



American Discovery Trail

Rediscover America

Colorado High Country

Let the celebration begin, because the American Discovery Trail is open and ready for business.

Join The Fun!

What: ADT/National Millennium Trail celebration

When: National Trails Day, June 3, 2000

Where: Colorado Springs, CO

Info: (800) 663-2387

So what? you may ask. There's plenty of trail out there, right? Not like the ADT. This is a new breed of national trail that passes through cities, small towns, forests, deserts, mountains, you name it. The ADT has it all. Its 6,356 miles reach across America, linking community to community as it winds from Atlantic to Pacific, earning the title of the "nation's first coast-to-coast footpath."

But the ADT is more than just an incredible route to follow. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to journey into the heart of all that is uniquely American—our culture, heritage, landscape, and spirit. The ADT is about connections—people to people, community to community, city to wilderness. It also connects five National Scenic Trails, 10 National Historic Trails, 23 National Recreational Trails, and dozens of local and regional trails. The ADT can carry you to 14 national parks and 16 national forests. It's truly the backbone of our national trails system.

So join in the celebration! Attend the ADT/National Millennium Trail event on National Trails Day, June 3, or any of the nationwide ADT events this summer. For a schedule, visit www.backpacker.com/adt.
—The Editors



Special section coordinated by Matt Purdue, BACKPACKER Senior Editor



Point Reyes, CA,
just north of the
Golden Gate Bridge

An American Original, From Sea To Shining Sea



America finally has its first east-to-west trail, almost a decade in the making. Join us in the grand opening celebration. *By Reese F. Lukei Jr.*

As we celebrate the grand opening of the American Discovery Trail this summer, we revel in the Herculean accomplishment of linking thousands of miles of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails from Atlantic to Pacific. With one terminus at Point Reyes National Seashore, California, and another at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, the ADT is a route heavy with superlatives: It runs through 15 states and the District of Columbia, passes within 20 miles of 32 million Americans and touches more than 10,000 sites of historic, cultural, or natural significance.

The ADT is as broad-shouldered and spirited as the nation it traverses, and that fact was highlighted last November when the path was named one of 16 National Millennium Trails by

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. The astonishing nature of the ADT is found not only in its stunning length and breadth, but also in its local ownership, character, and support. Most long-distance trails have been developed as one long path, but the ADT is a collection of more than 200 local, regional, and national trails, each with its own constituency and caretakers. We are becoming a part of you, rather than you a part of us best represents the philosophy of the ADT's development. The personal commitment of those at the local level has created a synergy that makes the ADT more than the sum of its parts—and will allow trail users to see beyond their local links to the expanse of America from coast to coast.

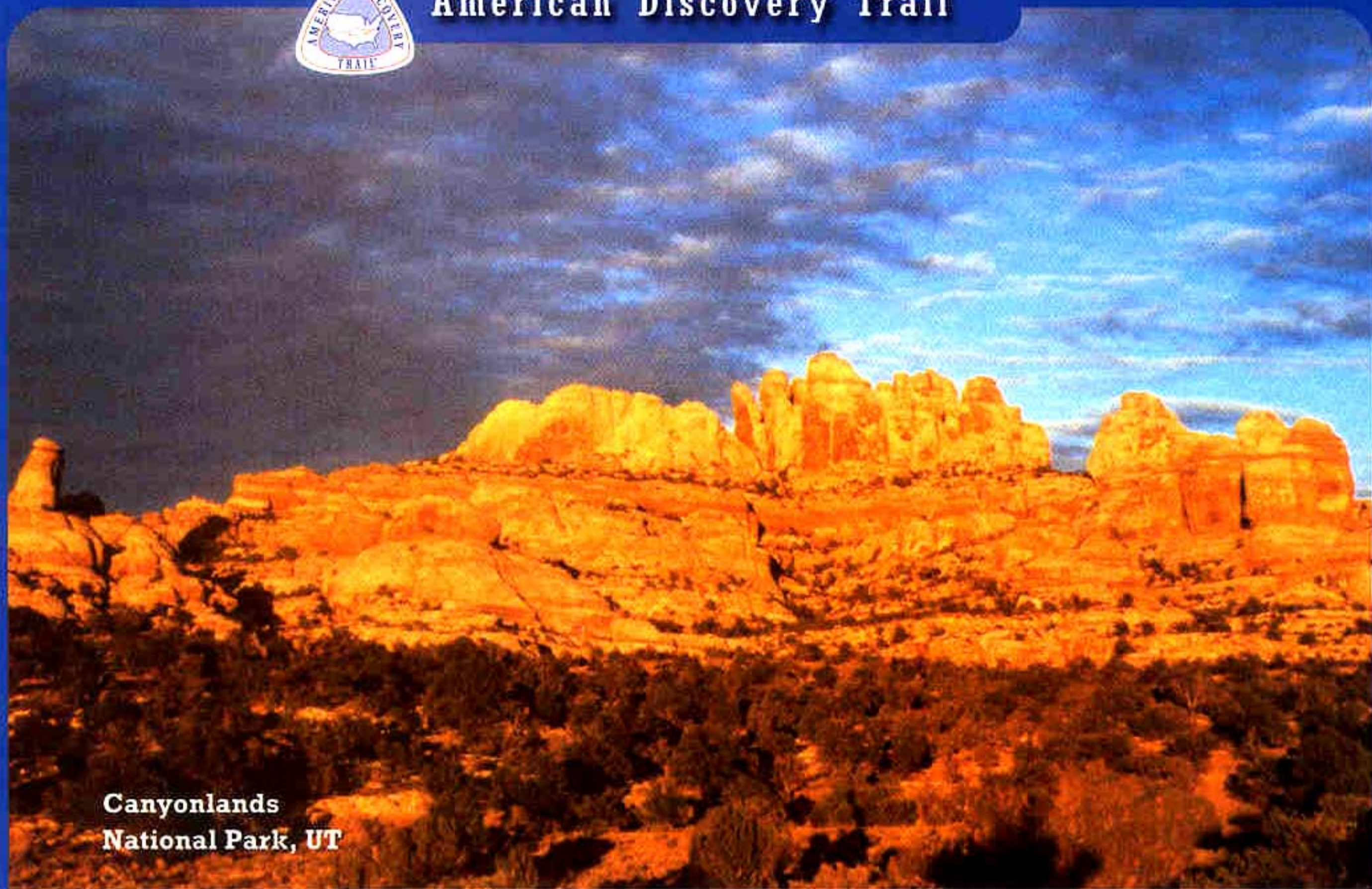
In 1990 and '91, the ADT scouting team of Ellen Dudley,

