



The Potomac Appalachian

The Newsletter of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-4609
 www.patc.net

Volume 35, Number 1
 January 2006



A Time for Honoring: PATC's Annual Meeting

Club members met at the Meadowlark Gardens Atrium in November, for the third year in a row, to celebrate the club's 78th Annual Meeting. President Tom Johnson presided over the evening, which was filled with food and entertainment, including the announcement of recipients of special awards.

Thanks go to Georgeann Smale and Pat Fankhauser who not only pulled together a buffet dinner but also arranged the entire evening. The guest speaker, Michael Petty, Professor of American History at Montgomery Community College, is a PATC Life Member and Jones Mtn Cabin Overseer. He spoke on the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's Corps of Discovery. Door prizes for the evening were memorabilia items from the Lewis and Clark Foundation

See Awards, page 2



Photo by Vincent Ferrati

The gathering at Meadowlark Gardens was warm and informal, and many club volunteers were honored for their service.

The Hiking Public Chats with Wilson

PATC's own Wilson Riley, the director of administration for the club, recently conducted an online discussion via the Washington Post's Live Online forum, about PATC and what we role we play for the hiking public. This discussion was moderated by the Post and is, as of the PA's press time, still available to the public for viewing online.

This transcript is available online at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2005/11/18/DI2005111801844.html. This is a tedious address to type, but to get permission to republish the transcript we were required to pay a large fee for the rights. Please check out the article while it's still available. □



Wilson Riley, pictured to the left of President Tom Johnson, at a council meeting, recently led an online chat about PATC and about hiking, especially on the AT.

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Awards, from page 1

After the historic entertainment came the awards presentation by Vice President of Volunteerism Lee Sheaffer. A special commendation award was presented to George Boisse, and 50-Year members John and Suzanne Kominski, and Eleanor Stoddard were honored. Honorary Life memberships were presented to Park Anderson, Carol Niedzialek, and Kerry Snow. Finally, Tom presented past-President Walt Smith, with the highest club award, formerly known as the volunteer of the year award, now called the Myron Avery Award. Following are details of what some of these key volunteers accomplished for the club this year.

Many volunteers were shown appreciation for their hard work. Almost 200 service awards were given in 2005.



HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Park Anderson

Park Anderson joined PATC in 1976. In the 70s, Park and his sons volunteered on trails, but once he discovered cabins construction, the rest was history. Park has been working on cabins ever since, including construction of Doyle River Cabin, and converting shelters at Ivy Creek and South River to crew work sheds. His most recent achievement has been the Rosser Lamb House. He took charge of the project to restore the old farmhouse after it had been gutted and stood exposed to the weather. Park recruited Peg Manuel and the Lake of the Woods Singles Club and lit into the renovation project. Now more than 5 years later, the house has been preserved and is well on the way to complete restoration. He has contributed his time, skills, and his own funds to the project. Park has provided outstanding leadership by recruiting large numbers of willing workers to the project, including the singles group, Boy Scouts, and school and church groups.



Park Anderson (left) receives Honorary Life Membership Award.



Carol Niedzialek (left) accepts her award from Georgeann Smale.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Carol Niedzialek

Carol Niedzialek has been a PATC member for 31 years, joining in 1974. She is active in many aspects in the club, including the Highacre Committee and the Cadillac Crew. As club archivist and librarian, Carol has made significant contributions to PATC. After five years in this role, she will be retiring from the post this year. Working every Tuesday at headquarters, Carol indexed and catalogued archival materials, ensuring club history is preserved. Carol produced a silent black and white video that showcases club history, entitled, "PATC films from 1932." This 120-minute video is a conversion of homemade films by PATC members. Carol also edited and published, "Footpath in the Wilderness, the early days of PATC." It is a compilation of stories that were written and published in the PATC Bulletin in the 1930s and 1940s.

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HOW TO CONTACT US: HEADQUARTERS, SALES, CABIN RESERVATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Club President (leave a message), Tom Johnson: Extension 40

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Potomac Appalachian

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www.patc.net/about/contact.html

or call the main club phone number.

Contact list published twice annually in the PA.

Tom's Trail Talk – And the Winners Are ...

PATC gives out a few very special awards each year, always at the annual meeting and dinner. This year's event at the Atrium, that magnificent facility at Meadowlark Garden owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, honored four veteran PATC volunteers.

Receiving honorary life membership awards were Kerry Snow, Park Anderson, and Carol Niedzialek. Each was especially distinguished in his or her club service.

Kerry stepped down three years ago as PATC supervisor of trails, only to become a district manager in the central district of Shenandoah National Park. His Blue and White Crew sets the standard for regional trail crews, and his Web site should be viewed by everyone in the club who wants to know what is possible on the internet (<http://blueandwhitecrew.org>). Kerry was recently appointed PATC representative to ATC, the Regional Partnership Committee, and his fellow committee members promptly elected him as the committee chairman. Kerry also lends his computer skills to the Information Systems Committee.

Park Anderson is known as PATC's invisible man. He has been working on cabins for as long as anyone can remember. A few years ago he and Peg Manuel assumed responsibility for a friendless and forlorn facility, the Rosser Lamb Cabin on the Per-Lee Tract in central Virginia. The cabin was a half-finished renovation project, but the amount of work to be done was so daunting that no one else would take it on. Together they have almost completed the renovation and have purchased materials with their own personal funds. This caps a long and distinguished career for Park, our Invisible Man.

Carol Niedzialek has long been recognized as having the most difficult name to spell of any PATC member. (Could she have been selected for

this honor years earlier if someone knew how to spell her name on the plaque?) But she, too, like Park, has selflessly devoted herself to doing just about any work that the club needs doing. She has worked on trail crews for years, and five years ago took on the job of club archivist. To Carol we owe the very fine condition of our archives today. She also takes on historical research projects and is a frequent contributor of historical vignettes in our newsletter. She also authored a book that contains a collection of writings by and about early club members. Her work has restored a sense of history that the club needs.

Finally, the top award – the Myron Avery Award – went to former President Walt Smith. Since “retiring” from his leadership position three years ago Walt has taken on the Tuscarora Trail – yes, all 250 miles of it. He has written a general management plan of more than a hundred pages. As central district manager, he has succeeded in rerouting a mile of the trail off the shoulder of U.S. Route 50 in Frederick County, Va. He is working on securing a three-mile section of trail that goes through private property a few miles north of Rte. 50. He has mobilized Scout groups to build campsites along the trail. He has led the project to construct a side trail across the Biby Tract on Great North Mountain. He has headed several side trail projects in the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area in West Virginia. He has worked to document the trail easement through the land of Dr. Brill. He is working on a project to build a new shelter on the Vos Tract in West Virginia, and he has led the effort to reroute a mile of the Tuscarora off private property and onto land owned by PATC. He has been a busy guy.

People often ask me how PATC accomplishes so much with just volunteers – how it is that we can keep going with a strictly volunteer workforce. I hope this year's awards helps to answer the questions. □

—Tom Johnson

Seasonal Trail Crews

A challenge, an opportunity.

PATC fills six trail crews in Shenandoah National Park (SNP) and four (the Massarock Crew) in the Lee District of the Forest Service. These crews work with rangers to put in five days of trail work on major projects. The work is challenging but fun, trail-building skills learned are valuable, while the fellowship is priceless. Are you up to and would you like to be on a seasonal crew? If so, go to our Web site and send an application to Trail Coordinator Heidi Forrest. The dates are: SNP Southern District: May 1-5 (four-day crew to avoid conflict with Mother's Day) and Aug. 14-19; Central District: May 8-12 and Aug. 21-25; North District: May 16-19 and Aug. 28-Sept. 1; Massarock Crew: Jun. 4-9; Jun. 11-15; Sept. 10-15; and Sept. 17-22. □

Ridgerunners Needed in 2006

PATC, in conjunction with ATC, wants to hire five Ridgerunners starting in April or May 2006. If you like to backpack, are experienced hiking on trails, are good at interacting with people, and would like to get paid for it, then please contact us. We provide additional training, including wilderness first aid and Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics.

Starting in spring 2006, the PATC Ridgerunners will backpack on their sections of the AT from SNP to Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania, staying near shelters and other facilities. Ridgerunners work with the public, trail community, and officials along the AT to enhance the public's enjoyment of the trail and to help protect it. Duties include:

- *Providing general support to hikers and campers, including directions and other information*

- *Educating hikers on the importance of minimizing their impact on the trails and surrounding resources*
- *Inspecting the AT and trail-related facilities and reporting on their condition to PATC and others*
- *Performing light maintenance on the trail.*

As ambassadors on the trail, they will meet and greet hikers and provide literature to inform visitors about the AT, particularly concerning LNT principles. Ridgerunners will encourage the best behavior on the part of hikers, facilitate a positive trail experience (especially for those who are poorly prepared), and elicit the support of trail neighbors, who may not understand or use the trail properly. Ridgerunners by their presence will discourage and mitigate misuse of the AT and its environs by performing educational and public relations functions. □

