



The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

"Power of the Partnership" Event Summary



Thank you to those who joined the 14th Annual "Power of the Partnership" Celebration! Over 80 attendees from across the region joined us to celebrate, connect, and learn.

- While weather forced our networking hour inside, attendees connected over regional theme tables displaying our partner's work, local businesses, and make-and-take crafts. Thank you to our Program Committee and Mainstreet Waynesboro for making this possible!
- Host Franklin County Planning Department shared Franklin County's vision for land use and conservation through the Comprehensive Plan's Focus Areas. [Presentation available here.](#)

- Keynote Panel Discussion: *Authentic Communities at the Intersection of Recreation and History* featured the following speakers who reminded us that joy, passion, and community engagement have spurred their success at various scales in economic development and conservation missions.
 - *Bill Kohler | Mainstreet Waynesboro*
 - *Katie Allen | Appalachian Trail Conservancy*
 - *Janet Pollard | Franklin County Visitors Bureau*
 - *Tracy Holliday | Buttonwood Nature Center*
- Mini-Grant and Flex Grant Programs awarded over \$60,000 of investment in 11 deserving projects. We will be sharing more about these grantees in the coming weeks.
- We were proud to award our *Spirit of South Mountain* to Melodie Anderson-Smith.

13th *Spirit of South Mountain* awarded

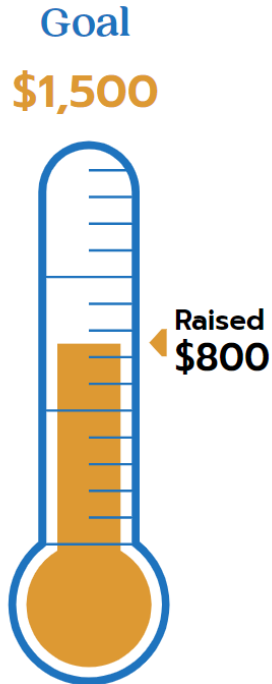


South Mountain Partnership (SMP) awards the *Spirit of South Mountain* each year to an individual, project, or organization that has made exceptional efforts to promote good stewardship of the South Mountain Region.

Melodie Anderson-Smith received the 13th annual Spirit of South Mountain at SMP's Power of the Partnership event on Friday, September 27. Anderson-Smith served as the executive director of Renfrew Institute for Cultural & Environmental Studies, known today as Buttonwood Nature Center, Home of The Institute (The Institute) from 1993 to 2017. In 1985, she created the first environmental education program available in the Waynesboro Area School District using her background as an early childhood educator. This program was incorporated into The Institute's educational offerings for visitors in 1986.

[Read more](#)

Become a Friend Campaign



The "Become a Friend of South Mountain Partnership" campaign has raised over \$800 since August, bringing us more than halfway to our goal of \$1,500 so that we can provide more [Flex Grants](#)! We are grateful to everyone who has already contributed during this calendar year! With your support, we can continue to be a resilient, powerful force that enriches and preserves our community.

Help us reach the finish line—and join us in this important work!

[Donate Today!](#)

Hurricane Helene's Impacts on the Appalachian Trail and Communities



(9/30/24) Hurricane Helene is the largest natural disaster—in terms of geographic footprint—to impact the Appalachian Trail in its 100-year history. While it is still too early to understand the extent of the damage to the A.T. itself, hundreds of thousands of people throughout the Southern Appalachians—including Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) staff—have been impacted by flooding, strong winds, tornadoes, downed trees, and impassable roadways, and are without power, water, internet, and other essentials.

Read more about Helene Recovery Resources and Updates [HERE](#).

ATC will announce details about a Resiliency Fund for Helene Recovery efforts, so stay tuned for more details to come.

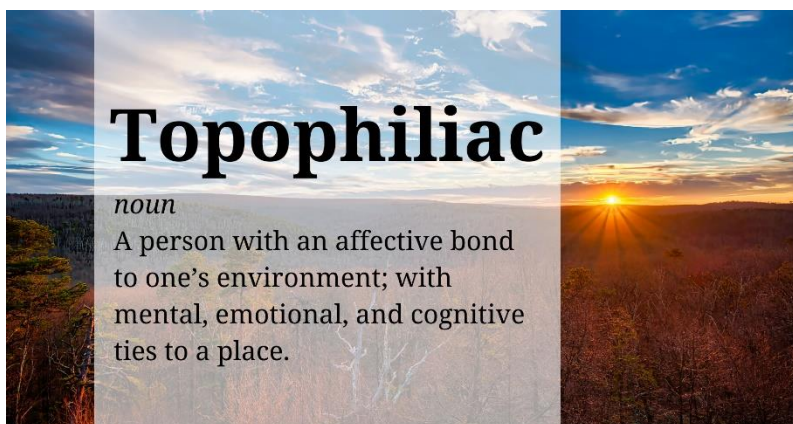
Watch: SMP on "Open House"



Partners of the SMP are the focus of the most recent "Open House" interviews by Community Media, a program celebrating great people in the community doing great things. In this clip, Meghan Clark from SMP and Gettysburg College was the guest host who was joined by Janet Pollard from the Franklin County Visitors Bureau. They talked about the important work of SMP and all of the great things happening throughout the Franklin, Adams, York, and Cumberland County region.

