



Trail News: From the NC Mountains to the Sea

It's October. Get Out and Hike!

Have you decided how you're going to celebrate Mountains-to-Sea Trail month this October? We've organized more than **60 events** - dayhikes, backpacks, paddles, slideshow presentations and more - to help you explore the trail - where it's complete and where it's planned to go in the future.

Send your photos and notes about your experience on the trail. We'd love to highlight them in the next newsletter and on the website. Send them to Executive Director [Kate Dixon](#)

Have you bought your raffle ticket yet? As part of Mountains-to-Sea Trail month, FMST is selling raffle tickets to raise money for the trail. Great prizes include a Yakima Sky Box (luggage carrier) and ten \$300 gift cards to Great Outdoor Provision Co. You can buy your tickets at any [Great Outdoor Provision Co. store](#) or at [Johnson Subaru](#) in Cary . \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for five.

In the News The Raleigh News & Observer ran the last article in its four-part summer series in September and then devoted its opinion page the next Sunday to the question of "What is needed to complete the Mountains-to-Sea Trail?" You can [read all the articles](#) and view the stunning photographs and audio slideshows on the N&O's website.

Many other papers have also written about Mountains-to-Sea Trail month in October including the [Asheville Citizen-Times](#) , Greensboro News & Record, [New Bern Sun Journal](#), Wilkes Journal-Patriot, Ashe Mountain Times, National Public Radio, and Our State and Endurance magazines.

Council of State votes to buy land for MST in Johnston County. At their October 7 meeting, North Carolina's statewide-elected officials voted to approve funding to purchase 330 acres for the trail and camping along the Neuse River in Johnston County. This purchase is an exciting "kick-start" for the trail east of Raleigh where little progress has been made to date. State Auditor Les Merritt, a big supporter of the MST, asked Governor Mike Easley to give FMST Executive Director Kate Dixon a few minutes on the agenda to give an update on the trail. She thanked the Governor for declaring October as MST Month. Kate explained that we have built 485 miles of the trail to date but have much work to do before someone can walk across North Carolina entirely on trails.

Thru-hiker is thirteenth to complete the MST. Congratulations to Scott Ward for his great accomplishment. [Read about his journey](#) in the Raleigh News & Observer's front-page article that ran the day after Scott reached Jockey's Ridge.

FMST volunteers have built 11.5 miles of trail so far this year. Join us for a [future workday](#) in the mountains or at Falls Lake.

Would you like to help write the next MST Guidebook? Author Allen de Hart needs help in hiking and measuring parts of old and all new MST sections for the 2nd Edition of the MST Guidebook. Expenses will be paid. October/November/December. [Contact Allen](#) at 919-496-4771

Guilford County Endorses MST Route. On September 18, the Guilford County Board of Commissioner's

adopted a resolution to endorse the planned route of the trail through Guilford County. If you live in Guilford, please let your commissioners know that you appreciate their support for the trail.

Would you like to help build support for the trail in your county? If you'd like to help, please e-mail Executive Director Kate Dixon so she can let you know of developments in your county.



Will You Be A "Friend" of the MST?

Financial donations make this trail possible -- won't you become a "Friend" of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail today?

Thank you so much for your support!

Photos in this newsletter were taken by Shelton Wilder at the "Big Dig" on the Blue Ridge Parkway in September 2008. Dueling volunteer teams from UNC-CH (on the left) and ASU (on the right) used tools of the trade to push the trail onward. Photos in the newsletter banner were taken by: Glen Strouhal and Rebecca Walling.

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