

## Travel briefs: May 30

### **Appalachian Trail Museum to open June 5**

GARDNERS, PA - Hikers from throughout the United States will gather at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in south central Pennsylvania Saturday, June 5, for the opening of the Appalachian Trail Museum.

Admission to the museum is free, and inside exhibits will honor those who laid out and first hiked the 2,179-mile trail that connects 14 states from Maine to Georgia.

Exhibits at the museum will tell the stories of the founding, construction, preservation, maintenance, protection and enjoyment of the trail since its inception in the 1920s. The museum will portray not only the history of the trail but also the essence of the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual human experience of the Appalachian environment and the culture of hiking.

Among the trail pioneers honored with exhibits are Benton MacKaye who is credited with conceptualizing the Appalachian Trail, and Myron Avery who is credited with spearheading construction of the trail that was completed in 1937.

Thru-hikers who are featured are Gene Espy who, in 1951, became the second person to thru-hike the trail; Grandma Gatewood, who, in 1955 at the age of 67, became the first solo woman thru-hiker and later became the first person to hike the trail more than once; and Ed Garvey of Falls Church, Va., who popularized long distance backpacking in the 1970s.

Thousands of pictures of Appalachian Trail hikers will be on display. Visitors also will be able to meet thru-hikers who will stop at the museum to register, record their progress, make notes and leave messages.

Restoration work on the 200-year-old gristmill that houses the museum was done largely by volunteers.

More information is available at the museum's website, [www.atmuseum.org](http://www.atmuseum.org) and [info@atmuseum.org](mailto:info@atmuseum.org).