Eric Seaborg, Sam Carlson, Bill Sprotte, and BACKPACKER staffers Bruce Franks and Heather Douglass laid the foundation for the ADT. (See BACKPACKER, May 1992.) Following a route recommended by citizens in each ADT state, Dudley and Seaborg hiked and biked coast to coast, covering 4,835 miles in 14 months. (Carlson, Sprotte, Franks, and Douglass joined them for portions of the trek.)

From the beginning, the ADT was to be as accessible as possible. It passes through metropolitan areas and incorporates many urban and rural hiking trails as well as paths for bicycles, horses, and for those with disabilities (where local trails have been designed for such use). This route has been refined and expanded during the past 9 years, and trails and paths have been added that



American Discovery Trail



**Canyonlands
National Park, UT**

weren't yet ready for public use—an ongoing effort in years to come. Today the ADT is formally recognized in each state it traverses and has been incorporated into the trail system and outdoors and transportation plans of those states. The ADT is featured on hiking maps, bicycle maps, tourist brochures, and on the ADT Society Web site at www.discoverytrail.org.

Many groups have contributed to the success of the ADT. Each state's volunteer coordinators have worked tirelessly with local, state, and federal organizations to refine, sign, and promote the trail. The ADT Society Board of Directors has made strategic alliances, secured funds, and built a nationwide constituency. And local trail advocates have helped the ADT become much more than a collection of trails.

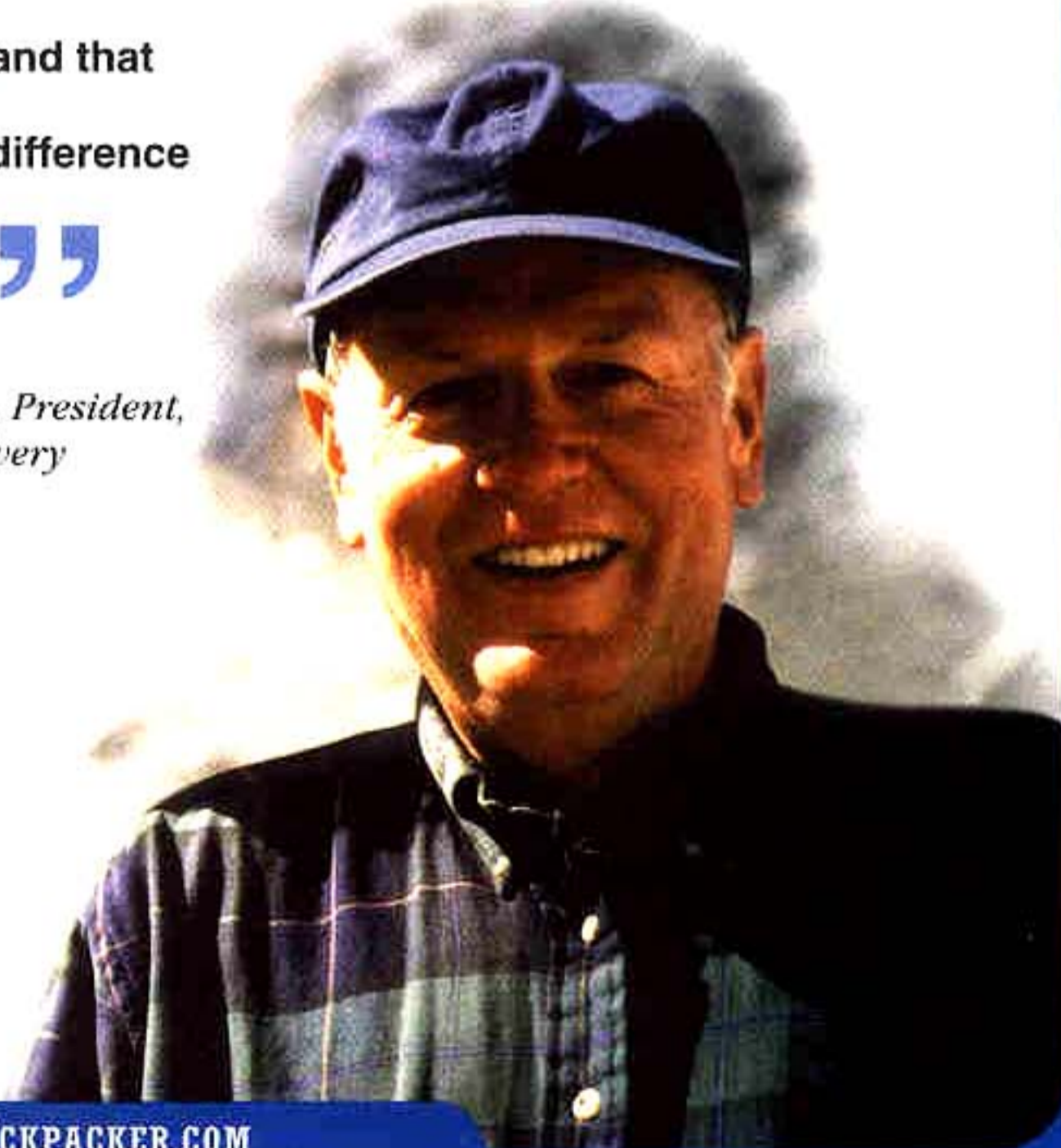
Think of the ADT as your local path, not only because no federal funding has gone directly to the trail, but also because it needs continued support from trail lovers. It needs the help of people like you.

