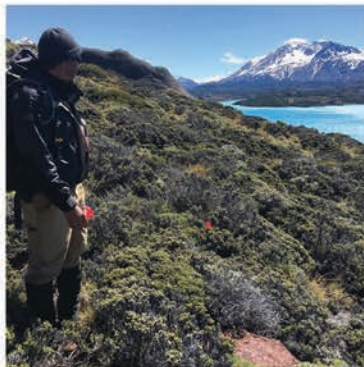
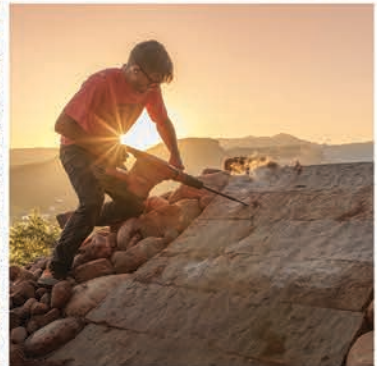
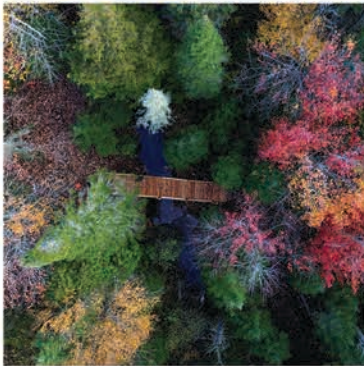


SUSTAINABLE TRAILS CONFERENCE

Lanier Islands, Georgia
March 19-21, 2024



**Professional
TrailBuilders**
ASSOCIATION

Thanks to our Sponsors!



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



Tri-State Company,
Incorporated Huntington, WV



SUTTER EQUIPMENT CO.
THE ULTIMATE TRAIL MACHINE



**Professional
TrailBuilders
ASSOCIATION**

PTBA is the trade association for the trail industry representing professional trail contractors, designers, and consultants. PTBA currently represents 130+ private sector companies who employ ~2000 trailbuilders worldwide.

As an organization, PTBA strives to:

- Support the community of PTBA Member Companies
- Promote quality and professionalism in the trail industry
- Inspire and engage the next generation of trail professionals

In 2023, PTBA Member Companies:

- Worked 2.35 million hours on trails
- Built 1,500 miles of trail
- Designed 2,700 miles of trail
- Built 120 bike parks
- Provided 180 Trail Trainings
- Produced 165 trail master plans
- Built 21,000 feet of bridge

Photo Credit:

This page: TrailScapes Pty Ltd

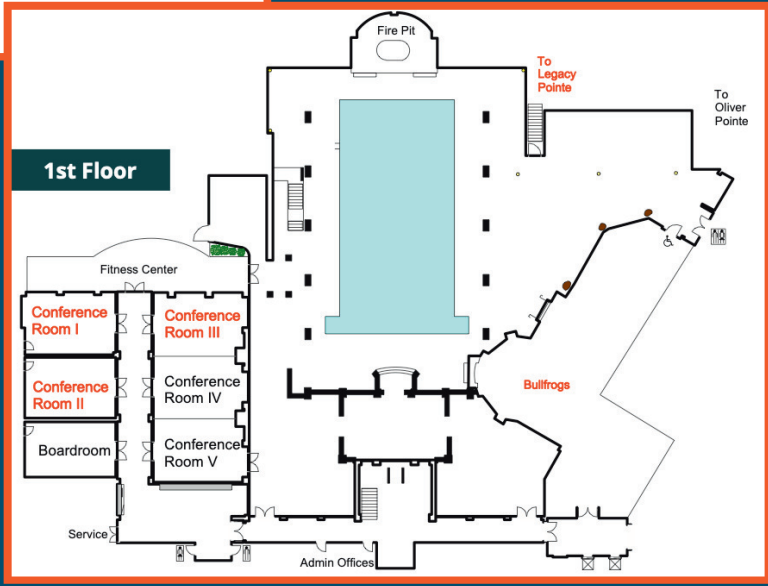
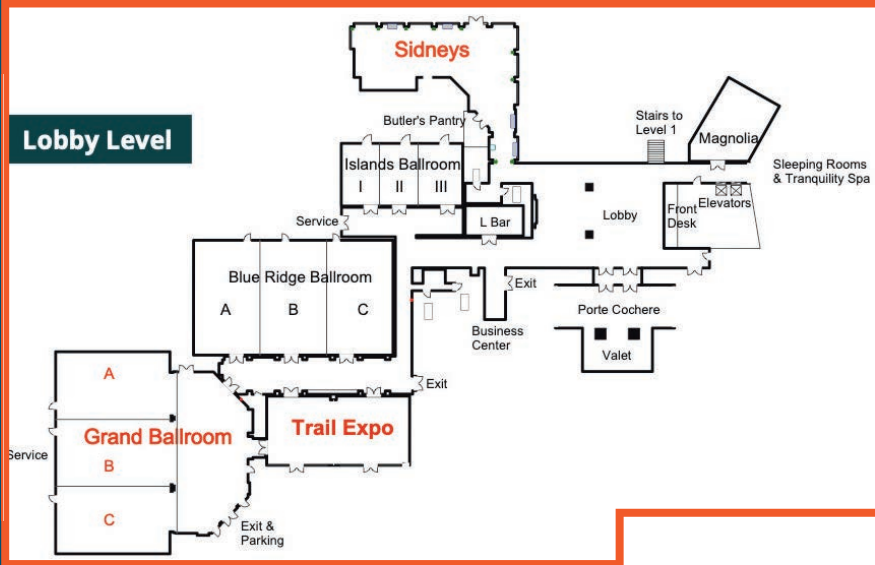
Cover (from top left) Progressive Trail Design,
Nature Trails, TrailScapes Pty Ltd, Rock Solid Trail
Contracting, Trailworks, Progressive Trail Design,
Great Lakes Trailbuilders, Great Lakes
Trailbuilders, Allegra Trails

