



Grand Opening of the A.T. Museum

The Appalachian Trail Museum Society will hold its grand opening of the Appalachian Trail Museum on June 5, 2010.

After several years of planning and fundraising, the museum will ceremoniously open at 11 a.m. The Appalachian Trail Museum Society was formed in 2002 as the non-profit organization to establish the museum as a tribute to the thousands of men, women, and families who have hiked and maintained the 2,179-mile long hiking trail. The museum's home is a 200-year-old gristmill in Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, Pennsylvania — within three miles of the Trail's midpoint.

At the grand opening there will be talks, programs for children, special guests — including Pioneer thru-hiker Gene Espy and Emma “Grandma” Gatewood's daughter, Lucy Seeds — as well as a pre-opening “Hike to History.” Beginning around 8 a.m. the “Hike to History” will be a six-mile hike to the ceremony from King's Gap Environmental Education Center, and will top off at 1,525 feet at the 1.75 mile mark before descending to reach the gentle, rolling terrain of the three mile homestretch to the museum. There will also be a celebratory work trip on the A.T. on June 6, which will be led by the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club and the Mountain Club of Maryland. Work will be done in the vicinity of South Mountain and the Alex

Kennedy shelter. An additional work trip will also be led on June 6 by the York Hiking Club on Peters Mountain, which will include brush clearing and Trail clean-up.

The Appalachian Trail Museum Society has elected a national board of directors to oversee the continued organization of the museum. The board worked with volunteers nationwide, architects, display designers, historians, and donors who helped to renovate the historic mill that houses the museum. Larry Luxenberg, who initiated the effort to create a museum to honor the Trail a dozen years ago, was re-elected president of the organization that he founded. Luxenberg thru-hiked the A.T. in 1980; his popular book, *Walking the Appalachian Trail*, covers the Trail's history, its culture, and the colorful personalities who hike the Trail. The A.T. museum is proud to be the only museum in the United States dedicated to hiking.


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