Reese F. Lukei Jr. is national coordinator of the ADT Society.

Message From The President

“ Anyone looking at a map of America's national trails system will see a glaring deficiency: The trails are not linked and there is no coast-to-coast route. The American Discovery Trail changes all that. We can now go from here to there, and that makes all the difference in the world. ”

—Charles Sloan, President,
American Discovery
Trail Society





ADT Facts

Usage:

Hiking, horseback riding, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing

End points:

Point Reyes National Seashore, California; Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware

The highest point on the trail:

Colorado's Whale Peak, 12,990 feet

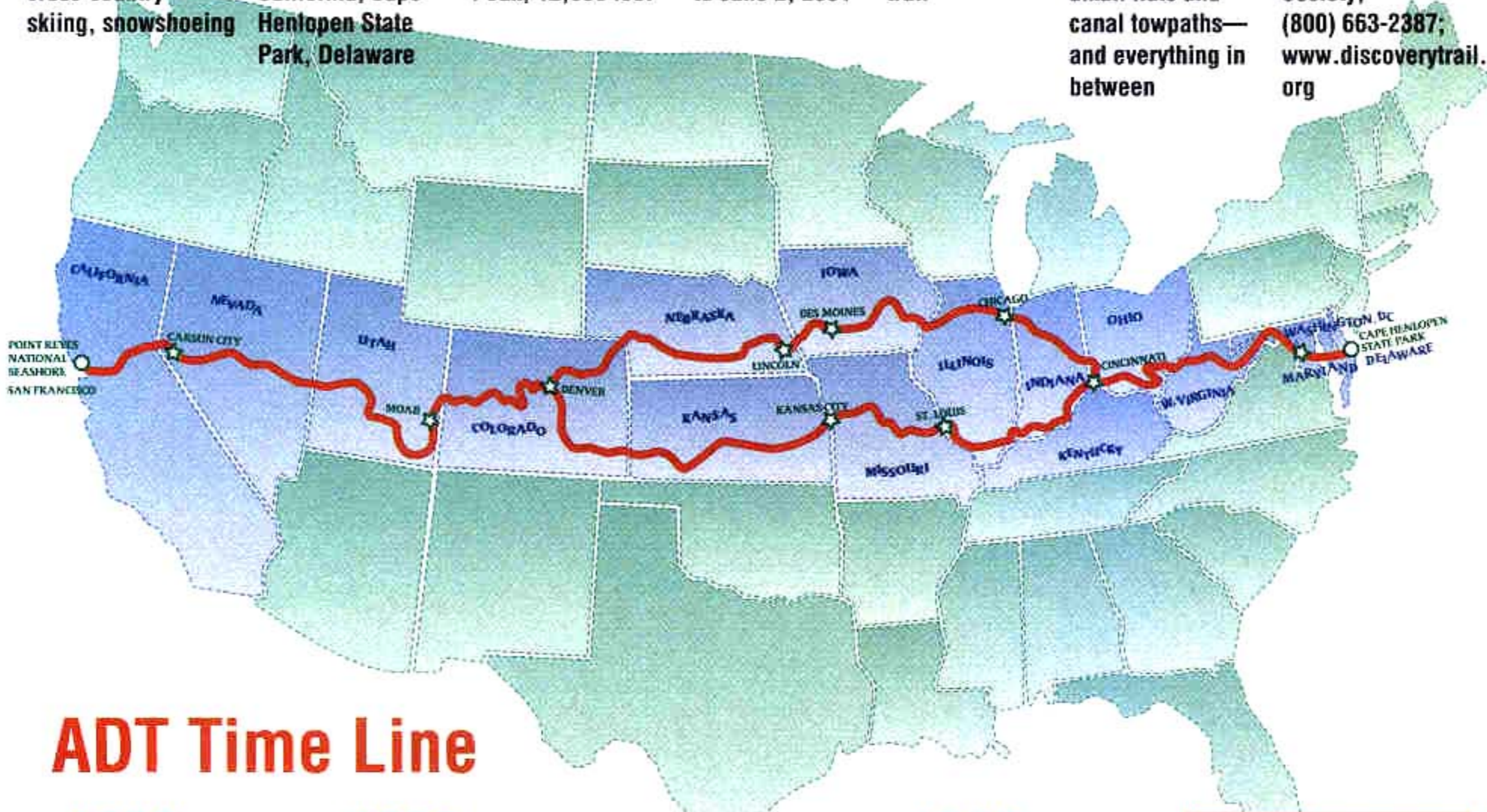
Grand Opening Celebration:

