The Appalachian Trail

From Maine to Georgia by Foot Trail—a Little Hike of 2000 Miles—Along the Skyline of the Appalachian Ranges

By Raymond H. Torrey

In its novelty and its bigness, the Appalachian Trail promises to be a truly American project with tremendous possibilities in health-giving recreation to millions of people. It is to be a trail creating the eastern mountains and shaming the traveled highways: a trail where men and women may leave behind the strife and turmoil of the city, the smell of gasoline and the consciousness of self-adornment, and revel in the glowing sense of tramping a wooded path the two ends of which are two thousand miles apart.

The Appalachian Trail idea has been growing in the minds of trampers for many years. It is not a dream. The trail is actually taking shape and is stimulating enthusiasm of tramping folk throughout the east. The project is being quietly carried out without the support of any endowed agencies and purely by volunteer efforts of outdoor people. In recent years it has been stimulated by the development of trails in the North Atlantic States and to a lesser extent in the Southern Appalachian region. The system of trails in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, made during the past forty years by volunteer workers of the Appalachian Mountain Club, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service and other walking and climbing groups, was the earliest gully of the great spinal cord. The Long Trail of the Green Mountain Club, in the Green Mountains of Vermont, now 235 miles long, from the Massachusetts line almost to the Quebec border, was another. One of the earliest seers of this great trail was Prof. Will S. Mountain of Montclair, New Jersey, a trail-finder in America and

Europe. As organizer and president of the New York section of the Green Mountain Club, Professor Monroe built forty miles of one of the most scenic portions of the Long Trail, from Camel's Hump—where his section is to build a comfortable lodge, near the 4000-foot summit, as a tribute to his services to outdoor recreation—to Middlebury Gap, which the section maintains. Professor Monroe early conceived the idea of a trail from Delaware Water Gap, along the Kittatinny Mountains, across the New Jersey and New York highlands, and through the Taconics and Berkshires to join his beloved Long Trail.

Two years ago the Appalachian Trail in Maine was formulated by an independent idealist, Benton MacKaye, who presented the project to the American Institute of Architects. Mr. MacKaye interested the Institute in the idea in even larger aspects than merely a hikers' trail; he conceived it as the spinal cord of what he termed an "Appalachian Domain," a great Atlantic seacoast forest preserve, along which might be developed centers for camping and other outdoor recreation and agencies for conservation of forests, reforestation, better agriculture, and reclamation of waste lands. The Institute, through its committee on community planning, has retained him to study and promote the idea. Mr. MacKaye's broadened vision of an Appalachian Trail quickly found support in New England and New York among organized hikers. There had been in existence for some years the New England Trail Conference, a federation of about thirty outdoor clubs. The Conference took up the idea, heard Mr. MacKaye present it, and is encouraging its constituent bodies to pick up such sections of their rails as will fall in the line of the proposed route. Much of the Appalachian Trail in New England is, therefore, done, except for marking it as such and linking up existing stretches of the Green Mountain Club, Dartmouth Outing Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, and United States Forest Service trails with new intervening portions where necessary. Events we are working toward as an agreement to the definite route and a uniform marker.

The general route across New England, as visualized by Mr. MacKaye and agreed to by the Conference, is from Mount Katahdin, Maine—though some enthusiasts see it starting in the Gospel Peninsula, in New Brunswick, the northeast tip of the Appalachians—across the Pine Tree State, via Moosehead and Rangeley Lakes, where much new work will have to be done in scouting and trail clearing, to the New Hampshire border, across which, into Maine, the Appalachian Mountain Club in the last few years has been extending its trail system eastward.

In New Hampshire the route would be over the Carter Range and the high, Presidential Range to Mount Washington; across the wild country between Crawford and Franconia Notches to the Great Stone Face; south to Lost River and Mount Moosilauke, where it would pick up the trails of the Dartmouth Outing Club and follow them south to Hanover and the Connecticut River.

