

July 2013 Biennial Report

From: John Hartpence
Subject: ATC Biennial at Cullowhee, NC. 2013.

39th Bi-annual Meeting of the ATC.

The 39th Bi-annual Meeting was held at Cullowhee on the campus of Western Carolina University. There were over 940 members of the AT registered for the Conference. The Conference began on Friday-July 19. PATH had a least 22 members there. Many of them worked the conference in many capacities--hike leaders, Shower coordinators, ticket takers, setting up displays, helping at Entertainment programs, and many other areas of need.

The following PATH members attended the conference: Jim Houck(our President), John Jaskolka, Bill Boudman, John Hartpence, Marian Jordan(Louisiana), Gage Jordan Larson, Ken Pugh, Leslie Killeen, Norma Johnson, Tom Dillon, Grace Mauney, Karl Kunkle, Andrew Mitchell, Mark Doty, Bill "Too Tall" Simms, Chris Bracknell, Rhonda Bracknell, Bill Sadler, Bill Chatfield and Margaret Wainwright.

Bill Sadler and Kate Dixon ran the Mountain to the Sea Booth. Jim Houck, Bill Boudman and John Hartpence ran the PATH Booth.

The workshops were the best we ever had. A few that were excellent were: Cherokee Geography of Western NC, Hiking through History(Civil War), Bring Back the Monarchs, A Natural History of the Southern Appalachians, American Chestnut Project, Bird Banding field trip, Wildflowers of the AT, and Cowee Historic District(visit the Cherokee Indian mounds and see bringing back of a community from the late 1800s).

The entertainment was very good. I particularly like Jenny Pharris

Presentation of her record setting AT run of 46 days. She has done the AT three times. She and her family live in Asheville. Danny Bernstein did a program on her hike of the Mountain to the Sea trail.

This was an excellent conference. We had great programs and we had a good chance to fellowship with fellow PATH members and other people at the Conference. PATH members ate their meals together. This was a great time to share and talk about what we did that day. The cafeteria was interesting. We had 600 + AT members , a football camp(4 or 5 high school football teams),A NC Botanical Society group, and a large band camp(over 200 members from a Georgia High School) all eating in the cafeteria

Together. The university made a mistake the first day by having only one coffee line let up for breakfast. What confusion. The next day we had 5 stations. Have to have the caffeine jolt to start the day.

All and all it was a great conference. The next one in 2015 will be in Winchester, Va. It will be at Shenandoah University.

More Biennial from Jim Houck

It was a fun & busy Biennial.

Friday evening reception was a good time to meet & greet many friends from ATC & other clubs.

Conversation & draft beer was flowing till 11pm.

Got to chat with Wendy Janssen(Pam Underhill's replacement).

Saturday workshops included: Boundary Monitoring(compass & map work), Environmental Monitoring, Corridor Monitor's forum.

Saturday ATC Business Meeting was good.

New Executive Director Ron Tipton was introduced.

Also introduced was our new NPS-APPA Superintendent Wendy Janssen(replaced Pam Underhill).

Sunday workshops: Recreation Liability & the AT, Privy Design & construction, Land Protection, Trail Maintainers

forum.

All workshops were very good with a lot of information.

Sunday evening was the ATC Life Member Dinner & Reception.

New Executive Director Ron Tipton gave a good speech. I was impressed.

Socializing after dinner till 11pm.

Monday evening social with the 2013 Biennial volunteers.