[Watch Open House HERE](#).

Spend Time with SMP this Holiday Season



Topophilic Support Group "Friendsgiving" at Ploughman Cider

Tuesday, November 26 from 5-7pm

You may be wondering, what IS a Topophilic? Topophilia (From Greek topos "place" and -philia, "love of") is a strong sense of place, which often becomes mixed with the sense of cultural identity among certain people and a love of certain aspects of such a place. We know this love of place is something we all share in both our work and personal lives. However, this work can also be really hard, and we are exploring this lighthearted "support group." [Learn more](#)

Cidernalia MMXXIV

Saturday, December 14 from 12pm-11pm

Celebrate with us at Ploughman Cider's 8th Anniversary celebration event called Cidernalia! The ancient Romans gathered in the month of December to celebrate with food, drink, and merriment as equals. Gather with Ploughman Cider and SMP to feast and drink and listen to great music all day and into the night. A portion of proceeds support SMP! Tickets are \$15 through the end of October and \$20 each after. Included with each ticket sold is one CIDERNALIA MMXXIV glass and your first hard cider on us. Food is provided by Uncle Moe's Soul Food Truck and is pay as you go. This is an all-ages event; kids 12 and under are free. Designated Driver/All Ages tickets are available. [Learn more/get tickets](#)

Mini-Grant Update: Yellow Breeches Stream Stabilization and Habitat Project



SMP Mini-Grant recipient, Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU), along with primary mission partner Trout Unlimited (TU), completed the Yellow Breeches Stream Stabilization and Habitat Project at Barnitz Church outside of Mount Holly Springs! The work done on the Yellow Breeches Creek at Barnitz Church reduces stream bank erosion and the flow of sediment into this iconic local waterway helping to improve the safety and experience of Breeches floating and wading, improving habitat for wildlife like fish, bugs, birds and lots of others that reside in and around this watershed. Plus, it helps the Chesapeake Bay too! Thank you, CVTU!

[Read more](#)



Become a Partner

We welcome organizations in the community who share our goals or work in related ways to improve the region! By becoming an official “Partner,” you can help support our vision and mission of the Partnership by attending meetings/events, keeping us informed of your organization’s related activities and increasing access to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our region to all! Becoming a partner is easy and free! Find more information [here](#).

Partner News

Partner News of Note:

- **Non-profit Board Members, Board of Director, sought for Central Pennsylvania Conservancy:** CPC has defined "Board Development" as a Strategic Goal for 2024-2027 and is seeking individuals experienced in nonprofit board to lead the effort to increase board effectiveness and connection to communities. Expanding the board's geographic footprint to match the service area (Cumberland, Perry, and Franklin counties) diversifying the board with private sector support for its conservation mission are also priorities. This [document](#) provides more details about CPC, general board member responsibilities, and contact for expressing interest.
- **Community Conversation: Gleaning:** Cumberland County Food System Alliance’s upcoming Community Conversation: Gleaning will take place on Thursday, October 10. This event will take place at Project SHARE in Carlisle from 10 am-Noon. Panelists include individuals from Project SHARE, Shippensburg University, and The Gleaning Project. There will also be a roundtable discussion, time for networking, and snacks! Find more information [here](#).
- **Stream Team:** The Franklin County Conservation District is partnering with the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) to create a Stream Team. The Stream Team will consist of volunteers who will conduct chemical and biological stream monitoring. This includes water temperature, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen, pH, stage and water clarity, and conduct biological (macroinvertebrate) and visual assessments of their assigned streams. To learn more about Stream Team visit the [ALLARM website](#). If interested in learning more, email Miranda McCleaf, Watershed Specialist, Franklin County Conservation District at mmccleaf@franklinccd.org.

Employment and Funding Opportunities

Grants

- **DCNR Grant Workshop:** Registration is now open for DCNR’s free annual grant workshop. The virtual workshop will take place on Thursday, November 7 from 9:00 AM to noon. Anyone interested in applying for Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants in 2025 is strongly encouraged to attend. The 2025 grant round will open on Tuesday, January 21 and close on Wednesday, April 2. The workshop will take place virtually via a Microsoft Teams Live Event. Videos of workshop presentations will be made available on the DCNR YouTube channel for those who cannot attend. Attendance is free, but pre-registration is required to ensure participants receive needed materials.

