management agencies and local governments, the dedication and ingenuity of volunteers and the generosity of Friends, encouraging progress occurred in building new trail and improving sections of existing MST for all to enjoy.

### New Trail Construction

Friends adjusted the thru-hiker route to incorporate eight new miles of trail in four locations. In two other places, three miles of trail opened that will be incorporated into

the thru-hiker route as soon as additional connecting trail is completed.



**SEGMENT 1** | East of Cherokee, one mile of trail was built by Carolina Mountain Club volunteers, with assistance from the N.C. Trails Program, to bypass two tunnels along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This new trail made it possible to open the long-envisioned MST route out of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

**SEGMENT 6** | The Elkin Valley Trails Association continued its great work by opening 1.7 miles of trail on the Sawyer tract just east of Stone Mountain State Park. Steadily each year they bring us closer to a continuous 20-mile trail connecting downtown Elkin to Stone Mountain State Park.

**SEGMENT 14** | East of Burgaw, Friends adjusted the MST route to incorporate a 4.5-mile paddle or “ferry ride” down the Northeast Cape Fear River from the White Stocking boat landing to the Holly Shelter boat access area. The Pender County Tourism department volunteered to line up “boat angels” to help thru-hikers complete this beautiful stretch of the trail. This shift onto the river decreased the road walk for thru-hikers by 14 miles.

**SEGMENT 15** | In Surf City, the N.C. DOT replaced the old swing bridge with a new, one-mile bridge offering a wide, protected walkway over the sound. Although it was a sad to see the historic bridge replaced, the new bridge

Mary Stewart completes the MST. *Photo by Mary Stewart.*





From left: Hiking the MST in Hillsborough. *Photo by Joe Miller.* MST Completer Deirdre Smith and Trail Angel Joe Hicks in Elkin. *Photo by Beerdra.*

provides gorgeous views of the island, sound and ocean and much more peace of mind for walkers.

In two other areas, new trail opened which can be enjoyed now and will also be added into the MST thru-route at a later date.

**SEGMENT 9** | Just west of Hillsborough, two miles of natural surface trail opened at Orange County's Seven Mile Creek Natural Area. This nature preserve is one of the most biologically-diverse spots in the county with beautiful views of hardwood forest and the creek.

**SEGMENT 11A-16A** | The City of Kinston opened a one-mile downtown greenway along the Neuse River. This lovely trail connects neighborhoods to lively hotspots like Chef and the Farmer and Mother Earth Brewing. This part of the MST is now a paddle route, but the goal is to also build a continuous hiking trail along the Neuse River from the Falls Lake dam in Raleigh to the Neusiok Trail in the Croatan National Forest near Havelock.

## Major Trail Repairs

**SEGMENT 5** | Near Blowing Rock, a rock slide tumbled a chunk of the trail to the Blue Ridge Parkway below. Volunteers with our Watauga Task Force reopened the trail by skillfully building 350 feet of new trail above the slide.

**SEGMENT 6** | A section of the Widow's Creek/MST in Stone Mountain State Park collapsed down a steep hillside during Hurricane Matthew. With no easy way to reroute the trail, State Parks contracted with Ivan Wolfe and YRU Contracting from Idaho to stabilize the hill

below with retaining timbers and then rebuild the trail in the original location.

**SEGMENT 16** | The Neusiok Trail has yet to re-open as the U.S. Forest Service assesses how to rebuild the extreme northern section which was washed away by Hurricane Florence and to make the entire trail more resilient to storm damage. Volunteers with the Carteret County Wildlife Club have cleared trees and righted boardwalks along the remaining portions of the Neusiok, in hopes that the U.S. Forest Service will allow it to reopen during their planning and construction phase. Friends developed an alternate road route, available on the trail updates page of our website, to help thru-hikers complete their journeys while the trail is closed.

## Repairing Eroded Trail

Several of our volunteer task forces undertook major projects to repair sections of the trail that were built unsustainably years ago and had badly eroded.

**SEGMENT 4** | The NC High Peaks Trail Association completed the second of a three-stage renovation of the Mount Mitchell Trail/MST. On this  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile section, drainage issues were mitigated, two rock staircases and seven primitive stone staircases built, and the entire trail tread was improved. With stable design and future careful maintenance, these trail improvements should prevent the trail from eroding in the future. This work was funded through a \$60,000 federal Recreational Trail Program grant, and the most technical part of the work was carried out by American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit that trains volunteers to restore public lands.





