

ALASKA  
TRAILS

# NEWSLETTER

Sept  
2016

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### ONE MORE WORK PARTY PLANNED FOR MIDDLE FORK TRAIL

Another volunteer work party is planned for the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail.

The party will be held on September 24, 9am-4pm. Anyone 16 years and older is welcome to join. Please bring gloves, lunch, water, and rain gear. Also, work clothes you don't mind getting dirty, including boots and long pants.

Meet at the Lower Glen Alps parking lot. Volunteers will hike 2 miles to the work site and will be back to the trailhead by 4pm. The work will build new sections of trail to replace old, eroded, and muddy spots.

Volunteers must register by emailing Steve Cleary at [steve.cleary@alaska-trail.org](mailto:steve.cleary@alaska-trail.org).

See this Anchorage Press story on the work parties: <http://tinyurl.com/jboys7h>

*Special thanks to Conoco-Philips and the Alaska Conservation Foundation for their generous support of the Alaska Trail Volunteers program.*

*(Mike Downs photo: Trail crew at work on the Middle Fork trail.)*



### CONFLUENCE BEGINS TO AWAKEN SLEEPING ECONOMIC GIANT

Earlier this summer, *Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors* attracted 75 diverse stakeholders to Anchorage. The meeting, organized by Lee Hart, executive director of the Valdez-based non-profit Levitation 49, elevated the dialogue about the valuable contributions outdoor recreation can have on Alaska's economic future.

A brief video about the [genesis and outcomes of the conference](#) underscores the motivation behind *Confluence* and its unifying outcome. *Confluence* proved there is the political will for gear makers and sellers, experience providers, public land and community recreation managers, and trails and advocacy groups to "join the grown-up table, alongside industrial stalwarts"—such as energy development, manufacturing, fisheries and technology—in conversations about Alaska's economic development, health, and public lands policy.

Writing to Alaska Trails members about the benefits and values of trails is singing to the choir. But many of the state's elected officials still need convincing. Private businesses, non-profits and community leaders who have relevant data should send such studies to Hart ([info@levitation49.org](mailto:info@levitation49.org)) who will compile and share the data in an outdoor recreation-themed capitol summit to be held next spring in Juneau. Those interested in following this evolving story or getting involved can [register to receive Confluence updates](#).



Levitation 49 is dedicated to economic diversification through the development and promotion of events and projects that support the mountain sports lifestyle. More information at: <http://www.levitation49.org/>

Alaska Trails will be spotlighting our Organizational Members in its monthly newsletter. For more information on becoming an Organizational Member of Alaska Trails, please contact us at 907/334-8049 or [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org).

## ALASKA TRAILS FALL FUNDRAISER DATE, BAND SET

The Alaska Trails Fall Fundraiser party will be held Thursday, October 20, at Taproot in Anchorage. The celebration, which starts at 6:60 pm, will include a silent auction and live music by *Big Fat Buddha*. We invite all trail lovers to come enjoy the celebration and socialize with other trail lovers. Watch this newsletter for more details.

## FEDERAL EMPLOYEES CAN DONATE THROUGH THE CFC

If you are a federal employee, you can donate to Alaska Trails through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Just use the "Search Charities" button to find us. The campaign, which includes many other worthy charitable organizations, runs from September 1 to December 15. The campaign can be accessed here: <http://www.alaskacfc.org>

## FOUR EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

**FRED MEYER REWARDS:** Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer



Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – 91035. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

**AMAZONSMILE:** If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for



AmazonSmile. It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time: [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483)

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**GOODSEARCH:** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per



search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

and be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

**BAGOY'S:** Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising



program (<http://tinyurl.com/oavza6p>). When you order online from Bagoy's ([www.bagoys.com](http://www.bagoys.com)) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

## ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from our members. Please join or renew your membership here:

<http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html>

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director

### Volunteers Help Keep Trails – And A Lot More – Healthy

This summer has served as a great highlight of both the importance of trails in communities around Alaska and the important role volunteers can play in helping maintain the trails they love. From races, runs, walks, fundraisers, bikes clubs, hunting, fishing and bird watching – trails are a gateway to the outdoors and the fun, recreation and health benefits that we enjoy when using them. Report after report show continues to show how trails benefit us—our health, our economy and our communities.