2005 PATC Service Awards

Bruce Agnew	Bob Edmunds	Catherine Kelleher	Dick Peacock	Jane Thompson
Terry Allen	Mel Ellis	Sue King	Steve Pebley	Jack Thornson
Esther Aulthouse	Georgie Ellwood	Steve Koeppen	Sam Perdue	Jim Tomlin
Bob Athey	Eliza Beth Engle	Ken Lacy	James Peterson	Keith Tondrick
Todd Athey	Dave Erdman	Alex Lampros	Thomas Phillips	Stan Turk
Charles Balch	Melanie Falk	Lauren Lang	Bob Pickett	Jack Turnbull
Larry Baldwin	Aksel Falk	Larry Lang	Catherine Pipan	Dave Trone
Christy Barber	Vic Fickes	Peter Le Comte	Christine Plepys	Eric Van Nortwick
Dick Batiste	Chris Firme	Joe Leahy	Rick Portal	Jeff Van Pelt
Nancy Batiste	Doug Ford	Gene Leese	Marjorie	Dave Vogel
Al Black	Jenifer Foster	Nan Leininger	Prochaska	George Walters
Susan Bly	Betsy Fowler	Wayne Limberg	David Pugh	Jennifer Ward
Harry Bridges	Christopher Frazar	Beth Lipford	Karen Pugh	Thann Ward
John Bridges	Ralph Frink	Ken Lyons	Bill Ragsdale	Heather Warren
Pete Brown	Ray Galles	Alice Lynch	Tim Rahn	Steve Watson
John M. Brown	Joe Gareri	Cindy Majewski	Lisa Rainey	Cyndy Watson
Karen Brown	Dave Garman	Lee Manning	Bob Rainey	Steve Weiss
Madison Brown	Harry Glenn	Judy McCarthy	Anne Regan	Holly Wheeler
John Browne	Ellen Glynn	John McCrea	Nathan Reigner	Carolyn Widman
Frank Burke	Jean Golightly	Bob McCullough	Joe Richardson	Ken Williams
Wilfred Burr	Hal Hallett	Alex McLellan	Jon Rindt	Jim Williams
Mike Capraro	Peter Harris	Anniell Miller	Katherine Rindt	Kyle Williams
Eric Carlson	John Hebbe	John Miller	Paul Roberts	Pam Williams
Tom Carroll	Katrina Hedlesky	Murry Moskowitz	Brian Rubendall	Nick Williams
Jennifer Chambers	John Hedrick	Susan Musante	Linda Rudy	Tyler Williamson
John Christian	Ralph Heimlich	Barbara Nash	John Ruppe	Patrick Wilson
Evan Clark	John Held	Dave Nebhut	Alex Sanders	Tom Wright
Dick Clough	Paul Hession	William Needham	Jeff Seal	
Henri Comeau	Charles Hillon	Susan Nelson	Clyde Seibert	
Karen Crawford	John Hlavac	Chris Nolen	William Setzer	
Bob Creter	Mark Holland	Richard Noonan	John Shannon	
Thomas Crow	Dave House	John Notsch	Linda Shannon-Beaver	
Amy Crumpton	Nancy Hughes	Cliff Noyes	Steve Sharp	IN MEMORIAM
Cathie Cummins	Tim Hupp	Rhett Orndorff	Kathy Sharp	
Keith Dailey	George Ivey	Jon Ortega	George Shubert	Rachel B. Smith
Jim Denham	Leonard Jaramillo	Steve Osbrach	Georgeann Smale	Leroy G. Wilson
S.V. Dove	Andy Johnson	Emeline Otey	James Snow	Wil Kohlbrenner
Dan Dueweke	Patricia Johnson	Steve Paull	John Spies	Carl L. "Peterson, Jr."
Dick Dugan	Dave Jordahl	Phil Paschall	Richard Stickley	Beatrice Barnes
Ruth Durloo	Andy Kapfer	Jennifer Paxton	Marilyn Stone	John F. Krasny
Mike Dyas	Leonard Keifer	Richard Peacock	Richard Stromberg	



Kerry Snow, right, receives an Honorary Life Member Award from Vice President Lee Sheaffer.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Kerry Snow

Active since 1995, Kerry Snow exemplifies the spirit of PATC. Over the last 11 years he has contributed countless hours toward the advancement of the club's goals. While typically associated with his tireless dedication to trail maintenance, Kerry's contributions cover a broad range of activities. His contributions include: leadership of the Blue & White Crew (10 years and counting), overseer of an Appalachian Trail section, and PATC representative (and leader) of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Stewardship Council. Some of his formerly held positions include Rock Spring Cabin Overseer, District Manager of the Shenandoah Central District AT, and of the park's side trails, as well as the PATC Supervisor of Trails. Perhaps Kerry's greatest contribution is his ability to motivate and energize others. His passion and enthusiasm for PATC and trail stewardship is undeniable and contagious.



Past President Walt Smith, left, is presented the Myron Avery Award by President Tom Johnson.

MYRON AVERY AWARD:

Walter M. Smith

In 2005, the year that PATC stated its main emphasis was the protection and improvement of the Tuscarora Trail, no individual has been more instrumental to this goal than Walt Smith. As Central District Manager of the trail, Walt worked with landowners and managers of public lands which the trail traverses, to improve relationships and enhance the trail. His work will help eliminate one of the longest remaining road stretches from the trail, in western Frederick County, Va. He has also established a database of landowners along the trail, to help identify future reroutes and opportunities to improve the trail. Walt prepared a comprehensive management plan for the Tuscarora Trail for review by fellow managers and partners. Much of the vision and credit for the Tuscarora Trail success can be attributed to Walt Smith's work. □



2006 Caretakers Needed for Blackburn Trail Center

Owned and operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Blackburn Trail Center is located on the AT, 12 miles south of Harpers Ferry. Blackburn is a premier stop for AT through-hikers and day hikers alike. It is also used for PATC conferences and training workshops as well as PATC member rentals. The caretaker's duties will include maintaining the Trail Center, Hiker's Hostel, and campground. Applicant should have experience in offering comfort and company to weary AT hikers. Flexibility and ability to get along with wide variety of people a must! Prefer couple with knowledge of the AT and hiker's needs. Very modest stipend offered (as well as housing) along with a fabulous summer experience. Dates runs from mid-March through October. If interested send a letter of application, resume and professional/personal references to Chris Brunton, 6245 Walkers Croft Way, Alexandria, VA 22315 or e-mail to trailbossbtc@msn.com. If you have questions call Chris at 703/924-0406. □

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

PATC's Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with an evening reunion, dinner, and program. PATC President Tom Johnson presented his program on the history of PATC. Long-time SSVC member Lynn Cameron dug through thousands of slides to prepare a "The Way We Were" retrospective. Trail worker Alvin Dove was presented with a plaque for his service in maintaining his section of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park. A brief business meeting topped off the evening, with the election of a new slate of officers, with Mark Gatewood as president, out-going president John Held as vice president, and Jennifer McCabe continuing as treasurer. □

—Mark Gatewood



Above: Tom Johnson and Chapter President John Held present Alvin Dove with 4,000-hour volunteer award from the National Park Service.

Left: Outgoing Chapter President John Held, President-elect Mark Gatewood, outgoing Vice President Michael Seth, Treasurer Jennifer McCabe, and Madison Brown.

The Vos Shelter Gets a Kick Start

We members of the newly formed West Shelter Crew were stomping our feet and eating doughnuts to keep away the cold as we waited for the PATC Shelter Crew. Suddenly, up the country road sailed a big shiny truck haulin' – what? An old tractor? What did Henry, John, and Josh have in mind, harvesting? With proud grins, they informed us of their great labor-saving plan to take Josh's lovingly restored farm tractor up to the shelter site, attach an auger to the back, and let the engine dig our holes. Now, if we could just get our vehicles up the nosebleed incline of the access road! So started a sunny day of work on the new Vos Shelter being built on PATC's 196-acre Ruth Morris and Vos properties, located across the Potomac from Hancock, Md., right off I-70. The proj-

ect is just a small part of Central District Manager Walt Smith's ambitious plans to make the Tuscarora Trail as inviting an experience as the AT. Scenic reroutes, comfortable cabins, and welcoming shelters will combine with the beauty and solitude of the trail.

We got a good beginning that day before the snowy weather set in, and you're invited to join us in the spring when we start back up again. We'll kick off our building season on the last weekend of March, the 24-26th, with PATC's Little Orleans Cabin as the perfect overnighting spot for happy hour and home-cooked meals. Mark your calendars for the last weekend of March, and we'll find out what else Josh can get that tractor to do. □

—Karen Brown

Your Opinion Matters

Do You Use the Online Newsletter? Drop us a line and tell us why. Is there anything you particularly like about this format, or wish we did differently? Would you recommend it to other members? Would you be willing to give up the print copy to save the club printing and mailing costs? Please drop us a note and give us your views. Your comments will be an important part of our decision-making as we look at ways of delivering the news to you faster, in color, and for a lower cost. Write to PA@PATC.net. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Linda Shannon-Beaver

Emergency Response Training and Trail Patrol

Present

Basic Wilderness First Aid and CPR and AED

Jan. 21 and 22, 2006

Day one of this two-day class covers Adult CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and American Heart Association First Aid. You will receive a textbook and a certification card good for two years. Day two is American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) Basic Wilderness First Aid. You will learn how to do patient assessments, bleeding control, splinting, and other basic first aid skills in the wilderness setting. There is plenty of hands-on time and paramedics with years of backcountry experience teach the classes.

Cost of the class is \$120 for Trail Patrol Members and \$130 for Non-Trail Patrol members. Pre-Registration is required before Jan. 13, 2006.

For more information or to download the registration form, go to www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol.com or contact Saleena DeVore at tp1staid@patc.net or 540/972-8394.

Wind River Range Llama-Trekking in 2005

A Walk in the Winds

The Wind River Mountains host the same infinite wonders of nature as their better known neighbors, the Grand Tetons: mountains carved before there was history, verdant watersheds, boulder-strewn trails, dense stands of lodgepole pines opening above to steep canyon walls, and, in the black of night, the sky pierced by shooting stars.

Our hiking story is as much about camping as it is about hiking because camping is just about the only way to access the remote back-country of the Popo Agie Wilderness, especially the Cirque of the Towers and Pinto Park, some of the most beautiful and rugged parts of the Winds, and our primary destinations. Our tale is also about water, in all its various forms – idyllic streams, swiftly flowing rivers, isolated lakes, thundering cascades, abandoned snow fields, pounding rain, and, even hail.

The story begins in the foothills of the Wind River Mountains in the small town of Lander, Wyo. (5,350 ft.). Since most of us (six PATCers) live close to sea level, we spent our first day becoming acclimated to the higher elevations by doing some modest hiking above 9,000 feet and taking in geologic wonders.