From left: Falls Lake volunteers complete a 40-foot bridge. *Photo by Jerry Barker.* Volunteers and neighbors replace a bridge in Hillsborough. *Photo by Bill Boyarsky.*

**SEGMENT 4** | REI Coop in Pineville provided a \$5,000 grant to help our Central Blue Ridge volunteer task force repair 4.6 miles of eroded road bed trail in the Pisgah National Forest. The work, which was completed in January 2019, allowed a contractor with a small backhoe to dig 156 water diversions which were then finished by hand by volunteers. The work occurred in three locations: near Old House Gap, west of Woodlawn, and near Betsy's Ridge.

**SEGMENT 7** | At Pilot Mountain State Park, volunteers with Friends of Sauratown Mountains worked 18 days with a rented excavator to repair and stabilize eroded trail along the Corridor Trail/MST.

## Replacement Steps and Bridges

Several of our volunteer task forces also undertook major projects to replace steps and bridges that had washed away in storms.

**SEGMENT 9** | The Upper Haw River Task Force worked almost 250 hours with the N.C. Trails Program to replace a rotted out stairway in the Glencoe section of the MST in Alamance County. The technical project required hauling materials in the middle of summer for more than half a mile and constructing new steps from \$900 in timber and rebar that were provided by Burlington Parks & Recreation.

**SEGMENT 9** | In Hillsborough, residents in a nearby neighborhood launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$2,200 and then volunteered their time to help the Orange County Task Force build a replacement bridge for one that had been destroyed when a tree fell on it during Hurricane Florence. This is the first time a group of citizens has launched a fundraising campaign like this, and we think it is an inspiring example of collaboration. Thanks to Paula Lowe and her Forest Ridge neighbors!

**SEGMENT 10** | The Falls Lake Task Force took on the challenge of replacing a washed-out bridge near Rolling View Recreation Area with a 40-foot fiberglass bridge. The new bridge, which cost \$34,000 to build, is a more sturdy and sustainable design than the old one and was funded by grants from the Triangle Community Foundation and Durham County's Open Space and Trails Committee and by gifts given in memory of Dustin Powers. Although the bridge was pre-fabricated in parts so that it could be hand carried into the woods, it turned out to be a very challenging project technically. Thanks to Arthur Kelley, an engineer and one of the most experienced members of the task force, for stepping forward to work through the challenges and manage the project. Building materials, including bags of concrete, were hauled more than a mile by wheelbarrow, ATV and boat. On the final day of construction, more than 20 volunteers triumphantly lifted the trusses in place.

*Thanks to Wade Rawlins for his help writing this report.*



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

ASSETS	12/31/2018	12/31/2017
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$382,317	\$329,164
Grants Receivable	81,187	84,528
Pledges Receivable	9,121	30,306
Other Receivables	4,991	3,810
Merchandise Inventory	6,272	5,313
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	5,308	7,222
Net Fixed Assets	9,602	15,856
Deposits & Long-term Pledges	951	3,085
Beneficial Interest (Endowment)*	63,389	63,739

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>563,138</b>	<b>543,023</b>
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### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$1,025	\$11,151
Deferred Revenue	33,146	65,676

#### Net Assets

##### Without donor restrictions

Available for operations	192,531	228,235
Board designated	19,960	40,478
Endowment Fund*	49,879	50,229

##### With donor restrictions

Purpose restricted	253,087	133,744
Endowment Fund*	13,510	13,510

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$563,138</b>	<b>\$543,023</b>
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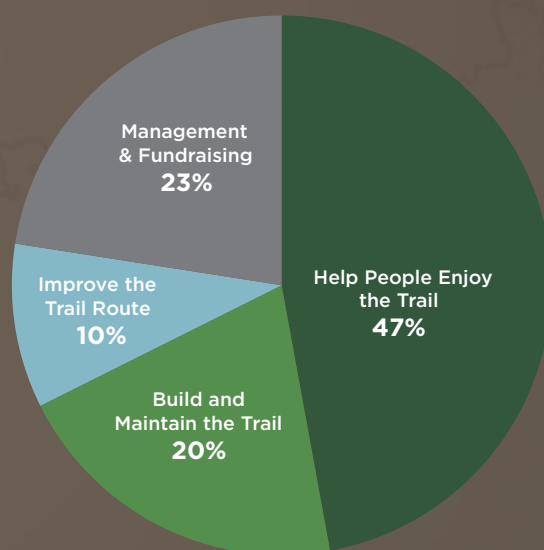
\* The endowment is held at the NC Community Foundation.

“ONE OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL BENEFITS OF THE TRAIL IS HOW IT DRAWS PEOPLE TOGETHER, PROMOTING CONNECTIONS AMONG PEOPLE FROM ALL DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE AND WALKS OF LIFE.”

