



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 33, Number 10  
 October 2004

## Meet the Nominating Committee's Selection of PATC Officer Candidates

### Committee Announces Officer Nominations

PATC's Nominating Committee was assigned the task in May by President Tom Johnson of providing candidates for Executive Committee positions for the years 2005-2006. Because some could not succeed themselves, and others wanted to go on to other things, the committee had to find candidates to replace six of the 10 current members. Under the leadership of Chairperson Jean Golightly, the Nominating Committee has completed its assignment and nominates the following individuals to two-year terms of office starting January 2005. The election will be held at the PATC Annual Meeting on Nov. 9, 2004.

#### President – Tom Johnson

Tom has accepted the nomination for president, a position he has held since Jan. 1, 2003. He joined PATC in 1972, but was only occasionally active until 1992 when he began hiking regularly with the club and took on trail

overseer responsibilities. In the fall of 1993, he joined Council as the new chairman of the Hiking Committee (then called the Excursions Committee). The next two years saw him immersed in preparations for the 1995 ATC Conference in Harrisonburg, Va., as the conference co-chair.

Since then he has served variously as vice president of Volunteerism, vice president of operations, and chairman of the Land Management Committee. He also participated actively in the Futures Group, PATC's strategic planning effort. Outside of PATC, he has served as recording secretary for the American Hiking Society and president of the Potomac Trail Council.

Tom has worked for many years as a collection officer in the intelligence community and at present is an independent contractor writing histories of intelligence agencies. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married 45 years

and have two grown children. They live in Front Royal, Va., about three-quarters of a mile from the AT.

#### Vice President for Operations – Bruce Glendening

Bruce Glendening is the present district manager of the Northern Virginia district, which includes the Potomac Heritage Trail, a 10-mile trail along the river on the Virginia side across from D.C., and the River Trail in Great Falls National Park. Stunned with the idea that of PATC's membership of 7,000, 90 percent are in the D.C. area, he would like to see more volunteer participation by PATC at the local level. Bruce's goal is to help new members first become comfortable out on the trail – maybe learning trail maintenance in a comfortable area close to home – and then the person “graduates” to working in the SNP, the AT, and more distant trails – so we would have a “conveyor belt” of new volunteers that

*See Candidates, page 4*

## Member Notice: Nomination and Election Rules

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004, PATC members will elect officers to the PATC Executive Committee. See the article above for the names of persons recommended by the Nominating Committee. Elected officers will serve for two years starting Jan. 1, 2005. Members in good standing may vote either in person, at the annual meeting, or by absentee ballot. Those wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot in writing, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. In order for

absentee ballots to count they must be received at the Club Headquarters in Vienna no later than 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 9, 2004.

Other nominations of a complete slate for the Executive Committee or of individual officers may be made by petition. For instructions on this procedure, contact Wilson Riley, Director of Administration, at the Club Headquarters. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. □

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Are you a proud member of PATC?  
 Do you know someone who should be?  
 Come out to the PATC Annual  
**PIG ROAST** at Blackburn and bring a  
 friend! OCT. 9-10! Don't miss it!  
 See page 15 for more information.



## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Tom Johnson (president@patc.net)  
Weekdays, Reston, Va, ph. 703/435-2755  
Weekends, Front Royal, ph. 540/622-6422