The next morning we gathered at the Lander Llama bunkhouse and watched our guide, Shad Hamilton, and his helper, Eliah Pedersen, adeptly pack up panniers with tents, pads, sleeping bags, pots, a long-handled fry pan, a black kettle, a Coleman stove, a lantern, and food in insulated chests that would turn into fresh tuna salad, delicious chicken enchiladas, hearty beef stew, and the old standbys of hearty oatmeal, fluffy pancakes, and homemade cookies. And lucky for us, nine llamas, Pylon and Brighton, to name two, will transport it all. Llamas are most closely associated with South America, but they are well-suited to the high country of Wyoming: sure-footed, easy on the environment, feast on the land, camera friendly, and generally docile except when annoyed.

Our small caravan traveled through the Shoshone Indian Reservation, past red and yellow plastic flowers nodding over Sacajawea's grave, and carefully climbed the rutted, dusty, dirt road to the trail head at Dickinson Park. We glimpsed a lone coyote as it darted in the woods. There was ample time



Lonesome Lake and the cirque of the towers. Left to right Ian Baker, David Appel, Kim Odekirk, Mark Baker, Meredith Holland, and Nancy Holland.

for contemplating the challenges of trekking for seven days and six nights in valleys and canyons that would lead us to the crest of the Continental Divide.

The Peaks

The Cirque of the Towers is a series of massive granite peaks over 12,000 ft. whose shear, gray, ice-age carved walls tower over the crystalline waters of Lonesome Lake at the headwaters of the North Popo Agie River. The trail we followed to the Cirque took us along the North Fork of the Popo whose cold, bracing waters, swift current, and slippery rocks got our attention each of the four times we crossed it. We put on our wading shoes and used our hiking sticks to brace ourselves, crossing the 60 feet or so of knee-deep water with Shad and Eliah always there to help. The valley trail was densely forested and ribboned with numerous springs and tiny creeks and offered occasional views of rocky, gray peaks – a heady foretaste of what was to come. We camped the first night at Sanford Park, a scruffy coniferous area, and set a pattern of sorts for the nights to follow: Shad and Eliah unpacked the llamas, we each claimed our sleeping bag, pad, and tent, selected a good site, and erected our tent. It was then time to build a toasty campfire to ward against the cool, damp evening, share tales of the day, eat with gusto the wondrous meal prepared by Shad and Eliah, top it off with hot drink of choice, and contentedly climb into our sleeping bags.

The next day with the sun dancing around us, we continued our steady ascent of the North Fork Trail toward our first base camp near the head of the valley. That night we camped at timberline at the edge of an alpine meadow in the shadow of Lizard Head Peak (12,842 ft.), one of the forbidding string of mountains forming the Cirque of Towers. Our goal the next day was to climb to Jackass Pass (10,500 ft.) on the Continental Divide.

The morning sun gently warmed our backs as we set out on day three for Lonesome Lake and Jackass Pass. We gingerly traversed soggy alpine meadows and reveled in the challenges of balancing on slippery logs and hopping on car-sized boulders to cross the channel where Lonesome Lake drains into the North Popo Agie. It flows largely unnoticed through Lizard Head Meadows, moves swiftly on to the Wind River, then catches up to the Missouri, and finishes in the Gulf of Mexico. Lying snugly in the basin of the Cirque is Lonesome Lake. The path from there rises steeply and took us around huge boulders and on long switchbacks past fields of alpine wild flowers. We spotted a bull moose grazing in a glade close by, crossed a snowfield, and the closer we got to the summit, the grayer the sky became with dark clouds obscuring the peaks. As we reached the ridge, there was a loud clap of thunder followed by Shad urging us down the far side to be protected from lightning. The cold, lashing rain bore down, and as the clouds enclosed us, we sought refuge, some

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under the wings of white bark pines, others on the lee side of boulders. Finally, the rain, having contributed enough to the watershed of the Pacific, let up enough for us to quickly climb back up the steep grassy western slope to Jackass Pass and just as quickly descend. As we neared camp, the sun came out and another element was added to our camping routine: We checked the tents for water and draped nearby trees and rocks with our clothes and boots to dry out.

Meadows and Camp Life

The following morning we left the sheer, gray walls and splintered spires of the Cirque for the lush green meadow of Pinto Park. As the long, rocky, steep, densely forested trail emptied into the sun-drenched meadow, outlined by softly contoured ridges and mountains that kissed a cloudless, cerulean sky, we gave a contented sigh of relief. We luxuriated as we fussed over camping chores: picking just the right spot for the tent – facing east in hopes of morning sun, a little shelter in case of rain, some privacy; adorning the landscape with the white, red, green, blue of our belongings; washing up by an agonizingly cold stream; discovering that a 12- x 24-inch stuff sack can hold the essentials for six nights in the wilderness, which for some included a John Grisham mystery, the latest Harry Potter, and the ever popular Peloponnesian War by Thucydides.

The next day was crisp and clear, and three of us followed Shad and Elish as we hiked to the top of a ridge-line, shedding layers as we climbed, and scrambled up boulder staircases. From a rocky pinnacle we looked across to the forbidding peaks of the Continental Divide, dotted everywhere with snow fields and glaciers, picked out the Wind River Peak, at 13,192 ft. one of the highest peaks in the range, and admired the string of black-green, trout-filled lakes one-half mile below: the Lower and Upper Baer, and East and West Echo, and Deep Creek Lakes. As the sky darkened, and thick, heavy clouds amassed, we



Warbonnet Peak, Jackass Pass to left.



Photos by Mark Baker

Fording the North Fork of the Popo Agie River.

hastily continued over the ridge, scrambled down, up, and over boulders and bushwhacked through brambles, and, just as the sky opened up, took shelter in a thicket of pines. The piercing rain turned to hail, which, as it accumulated, looked like snow. We scampered along the Creek Trail with the rain as our companion, gradually dropped down through cool pines, and passed thundering cascades with mist shrouding the green and caressing our cheeks. The rain pursued us to camp, and so we carefully climbed into our tents, shed soaking clothes and boots, and snuggled in our sleeping bags, some to nap, others to read, only to emerge later into the fullness of afternoon sun. The next morning we reluctantly started our two-day trek out of the Winds. Our last night we camped at Three Forks Park and learned some handy techniques for bathing in frigid water. In summary: Don't spend much time in it. This can be accomplished by lathering the whole body and rinsing while on the bank, jumping in, dunking once or twice, and getting out while you can still feel your feet.

All too soon, we were on our way to Worthen Meadow, our pick-up point. It was a stunningly gorgeous day, as we left behind white bark pines and spruce of the higher elevations and wandered back into the lodgepole pines of the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River into a long meandering canyon. Just as each step drew us closer to our first hot shower in seven days, clean clothes, the familiar voice of a loved one, it also marked an end – an end to time suspended, when days are noted for distances traveled, heights attained, and vistas witnessed. We crossed our last stream, said our goodbyes to the llamas, and hauled ourselves into the van for the drive to Lander.

A hiking story is also about people. We came from Maryland, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. We were teen-agers, middle-agers, octogenarians, and somewhere in between. We were gentle and humorous, easy on the eye, healthy, smart and clever, adaptable, and reliable. Our trip organizer, Dave Appel, set a high standard for leadership: no detail is trivial, no question without merit, care and respect toward all. There were six PATCers on the trek, each one with a tale to tell, and this one is mine. □

—Nancy Holland

Resources: "Climbing and Hiking in the Winds," by John Kelsey; "Hiking Wyoming's Wind River Range," by Ron Adkison; USDA Forest Service Map – Shoshone National Forest, South Half; and Earthwalk Press, Hiking Map and Guide: Southern Wind River Range; Lander Llama Outfitters, Lander, Wyo. □

In Memoriam

Shirley J. Strong

PATC Member 1972-2005

Shirley Strong, who passed away on Nov. 29, was a very active member of PATC for many years. She had leukemia which had developed into a severe illness three years ago.

She grew up in Vermont, graduating from the University of Vermont where she worked in administration for 20 years. She was active with Green Mountain Club and was elected its first female president. Shirley was also active with Vermont Natural Resources Council, the ATC, and the Nature Conservancy. Shirley met Paula Strain when Paula was working in upstate New York and starting the Finger Lakes Trail; Paula needed to consult with the Green Mountain Club president and hence met Shirley for the first time.

Shirley moved to Washington, D.C. in 1972, working at the National Wildlife Federation where she was director of the first Conservation Internship Program; she later worked for the Montgomery County Commission on Aging. She was acquainted with Ruth Blackburn who brought Shirley to council meetings and her first azalea hike on Buck Ridge. Shirley became active in PATC, continuing her interests in conservation issues, especially protection of trail lands. She served as secretary of ATC and in many capacities in PATC – she was membership secretary for several years, and worked with the Land Acquisition and Management Committee, cabins and shelter construction, was the excursions chair, and co-chaired the workshop program for VA '95. Shirley played a big role in rebuilding/refurbishing several cabins – Jones Mountain, Hermitage, Glaser, Little Orleans, Cliff's House, and John's Rest. In addition, she was co-overseer of Schairer Trail Center. Shirley brought responsibility and enthusiasm to whatever job she undertook in PATC. She was an avid birder and lover of all nature.

A gathering of friends for a time of memory sharing was held at Shirley's home on December 1. A memorial service will be held in Craftsbury Common, VT, in the spring. Shirley will be missed by her many PATC friends and family members in Vermont.

—Nancy Strong West and Carol Niedzialek

James Paradiso

PATC Life Member

PATC member James Paradiso of Arlington, Va., age 46, died Oct. 17, 2005, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Jim was a native of Watkins Glen, N.Y., and a graduate of Cornell University. From 1984-1998, he established and operated Ratsies Terrapin Eatery in College Park, Md., a restaurant named after his grandfather. More recently, he served as director of client services for Coyle and Associates, a kitchen design service in Springfield, Va.