Johnny Massey, former chief of State Capitol Police and MST completer

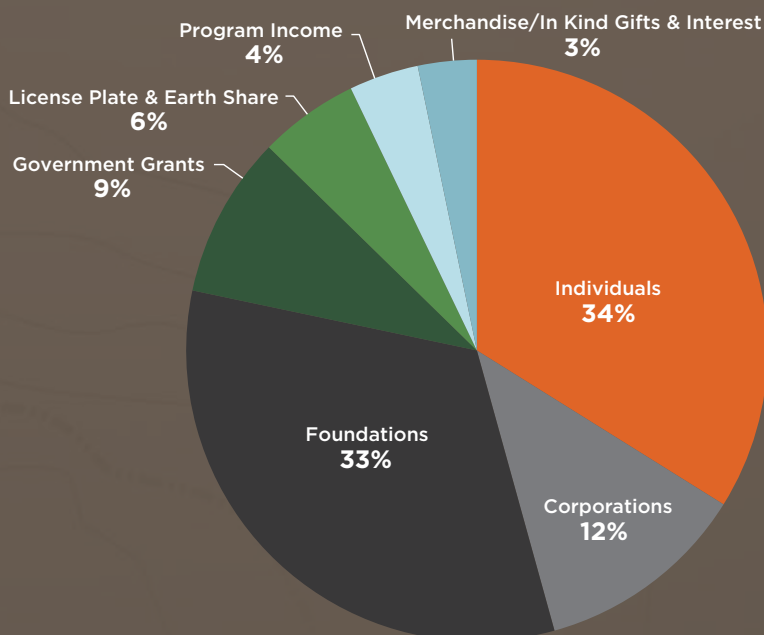
### EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA

Total Expenditures \$319,591



### SOURCES OF INCOME

Total Income = \$382,362



### Value of Volunteer Labor

In 2018, MST volunteers worked **32,288 HOURS** to support the trail. At the State Parks assigned rate of \$24.69 per hour, these volunteers **DONATED TIME WORTH AN ADDITIONAL \$797,191** to the MST.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

**Steve Metcalf**, President, *Weaverville*

**Bill Scott**, Vice President, *Clinton*

**Marcia Bromberg**, Treasurer, *Asheville*

**Chris Grams**, Secretary, *Raleigh*

**Jake Blood**, *Burnsville*

**Millie Chalk**, *Morehead City*

**Tiffany Consoli**, *Raleigh*

**Jay Coward**, *Sylva*

**Howard N. Lee**, *Chapel Hill*

**Les Love**, *Weaverville*

**Johnny Massey**, *Garner*

**Carolyn Mejia**, *Wilmington*

**Tammy Proctor**, *Hampstead*

**B Townes**, *Boomer*

**Greg Yahn**, *Greensboro*

## STAFF

**Kate Dixon**, Executive Director

**Betsy Brown**, Outreach Manager

**Jim Grode**, Trail Resource Manager

Grasses nod in the breeze at the Coastal Federation's North River Wetlands Preserve.  
*Photo by Wynn Wagenseil*

## 2018 FRIENDS OF MST MEMBERS

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

Dominion Energy Foundation, Richmond, VA (2)  
Duke Energy Foundation, Raleigh (4)  
EarthShare of NC, Durham (7)  
Great Outdoor Provision Co. (18)  
REI (18)

### Section-Hike Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Danielle Bernstein, Asheville (12)  
Farm to Feet Socks, Mount Airy (3)  
First Citizens Bank (5)  
Gipson Family Foundation, Raleigh (3)  
Rostan Family Foundation, Valdese (2)  
Scott Zimmerman, Pittsboro (5)

### Weekend Backpack Society (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Jerry and Sandy Barker, Raleigh (11)  
The Bresler Foundation, Rockville, MD (5)  
Bull City Running Co., Durham (10)  
Kate Dixon and Dan Wilkinson, Raleigh (12)  
NC Division of Parks and Recreation, Raleigh (17)  
Greg and Mary Ann Poole, Raleigh (9)  
Table Rock Ultras/Tanawha Adventures (5)

### 1000-Mile Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499 or \$500 if volunteered 75 hours or more)

Anonymous (2)  
DeWana Anderson, Carrboro (8)  
Bernard and Holly Arghiere, Asheville (10)  
Bill and Sandie Blackley, Elkin (8)  
Jeff, Amy and Lalan Brewer, Raleigh (19)  
Richard Cavallaro, Raleigh (3)  
Crawford Crenshaw and Laurie Dunn, Raleigh (11)  
Carl and Dianne deAndrade, Elizabethtown (4)  
Fred Dietrich and Jenny Tenor, Durham (9)  
Foliage Concepts, Asheville (9)  
Dan Hill, Durham (3)  
Lianna Jarecki (1)  
Joe Van Gogh, Hillsborough (2)  
Patti Keith, Sanford (8)  
John and Margaret Lanman, Blowing Rock (11)  
Leslie R. and Catherine Love, Weaverville (10)  
Warner Lucas, Chapel Hill (7)  
Mike Malaska, Glendale, CA (8)  
Steve and Donna Metcalf, Weaverville (6)  
John S. Manuel, Durham (11)  
Eric Motzno, Raleigh (11)  
Rich and Marilyn Preyer, Hillsborough (8)  
ROADS, Oak Ridge (1)  
Bill and Darby Scott, Clinton (6)  
Jason Taylor, State Road (3)  
Carmen Trueheart, Asheville (1)  
Shawn and Charlotte Williams, Bryn Mawr, PA (12)  
Wyrick Robbins Yates and Ponton, Raleigh (10)