April 4, 2000, to June 2, 2001

Designation: America's first coast-to-coast trail

Terrain: Urban streets and state highways, alkali flats and canal towpaths—and everything in between

Contact: American Discovery Trail Society, (800) 663-2387; www.discoverytrail.org



ADT Time Line

1989

■ **BACKPACKER** conceives the plan for the ADT, and the American Hiking Society (AHS) signs on as a partner.

1990

■ The ADT scouting team leaves San Francisco for its coast-to-coast trek.

1991

■ Congresswoman Beverly Byron (D-MD) introduces ADT Feasibility Study legislation.

■ After 14 months and 4,835 trail miles, the scouting team completes its journey in Delaware.

■ Scouting team and ADT supporters meet President George Bush in the Oval Office.

1992

■ ADT Trailblazer Day lures 14,000 people to the trail and attracts national media attention.

■ President Bush approves a feasibility study of the ADT as a National Scenic Trail.

1994

■ The National Park Service (NPS) declines to recommend the ADT as a National Scenic Trail. Backers propose a new class, the National Heritage Trails, later changed to National Discovery Trails.

1995

■ NPS recommends National Discovery Trails (NDT) status to the Secretary of the Interior.

■ *The American Discovery Trail Explorer's Guide* is published.

1996

■ The ADT Society is formed.

■ ADT scouts Ellen Dudley and Eric Seaborg publish *American Discoveries: Scouting the First Coast-to-Coast Recreational Trail*.

■ Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-NE) and Senator Hank Brown (R-CO) introduce the National Discovery Trails Act (NDTA). It dies in Congress.

1997

■ Congressman Bereuter and Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK) reintroduce NDTA.

1998

■ The Senate unanimously passes the NDTA. It dies in the House.

1999

■ Congressman Bereuter and Senator Murkowski reintroduce the NDTA.

■ The White House names the ADT one of 16 National Millennium Trails.

■ The Senate unanimously passes the NDTA.

■ The House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee approves the NDTA.

2000

■ The NDTA awaits a vote in the House.

