

## **Richard Edwards**

Trails Specialist

International Mountain Bicycling Association Trail Solutions Program

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Richard Edwards is a nationally respected trail design expert who specializes in creating trails that are environmentally sustainable, cost-effective, safe, shared use, and fun to ride and walk.

Mr. Edwards developed his skills during three years as a leader of the professional Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew. He has assessed, designed, constructed and maintained trails in more than 30 U.S. states, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Wales, Scotland and England. He has served as the lead instructor at more than 50 IMBA Trailbuilding Schools – teaching both trail professionals and volunteer leaders the latest techniques of sustainable trail construction.

Mr. Edwards served as the mountain bike advisor to the National Trails Training Partnership - a federal interagency effort to develop high-quality, standardized training for trailbuilding professionals and government land managers. He contributed to the design and construction of the first shared-use singletrack trail system in a South Carolina state park. He was a co-author of "Building Better Trails," a highly regarded trail development manual published by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

During the last two years, Rich has developed new trailbuilding skills, including advanced rock armoring techniques, design strategies for highly-challenging trails, and advanced user-conflict resolution methods. He also has become a skilled operator of mechanized trailbuilding equipment.

To date, the IMBA Trail Care Crew has helped plan hundreds of new trail systems and helped build more than 5,000 miles of new trails.

Thanks to extensive research and field testing of mountain bike trail construction and maintenance techniques, members of the IMBA Trail Care Crew is revolutionizing the way trails are built. Today, properly constructed trails that are heavily used by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers can endure for years with minimal maintenance.

Mr. Edwards and his wife Jen live in Harrisonburg, Virginia.