

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2023 4:37:05 PM

First name: Mike

Last name: Wurman

Organization: Preserving A Picturesque America

Title: member

Comments: I am a member of Preserving A Picturesque America (PAPA), who's main mission is preserving natural and historic landmarks through the arts.

Obviously Overmountain shelter is well beyond being saved, but we believe there's an opportunity to raise funds to support the construction of its replacement or to use the funds elsewhere as the ATC or the CMC see fit. Having hiked the AT myself, I understand the importance the Overmountain Shelter has within the hiking community and many, if not all, will hate to see it go. Obviously, it's now a safety hazard and the only alternative is to dismantle the structure. We propose inviting artists to create works of art depicting the shelter before it's torn down, but also creating works of art that incorporate the wood from the shelter into the art itself. In my case, being a painter (who also creates and builds my own frames), I could frame the paintings with wood from the shelter. As a wood engraver, Scott Varn (founder of PAPA) could use the wood to create engravings and ultimately prints which could then be framed from the same wood.

For many, this is an important, iconic landmark along the trail and to have the opportunity to purchase a one of a kind original painting, print or whatever the medium might be, with actual wood from the barn, would create a priceless item for so many.