He was a Life Member of PATC, and he had been a member since 1988. In lieu of flowers, the family requests blood donations be made as memorial contributions to Inova Fairfax Hospital, Fairfax, Va., or donations to Watkins Glen Public Library, Watkins Glen, N.Y., or The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Remembrances may be sent to the family at www.roycechedzoy.com. □



Hiker's Notebook

Common Name: Table Mountain Pine, Squirrel Pine, Hickory Pine, Prickly Pine, Ridge Pine, Southern Mountain Pine.

Scientific Name: *Pinus pungens* (Genus *Pinus* is Latin for something made of pine-wood, including a ship, an oar, a pine-torch, and a garland of pine-leaves; species *pungens* from Latin *pungere* to prick, referring to the stout, hooked spines on the cones).

Potpourri: Table Mountain Pine is the only pine restricted to the Appalachian Mountains. It was first harvested for use in 1794 from Tablerock Mountain in Burke County, N.C., from which it gets its name. Although it grows at elevations ranging from 150 feet in Delaware to 5,780 feet in the Great Smoky Mountains, it is dominant over the closely related Pitch Pine (*P. rigida*) and Virginia Pine (*P. virginiana*) at elevations above 4,000 feet, particularly on south-facing, dry, rocky ridges.

The cones of the Table Mountain Pine are serotinous, meaning late in development. Stands of trees on western and northern exposures have closed cones that remain on the tree for as long as 25 years. The seeds remain viable for up to 9 years. Red squirrels remove cones from the tree to eat the seeds. They do this by chewing away cone scales row by row from the base of the cone. The name squirrel pine derives from this activity.

Table Mountain Pine wood is of low density and strength and has limited use as a building material. It is primarily used for interior sheathing, sub flooring, joists, as well as for pallets and crates. Its tough branches give it the name hickory pine. □

—William Needham

Visit the Hiker's Notebook Web site at:
www.mwrop.org/W_Needham/h_notebook.html

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday; summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles. We usually maintain trails on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Sprint parking lot, 2307 Hydraulic Road, at 9:00 a.m., with food and water for the day. The majority of hikes are in the south and central districts of SNP, with some in the north district and in George Washington National Forest. Our Chapter hikes are posted at www.patc.net/chapters/char/hikes.html. INFO: Jere Bidwell 434/295-2143 or John Shannon 434/293-2953.

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday evening dinner at the Gypsy Spring Cabin. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/chapters/north/).

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Betsy Fowler (efowler@shentel.com).

Chapters

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See www.ssvc.org or the one linked to the PATC Web site for descriptions of hikes and work trips. We usually hike in the southern and central districts of the SNP and in the GWNF. Contact the listed hike leader for information about a specific event, or contact Mark Gatewood 540/248-0442.

West Chapter

The West Chapter meets twice a year in March and September. The Chapter maintains a section of the Black Locust circuit trail in Gambrill State Park near Frederick, Md. Work trips and hikes are usually scheduled monthly from March through December. We also lead overnight weekend trips for day hikes or backpacking. All activities are listed in the PA Forecast. For further information contact Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 304/876-7062 (evenings) or 240/777-7741 (days).

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Bert Finkelstein (bertf@erols.com) 703/715-8534.

Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types – we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interests in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice

climbers. For further information contact Ozana Halik, (mrkayak1@verizon.net) 703/242-0177, or Mack Muir (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

PATC Hikes

PATC offers organized hikes appealing to the diverse interests of our members. There are K-9 Hikes, which invite you to bring your favorite dog; Family Hikes tailored to kids; Natural History Hikes stalking the fascinating but often elusive flora and fauna of the region; hikes featuring varying levels of difficulty with the Easy Hikers, In-Between Hikers, and Vigorous Hikers; Birding Hikes with experts to help sight and identify our avian neighbors; Historical Hikes tracking little-known structures in Shenandoah National Park; Series Hikes tracing the entire length of the Tuscarora Trail or the trails of Pennsylvania, section by section; Backpacking Hikes traversing the tracts of West Virginia and Southern Virginia; hikes scheduled for weekends; ones scheduled for weekdays; Geology Hikes led by experts from the Smithsonian focused on the unique stratigraphy of our area; Mushroom Hikes with mycologists; Waterfall Hikes to beat the summer heat; and Outreach Hikes to get together with the members of area groups like the Sierra Club or the Congressional Hikers. That is just to name a few. Check out the Forecast calendar and hear updates on the weekly tape (703/242-0965).

Other Clubs' Hikes

Capital (www.capitalhikingclub.org) and Wanderbirds (www.wanderbirds.org) hike on Saturdays and Sundays, traveling by bus and leaving from downtown, with suburban stops as well. Center Club, Northern Virginia Hiking Club and Sierra Club hike on both Saturdays and Sundays using carpools, which often leave from a suburban Metro stop. Schedules are available at PATC Headquarters and are published in area newspapers on Fridays. The schedule of West Virginia Highland Conservancy outings in the Monongahela National Forest and surrounding areas is on their web site at www.wvhighlands.org.

KEY to Forecast Activities

All events are marked for easy identification. Late changes or cancellations are listed on the weekly information tape (703/242-0965), which is updated on Sunday evening for the following seven days. The Forecast can also be found on PATC's Web site at www.patc.net/activities/forecast.html.

-  Hiking Trips
-  Backpacking Trips
-  Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin/Shelter Work Trips
-  Ski Trips
-  Special Events
-  Meetings
-  Classes
-  K9 Trail Blazers (dogs permitted)

Note to all hike leaders: Please ask non-members on your hike if they would like to join PATC, then get names and addresses so a club volunteer can send them information packets. Thanks!

Meetings

Meetings

Meetings are held at PATC HQ, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, Va., unless otherwise noted.

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. – We meet every month on the second Wednesday except for August, unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Ozana Halik (mrkayak1@verizon.net) 703/242-0177 or our Web site: www.potomacmountainclub.org

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

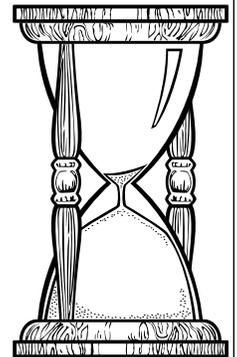
Business meeting - Last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Doug Sigman (join@smrg.org), 703/255-5034, or www.smrg.org.

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

The council meets at 7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC Council meets every month to conduct business of the club and once a year for a dinner meeting. All members are always welcome. Come see how we make decisions about your club. INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley@patc.net) 703/242-0693 x11.

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m., except January. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's goodwill trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, and strive to educate the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking, and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications, and personal equipment. All Trail Patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Katrina Hedlesky (trailpatrol@patc.net) 703/533-3652, or see our section in PATC's Web site: www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol.



January

1 (Sunday)

DEADLINE – February Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.

All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@earthlink.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

2 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike**Harpers Ferry, WV**

Start the New Year with a kid-friendly hike in Harpers Ferry. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

3 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Old Rag and White Oak Canyon. 14 miles and 4500 ft climb. Enjoy the scramble up Old Rag, down to foot of Whiteoak for a second climb and return via Corbin Hollow. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

3 (Tuesday)

NO MEETING - Trail Patrol, DOES NOT MEET IN JANUARY.

4 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Stove Maintenance (REI)**Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Stove failure can ruin your outdoor adventure, especially in winter. Bring your stove and join us as we discuss problem diagnosis, and simple routine maintenance procedures to keep your backcountry heat source completely reliable. We'll assess your stove and recommend routine maintenance or repair. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

4 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers**Washington, DC**

4-5 miles, park and city hike. Start at Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park, to National Zoo, over bridge to Adams Morgan, down 16th Street to Meridian park and back to Pierce Mill. We might make short visits to All Souls Church, Mexican Cultural Center and Meridian House. Lunch in park if weather permits. INFO: Dan Lieberman (danlan2000@att.net) 301/986-9015.

4 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers**Location to be determined**

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington, DC area to various trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place, time, leader's name and phone number, and a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

10 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Intro to GPS (REI)**Fairfax, VA**

7:30 p.m. Learn how GPS receivers work and what affects accuracy, as well as features, benefits, and how to choose a model. We'll also include a brief overview of online resources and batteries, water and shock resistance, and accessories. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

10 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Hike along the AT from Ashby Gap (Rt. 50) to Manassas Gap (VA 55) in the cold, clear air of winter, passing above Sky Meadows, thru a wildlife management area, and on to lunch at Dick's Dome. A bit over 12 miles and 2,400 feet of elevation gain. INFO: Cliff Noyes (hclmnoyes@yahoo.com) 540/373-8267 or Chris Nolen 301/469-8931.

10 (Tuesday)

MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

11 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Women's Winter Backpacking (REI)**Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. We enjoy the outdoors spring, summer and fall; why not enjoy winter as well? Better views, clearer air, no crowds, and a totally different look to our favorite destinations make winter outdoor adventure exciting and enjoyable. And the gear and skills are really not that much different from the rest of the year. Join REI's Beth Bojarski and explore how to be comfortable and enjoy overnight backcountry trips in the winter. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

11 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers**Arlington, VA**

The Easy Hikers will hike about 4 miles on the GW bike trail and through Arlington Cemetery. After the hike we will have lunch at a restaurant in Rosslyn. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot. For those who elect to come by Metro, meet at the top of the escalator of the Arlington Cemetery Metro stop at 10:45 a.m. The TR Island parking lot is on the GW Memorial Parkway just west of the TR Bridge and is accessible only from the westbound lanes. It can be reached from DC by crossing the TR Bridge and turning right onto the GW Parkway. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

11 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers**Location to be determined**

See January 4 event for more information.

11 (Wednesday)

MEETING - Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.

14 (Saturday)

HIKE – Long Distance**Front Royal, VA**

Circuit Hike to Signal Knob at the northern end of Massanutten Mountain. Scenic views of Shenandoah and Potomac River Valleys. Continue over Three-Top Mountain to Powell's Fort and return via the Mudhole Gap Trail. 17 miles with elevation gain of 3000 feet. Moderate pace. Inexperienced hikers contact leader for requirements. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

14 (Saturday)

HIKE – North Chapter**New Bloomfield, PA**

Tuscarora Trail Hike IX: Blue Mountain section: PA Rte 34/Sterrets Gap to the Scott Farm. 6.4 miles-moderate hike. Elevation change of 800 feet. This hike will finish the Tuscarora Trail for all you hikers. Thanks for coming. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855, after 6:00 p.m.

