

Celebrating 35 years along the Foothills Trail

Annual Meeting Issue  
Oct/Nov 2009

# Footnotes

## **Annual Meeting 2009**

Plans are underway for the 2009 Foothills Trail Conference Annual Meeting. This year we will be celebrating our 35th Anniversary as a conference. The location of this year's event is Table Rock State Park. We have a fun weekend planned with several hikes, guest speakers and great food. In this issue of Footnotes you will find your registration packet. Please fill out your registration form and send it in by October 20, 2009.

This year's meeting will feature talks by geologist and Foothills Trail Conference member, Cathy Reas Foster, and naturalist, Patrick McMillan star of ETV's Expeditions. On Friday evening, Ms. Foster will be talking to us about Outcrop Ecology and the Nine Times area. Patrick McMillan will be speaking to us on Saturday evening about his many experiences and travels.

We have a total of thirteen hikes planned for the weekend. Including a Fabulous Friday Foray with Heyward Douglass, Foothills Trail Conference board member, on a strenuous hike of about 7.2 miles (out and back) to the top of Table Rock Mountain, and a trek with Richard Cain of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources on the trail at Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve. Catered meals will be provided to registrants on Saturday morning and Saturday evening. Also, don't forget our annual photo competition where amateur photographers will have the opportunity to showcase their talent and show their Foothills Trail experiences captured on film.

**See the enclosed packet for more information and to register.**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



*Recent Sequential Hike Series Participants, August 2009*

**Continuing your membership in the Foothills Trail Conference**, counts you among a distinguished group of people dedicated to protecting and maintaining the Foothills Trail. Every dollar we raise goes to support the FTC and the maintenance of the trail.

**Please complete your membership renewal so you can continue receiving:**

- *Footnotes*, focusing on the outings, maintenance efforts, and celebration of our members, volunteers, hikers and those who visit the Foothills Trail.
- Discounts at the Foothills Trail Conference Store at [www.foothillstrail.org](http://www.foothillstrail.org)
- Eligibility to vote at our Annual Meeting of members.
- Access to our planned outings throughout the year, including our Annual Meeting weekend and our Spring Picnic.

**Please mail your renewal to us by October 31.**

FTC, PO Box 3041, Greenville SC 29602.

## PEOPLE CAN LEARN TO CO-EXIST WITH BLACK BEARS

Many new homes are built in occupied bear range each year, according to state natural resources officials. Despite people moving into bear territory, bears have increased in numbers and range over the last 10 years, and as a result, bears and people are coming into contact with each other more frequently than before.

"Many people in South Carolina want to see bears continue to thrive in the state," said Richard Morton, a wildlife biologist with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) based in Clemson. "Therefore, the challenge is to learn how problems with bears can be avoided."

A homeowner's guide to living with bears has been published by DNR, offering handy tips for peacefully co-existing with these fascinating mammals. Authored by Deanna Ruth, a DNR wildlife biologist based at Samworth Wildlife Center in Georgetown County, "A Homeowner's Guide: Living with Bears" offers common-sense rules to homeowners that will help them avoid unpleasant encounters with *Ursus americanus*, the black bear. The bear brochure also details some interesting natural history information on this often-feared and frequently misunderstood wildlife species.

To obtain a copy of the homeowner's guide to living with bears brochure, visit the DNR office at 311 Natural Resources Drive in Clemson or call the Clemson office at (864) 654-1671. The brochure is also available on the DNR Web site at [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/bear](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/bear).

From the homeowner's guide, some common black bear behavior to remember:

- \* When a bear stands on its hind legs, it is trying to get a better view. It is not trying to be threatening.
- \* A bear may huff, snap its jaws and swat the ground. This behavior means the bear is uncomfortable and you are too close. Slowly back away. Do not run.
- \* Black bears will sometimes "bluff charge" when they are cornered, feel threatened, or when they are attempting to steal food. Stand your ground and then slowly back away.





\* Contrary to popular belief, female black bears typically do not aggressively defend cubs against humans.

\* Black bears are not generally aggressive, even when confronted by humans. However, they are large, powerful, wild animals that need to be respected. No one has been injured by a black bear in South Carolina in recorded history, and only two deaths to humans

have been attributed to bears in the Southeast during the last 100 years.

People often feed bears indirectly by leaving trash, pet food, and other enticing items in places easily accessible to bear. Simply observing a bear walking through a yard is not cause for alarm and should be viewed as a positive experience. Make sure all garbage is stored inside and do not provoke or feed the bear. Alert others in the area and request that everyone follow the same procedures.

Black bears once roamed the entire state of South Carolina and most of North America. Due to a number of factors, resident bear populations are found only in the mountains and upper coastal counties of South Carolina.

