

# **National Scenic and Historic Trails Land Preservation Workshop October 11 and 12, 2006 in Nashville, TN**

## **Biographies of Presenters and Moderators**

**The Partnership for the National Trails System** is a 501c3 non-profit organization federation of 29 trail organizations supporting the 24 national scenic and historic trails. The Partnership works with Congress and the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to secure adequate funding, administrative support, and authorities for the National Trails System.

**David M. Beaver** has been the Senior Realty Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior since 1991. From his Washington, D.C. office, David oversees the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) and donations. David began his career with the Bureau in 1980, and has also worked for the BLM in Wyoming and Massachusetts. David earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Development from University of Rhode Island in 1980.

**Benjamin Bibb, Jr.** grew up hunting and fishing in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge of Virginia. There, he got his first taste for the many values that lie in National Forests. Ben has made love of the land a central element of his working life. He defended parkland from developers as a private attorney. He helped create a National Wildlife Refuge for bats while working as a Congressional Staffer. He fought in the Endangered Species wars in the Pacific Northwest while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Today, he helps buy land for the National Forest System with the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Ben still roams the forests and floats the rivers of Virginia with his son.

**Brad Bingham** was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994 as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist. In 1996 he was promoted to Private Lands Coordinator for Tennessee and Kentucky, and currently serves in that capacity for Tennessee. His primary duties include serving as liaison for Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency related to all Farm Bill activities. He also coordinates all Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program projects which are designed to assist private landowners with habitat restoration efforts for federal trust resources. Brad attended Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a Master of Science degree in Biology, with an emphasis on wetland characterization.

**Travis Boley** is the Association Manager for the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), headquartered in Independence, Missouri. He is responsible for the overall management of the organization, which preserves, protects, and promotes remnants (including trail traces, viewsheds, emigrant graves and inscriptions, and diaries, letters, and reminiscences of emigrants) of the Oregon and California Trails in 14 western states. OCTA works with both public land managers and private landowners to ensure the protection of these scarce trail resources through a variety of means.

**Paul Carson** has served as the Superintendent of the Overmountain Victory NHT since 2002. His goals are completing the non-motorized route, with proper signage and wayside exhibits, preserving historic segments, developing a viable education and interpretive program, and marking the parallel Commemorative Motor Route, and other initiatives. Prior NPS assignments include Chief Ranger at De Soto National Memorial, Site Manager at John Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, and interpretive positions at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Shenandoah National Park, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Memorial National Military Park.

**Vernon Compton** currently works for The Nature Conservancy as Project Director of the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership, voluntary landowner partnership that includes 10 public and private partners. Vernon currently serves as Vice President-Trails for the Florida Trail Association and has served as Trail Coordinator and Chairman of the Western Gate Chapter since 1997. Compton is on the Board of Directors of the Citizen Support Organization for the Blackwater Heritage Trail State Park, the Santa Rosa Clean Community System, and the Santa Rosa County Tourism Development Council. Vernon has a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management from LSU and previously worked for the Florida Division of Forestry at Blackwater River State Forest in northwest Florida for 8 ½ years. He has resided in the City of Milton Florida for over 15 years.

**Mike Dawson** is Director of Trail Operations for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). He is responsible for PCTA involvement in Optimum Location Reviews (OLRs) trail-wide, including field work and coordination of input. From 2001-2003, he was Director of Trail Management and Protection for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association. Prior to that, he was Regional Representative for the Appalachian Trail Conference in Southwest and Central Virginia for 21 years. In that capacity was deeply involved in a 20 year effort to purchase a public corridor for the Appalachian Trail sufficient to protect the trail experience. He was part of the ATC/USFS team that developed the OLR process and was responsible for its application to almost 400 miles of trail.

**Christopher Douwes** is the Trails and Enhancements Program Manager for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in Washington DC. He has managed the Recreational Trails Program since its inception in 1992 and the Transportation Enhancement activities since 2003. He represented the USDOT/FHWA on the Access Board's Outdoor Developed Areas committee. He manages contracts for research, technology development, technical assistance, and training for trail-related activities, and participates on the National Trails Training Partnership. Christopher received his Master's of Science in Transportation from Northwestern University in 1990. Christopher's other interests include helping with the church's International Program (especially teaching English to speakers of other languages), Spanish ministry, and the choir; and gardening and walking.

**Caroline Dufour** is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Land and Resources Coordinator. She came to the Conservancy as a Conservation Intern in 2005 before assuming her current position in April 2006. Ms. Dufour has a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from McGill University and has taken graduate courses in Environmental Policy and Management at Cornell University. She is an alumnus of both the Green Mountain Club and the Florida Trail Association trail-crew programs, and has hiked the International Appalachian Trail.

**Tom Gilbert** has been responsible for matters relating to the National Trails System since 1979. Currently, he is National Park Service Superintendent of the Ice Age NST in Wisconsin, and the North Country NST extending from New York to North Dakota. For 17 years, he was also responsible for the Lewis and Clark NHT. Tom's work involves coordinating the efforts of Federal, State, local, and private partners in planning, acquiring, developing, maintaining, and protecting these trails. Beginning in FY 2000, he helped forge and manages a Federal grant program that has provided more than \$10 million to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other partners to acquire lands for the two trails.

**Neil Hansen** is the Transportation Enhancement Coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He currently administers approximately 300 active federally funded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Demonstration (DEMO), Transportation Enhancement (TE), High Priority (HPP) and Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TSCP) Program projects throughout the State of Tennessee. Mr. Hansen earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Design from Iowa State University. Since joining TDOT in 2003, he has worked in both the Local Programs Development Office and TDOT Commissioner Gerald F. Nicely's Office prior to being named Coordinator of the Enhancement Program in 2004.