- The workshop will explain:
 - Who can apply
 - What can be funded
 - When funding will be available
 - How to make project applications more competitive

View our listing of [Regional Funding Opportunities](#) on our website, and suggest funds we should add.

Job Opportunities

- **[Natural Resources and Land Stewardship Manager](#)**: This position is responsible for providing leadership in natural resource management and land stewardship for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the assigned region. This position is responsible for supporting and coordinating natural resource stewardship activities, land and boundary monitoring and maintenance, encroachment mitigation, and supervision of fulltime and seasonal Land Stewardship and Natural Resource staff.
- **[Naturalist Educator](#)**: Do you love nature and being outside? Do you have a background in science, environmental studies, or education or are in college pursuing a degree in one of these fields? Strawberry Hill has several part-time Naturalist Educator positions open. Join their team of dedicated professionals who are passionate about nature and environmental education! Strawberry Hill is an equal opportunity employer.

View our [Regional Job Board](#) on our website, and send jobs we should add.

Events

- **[StoryWalk Sunday | Oct. 13th @ 1:30 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center](#)**: The story posted on the StoryWalk® trail at Pine Hill Park changes regularly, and a special story event accompanies each one of the second Sunday of select months. The book for October is held over from last month as we continue to celebrate and enjoy the magic of autumn —”Pick a Circle, Gather Squares: A Fall Harvest of Shapes” by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky (Author), Susan Swan (Illustrator).
- **[Silent Auction Fundraiser At The Fort | Oct. 13th @ 3 p.m. | Blue Ridge Summit Free Library](#)**: The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will be hosting a Silent Auction Fundraiser, on Sunday, October 13, 2024 from 3 PM to 6 PM at the Top Secret Taproom located at Fort Ritchie, Maryland. More than 50 baskets will be auctioned including themes for all ages and top brand names. Live music will be provided by local artist, Rich Fehle. Food and beverage will be available for purchase at the Top Secret Taproom. Proceeds from auction sales benefit the library.
- **[Hunter's Moon Hike | Oct. 13th @ 3 p.m. | Strawberry Hill](#)**: Join us for a free nighttime nature hike under the Full Hunter's Moon! Let yourself experience the fall forest in a whole new way. Take a deep breath. The air is crisp and lovely this time of year, carrying a hint of sassafras and pine. The crunch of leaves echoes as you wander the twisting paths. Join us as we use our senses to explore the hidden corners of the forest under the Hunter's Moon!
- **[Nature's Nook Farm Pasture Walk | Oct. 18th @ 1 p.m. | Capital RC&D](#)**: Autumn is an excellent time for graziers to assess their requirements for late winter feeding. It allows time for adjustments to livestock numbers and to identify alternate nutrition sources while there is an abundance available, which ultimately benefits both livestock and grazer. Preparing for late winter feeding in both single and multi-

species grazing operations will be the primary topic at an upcoming pasture walk hosted by Capital RC&D at Natures Nook Farm in Newville.

- [Pumpkins & Pippins Fall Festival 2024 | Oct. 19th @ 12 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center](#): This fundraiser includes a full slate of activities and fun for all ages, including a 'kid zone' with yard games, a StoryWalk® hike & activity, a photo stand and more. Pony rides for kids from Serendipity Horse Meadows Farm provide a fun, memorable experience during the festival. In addition, craft vendors offer a variety of wares. Sugar Hollow Farm Alpacas will be on site during the festival with several alpacas for visiting. The event will also feature a trebuchet pumpkin launcher, vendors, a pumpkin decorating contest, music, and MORE!
- [Songs and Stories of Halloween | Oct. 26th @ 1 p.m. | PA DCNR](#): Join storyteller and singer Matthew Dodd for a free one-hour event sponsored by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Fun for the whole family! Bring the entire family for this free performance in the State Park Amphitheater, which is just south from the Campgrounds along Bendersville Road. Most visitors should park in the large gravel lot next to Bendersville Road, and walk down to the Amphitheater. A very limited number of handicap parking spots are closer to the seating area, down a short but steep driveway. Campers can simply walk to the Amphitheater using a short path on the south end of the Family Campground.

View these events and more on our [Partner Events calendar](#)! You can add your events directly onto our calendar or email them to jchain@appalachiantrail.org.

Social Media Catchup

Click to explore our social media channels. Follow us for the latest news, upcoming events, and more!



Live, Grow, Lead Healthy.

Despite the different opinions, perspectives, and worldviews that each of us carry, we all share a common trait: we call the South Mountain landscape home. We believe in the power of this common ground to build conversation around the future of this landscape - and our future while living within this landscape.

Learn more at southmountainpartnership.org



SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

CONSERVATION NETWORK



The South Mountain Partnership [SMP] is managed as a public-private partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. SMP is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Unsubscribe [here](#).