LEGACY LODGE

Getting Around



Welcome to Lanier Islands!



CONFERENCE SPACES

- Plenary Session: Grand Ballroom
- Trail Expo: Veranda Rooms
- Concurrent Sessions: Grand A, B, C + Conference Room III
- Traditional session with formal presentations*
- Roundtable Discussions: Conference Rooms I + II
- Expert panel, no formal presentation, facilitated Q&A and group engagement, smaller rooms (not actual roundtables)*

CONFERENCE FOOD + DRINK

- Continental Breakfast + Breaks: Trail Expo
- Lunches: Legacy Pointe (see first floor and below)
- Tuesday Happy Hour: Trail Expo

LEGACY LODGE FOOD + DRINK

- Sidneys (breakfast only)
- Bullfrogs (lunch and dinner)
- Butlers Pantry (Coffee + Grab and Go food)
- L-Bar (drinks only)

LANIER ISLANDS FOOD + DRINK

- Gamechangers
- Land Shark Bar & Grill



~2.5 miles

LANIER ISLANDS

Tuesday 3/19

7:30 - 8:30 am: Registration

7:30 - 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast in the Trail Expo

9:15 - 9:35 am: Welcome + Opening Remarks

9:35 - 10:15 am: Keynote Speaker - Glen Jacobs, World Trail

10:15 - 10:30 am: PTBA Lifetime Achievement Award

10:30 - 11:00 am: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo

11:00 - 11:45 am: Plenary Session: The intersection of community, economy, and trails

12:00 - 1:15 pm: Lunch at Legacy Pointe (sponsored by Wagners CFT)

1:20 - 2:20 pm: Trail Expo Exclusive

2:30 - 3:30 pm: Concurrent Session A

3:30 - 4:00 pm: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo

4:00 - 5:00 pm: Concurrent Session B

5:00 - 7:00 pm: Happy Hour and Appetizers in the Trail Expo (sponsored by Canycom)

Dinner on your own

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GLEN JACOBS

Glen Jacobs, Co-Founder of World Trail, has traveled from Australia to be our keynote speaker. Glen is a legend in the trail industry with myriad accomplishments and iconic trail projects worldwide. Join us to hear his story and be inspired by his passion for the power of trails to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles, build connections, and inspire communities.



THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, AND TRAILS

Chris Perkins, Vice President of Programs with the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), has worked nationwide to support rural communities who are diversifying their economies through outdoor recreation. The culmination of this work is ORR's Rural Economic Development Toolkit which outlines the process, and the benefits of outdoor recreation infrastructure and access, for both new audiences and seasoned experts. Chris will share his findings through this project and his work with ORR, with a specific focus on how trails can support community economic development. Chris will be joined by Jessie Powers, Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia and Mary Charles Howard, Executive Director, Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, Inc. who share their experiences working at the intersection of community development and trails in their regions.





Rebuilding Warner Park with FRP/Timber Hybrid Bridges

Grand Ballroom A

Aaron Steele, Tailored Trails (PTBA Member); Paul Fowler, Warner Parks

In 2022/2023, Tailored Trails partnered with the Friends of Warner Parks and Nashville Metroparks to do a full restoration of all of the hiking and equestrian trails in the historic Olmstead designed park. Included in the project was the replacement of 9 large timber bridges that were failing. The team engaged with Wagners CFT to design a true FRP and timber hybrid bridge to satisfy both the desire for low maintenance substructures, with the look and feel of timber on the upper half.