16 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike**Sterling, VA**

Kid-friendly hike in Claude Moore Park, along the white-blazed Little Stoney Mountain Trail and the

blue-blazed Scout Trail. This circuit hike will be about 2 miles long. We will hike up to the view of the suburbs, and past a pond. We will meet in the Vestal's Gap Road Parking lot by the visitor's center. After the hike we stop by their great visitor's center. The Loudoun Heritage Museum, with kid-friendly exhibits, is also located in the park. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

17 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Intro to Climbing (REI)**Fairfax, VA**

7:30 p.m. Take your adventures to new heights. We'll get you started on gear essentials, basic technique, safety, climbing protocols, and belaying. Space is limited. Register at Customer Service. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

17 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Here is your chance to repeat one of the original Terwilliger vigorous hikes from the '90's. This loop starts on AT north to Elkwallow, then to Mathews Arm and looping south on the Knob Mountain Trail to climb Neighbor Mountain. About 18.5 miles and 4,000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

18 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Winter Hikes (REI)**Rockville, MD**

7:30 p.m. It's cold, it's wet. It's perfect! Winter hiking gives us the opportunity to see things we can't in the warmer weather – animal tracks, views through leafless trees, crystal clear evening skies, uncrowded trails. We'll share some of our favorite destinations for the season. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

18 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers**Washington, DC**

The Easy Hikers will hike approx. 4 miles in Rock Creek Park. From Pierce Mill we will hike up the Melvin Hazen Trail to Connecticut Avenue then down the Avenue to the National Zoo. After a couple of stops in the zoo (baby panda, perhaps?) and lunch in the Mane restaurant we will return via the Parkway Trail. Meet at Pierce Mill at 10:15 a.m. From the beltway follow Connecticut Avenue inbound to Tilden St. NW. Turn left (east) on Tilden and go 0.5 miles to picnic area opposite the Mill. Hike is canceled if DC Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089. Cell phone on day of hike: 202/365-2921.

18 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers**Location to be determined**

See January 4 event for more information.

21 (Saturday)

HIKE – Natural History Hike**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join Bob Pickett as we hike up the old road to Skyland; the resort built by George Freeman Pollock, forty years before the advent of the National Park. We'll talk about Pollock's rustic resort and many of the interesting stories that he relates in his 1960 book, "Skyland." This hike starts from the west side of the Park, climbing 2,000 ft. over approximately 4 miles. Depending on weather conditions, our goal will be to reach Skyland and return for a total of about 8 miles. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

FORECAST

21 (Saturday)

HIKE – Strenuous

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Waterfalls in winter reveal a whole new beauty - the Ice Capades of nature. Come explore these bush-whacking routes along Devil's Ditch and Naked Creek, with 7-10 miles of strenuous hiking. Approximately 1,100 feet of elevation gain/loss. Overnight at a local PATC cabin. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

21 (Saturday)

HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Providing the weather has been cold enough to form ice we will do a 10-or-more-mile, circuit hike to include about a mile of bush whacking up White Oak Run to get a close-up view of the falls, cascades, and warm weather swimming holes in winter. This being a winter hike we should see some nice ice displays. Other trails could include the Appalachian, Hawksbill, and Cedar Run. PATC Map 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

21 – 22 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid

Vienna, VA

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This two-day class provides American Heart Association certification in Adult CPR, AED, and Basic First Aid. The second day the student will learn American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) Basic Wilderness First Aid. See ad on pge 6 of this issue. INFO: Saleena DeVore (tp1staid@patc.net) 540/972-8394.

22 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – GWNF

New Market, VA

Help pitch in to get the Massanutten Mountain South District trails in GWNF back into shape. We will meet in the parking lot of the Forest Service Visitors Center on Hwy. 211 at 9:30 a.m. Experience is unnecessary. Training and tools can be provided. Please bring your lunch, water, and warm layers of clothing. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Please check before going to the meeting site. I can provide you with the exact location of the trail we will be working on as the date approaches. INFO: Tate Heuer (tate@wth2.com) 202/255-6055.

24 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A training hike takes the AT from Rt. 522 via Possums Rest then veers west to descend Lands Run Gap Trail for a country road walk and a climb to Jenkins Gap returning on the AT. 20 miles and 3,500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

25 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Winter Adventure Destinations (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. No, we don't have 14,000 foot peaks, with year-round snow just west of Manassas. But we do have reliable, and at times extreme, winter conditions within three-hours' drive, with good winter access to many of the better backcountry areas. Join us for an evening's exploration of some of the nearest and best winter playgrounds, and tips and suggestions for fun and safe winter adventures. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

25 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers

Vienna, VA

We will hike about 4 miles on level, paved trails in and around Vienna. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center. Bring lunch and water. We will eat lunch at the PATC headquarters. Directions: Take Beltway or Route 7 to Tysons Corner and from there take Rt.123 to Vienna. After passing the Giant and Safeway Shopping Centers on the left, turn left on Park Street. The Vienna Community Center is on the right at the end of the block. INFO: Sigrid Crane (introibo@worldnet.att.net) 703/938-0954.

25 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See January 4 event for more information.

25 (Wednesday)

SPECIAL EVENT – Hike for Discovery (REI)

Rockville, MD

6:30 p.m. Join REI and The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to learn about a new adventure program to hike into the Grand Canyon in June 2006. Help raise much needed funds for research and services for people battling blood-related cancers. Program participants receive professional training and coaching support, clinics on hiking, gear, nutrition, first aid, and CPR. See if this challenge is for you! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

28 (Saturday)

MEETING – SNP-PATC Meeting

Vienna, VA

At 10:00 a.m. the SNP trail folks and the SOT and PATC DM's/trail crew/trail workshop leaders from SNP will meet at Headquarters in Vienna for their annual meeting. Members may attend for information.

28 – 29 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew

Round Hill, VA

On the first work trip of 2006 the Crew will be clearing trees and brush along the access road to the trail center. Specific projects are dependent on the weather but there is always plenty to do. Great place to get away from town in January. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

31 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Waterlick, VA

Starting at parking for Signal Knob Trail in GWNF, climb to the Knob, then down to pick up the Tuscarora Trail along Three Top Mountain, returning via Powell Fort Camp and Mudhole Gap Trails. 15 miles and 3,000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

31 (Tuesday)

MEETING – Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.

February

1 (Wednesday)

DEADLINE – March *Potomac Appalachian*

Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.

All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@earthlink.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Basic Map and Compass Skills (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Winter is a great time to be outdoors! With the leaves gone and clear Canadian air, the views from Appalachian ridges are spectacular. But with snow on the trails, your favorite places look a lot different. It's a great time to make sure your map and compass skills are up to standard. Join us for an evening of introduction and review of map reading and compass use skills. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

1 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See January 4 event for more information.

4 (Saturday)

HIKE – Snowshoeing

Davis, WV

Come explore Timberline Ski Resort's backcountry, which abuts Dolly Sods Wilderness. We'll start at the top of the Timberline ski lift and snowshoe along the top of Cabin Mountain, approximately 5-7 moderate miles. For snowshoe rentals contact Whitegrass at www.whitegrass.com or 304/866-4114. If snow is unavailable, a hike along Cabin Mountain will take place. Approximately 400 feet elevation gain/loss. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

4 – 5 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid (WSC)

Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this 18-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

7 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Circuit hike of 18.5 miles with 4,000 ft climb, with option for 14 miles, goes up Sam's Ridge Trail, down between Hot and Short Mountains, then up Hannah Run to AT north to Meadow Spring and Hazel Mountain Trails. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

7 (Tuesday)

MEETING – Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

8 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers

Vienna, VA

About 4 easy miles on the W&OD Trail. Meet at the Clarks Crossing Park parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From Beltway, exit to Rt. 123 South. In 2.4 miles, turn right onto Beulah Road. After 1.6 miles, bear left onto Clarks Crossing Road. In 0.9 miles, park in the lot at the end of the road or on nearby streets. Bring water. Lunch after the walk will be at a restaurant. Hike will be canceled if the Fairfax County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

8 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See January 4 event for more information.

8 (Wednesday)

MEETING – Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.

11 (Saturday)

🚶 HIKE – Strenuous

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 16-mile circuit hike including Little Devil Stairs, the Thornton River Trail and the Hull School Trail. Several water crossings and a steep, rocky ascent up the Little Devil Stairs canyon. Moderate Pace. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. Elevation gain 4,000 feet. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

14 (Tuesday)

🏠 MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

15 (Wednesday)

🚶 HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See January 4 event for more information.

16 - 20 (Thursday - Monday)

🏠 XC SKI TRIP - White Mountains

White Mountains, New Hampshire

Join fellow cross-country skiers on a trip to one of the premier winter vacation regions in New England. Set against the backdrop of the White Mountains, the extensive Nordic trail systems offer scenic beauty unparalleled on the East Coast. This is one of the Section's most popular trips. 8 to 16 participants. Please go to www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ for up-to-date information on this and all XC ski trips. INFO: Rob Swennes (robertswennes@hotmail.com) 703/532-6101.

17 - 20 (Friday - Monday)

🏠 XC SKI TRIP - Ski-Dance Weekend

Jennerstown, PA

Camp Harmony has cross country skiing (downhill skiing available nearby), sledding, dancing (contra and square dancing; workshops, too), and music making. Please go to www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ for up-to-date information on this and all XC ski trips. INFO: Eliot Applestein (eliotapplestein@verizon.net) 301/984-6855.