*Alaska Trail Volunteers on the Middle Fork Trail reroute.  
(By Steve Cleary)*

Great volunteer work continues even in the wet fall across the state. Not only is it critical in these times of budget cuts, but it is a great way to connect people to the trails in their communities.

The Koponen Homestead trails project in Fairbanks has seen good turnout at regularly scheduled trail work parties. In Kachemak Bay State Park volunteers recently finished off a project on the Moose Valley Trail. The Chugach Mountain Bike Riders are working on the new Mirror Lake singletrack trails every Wednesday evening through the fall (and rain). After three great Saturdays in Chugach State Park, the Alaska Trail Volunteers completed the reroute of the Middle Fork Trail.

#### **Active Transportation Summit - October**

Alaska Trails is excited to be leading the Active Transportation Summit in Anchorage on October 11. The summit, co-sponsored by the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS), will feature nationally recognized engineer and active transportation expert Mark Fenton. As keynote speaker and summit leader, Fenton will use the knowledge and training he has developed over decades of work in the transportation field. Alaska Trails has used its statewide trails conference and other forums to highlight the health benefits of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including trails. This summit will take that further by gathering advocates who can produce a plan to increase both the number of facilities and the number of users.

Happy Trails,  
Steve Cleary

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“Hiking and walking are easily done by people of just about all levels of physical fitness and across the economic spectrum. Walking is fundamentally human. By ensuring that trails are available and accessible to the American public, especially near where they live, an array of health and other benefits may be bestowed on local communities.”

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### FUNDS FROM VETOED SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM TO BE SPENT

Although Gov. Bill Walker vetoed the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program earlier this year, leftover program funds from fiscal years 2015 and 2016 will still be used for grooming and trail grants, according to Darcy Harris, Alaska state trails program coordinator.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which houses the program, was told to proceed with the distributing the remaining funds, which equal nearly \$240,000. DNR re-opened the application for one week, August 9-16, for those who had not turned in applications due to the veto.



Advocates are still fighting for the program and it may be resurrected in a different form.

While the program has essentially been paid for by fees from snowmobile registrations, there has been no indication that the registration program will end or be changed. The registration of snowmobiles is handled by a different department—the Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles.

For more about registering snowmachines see: <http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/snow.htm>

For more on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program see:  
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/snowmotr.htm>

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT DEADLINE DATES NEARING

Deadlines for the Recreational Trails Grant Program have changed and are coming up soon.

The public posting due date is now October 1. The application due date is now November 1. Applications have been available since August 15.

The Recreational Trail Grant Program provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities. The program also provides funds for safety and educational programs. To learn more about the program, please visit the state's Recreational Trails Program page at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

### NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

Some applications for designating a trail as a National Recreation Trail are due by November 1.



For trails on private, city, county, or state land, or on federal land NOT overseen by the Department of Agriculture, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Those applications are due on November 1 of each year.

For trails on National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas and associated lands, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those may be submitted anytime, but must be submitted by February 15 to be included in publicity with DOI designations each June.

For more about applying see: [www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/ApplyNRT.html](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/ApplyNRT.html)



### LCWF GRANT APPLICATION CYCLE OPEN IN ALASKA

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is accepting applications for grants it administers through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The federally funded LWCF program provides up to 50% matching grants for acquisition or

development of parks and other public outdoor recreation facilities. State, regional and local entities with the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands are eligible to apply.

The application deadline is 5pm on Monday, October 31. The application package, including blank forms, examples and rating criteria is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm> or by contacting the LWCF grants administrator, Jean Ayers ([jean.ayers@alaska.gov](mailto:jean.ayers@alaska.gov); 907-269-8694).

