

2007 Speaker Biographies (Alphabetical Order)

Carol Grace Anderson, Keynote speaker

To say Carol has a colorful background is a huge understatement! She lived in a tiny 18-foot trailer as a child. . . surrounded by circus performers. She spent many summers teaching inner-city kids to horseback ride at a camp with 65 horses. After flunking out of three colleges, she was determined enough to earn a Master's degree from New York University. She taught Psychology in a New York prison for five years, but then moved to Nashville, TN to pursue her passion for music. When she got to Music City, she quickly started performing with a who's who of entertainers. . . Willie Nelson, Roy Clark, Jimmy Buffett, Johnny Cash, Mickey Dolenz of the Monkees, and many others. Carol is the author of the Best Selling book Get Fired Up Without Burning Out and has contributed to the Chicken Soup For The Soul series.

Ian Barlow, Wilderness Ranger, USDA Forest Service, Idaho

Ian Barlow worked in the Western Canadian National Parks as a horseshoer and packer for several outfitters during the 1970's. He moved to Idaho in 1979 and began a career for the US Forest Service as a packer and farrier in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness as part of the last Ranger District that had no road access. He has had incredible teachers with broad experience in skyline logging and bridge building. Over the past ten years he and others have adapted these skills to trails and restoration work in Wilderness and backcountry areas. His belief is that successful access work in remote areas requires the rebuilding of traditional problem solving and tool skills for work on the land: inclusive with the forging of strong and lasting partnerships while incorporating innovative solutions for increased use on changing landscapes.

Jerry Barrow, Cherokee National Forest, Civil Engineer "Bridges"

Bridges connect Point A to Point B. Sounds simple. Jerry is quite aware of all the issues involved in trail building. Water flow, flood plains, type of construction material, and suitability of tread surface, lengths, spans, and abutments- he is extremely knowledgeable. After attending SETC 2006 in Virginia, he enjoyed some biking on Virginia trails.

Steve Biatowas, Trail Maintenance and Volunteer Coordinator, Hiwassee District, Cherokee National Forest

Steve has been with Cherokee National Forest for over twenty years in the Maintenance division. He also works with hikers, bikers and horseback riders in various volunteer efforts in his district. In his younger days, he rode a horse from Connecticut to California, wintering in Knoxville. Steve attended SETC 2005 at High Point, NC.

Brian Bourne – Master of Ceremonies

As a self-confessed "trailoholic", whether as an equestrian, backpacker, mountain biker, trail runner, volunteer, crew leader, or whatever, Brian spends most of his time on trails. He has thru-hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, and served as a founding member of the Southeast Endurance Riders Association as well as the War Eagle Trail Association. He co-managed the War Eagle Endurance Ride for 10 years, and accumulated nearly 4000 hours of volunteer trails service for the US Forest Service, culminating in his being presented with an Individual Volunteer Service Award for trail work by the Chief of the Forest Service. That passion led to Brian's employment with the US Forest Service, and currently he serves as the Trails Specialist for the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois where he is in charge of the creation of a designated trail system involving the construction of 165 miles of new trail involving wilderness and non-wilderness areas. Brian and his trail crew were presented with the Region 9 "Wilderness Skills Award" in 2006 for their work in the construction of trails in the Lusk Creek Wilderness. Brian resides in the major metropolitan area of Buncombe IL with his wife Candace, 2 mutt dogs, 2 mutt cats, 2 Arabian horses, and more moles than they can count.

Bonnie Davis-Consulting Editor Trail Rider Magazine

An avid trail rider and horsecamper for over 40 years, Bonnie Davis has presented workshops, lectures and presentations on maintaining, preserving and developing trails, horsecamps and trail riding. Her trail and horsecamping columns, articles and stories have appeared in local, national and worldwide publications. She maintains that "recreational trail riders are the backbone of the horse industry yet we are the most overlooked within the industry itself!" Her "Saving Trails" presentation provides information on forming groups, figuring the trail riders' economic value and other facts to keep trails open.

Christopher B Douwes, Trails and Enhancements Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Christopher Douwes is the Trails and Enhancements Program Manager for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in Washington DC. He has managed the Recreational Trails Program since its inception in 1992 and the Transportation Enhancement activities since 2003. He represented the USDOT/FHWA on the Access Board's Outdoor Developed Areas committee. He manages contracts for research, technology development, technical assistance, and training for trail-related activities, and participates on the National Trails Training Partnership. Christopher received his Master's of Science in Transportation from Northwestern University in 1990.

