The Dreamer
A comfortable start
A wild ride
Columbian Exposition of 1893
Building Begins
Things fall apart
Things fall apart
The aftermath
Fig. 6. A TYPICAL SWAMP OF THE CARBONIFEROUS AGE

WHO WAS WHO
Cordaites (ancestor of Spruce)
Tree Fern (ancestor of modern Fern)
Giant Club Mosses
Cycads, Horsetails

Other Spore-Bearing Plants
No Seed-Bearing Plants

Insects (Dragonfly, 1 foot span)
Fish in Pool
Amphibians (Eryops)
No Reptiles, no Birds, no Mammals

Cordaites

Eryops

Fish

POOL

Giant Dragonfly
The Career
Another Tragedy
An idea is born
An idea is born

Hudson Guild Farm

- Benton MacKaye

- Charles Whitaker, the editor of the journal of The American Institute of Architects, and founder of The Committee on Community Planning.

- Clarence Stein — Champion of community planning (e.g., Radburn, N.J.)
Why an Appalachian Trail?

Recreation

- "An Undeveloped Power - Our Spare Time"
- A place to recreate - "to gain oxygen and perspective"
- Sanctuary from everyday life
Why an Appalachian Trail?

Recreation

✦ “An Undeveloped Power - Our Spare Time”

✦ A place to recreate - “to gain oxygen and perspective”

✦ Sanctuary from everyday life
Why an Appalachian Trail?

Economic Benefits

✦ Supporting communities - “Farm camps” to provide food and lodging

✦ An estimated 40,000 jobs building, protecting and supporting the Trail

✦ There was a flight from rural locations to the cities. Real fear that the rural economies would simply collapse. The AT was one way to help breathe vibrancy back into the communities surrounding the Trail.
Inching Along

1922

- MacKay meets with hiking advocates and foresters

- Raymond Torrey publishes “A Great Trail from Maine to Georgia!” in New York Evening Post

- By early summer, the project is seriously losing momentum
The Intervention

November, 1922

- Clarence Stein to the rescue
- Stays at MacKaye’s house until a new plan is devised
The Plan

Create a consortium of thirteen regional hiking groups (including NETC, AMC and the recently formed New York–New Jersey Trail Conference) to formally adopt and build the trail.
The Plan

This is not to cut a path and then say—“Ain’t it beautiful!”

Our job is to open up a realm. This realm is something more than a geographical location—it is an environment. It is the environment, not of road and hotel, but of trail and camp. It is human access to the sources of life.
The Snag

Between 1923 and the fall of 1928, little was done except the creation of the Appalachian Trail Conference in 1925.

The AT project was in danger of failing.
The Accelerants

- 1928 - a retired Connecticut judge named Arthur Perkins took on the leadership of the project

- He tapped a 29-year-old maritime lawyer to take on the task
The Big Buildout

Myron Avery
Who was Myron Avery?
Who was Myron Avery?
Who was Myron Avery?

Military Career
Who was Myron Avery?
Who was Myron Avery?

One way to do things
The Maine dilemma

Walter Greene
The Big Buildout

Astonishing

Between 1929 and 1937

- Personally sited almost all of the Appalachian Trail
- Walked and measured almost every foot of the Trail
- Wrote the guidebooks, oversaw the production of maps
- Promoted the Trail
The Big Buildout

Astonishing

Between 1929 and 1937

- Begged, borrowed, cajoled for money
- Left a trail of hurt feelings and bruised egos
The Dreamer and the Doer
The Adoption of the Automobile
Shenandoah National Park
The Big Falling Out
The Big Falling Out

- Skyline Drive was built on top of the existing AT
- MacKaye was devastated
- Avery was amenable
The Aftermath
The Aftermath
The Aftermath
The Aftermath
The Aftermath

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
The Aftermath
The Aftermath
The Aftermath
The Big Legacy
The Big Legacy

Collaboration

Hiking clubs, state agencies and federal agencies involved in creating, maintaining and promoting the trail.
The Big Legacy

Economic Impact

Over 3 million people hiking at least one mile of the AT every year.

- $125 – 168 million annual spending
- $27 million spending in local communities
The Big Legacy

A nearly 100 year-old example of building resilient communities, environments and economies that is still a successful model today.
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Everyone here today!
Questions?