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

Beverly Bell and Lucy Piner, Hillsborough (8)  
Mary Ellen and John Boelhower, Greensboro (5)  
Clay and Leigh Bordley, Durham (7)

Robin Britt, Greensboro (1)  
John and Ann Campbell, Raleigh (4)  
Matt and Suzanne Case, Chapel Hill (1)  
Clay's Power Equipment, Raleigh (10)  
Harold Erickson, Durham (3)  
Drs. John and Janet Garrett, Asheville (8)  
Gear Junkie, Minneapolis, MN (1)  
Ginny Ghezzi, Durham (1)  
Chris Grams, Raleigh (2)  
Julie and Jason Hall, Raleigh (2)  
Lance Hardin, Raleigh (2)  
John and Anita Howell, Chapel Hill (11)  
Larry Humbert, Belmont (2)  
Peter and Sandra Jacobi, Durham (11)  
James D. Johnson, Raleigh (11)  
Merrill and Cindy Mason, Raleigh (8)  
F. Joe McClernon, Durham (4)  
Mark Morris, Raleigh (2)  
Richard Nifong, Pinnacle (2)  
Mary Norris and Pat Oglesby, Chapel Hill (9)  
Lunsford Richardson Preyer Charitable Lead Unitrust, Greensboro (7)  
Robert Trawick, Cary (9)  
Jim Ward, Raleigh (2)  
Ronnie Weed, Durham (4)  
John Wilson, Chapel Hill (4)

### Other Corporate and Organizational Members

8 Dot Graphics, Raleigh (2)  
Blue Ridge Hiking Club, Boone (8)  
Byrd's Branch Campground and Country Store, Elkin (4)  
Charleston Management Group, Raleigh (1)  
City Barbeque, Raleigh (1)  
Autumn Cobeland Painting, Raleigh (1)  
Dan River Basin Association, Eden (3)  
Emerge Ortho PA, Durham (5)  
Epcon Communities, Cary (1)  
G and B Energy, Elkin (2)  
Insect Shield, Greensboro (1)  
Jelks Family Foundation, Panama City, FL (1)  
New Morning Ltd., Asheville (3)  
The Rockford Inn Bed and Breakfast, Dobson (3)  
K. Martin Waters, IV Memorial Fund, Charlotte (1)

### Local Governments

Visit Alamance, Burlington (5)  
Town of Bethania, Bethania (9)  
Town of Ronda, Ronda (1)  
Surry County Parks Department, Dobson (6)

### Matching Gifts

AmazonSmile Foundation (4)  
BD (7)  
Duke Energy (3)  
IBM (10)  
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN (1)

### In-Kind Gifts

City BBQ, Cary (2)  
Costco, Raleigh (2)  
Kohl's, Raleigh (9)  
Metro Diner, Raleigh (2)



New York Bagel and Deli, Raleigh (1)  
Courtney Pernell Potter, Raleigh (9)  
Starbucks, Raleigh (9)  
Sweetheart Treats, Raleigh (1)  
Target, Wake Forest (1)  
The Fresh Market, Raleigh (9)

### 18-Year Members

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

### 17-Year Member

Carol Banaitis, Fleetwood

### 16-Year Members

Bob Benner, Morganton  
Lewis and Barbara Boyles, Durham  
J. Michael Davis, Charlotte  
Joe, Laura and Michael Mavretic, Raleigh  
David Thoenen, Raleigh

### 15-Year Members

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

### 14-Year Members

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

### 13-Year Members

Kenneth and Carol Deal, Asheville  
John French and Robin L. Wright, Raleigh  
Elizabeth King, Cary  
Johnny and Carleen Massey, Garner  
Richard McDowell, Raleigh  
George C. Rawlins, Reidsville  
Gregory Scott, Raleigh  
Ronald Walker, Sandy Springs, GA