Sue Duncan, Volunteer Coordinator at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

Sue has worked at Big South Fork NRRRA since 1991 performing such duties as park ranger with interpretation, editing the park newspaper, presenting educational programs and special event planning. She and her park ranger husband, Howard have a small farm with four trail horses, two angora goats, sixty angora rabbits, eleven dogs and undetermined number of cats and chickens. She rides sidesaddle and is an instructor of the International Side Saddle Organization. She raises the rabbits for wool production and to show. She is often seen at Historic Rugby, Tennessee hand-spinning angora yarn right from the rabbit.

Jim Edwards, South Carolina Horse Council

Jim will be the leader of the pack for SETC 2008 in Charleston, SC.

Marianne Fowler, Rails to Trails Conservancy

The Rails to Trails Conservancy is a non-profit organization working with communities to preserve and transform unused trail corridors into linear parks that enhance the health of America's environment, economy, neighborhoods and people.

David Gaffin, Senior Forecaster - National Weather Service, Morristown, TN-Lightening

David Gaffin is a Senior Forecaster with the National Weather Service office in Morristown, TN. The Morristown NWS office is responsible for issuing public, aviation, fire, and river forecasts, as well as severe weather watches and warnings, for all of east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and extreme southwest North Carolina. In addition to his forecast and warning duties, David has written many research articles about southern Appalachian weather and unusual weather phenomena. David enjoys hiking, camping, and being outdoors, and has managed to avoid being struck by lightning.

Kandise D. (Kandee) Haertel or Carolyn Orr, Former Executive Director, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (or Jim Wood)

Kandee has extensive experience in equestrian land conservation that makes her well suited to working with both the conservation and equestrian worlds in promoting ELCR's mission. Her background includes working with Greenways and Trails, Rails to Trails, Illinois Horsemen's Council, American Endurance Ride Conference Trails Committee, American Trails National Trails Symposium and the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference. Kandee is a life-long horse enthusiast who returned to riding in mid-life. Since that return, she has enjoyed trail riding, distance racing, and horse camping.

Anthony Khiel, Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS

Anthony Khiel is a soil scientist for the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service. As a soil scientist he is knowledgeable in soil stabilization and sustainability. He is the current Soil Survey Project Leader for the Great Smokey Mountains National Park resource inventory. He serves as local liaison between the USDA-NRCS and the National Park Service. His personal interests include hiking off-road and on-road motorcycling, woodworking, and being involved as a Boy Scout Leader for my son's Boy Scout Troop (Troop 77, Dandridge, TN)

Debbie Lashley, Wilderness First Aid

Debbie is a long time endurance rider and has carried the first aid kit on numerous NATRC rides. Her professional life at the Anderson County Health Council's Life Development Center started in 1993. She teaches outdoor skills such as canoeing, rappelling, climbing, mountain biking, hiking, overnight camping concentrating on youth. She has a creative approach in dealing with the unexpected

Kevin McColaugh, American Horse Council, Washington, D.C.

Kevin McColaugh is the director of legislation and recreation for the American Horse Council. The AHC represents the horse industry in Washington, DC before Congress and the federal regulatory agencies. The Washington-based organization includes over 150 equine organizations representing every segment of the horse industry. AHC membership includes individual horse owners, breeders, veterinarians, trainers, farriers, jockeys, drivers, recreational riders, racetracks, horse shows and other stakeholders and participants in the horse industry.

Angie McGhee, Writer for Trail Blazer Magazine

Angie McGhee is a devoted Enduranceaholic who resides near Chattanooga, Tennessee along with her husband, Bill their daughters Bonnie and Josie, her long-time mount Kaboot and various other horses, dogs and cats. Angie discovered Endurance Riding in 1987 and has over 4500 miles of endurance competition. When not riding, her hobby is teaching high school art. She has her first book in publication "The Lighter Side of Endurance Riding." Bring your copy and have her autograph it for you.

Deborah (Deb) Miller- Roane State Community College Grant Writer

Deborah (Deb) U. Miller is Grant Coordinator at Roane State Community College and recently opened their Grant Development Office. In her professional endeavors and through support of local non-profit organizations, Deb has successfully written and obtained federal and foundation based grants. Deb has over 10 years of project management and outcome based performance management experience. Additionally, she has 15 years experience with the Mead Corporation and Lexis/Nexis in business management and developing business cases for projects ranging from \$10K to \$25M. Deb is a graduate of Kent State University, certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator and Workforce Development Professional. She regularly attends professional development classes at the University of Tennessee and through professional organizations to enhance her grant writing skills.