**VP Volunteerism:** Mickey McDermott

**VP Operations:** Fred "Hop" Long

**Treasurer:** Gerhard Salinger

**Secretary:** Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com)

**Supervisor of Trails:** Liles Creighton

**Supervisor of Membership:** Susan Nelson

**Supervisor of Land Management:** Chris Mangold,  
csm5749@yahoo.com

**Supervisor of Facilities:** Larry Marcoux

**Supervisor of Education, Information, and Activities:**  
Lisa Still

**General Counsel:** Charles Sloan

### Sections/Chapters

**Mountaineering Section:** Andy Britton

**SMRG:** Mike Kennedy, chair@smrg.org

**Ski Touring Section:** Bert Finkelstein

**North Chapter:** Pete Brown

**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Lee Sheaffer

**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** John Held

**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon

**West Virginia Chapter:** Judy Smoot

### Standing Committee Chairs

#### (Council Members)

**AT Corridor Monitoring:** Tom Lupp

**Blackburn Trail Center:** Chris Brunton

**Budget:** David White

**Cabins Operations:** Mel Merritt

**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf

**Computer Services:** Stephen Koeppen and Jose` Rojas

**Conservation:** Jeff Pearcy

**Grants & Donations:** Susan Nelson

**Endowment:** Don Price

**Finance:** Gerhard Salinger

**Hikes:** Karen Brown & Lee Sheaffer

**Land Management:** Chris Mangold,  
csm5749@yahoo.com

**Legal:** Charles Sloan

**Maps:** Dave Pierce

**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management**

**Committee:** Charlie Graf

**Potomac Appalachian:** Linda Shannon-Beaver

**Public Affairs:** George Still

**Publications:** George Meek

**Sales:** Tim Hanlon

**Shelters:** Frank Turk

**Trail Lands Acquisition:** Phil Paschall

**Trail Patrol:** Holly Wheeler

**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:**

Vacant

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

**Archives & Library:** Carol Niedzialek

**Cabin Reservations:** Shakuntala Ghare

**Club Naturalist:** Bob Pickett

**Deputy Finance Committee Chair:** John Ferguson

**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Jon Rindt

**Headquarters Facility:** Orron Kee

**Information/Sales Desks:** Annetta DePompa

**Medical:** Vacant

**Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund:** Larry Marcoux

**SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:**

Mark Holland

**Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:**

Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

### Potomac Appalachian

**Chief Editor:** Linda Shannon-Beaver  
PA@patc.net

**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

**Forecast Editor:** Suzie Shannon

PA-Forecast@patc.net

## Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council meeting was held at Club Headquarters on Aug. 10, 2004. President Tom Johnson notified Council members that the description of officer's duties and responsibilities was undergoing revision. He also noted that the annual reports for 2004, detailing volunteer projects and volunteer hours, would be due in the fall. Administrator Wilson Riley informed Council that, on final appeal, the Combined Federal Campaign approved PATC's participation in this year's fund-raising campaign. Also, L.L.Bean donated \$2,000 to PATC, \$1,000 to be spent on the Carriage House roof at Blackburn and \$1,000 for trail construction tools. In addition, the company donated a dozen first aid kits to the club.

### Finance

Treasurer Gerhard Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for July, 2004, noting that, while revenues from memberships and cabin rentals were less than expected, club expenditures were also less than projected for the year. Gerhard assumed the position of acting Budget Committee chair and distributed a timetable for planning the 2005 budget.

### Facilities

Council approved a motion to allocate \$1,300 from the Cabins Land Fund for building a cookshed for the Johnson Cabin.



### Volunteerism

**Membership:** Susan Nelson submitted the membership report for Aug. 10, 2004, noting membership stood at 6,627. As grants and donations chair, Susan Nelson, accompanied by Jim Peterson, met on Aug. 9 with Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to discuss the state's conservation policy and incentives.

**Hikes:** Lee Sheaffer reported another successful joint American Hiking Society/PATC Capital Hill hike, attended by nine participants, on the Ovoka Tract.

**Maps:** Dave Pierce distributed an information sheet for map revisions status as of August 2004. He also distributed information on updates for the AT trail guide in Maryland.

**AT corridor management:** Tom Lupp notified Council he had prepared a new Power Point presentation on the corridor monitor program. It is available for viewing on the PATC Web site.

*See Council Fire, page 3*

### HEADQUARTERS

#### HOW TO CONTACT US FOR CABIN RESERVATIONS, MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, AND SALES

**Address:** 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**Phone #:** 703/242-0315

24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965

**To receive an information packet:** Extension 10

**To leave a message for the Club President, Tom Johnson:** Extension 40

**Club e-mail:** info@patc.net

**Facsimile #:** 703/242-0968

**World Wide Web URL:** <http://www.patc.net>

### STAFF

#### DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

**Director of Administration:** Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: [Wliley@patc.net](mailto:Wliley@patc.net)

**Trails Management Coordinator:** Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: [hforrest@patc.net](mailto:hforrest@patc.net)

**Business Manager:** Monica Clark (Ext. 15) e-mail: [mclark@patc.net](mailto:mclark@patc.net)

**Membership/Cabin Coordinator:** Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: [pfankhauser@patc.net](mailto:pfankhauser@patc.net)

**Sales Coordinator:** Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: [mestes@patc.net](mailto:mestes@patc.net)

**Bus/Metro Directions to Headquarters:** For more information about Metrobus routes or Metrorail lines, schedules, fares, and parking fees, call the Metro at 202/637-7000. The TDD number is 202/638-3780.