*(From DPOR press release)*

## CHART SHOWS FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR TRAILS

When discussing funding for trails, the Recreational Trails Program gets most of the attention. However, several other federal transportation programs can provide funding for trail projects. To help guide people in finding those funding sources, the Federal Highway Administration (a division of the US Department of Transportation) has a chart that it updates periodically. The "Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities" chart was recently updated. Find the chart here:

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/funding/funding\\_opportunities.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm)

## ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced the opening of the 2017 Environmental Excellence Awards (EEA) Program and trail projects can be considered, according to Christopher B Douwes, community planner for the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Program.

Trail advocates "may want to consider trail projects for this award," Douwes wrote in an email. "Trail projects are not restricted to the category 'Nonmotorized and Multimodal Transportation.' If you have a good trail project that also qualifies under other categories, you can also submit under other categories. This is an opportunity to show how recreational trails benefit the environment in multiple ways. We can find appropriate ways to integrate transportation and recreation projects."

Nominations for the awards will be accepted from August 1 to September 15. The biennial EEA Program recognizes outstanding transportation projects, processes, and partners that use FHWA funding sources to go beyond "business as usual" to achieve environmental excellence.

The 2017 EEA Program represents a joint effort among three FHWA offices: the Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, Office of Natural Environment, and Office of Human Environment. The Program features a range of categories under the topic areas of Natural Environment, Human Environment, and Organization and Process Innovation, designed to highlight best practices occurring across the Nation.

To submit your nomination and to learn more about the EEA Program, please visit:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental\\_excellence\\_awards/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_excellence_awards/).

For questions about the EEA Program, please email [EEAwardsNomination@dot.gov](mailto:EEAwardsNomination@dot.gov).

## AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY HAS VOLUNTEERS FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

Land managers, volunteer coordinators, trail and park organizations across the state should consider applying to the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations program for next season. If successful, the AHS will send hardworking and dedicated volunteers to fulfill trail project needs. Volunteer Vacations is designed to send trail managers a crew of eager volunteers, ready to assist with trail needs. The deadline to submit a request is October 9. For more information:



<https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/host-information/>

## **SURVEY ASKS ABOUT RURAL ROAD USE BY TYPICAL TRAIL USERS**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks has been involved in developing a Pacific Northwest Transportation Survey to better understand safety issues and concerns on rural roads and facilities that accommodate more than one type of transportation such as bikes, pedestrians, ATV's, snowmachines, and dogsleds.

They are looking to obtain input from users on their typical travel behavior and safety concerns when interacting with others using different forms of travel means. This input will help transportation professionals develop a better understanding of travel and infrastructure needs in the Alaska.

Please take the survey and you will be entered to win one of twenty \$25 Amazon gift cards:

[https://www.research.net/r/PNW\\_TRAVEL](https://www.research.net/r/PNW_TRAVEL)

*(From a Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System email)*

## **FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS STATEWIDE**

The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which include many trail and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a non-profit group consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website ([www.forakergroup.org/](http://www.forakergroup.org/)) or call 907/743-1200 or (toll free) 877/834-5003.



## **KEEP TRACK OF STATE LAND USE PLANS FOR IMPACT ON TRAILS**



The state Department of Natural Resources has several plans and studies underway across the state that affect how the state deals with its lands. Often this includes land and water trails. These plans and studies have opportunities for public comment. Take a look at the planning web page for the Division of Land, Water, and Mining (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/>). If you see a plan or study that affects trails important to you, please look into opportunities for public comment.

## **TRAIL EASEMENT MIGHT LOWER YOUR PROPERTY TAX**

If you've got a recreational trail running across your property that is open to the public, you may qualify for a reduced property tax.

State law requires that land subject to a public recreational use easement (which can include trails) must be assessed at its true value. This recognizes that such easements restrict what a landowner can do with the property subject to the easement. (See AS 29.45.062 and AS 34.17.100. Find Alaska Statutes at [www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folio.asp](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folio.asp).)

