What makes a thru-hike memorable is the people you meet on the trail. The characters in Richard's book show the diversity, richness and determination of the hikers you encounter on an A.T. thru-hike.

—Bob Almand
Past Chair, Board of Directors
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

hen a diverse group of northbound "thruhikers" meet on Springer Mtn., the southern terminus of the fabled Appalachian Trail, they begin developing a bond that will unite them as they embark on a 2,184-mile odyssey toward Maine's venerable Mt. Katahdin. When author Richard Judy completed a southbound hike of the A.T. in 1973 at age 21, he dreamed of capturing the essence of this last great American adventure on paper. Now, in THRU: An Appalachian Trail Love Story a decades-old vision comes to life as his characters take on the elation, the blisters, the excruciating pain and the unimaginable thirst and hunger of a thru-hike. Ultimately, the novel explores the sheer existential conundrum of why anyone would spend months walking along ridge crests and examines the human side of the wilderness trek that millions ponder but few actually experience. THRU also contemplates the question asked by all thruhikers: "What have I gotten myself into?"

All proceeds go to the Appalachian Trail Museum in the form of an unrestricted grant.

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