## Tom's Trail Talk

### From the Mailbag, Part II

Stan Berns of Netters, Va., recently sent a letter to the *Madison Eagle*, defending PATC's decision to purchase a piece of property to be used as a parking lot for Old Rag hikers. Stan's elegance of language was matched only by his expression of many of PATC's deepest-held ideals. Here is an extract from his letter, republished with his permission.

*Thank you, Mrs. Thelda Kestenbaum, for your very intelligent move in selling land to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Shenandoah National Park's plans for that land – the new Old Rag parking lot and visitor contact station – will be a grand plus for the neighborhood, for Madison County, and for visitors to our backyard wonder of a mountain.*

*The Park's very rational stewardship of Nature's gift to Madison Co. is continuing with the new parking design. This is something we all will be able to take continuing pride in. This move of creating a secluded parking lot is in the tradition of improving citizen access to nature, which goes back to the initial charter of the National Park Service and its more recent creation, the Shenandoah National Park, some 70 years ago. It is part of the continuum of change for the better in line with the ideas of George Pollock and other early Park enthusiasts.*

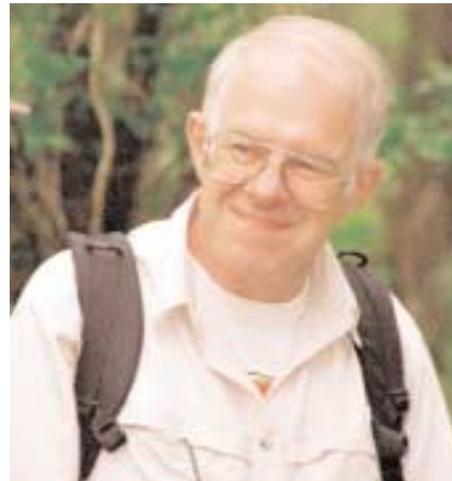
*For many of our city cousins, Old Rag is their portal to nature. We here in Madison County are co-stewards, along with SNP, of this taste of nature. The hikers' experience will get off on the right foot, so to speak, under the new plan since as soon as they step out of their vehicles they will step directly onto Park-controlled land. The aesthetic experience will begin immedi-*

*ately – not a mile's walk up a residential road. The skill of the Park's landscape architect will add to that experience, creating an ambience that reflects the full-bloomed nature waiting just up the trail. The theatricality of it all will be enhanced from the hikers' perspective. This is what "Hiking Old Rag" is about for the hundreds of thousands of city dwellers who have come to value Old Rag as an important place of refuge and a way of "getting back to nature."*

*Old Rag isn't necessarily a meditative experience in solitude. This fact is not unique to Old Rag – the days of the woods as a place of solitude are long gone in the United States, unless you feel secure enough to go off the trail and into the wilderness. We local folk have the experience and accompanying security to hike those less trodden paths. For city dwellers, however, the formality and familiarity of the trails and the company of other hikers is necessary for taking those initial steps into nature.*

– Stan Berns □

—Tom Johnson



### Council Fire, from page 2

*Trail Patrol:* Holly Wheeler noted that nine participants had attended Trail Patrol's July 17-18 CPR and first aid class. She also reported that one of the Ridgerunners had reported a break-in at one of the club's Pennsylvania cabins. At Annapolis Rock, the Ridgerunner, as well as several Trail Patrol members, assisted in the rescue of a climber who fell at the rocks.

*Naturalist:* Working with the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries, Bob Pickett located globally rare mussels at Swift Run, just below the Vining Tract. And, he noted, Shenandoah National Park will begin removal of two invasive plants, garlic mustard and ailanthus trees, in the North District of the park.

The August Council meeting was attended by seven club officers, 11 committee chairs, two chapter representatives, three section representatives, one staff member, and 13 other club members. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary

## Ski Touring Section to Hold Annual Ski Fair

PATC's Ski Touring Section, the largest Nordic ski club in the entire Delmarva area dedicated solely to cross-country skiing, will hold its annual Ski Fair on Saturday, Nov. 6, noon to 5:00 p.m. at PATC Headquarters at 118 Park Street, Vienna, Va. Featuring over two dozen public trips scheduled over the upcoming winter ski season, as well as work trips to help prepare much-used ski trails for the season, the Ski Fair is the premier event kicking off the cross-country ski season. Features include:

- Where and when to ski on weekends in West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, as well as long-distance trips to Mount Rainer National Park, the White and President's ranges in New Hampshire, Tug Hill and Adirondack destinations in New York, the Far Hills in Quebec, and St. Moritz, Switzerland.
- Learn how to start XC skiing – new ski gear, ski safety, and ski care.
- Presentations on past trips and interesting topics.