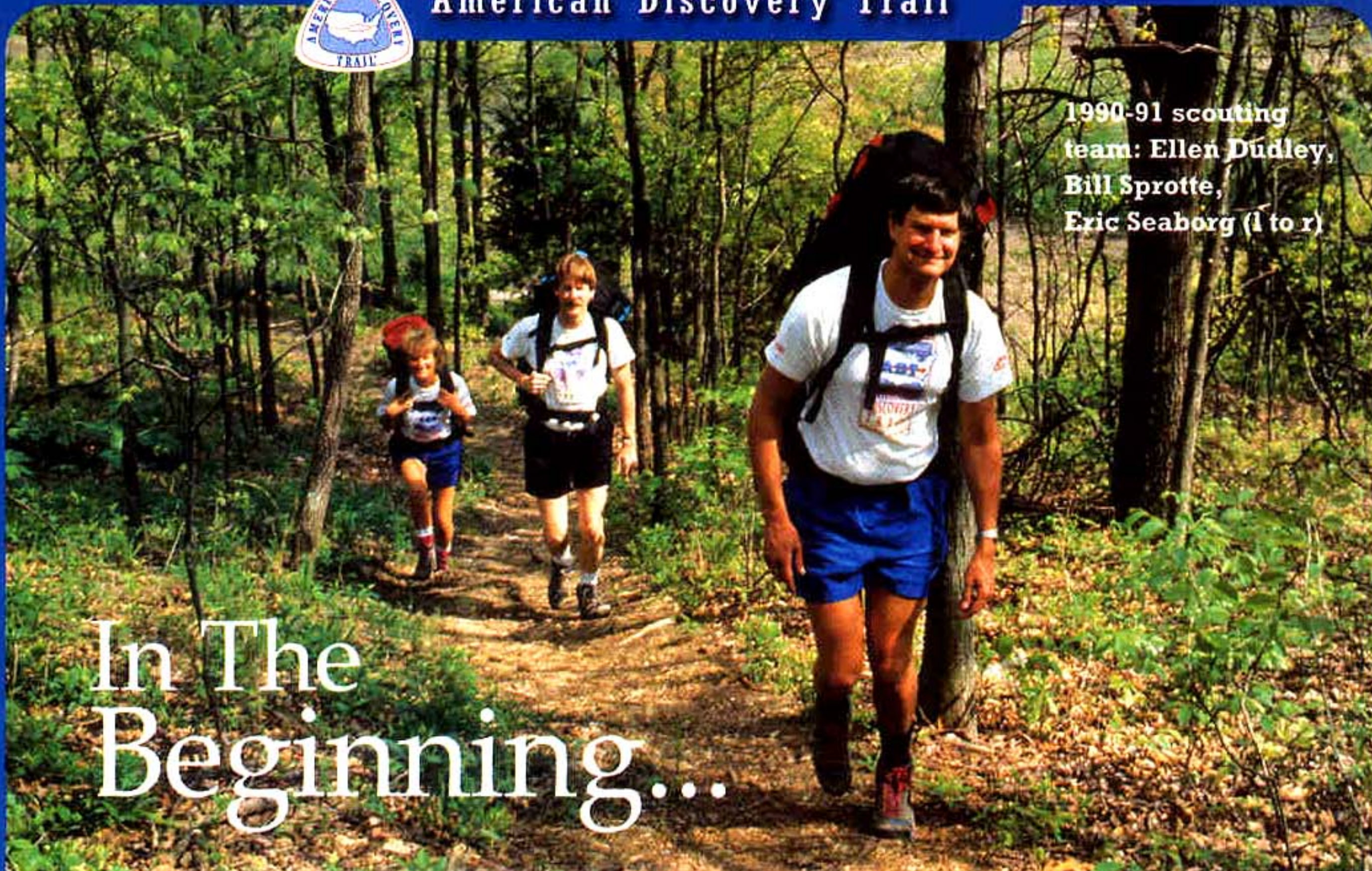
Mileage, by region

- Delaware 45
- Maryland/DC 266
- West Virginia 276
- Southern Ohio/Kentucky 407
- Northern Ohio 60
- Southern Indiana 326
- Northern Indiana 195
- Southern Illinois 286
- Northern Illinois 210
- Missouri 346
- Kansas 574
- Iowa 504
- Nebraska 515
- Southern Colorado 150
- Northern Colorado 195
- Colorado: Denver to Utah 586
- Utah 560
- Nevada 466
- California 389

Total ADT Mileage 6,356



1990-91 scouting team: Ellen Dudley, Bill Sprotte, Eric Seaborg (l to r)



In The Beginning...

How “the next great hiking trail” was conceived and grew into a one-of-a-kind pathway. *By Peter Spiers*

It all started 11 years ago with an innocent-sounding report titled *Trails for All Americans*. Within the document was the notion of a nationwide system of trails as extensive as the interstate highway system, a network so pervasive that all Americans would be no more than 15 minutes from some part of it. The idea was simple, and it was big. And John Viehman, then editor of *BACKPACKER* magazine, and I knew we were on to something.



Over the next few months, in our offices in Pennsylvania and at American Hiking Society meetings with Chuck Sloan, Butch Henley, and Eric Seaborg, the idea evolved. We realized that the three major north-south trails (the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and Appalachian) were well known. But what if we could create an east-west trail that linked with these other long trails, bring attention to pathways in general,

and create the next great hiking trail in the process? Somewhere along the way, Bruce Franks, an editor at *BACKPACKER*, articulated the vision: It would be a multi-use trail carrying travelers on a voyage of discovery into every facet of America wilderness, prairie, old railroad beds, even cities. Bruce even came up with a name that made complete sense: the American Discovery Trail.

Our next question was, where would the trail go? We started eyeing existing east-west trails and laid out the ADT to link them together, too. That's how routes like the Colorado Trail, the KATY Trail in Missouri, and the North Bend Rail Trail in West Virginia became part—indeed, the foundation—of the ADT.

The task of actually connecting all of these various trails fell to the ADT Scouting Expedition, a three-

person team sponsored by the American Hiking Society and *BACKPACKER* magazine. The trio left Point Reyes National Seashore, California, in June of 1990 and arrived at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, in August of 1991. Along the way they served as ambassadors for trails, appearing on *The Today Show* and National Public Radio, in countless newspapers, and on local TV stations. They even visited the Oval Office and received congratulations from President George Bush.

Today, a new team of ADT enthusiasts is hitting the trail to once again draw attention to the ADT's greatness, and to the fact that it is officially open for business. ADT Society board member Brian Stark, who is leading the ADT Adventure Team cross-country this summer, is among the heirs to that initial scouting effort born a decade ago. We at *BACKPACKER* are, once again, proud to sponsor this milestone event in the trail's history.

Peter Spiers is Sports Group Publisher at Rodale.

Copper Mountain
80445



American Discovery Trail

Grassroots hikers,
lifeblood of the ADT



The ADT Honor Roll

"Here's to the heroes, those who move mountains..." the song goes. Or, in the case of the American Discovery Trail, those who've moved across and around mountains, or those who've moved mountains of paperwork, to create the first coast-to-coast trail. With help from ADT experts and our voluminous archives, we've selected an honor roll of folks whose vision and determination helped make this monumental trail a reality.

Doug Bereuter: Congressman leading the fight for the National Discovery Trails Act in the House.

Hank Brown: Former Senator who sponsored the feasibility study and introduced the NDTA.

Beverly Byron: Former Maryland Congresswoman who pushed for the feasibility study. Member of the ADT Society board.

Ellen Dudley: One of the first to complete the trail as member of the scout team. Cowrote



American Discoveries: Scouting the First Coast-to-Coast Recreational Trail.