However, the land or trail in question must have a legal easement. Granting an easement to the state is free and fairly easily. Download the two-page "Public Recreation Easement" form at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>. The link for the PDF document is about halfway down the page under "Land Forms." Granting the easement will also give the landowner tort and liability immunity (AS 34.17.055).

If you think you may qualify for a property tax reduction due to this law, contact your local government's Assessing Department.

## STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (July): <http://tinyurl.com/goyfg3x>
  - Has several trails-related stories from the Interior and Southcentral

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- A Canadian just reached the Alaska coast after swimming by riverboard nearly 2,000 miles down the Yukon River: <http://tinyurl.com/zgt5xep>
- What to do when a quick road-trip stop turns into an unexpected bear encounter: <http://tinyurl.com/hd4kt3t>
- Restrictions on off-road vehicles renewed as Rex Trail report released: <http://tinyurl.com/jjaunzs>
- Pepper spray ends bear attack: <http://tinyurl.com/jtceobu>
- Bear 'groaned,' and attacked: <http://tinyurl.com/zw57dwx>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: National Parks Exploration: <http://tinyurl.com/hmj6cfg>
- Man rescued after hiking out to "Into the Wild" bus: <http://tinyurl.com/j3bxbla>
- Time to move McCandless bus: Stampede Trail landmark an attractive nuisance for novice hikers: <http://tinyurl.com/gn4xss8>

## SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Paddling the Inside Passage in an 'origami' kayak: <http://tinyurl.com/jbv5gyx>
- Petersburg: Alaska Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference Sept 14-17: <http://www.alaskarpa.org/annual-conference/>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- How to boost your odds in bear country: <http://tinyurl.com/hl492bj>
- A newbie discovers that mountain biking is crazy fun: <http://tinyurl.com/jptrw3c>
- Crotchety outdoorsman discovers joy of paddleboarding: <http://tinyurl.com/zudezvn>
- Through The Wrangells (a *hiking and packrafting trip*): <http://tinyurl.com/z6mjdv6>
- Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors 2016 (video): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7N9kJz2Xmw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7N9kJz2Xmw)

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### EQUINOX MARATHON BOOK HIGHLIGHTS RACE, TRAIL

A book on the Equinox Marathon being released this fall will highlight the history of the Equinox Marathon Trail, as well as the race.

The Equinox Marathon has been an institution in Interior Alaska for more than 50 years. The race course is called the Equinox Marathon Trail. While the "trail" is really a route that includes portions of several trails and roads, being associated with the marathon has helped protect some of those trail portions.

The book, *The Equinox: Alaska's Trailblazing Marathon*, was written by Matias Saari, a five-time champion of the race and one of Alaska's top mountain and trail runners. It has quite a bit of information about the trail.

"There's a lengthy chapter ("No Two Miles the Same") about the trail



and the changes it has undergone, as well as a chapter about the race inception and creation of the original trail,” Saari wrote in an email.

Other book highlights include Stan Justice’s epic 1984 record, Marcy Trent’s three wins in her 50s, and 12-year-old Mara Rabinowitz’s record-breaking run. Other stories include finishers who were legally blind and a woman who ran with an owl on her shoulder.

Below is a schedule of upcoming book signing events. All events are in Fairbanks, except for the first. (After the signing events, the book will be available at Goldstream Sports and Beaver Sports.):

- Wednesday, Aug. 31 - Skinny Raven, Anchorage, 5:30-7:30pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 6 - Goldstream Sports, 6:30-8:30pm
- Friday, Sept. 9 - Goldstream Sports, 6:30-8:30pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 14 - Beaver Sports slide show, 6-8pm
- Thursday, Sept. 15 and Friday, Sept. 16 - Equinox Marathon bib pick-up, 5-8pm, UAF Wood Center

*(Photo by Eric Engman/Fairbanks Daily News-Miner: Saari’s reaction upon finishing 4th in 2011.)*

## PROPOSED ACTION WOULD REROUTE PORTION OF HISTORIC TRAIL

A portion of the Chena-Ester Trail will be rerouted if the action is approved by the state Department of Natural Resources. The affected portion of this trail exists on paper, but apparently not on the ground. It runs between Chena Ridge Road and Ridgepointe Drive.