### 12-Year Members

Paul Black, Huntsville, AL  
Piet B. Bodenhorst, Asheville  
Richard Bostic, Raleigh  
David DeHart, Raleigh  
Thomas Dillon and Grace Mauney, Winston-Salem  
Beverly Duval, King  
Gordon Ferguson and Bobbi Owen, Chapel Hill  
Mark Gatehouse, Greensboro  
W. Phil Kanoy, Thomasville  
David and Susan Lennox, Brevard  
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 Terrible, Raleigh  
B and Martha Townes, IV, Boomer  
Thomas and Janis Wade, Durham

### 11-Year Members

Sindy Barker, Chapel Hill  
Donald B. Bergey, Winston-Salem  
Bill Borden, Raleigh  
James T. Bowles, MD, Cullowhee  
Jeffrey N. Branin, Wake Forest  
Charles L. Braswell, Jr., Garner  
James L.S. Cobb, Raleigh  
Lenwood Collins, Greensboro  
Carolyn Crump, Carrboro  
Will and Donna Farmer, Wake Forest  
William Flournoy, Raleigh  
Robert Glenn, Jr. and Constance Winstead, Durham  
Karl Gottschalk, Durham  
Wilbur and Jane Gurganus, Jacksonville  
Mary Hagan, Hawkins, TX  
Richard L. Hibbits, Raleigh  
Helen A. Holbrook, Havelock  
Bill Holman and Stephanie Bass, Pittsboro  
Robert and Laura Johnson, Statesville  
Philip and Emily Keel, Robersonville  
JoEllen Mason and Tammy Mason, Durham

Steven Mierisch, Clemmons  
Charles F. Moeller, Morganton  
Maurita Paprocki, Durham  
Margaret Parker, Kennett Square, PA  
Allmuth and George Perzel, Glendale Springs  
Phil Piaski, Claremont  
Ray and Sheri Raymer, Greensboro  
David G. Rice, Winston-Salem  
Carolyn Sakowski and Alton Franklin, Winston-Salem  
Steven M. Schewel and Lao Rubert, Durham  
Robert Seymour, Chapel Hill  
John Willis, Hillsborough  
Albert Woelffle, Wake Forest

### 10-Year Members

Alex Ashton, Julian  
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John Dixon, Chevy Chase, MD  
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Graham  
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Margaret McCann, Chapel Hill  
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Donnie and Becky Williams, Jonas Ridge  
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Marcia Bromberg, Asheville  
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Rebecca Bumgardner, Raleigh  
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James Church, Annapolis, MD  
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Christopher P. David, Raleigh  
Heidi Domeisen, Marshall  
Bob Edwards, Sparta  
Jerry Evans, Kinston



The MST near Blowing Rock. Photo by Tracy Brown/Blowing Rock.

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Robert L. Powers, Asheville  
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David Rogers, Raleigh  
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Robert H. Hrozencik, Vilas  
Paul and Susan Hubbard, Wilkesboro  
James Hull, Asheville  
Steven and Carolyn Jackson, Raleigh  
Ennis and Dru James, Greenville, SC  
Carroll Koepplinger, Asheville  
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Elizabeth Samples, Rock Hill, SC  
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Jack Shirey, Asheville  
David Sloan, Goldsboro  
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Ginger Travis, Hillsborough  
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Phyllis Shaw, Greensboro  
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Dale Eltoft, Creedmoor  
Jonathon and Gina Firnhaber, Greenville  
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Ryan Walsh, Wilton, CT

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Peter C. White, Cornelius  
Charles Wilson, Littleton  
Edsel D. Workman, Burlington

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Kathy and Don Chatfield, Greensboro  
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Bob and Callie Connor, Hillsborough  
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Roland and Mabel Hall, Roseboro  
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Richard Kolbush, Raleigh  
Deborah Lubbs, Raleigh  
Nancy Luberoff, Chapel Hill  
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Vonda Martin, Greensboro  
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Anne Miller and Mac McGee, Raleigh  
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Sandra Baran, Raleigh  
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Bill Bass, Raleigh  
Kent Birge, Greensboro  
Danny Bosley, Farmville  
Christopher Boyce, Durham  
Michael Bradley, Clinton  
Kimberly Brookshire, Charlotte  
Jim Brown, Cary  
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Mary Ann Chap, Durham  
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Chelsea Clifford, Durham

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William Gamble, Havelock  
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Allan Howell, Greenville  
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Deborah Kiggins, Fort Mill, SC  
James King, Weaverville  
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Judy Leinbach, Chapel Hill  
Mike Lobban, Sebastian, FL  
Ron Lohr, Wake Forest  
Kenneth Lynn, Fleetwood  
Lynn Magyar, Stokesdale