17 - 20 (Friday - Tuesday)

🏠 XC SKI TRIP - Village Inn Chalet

Canaan Valley, WV

We'll be staying close to Whitegrass and Timberline for President's Day. The Chalet sleeps 7-12 people and has a great room for après ski get-togethers, a fireplace, and a fully-equipped kitchen. Families can be accommodated. Bring acoustic musical instruments for a Saturday Evening jam session. Only 9 spaces available. Please go to www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ for up-to-date information on this and all XC ski trips. INFO: Elliot and Kathy Brumberger (ElliotBrum@comcast.net) 301/774-7412.

18 (Saturday)

🚶 HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

This will be a 15-mile circuit on the Slaughter, Appalachian, Bearfence, and Conway River Trails to include the Devil's Ditch Falls. Total elevation gain is approximately 3,400 feet. PATC Map 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

21 (Tuesday)

🚶 HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

From Meadows Cabin parking climb to Doubletop for views, scramble up the rocks and descend to the Rapidan to tour reopened Hoover Camp. Then climb Mill Prong Trail to AT to enjoy Dark Hollow Falls, returning via Stony Man Trail. 16 miles 4,000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

22 (Wednesday)

🚶 HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See January 4 event for more information.

24 - 27 (Friday - Monday)

🏠 XC SKI TRIP - Elk River Lodge

Slatyfork, WV

Treat yourself to a trip that'll rock your skis. We'll be heading to the Elk River Touring Center, a 6-hour drive from DC, in the heart of the Monongahela National Forest. They have skiing right from the center, or you can ski in the Cranberry Wilderness or Snowshoe. Please go to www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ for up-to-date information on this and all XC ski trips. INFO: Steve Bergstrom (steveb@nih.gov) h 301/564-9696, w 301/496-3871.

25 (Saturday)

🏠 MEETING – FS-PATC Meeting

Vienna, VA

At 10:00 a.m. the Lee District Forest Service folks and the SOT and PATC DM's for trails in the Lee District will meet at Headquarters in Vienna for their annual meeting. Members may attend for information.

28 (Tuesday)

🚶 HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb Leading Ridge Trail to the AT south to lunch at Corbin Cabin. Then climb Indian Run Trail to return via Crusher Ridge. 18 miles with 4,000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

28 (Tuesday)

🏠 MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.

28 - March 5 (Tuesday - Sunday)

🏠 XC SKI TRIP - White Mountains

Bryce Canyon, Utah

Bryce Canyon National Park offers a long winter season with plenty of snow into the early spring. This will be the Ski Touring Section's first trip out to this popular Western area on the Colorado Plateau and offers plenty of contrast to skiing in the East. Please go to www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ for up-to-date information on this and all XC ski trips. INFO: Rob Swennes (robertswennes@hotmail.com) 703/532-6101. ☐

Organizer Needed for Trail Talker Kits

Perhaps you can't always get out and work on the trails yet you have a few hours that you could use for PATC projects at PATC Headquarters in Vienna. Then we could use you!

When Trail Talkers go out into the community to represent PATC, they often sell PATC merchandise. If you can count T-shirts, guidebooks, maps, and other items and put them into a box for such events, you are perfect for this job! When the event is over, you would need to inventory what's left and count the money received.

Please contact Jane Thompson at jaytee-hike@yahoo.com or 301/349-2496 for further information. ☐

TAILS FROM THE WOODS by George Walters



"C'MON CARL... THIS WILL BE A GREAT PLACE TO HIDE!"



(Above) Madison Brown, Ranger Don and Steve O. pondering lateral drain work on Jeremy's Run.

Dick Dugan's Crew Week from Way Back in August



(Above) Ben Fitzgerald and Madison Brown – pondering the re-grading on Jeremy's Run.

(At right) Ranger Don, Dick, and Dave – pondering continues.

Pondering aside, we accomplished a lot of work, thanks to Dick and our entire team's efforts.

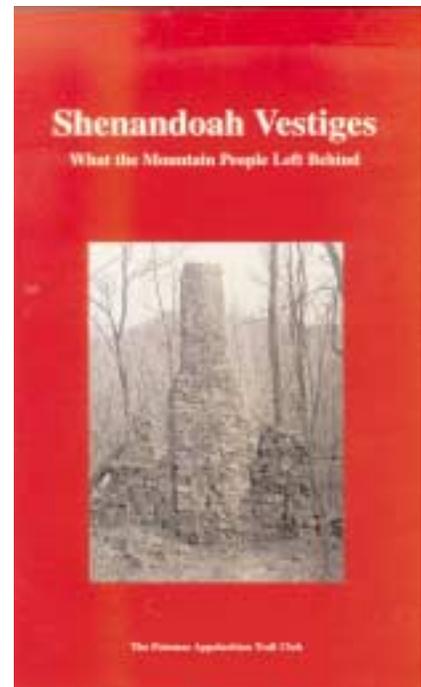


Shenandoah Vestiges

What the Mountain People Left behind

(3rd printing, Carolyn and Jack Reeder; 1993; 71pp.) “Years have passed since corn and cabbages grew in Shenandoah. The open land where cattle grazed is forest now. We sometimes forget that generations of people lived out their lives in the mountains we visit for recreation and renewal.” So begins this book about how to visit and appreciate the remains of the Appalachian settlement prior to the SNP. Much of the area was open field and pasture when the park was established in 1937. As the mountain families moved (or were moved) from their homes, they left behind a fascinating history of old homesites and artifacts. Shenandoah Vestiges explores some of what was left behind – the old homes, implements, even children’s toys – with explanations of what the artifacts were, and how they were used by mountain families.

Retail Price: \$5.00 non-member or \$4.00 member, plus \$2.00 shipping and 5 percent Virginia tax. You can call to place your order (703/242-0693) or go to www.patc.net. Item: PC260 □



FROM THE PATC STORE

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Vultures

It's not uncommon for us to be driving along a road in wintertime and find a large group of vultures roosting in a tree. Vultures roost in large communal groups, breaking away to forage independently during the day before returning to the same roost in the evening. They leave before dark to spend the night in the thick canopy of trees. Wintering roosts normally include both turkey and black vultures, often numbering 10, 20, even 65 birds. Surprisingly, they will not segregate themselves by species within these roosts. However, in general, our mountains are more populated by turkey vultures than black vultures.

Whether the turkey vultures we see here in winter are the same as the summer residents remains unknown. Both the turkey vulture and black vulture can be found south of the Mason-Dixon line year-round. But, while the black vulture does not travel north in the summer, the turkey vulture increases its range northward and will breed as far north as southern Canada before migrating back in the fall. So, it's very probable that, like the robin and other birds, there is a shift in populations, such that our winter birds most likely bred in New York, while our summer stock is wintering in the Carolina Piedmont. A little-known instinct of the Turkey Vulture is its ability to return to its summer feeding grounds on the vernal equinox each year, much as the swallows annually return to Capistrano. Seasonal celebrations are held throughout the country, the most well known held in Hinkley, Ohio.

Turkey vultures are easy to identify in flight. Their wings are lifted upward in a V-shape, or dihedral, over their back. Eagles and hawks have a more flat wingspread. Because they are very light for their size, they tend to teeter back and forth in the wind. These birds can glide for six miles without flapping a wing. The turkey vulture is a very large raptor, whose 6-foot wingspan is a good foot wider than the smaller black vulture.

Unlike the black vulture that hunts by sight the turkey vulture have keen olfactory senses, enabling it to smell its carrion from miles away. In fact, it is not uncommon to observe black vultures following the turkey vulture to its food source, and then stealing the meal through greater numbers and aggressive tactics. While studies have yet to be undertaken, the combination of the vulture's olfactory capabilities and the advantage afforded to

them by flight makes them likely candidates for use in search and rescue efforts.

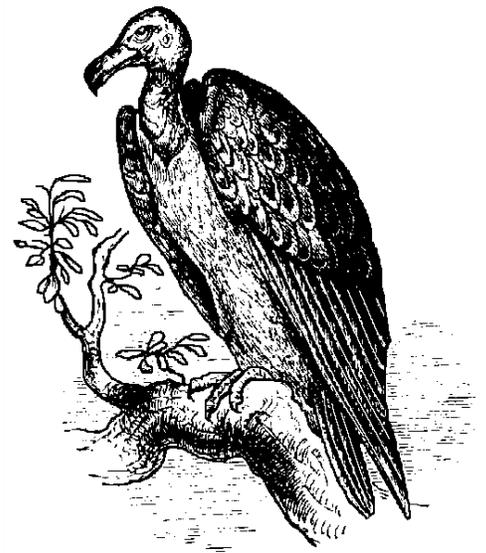
Use of turkey vultures in search and rescue would require some minimal level of intelligence, and limited testing suggests they do entertain some trainability. One report tells of a vulture that followed a boy to his bus stop every day. Once the bus was gone, the vulture flew away, but would return each day to meet the boy at the bus stop on his return!

Their sense of smell has already landed them an interesting role with gas companies. Once a leak has been identified, a strong-smelling gas is injected into the pipeline. The gas escapes into the air from the leak source, which gathers a large flock of birds. Gas companies then just have to look for these soaring birds to find their leak.

The similarity of the role of the vulture and opossum in ecology are noteworthy. Both feed principally on carrion, can be called ugly, and have disgusting habits. The opossum is known to disgorge a smelly substance from its mouth when scared. Similarly, vultures will regurgitate the contents of their stomach in the direction of their potential predators. I remember the story of a young park ranger who had accidentally caught a turkey vulture in a bear culvert trap. When the ranger opened the door to release the bird, he was quickly introduced to this creature's rather gross habit. Whether the vulture does this to intimidate its predator or merely to reduce its weight to enable a quicker getaway is not known, but it appears to be a successful tactic in either case.

Another rather disgusting habit of the turkey vulture is its propensity to discharge urine directly onto its legs. This serves two very important purposes. In the summertime, wetting the legs cools the vulture, as the urine evaporates. (The vulture cannot sweat like us). In addition, this urine contains strong acids from the vulture's digestive system, which kill any bacteria that may remain on the bird's legs from stepping in its meal.

