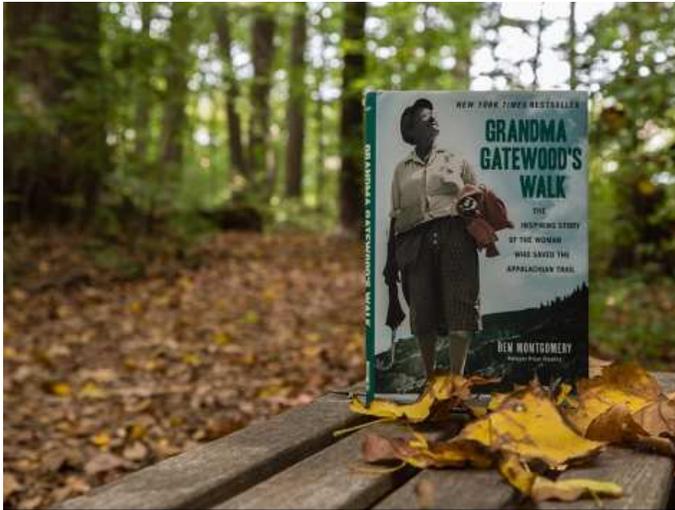


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Cumberland County Libraries Launch Community Read

Grandma Gatewood's Walk by Ben Montgomery

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Library System has joined with Longwood Gardens, the Appalachian Trail Museum, Keystone Trails Association and other community partners to launch a Community Read.

Designed to encourage people to read the same book and then discuss an idea or topic, two books have been selected.

For adults and teens, *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery traces the story of an unlikely heroine—a woman who, to escape personal struggles, in 1955 embarks on a journey of several thousand miles of rugged terrain and often ill-marked trails...alone...without any equipment...at the age of 67.

For young children, the Community Read includes an award-winning children's book, *On Meadowview Street* by Henry Cole. It tells the story of a little girl, Caroline, who makes a connection with a small flower. That connection grows...and grows, transforming her new neighborhood.

Jonelle Darr, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Library System, said that Longwood Gardens first approached the Appalachian Trail Museum, which is located Cumberland County's Pine Grove Furnace State Park, to be a Community Reads partner because it is the home of many Grandma Gatewood artifacts from her pioneering journey. Officials at The Appalachian Trail Museum alerted her to the program and she quickly contacted Longwood Gardens to see if Cumberland County's libraries could join the partnership.

“Longwood Gardens was delighted to have us join, and they have been so supportive providing us with books, Longwood Gardens tickets to use as giveaways, and programming ideas,” Darr said.

She added that “being home to the midpoint of the Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail Museum, we know that most of our library users are either avid hikers or just enjoy being out of doors.” Plus she said, “It’s a really good book. Grandma Gatewood’s story is so inspiring. Back in 1955, how many 67-year-old women could successfully complete the 2050 mile trail wearing sneakers and carrying a homemade knapsack, blanket and a shower curtain to protect her from the elements?”

Paul B. Redman, Executive Director of Longwood Gardens said that the books were selected because they both explore the idea of how one person can inspire so many others. “This is a powerful notion that reminds us of our founder Pierre S. du Pont, and the many people he inspired with his vision,” Redman said.

Read the Book

Copies of *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* and *On Meadowview Street* may be borrowed from any Cumberland County Library System facility, or purchased from your favorite bookstore or online eBook retailer. It is available in print, or in eBook or downloadable audio book formats too.

Cumberland County Library System Community Read Events

In addition to book discussions for adults and story times for children, Cumberland County’s libraries have a number of educational programs scheduled for readers. All programs are offered at no charge. Some require pre-registration. Just a few of the scheduled programs include:

- Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill is screening the indie film *Trail Magic: The True Story of Emma “Grandma” Gatewood* on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 2 pm and 7 pm. A discussion with Peter Huston, director of the film, will follow the 7:00 pm showing.
- Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg will host Corinne Smith and Nathaniel Stoner to discuss how to connect with nature when you are walking, and what to take with you when you are in the woods on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7 pm. (Registration required.)
- Amelia Givin Library in Mt. Holly Springs will present a program by Nancy Barnhart on traveling the Appalachian Trail with a canine companion on April 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm.
- Bosler Library in Carlisle will present Bob Sickley, Trail Resources manager for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 7 pm. He will discuss the advocacy and work it takes by many volunteers to maintain and preserve the Appalachian Trail.

A complete listing of the Cumberland County Library System's book discussions and programs can be found at: http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/community_read

Meet the Authors at Longwood Gardens!

Family Community Read Day will take place at Longwood Gardens on Saturday, April 2 from 10am -1:30pm. This event will allow children and their families to meet the author of the *On Meadowview Street*, Henry Cole and discuss how they too can connect to nature in their own lives. Family Community Read Day is free with Gardens Admission.

After Family Community Read Day concludes, *On Meadowview Street* author Henry Cole will host a hands-on workshop for children and their parents. Learn about illustration and creating original works of art. All participants will receive a copy of the book to be signed by the author. This Family Workshop with Henry Cole takes place from 2:30-4pm. The \$21 registration fee includes a copy of the book.

Meet Ben Montgomery, author of *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, for a Small Group Book Discussion with fellow readers on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24, from 10-12:30 pm. The \$29 registration fee includes a copy of the book. Stay for an optional short hike in Longwood's Meadow Garden with Longwood's Natural Lands division.

On April 23, from 7-9 pm Longwood will hold a Community Conversation where readers will get an opportunity to learn more about Montgomery's writing and be among fellow peers to discuss the book. The presentation will also include Matt Kirk, a highly accomplished Appalachian Trail thru-hiker. A book signing follows the conversation. Advanced reservation and a \$20 fee is required. Members require a free reservation.

More Information and Community Partner List

Readers can join the conversation on social media throughout the Community Read by following Longwood Gardens on Twitter and using the hashtag #CommunityRead.

A complete list of community partners and programs can be found at <http://longwoodgardens.org/community-read>.

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