Across Vermont to the Long Trail, on the main western ridge of the Green Mountains, there are two alternatives. One is by a new trail being laid by the Norwich University Outing Club, which would strike the Long Trail near Lincoln Mountain. The other, more direct, is by road, via Woodstock, to Bridgewater; thence by trail to the summit of Mount Killington, on the Long Trail, or by...
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highway, with a bus line, to Sherborn Pass, where is the
now Deers Leap Lodge of the Green Mountain Club,
built at a cost of $3,100,000 by Mortimer Proctor and his
wife, Mrs. Emory Proctor—one of the finest mountain
lodges in the world.
Southward the Appalachian Trail may follow the Long
Trail to the Massachusetts line, and there join paths
marked by the Williams College Outing Club, to Greylock,
highest of the Berkshires. South of Greylock there are
no definite trails, but there are possible routes, which
are being scouted, along the New-York-Massachusetts
border, to the high plateau at the corner of these states and
of Connecticut, including Mount Everett, 2,000 feet, and
Bear Mountain, 2,200 feet, highest in Connecticut.
Chasing the Connecticut-New-York border some scouting
has been done, and the general route will include bits of
state forest and the rugged hills west of the Hoosic
River, entering New York at Ten Mile River over Schaghticoke
Mountains. It crosses Dutchess and Putnam counties on the
line; Pawling, Boys' Corner's Reservoir, Tompkins' Corners,
Owensville Lake, Canada Hill, to Anthony's Nose and to the crossing of the Hudson by the suspension
bridge now under construction, across to Bear Mountain and
the great Palisades Interstate Park established in 1912, now
one of the greatest sources of public recreation in the
United States, visited in 1912 by seven million people.
Here Mr. MacKay's idea found ready soil. Before it was
promulgated, members of the New York City walk-
ing clubs, working through the Palisades Interstate Park
Trail Coöperation, had begun to mark a system of trails
over its forested ridges, apart from motor highways,
where the hiker could escape the stench of gasoline.
This system now covers seventy-five miles, and the Boy
Scouts, who have one of the greatest camps in the park,
have marked forty miles more in their White Bear Trail.
Those trail workers, all volunteers, supplying tools and
food and paying expenses by subscription, welcomed the
Appalachian route and reorganized, as the New York-
New Jersey Trail Conference, to undertake the great trail
in these two states. A uniform marker was adopted, a
three-inch square of sheet copper, embossed with a monos-
gram A-T, and appropriate lettering, the whole cremated
white. The Interstate Park section, from Bear Mountain
to the Ramapo River at Arden, was recently completed,
the first considerable section of the route to be opened.
West of the Ramapo the route ischoice s traversing the
lands of the Harriman estate, which includes in one tract
twenty-five thousand acres of forest land, nearly half of
which Mrs. Harriman gave to the Interstate Park.
This part is now started and marked as the Harriman Section.
The trail is planned, if property-owners consent, to pass
over the rugged mountains west of Greenwood Lake to the
New Jersey line; thence across Wallawenda Plateau and the
Kittatinny Mountains to the Delaware. Here it finds another
route through the Kittatinny Mountains. Thence it is
planned through the ridge, which is the state line, eventually to acquire, to Delaware State College.
Through Pennsylvania, for lack of developed agencies
to make the trail, it is so far largely on piper, but the
route will be via the Blue Ridge, past Patsville, Harris-
burg, and Gettysburg, to Harper's Ferry, Maryland.
In Maryland and Virginia, groups in Baltimore and Wash-
ington are giving attention to the project and doing some
scouting, and Dr. Geddes, of the University of Virginia,
recently was conversing with students in the route, along
the eastern rampath of the Shenandoah Valley and south to the North Carolina line. Along the border of South Carolina and Tennessee
those lines the trail is partly a matter of future years of scouting
and development, partly a matter of linking up forest
rangers in the national and state parks. Mr. Mac-
Kay originally planned it to end in the hills of northeastern
Georgia, but has since inclined to Lookout Mountain, in Tennessee, as a terminus of scenic and his-
torical importance.
Increasing interest in the Southern Appalachians on the
part of northern hikers, who are turning to the Great
Seduxes, is likely to lead some of them South, to turn
north again in the New England and New York into
giving this part of the Appalachian Trail the best possible
scenic qualities, under the guidance of the National
Forest rangers.

Here is what a few fires have done in the past. In
1871 the Peshtigo fire in Wisconsin burned 1,000,000
acres of timber and cost $1,500,000. In 1881 another
fire in Michigan burned 4,000,000 acres at cost
$5,000,000. In 1894 the Phillips, Wisconsin,
fire burned over 300 human beings. In
the fall of the same year, in Minnesota, fire ate out
1,000,000 acres of timber and property in Duluth and
kiln killed over 500 people. In 1898 the
Cloquet fire in Minnesota killed 1,000,000 worth
of timber and property into ash at Andes and
$4,000,000. In 1922 millions of dollars' worth of
private ownership, timber and logging equipment were destroyed in Washington and Idaho.

The All-year Christmas Tree

By MRS. JOHN D. SHERMAN
Chairman, Department of Applied Education, General Federation of Woman's Clubs

O F ALL the plants that grow, none are more inti-
mately associated with the American home than
trees. Their influence is marvelously diverse
and environmental. The trees of the forest, in more than fift-
fifteen million years, have woven their lives into our daily lives.

The product of the earth has the same variety of uses.
The houses in which we live are the gift of the trees, if
distinctly in large part. Another gift is paper,
which carries the printed page into our homes and our
school, this two products—homes and paper—under-
stand the standards of American life today, because they
found for home life and intellectual progress.

I know of no more ready way to quicken the interest
of the small children in trees and to demonstrate their
vitality of growth through the living Christmas tree. Every
tree lives a Christmas tree. Every child is en-
titled to one. There are those who advocate that the
Alberta fir, or the Christmas tree custom be eliminated, root and branch,
no unjustified waste of trees. This seems an unneces-
sarily irreligious remedy, a denial to our children of a beau-
tiful and so far custom long established and one which can be made
to carry an added message to the child.

We have throughout the nation ample land from which
to produce all the Christmas trees needed by our children.

PLANT YOUR TREE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS!

Photograph by courtesy of "The Living Tree Farm.

This offer is not limited to just families and places of worship. New orders must be placed by January 1st, 1924, and delivered by the end of the month.

When the forests disappear the cost of home-building
a Kate and the standards of living. Similarly,
when the cost of other goods, opportunities to advance,
intellectually become less accessible. We have built our
homes on the banks of rivers, and in the midst of
our cities and towns. In the smaller cities and
in the country districts, the school-house yard usually provides
room for a plot of trees and the opportunity
for growth. For the little children, when entering
the first grade, plant a Christmas tree. Before they leave the
school there trees would be ready for Christmas use.
The after-school yard would teach
and impress the children that it would become
a living part of the school days.

Another way of increasing this idea is to instilled