Mastering the Craft: Stonework for Trails

Grand Ballroom B

Erin Amadon, Town 4 Trail Services, LLC (PTBA Member); Willie Bittner, Great Lakes Trailbuilders (PTBA Member)

Stonework is not for everyone, but for those with patience, attention to detail, a hard work ethic, and a general love for puzzles, stonework can be one of the most rewarding forms of trail work. Explore, through a slide show presentation, the various stone structures which can be used in trail construction. This session will delve into the optimal rock sizes and shapes for constructing various structures, safe methods for transportation, and effective techniques for crafting durable stone features.

USFS Mobile Trail Data Collection and Map Products

Grand Ballroom C

Matt Able, USDA Forest Service

This session is an introduction to the newly released USFS mobile trail data collection tools. This suite of Esri and Survey123 products provides opportunities for partners, volunteers, and the public to contribute to trail inventory and condition data. These tools can also better communicate the trail maintenance and construction needs to contractors and crews. We'll demo the survey tools and show the map products that display the data for planning, communication, and bidding. There will also be an opportunity to express needs and wants for further development of the tools to be most useful.

Trail Math

Conference Room 3

Peter Jensen, Peter S. Jensen & Associates, LLC (PTBA Member)

This session will delve into using various types of calculations and formulas to deal with topics such as determining steps on grades, grade reversals on sustainable trails, carpentry math for boardwalk and bridge construction as well as other interesting situations. This will be an interactive session and participants are encouraged to bring their examples.

Roundtable Discussion: Benefits of Biological Surveying for Trail Placement

Conference Room 1

Jordan Sellers, Blue Ridge Conservancy

This discussion will start with a summary of Blue Ridge Conservancy's experience with planning and constructing the Northern Peaks State Trail (NPST) in NW North Carolina. Like most trails, the NPST goes through environmental review for funding purposes, but unique to the NPST is a biological survey of the entire trail corridor. This allows us to place the trail in a way to limit environmental impact but also to add to our state's Natural Heritage inventory.

Roundtable Discussion: The Australian Trail Industry

Conference Room 2

Glen Jacobs, World Trail; Dylan Jeffries, World Trail; Adrian Marriner, Living Trails Australia; David Willcox, Common Ground Trails; Adrian Main, Synergy Trails Group (All PTBA Member Companies)

Take this unique opportunity to connect in person with PTBA's Australian members to learn about the Australian trail industry including trends, successes and challenges. After a brief introduction to each panelist, this session will be a facilitated Q&A.



Concurrent Session B

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Turning the page on Builder Driven Design: Well planned and design projects yield better results and efficiency during construction

Grand Ballroom A

Jon Schubbe, Rock Solid Trail Contracting (PTBA Member)

The more questions that are answered during planning and design, the more likely it is a project will remain on budget and schedule, especially if multiple crews are assigned to a project. This session will focus on the process and outcomes of planning and design, including a viable concept trail alignment that identifies goals, targeted users, challenges and opportunities, a field established flag line that follows appropriate grades and to identify quantities of feature/armor/crossing locations, and design documents that include GIS maps, standard CAD drawings that can be broadly applied to the project, and detailed CAD drawings that pertain to specific or challenging features/crossings/areas.

Trail Technology Toolbox

Grand Ballroom B

Jon Altschuld, Chinook Landscape Architecture (PTBA Member); Tony Boone, Tony Boone Trails (PTBA Member)

Chinook and Tony Boone Trails have integrated a variety of established and emerging technologies to maximize efficiency and available data on outdoor recreation and trail planning projects. These technologies range from inclinometers and rangefinders, to GPS units, to phone data collection apps, to drone data collection and mapping, to software such as GIS, Adobe products, 3D modeling software, and online sharing platforms. Join this session for an introduction to these tools which will be followed by a Q&A.

Efficient use of helicopters for trail construction

Grand Ballroom C

Adrian Marriner, Living Trails (PTBA Member)

Adrian Marriner will discuss his experiences with using helicopters in trail construction. He has had over 11,000 loads moved by helicopter, working with a team that includes an expert helicopter pilot and a world renowned specialist tree removal expert. Adrian will explain the procedures that they follow: from pre flight planning, pre start safety briefings, sending and receiving loads safely and efficiently. He will also discuss different ways of packing loads, and efficient management of a Heli loading area.

Brand Building For Trail Builders

Conference Room 3

Miles Ramsay, 52Eighty Creative

A dynamic company brand sets you apart from other trail builders and positions you for professional success when answering RFP's for government agencies. In this session, you'll learn how to define your brand's "what", "how", and "why" and utilize this information to add more value to your company and win more bids.

Roundtable: What's Bubbling in Trail Advocacy in Georgia?