Danny Wilcox on his MST thru-hike. *Photo by Danny Wilcox.*





Jesica Mangun, Durham  
 Mark Marcolpos, Chapel Hill  
 Diana Mays, Charlottesville, VA  
 Randy Mays, Roaring River  
 Dennis McGill, Morganton  
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 Gloria Moseley, Conetoe  
 Joanne Perri, Wake Forest  
 Mary Ann Petruska, Pittsboro  
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 John Pye, Durham  
 Razz Raspberry, Raleigh  
 Sam Ravenel, Cary  
 Douglas Ray, Haw River  
 Gordon Richardson, Jonesborough, TN  
 Lisa Riegel, Cary  
 Carmel and Jerry Ritchie, Lexington  
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 Michael Sapeta, Chapel Hill  
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 Robert Sliwa, Rolesville  
 Irving Smith, Jr., Wilmington  
 Jeanne Sommer, Asheville  
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 Michael Stanley, Chapel Hill  
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 Keith Warren, Raleigh  
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 Jim Anderson, Horse Shoe  
 Margaret Anderson, Durham  
 Nancy Anderson, Asheville  
 Katherine Baer, Carrboro  
 Bes Baldwin, Durham  
 David Baldwin, Fairview  
 Valerie Bateman, Chapel Hill  
 Cynthia Beane, Elkin  
 Kenneth Black, Gold Hill  
 Richard Blouse, Southport  
 Tommie Boston, Swannanoa  
 Alyson Browett, Banner Elk  
 Sean Burke, Beaufort  
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 Charles Moser, Wake Forest  
 Jason Nieuwsma, Chapel Hill  
 Ron Niland, Mount Airy  
 Jack Owen, Apex  
 Alan Parry, Chapel Hill  
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 Pete Petersen, Flat Rock  
 David Petri, Mount Airy  
 Rebecca Prescott, New Bern  
 Richard Ramsey, Newland  
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 Jeffrey Simpson, Jefferson  
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 Cindy Baer, Hendersonville  
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 Ann Brown, Hickory  
 Shannon Brown, Durham  
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 Jobi Cook, Wilson  
 Leah Cook, Cedar Grove  
 James Cosper, Leland  
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 Karen Lachow, Asheville  
 Michael Lee, Clyde  
 Kenneth Leetz, Asheville  
 Bryant Lindsey, Morganton  
 Mike Luffman, Winston-Salem  
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 Shelley-Sue Williams, Fort Myers Beach, FL  
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 John Woodson, Weaverville  
 Joel Wooten, Yadkinville  
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Julie Baummer, Pfafftown  
Timothy Beckman, Angier  
Jim Beeson, Roanoke, VA  
Chris Bemis, Oviedo, FL  
Michael Blackburn, Wallace  
Chip Blackley, Shelby

John Cates, Raleigh  
Carol Catzone, Connelly Springs  
Andrea Ceonzo, Durham  
Julie Chappell, Durham  
Carrie Clark, Raleigh  
Dustin Clark, Boone  
Jenifer and David Clement, Cary  
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Frank Coble, Jr., Raleigh  
James Cockrell, High Point  
David Coones, Rockwell  
Connie Cope, Kernersville  
Sarah Corey, Raleigh  
Lauren Cranford, Charlotte  
Pamela Crawford, Fletcher  
John Creaser, Cary  
Kathleen and Tom Cronley, Hillsborough  
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Bartow Culp, Hillsborough  
Eleanor Daniels, Asheville  
Julyan Davis, Asheville  
Ingeborg De Becker, Hillsborough  
Anthony DeSantis, Raleigh  
Steve Diering, Raleigh  
Scott Dobson, Cary  
Chris Doddato, Oak Ridge

