



# 2023 Gathering

Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Evening Program

## Welcome Reception and Dinner Mystic Farm & Distillery

5 PM	Doors open	
5 PM to 6 PM	Social time, happy hour, mix-and-mingle, distillery tours, name tag pickup, merchandise sales table open	
6 PM	Dinner begins	
6:45 PM	Welcome	Marcia Bromberg, <i>Board President</i>
6:50 PM	Recognition of Dwayne Patterson, <i>Retired Director of the Division of State Parks and Recreation</i>	Brent Laurenz, <i>Executive Director</i>
7:00 PM	Special Friends Recognition	Kate Dixon, <i>Retired Executive Director</i>
7:15 PM	Recognition of 2022 Volunteers	Les Love, <i>Board Member</i> Betsy Brown, <i>Associate Director</i>
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Social time	Brent Laurenz, Sherri Seagroves, <i>Membership and Engagement Coordinator</i>



# 2023 Gathering

## Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Meeting

8 AM	Doors open and merchandise tables open (coffee available)	
9 AM	Welcome	Marcia Bromberg, <i>Board President</i> Walter Munoz, <i>NCCU, Division of Student Affairs,</i> <i>Assistant Director</i>
9:15 AM	State of the Trail Update on trail planning  Financial report  MST for All update 2023 Year of the Trail	Brent Laurenz, <i>Executive Director</i> Brent Laurenz, Betsy Brown, <i>Assistant Director,</i> Ben Jones, <i>Coastal Crescent Project Manager</i> Lynne Bresler, <i>Board Treasurer</i> Les Love, <i>Board Member</i> Jerry Barker, Lemontrel Leary, Thais Carrero Betsy Brown
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	Board recognition (current/former) MST completer recognition Volunteer Highlights  Volunteer software management promo	Marcia Bromberg Heather Cotton, <i>Board Member</i> Sherri Seagroves, <i>Membership and Engagement</i> <i>Coordinator</i> Sherri Seagroves
11:15 AM	NC State Parks introduction Update from NC State Parks	Brent Laurenz Brian Strong, <i>Acting Director of NC State Parks</i>
11:35 AM	Community Building	Angela Lee, <i>Board Member/ED of HHC</i> Martha Pittman, <i>Oak Ridge City Council</i> Charles Gbenyon, <i>Issa Vibe Adventures</i> Jay Korreck, <i>RootEd</i>
12:15 PM	Logistics for lunch and afternoon sessions Parting words Farewell	Sherri Seagroves Marcia Bromberg Howard Lee



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### Annual Meeting

12:30 PM Lunch Break

1:15 PM Door Prizes

Sherri Seagroves

1:30 PM to 3 PM

#### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. Hiker Panel  
Room 2319, Main Ballroom  
Hear from our 2022 Completers! Our panelists will share their experiences thru-hiking and section hiking the MST. You'll hear highlights and low lights, what kept them motivated, how they dealt with injuries and more tips and tricks to stay focused. Our moderator for this session is Julie "Jester" Gayheart.
2. Volunteer Opportunities  
Room 2323  
Iwona Birk and Jennifer Browndorf will share how they created one of the MST's most active and successful volunteer programs, the Trashy Ladies. Learn how you can participate and create a litter pickup program in your community. Sherri Seagroves will share multiple volunteer opportunities along the trail, some include working from home!
3. MST for All  
Room 2202  
Join us for a panel discussion featuring leaders from across the state who are working to connect underrepresented communities to the outdoors; followed by a discussion on how we can inspire more inclusivity on the MST. We'll also have time for small group discussions and share more about how you can get involved. Our panelists are Ali Steele, co-founder of Issa Vibe Adventures; Beverly Scarlett, retired district court judge, author and Friends of the MST board member; Vivianette Ortiz, founder of Latinos Aventureros en las Carolinas.
4. First Aid  
Room 2321  
For MST sawyers who pre-registered and completed the online First Aid course, you'll work with Ernie Hahn on your practicum and complete your certification.



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## Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Meeting

3:45 PM to 4:30 PM

Hayti Heritage Center OPEN HOUSE  
804 Old Fayetteville Street in Durham  
\*pre-registration is not required

4 PM

Annual Gathering Hike at Occonechee Speedway Trail  
320 Elizabeth Brady Road, Hillsborough  
Once the parking lot has filled at the trailhead, please park across the street at Vietri

6:30 PM

Durham Bulls Baseball Game  
Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 409 Blackwell Street, Durham  
\*for guests with pre-purchased tickets



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