Conference Room 1

Mary Charles Howard, Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, Inc; Tracie Sanchez, Georgia Outdoor Recreation Coalition

This session will include an overview and discussion on the growing momentum of the trail advocacy movement in Georgia. What started as a grassroots effort at convening of the trail community in 2014 led to mobilization of the outdoor rec community and identification of the need for state-level support. Enter the Georgia Outdoor Rec Coalition (GORC) which is working to improve the SCORP plan with the Department of Natural Resources (done), create an Office of the Outdoors (in progress) 3) draft a trails master plan (underway); and connect communities to resources.

Field Session: Using a Clinometer

Meet at the entrance to the Trail Expo

Walt Bready, Trails B-Ready LLC

This hands-on field session is first-come first-served with a maximum of 12 participants. In this session you will learn how to use a clinometer to measure grades when laying out a new trail route. You will measure a hillside slope and use flagging tape to mark a trail corridor. We will use the half rule and maximum sustainable grade to avoid a fall line trail. We will discuss flagging best practices for turns and intersections.



Concurrent Session B 4:00 - 5:00 pm



3rd Annual Women in Trailbuilding Gathering Conference Room 2

Dawn Packard, Blue Sky Trails LLC (PTBA President); Erin Amadon, Town 4 Trail Services (PTBA Treasurer)
Calling all women trailbuilders - join this 3rd annual women only conversation! No presentations, just connections. Through informal discussions, PTBA is hoping to identify strategies to support current women trailbuilders and engage more women in our industry.

Tuesday 3/19

Happy Hour in the Trail Expo 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Sponsored by Canycom

Wednesday 3/20

7:30 - 8:45 am: Continental Breakfast in the Trail Expo

8:45 - 9:45 am: Concurrent Session C

9:45 - 10:15 am: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo

10:15 - 11:15 am: Concurrent Session D

11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch at Legacy Pointe (sponsored by Tri-State Company)

1:15 - 2:15 pm: Concurrent Session E

2:30 - 5:30 pm: Dirt Demo (Mini-Excavator Pong sponsored by Bedford Reinforced Plastics)

6:00 - 9:00 pm: Optional Sunset Cruise (tickets required)

Dinner on your own (local restaurants have extended hours for those on the Sunset Cruise)



Concurrent Session C

8:45 - 9:45 am

#*%\$ mtn bikers! Minimizing visitor conflict in shared-use trail systems through speed management

Grand Ballroom A

Chris Kehmeier, C2 Recreation Consulting, LLC; Valerie Naylor, Valerie Naylor Trails Specialist (PTBA Member); Rich Edwards, West Virginia University; Stephen Kasacek, Outdoor Sport Institute

Expanding on the question of “what is a successful trail encounter?”, this session will explore the ways to encourage successful trail encounters that mitigate conflict caused by mtb speed in mixed-use trail systems. These will include tools to implement at the planning, design, and operational levels. Led by trail planners, land managers, and builders, this session is suitable for managers seeking best practices, advocates looking to be stronger allies, and builders wanting to expand their trail operation knowledge.

OREC Stewardship: Building Communities, Infrastructure, and Durable Local Economies

Grand Ballroom B

Greg Mazu, Backslope Tools

This session will underscore the profound impact of outdoor recreation on professionals, community development, and local economies. This session delves into successful case studies, illuminating the multi-faceted benefits of investing in outdoor recreation professionals and infrastructure. We will explore how successful programs and initiatives have effectively elevated the skills and expertise of outdoor recreation professionals, ensuring they remain at the forefront of their field while also spurring local business development, thereby contributing to durable local economies.

Picking the Right Path: A Trails Primer for Land Managers

Grand Ballroom C

Ralph Protano, Forest City Trails, LLC

This presentation equips land managers with insight on navigating the dynamic universe of sustainable trails. Tailored for all experience levels, it will empower individuals to think critically about the unique circumstances of their exact context so that they are best prepared to spend valuable time and money to achieve goals. From foundational principles to advanced strategies, attendees will gain a roadmap for success in the ever-evolving field of professional trailbuilding; helping them to leverage the appropriate resources for the tasks at hand. Come away with a better understanding of exactly who and what you are searching for at this conference!

Lessons learned from going from 7 miles of trail to 100+ miles of trail in 20 years, all driven by volunteers

Conference Room 3

Mike Gehard, President, SORBA Chattanooga

In 2003, Chattanooga had 7 miles of trail open to mountain bikes. In 2023, estimates say there are 150+ miles of trail near downtown Chattanooga open to mountain bikes. This includes the most progressive public bike park in the country at Walden's Ridge Park. Mike Gehard will tell the story of SORBA Chattanooga's journey to get to where they are today and what the trajectory looks like for the future. Attendees will learn from the experience and take away strategies that will help their community to become an amazing mountain biking town, for the benefit of locals and visitors alike.