In this world of roadside gourmets, one must be careful of contracting bacteria, fungi, or infections from well-tendered carrion. It is true that they are offered some protection from disease by the unfeathered bald head, which can enter a carcass and emerge with little parts stuck to its head. But, vultures are



known to have a very sophisticated immune system. They can eat diseased and infected carcasses and, yet, there is no trace of bacteria in their droppings. There is even evidence for the claim that the vulture can pass anthrax through its digestive system, killing the virus and remaining unharmed. How they can do this is unknown, but the answer could be extremely important to medical science.

Turkey Vultures are monogamous, mating for a lifetime that can reach fifty or more years. Normally, one egg is laid with little or no nest being made among the rocky caves or tree hollows. One brood per year is produced.

For years, vultures have been classified as birds of prey along with hawks, owls, and eagles. In 1994, due to recent DNA analysis and other studies on anatomy, physiology, behavior, and cellular biology, vultures have been reclassified and placed in the stork family. There are three species of vultures in North America; the turkey, black, and California condor. They all belong to the Cathartidae Family; the American, or New World Vultures. The Old World Vultures have remained within the hawk family Accipitridae. American vultures do not build stick nests, do not have true vocalizations, and do not nest colonially, as do many Old World vultures. However, both have bald heads, feed on decaying carcasses and feed their young by regurgitation. While they both have similar lifestyles, these similarities are now attributed to convergent evolution (unrelated species evolving similar forms/behavior, like birds and bats). □

TRAILHEAD

Most trail crews and overseers finished the year's activity in November, as noted in some of the items below. Maybe Mother Nature will be kind to us this winter – no ice storms please. It is also a great time to get out and enjoy the trails in the winter environment and see things you don't see in summer.

Mutton Hollow District

After several months of having trips canceled and a rained out weekend, the Vining Tract Crew swung back into action over the weekend of Nov. 12-13. While most of the crew's efforts were devoted to chinking the logs of Butternut Cabin (a new cabin under construction on the Tract) when the weather was warm enough for the material to harden properly, three volunteers broke away to check on the condition of the trails on the upper portion of the 250-acre tract – the trails nearest to Morris, Mutton Top, and Johnson Cabins. Led by Marilyn Stone, a 20-year veteran volunteer on the club's Cabins Desk and Vining Tract Crew, the trio swept eight trails including the Boundary, Meadow, and Boxwood Trails and the trail leading to "Andy's Overlook." Encroaching vegetation was cut back, and one blowdown was removed. The balmy 65-degree temperature and crystal clear air that afforded great views of Mutton Hollow and the Virginia Piedmont were appreciated.



Photo by Dave House

In November, South Mountaineers Crew member Jim Williams works to install a checkdam on the Appalachian Trail near Fox Gap, Md. For more information on the South Mountaineers Trail Crew and events calendar, contact Nancy at mdtrail@yahoo.com, 301/739-0442.

The crew bedded down at Conley Cabin and much appreciated the efforts of the Cadillac Crew over the Memorial Day weekend in opening up the view from the cabin.

Participating in the work trip were work trip regulars: District Manager, Hugh Robinson, and trail overseers, Marilyn Stone, Dave and Karen Pugh, Jim Denham, and Eric Carlson. Welcomed back to the tract was Elizabeth Arroyo, who had participated in the renovation of Conley Cabin in the late 80s. Two stu-

dents at William and Mary College, Scott Brown and Ben Bartlett, rounded out the work crew.

Blue And White Wrap-Up

The Blue and White Crew wrapped up their 2005 season in the same fashion it began, with a festive weekend at the Falk Farm, near Madison, Va. Melanie and Aksel's warm hospitality make the March and November trips very special on the crew calendar. The crew used the November trip to install erosion-control devices on the Jones Mountain Trail and to clear blowdowns on the Entry Run Trail. The crew split into three groups, with the sprinters heading to the upper reaches of Jones Mountain, the solid and dependable group tackling the mid-range of Jones, and the borderline-wacky heading to Entry Run. The crews installed numerous locust features, cleared a large deadfall, and fashioned lovely chairs and settees. Team Wacky arrived back at the farm first, to find that Chef Tippy had prepared a delightful version of *moufette non traite*, a recipe he claimed to have learned from local food magician Patrick O'Connell. The Jones Mountain crews arrived shortly thereafter, and the entire group enjoyed a traditional B&W banquet. Happy hour discussions included a discussion of the Reigner Theory (involving the porcine origin of marshmallows) and a non-refereed Wilson-Hebbe debate, titled "Winchwork: Mathematics or Gestalt." Crew favorites S.V.

See Trailhead, page 17

2006 Trails Schedule

Trail Leadership Team Meetings 6:00 p.m. at Club Headquarters:

March 22 (Spring)
September 20 (Fall)

Forest Service-PATC meeting 10:00 a.m. at Club headquarters

February 25

Seasonal Crews Weeks:

SNP Southern District at Schairer Trail Center
May 1-5 (4 day week)

August 14-19

SNP Central District at Pinnacles
May 8-12

August 21-25

SNP North District at Pinnacles
May 16-19

August 28 - September 1

Massarock Crew on Massanutten Mountain

June 11-9

June 11-15

September 10-15

September 17-22

ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew at Pinnacles:

September 28 - October 2

SNP Trail Workshops:

June 3-4 – SNP Central District at Pinnacles

September 16-17 – SNP North District at Mathews Arm Campground

Chainsaw Certification Classes:

April 22-23 at Pinnacles

November 4-5 at

Greenbrier State Park, MD

Trailhead, from page 16

and Janet Dove were able to join the group for dinner, where the 70th birthday of Charles Hillon was celebrated with gusto.

The 2006 Blue and White calendar is now available at <http://blueandwhitecrew.org>. The site also includes a large collection of crew photos, as well as numerous resources for trail overseers. Scheduled in 2006 are monthly worktrips, two weeding weekends, the return of the Central District Overseer Workshop, a Traditional Tools workshop, and two Madison County bicycle tours.

Blazing Made Easy

Carol Niedzialek has been helping paint blazes on the Wanderbirds section of the Tuscarora Trail. Emeline Otey came up with a useful idea of painting blazes, and Carol believes this method should be passed on to other overseers since this method is the perfect solution for painting blazes – it is neat, clean, you don't get paint drippings all over, and cleanup is a breeze. Tools:

- *Old belt pack or a carpenter's apron with 3 or 4 pockets.*
- *Empty tall (soup) can for each color of paint.*
- *Empty plastic squeeze bottles that you pour each color of paint into. This is a lot easier than it sounds if you are careful with pouring (mayonnaise bottles are the best squeeze bottles).*



Carol Niedzialek's tools for Blazing Made Easy.

- *A paint brush for each color goes in the empty can.*

Procedure:

- *Put the paint can and bottle of paint into each pocket.*
- *Squeeze paint into empty can, enough to cover the bottom of can (1/2").*

Keep refilling the same amount of paint into empty can as it is needed. This keeps the paint from drying out, and there is little waste of the paint. Cleanup is very easy. The paint can may be thrown away since there is very little left in the can, the paint bottle can be saved for the next blazing trip, and the brush is the only item to clean. Carol used a piece of cardboard 4x6" with a heavy black line down the middle to measure a 2x6" blaze. This technique certainly made blazing a lot easier for Carol, and she hopes it will for other overseers as well.

Great North Mountain

The unusual late October snowstorm provided the previously contented Great North Mountain district volunteers with an unexpected trail-clearing challenge this year. Feeling quite pleased with the addition of two new overseers and one new trail to oversee this year, in addition to resurrecting the Stonewall Brigade volunteer crew to scout and clear many other orphan trails on Great North Mountain, egos and tree limbs were brought down to earth by the snow. The first of several clearing outings began on Oct. 29, when a large contingent of the National



Photo by Ralph Frink

DM Pete Gatje and Rockytop Trail overseer Ralph Frink were joined for lunch by a friendly buzzard that must have thought there was some potential for dinner. They were amazed how close it came.

Institutes of Health Hiking Club mobilized to inspect and clear Mill Mountain Trail and Halfmoon Trail. No tree damage was found at lower elevations, but trails at elevations above 2,800', trails with western exposure, and trails with tulip poplars suffered many broken limbs and toppled trees. The hard-working NIH crew valiantly covered 11 miles and dispensed of hundreds upon hundreds of limbs, branches, and blowdowns. Halfmoon Trail was impacted the worst and required two additional visits to make it fully passable. Several other trails have been left for hunting season in an undesirable condition – if you plan to hike Bucktail Cutoff Trail or German Wilson Trail, allow for significant delays and several head-scratching episodes as you wonder which direction the heavily-fallen-limb-adorned trail is meant to go. As the Stonewall Brigade finished its final trip of 2005 on Nov. 19, clearing the bottom half of Halfmoon Trail, the forest was already filling up with deer hunters, stopping to chat with Brigade members as the hunters made their way to their hunting campsites.

Final trail work of 2005 on Great North Mountain also included a November trip to reblaze Long Mountain Trail, a very scenic and often overlooked trail on PATC Map F. Several quirky turns of Long Mountain Trail and unblazed traverses of large mowed wildlife clearings had provided hikers with unexpected opportunities to explore and bushwhack, whether they wanted to or not. We hope this has now been fully rectified by the efforts of volunteers David Webb and Maria Oria,

See Trailhead, page 18

Trailhead, from page 17

accompanied by a yellow-palated dimwit who kept mistaking the yellow blaze paint for a new Gatorade flavor, Jim Tomlin.

Many thanks to all who volunteered for a Stonewall Brigade trip in 2005, and hope to see you again in 2006! And many thanks to the NIH Hiking Club, especially Dr. Nick Devoogdt, who has returned to Belgium with a new appreciation for all the work involved in maintaining hiking trails!

Traditional Tools Workshop in April

PATC will be holding the third running of its traditional tools workshop at the Pinnacles Research Station the weekend of April 22-23, 2006. Backcountry woodsmen Dan Dueweke and Patrick Wilson will demonstrate various methods to safely clear a blowdown with axe or crosscut saw, and provide instruction on the care and maintenance of these fine old tools. More details on this workshop will be posted in the next edition of the PA.