John Fazel: One of the founders and first executive director of the ADT Society. Currently an ADT Society board member.

Bill and Laurie Foot (pictured): Hiked and biked the trail, and compiled the ADT data book. Currently ADT Society board members.

Susan "Butch" Henley: Former executive director of the AHS and ADT Society. Currently ADT Society membership director.

Dave Lillard: Former AHS president who rallied his staff to the ADT cause.

Reese F. Lukei Jr.: A founder of the ADT Society and its national coordinator. Editor of *The American Discovery Trail Explorer's Guide*.

Frank Murkowski: Alaska Senator who twice sponsored NDTA.

Eric Seaborg: Completed the

trail as member of the scout team and cowrote book with Dudley. Currently an ADT Society board member.

Charles Sloan: One of the founders of the ADT Society and president since 1996.

Mary Margaret Sloan: As AHS president, introduced ADT legislation around the Washington, DC, beltway.

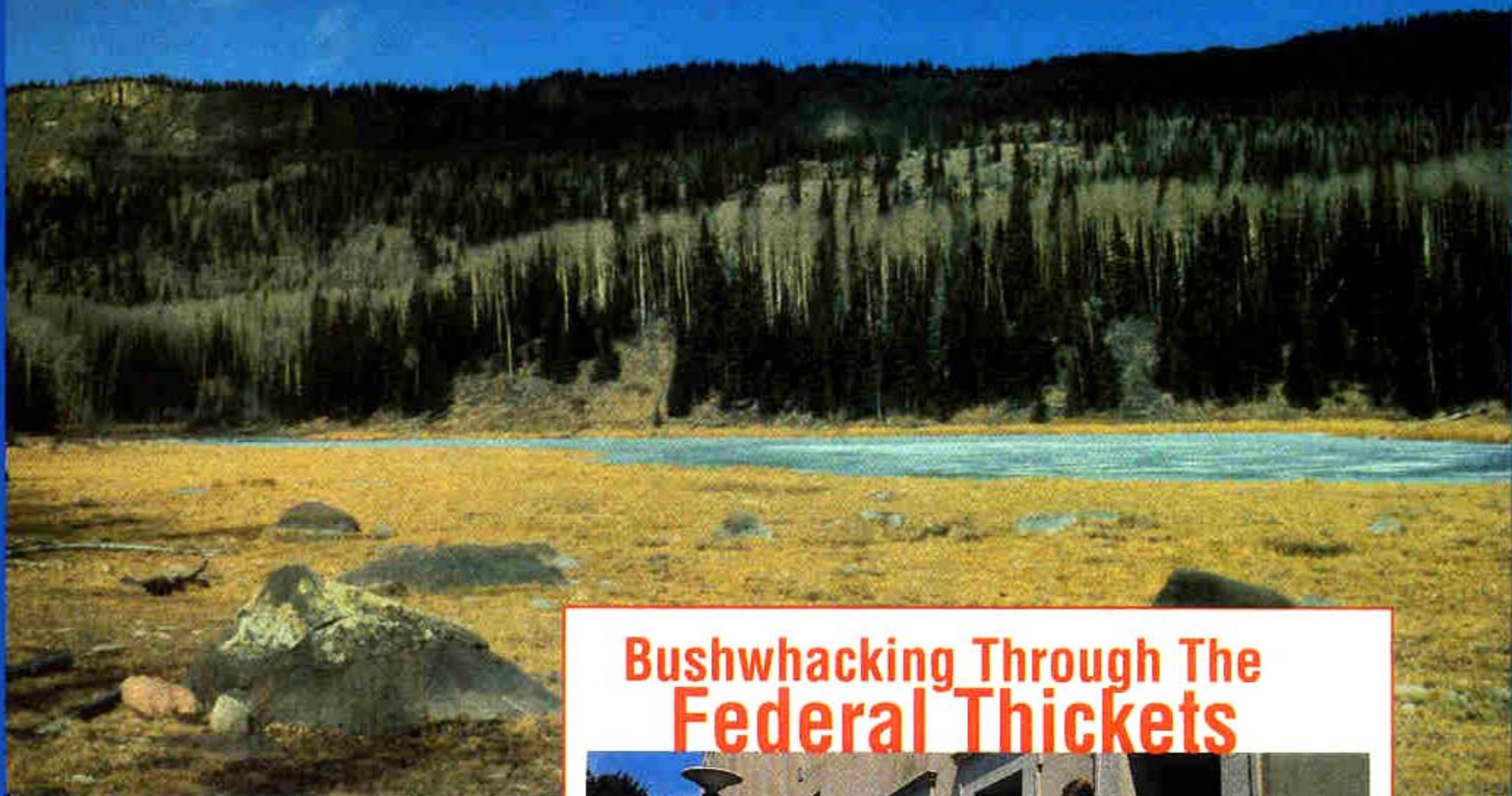
Bill Spitzer: Former head of recreational trails for the NPS. Promoted the trail on the federal level.

Brian Stark (pictured): Ran most of the ADT, promoting the trail along the way. Currently an ADT Society board member and leader of Ford Adventure Team.

