



Appalachian Trail Conservancy Updates



Marian Orlousky

Director of Science & Stewardship

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

morlousky@appalachiantrail.org

Food Storage

Trends, Challenges, Policy, Guidance



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCYZGC2>

2018 Incidents

Bear Cautions

- A.T. Trailhead at Fontana Dam, GSMNP
- Mollies Ridge Shelter, GSMNP
- Watauga Dam, TN - Bears have been aggressive in the area
- Watauga Lake Shelter, TN - Bears active and aggressive in the area
- Humpback Rocks & Paul C. Wolfe Shelter, VA - incidents of food taking and aggressive behavior
- Tom Floyd Wayside Hut, Shenandoah NP, VA - bear approached shelter
- Rod Hollow Shelter, Shenandoah NP, VA - Bear stole food bag off a picnic table (a bear canister was left untouched)
- Shaker Campsite, MA - regular, non-aggressive bear activity

Bear Warnings

- Frosty mountain, GA - Bear takes a hiker's food bag near a shelter
- Sassafras Gap, GA - Bear reported taking hikers' food bags.
- Standing Indian/Deep Gap, GA - Bears reported taking food bags
- McQueens Knob, TN - Bears reported taking hikers' food bags
- Fingerboard Shelter, NY - Many reports of mother and two cubs removing hung bags



2018 Incidents Continued



Overnight Sight Closures

- Birch Spring Campsite #113, GSMNP - bear collapsed a tent with person inside
- Birch Spence Field, GSMNP
- Derrick Knob Shelter, GSMNP
- Russell Field Shelter, GSMNP
- Cosby Knob Shelter, GSMNP
- Mt. Collins Shelter, GSMNP
- Watauga Lake Shelter, TN - closed to all entry due to aggressive bears in the area
- 17 miles of A.T. in Mount Rogers NRA, Grayson Highlands State Park, VA - closed to overnight camping at three shelters (Thomas Knob, Wise, Old Orchard). At least one tent shredded with hikers in it and more than 70 bags taken.

“

*“Success breeds complacency,
complacency breeds failure,
only the paranoid survive.”*

-Andy Grove

Policy & Guidance



Bear canisters seasonally required for camping between Jarrard Gap and Neel Gap in Georgia.



NC National Forest A.T. Food Storage Requirement pending. Will require use of bear resistant containers on the IGBC list for all of A.T. in NC USFS.



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy recommends the use of a bear-resistant canister as the best way to keep your food safe from bears, rodents, racoons, and other animals.



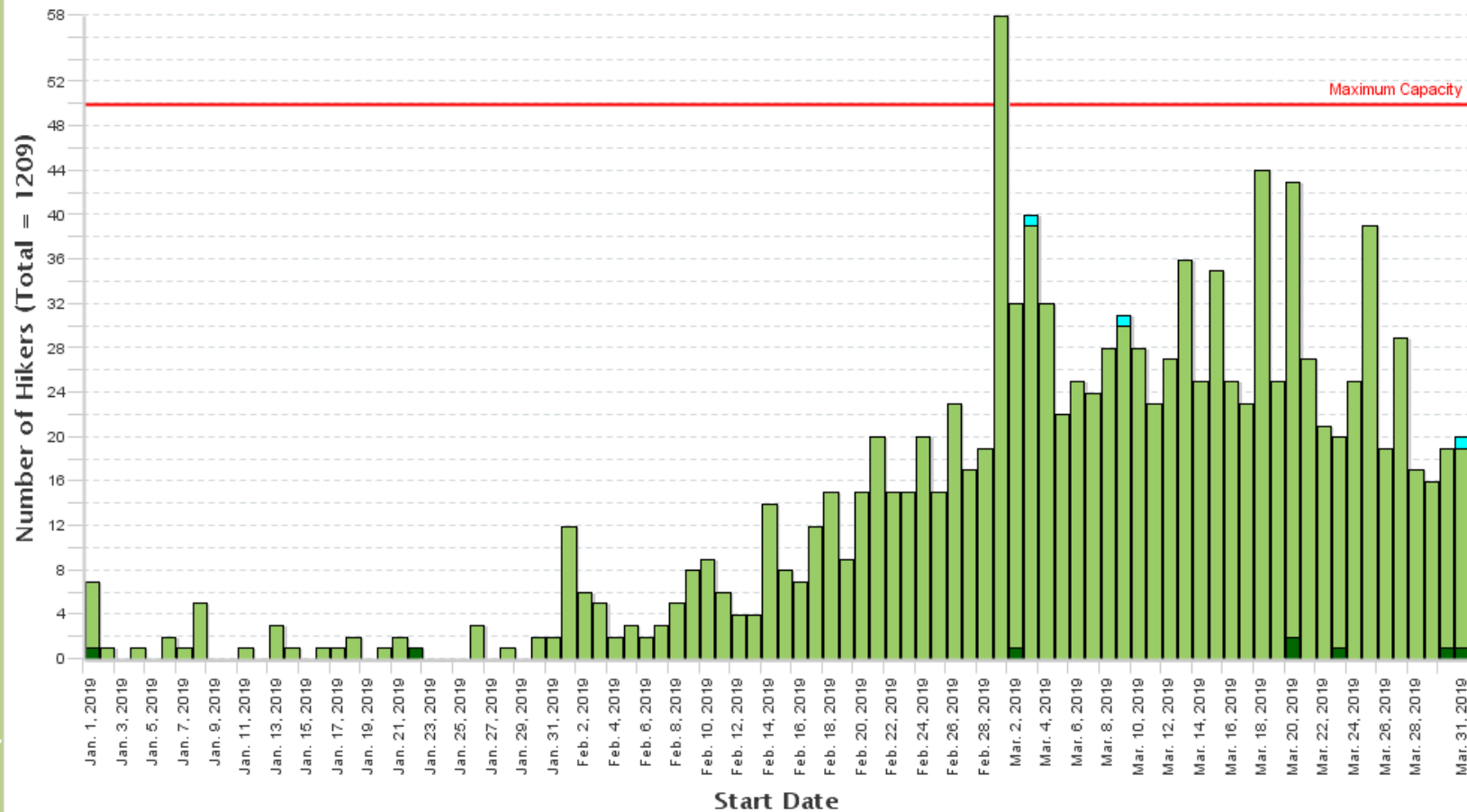
If you do hang your food, we recommend the “PCT” method”, with your bag hanging a minimum of 12 feet from the ground and 6 feet from the overhanging limb and trunk.



<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/explore-the-trail/hiking-basics/safety>



AT Thru-Hikers: Georgia - Amicalola Falls/Springer Mountain - January 1, 2019 - March 31, 2019 Registered as of February 6, 2019





Wild East

Wild East is a new movement spearheaded by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy uniting many aspects of the Appalachian Trail under one banner – its sweeping vistas and landscapes; the native animals and plants populating diverse ecosystems; the community of adventurers and dreamers dedicated to exploring, conserving and protecting these lands; the diverse communities bringing character and opportunity to the A.T. experience; and the history and culture born from a collective love of the Trail and its surrounding lands.

<https://wildeast.appalachiantrail.org/>





 Thanks!

Any questions?

You can contact me @ morlousky@appalachiantrail.org