□ A great opportunity to meet STS trip leaders and members so you can learn about and sign up for trips on the spot.

□ New and used ski gear for sale by members and vendors.

### Join the Action

Be among the first to apply for trips scheduled from December 2004 through March 2005, and sign up for work trips scheduled in November and December. STS trips are inexpensive, fun, friendly, and led by members with years of skiing and trip-leading experience. Chat with other attendees, from masters to novices. Bring used XC ski equipment for the sale, snacks to share, your skiing stories, and of course your checkbook to make a deposit on the trips.

At last year's Ski Fair, several vendors offered new equipment. Used ski equipment was available from members and other attendees at the fair. Programs in the back presentation room were generally well attended. With seating for more than 30

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## **Candidates, from page 1**

develop skills through a more established (meaning better) training system.

Bruce is also the treasurer of the Potomac Heritage Trail Association, which promotes the idea of a hiking trail along the entire length of the Potomac River. In the real world, Bruce is currently an attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration. He and his wife, Cecile, have been married 21 years with two children – 11th grader Julia and 7th grader Anna – and lives in McLean, Va., only a half-mile from the Potomac River and the Potomac Heritage Trail.

### **Vice President for Volunteerism – Lee Sheaffer**

Lee Sheaffer, a PATC member for eight years, is currently the co-chairman of the Hiking Committee and president of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. In addition to leading hikes for the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter and a congressional hike series for PATC and the American Hiking Society, he publishes the Chapter newsletter *NOVA SHEN* and was editor of the PATC publications *Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park* and *Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District George Washington National Forest*. Lee is also a member of the Appalachian Trail Council, American Hiking Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

Hiking is Lee's passion and form of exercise. He feels it is essential to support organizations that build, nurture, and promote local and national trail systems with not only money but also with our time and efforts as well. He looks forward to a long and productive relationship with PATC in whatever capacity he is able to perform.

Lee graduated from Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Va., in 1980. Since 1988, he has worked as an air traffic controller for the FAA in Leesburg, Va. He and Terrie, his wife of 16 years, have two children – Hunter, 15, and Cody, 12.

### **Secretary – Alan Day**

Alan Day joined PATC in 1998 after having hiked for more than 30 years on local trails built and maintained by the club. Check out maps and photos of some of these hikes at <http://DayHikes.org/>. He first met Tom Johnson when he approached PATC for assistance in making the video, "Day Hikes in the Metro Area" (no pun intended), which airs from time to time on cable Channel 10 in

Fairfax County. Alan also made a video of National Trails Day 1998 on the Potomac Heritage Trail and a second one about Sugarloaf first aired in 2000. The Sugarloaf video connected him to the Cadillac Crew, and he is now a regular member of that crew.

When he retired from the CIA in October 2003, Alan decided he wanted to become even more active in supporting PATC. He has served as secretary and president of the Deepwood Homeowners Association in Reston and, after talking to the current Secretary Georgeann Smale, he was willing to accept the nomination to the secretary position.

### **Treasurer – Tim Hanlon**

Tim Hanlon has been acting PATC sales chairman since 2004 and on the Finance Committee of the board for the American Hiking Society since 2003. Before these volunteer positions he was treasurer of the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference in 2002-2003.

He relocated to McLean, Va., to join PricewaterhouseCoopers as a senior associate in their global risk management services, internal audit practice. He is currently performing Sarbanes Oxley work related to SEC requirements for public companies and has a variety of local and regional clients. He has extensive internal auditing experience and has worked at such companies as Asea Brown Boveri, American Arbitration Association, and Deloitte Haskins & Sells. He is a CPA in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Virginia. Tim lives in Vienna, Va., and has family in the Springfield, Va., and Georgetown, Washington, D.C., areas.

### **Supervisor of Education, Information and Activities – Jane Thompson**

As a member of PATC since 1992 Jane Thompson has been very active with both the West Virginia Chapter and PATC. From 1994 to 1999 she was president of the West Virginia Chapter and is currently the membership chairman for the chapter. Jane has also recruited speakers for the monthly meetings held at Highacre, published the chapter newsletter, and organized weekly hikes led by West Virginia Chapter members. She is currently a member of Trail Patrol, attends monthly Council meetings representing the West Virginia Chapter, leads the monthly New Member meetings, is on the Hike Leader Committee, and is

active with the Shaver Hollow environmental education program. Additionally, she has worked on trails and shelters, participated with the 1995 ATC Conference in Harrisonburg, Va., and has volunteered in various other ways.