According to the public notice: “The portion of the trail requested to be rerouted is unplatted and not currently apparent from aerial or satellite photography; DNR personnel visited the site in 2015 and were unable to discern any evidence of modern use. The Chena-Ester trail is not the similarly named ‘Chena-Ester Ditch trail,’ (located north of Chena Ridge Road).”

Anyone wishing to comment on this proposed reroute must do so by 5pm, Friday, September 9. Find out more information (including a map) and where to comment at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/182479>

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Outdoors bookshelf: Second Edition of ‘Outside in the Interior’: <http://tinyurl.com/zaytor6>
- Upper upper Chena River (highmarking the Chena at highwater): <http://tinyurl.com/zewddpx>
- Trails on two wheels: Mountain biking Fairbanks’ Ester Dome: <http://tinyurl.com/hwza8vv>
- Trip Report: Fairbanks crew does fly-in packraft trip in Eastern Alaska Range: <http://tinyurl.com/jty5hhj>
- Trip report: Blueberries still thick on Wickersham Dome, shelter cistern still broken: <http://tinyurl.com/z8exbm2>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY EVENT TO BE HELD AT DAVIS PARK

One of the National Public Lands Day events in Alaska will include trail maintenance. Participants at the Davis Park event will do trail maintenance and clean up during the first half of the day. Trails may need brush and debris cleared from them and to assist in removing the old fitness stations. The second half of the day will be dedicated to celebrating the public lands and the National Parks



Centennial with demonstrations and recreational activities sponsored by Camp Fire.

The event lasts from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, September 24. The National Park Service is heading up the Davis Park event, which is at 5081 Mountain View Drive. For more information contact Daniel Brandt ([daniel\\_brandt@partner.nps.gov](mailto:daniel_brandt@partner.nps.gov); 907/644-3673).

National Public Lands Day, organized by the National Environmental Education Foundation, is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands. To find out more and to find more events in Alaska see: <https://www.neefusa.org/public-lands-day>

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

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- Sand, a band, a party grand: <http://tinyurl.com/zt9vw5n>
- Island Trails Network (Kodiak) seeks board member (deadline Sept 2): <http://tinyurl.com/zju6bp6>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation interactive project map: <http://tinyurl.com/zzlovjg>
- A busy stretch of the Seward Highway might be getting much more pedestrian-friendly: <http://tinyurl.com/jk7mwno>
- Grow Palmer hosting food workshop; edible rail trail in place: <http://tinyurl.com/gsjpp7>
- How 2 Alaskans took their passion for stand-up paddleboarding 82 miles down the Kenai River: <http://tinyurl.com/jv4btwd>
- Hikers find McHugh Creek trails transformed by July's fire: <http://tinyurl.com/hbsf9rx>
- The 15 Most Epic Trail Races Across the U.S. (Mount Marathon is 12): <http://tinyurl.com/hqd66hm>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DRAWN TO TRAILS ON TRAILS DAY

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day (NTD) inspired people all across America to venture into parks and forests on June 4, 2016. Individuals, trail clubs, nonprofits, businesses, and land managers hosted thousands of events from coast to coast in honor of NTD.

This year event hosts offered Americans more trail activities than any other year since 1993, when NTD was first launched. Nationwide, 2,391 activities including hiking, biking, horseback riding, trail maintenance, paddling, geocaching, trail dedications and children's activities took place in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. NTD events enticed more than 168,000 adventure-seekers to explore parks and trails.