Roundtable Discussion: Trailblazing Together: Nurturing Trail Building Standards of Excellence

Conference Room 1

Megan Bolinder and Tara Bielecki, NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Engage with industry leaders as we explore the collaborative journey towards trail building standards, a national occupational code, and an innovative apprenticeship model. Learn how NorthWest Arkansas Community College is shaping the future with a cutting-edge curriculum, and equipping aspiring trail builders with skills aligned to meet industry demands. Join us for a vibrant exchange of ideas, experiences, and the forward-thinking initiatives that define the trail building landscape in Northwest Arkansas and beyond.

Roundtable Discussion: Mechanized Equipment Q&A

Conference Room 2

Cam Lockwood, Trails Unlimited; Preston York, FlowMotion Trail Builders LLC

Mechanized trailbuilding has revolutionized the trail industry over the last 25 years. From specialized dozers to mini-excavators to crawler carriers, the advantages of small earthmovers include faster rates of production and the ability to sculpt a more consistent trail tread. Bring your questions about mechanized equipment to this roundtable discussion that will be fueled by attendee questions.





Bridges 101

Grand Ballroom A

Charlie Dundas and John Gibson, Tri-State Company (PTBA Member)

This session will introduce the basic types of trail and pedestrian bridges and includes a discussion of the basic considerations of bridge design, site selection, the "physics of bridge functioning," dead load, live load, and moment of load. The presentation includes photos, drawings, and animations.

Future of Urban MTB: Evolving Tarmac/Paved Pumptrack Design

Grand Ballroom B

Martin Martinec, Alliance ASE GmbH (PTBA Member)

Tarmac/paved pumptracks have emerged as a global phenomenon in urban MTB infrastructure. This session explores their enduring appeal and potential beyond being a mere trend. We'll examine if integrating features like jumps can enhance their versatility and long-term popularity. The presentation delves into the design principles of quality tarmac pumptracks, highlighting key aspects that make them attractive. It also proposes forward-thinking directions for future development, questioning whether these tracks will continue to captivate urban sports enthusiasts or require innovative adaptations to maintain their relevance in the dynamic world of urban sports.

Trail Renovation Due to Extreme Trail

Grand Ballroom C

Peter Jensen, Peter S. Jensen & Associates, LLC (PTBA Member)

This session will present two examples of pedestrian trails in the Northeast where overuse dictated trail redesign parameters and construction specifications. The factors needed to develop a sustainable trail on both new trail construction and existing trail renovation will be discussed.

How to Leverage Technology in Your Trail Business Process

Conference Room 3

Jerome Pelland, Sentiers Boréals (PTBA Member)

This session will cover real-world application of the tools and technology, both in the office and in the field, to optimize your trailbuilding operations. Content is based on our experience in planning and building, and will cover ERP, CRM, Cloud, ELD, dashboard, GIS, e-signature, cost estimation, project management, automation and more.

Roundtable Discussion: Bridging the GAP - Workforce for Trail Construction and Maintenance

Conference Room 1

Jeremy Poore, Coordinator, McDowell Tech Trail School; Greg Mazu, Backslope Tools; Walt Bready, Trails B-Ready; Martha Becton, Becton Trails

In their 2023 book "Mountain Bike Trail Development - Guidelines for Successfully Managing the Process," IMBA puts the number on the cost of annual trail maintenance at 3-10% of total construction cost. Many landowners and land managers fail to plan for this and rely fully upon volunteers who may be hard to find nearby. Without maintenance, trails fall into disrepair. Bike optimized trails with features like jumps and tall berms deteriorate even more quickly. How do we train a professional workforce that can fill this GAP? And, what is the value of professional trail maintainers vs volunteer labor? In this group discussion, speakers will examine the true cost of trail maintenance, the labor gap, the training gap and how to build a new pathway for the Professional Trail Maintainer.

Roundtable Discussion: Designing and Building Equestrian Trail

Conference Room 2

Mike Riter, Trail Design Specialists (PTBA Member), Joanne Mitchell, Back Country Horsemen of East TN

This roundtable discussion will begin with an introduction to sustainable design and construction techniques for equestrian trails. Following this intro, this session will be a facilitated Q&A session where participants are encouraged to bring their questions and to share their successes and challenges to further this important topic in the trail industry.



Concurrent Session E

1:15-2:15 pm

FRP Boardwalk Design

Grand Ballroom A

Cam Lockwood, Trails Unlimited LLC (PTBA Member); Brandon Weyant, Creative Composites Group; Dan Winey, Creative Composites Group

In this session, speakers will discuss all things FRP, what it is and how it works. Our main emphasis will be boardwalk's from the perspective of a private contractor responsible for designing and installing boardwalks and a FRP Boardwalk manufacturer. Speakers will delve into the ins and out's of FRP Boardwalk design as well as how to fit your need for a design that is sustainable and has the potential to last 50 + years plus how to maintain the structure for decades. Bring your questions about FRP boardwalks!

