



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Hiker to Transit the East Coast Greenway in Maine Will Team up with High Wheeler for Finish Line

Ed Talone, Trail Information Specialist for the American Hiking Society, is currently hiking the 440-mile Maine coastal segment of the East Coast Greenway. An avid, long-distance hiker, he has hiked nearly 40,000 miles in 47 states. Included in his longer hikes are 2 traverses of the Appalachian Trail, the 4500-mile North Country Trail in 1994 and a walk across America in 1999. Ed has also walked thousands of miles on old railroad grades and canals.

Zip Zamarchi, who has toured Europe and the United States on his antique high wheeler bikes, will join Ed Talone as he completes his historic first walk across Maine along the East Coast Greenway. Talone, who began his walk in Calais on August 30, will be joined by Zamarchi in Eliot on the afternoon of September 17 as together they travel to the Kittery-Portsmouth bridge. Zip Zamarchi, a retired Eliot, Maine plumbing contractor and collector of antique bicycles, is a member of the Eastern Trail Alliance and represents the Town of Eliot on the board of the Eastern Trail Management District.

The Eastern Trail, which connects Bug Light Park on Casco Bay with Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is currently being marked with Eastern Trail Bike Route Signs. The Eastern Trail is the southern Maine section of the **East Coast Greenway**, a trail connecting Calais, Maine with Key West, Florida. The longer trail is often described as the "Urban Appalachian Trail." See www.greenway.org

The East Coast Greenway, the "trail connecting cities", is one of the 16 National Millennium Trails in the US and will link nearly every urban center along the eastern seaboard from Maine's Canadian border to the southern tip of Florida. The entire 2,600-mile corridor has been mapped. The Greenway is 20% complete and on-track to be 80% off-road by 2010.

About this trip Ed says; " I am looking forward to seeing lots of beautiful scenery along the Maine coast. This will be a new experience for me. I am excited by the concept of the East Coast Greenway and am honored to have a chance to contribute. I hope that supporters of the trail will come out to join me for a walk as I head south."

Schedule on Maine East Coast Greenway (before reaching Eastern Trail)

(8/31 Depart Calais -) -- 8/31 East Machias, 9/1 Columbia Falls, 9/2 Unionville, 9/3 West Sullivan, 9/4 Ellsworth, 9/5 Verona Park, 9/6 Halls Corner, 9/7 Camden, 9/8 Waterman Beach, 9/9 Waldoboro, 9/10 Pemaquid, 9/11 Sheepscot, 9/12 Brunswick, 9/13 Yarmouth

Schedule on Eastern Trail (Southern Maine section of East Coast Greenway)

9/14 Arrive in South Portland to begin Eastern Trail to Kittery, 9/15 arrive in Biddeford, 9/16 arrive in North Berwick, 9/17 end in Kittery

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