

NEWS RELEASE

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## 2017 Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

GARDNERS, PA. – The seventh class of Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame honorees will be inducted on Friday, June 2, at the annual Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet at the Comfort Suites in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The 2017 Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame class honorees are **Harlean James** of Washington, DC; **Charles Parry** of Blacksburg, VA; **Mildred Norman "Peace Pilgrim" Ryder**, of Egg Harbor, NJ; and **Matilda "Tillie" Wood**, of Roswell, GA.



**Harlean James**

Harlean James played a large role in the initial organization of the movement to create an Appalachian Trail. After Benton MacKaye's seminal 1921 article proposing the Trail, James and others advocated for concrete steps to begin the A.T. In 1925, she issued the call for the initial "conference" to be held in Washington, DC to begin planning the Trail. She remained active in the A.T. movement for decades afterward and was one of four pioneers to receive the initial honorary memberships in ATC, its highest honor.

Beyond her A.T. work, she served in Washington for many years as Executive Secretary of both the National Conference on State Parks and the American Planning and Civic Association. She held various leadership positions in national planning and parks over a 37-year career.