Improving Emergency Response on Trails with GIS and USNG

Grand Ballroom B

Dave Ablashi, Cobb County; Todd Sanders, Cobb Fire

In late 2018, Cobb became the first Georgia county to establish an Emergency Locator Marker (ELM) Program. The mission of the ELM project is to provide trail markers at every quarter mile on Cobb County's Trail System. These trail markers are important for emergency responders, providing U.S. National Grid (USNG) alphanumeric coordinates. When provided in 9-1-1 calls, USNG coordinates quickly direct emergency responders to a location on a trail where a physical address might not exist. As of June 2023, there are over 1,000 ELM signs in Cobb County Trails, including 2 National Parks (Kennesaw Mountain and Chattahoochee River).

UX for Trail Design

Grand Ballroom C

Jerome Pelland, Sentiers Boréals (PTBA Member)

User experience is widely used in technology and product design to assess how users think and feel. Design with empathy engages the context of use, environment, and land manager realities. This way to design may change the overall benefits of the project (assessment, management, training, profits). This session will be an introduction to UX design and its focus on user experience to your next trail project including the concept of UX applied to personas conception, market positioning, outdoor-oriented Business Model Canvas, value-driven proposals, and more.

Complete Networks with Trails: Federal Transportation Funds

Conference Room 3

J. Shane Belcher, Federal Highway Administration SC Division; Aaron Hernandez, Federal Highway Administration GA Division

This presentation will describe how Federal surface transportation funding programs and research help States and communities integrate transportation and recreation infrastructure to develop safe, accessible, equitable, and comfortable complete networks to promote US Department of Transportation goals for safety, economic strength, equity, and climate sustainability. The presentation will focus on significant updates in legislation, policy, and new research, with specific examples from Georgia and South Carolina.

Roundtable Discussion: Strategies and challenges in finding, training, and retaining crews and labor

Conference Room 1

Aaron Rogers and Jon Schubbe, Rock Solid Trail Contracting (PTBA Member)

This session will begin with an introduction to strategies used to recruit, train, and retain crews and labor. Following this intro, this session will be a facilitated Q&A session where participants are encouraged to bring their questions and to share their successes and challenges.

Roundtable Discussion: What do you use for mapping/layout/as-builts?

Conference Room 2

Jeremy Wimpey, Applied Trails Research (PTBA Member); Jon Altschuld, Chinook Landscape Architecture (PTBA Member)

This session will begin with an introduction to what equipment, software, apps, etc that our experts use when planning or laying out a trail and then what they use for as-builts. Following this intro, this session will be a facilitated Q&A session where participants are encouraged to bring their questions and to share their successes and challenges. This session complements the Technology Toolbox session (A) as well as the December PTBA webinar on Trail Planning led by these speakers.





Dirt Demo

2:30 - 5:30 pm

Wednesday 3/20

Come out to the most dynamic Dirt Demo in PTBA history!

- See mechanized equipment in action
- Demo mechanized equipment as well as learn more about their use
- Check out bridges and products brought by Trail Expo vendors
- Participate (or just watch) in Mini Excavator Pong (sponsored by Bedford Reinforced Plastics)
- Ride a mini-bike on a mini-bike track built during a pre-conference workshop
- Network outside with the Trail Expo vendors and other conference attendees!

Location: The Dirt Demo will take place on Lanier Islands, ~1.9 miles from Legacy Lodge (see map, page 2) .

Getting there: A Lanier Islands Trolley will run between Legacy Lodge and the Dirt Demo site during the 3 hour window - but you can also bike or drive yourself.

Facilities: The Dirt Demo is a short walk to Gamechangers which will open so that attendees can use the restrooms

Rain plan: We do not have an alternative Dirt Demo site or day/time if the weather does not cooperate.



Inaugural PTBA Short Track MTB Race

2:30 - 5:30 pm

During and Adjacent to Dirt Demo
\$25 registration fee (tickets required)

What: 1.3 mile loop time trial style bike race

Where: The course is adjacent to the Dirt Demo.

When: Times staggered between 2:30 - 5:30 pm. Races will be run in 30 minute increments.

How to participate: Purchase a ticket for \$25 (online or at registration) and indicate what entry category in the comments field. All are welcome!

Categories: Men & Women - Weekend warrior and Elite. E bike: All riders combined, Class 1 pedal assist only are eligible. Prizes will be awarded to the top finisher in all five groups.

Even if you don't want to ride, come cheer on the racers, or volunteer to be a marshal!!

Wednesday Evening Sunset Cruise

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\$40 ticket (pre-purchase required)

Being out on the water at sunset with fellow conference attendees is truly an experience unique to Lake Lanier. After the Dirt Demo, attendees are invited to join in the Sunset Cruise on the Landshark. There will be a cashless (cc only) bar and appetizers during the sunset cruise. Afterwards, attendees will be dropped off at the Landshark restaurant for a late dinner (on your own).