George Minnigh, Backcountry Specialist for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Park Ranger George Minnigh has been a park ranger for thirty years currently he coordinates backcountry management for Great Smoky Mountains National Park where he has worked as a ranger for 23 years. Prior to his current assignment George was the supervisory park ranger for the Cataloochee, Big Creek, Cosby and Greenbrier areas of the Smokies. He enjoys working with the many park partners that assist in care of the park. Among those partners are the Backcountry Horsemen of North Carolina and of East Tennessee, the Smoky Mountain Trail Riders, the Blue Ridge Trail Riders and the Haywood County Trail Riders.

Rick Potts, Chief of the Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Management Division, National Park Service

Rick Potts currently serves as Chief of the Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Management Division of the National Park Service, in Washington, DC. He holds a BS in Animal Science and a MS in Animal Nutrition/Wildlife Management, and has more than 30 years experience in land and natural resources management. His career spans a wide geographic area including the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania and Virginia, Alaska, Hawaii, and western Montana, where he and his wife Meridith have held on to their small ranch in the Bitterroot Valley near Missoula. A veteran horseman and farrier, Rick and Meridith have enjoyed many fine hours, and a few moments of intense concern, in the saddle pulling their string of pack mules along wilderness trails. They now reside about 60 miles west of Washington, so that they can be with the 8 horses and mules they hauled with them from Montana

Mike Riter , Trail Design Specialists

Mike Riter has been involved with trails since his early years as a boy scout. Throughout his adult life Mike has been determined to give something back to the great outdoors, a place that has given him many hours of peace and recreation. Starting in 1997, with assistance from the International Mountain Bike Association, he developed a trails education program (Trail Care Crew) to travel all over the US and foreign countries to help solve common trail problems such as erosion, user conflict and overuse. During the first year on the road, he realized different soil types had a direct affect on impacts and erosion. Listening carefully to knowledgeable locals, he soon started to gather the clues that would give him answers in the quest for, "a better way" of trail design. In 2004, Mike was also hired as Georgia's Trails Education Specialist through a Recreational Trails Program grant that was written by the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association. This

position has allowed him to continue educating (and learning from) others so they too can start to see "a better way". He has now a private trail contractor..

Steve Saunders, Asst Chief of Operations, GA State Parks and Historic Sites

Morgan Sommerville, Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)

Morgan has been an ATC employee for nearly 25 years and an AT enthusiast for more than 35 years. As a former NPS employee he used to patrol the Smokies on horseback. He has looked after horses and his wife owns a pasture ornament. He loves all types of non-motorized recreation, including hiking, backpacking, mountainbike riding and canoeing. Though most of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is open only to hiking, we are quite pleased with the partnership we have developed with riders to jointly manage and maintain the ~70 non-contiguous miles of the A.T. open to horse use in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

S. David Todd, State Forest System Program Manager, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry.

S. David Todd is the State Forest System Program Manager for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry since 2001. He has oversight for all aspects of the Tennessee's State Forest System. The State Forest System consists of 15 individual State Forests comprising over 165,000 acres and over 600 miles of roads and trails maintained by the Division. He is responsible for the management of the forest resources including demonstrations of road and trail best management practices for watershed protection. He also represents the Department of Agriculture on the State Land Acquisition Committee and the Tennessee Conservation Heritage Trust Foundation Board. David received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Forest Management from the University of Tennessee in 1976 and 1982.

Wayne Tolbert, North American Trail Ride Conference---Bees

While Honey bees are one of nature's best pollinators, their cousins (yellow jackets and bald-faced hornets) can be a serious threat to trail riders. Wayne Tolbert, an ecologist specializing in insect and arachnid (spider) behavior, has over 6,000 miles in North American Trail Ride Conference competition. He has run into bees before and has several suggestions for safely avoiding injury to you and your horse when the inevitable encounters occur.

Gene Wood

Dr. Gene Wood coordinated the First National Symposium on Horse Trails in Forest Ecosystems in 1998, and the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conferences 2000, 2001, and 2002. He has been invited to speak on trail conservation topics in California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming. Gene has written a book "Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas". He has been a private consultant on trail construction for the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance of Memphis, Tennessee and Orange County Parks, Orange County, New York, and the proposed horse trail for Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Millington, Tennessee. He is a life-long conservationist, and strives to raise equestrians' awareness of the ecosystems in which they ride. He urges trail riders to seek a harmony between themselves, their horses, and the land. He has recently retired as a professor from Clemson University.

East Fork Stables, probably Phil Hobson, Owner

Circle E Guest Ranch, probably Ray Evans, Owner