Amy Fowler, Chapel Hill  
Aaron Frank, Chapel Hill  
Brittney Fray, Clemmons  
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Rich and Sue Freeman, Winston-Salem  
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Joe Friday, Greenville  
Lawrence Friedman, Houston, TX  
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Robin Gieniewski, Fayetteville  
Bernard Goode, Tybee Island, GA  
Sarah Goodnight, Oriental  
Maxine Gordon, Charlotte  
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Anne Gross, Asheville  
Bill Grunwald, Asheville  
C.Y. Gurney, Durham  
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Helen Halliday, Cornelius  
Michael Hamill, Bexley, OH  
James and Courtenay Harton, Oak Ridge  
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Michael Kimel, Oak Ridge  
Kenneth Knight, Raleigh  
Julie Koppang, Walkertown  
Sue Korrow, Asheville  
Kyle Kramer, Chapel Hill  
Nancy Krasno, Efland  
Katie Kross, Chapel Hill  
Steven Kuni, Waynesville  
Joyce Kwapien, Cedar Grove  
Margaret Lanier, Browns Summit  
John Lauder, Greensboro  
Nathan Lee, Cornelius  
Samantha Leidner, Louisburg  
Matt Leshure, Raleigh  
Rita and Tom Lewandowski, Oak Ridge  
Tracy Looney, State Road  
Kathy Lord  
Matthew Luedke, Durham  
Kevin Maddox, Wake Forest  
Will Maddox, Greensboro  
Kit Maloney, Raleigh  
Janet Manning, Alexander  
David Markowski, Havelock  
Mike Marksberry, Waynesville  
Monroe Marlowe, Roxboro  
Elaine Martin  
Bill Mason, Raleigh  
Brandon Massey, Rolesville  
Debbie and Terry McTernan, Raleigh  
William Meador, Raleigh  
Debbie Meeks, Princeton, WV  
Andrew Meier, La Grange  
Anna Mikkelsen, Moyock  
Treena Milam, Raleigh  
Maureen Miller, Asheville  
Jimmy Minter, Chapel Hill  
Bonny Moellenbrock, Durham  
Mitchell Moore, Athens, TN  
Vance Moore, Fleming Island, FL  
Roger Moretz, Boone  
Crystal Morphis, Elkin  
Teri Muro, Durham  
Chad Myers, Elkin  
Hamid Nabavi, Durham  
Richard Nance, Lexington  
Kimberly Naylor, Raleigh  
Claudia Nix, Asheville  
Mark and Amy Norman, Charlotte  
Sean O'Hare  
Karen Oliver, Raleigh  
Laura Olliff, Raleigh  
Kristina Olsen, Cochranville, PA  
Jay Page, Raleigh  
Mark and Patty Parrish, Raleigh  
Jason Pass, Asheville  
Judy Payne, Raleigh  
Ann Penrose, Raleigh  
Terry Perault, Landis  
Gail Perkins, Marion  
Thomas Phillips, Hillsborough  
Lisa Piehler, Paxton, MA  
Nancy Plemmons, Apex

Jake Pope, Hillsborough  
Ken Powell, Raleigh  
Bob Purvis, New York, NY  
Elizabeth and Alex Raines, Hillsborough  
Merv Reedy, Sneads Ferry  
David Richey, Wake Forest  
R. Bruce Rider, Rockwell  
Vee Ringer, Wake Forest  
Kent Robinson, Winston-Salem  
Beverly and Brent Rockett, Bethania  
Kelly Ross, Chapel Hill  
Nicholas Rupp, Greenville  
Susan Sandhoff, Durham  
Kelly Sawczyn, Fort Myers, FL  
Nancy Schanz, Raleigh  
Holly Scheppegegrell, Charlotte  
Jackie Schieb, Weaverville  
Robert Sharpe, Charlotte  
Billy and Chelsea Simcox, Hillsborough  
Robert Simpson, Raleigh  
Patricia Snider, Statesville  
Katie Solovij, Chapel Hill  
Sara Somerall, Columbia, SC  
Michael Sperati, Youngsville  
Sylvia Suriani, Greensboro  
Beth Suydam, Charlotte  
Jessica Swanhart, Stella  
Spencer Swartzel, Raleigh  
David Talley, Hillsborough  
Beanie Taylor, Elkin  
Raymond Tesillo, Durham  
Ellen Todd, Carrboro  
Lynette Tullios, High Point  
Rusty Tysor, State Road  
Barbara Van Sant, Raleigh  
Zeke Vantrese, Greensboro  
Carol Venus, Canton  
Karen Wahle, Raleigh  
Kay and Lebo Wall, Black Mountain  
Dr. Brian Washburn, Greer, SC  
John Watson, Sanford  
Ashley Weeks, New Bern  
Jennifer Weiss and Bruce Hamilton, Cary  
Ellen Welles, Asheville  
Adair Werner, Clayton  
Frank Werner, Clayton  
William Wheeler, Plymouth  
Donna Wilder, Carrboro  
Cathy and Allen Williams, Roaring Gap  
Joe Williams, Efland  
Marijean Williams, Durham  
Abi Winegarden, Pittsboro  
Betty Womack, Statesboro, GA  
Chase Wood  
Wes and Judith Wright, Hillsborough  
Scott Younkin, Raleigh  
Joe Zang, Burlington  
Martha Zeigler, Weaverville

### In Memory of Shaunna Blood Melander

Carolyn Sakowski



Howard Lee and friends enjoy the MST at Falls Lake. Photo by Jerry Barker.