- 70,900 hikers and trail runners hit the trail at 1,148 events traveling a cumulative distance on foot of 296,400 miles—a distance equivalent to hiking around the Earth 16 times!
  - 25,900 trail volunteers contributed \$2.8 million in sweat equity on 466 projects, building and maintaining 1,200 miles of trail across America.
  - 8,200 cyclists attended 100 bike rides and pedaled a cumulative distance of 164,200 miles.
  - 4,000 paddlers attended 72 paddle trips covering 29,500 miles.
- 1,700 equestrians attended 21 horseback trips and rode a cumulative distance of 20,900 miles.  
*(From Paperless Trail, the American Hiking Society newsletter)*

## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: [www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

#### RECENT TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS/MAGAZINES

- American Trails (August): <http://tinyurl.com/h6rvxqx>
  - *A World of Trail Magazine* summer edition now online
  - Trail-oriented development creating livable cities
  - A kayak share service blossoms in Minneapolis
  - Why you should support other recreational trail users' trails
  - and more...

#### GRANTS

- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative: <http://www.yamahaoai.com>

#### ADVOCACY

- The Outdoor Industry Is Finally Ready to Play Political Hardball: <http://tinyurl.com/jkcsu24>
- How The Outdoor Industry Found Its Lobbying Voice: <http://tinyurl.com/guf4qmq>

#### STUDIES

- Trails and Economic Development: <http://tinyurl.com/j9pno52>
- Active Transportation and Real Estate: The Next Frontier: <http://tinyurl.com/zh9s9z8>
- Here's why exercising outdoors is healthier for you: <http://tinyurl.com/z473263>

#### TRAIL GUIDES

- Epic off-roading: Washington's 4 top trails: <http://tinyurl.com/z24vu9l>
- Jackson, Mississippi, Hiking and Walking Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/jl9ques>
- Avid, beginner hikers can hit several trails in Northeast Georgia: <http://tinyurl.com/hocm5ap>
- Best Hiking Trails in Georgia: <http://www.q100atlanta.com/2016/08/12/best-hiking-trails-in-georgia/>
- 5 best Atlanta running trails to beat the heat: <http://tinyurl.com/hjf7ln5>
- 9 Incredible Hikes Under 5 Miles Everyone In Idaho Should Take: <http://tinyurl.com/z7drmb9>

#### TECH AND TRAILS

- Fitbit's new app lets you virtually hike the trails in Yosemite: <http://tinyurl.com/guraamo>

#### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- National Trails Day breaks records: <http://tinyurl.com/hgsufpg>
- Bill would end longstanding ban on bikes in U.S. wilderness: <http://tinyurl.com/jmzowjd>
- Running the Rivers (a list of multi-day Lower 48 trips): <http://tinyurl.com/jf9u3cj>
- Wyoming's Medicine Bow mountains offer lakes, trails: <http://tinyurl.com/glqubbo>
- The Great Trail Debate: Why Wilderness Needs More Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/zabpfza>
- Wandering moose inspires 400-mile cross-border trail: <http://tinyurl.com/z8ctygn>
- This man is traveling 300 miles by wheelchair to push for more accessible nature trails: <http://tinyurl.com/jamqdyg>
- Outdoor Retailer panel counters Utah mindset, says protected public lands good for politics, economy: <http://tinyurl.com/h9seznu>

- Chicago Lakefront To Get Separate Paths For Bikes, Pedestrians: <http://tinyurl.com/gsgt6nl>
- Lawsuit Seeks Payment For Land Taken to Create Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/gqx36wo>

#### *INTERNATIONAL LINKS*

- The Hiking Trails of Yakushima (Japan): <http://tinyurl.com/gt3gb26>
- Norway's Super Cycle Highways Plan: <http://tinyurl.com/j89eyk4>
- Paris: Inaugurated first stretch of REVe, the future Express Bike Network: <http://tinyurl.com/zudt9tb>
- Peaceful hiking trails lie just outside bustling Hong Kong: <http://tinyurl.com/zzul32f>
- Retiree ticketed for clearing trails in Kootenay National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/h8vaytb>
- Blazing Trails in Israel (Literally): <http://tinyurl.com/zumfrp2>

#### *SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL*

- Talkin' Sh\*t About Mount Whitney. Can You Handle It?: <http://tinyurl.com/hrt4zqq>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org](mailto:eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org)