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FIND Outdoors Welcomes Two New Board Members

Pisgah Forest, NC - FIND Outdoors, a 49-year-old nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC, is excited to welcome Emily Quinlan and Rusty Garrison as new Board members for the 2021 season.

Board Chairman and longstanding Board member, Tad Fogel, expressed his excitement about the new seats being filled. "I am so pleased to welcome Emily and Rusty to our organization of likeminded members who are passionate about the FIND Outdoors mission." President and CEO Natalie Britt explained, "They truly bring a love of the outdoors to the table, but more than that they'll help bring our passion for equitable recreational opportunities to the forefront."

FIND Outdoors' Board of Directors includes a cadre of local professors, professionals and outdoor lovers who have made it their goal to turn FIND into the premier nonprofit for exceptional visitor experiences. Working closely with partners such as the National Park Service and US Forest Service, FIND manages campgrounds, visitor centers and retail outlets in North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana.

Quinlan, an Asheville resident and lover of all things outdoors, fought for private land conservation for years but realized that public land conservation and access for all was exponentially more valuable for every community. "I'm so excited to be on FIND's Board of Directors because public lands marry my two favorite things – the natural world and public spaces," said Quinlan on her new role with FIND. "I enjoy public lands regularly and they add so much to my life. And I believe that access, experience and education creates land stewards of us all."

In her spare time, Quinlan is exploring western North Carolina by bike, but also FINDs as many opportunities as possible to run, camp, hike, read and draw.

A native of northern Georgia, Garrison comes to FIND Outdoors with 33 years' experience in the environmental education and natural resource fields, many of those years with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. An avid outdoorsman, Garrison is extremely excited about having a voice that resonates with FIND's mission of education on our public lands.

One of Garrison's positions within the GDNR included serving as Program Manager for the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield, Georgia. "Equitable access to public lands for camping and hiking and from an education standpoint is so important," Garrison Explained. "I'm looking forward to serving on a Board that is also passionate about access to public lands from a wildlife, forestry and environmental standpoint," Garrison explained.

The two new Board members attended their first meeting on February 10, in which multiple National Park Service and US Forest Service leaders were able to learn a little about the new recruits and speak to the incredible partnership formed with FIND Outdoors.

Quinlan and Garrison were officially voted onto the Board at the February 10th meeting and assumed their responsibilities as FIND Board members at that time.

About FIND Outdoors

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 49-year-old 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC. We serve over 850,000 visitors annually with a mission that promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors proudly manages campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities in four National Forests in North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana and the Northwest Trade Post on the Blue Ridge Parkway. FIND accomplishes its mission by providing exceptional outdoor experiences through partnership opportunities for the health, safety and education of all visitors to local and regional public and private lands.