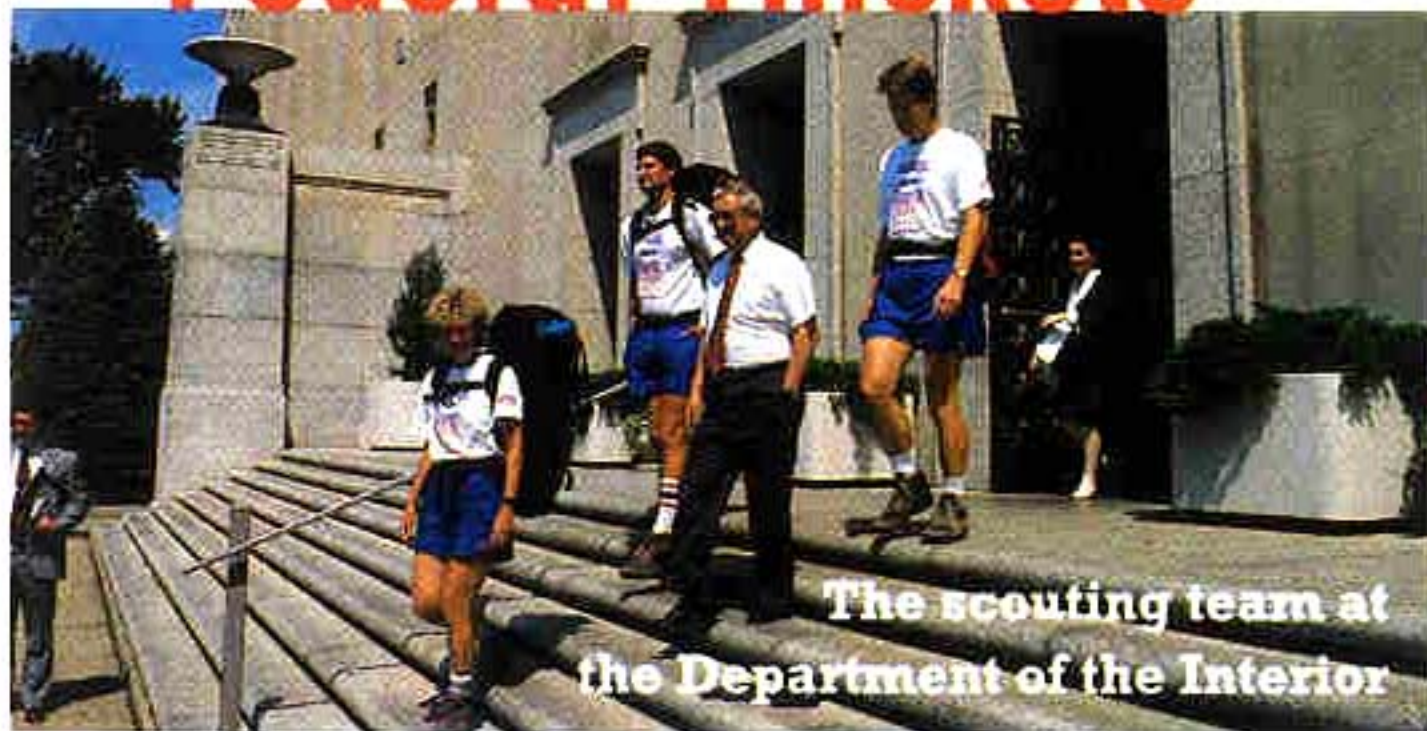
Bill Stoehr: Senior VP of National Geographic Maps, which published ADT maps. Founding member of the ADT Society and current board member.

ADT State Coordinators: Too numerous to mention by name, these folks literally blazed the trail town-by-town—for no pay.





Bushwhacking Through The Federal Thickets



The scouting team at the Department of the Interior

A Trail For The Ages

You know your trail has made it big when the First Lady mentions it. Last year, Hillary Rodham Clinton named the American Discovery Trail one of 16 National Millennium Trails. According to the White House, the purpose of the

Millennium Trails initiative is to “spark the creation and enhancement” of more than 2,000 American trails.

“Through the Millennium Trails project, we are building and maintaining trails that tell the story of our nation’s past and are helping create a positive vision for our future,” Clinton said.

The Appalachian Trail and North Country Trail were the other hiking trails honored.

Traversing the 6,356-mile American Discovery Trail seems like a weekend jaunt compared with maneuvering through the labyrinth of the U.S. Congress. Although the concept of the coast-to-coast route was spawned in 1989, trail supporters are still bushwhacking through beltway bureaucracy in hopes of winning federal recognition for the ADT.

Last November, the Senate unanimously passed the National Discovery Trails Act (NDTA) of 1999, and the ADT would be the first in this new trail category. As of mid-March, the bill was still languishing in the House’s Resource Committee, despite backing from 56 bipartisan sponsors and approval by the National Parks and Public Lands subcommittee. Passage of the act won’t secure any funding for the ADT—in fact, the trail has never received any direct federal dollars, according to ADT national coordinator Reese F. Lukei Jr.—but recognition in Washington, DC, is vital. For example, it’s likely to make land managers more cooperative about marking the ADT route, Lukei says. “Our ultimate goal is to have this become part of the national trails system.”

To keep up on the legislative trek, visit www.discoverytrail.org. Express your support for the ADT by contacting: The Honorable (your representative), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; www.house.gov.