Bruce Blakely, Indian Trail  
Rich Bowerman, Hendersonville  
Nancy Bray, Grifton  
David Brott, Mars Hill  
Donnie Brown, Raleigh  
Sarah Brunmeier, Franklinton  
Rick Bumgardner, Sneads Ferry  
H. Ligon Bundy, Monroe  
Bruce Burch, Boone  
Robert Caldwell, Durham  
Martin Campbell, Mooresville  
Scott Campbell, Lincolnton  
Michael J. Carbone, Summerville, SC  
Gabriella Cardillo, Fuquay Varina  
Gene Carletta, Smyrna  
Sean Castle, Sneads Ferry

Onita Dodds, Hillsborough  
Linda Doherty, Manteo  
Sandra Dorr, King  
Gregory Doyle, Wake Forest  
Beth Dray, Durham  
Karin Drewnitzki, Munchen, Germany  
Art Drumheller, Hickory  
Thomas Eagen, Durham  
David Eck, Durham  
Adam Edwards, Apex  
John Efid, Greensboro  
Larken Egleston, Charlotte  
Martha Farlow, Gibsonville  
Maida Ferguson, Pittsboro  
Robert Flanigan, Boone  
Carter Fourqurean, Summerfield

Donna Hill, Danville, VA  
Michael Hodges, Hughesville, MD  
Rick Holopainen, Graham  
Cheryl Holt, Burgaw  
Nel Hornaday, Apex  
Paul Horton, Boone  
FM Johnson, Beaufort, SC  
Jim Johnson, Durham  
Mica Johnson, Clearwater, FL  
Tony Johnson, Waynesville  
Bert Jones, Jacksonville  
Mike Jones, Lenoir  
Daisy Karasek, Asheville  
Ken and Virginia Karb, Greensboro  
Jane Kelly, Birmingham, AL  
Melony Kent, Morrisville



# THANK YOU

to each and every one of the **850+ volunteers** who together worked more than **32,200 hours** to build, maintain, and promote the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in 2018. These volunteers worked in **22 Task Forces** – each responsible for building and maintaining a specific section of the trail. Other volunteers worked to staff tables at festivals, advocated for the trail within their communities and helped in various other ways.

## Mountain Region HOURS

Carolina Mountain Club **10,007**  
High Peaks Trails Association **179**  
Central Blue Ridge **2,644**  
Bald Knob **159**  
Grandfather **460**  
Watauga **428**  
Ashe **1259**  
Alleghany **87**

## Piedmont Region HOURS

Elkin Valley Trails Association **4,635**  
Hanging Rock/Pilot Mtn **395**  
Sauratown Trails Association **648**  
West Guilford **137**

Upper Haw River **2,669**  
Orange County **276**  
Eno River **1,678**  
Falls Lake **4,172**

## Coastal Plain & Outer Banks HOURS

Agricultural Heartland **43**  
Carolina Bay **127**  
Onslow Bight **1,340**  
Carteret Wildlife Club **71**  
Outer Banks **87**

## Other Friends of the MST 787

Building a bridge. Photo by Bill Boyarsky.



The **HONOR ROLL** below recognizes volunteers who are members of Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and have contributed 75 hours or more to build, maintain, and promote the trail in 2018.

Karl Anderson	Scott Campbell	Tom Griffin	Joe Mickey*	Carolyn Sakowski	Vance Waggener
Jerry Barker	Woody Cheek	Jim Hallsey*	Steven Mierisch*	Andrew Sam	Tom Weaver*
Bob Beach*	Richard Clark	Joe Hicks	Eric Motzno	Gregory Scott*	Chris Werbylo*
Curtis Belyea	Mike Cunningham*	Bob Hillyer*	Dee Neil	Keith Sidden	Dave Whitlow
Don Bergey	Carl DeAndrade	Grace Iovine	Richard Nifong	Luke Simmons	John Whitehouse
Bill Blackley*	Joel Deaton	Bob Johnson	Mike O'Neill*	Mel Skiles*	Bob Wicklund
David Bland	Fred Dietrich	Laura Johnson	Arlene Pace	Rocko Smucker	Shelton Wilder
Jake Blood	Mark Edelstein	Margaret Lanier	David Pace	Tim Supple*	Bill Williams
Piet Bodenhorst	Bob Ellis	Brad Loftis	John Pepin	Jason Taylor*	Donnie Williams
Bill Boyarsky*	Dale Eltoft	Les Love	Phil Piaski	Steve Terrill	Harry Wilson
Jeff Brewer	Jerry Evans	Steve Lund*	Allen Poole	Chris Underhill	Germaine Yahn*
Donna Burch	Richard Evans*	Denise Lyon	Merv Reedy*	Doug Veazey	Greg Yahn*
Haley Burch*	Will Farmer	John McCulloch*	Mike Reves	Richard Vitolo	
David Butler	John French	Dennis McGill	Don Russ	Garry Vogelpohl	

\* Volunteered 250-hours or more





3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 210  
Raleigh, NC 27609



Looking out to the sound in Surf City. Photo by Betsy Brown.

# TAKE A HIKE

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