Growing up at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain, in Montgomery County, Md., Jane spent many hours hiking, biking, and horseback riding along the trails and back roads. As a student at West Virginia University, she enjoyed seeing the state from the "underground up" with the Outings Club – caving, hiking, backpacking, and climbing. Summers were spent on trails in New Hampshire's White Mountains, and with PATC friends she has backpacked through the Grand Canyon, Wind Rivers, Canadian Rockies, and many sections of the AT; and she has also hiked in Costa Rica and the Adirondacks.

After joining PATC, she realized trails are not there with the sweep of a magic wand – but only by many hours of volunteer effort, not just in the physical aspect of building and maintaining trails, but also in educating people to the benefits, enjoyment, advocacy, and proper use and care of them. This can be achieved only by involving new organizations and interested individuals. Jane enjoys people and is excited about having an opportunity to be a part of this outreach with PATC.

### **Supervisor of Facilities – Mel Merritt**

Mel Merritt, cabins maintenance chairman since 1999, has been a member of PATC since 1979 and is a Life Member. In addition to participating in countless trail and cabin work trips, he and his wife, Nancy (also a PATC Life Member), are overseers of Mutton Top Cabin and live in Severna Park, Md., with their son Isaac. Mel currently holds the PATC record for outhouse relocation – dug pit, constructed liner, and moved outhouse with a four-person crew in 12 hours and is the highly lauded unofficial inventor of alternate uses for the McLeod.

PATC is not the only organization to benefit from Mel's profession as a custom home-builder. He has gone on the Appalachian Service Project 13 times with the Severna Park United Methodist Church Youth Group, where he became known as an outhouse specialist, and has served on 12 United Methodist Volunteer Projects in

*See Candidates, page 5*

**Candidates, from page 4**

Alaska, the Caribbean, Russia, Zimbabwe, and Guatemala. He has also served on the administrative boards for many civic and cultural groups in Severna Park and Anne Arundel County and has been construction chairman for Arundel Habitat for Humanity.

**Supervisor of Lands – Chris Mangold**

Chris Mangold, the incumbent supervisor of lands, is a member of ATC and PATC, which he joined in the early 1990s. During the '90s, he was involved in supplying data for the Map H update and has served as corridor monitor for two miles of the AT south of Keyes Gap. He has also been involved as a tract manager for the Vic Clark property.

He lives in New Market, Va., with Kim, his wife of 20 years, their three children, and his loyal trail companion and family dog, Otta. Chris has worked in the software development business since 1984, holding numerous positions at the development and managerial levels.

**Supervisor of Membership – Georgeann Smale**

Georgeann, who has held the position of secretary since Jan. 1, 2003, is ready to move on to new challenges and has accepted the nomination to supervisor of membership. In 2002, she became an active member of the Trail Patrol and is currently the overseer for section A of the Billy Goat Trail in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

As a Leave No Trace Trainer, Georgeann implemented a volunteer Trail Steward Program on the Billy Goat Trail in 2004.

Volunteer trail stewards promote LNT principles to visitors to teach them ways to minimize their impact on the surrounding Bear Island Preserve.

Since 1999, she has volunteered with the C&O Canal Bike Patrol. In 2001, she biked the entire length of the canal, in sections; which is something she recommends as an alternative to through-biking. Georgeann lives in Bethesda, Md.

**Supervisor of Trails – Liles Creighton**

Liles Creighton is the present supervisor of trails and served a term as the membership secretary starting in 2001. He is a Life Member of the Appalachian Trail Conference

and became a member of PATC in 1987. After retiring in 1994, Liles became involved in PATC's Trails Committee. He worked on trail crews led by Pete Gatje and Rick Canter and became a regular member of the Cadillac Crew. He took over the overseership of a section of the AT and became district manager for trails in suburban Maryland. Liles worked on the Signs Committee and maintains the club's tools in the tool room at Headquarters.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and retired from service with the Navy: 10 years as a naval officer and 32 years as a civil servant. Liles and his wife, Beckie, live in Annapolis, Md. □

—Jean Golightly

**Absentee Ballot Request**

Please send me an absentee ballot for the November PATC Officer election. I understand that this ballot must be returned to PATC Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. Nov. 9, 2004.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Wilson Riley  
Director of Administration  
PATC Headquarters  
118 Park Street, S.E.,  
Vienna, VA 221801

**DON'T FORGET:** Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with this form.

**Registration for PATC's 77th Annual Meeting/Dinner**

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens. For more information, please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0315, Ext. 17, or pfankhauser@patc.net. Don't delay, space is limited. Come out and join in celebrating

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, entree preference (choose one)  
 vegetarian       chicken       beef

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, entree preference (choose one)  
 vegetarian       chicken       beef

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$35 (or list your credit card information below) per attendee for dinner. If you wish to attend the meeting and not have dinner, please contact Pat Fankhauser and let her know you will be coming.

