

Please see the note below from Pam Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails. I saw her last month at a meeting in Los Angeles. There, I promised her that I would take a look at our national trails and try to come up with 4-5 that would make good features for the Corps in the book she mentions below. I checked our data bases and found that we had very little information on these trails. Pam graciously gave us some more time and steered me to the data base managed by American Trails that has a full listing of all Corps trails with the National Trails designation. I was amazed at the number of trails listed for the Corps (47) and I was very disappointed in the level of detail we have provided to American Trails for them. I took a shot in the dark and recommended 5 trails to Pam based on the information provided in her data base just so the Corps could have a presence in the new book. Here are the ones I have recommended to her:

Bridge Rock - Lake Dardanelle, Arkansas
Chief Illini - Lake Shelbyville, Illinois
Clearwater and Snake - Lower Granite L&D, Washington
Perry Lake Trail - Perry Lake, Kansas
Ouachita Geo-Float Trail, Lake Ouachita, Arkansas

Pam went on to say: "George, many of your trails haven't been updated since they were first nominated MANY years ago (see date on right side of screen for each trail). It is the managing agency's responsibility to provide the updated information through the NPS. There is an update form that can be downloaded from the NRT homepage. We would love to have good data on these trails. Right away the NRT managers would start receiving NRT NEWS, a newsletter specifically for them. And there are other benefits as well. For instance, we would have contacted the managers by email directly about the NRT book opportunity - as well as you. We would have told them about the NRT photo contest."

Please take advantage of this opportunity to go to the American Trails web site at the following address and look at the information there on any Corps trails within your area of responsibility. Pam gives directions above on how to make updates.

Here is the link along with the directions on how to get to the trail list.

<http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails>

click on: "NRT online database" in the first main paragraph

click on: "Find trails" on the left side of the screen

Scroll to the bottom of the page to "Managing Agency" Fill in "Army Corps", Click "Find". The first 25 trails will come up. At the bottom of the page, click on "Next page" to see the remaining 22 trails. Click on the name of the trail to see more information on each trail.

Thanks!

George E. Tabb, Jr.
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-----Original Message-----

From: Pam Gluck [mailto:Pam_Gluck@AmericanTrails.org]

Sent: Friday, December 05, 2003 8:16 PM

To: George. E. Tabb@Usace. Army. Mil

Subject: A New Opportunity for National Recreation Trails

Hi George! It was great seeing you in LA last month!

Please be thinking of which Army Corp trails you think should appear in the book. I was able to get some extra time. I'll need to have your list by the 15th. I would say a list of your five best would be great. Think variety.

Thanks for your help!

Pam

Dear Friend of National Recreation Trails,

We have a great opportunity before us. Kai Huschke and Charles Gurche want to produce a book about National Recreation Trails! Kai will be the author and Charles the photographer. Here is their vision for the book:

Trailing America: Our National Recreation Trails

In 1968 the National Trails System Act was enacted to preserve and maintain access to our nation's unique natural and historic places. The largest portion of the system, National Recreation Trails, began with only a few trails. Now, in its 35th year, the program manages almost 900 trails traversing over 9,000 miles in all 50 states. National Recreation Trails are not linked together physically, but through history, the land, and the people of today. From wilderness to cities to rural outposts to national parks, the National Recreation Trail program is an amazing national resource.

*Photographer Charles Gurche, and author Kai Huschke, will highlight the National Recreation Trails program through the voices of 75 of the trails in *Trailing America: Our National Recreation Trails*. The large format book will contain 150-175 photographs and 30,000 words. Individual and collective stories, journals, and personal essays illuminate the varied dimensions and natural splendor of each trail. The appendices will provide contact information, trail map suggestions, and additional reference material to help inform and guide readers to these various trails across the nation, as well as a list of all NRT trails and their locations.*

Trailing America: Our National Recreation Trails is the reflection of a federal coordinated program with an incredibly diverse collection of trails, and an equally diverse amount of uses. Traveling the Maah Daah Hey Trail across the rugged badlands and rolling prairie of North Dakota on horseback evokes Teddy Roosevelt's love of the land. Paddling a route through a mangrove forest on the edge of the Everglades, strolling through Central Park in early fall, or hiking a trail into a summer meadow of wildflowers on Mount Rainier, are all National Recreational Trail experiences. Their scenic beauty as well as geologic and historical significances deserve our appreciation and protection.

Whether prominent or obscure, National Recreation Trails are given an exclusive forum for the first time in Trailing America: Our National Recreation Trails.

All trails will be included in a listing in the book.

Kai and Charles just co-produced Washington's Wilderness Areas: The Complete Guide (Westcliffe Publishers) - a beautifully written book with the most amazing photographs. You glean Muir-like insights into these special places through Kai's writings and glimpse the essence of them through Charles' lens. This book makes you want to "run" to visit these Wilderness areas, and if not that, to greatly appreciate that they are protected.

Here are their short bios:

Kai Huschke

Kai Huschke has made the Northwest his home for the last 15 years. He has backcountry skied, backpacked, hiked, mountaineered, and rock-climbed in the mountains of British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Kai's love of adventure has taken him on a 1,400-mile, solo bicycle trip across the northern United States. He also has worked in the Bering Sea as a commercial crab fisherman and in Montana as a lookout and wildland firefighter. Kai earned an MFA in creative writing from Eastern Washington University. He went through five pairs of shoes to complete Washington's Wilderness Areas. He currently lives in Idaho.

Charles Gurche

Charles Gurche is one of the country's foremost nature photographers. His large-format (4x5) images have appeared in such magazines as Audubon, National Geographic, and Smithsonian and in National Park Service publications. He has received awards from the Roger Tary Peterson Institute of Natural History, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Nature's Best International Photography Awards. As sole photographer, Gurche has completed 70 calendars and 10 books. He lives in Spokane.

I don't think we could have found (they found us) two better people to "tell the stories" of our important and dear National Recreation Trails. I feel like we have been given a gift of the two of them.

And, we need your help!

Kai and Charles have asked us (American Trails (as the manager of the National Recreation Trails website and online database) and the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service (as the two designating agencies)) to help them select the 75 trails for the book, since we know them best. How do we choose 75 out of almost 900 trails across the country? We need your help!

Please submit a not-to-exceed one page commentary (or as short as a paragraph) on why your trail or a trail you recommend should be included in the book. It should contain what is unique about your trail and could be from a historic, cultural, geographic, geologic, spiritual, physical, health, social, or other perspective. How does it serve your community? Please include how it is being used and loved today. You can touch on any "stories" that Kai could tell.

Please also tell us if you are willing to provide someone to work with them on the history and interpretation. Our recommendations will not be limited to the trails on which we receive comments, but we want to give you the opportunity to provide us with insights into your trail as we put forward our recommendations.

The ultimate decision as to which trails will appear in the book will lie with Kai and Charles and their publisher, but they definitely want our informed input.

Please provide me with your one page recommendation **electronically in WORD format by December 15th**. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at either 530-547-2060 or pam@americantrails.org <<mailto:pam@americantrails.org>>.

Best regards,

Pam

P.S. Please visit the National Recreation Trails online database: <http://www.americantrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails> to learn of NRTs in your State or to make sure data on a trail you manage is current and correct. Our goal is to provide the most up-to-date information. On the website, there is a form for providing updates. Please fill out the form and submit it if you have new information on a trail you manage.

Pam Gluck, Executive Director

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Plan now to attend the 17th National Trails Symposium scheduled for October 21-24, 2004 in Austin, Texas! Visit the American Trails Website periodically for the most up-to-date information: www.americantrails.org.