

Appalachian Trail Museum is Opening on National Trails Day

Rosie Suit

Hold your calendar for June 5th....the Appalachian Trail Museum is opening on National Trails Day....a dream becoming reality. Please plan to join in the historic events of that day.

In the past year the AT Museum Society has leased the use of the historic, 200 year old stone grist mill at Pine Grove Furnace State Park (a two hour drive from Baltimore) to serve as site/housing for the plans in progress for preserving the history, and "the essence of the physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual human experience of the Appalachian environment and the culture of hiking."

Larry Luxenberg, author of *Walking the Appalachian Trail* and president and founder of the AT Museum Society, was the recipient of the ATC Honorary Membership Award last July in Vermont. He has led the ATMS through the opening museum exhibit in Harpers Ferry in 2007, and in the last year the recovery of the last shelter in use built by Earl Shaffer, the first AT thru-hiker. An MCM member was there and helped in the task. The shelter will be reconstructed and become the center piece of the museum.

Years of thru-hikers who have had their picture taken at the Harpers Ferry, WV offices as they passed through will have their pictures and trail names available on a computer search basis. MCM members helped in the program task of digitizing those photos for viewing. Current thru-hikers will have a special section of the museum with access to the internet, and visitors to the digitized pictures of past thru-hikers.

Currently, docents (museum greeters) are being recruited, and several MCM members have already stepped up with special interest. Further meetings for those interested in the docent program will be posted on the mcom listserv. MCM has been a part of this process all along the way.... and has many parts yet to play. Keep your eyes open for further information and postings. You'll want to be a part of this special day for the AT.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.atmuseum.org/>



Site of Appalachian Trail Museum



Earl Shaffer Shelter



Larry Luxenberg, GA-ME '08, author of Walking the Appalachian Trail, founder and president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society, received the ATC 2009 Honorary Membership Award for "an individual who has made a distinguished contribution to the Appalachian Trail project."