"Black bears are an important part of South Carolina's natural heritage," Morton said. "As people move into bear country in increasing numbers, it is ultimately human attitudes toward bears that will determine whether bears will continue to exist in the state. Unfortunately, bears are viewed either as dangerous animals or cuddly pets. It is best to avoid these extreme views and instead show a healthy respect for this magnificent forest animal. The DNR has provided some simple, common sense steps you can take to do your part in ensuring that bears and people can live together. As a temporary or permanent resident in bear country, take these steps to avoid attracting bears and to prevent conflicts from occurring. Remember, prevention is the best medicine!"

---

## FOOTHILLS ON FACEBOOK

Become a fan of the Foothills Trail Conference on Facebook. Share photos and insight with other fans and members.

## TRAIL SIGNAGE PROJECT

Thank you to Duke Energy and Johnson Controls for generous donations to the Foothills Trail Conference sign project.

Funding for the sign project is still needed. In addition to purchasing the signs the FTC will be responsible for the installation. Sign posts, lumber and hardware will need to be purchased to complete the project. FTC Board Member, Bill Baskin, challenged board members to match his \$100 donation to the project. Can you help? Simply enclose your donation (any amount is appreciated) with your membership renewal or annual meeting registration. If you are interested in volunteering to work with the sign crew, please e-mail us at [info@foothillstrail.org](mailto:info@foothillstrail.org) or call (864) 467-9537.



Robert Stephenson, FTC and Steadman Sugg, Duke Energy



Robert Stephenson, FTC accepts a check from Johnson Controls

## DEER HUNTING SEASON IN THE UPSTATE

Just a reminder to Upstate hikers that deer hunting season is fast approaching in South Carolina. Hunting is permitted in most areas surrounding the Foothills Trail. You should consult appropriate state and federal agencies for information and details. Safety vests or other brightly colored clothing is recommended during hunting season.

Game Zone 1 – Northern Oconee, Northern Pickens and Northern Greenville County

Archery & Muzzleloaders: Oct. 1 - Oct. 10

Gun Hunts: Oct. 11 - 16, Oct. 31. - Jan. 1

Game Zone 2 – Southern Oconee, Southern Pickens and Southern Greenville and Spartanburg County

Archery: Sept. 15 – 30

Muzzleloaders: Oct. 1 - 10

Gun Hunts: Oct. 11 - Jan. 1

For more information, and to learn about hunting seasons for other animals please visit:

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/hunting/season.html>

State Wildlife Agencies

SC Department of Natural Resources

(864) 654-1671, <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/>

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

(919) 707-0010, <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>



## ANNOUNCING THE FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONFERENCE BULLETIN BOARD!

Do you have hiking or backpacking items to sell or trade? An event you think might interest other FTC members? Looking for a hiking partner? Submit your classified ad to [info@foothillstrail.org](mailto:info@foothillstrail.org) for our next newsletter.

**Don't Forget – Annual Meeting Registration is due October 20, 2009**

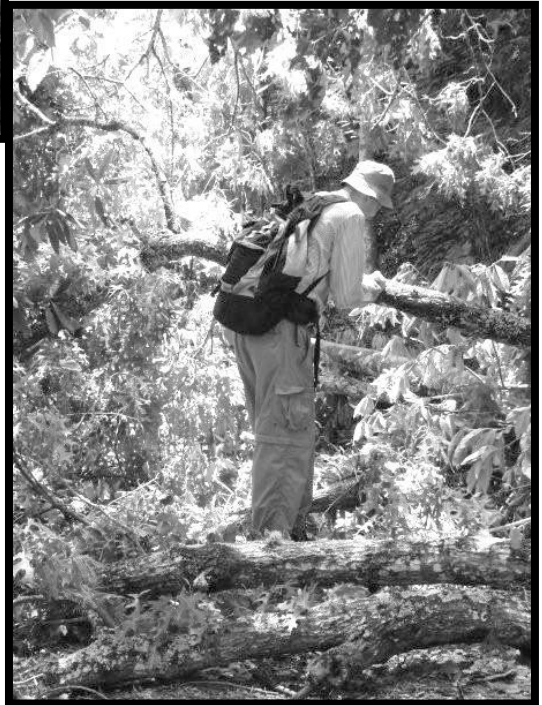
**Annual Membership Renewal is due by November 7, 2009**



Diane Creaton

**Photos from  
The FTC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sequential Hike Series.**

Photo credit: FTC Member, Julie Price



John Ray

Foothills Trail Conference  
PO Box 3041  
Greenville, SC 29602

## Board of Directors

R. Glenn Hilliard, Chair Emeritus

Robert Stephenson, Chair

Bill Baskin

Greg Borgen

Thomas Brown, Treasurer

Bruce Cannon

Mike Despeaux

Heyward Douglass

John Garton, Emeritus

Jack Hudish

Jan Jackson

Greg Lucas

Steve Pagano

John Park

Chip Simmons

Mike Stafford, Emeritus

Scott Stegenga

Les Storm

Maija Hurst, Executive Secretary

Foothills Trail Conference

PO Box 3041

Greenville, SC 29602

info@foothillstrail.org

864.467.9537

Please visit us online at: