

A JOURNEYS

A hiker with a backpack and trekking poles is seen from behind, standing on a rocky, moss-covered mountain ridge. The hiker is looking out over a vast, green valley with rolling hills and a winding river. The sky is bright and clear. The overall scene is a beautiful, scenic view of a mountain landscape.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Fall 2015

TREADING LIGHTLY IN BAXTER STATE PARK

Footpath Solutions in Northern New England
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SLICE OF AMERICANA



*Recreation meets history and
hometown style*
GLASGOW, VIRGINIA



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he Appalachian Trail has brought hikers into our community of Glasgow, Virginia for many years. It is located at the confluence of the James and Maury rivers in southern Rockbridge County. Hikers who have passed through this area will remember the famous A.T. foot bridge over the James River, as well as the beautiful James River Face Wilderness.

Hikers come into town to use the post office to pick up resupply packages from friends and family, and to seek out the library computers to check their email. They visit the local stores to stock up on supplies for the Trail and use the laundromat. They even sometimes pitch a tent or two, with permission, on church lawns, or the ball field.

In 2011, Glasgow was designated as an official Appalachian Trail Community. We were honored to be recognized by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) as an asset to Trail users and a good friend and neighbor to the A.T. Our partnership with the ATC and the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club has been great for the town and great for

the Trail, and we gain a lot of ideas and support from our membership in the network of 35 A.T. Communities from Georgia to Maine.

One particular small but cozy welcome to A.T. hikers who pass through Glasgow is an in-town shelter, built by a Boy Scout as an Eagle Scout project. Through improvements over the years by various local organizations, it now offers hot and cold running water, electricity, a picnic area, and a fire pit. The shelter provides an excellent place for hikers to stay and is

The A.T. James River foot bridge. Photo by Bill Bishop

BY CAROLYN N. BRADLEY

From top: The Hiker's Shelter in town — by Carolyn Bradley; A.T. in the James River Wilderness Area — by Bill Bishop



WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE WORLD-CLASS OUTDOOR RECREATION IN OUR BACKYARD, FROM HIKING ON THE TRAIL TO PADDLING ON THE JAMES AND MAURY RIVERS.



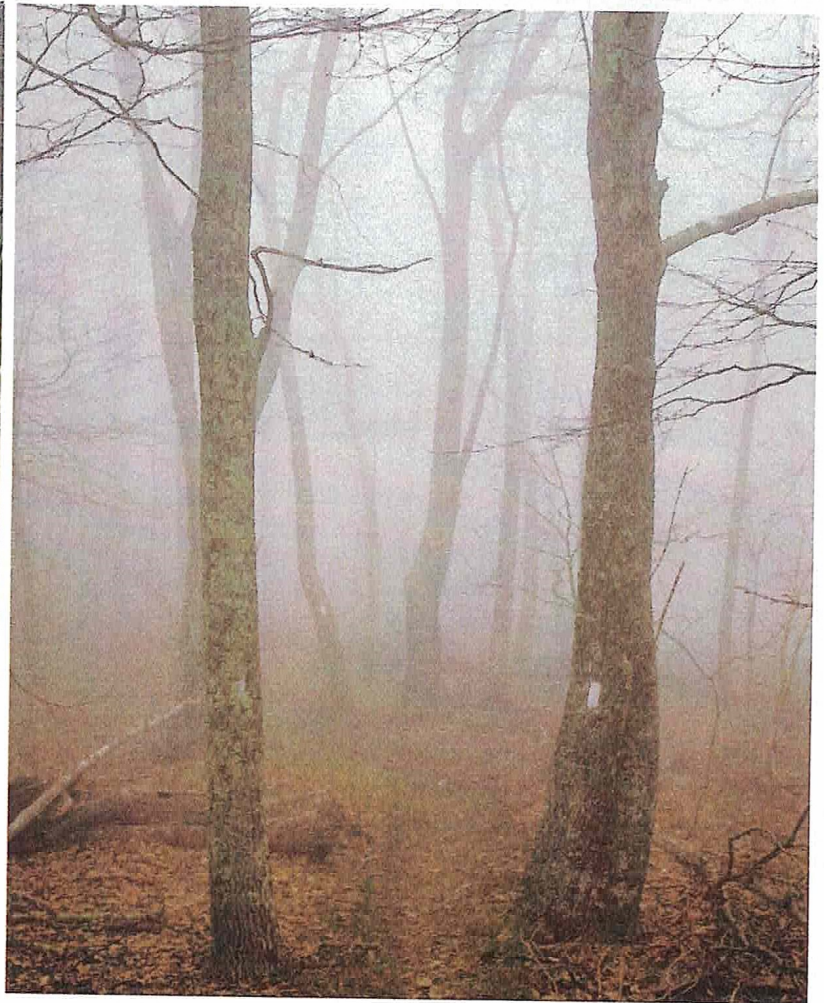
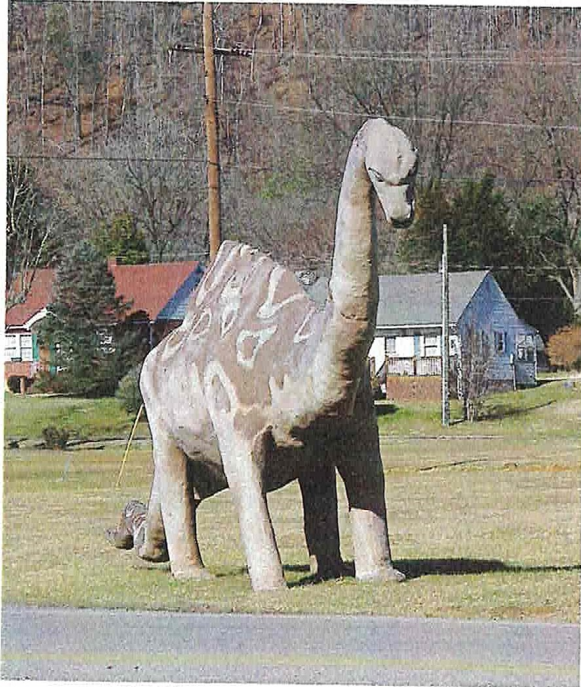
only a block away from the town's main street. Just a hop, skip, and jump away from the shelter are Scottos Pizza and a couple small grocery stores. The post office, library, and laundromat are also nearby.

Glasgow offers a bit of history and a bit of Americana. The town was incorporated in 1892 and is located south of Lexington, Virginia, home to Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute. We are a railroad and river town, but long before the railroads, there was the canal system. You can still see locks along parts of the James and Maury rivers as evidence of days gone by. The large white house located on the outskirts of town has been in the Echols family for generations. Captain Edward Echols operated a packet boat through the canal system. In 1854, a flood caused the Clinton, a packet boat captained by William H. Wood, to capsize on the James River just below Glasgow. A black slave named Frank Padgett gave his life to rescue its passengers. A monument in his memory was erected near the site, and later moved to Centennial Park in town.

In the 1890s, when there were "boom towns" springing up across the country, Glasgow was among them. Fitzhugh Lee, cousin to Robert E. Lee, headed up the Glasgow Company that was in charge of plotting out the town and selling lots. His office was located in a house that was built in 1800s by an early settler to the area, Peter Sallings. The mountain that overlooks Glasgow — Sallings Mountain — now bears his name.

During this boom period, a huge hotel was built on a ridge overlooking the town. It was state of the art for its day, which included electric lights. There was a gala ball held the evening before its grand opening, but its opening never happened. The following day creditors came in and closed it down. The end of the "boom" was at hand, and what began as a big venture for a profitable future suddenly turned into a big "bust." Parts of the hotel were later used as living quarters for local residents and as a place for local farmers to store hay. In the late 1950s and early '60s the area was cleared for a residential building site, still known affectionately as "Hotel Hill."

A sign along Route 130 in town tells of a battle between a band of Iroquois and a group of colonial militia led by Captain John McDowell, in the 1700s. Just six miles up the road is the famous Natural Bridge of Virginia, once owned by Thomas Jefferson and surveyed by George Washington. The property recently came under new ownership and will eventually become a Virginia State Park. The landmark currently operates under the name of Natural Bridge Park.



Through the A.T. Community program, Glasgow residents have become more aware of the A.T. and we are excited to welcome hikers and to explore the Trail. We are proud to have world-class outdoor recreation in our backyard, from hiking on the Trail to paddling on the James and Maury rivers. Thanks to our status as an official Trail Community, Glasgow residents have more opportunities to explore the A.T. with the guidance of experienced hikers. The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club (NBATC), which maintains 88 miles of the A.T. through our area, adapted its regular hiking program to make it more attractive to residents of surrounding Rockbridge County.

On a special note, Rockbridge County isn't just a great place to stop during a hike, it's also the childhood home of Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. This October, the A.T. Communities of Glasgow and Buena Vista, and the NBATC will be celebrating Jarvis' distinguished career, as well as an era of unprecedented protection for the A.T. and

partnership between communities and Trail maintainers. A special dinner honoring director Jarvis will raise funds for a new Legacy Fund, to enable Rockbridge County teachers to take their students on field trips to the A.T. and pursue other environmental education initiatives.

Whether planning a local short hike or traveling the whole Trail, we welcome you to stop and visit with us in Glasgow, Virginia. Stay awhile and take in the local culture, meet the friendly folks here, and make some great memories. ⚡

Clockwise from above: A.T. near Thunder Hill (where it intersects the Blue Ridge Parkway) – by Bill Bishop; Glasgow's famous life-sized fiberglass dinosaur, made by local artist Mark Cline; Scottos Pizza; Glasgow Public Library; Grocery Express – photos by Carolyn Bradley

Carolyn N. Bradley is a member of Glasgow's Park and Recreation Committee, a freelance photographer, and news correspondent for *The News-Gazette* in Lexington, Virginia.

To learn more about Glasgow visit: glasgowvirginia.org
Find out more about the A.T. Community program at: appalachiantrail.org/atcommunity