- ( ) Here is an additional \$77 to for the Trail Land Acquisition Fund for 77 years of service on the trails.
- ( ) Sorry, I can't attend the banquet, but here is \$77 to support PATC's Trail Land Acquisition Fund.

For 77 years PATC has led hikes; constructed and renovated shelters and cabins; mapped the trails; taught trail construction, safety, and conservation; and built and cleared the trails in rain, snow, and sunshine. Your contribution will be used to enhance those activities. Let's celebrate as we move into our 78th year!

VISA/MasterCard Number: \_\_\_\_\_, Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner(s)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PATC - Annual Meeting/Dinner 2004, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180 Attn: Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator  
Because PATC pays for dinners in advance, no refunds after November 4, 2004.

## Combined Federal Campaign 2004

PATC Agency Number **7956**

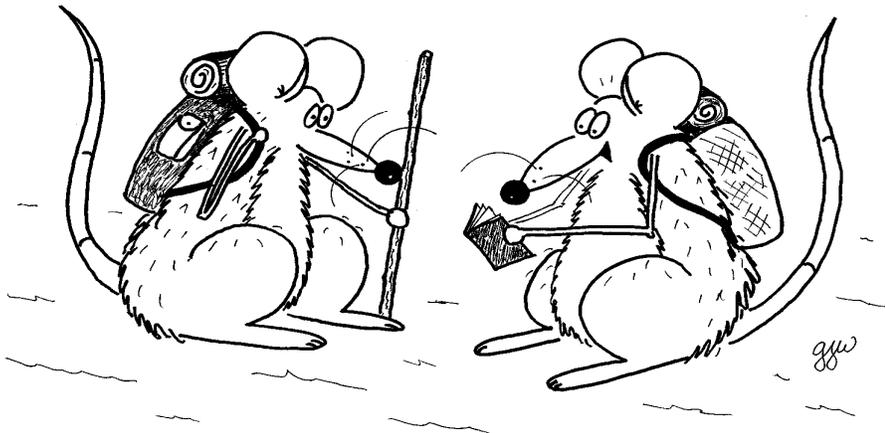
*Make Your Contribution Count!*

PATC is participating again this year in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. Please consider a donation to PATC. The fund will be active through December. Thank you for your support, and thanks to the members who contributed via the CFC last year.

*It's for a good cause!*

Tails from the Woods by George Walters

**IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT THAT DURING HIKING SEASON, "THRU-MICE" OFTEN HIKE THE A.T.**



"HEY ERNIE...THE GUIDE SAYS THIS HUT IS USUALLY CROWDED!  
... COOL !!"



## Four-Month Detour Set on Tuscarora Trail Section

The Tuscarora Trail will be closed between US30 and PA16 near McConnellsburg, Pa., from about the end of July 2004 through the end of November 2004. Texas Eastern Transmission is planning construction work on a natural gas pipeline not too far from where the trail crosses PA16. During construction, the normal route of the trail across the pipeline will be closed. However, the company proposes to set up a detour of about 1,100 feet for hikers to safely pass the area. If you are hiking southbound, you will be routed along the edge of the pipeline right-of-way to PA16 and then along PA16 to where the trail normally crosses the highway. Northbound hikers will follow the same route in the reverse direction. The company plans to install fencing and signs to clearly mark the detour route. □

