



American Discovery Trail Society

Making connections coast-to-coast

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ERIC SEABORG BIOGRAPHY

American Discovery Trail Society President Eric Seaborg has been volunteering with trail organizations for more than 40 years. He has served as the volunteer president of the American Discovery Trail Society since 2003, and has been on the board since the organization's formation in 1996. His involvement with the project began when he was hired by the American Hiking Society and *Backpacker* magazine to lead the three-person team that scouted the route for the American Discovery Trail in 1990–1991. The ADT Scouting Expedition's responsibilities included working with volunteers who planned the route, coordinating with government agencies and local organizations, testing every mile of the route on foot or bicycle, and taking notes for a guidebook. The U.S. Department of the Interior recognized this work with the Enjoy Outdoors America Award.

Seaborg served as president of the American Hiking Society for three years in the 1980s. The signature achievement during his tenure was passage of the 1983 Amendments to the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. The legislation introduced the concept of rail-banking, which has led to thousands of miles of abandoned railroad lines being converted into trails.

Seaborg participated in the conferences that led to the founding of the Partnership for the National Trails System and was the founding editor of its publication, *Pathways Across America*. He has worked hands-on as a trail overseer to maintain 1.5 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park for more than 25 years.

In his professional life, he is a freelance writer and editor who has written on a wide range of topics, from hiking and travel to medicine and nuclear science. His articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Science*, *Backpacker*, *American Hiker*, *Boys' Life*, *Sierra*, *The American Leader* (website), *World Book Health and Medical Annual*, and *Endocrine News*. He contributed an essay on Shenandoah National Park to *Uncommon Wealth: Essays on Virginia's Wild Places* (Nature Conservancy).

His collaborative books include a how-to guide to hiking and backpacking. He co-wrote the autobiography of his Nobel-prize winning father, Glenn T. Seaborg, *Adventures in the Atomic Age: From Watts to Washington*. *Library Journal* said: "'Page turner' is a term not usually applied to a science memoir, but this compelling portrait of a major scientist is an exception." Written with Ellen Dudley, *American Discoveries: Scouting the First Coast to Coast Recreational Trail* received the Barbara Savage Award for adventure travel writing.