There are indoor and outdoor spaces on the boat, so even if weather isn't ideal, it will be a fun experience!

Tickets are \$40/person - and you can buy them online. The boat has a maximum capacity of 125 so this fun opportunity is first-come first-served for conference attendees.

Thursday 3/21

8:30 - 9:30 am: Continental Breakfast

9:30 - 10:30 am: Concurrent Session F

10:30 - 11:00 am: Coffee + Snack Break in Grand Ballroom Foyer

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Concurrent Session G

12:00 pm: End of Conference



Concurrent Session F 9:30 - 10:30 am

Bridges 103

Grand Ballroom A

Charlie Dundas and John Gibson, Tri-State Company (PTBA Member)

Speakers will present case studies of the construction of four differing trail bridge designs: cable suspension, glu-lam beam, prefabricated steel, and curvilinear screw-lam bridges. The session will detail the thought behind the selection of the type of bridge, the process, material, and critical path of construction. Also included are displays of the elements of construction control used by Tri-State Company, Inc. [Nikon Total Station EDM, Trimble Recon Construction Computer, and Nikon Auto level as well as older style of transit levels and measuring tools].

Planning New Trails through Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources at Catoctin Mountain Park

Grand Ballroom B

Reid Fellenbaum, RLA, AICP, AECOM; Lauren Tuttle, AECOM; Christine Renée Nestleroth, AECOM

The Catoctin Mountain Park was developed in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration. Today, the 5,760-acre forested park includes remnants of early settlement uses and scenic overlooks, while surrounding the presidential Camp David retreat. Our team of planners, landscape architects and archaeologists digitally identified, mapped, and screened trail routes across narrow ridgetops, stream valleys, and ravines to develop a Comprehensive Trail System Plan for the Park. Sensitive resources, including archeological sites, rare plant ecosystems, and slopes greater than 50 percent. New and relocated trail routes were then “ground-truthed” to confirm their feasibility, ensure avoidance of sensitive resources, and flag alignments for implementation.

Harnessing Community Data for Sustainable Trail Building

Grand Ballroom C

Tom Knights, Strava

Embark on a trailblazing workshop into sustainable trail building by harnessing the collective power of Strava Metro community data. This innovative approach merges technology and community engagement to refine trail development. Strava's Metro is a rich dataset of bike, hike and running data which is used to plan, measure and design the impact of trail. In this session, we unlock unprecedented insights/case studies for sustainable trail building, ensuring harmony with nature and meeting the diverse needs of outdoor enthusiasts. Join us in this transformative journey, where the 120 million+ Strava community becomes a catalyst for shaping the future of responsible and resilient trail networks.

Appalachian Trail: History and Insights on Building and Maintaining the World's First National Scenic Trail

Conference Room 3

Jordan Shenefield, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club

The A.T. is more than the world's first National Scenic Trail. It is the world's longest hiking only trail and...like any trail...is constantly changing. Not just rain, snow, ice and 10,000 hikers in a 4-month period impact the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, the GATC (and trail maintaining clubs all the way to Maine) has to manage overcrowded shelters and not enough tent sites along the Trail. Sharing important information about where the trail starts, ends and the legend and legacy of the Appalachian Trail will be discussed, along with a lively Q&A during and after the presentation.

Concurrent Session F

9:30 - 10:30 am



Roundtable Discussion: What is Flow Trail?

Conference Room 1

Jerome Pelland, Sentiers Boréals (PTBA Member); Preston York, FlowMotion Trailbuilder (PTBA Member); Barry Smith, Barry Smith Trails (PTBA Member); Aaron Rogers, Rock Solid Trail Contracting (PTBA Member)

How do you define a flow trail? Has it become a buzzword that has so many different meanings to different people? Speakers will introduce the topic of flow trail and their definitions, and then all participants will be encouraged to share their experiences, questions, and solutions.

Roundtable Discussion: Designing and Building Trail for E-Bikes

Conference Rooms 2

Tony Boone, Tony Boone Trails (PTBA Member); Jeremy Wimpey, Applied Trails Research (PTBA Member)

This roundtable discussion will begin with an introduction on E-Bikes, technologies, policies, management practices, and trail design and construction strategies. Following this intro, this session will be a facilitated Q&A session where participants are encouraged to bring their questions and to share their successes and challenges.



Concurrent Session G

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Developing Trails, Workforce, and Culture in Rural Maine

Grand Ballroom A

Stephen Kasacek, Outdoor Sport Institute; Michael Smith, Outdoor Sport Institute

Since 2015 OSI and partners have constructed 20+ miles of trail in Katahdin Region communities numbering 4,000 to 200 residents. Developing trails in this rugged rural landscape bordering Maine's most iconic areas include challenging terrain, lack of workforce, lack of public land, and lack of awareness within communities. Learn how OSI is implementing a multi-pronged approach to overcome these challenges and establish a growing trails culture. We'll share the strategies and challenges behind hiring professional contractors, creating a pipeline of education, employing local youth, empowering volunteers, and building the supporting infrastructure like programming and gear to activate new trails.