—Pete Brown, Pennsylvania Trails DM



### STS Ski Trip Schedule 2004-2005

#	Location	State	Leave	Return	Ski Days
1	Laurel Highlands (work crew)	PA	10/22/04	10/24/04	2
2	Ski Fair	PATC- HQ	11/06/04	11/06/04	0
3	White Grass (work crew)	WV	11/12/04	11/14/04	2
4	Blackwater Falls	WV	12/03/04	12/05/04	2
5	White Grass	WV	12/17/04	12/19/04	2
6	Tug Hill	NY	12/29/04	01/02/05	4
7	Blackwater Falls	WV	01/07/05	01/09/05	2
8	Elk River	WV	01/07/05	01/10/05	3
9	Tug Hill	NY	01/14/05	01/17/05	3
10	New Germany	MD	01/14/05	01/17/05	3
11	Laurel Highlands	PA	01/14/05	01/17/05	3
12	Mt. Rainier	WA	01/19/05	01/23/05	4
13	Canaan Valley	WV	01/20/05	01/23/05	3
14	Camp Sequanota	PA	01/21/05	01/23/05	2
15	Blackwater Falls	WV	01/28/05	01/30/05	2
16	Laurel Highlands	PA	01/28/05	01/30/05	2

*Ski, from page 3*

people, attendees had their pick of six different half-hour presentations.

A never-ending table of refreshments and munchies, enhanced by pot-luck offerings of visitors, sustained us throughout the day.

A new station added to the 2003 Ski Fair featured a constant slide show presentation of the 2003 Ski Dance Weekend. After the 2003 fair ended, 17 STSers wandered over to Oakton to eat an impromptu communal dinner at Luciano's. A post-Ski Fair meal has become a tradition over the years.

For more information on the 2004 PATC STS Ski Fair, contact Trip Coordinator Susie Etcheverry (202/244-2562) or Vice-Chair Steve Bergstrom (301/564-9696). □

—Ralph Heimlich,  
editor STS newsletter, Upslope

## Book Review: 'The Planting of New Virginia'

The Planting of New Virginia – Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley, by Warren R. Hofstra, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, hardcover, 410 p., \$49.95.

Warren Hofstra, Stewart Bell professor of history at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., has written a wonderful book for anyone interested in learning about the settlement of the Shenandoah Valley in the 18th century and how the landscape was shaped by geology, Native Americans, European immigrants, and global politics. He traces the three phases that marked development of a town-and-country landscape west of the Blue Ridge, which resulted in a social and economic culture very different from the plantation society of Colonial "Old" Virginia to the east. He examines this evolution in detail – from creation of the open-country community broadly dispersed across the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, to the formation of counties by the colonial governor and his council in order to provide a buffer against the French and hostile Native Americans during the Seven Years War, to the establishment of market towns like Winchester and to the development of commercial agriculture with the resulting villages and hamlets needed to support the mills and farms.

The book is wonderfully illustrated with maps, drawings, photographs, and pages from original historical documents.

The book shows us a picture of the life of the first German and Scots-Irish frontier settlers who came south from Pennsylvania to start a new life in the Opequon settlement. It describes how life was not so different from that of the Native Americans who passed through this area. It gives us details using family names of how land was selected and surveyed to create an open-country community and how an exchange economy developed.

There is a wonderful section on George Washington, commander of the Virginia Regiment, and his role in the establishment of Winchester as a garrison town that was the center of frontier diplomacy with a commercial economy distinct from that of the country. The book gives details of the inner workings of the exchange economy of the Shenandoah Valley and how the forces of global trading changed the landscape gradually into one of enclosed farms and market towns, with wheat being the major crop. The author has done extensive research and weaves details throughout his historical narrative about the political forces and individual people who shaped "New" Virginia into the gateway for America's first phase of westward expansion.

This is a must read for anyone looking for information on the Shenandoah Valley during the colonial period. □

—Katherine Rindt



### Hiker's Notebook

**Common Name:** Pink Lady's Slipper, Moccasin Flower, American Valerian

**Scientific Name:** *Cypripedium acaule*  
Latin *acaule* means "without a stalk (caulis)," as the flower grows directly from the basal leaves without a true stem.

A large, striking, pink orchid found in relative abundance along woodland trails (orchid derives from the Greek *orchis* meaning testicle referring to the globular shape of the plant's tuber – orchectomy is the technical term for castration).

**Potpouri:** Botanists in the middle Ages named the flower *Calceolus marianus*, the "little shoe of the Virgin Mary." When renamed by Carolus Linnaeus, it took on the more secular *Cypripedium*, "Venus's slipper." This derives from the Greek *Kypris* for Venus, who arose from sea foam caused off the coast of Cyprus, and *podium*, little foot. The name Moccasin Flower also relates to the shape.

