

Robert Christianson (Third Half) is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and hiker with extensive experience in managing large and small conservation-related organizations. He completed his section hike of the AT in 2017, having started on a day hike of Katahdin in 2010. His most recent employment was as the Staff Director for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club ((PATC), where he served for two years. The PATC maintains approximately 1,200 miles of public hiking trails (including 240 miles of the AT in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania), has over 8,000 members, and has an annual budget exceeding \$1 million. Robert worked closely with the board of directors of the PATC on supporting the club's day-to-day volunteer activities and on long-range planning and financial management for the organization.

Prior to working as the staff director, Robert spent the summer of 2018 as a Ridgerunner for PATC on the northern Virginia section of the AT. There he spent time as an ambassador for the trail and learned about the history of the AT and its complex management system, involving the alphabet-soup combination of organizations such as APPA, ATC, ShenNP, PATC, RPC's, etc. He developed friendships and relationships with many of the leaders in the AT community and was motivated to continue to find ways to give back to the trail and stay involved.

Having graduated from the University of Florida with a BS in Mathematics and an MS in Environmental Engineering Sciences in the 80's, Robert worked for over 30 years in various leadership positions in several environmental agencies in Florida. His primary areas of focus were on conservation Land Acquisition, Land Management, Construction and O/M of large-scale environmental restoration projects, Strategic Planning, and Finance. He has extensive experience in working with governing boards, public presentations, contract, finance and legal matters, and personnel management.

Since retiring from public service in 2015, Robert has taught mathematics at Flagler College in St Augustine, FL, participated as co-owner and project manager of a 24-home Cohousing development project, and served on the board of a local land trust in Gainesville, FL, where he owns a home. He has family (children and grandchildren) in Colorado and London, England, which gives him plenty of excuses to travel to hike trail systems other than the AT.

Robert is a life member of ALDHA and PATC and a member of ATC. His commitment to and enjoyment of long-distance hiking and his experience managing conservation-oriented organizations will serve the ALDHA well.