



Discover America

Newsletter of the American Discovery Trail Society

Volume 6

NUMBER 1

WINTER 2001

Why does America need a cross-country trail?

Message from the President

Look at the line on the map that marks the American Discovery Trail. Find its closest point to where you live. Make it a goal to visit that point and step on the trail. Now look to your east. How does it feel to know that the trail you are now standing on leads past forests, hills and cities to the Atlantic Ocean? Now look west. It is possible to walk from where you are, following the route of many pioneers and explorers, to Pt. Reyes National Seashore, the western terminus of the ADT.

We are all connected. We are connected to the land, our nation's history, and each other. The ADT helps us to remember that. We can become part of this project that is larger than ourselves, which unites and educates, which exercises the body and the mind, and which relaxes and strengthens us.

This has been a year of progress and disappointments for the ADT. We are all elated at the awareness and recognition that the Ford ADT Adventure Team brought to our trail. We were designated as a Millennium Trail, our membership has grown, our website is being updated and "hits" are increasing, and more people than ever before are getting out on trails.

But, as with any new and dynamic project, the ADT has had its share of trials. The long hoped and much worked for passage of legislation to designate the ADT as our country's first National Discovery Trail has stalled in the House of Representatives again this year after having passed each year for the past two sessions in the Senate.

There are many ways that you can help the ADT. Your membership dues and donations provide financial support to help us promote and coordinate the trail. Call your state coordinator and volunteer to attend local meetings, mark the trail where needed, or help form local/regional supporting ADT clubs. Organize ADT hikes, bike rides, etc. to help others learn about this great resource. Talk about the ADT to your friends and ask them to become members. You have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in our organization.

Laurel Ibbotson Foot, President

Coleman Support of the ADT

The Coleman Company has committed to continue its financial support of the ADT in 2001 with a \$12,000 donation. Coleman is one of the original sponsors of the ADT Scouting Team in 1989-90, and have provided financial and/or promotional support each year of the project.

Their newsletter, The Lantern, which is published for the employees and retirees of The Coleman Company,

recently included a photo of the ADT Adventure Team when they visited the Coleman plant in Wichita, KS as part of their ADT Grand Opening nationwide tour.

American Discovery Trail The Year 2000 in Review

This has been an exciting year for the ADTS!

- * The ADT was recognized selected as a National Millennium Trail - one of only 16 in the country.
- * A major donor funded the upgrading of the ADTS web site. This is work still in progress. Future plans call for an interactive educational package to include natural, historic and scenic components geared to different grade levels.
- * Simplified maps and a short narrative description of each state's portion of the ADT were developed and will be presented on the web site to quickly orient viewers to the trail's location and features in their state.
- * We received a generous grant from the No Boundries Program, Ford Division of the Ford Motor Company. The funds were used to hire a team of 4 outdoor ambassadors, know as the ADT-Ford Adventure Team (Brian Start, Donna Loop, Don Dickinson and

Stacy Leach) who held a grand opening event in each ADT state. They visited more than 75 school and spoke to thousands of students and their teachers. The Team also held over 300 events with local trail clubs, elected officials, civic organizations, music and arts festivals, theater productions and outdoor retailers. The Team emphasized the health, economic, and community benefits of trails in local communities.

The Team's journey was chronicled on Backpacker Magazine's web site www.backpacker.com/adt. In addition to their hundreds of personal appearances, news articles appeared in 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. Some highlights include stories in:

Washington Post	USA Today
Indianapolis Star	Newsday
New York Times	Backpacker
Men's Fitness	Audubon
Sierra	Walking
American City & County	

They were covered by television and radio stations as well. Information on the ADT also appeared on several web newsites including:

ABCNews.com
CNNfyi.co
cnnfn.com
cnn.com
HealthNewsDigest.com
FoxSports.com.

The FAT Team joined with local trail clubs, local and state elected officials, Rotary clubs, civic organizations, music and arts festivals, theater production, and outdoor retailers for the many of the hundreds of events that were held.

* The ADT was completely marked across Delaware and West Virginia, and significant parts of Illinois and Indiana.

Making Connections

The American Discovery Trail is about "connections". The exact spot where the eastern end of the Northern and Southern midwest routes of the

ADT come together is in Elizabethtown, OH just west of Cincinnati. On October 8, 2000 South Western Ohio Trails Association members, led by Paul Daniel, ADT OH/KY Coordinator, and local dignitaries gathered to unveil a large and very attractive sign depicting the ADT route from coast-to-coast. The sign was designed and constructed by Harv Hisgen, ADT Vice-President. A similar sign will be placed at the western end of the midwest loop in the Denver, CO area at a later date.

