

A Trail To Every Classroom

Another TTEC season comes to a close . . .

New England, South, Mid-Atlantic and Southwest Virginia - from every Appalachian Trail Region, teachers once again attended and closed out another year of the National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Trail to Every Classroom Program! Another phenomenal year packed full of resources, shared ideas and networking opportunities.

All in all it was an extremely busy year for the TTEC staff. A Return on Investment (ROI) Study kicked off the New Year with assistance from PEER Associates. Was TTEC a viable, relevant forum for teachers to connect their curriculum efforts with service-learning and the Appalachian Trail? Were teachers provided enough resources and opportunity to make connections possible amidst the bustle of every day curriculum demands? Did TTEC curriculum increase students' academic engagement? (For full report go to www.peecworks.org)

Spring workshops flooded the month of May with new possibilities! Coupled with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Biennial Membership Conference was TTEC's first ever Alumni Workshop. Then off to the Summer Institute. Before one could blink, the week-long experience came to a close with only the fall workshops remaining.



Closing Ceremonies of A Trail to Every Classroom's Summer Institute at the National Conservation Training Center, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Shepherdstown, WV - August 2009

Best professional development I've been to . . .

Hard to believe another TTEC season has come to a close. Thank you for everything you've done to help us make this past year a success!! Amazingly enough, we believe the 2010 TTEC program will be even better! We are just beginning recruitment of a new cohort 50 teachers strong - the 2010 brochure and application will be sent out soon. Please let us know if you have other teachers in your schools that may be interested in participating.

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Happy Holidays Everyone!

Although the holidays are underway, I can't help but feel that a piece of them is over. Packing up our projectors and wrapping up champagne glasses after the last Fall Workshop in New Hampshire was a bit like putting away the holiday decorations and feeling a little empty. Nonetheless, we had a spectacular year! 50 participants, staff from other national trails attending the Summer Institute, our first alumni workshop, and alumni presenting at the Fall Workshops. Now as we are planning for 2010, and the fifth year of TTEC, we can say that we have had 175 participants from all of the 14 states that the AT passes through, and have now engaged an estimated 10,000 students on the Trail!

Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, I traveled to Alaska with Delia Clark for a two-day workshop with our friends from the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Maybe not the most optimal time to visit Alaska (the sun didn't rise until 9:30am and set at 3:30pm), but it was spectacular nonetheless. There were more than 40 agency staff and partners who are fully supportive of adapting the TTEC program for the Iditarod. By the end of the meeting we realized that they have the resources in place to implement the Iditarod TTEC program, referred to as iTREC!, next summer. I will be traveling back to Alaska next year for their Summer Institute, and... "drum roll please," I hope to take one of you with me! Read about all of the amazing Alumni opportunities we are offering in this new newsletter developed by Jess Liptak that will be sent out quarterly.

Thanks, to Jess and all of the TTEC staff, and to all of you for your support of the TTEC program.

Enjoy the Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Rita



"Hurricane Rita"

Opportunities: Grant & Alumni

In each TTEC newsletter, we hope to post both grant and training opportunities. We cannot do this alone -- we invite you to share opportunities you hear of with us!

For 2010, we have three exciting possibilities... a chance for you to travel to Alaska with TTEC's own Rita Hennessy! Your job would be to share your curriculum with folks along the Iditarod Trail as they begin their Trail to Every Classroom workshop series for teachers in Alaska! A once in a lifetime experience!

Or... attend a summer alumni workshop in the White Mountains of New

Hampshire focusing on Hike Leadership and Wilderness FirstAid... You'd work side by side with other teachers and professional hike leaders, gaining knowledge and experience working with youths in an outdoor environment!

Or... like those who came before, present your curriculum at Spring and Fall workshops for a new cohort of teachers.

Stay tuned for more information on these opportunities. All will include a competitive application process in which you have to demonstrate the development and implementation of your own TTEC curriculum! Good luck!

Take a Hike !

That is this year's motto at Cedar Mountain School! Second grade teacher Debbie Baumgarten, fourth grade teacher Terry Griffin, and Cedar Mountain's school principal Maureen McCall were very busy over the summer attending a weeklong conference sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service. The conference is devoted to offering ideas to get the students outside, using the Appalachian Trail as a backdrop.

The first Family Night took place September 23 with activities at Cedar Mountain including "leave no trace" activities, some Trail history and points of interest and some hike safety tips. On September 30 members of the Cedar Mountain community gathered with over 70 family members to hike the boardwalk portion of the Appalachian Trail in Vernon. There was a great deal of enthusiasm expressed by all. Everyone was encouraged to continue to try and incorporate more outdoor activities into their lives.



Photo and article submitted by Maureen McCall, Cedar Mountain School, Vernon, New Jersey

TTEC Alumnus & Trail Club President Assists Local Elementary School with Trail Construction



Nantahala Hiking Club Members at work.

