

NEWS RELEASE
March 4, 2020

2020 Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

GARDNERS, PA. – The tenth class of Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame honorees will be inducted on Saturday, May 2, during the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet at the Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The 2020 Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame class honorees are **Chris Brunton** of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; the late **Thurston Griggs** of Baltimore, Maryland; **Warren Doyle** of Mountain City, Tennessee; and the late **Jim Stoltz** of Helena, Montana.



Chris Brunton (left) with A.T. Museum Founder Larry Luxenberg

Chris Brunton emigrated to the U.S. from England in 1967. Soon after that, he joined the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Chris has been a dominant force in trail construction and maintenance for PATC ever since. Known to most as "Trail Boss", Chris has served for decades as district manager for an A.T. section in West Virginia and Virginia, including three miles that he personally maintains.

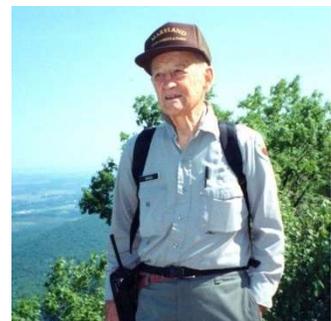
In 1979 the National Park service began to acquire land in northern Virginia to eliminate over 14 miles of road walk for the A.T. Chris was one of three trail leaders flagging and then building the new trail. As the work progressed, he also began to help identify additional tracts available for purchase. He was instrumental in helping to develop relationships with local landowners. At the end of the project in April 1989, 55 tracts totaling more than 1,600 acres were acquired and the "Rollercoaster" section of the AT was created.

In 1982, PATC acquired a house just off the A.T. in Loudoun County, Virginia. Chris took over the job of renovating it, and under his leadership, the house became the Blackburn Trail Center, one of the iconic stops on the Trail. Chris is one of the best-known and well-liked personalities on the A.T.

Like many other icons of the Appalachian Trail, Thurston Griggs led a full and distinguished life separate from the Trail. He had a doctorate in Chinese history and worked at the University of Maryland. In addition, Thurston dedicated most of his adult life to the preservation of the A.T.

He joined the Mountain Club of Maryland in 1959 and served two terms as its President. He also served as MCM's archivist for many decades and in various other positions. He was the first editor of Appalachian Trail Conservancy's newsletter *The Register*, and a member of its Board of Directors, including Vice-Chair.

He worked relentlessly to preserve and protect the Appalachian Trail-- mostly in Pennsylvania and Maryland. One of his great achievements was working on a project with the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands. Griggs was a key player in expediting the purchase of Bagtown Road, which has since been named the Thurston Griggs Trail, a side trail to the A.T.



Thurston Griggs on the A.T. in Maryland

At what many would consider an advanced age, Griggs became one of the first A.T. Ridge Runners. Additionally, he served as the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's A.T. overseer between Turner's Gap and Lamb's Knoll. Shortly before his death in October 2011, the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail Park Office awarded him the Golden Service Award for 50 years of service. Thurston also received the A.T. Museum's initial Lifetime Achievement Award that year.



Warren Doyle leads a group of hikers on Katahdin

Through his Appalachian Trail Institute, Warren educates prospective hikers on the proper strategies to successfully hike the A.T. and other long distance trails. His program covers not only the physical conditioning needed and proper gear, but also emphasizes the emotional and psychological aspects necessary for a successful thru-hike. Scores of thru-hikers credit Warren with inspiring and guiding them to complete their lifelong goal. Warren's doctoral thesis was on the sociology of a group long distance hike.

Warren Doyle ranks high on the list of those who have inspired others to attempt a long distance hike of the Appalachian Trail. This is partially due to his amazing personal hiking exploits. Warren has set an informal record by traversing the A.T. a record eighteen times, including nine thru-hikes.

In addition, Warren played a leading role in founding the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. Founded in 1983, ALDHA is the leading organization devoted to encouraging long distance hiking and promoting the interests of hikers.

Jim Stoltz, universally known as Walkin' Jim, was a musician, author, photographer, artist, and environmental activist. In his lifetime, he accomplished numerous long-distance treks, including a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 1974. In total, he hiked over 28,000 miles of long-distance trips.

Between trips, Jim would create, produce and perform original shows of his travels with photography and music, always incorporating his keen sense of environmental awareness and justice for all things wild. His musical, hiking, and environmental career spanned 45 years.



Walkin' Jim Stoltz

Jim's produced eight musical albums and one music video for children "Come Walk With Me". His poetry was published as "Whisper Behind the Wind." Jim's lifework and dreams centered on his desire to share the beauty, the unique character, the mood and the value of wilderness through his music, writings, art and activism. In a front page story, the Wall Street Journal called him the Music Man Of The Wilderness. Walkin' Jim passed away in 2010.

Nine classes have previously been elected to the A.T. Hall of Fame. The Charter Class, elected in 2011, comprised Myron Avery, Gene Espy, Ed Garvey, Benton MacKaye, Arthur Perkins and Earl Shaffer. Members of the 2012 class were Emma Gatewood, David Richie, J. Frank Schairer, Jean Stephenson and William Adams Welch. The 2013 Class was Ruth Blackburn, David Field, David Sherman, David Startzell and Eddie Stone. The 2014 Class was A. Rufus Morgan, Chuck Rinaldi, Clarence Stein and Pamela Underhill. The 2015 Class was Ned Anderson, Margaret Drummond, Stanley Murray and Raymond Torrey. In 2016, Maurice J. Forrester, Jr., Horace Kephart, Larry Luxenberg and Henry Arch Nichols were inducted. The 2017 Class was Harlean James, Charles Parry, Mildred Norman Ryder and Tillie Wood. In 2018,

William Kemsley, Jr., Elizabeth Levers, George Masa and Bob Peoples were elected. Members of the 2019 Class were Jean Cashin, Paul Fink, Don King and Bob Proudman.

Jim Foster, chair of the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame selection committee, said a 6 p.m. reception will precede the dinner, which begins at 7 p.m. The cost of the reception and dinner is \$40 for museum members and \$50 for others.

Complete information on the Hall of Fame Banquet is available at <https://2020athalloffamebanquet.eventbrite.com> Tickets may be purchased either at that website, or directly from the Appalachian Trail Museum by sending a check to:

Appalachian Trail Museum
Attn. Banquet Tickets
1120 Pine Grove Road
Gardners, PA 17324

The Hall of Fame Banquet will be the kickoff of the Museum's Hall of Fame Weekend. Questions about the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet may be sent to atmbanquet@gmail.com. For lodging options during the Hall of Fame Weekend, go to the Museum's website: www.atmuseum.org

About the Appalachian Trail Museum Society

The Appalachian Trail Museum Society, a 501-C-3 not-for-profit organization formed in 2002, organizes programs, exhibits, volunteers and fundraising nationwide for the Appalachian Trail Museum. The museum opened on June 5, 2010, as a tribute to the thousands of men, women and families who have hiked and maintained the approximately 2,190 mile long hiking trail that passes through 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Located in the Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, Pennsylvania, the museum is conveniently near Carlisle, Gettysburg and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Additional information is available at www.atmuseum.org.



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