**Kyle Jones** is the Lands Program Manager for the National Forests in Florida, USDA Forest Service. Kyle assists in leading one of the most innovative land adjustment programs in the US Forest Service. Prior to joining the US Forest Service, Kyle honed his expertise as a negotiator through experience with The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to earning a bachelor Degree in Real Estate, Jones is a Licensed Real Estate Broker and a Registered Assistant Appraiser.

**Donald T. King** is a Realty Officer with the National Park Service. With 37 years of experience with the National Park Service, Don started his trail career on the Appalachian Trail (AT) in 1979 and oversees the National Trails Lands Office. Working with a range of private and public partners over 2,500 properties have been acquired protecting 108,000 acres and 616 miles of footpath. The skills learned on the Appalachian Trail are now being shared with the Florida Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail.

**Bryan Martin** is Field Operations Manager with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. Since completing his degree in Recreation Resource Management from Penn State University Bryan has spent his career working for environmental non-profit organizations. Bryan brings a broad array of experiences to the organization that include, trail design and construction, ecotourism, major-gift fundraising and on-the-ground conservation. As an assistant to the Special Projects Officer at Brisbane Forest Park in Queensland, Australia, Bryan worked with an eclectic team of land managers and recreation professionals to plan and construct the park's first long-range walking track. After his experience abroad, Bryan came back to work for The Ecotourism Society, in Burlington, Vermont, and The Nature Conservancy both in Arlington, Virginia and Boulder, Colorado.

**Andy McLeod** is government affairs director for the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in Florida. Through January 2007, he is serving as interim Florida state director for TPL. Formerly TPL's national conservation finance director, McLeod has also served as director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, deputy secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency; and press secretary to former US Senators John Chafee of Rhode Island and Lowell Weicker of Connecticut. McLeod holds a BA from George Washington University, MA from Georgetown University, and MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Howard Pardue** is the Florida Trail Association's (FTA) Land Acquisition Coordinator for the Florida NST. After more than 30 years of experience in professional planning and growth management, he went to work for the FTA to help complete the 40 year old dream of a long distance hiking trail from the Everglades to Gulf Islands National Seashore and Alabama. Since 2001 when Federal land acquisition funds were appropriated, the USFS and FTA have developed a land acquisition program, successfully spending \$15.2 million of Federal funds to acquire land for, and protect, the Trail. Howard is also active as an FTA volunteer, leading outdoor activities and maintaining a section of the Trail.

**Robert E. (Bob) Richards** has 30 years of experience with trail design, construction and management of greenways and trails. He has been a small business owner, state park planner, park and recreation consultant and is currently the Tennessee Greenways and Trails Coordinator with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Recreation Educational Services Division. Bob is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and as an Aquatic Facility Operator.

**C. Andrew Schock** is the Georgia Real Estate Associate with The Conservation Fund. Formerly Schock was with National Wildlife Federation as the Southeastern Center Director managing the field office in Atlanta. For The Nature Conservancy, Andrew completed real estate transactions to protect biodiversity, assisted with the establishment of the botanical inventory at Ft. Stewart, Georgia and established the Integrated Management Plan at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Schock has served with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission as a District Wildlife Biologist, and as a Department of Defense Biological Technician working on endangered species at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Schock earned his M.B.A. from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, and a B.S. in Zoology (Wildlife Science) from North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

**David N. Startzell** is Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and has been with the Conservancy since 1978. He has managed both trail services and resource protection programs before being promoted to his current position in 1986. Mr. Startzell is involved with various trails and conservation-group coalitions: He currently chairs the board of the American Hiking Society and is a Board member of the Partnership for the National Trails System.

**Paula Ward** is Co-founder and Co-Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. Paula has extensive experience in working with the public on park and trail planning, design and construction projects. She has worked for several landscape architecture firms in Colorado and was Senior Landscape Architect for the city of Aurora. Paula graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture and received an associate degree in computer programming from the University of Denver.

**Gary Werner** has served the Partnership for the National Trails System since 1991, first as its Chair and now as Executive Director. In 1997 he helped organize Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, a national organization representing more than 150 conservation organizations, to revive Congressional and Administration support for the Land & Water Conservation Fund. A resident of Madison, Wisconsin, Gary worked for 12 years for the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation organizing volunteers, coordinating trail planning and construction projects with the National Park Service, Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation, and negotiating right-of-way purchases with landowners. Over the past 25 years Gary has organized and led volunteers in a variety of natural resource preservation and restoration projects for the Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and American Hiking Society.

**Kent Wimmer** is the Florida National Scenic Trail Liaison for the Florida Trail Association and is currently the Secretary for the Partnership for the National Trails System. Since 1999, Kent has coordinated the planning, construction, management, and protection of the Florida Trail. Kent has been involved in planning and advocating for trails and greenways for 20 years with Florida Office of Greenways and Trails, 1000 Friends of Florida, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service and the City of Ocala, Florida. Through these professional assignments, Kent has been a long-time volunteer for the Florida Trail Association. In 1999, FTA presented him with its Cornelia Burge Award for volunteer service. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and earned a master's degree in environmental planning from Florida State University in 1989 and a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation management from Ball State University in 1982.

**Michael Zeman** graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Masters Degree in fisheries. He worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, for 28 years as a Soil Conservationist, Aquaculture Specialist, and Area Biologist. Michael has been Tennessee's State Biologist for the past 17 years, and as part of the Service's Programs Planning Staff, has held technical responsibility for the State's cost share programs for the past 10 years.