TTEC Alumnus Bill Van Horn doesn't slow down! With a deep passion for the Appalachian Trail, Bill serves as president of the Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC), the Franklin based Appalachian Trail

maintaining club, which is one of the Trail's 30 official maintaining clubs. On November 18th, Nantahala members under Bill's guidance began work on a hiking trail at the Cartoogechaye Elementary School in Franklin, North Carolina. The trail, which is approximately 3/4 mile in length, is located on the hillside behind the playground and athletic fields. The trail will support physical education as a resource to improve fitness and classroom instruction as an outdoor classroom facility.

The NHC focused its efforts on the most difficult locations and erosion control features. In the future students will participate in the construction and maintenance of the trail. Cartoogechaye received a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) using funds generated from the sale of the North Carolina

AT specialty license plate. The USFS Nantahala Ranger District donated the wood used in the construction of erosion control features and steps.

Prior to the day's construction NHC President and TTEC 2007 Alumnus, Bill Van Horn spoke to the three 5th grade classes about the physical and psychological benefits gained from hiking. The students were also introduced to various trail construction techniques, tools used for trail construction and safety techniques associated with trail construction and maintenance.

If you are reading this article and wondering if there is someone like Bill in your area to help you - there is! Simply contact your local AT maintaining club! For more information on the clubs, log-on to www.appalachiantrail.org

Do you remember ????

Select from the answers below. More than one answer may be given.

- 1.) What agency under the U.S. Department of Interior is responsible for the administration of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail?
- 2.) Which selection below is non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the preservation and management of the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources associated with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail?
- 3.) A Trail to Every Classroom is a service-learning, curriculum-based program presented in collaboration between . . .

- a. National Park Service
- b. U.S. Forest Service
- c. Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Answers:

1) a, 2) c, 3) a & c

Share Your Stories with Us & Others!

To keep the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program alive - we want to hear from you! Celebrate some of your curriculum achievements with us, by sending news of your activities and photographs that documenting your journey!

The best way to stay connected with your former TTEC classmates and with those who came before you may be through this e-newsletter! So please, send us your news! If you submitted an article to a local paper, don't feel like you need to reinvent the wheel - send us a copy too! We are your Maine to Georgia connection! Photos can be submitted with your stories, however, be sure they can tell a story on their own - action or activity shots are best! Too - for every photo submitted, all individuals captured in the photo must have filled out/signed a National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy photo release form. If you need an electronic copy of the form, please ask - we'll be happy to send one your way! Help us keep it legal!

Submissions can be sent electronically by the below deadlines to Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov, or via regular mail, to:

Jessica Liptak
TTEC - Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

You will receive a TTEC E-newsletters every quarter - December, March, June, and September.

Submission deadlines:
February 20, 2010
May 20, 2010
August 20, 2010
November 20, 2010



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Cullasaja Elementary Students Experience Appalachian Trail



Cullasaja Elementary School students hike along the Appalachian Trail

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

This publication is made possible through the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) in addition to many other trail partners and clubs.

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Kindergarten, first and second grades from Cullasaja Elementary School had the opportunity to experience the Appalachian Trail (AT) on October 19 - 20, 2009. The Nantahala Hiking Club gave presentations to the students on October 19th highlighting general information about the AT, equipment needed to conduct a safe day hike and the principles of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. Students were surprised to learn the Appalachian Trail was not only part of the National Park System, but is located only 14 miles from their school. A few were taken back that you could walk on the trail, all the way to the State of Maine (or Spain as one student told his grandmother) from where they were standing.

On October 20th the students took a short hike on the AT from Winding Stair Gap on Highway 64 West (11 miles west of Franklin). They

enjoyed the fall colors, collected leaf samples, wrote/drew in their journals and took pictures to capture their experiences.



Four teachers from Cullasaja completed a series of professional development workshops this past year presented by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (a part of the ATC's Trail to Every Classroom Program) where they learned methods of incorporating the AT in their classroom educational requirements.



Join the Journey! Become a Member

When you join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, you become a member of the distinguished group of people dedicated to preserving and protecting the Appalachian Trail. Every dollar we raise goes to support ATC and maintainer club efforts to conserve the footpath, viewsheds, and environmental and cultural resources along the now 2,178 mile Trail.

As a member, you will receive the following benefits:

- A.T. Journeys: The Magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, focusing on conservation efforts and celebrating the stories of our volunteers, hikers and Trail communities.
- Discounts at the Ultimate Appalachian Trail Store.
- An Appalachian Trail Conservancy decal and patch.
- An ATC Member card.

Join by phone (304.535.6331 ext. 120) or on the web by completing an on line form at www.appalachiantrail.org.