Incorporating FRP bridges into a larger boardwalk system

Grand Ballroom B

Denis Wagner, Wagners CFT

Wagners CFT recently completed the Dominion Trails Project for the City of Frisco. This Project included 9 pedestrian bridges spanning up to 100' and 300' of boardwalk. The Trail was design to provide access for school children throughout a residential neighborhood. Join this session to learn about this large scale project with huge community impacts.

Trail Insights: Using Count Data for Better Trail Management and User Experiences

Grand Ballroom C

Daniel Legere, Eco-Counter

Surging public interest in natural spaces has brought both opportunities and challenges for trail management, creating demand for comprehensive data collection. This presentation will cover data collection methods tailored for trails - focusing on gathering and analyzing data and highlighting its value in optimizing trail management for a positive user experience - helping organizations streamline maintenance and secure funding. We will present real-world case studies showcasing visitor flows and peak-use hours to highlight how data collection provides a holistic view of total visitation and its impacts, along with actionable insights for trail managers.

Thursday 3/21





Concurrent Session G 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday 3/21

Roundtable Discussion: Trail Surfacing

Conference Room 2

Matt Malone, Nature Trails (PTBA Member); Aaron Steele, Tailored Trails (PTBA Member)

This session will begin with an introduction to different surfacing techniques: gravel, chip seal, paved, etc. The intro will then be followed by a facilitated discussion of the pros and cons of different installation strategies related to myriad techniques. Participants will be encouraged to bring their questions and to share successes and challenges related to trail surfacing.

Roundtable Discussion: Project Logistics: Travel equipment, Rigging, Cranes, and more!

Conference Room 3

Preston York, FlowMotion Trailbuilders (PTBA Member); Dawn Packard, Blue Sky Trails (PTBA Member); Erin Amadon, Town 4 Trail Services LLC (PTBA Member)

This roundtable discussion will begin with an introduction to trail construction project logistics including all types of equipment needed for transportation (types of trucks, trailers, ATV's, UTV's, bikes, etc) as well as rigging and cranes. After the introduction, participants will engage in a conversation on the pros and cons of different transportation equipment with examples of scenarios when certain equipment is better than others. Bring your questions and experiences!



**PTBA North
American Tour
T-shirts for sale!**

**Swag Alert!
Come by the PTBA
table for more info!**

**Trailbuilder Party
Shirt Pre-Order!**



Visit the Trail Expo!



Composites

Tri-State Company,
Incorporated Huntington, WV



SUTTER EQUIPMENT CO.
THE ULTIMATE TRAIL MACHINE



Trails Unlimited LLC



CREATIVE
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NorthWest Arkansas Community College



Tuesday 3/19

- 7:30 - 8:30 am: Registration
- 7:30 - 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast in the Trail Expo
- 9:15 - 9:35 am: Welcome + Opening Remarks
- 9:35 - 10:15 am: Keynote Speaker - Glen Jacobs, World Trail
- 10:15 - 10:30 am: PTBA Lifetime Achievement Award
- 10:30 - 11:00 am: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo
- 11:00 - 11:45 am: Plenary Session: The intersection of community, economy, and trails
- 12:00 - 1:15 pm: Lunch at Legacy Pointe (sponsored by Wagners CFT)
- 1:20 - 2:20 pm: Trail Expo Exclusive
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm: Concurrent Session A
- 3:30 - 4:00 pm: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm: Concurrent Session B
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm: Happy Hour and Appetizers in the Trail Expo (sponsored by Canycom)
- Dinner on your own



Wednesday 3/20

- 7:30 - 8:45 am: Continental Breakfast in the Trail Expo
- 8:45 - 9:45 am: Concurrent Session C
- 9:45 - 10:15 am: Coffee + Snack Break in the Trail Expo
- 10:15 - 11:15 am: Concurrent Session D
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch at Legacy Pointe (sponsored by Tri-State Company)
- 1:15 - 2:15 pm: Concurrent Session E
- 2:30 - 5:30 pm: Dirt Demo (Mini-Excavator Pong sponsored by Bedford Reinforced Plastics)
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm: Optional Sunset Cruise (tickets required)
- Dinner on your own (local restaurants have extended hours for those on the Sunset Cruise)



Thursday 3/21

- 8:30 - 9:30 am: Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 - 10:30 am: Concurrent Session F
- 10:30 - 11:00 am: Coffee + Snack Break in Grand Ballroom Foyer
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Concurrent Session G
- 12:00 pm: End of Conference

Join PTBA and American Trails for the
2025 International Trails Summit
in Madison, WI , April 14-17, 2025!