It Finally Has a Name

Last month we reported that the name for a new trail initiative was undecided. In early November the trail groups involved in this new trail (formerly known as the Western Appalachian Alternative) met by telephone and selected the name Great Eastern Trail. The new trail already has a domain name (greateastertrail.org) even though it does not yet have a Web site. On Nov. 5, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Mid State Trail Association, Link Trail Association, PATC, and American Hiking Society met at Blackburn Trail Center and formed a new organization, the Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition, to put the new trail on the ground. This trail will include 153 miles of the Tuscarora Trail, plus a link to the Allegheny Trail in West Virginia.

Emergency Relocation

In response to Walt Smith's appeal in the PA for emergency relocation of the Tuscarora Trail, Tuscarora Trail supporters joined members of the Cadillac Crew on Nov. 5 to work on the relocation. When over 20 volunteers arrived at the start point at the north end of Sleepy Creek Mountain and gazed at a greater than 45 degree steep rocky slope, the



Photo by Walt Smith

Cadillac Crew begins steep section of Lutkins Passage emergency relocation for Tuscarora Trail.

single question was – why would anyone want to build trail here? Well, there wasn't much choice. The trail was on private property, and the new owner wanted the trail off his property. The only choice was to move the trail to a parcel of land PATC purchased a number of years ago. Sometimes you have to deal with what you have.

Slowly but steadily the crew members worked their way up slope, removing rocks and digging sidehill along a series of switchbacks. At the end of the day all were amazed at what was accomplished. Although there is much yet to do, Walt was pleased to get such a good start on a difficult project. The payoff was Walt's special spaghetti and meatballs dinner when the crew gathered at Highacre House as part of the Celebrate Tuscarora event. The relocation has to be finished by June of next year, so if you like a trail-building challenge, look for work trip announcements in the PA.

Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 621 Skyline Forest Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630 or to jkrindt@adelphia.net. □

Trail Overseers - Appointed in November

Shelter Overseers

Wayne Limberg	Co-Overseer, Indian Run Maintenance Hut
Ray Galles	Co-Overseer, Indian Run Maintenance Hut
Walter (Tom) Watkins	South River Maintenance Hut

Trail Overseers

Ellen Kay Miller	Massanutten Trail, Camp Roosevelt to Gap Creek Trail
John Hampton	Valley Trail, Boulder Bridge to Military Road
Thomas Sowers	Appalachian Trail, Tom Floyd Wayside to SNP boundary
Carlton Hayden	Thornton River (lower)



POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

(UPS-440-280) ©2006, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.

Published monthly by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

Periodical class postage paid at Vienna, VA. Postmaster: send address changes to: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180

Subscription: (Free with PATC membership)
\$6.00 annually; \$.70 single copies.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Create PATC's New Web Site!

PATC's web site is "ancient" and needs a facelift. Web Designer is wanted to lead significant effort in 2006 to bring PATC's online presence into the 21st century. Commitment – at least 4 hours per week. For more information contact Steve Sharp, IT Committee Chair, at SteveITPlanning@comcast.net.

PATC Tract Managers Needed

Volunteers needed to manage PATC-owned Lands. Several locations available. Properties are up and down the AT in Virginia and Maryland and along the Tuscarora In Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. If interested please contact Chris Mangold at 301/898-7979 or e-mail at cs5749@yahoo.com.

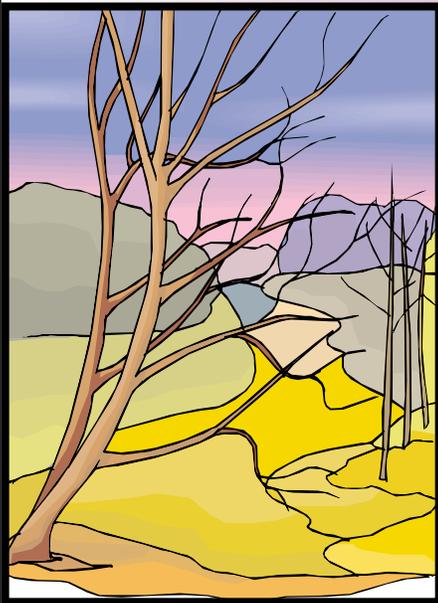
Who's Minding the Store? You Can!!!

PATC is looking for a new chair of the Sales Committee. Duties would include: advise and supervise paid and volunteer sales staff, help with inventory of all PATC publications, establish sales policy and publication pricing, work closely with publication and maps committees to target future updates and publications. Anyone interested in this position please contact: Lee Sheaffer, Vice President-Volunteerism (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

TRAIL OVERSEER DISCOUNTS

PATC OVERSEERS GET DISCOUNTS from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater) – 20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro D.C.) – 20%, The Trail House (Frederick, Md.) – 15%, Casual Adventures (Arlington, Va.) – 10%, Campmor (mail order via PATC HQ) – 10%, Weasel Creek Outfitters in Front Royal – 10%, The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry – 15%, and the sole source (Harrisonburg) – 10%. Check the back page of the *PA* for the latest trail, cabin, and shelter overseer opportunities. All PATC members receive a 10% discount from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports and Ranger Surplus (excludes BSA merchandise). Be sure to have your membership ID or overseer ID ready when you shop.

FOR SALE: Mamiya 35mm camera lenses, attachments and filters. \$50 obo. Contact Susan Bly at sbly@shepherd.edu or 304/876/5177.



PATC Swap Meet

Notices are published free of charge for PATC members only. PATC cannot vouch for any of the advertised items. No commercial advertisement or personal notices unrelated to hiking will be accepted. Deadline for inclusion is the first day of the month preceding issuance of the newsletter. Notices will be run for three months, at the discretion of the editor, unless we are otherwise advised. □

HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

WANTED: HIKING PARTNER. I live in the Baltimore area, retired school teacher and seeking a hiking partner(s) to share in car shuttle for section hiking the southern half of the AT. The outing could be up to 10 days at a time. Contact: Ron Bungay (ronbungay@comcast.net) or 410/242-4592

HIKING ENTHUSIAST SOUGHT for role as Scoutmaster of outdoors-focused Boy Scout Troop 97 in Silver Spring, Md. More info? Contact Jim Van Cott: (301/565-0486) CJPAVC@yahoo.com.

WANTED: HIKING/CAMPING PARTNER: I live in Gaithersburg, Md., and am looking for hiking and camping buddies within 120 miles of the DC area. I am 29 and willing to hike/camp anywhere. I also have a dual propane stove that I am giving away. Any takers? Contact Jeffrey Scott (knight_1_nu@yahoo.com) 301/466-3373.

Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

CORRIDOR MONITOR OPENINGS

Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340

tlupp@erols.com

Wilson Gap, VA – PATC Map 7

Asby Gap South, VA – PATC Map 8

SHELTER CREW VOLUNTEERS IN MD

Dicks Dome Shelter – Northern VA – Map 8

Henry Horn, 301/498-8254

ATHike@aol.com

OPEN TRAILS – CONTACT THE DISTRICT

MANAGER FOR THE SECTION THAT

INTERESTS YOU.

PENNSYLVANIA MAPS 2-3, 4, J, & K

Opportunity to work long hours with no pay or benefits. Generous allowance of blisters, stinging/biting insects, and poisonous plants. Special provision for rain and mud. Little or no supervision. Work hours optional.

Location somewhere on the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. No certification from your doctor or hospital required.

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-Overseer

Hemlock Road to Mountain Rd (4.9 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-Overseer

PA 233 to Bill Miller Trail (3.9 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-Overseer

Bill Miller Trail to Cowpens Rd (4.7 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-Overseer

Cowans Gap State Park to US 30 (6.7 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-Overseer

US 30 to PA Rte. 16 (1.9 miles)

HARPERS FERRY / ASHBY GAP AT & BB –

MAP 7 & 8

Chris Brunton, 703/924-0406

trailbossbtc@msn.com

Appalachian Trail

Loudoun Heights Trail to Powerline

(2.3 miles)

ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BB [RTE. 50 TO SNP] –

MAP 8, 9

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743

lparriott@hotmail.com

Appalachian Trail

VA 55 to VA 638 (2.1 mile)

Barking Dog Trail

AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte 604

(0.34 miles)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT APPALACHIAN TRAIL

– MAP 9

Dick Dugan, 304/856-3511

rdugan@frontiernet.net

Appalachian Trail

SNP boundary to Compton Gap (2.0 miles)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END]

– MAP 10

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

danjan3@cox.net

New overseer opportunities coming available

soon. Choice trails rich in Shenandoah history. Don't miss this rare opportunity

to stake your claim.

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [SOUTH END]–

MAP 10

Steve Paull, stevepaull@yahoo.com

Entry Run Trail (lower)

John's Rest Access Road to Park Boundary

(1.7 miles)

Entry Run Trail (Upper)

Park Boundary to Pocosin Fire Road

(0.8 miles)

White Oak Canyon Trail

Skyline Dr. to Waterfall viewpoint (2.3 miles)

TUSCARORA CENTRAL – MAP L

Walt Smith, 540/678-0423

wsmith@visuallink.com

Tuscarora Trail

Yellow Spring Road to Capon Springs Road

Tuscarora Trail

Southern Rockfield to Pinnacle Powerline

(2.3 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H

Tate Heuer, 202/255-6055

tate@wth2.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail

(1.4 miles FR 65) (3.3 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) to

Fridley Gap (2.3 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Fridley Gap to Boone Run Trail (3.1 miles)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F

Hop Long, 301/942-6177

theFSLongs@comcast.net

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA – MAP N

Mark Anderson, 202/462-7718

dc.trails@verizon.net

DISTRICT MANAGER NEEDED

Dumbarton Oaks Trail

Whitehaven St. to Rock Creek Park (1 mile)

Western Ridge Trail

Military Road to Boundary Bridge

(2.7 miles)



The Potomac Appalachian

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