Searle Pass, CO

Wanted: More Feet And Energy

Just because the American Discovery Trail is celebrating its grand opening this year doesn't mean the work is done—not by a long shot. The ADT Society is still counting on trail lovers to step forward and assist local clubs that maintain, mark, and promote the path. Reese F. Lukei Jr., the society's national coordinator, calls grassroots support the lifeblood of the ADT: "The trail's long-term existence depends on the relationships we make with the local people along the way." To work on your local segment of the ADT, contact one of the following individuals.

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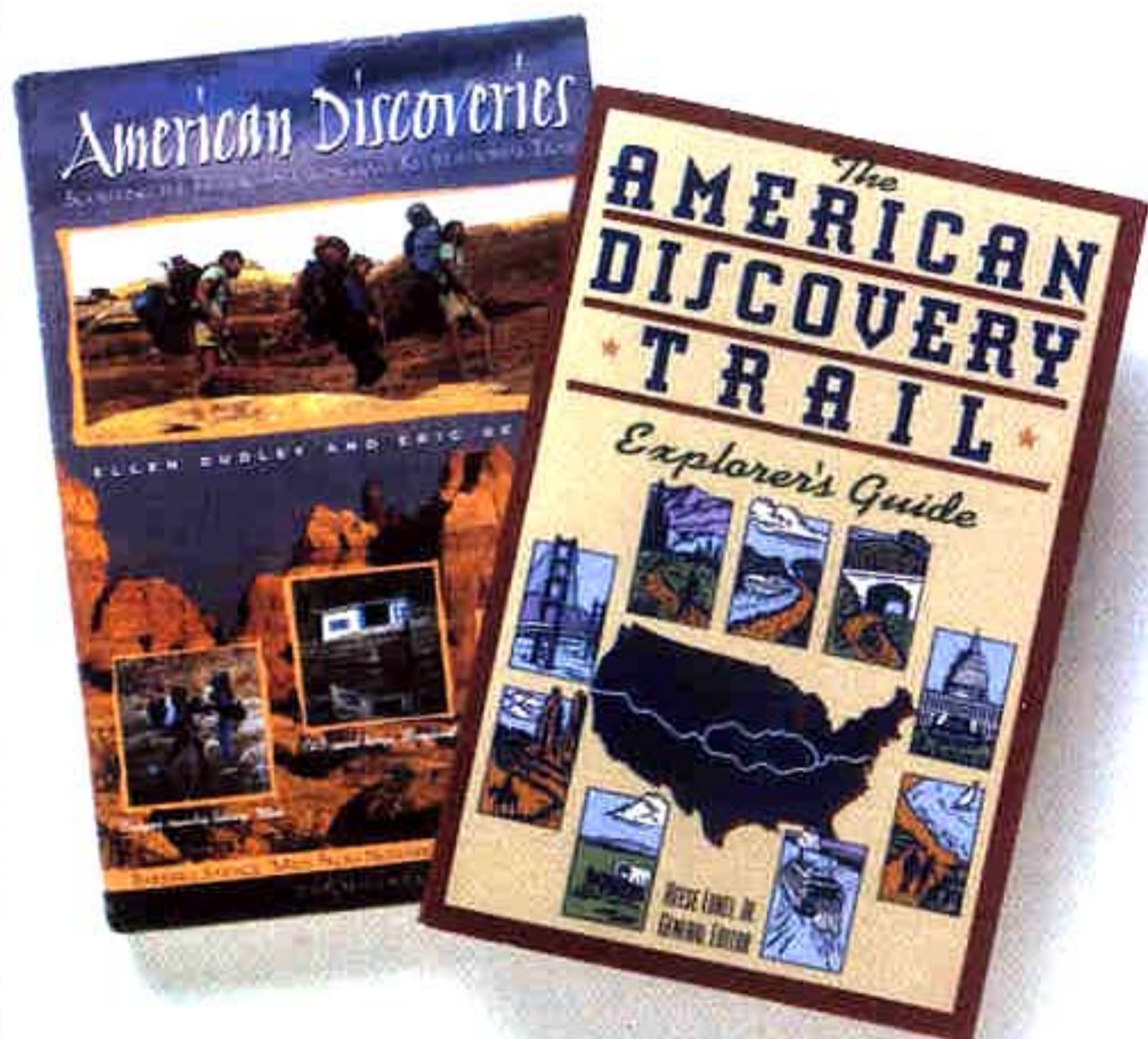


Table Mountain, NV



Hike The ADT And Rediscover America And Yourself

Resources



Trip planning and membership

■ American Discovery Trail Society, Chris Voell, Executive Director, P.O. Box 3672, Frederick, MD 21705-3672, (301) 668-2202; cvoell@aol.com.

Maps

■ National Geographic Maps publishes the American Discovery Trail Series, a set covering most of the ADT. Contact: National Geographic Maps, (800) 962-1643 or (303) 670-3457; www.trailsillustrated.com.

On the Web

■ ADT Society, www.discoverytrail.org.
■ www.backpacker.com/adts.

Books

■ *American Discoveries: Scouting the First Coast-to-Coast Recreational Trail*, by Ellen Dudley and Eric Seaborg (Mountaineers Books, 800-553-4453; www.mountaineersbooks.com; \$24.95).

■ *American Discovery Trail Explorer's Guide*, edited by Reese F. Lukei Jr. (Falcon Press, 800-725-8303; www.falconbooks.com; \$14.95).