The ADTS's Registry Program

The ADT Society is pleased to recognize that many folks have completed "sections" of the American Discovery Trail. A few people have traveled (hiked, biked, ran) significant lengths of the ADT. One person completed a bike ride at Point Reyes the day before the Grand Opening event in San Francisco. ADTS would like to recognize these efforts.

ADTS is announcing its Registry and Recognition Program which seeks to acknowledge individual effort and to collect "discoveries" that have been experienced by those completing various parts of the ADT. ADTS' Discovery Project, a project in development, will use the information collected.

Recognition begins with an individual, his/her family or trail group contacting the Society at ADTSociety@aol.com (or ADTS, PO Box 20155, Washington, DC 22041-2155) or ADTS VP Harv Hisgen at Dcrazyone@aol.com (30500 US 40, Golden, CO 80401) for an application. This application should be sent to Harv by regular mail or e-mail, and a Recognition Certificate will be sent by return mail.

The goals of ADTS' Registry and Recognition Program are to:

1. Encourage the recreational long distance use of the ADT.

2. Acknowledge the accomplishment of individuals who have completed

- a. The entire ADT
- b. Major segments of the ADT
- c. Complete states
- d. Major sections within states

3. Acknowledge and collect discoveries made along the ADT

4. Gather facts regarding the use of the ADT

Awards from American Trails

At the National Trails Symposium in Redding, CA in September the American Discovery Trail received an award in recognition of its having been named a National Millennium Trail.

Five members of the ADT Society Board of Directors were recognized by American Trails for their many years of leadership and advocacy for trails in their respective states. They are Paul Daniel (Ohio), Dick Bratton (Colorado), Lu Schrader (West Virginia), John O'Dell (Illinois) and Bill Foot (Virginia)

Progress on Maryland ADT

WB&A Recreational Trail Dedication –The second leg of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis (WB&A) trail was dedicated on November 4, 2000. The trail was dedicated to Morris Warren for his unstinting efforts over the past 13 years in bringing the trail to completion. Mr. Warren was also instrumental in determining the current ADT route in Maryland. The WB&A is a key link in the ADT, it will ultimately be a completely off-road trail connecting the above three major cities. A link connecting Baltimore and Annapolis, MD is already in use, this new link takes the trail from Glendale to Bowie, MD. The WB&A is also unique in that it is the juncture of two National Millennium Trails, the ADT and the East Coast Greenway, which goes from Maine to Florida.

Notice:

American Discovery Trail Society
 PO Box 20155
 Washington, DC 20041-2155

**Ohio's Blue Blazes**

The blue blazes of the Buckeye Trail provide a long 1200-mile loop connecting the four corners of Ohio. It was conceived, built and is currently maintained by volunteers. Dating back to 1959 it follows wooded paths, open field, converted rail trails, agricultural lands, canal towpaths, country roads and occasional busy highways. A northern spur extends to the shore of Lake Erie at Headlands State Park and a southern spur uses sidewalks in Cincinnati to Eden Park overlooking the Ohio River.

The Buckeye Trail Association has over 1000 members who volunteer their time to keep the trail open and blazed. The trail uses public land wherever possible but also is dependent on many private landowners who grant permission to cross their property and in some cases also provide trail maintenance.

The trail is primarily a hiking trail but horsemen have been involved since its inception and several parts permit equestrian use. Bicycles may use the trail when it is on public roads. Dozens of State, County and Municipal parks and the Wayne National Forest and the North Country Trail uses a considerable portion of the trail for its traverse between the states of New York and North

The American Discovery Trail has closed it's Fredrick, Md office. Please direct all correspondence to:

Dakota. The coast to coast American Discovery Trail uses the Buckeye Trail between Chester Hill and Cincinnati across southern Ohio.

Twenty-four maps detail the route and are for sale to members and the general public. Membership in the Buckeye Trail is available for \$15 and provides a discount on maps and includes the informative bimonthly Trailblazer newsletter. Computer users can log on to buckeyetrail.org for a very informative web site and can download forms to join and buy maps. The postal address is PO Box 254, Worthington Ohio 43085. Within Ohio the number 1-800-881-3062 is toll free.

River to River Trail Sounds

Check out this website:
www.zolazan.com

Deutsche Bank Grant

We extend our "thanks" to the Deutsche Bank Foundation in New York which has awarded an Environmental Sustainability Grant to the ADT Society for the purchase of trail markers. The year 2000 was busy with trail marking activities, especially in West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois, that have nearly exhausted our supply. This \$2,500 grant will allow ADTS to reorder the vinyl and plastic ADT markers.

*Making
 Connections..
 Coast to Coast*