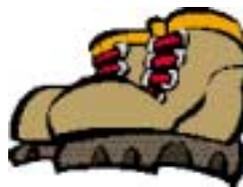
The flower has a small slit in the front to allow pollinators to enter. As the slit has inward folds to prevent it from backing out, the insect is forced to crawl through the flower to two exits on either side of the top, thereby enhancing pollen transfer for fertilization.

The root of the lady's slipper has been used as a sedative since colonial times. Powdered root was steeped in boiling water and used as a tranquilizing tonic and was widely available as a drug in the 19th century. The name American Valerian refers to its use as a substitute for the European garden heliotrope (genus *Valeriana*) known as valerian, which has similar uses as a remedy for nervousness. □

—William Needham

Visit the Hiker's Notebook Web site at:  
[mwrop.org/W\\_Needham/h\\_notebook.html](http://mwrop.org/W_Needham/h_notebook.html).

## Volunteers Appointed in August



### Trail Overseers

Franklin (Mick) Elder	Rocky Knob Trail
Audrey Ewin	AT - Beahms Gap to Neighbor Mountain Parking Area
James Williams	Catoctin Trail - South Crossing, Catoctin Hollow Rd. to Woods Rd.
Steve Lillis	Blackburn Trail North & South
Jack Looney	Brown Mountain Trail Rockytop [lower] Trail

## Featured Cabin: Gypsy Spring 'Cottage' – a Haven in Pennsylvania

I was recently fortunate enough to enjoy a vacation of sorts at Gypsy Spring Cottage in south-central Pennsylvania. One of the outcomes of that trip was the beginning of a monthly column in *PA* featuring each cabin in our system, one at a time. This venture will take awhile. But it will go far in helping everyone become more familiar with the many cabin options available and what treasures each holds.

Even though this cabin – oops – cottage was featured in the August issue of the *PA*, I was not truly prepared for and was awestruck by this wonderful haven sitting up there in the hills, one that was surprisingly vacant much of June, July, and August. One of the reasons for Gypsy Spring's light use is that it is a fairly new addition to our cabin rental system, and so does not yet have the benefit of a loyal following. I think that will swiftly change.

In the *PA*, Gypsy Spring was featured as finally entering the rental system after undergoing years of renovation. Yes, it took awhile, but the wait was certainly worthwhile. I understand why Jim Stauch, the co-overseer along with Al Black, asked that it be renamed a "cottage." This cottage is quaint, snug, and homey. Not that our other cabins are not. But this is not what most folks are going to consider a "rustic" experience. This is a good cabin option for the wintertime.

The cottage has the advantage of being in a delightful location, with historic Gettysburg only minutes away, and quite close to the AT (less than five minutes by car). It is conveniently central to many attractions in Pennsylvania and is nestled in the heart of the Michaux State Forest, delightful woods quite different in flora from those in Virginia. And, it is situated in the heart of Amish country – a fact not lost on you if you venture out a short distance.

Just like all of our cabins, this one is a tough one to leave when the time comes.



*Nearby Caledonia State Park offers much to explore.*



*To help you enjoy the woodland peace and quite, Gypsy Spring Cottage features a newly-added, wrap-around deck with lots of seating. The driveway comes right up to the steps of the deck (front and back), making access to this cabin one of the best in our system.*

### Cottage Features

Gypsy Spring has an official capacity of eight, with two double-decked single-sized bunks, a full-sized bed, and two couches with a sleeper sofa. Heating is primarily by wood stove, supplemented with baseboard electric heat. It boasts a fully-equipped, all-electric kitchen with toaster oven, stove and oven, microwave, coffee pot (YES!), and refrigerator/freezer. The cottage has hot and cold running water in bath and kitchen, two very comfy sofas and two rocker/recliner chairs, and sturdy hand-made dining room table with benches and coffee table. The porch is equipped with large picnic tables.

Gypsy Spring is a great cabin for the kids. My kids give this a creepiness rating of zero (on a scale of one to 10). The surrounding woods have lots of appeal, including a spring just behind and to the right of the shed. Deer abound and are always at rest up the hill behind the kitchen. My kids thought the bunks were great, but they were a little leery of the tops with no guard rails. After staying in lots of primitive cabins without water, my kids literally fought over shower rights. They thought that gave this cottage high marks. They also spent lots of time on the ample deck.

Don't tell your kids, but TV reception is good here (during the Olympics and Little League World series you have to cut us some slack!), although don't expect to find such an appliance on a PATC property! I'm sure that some will disagree, but I would recommend that you carry a portable radio to any cabin during serious weather situations so that you have some access to news. And speaking of electronics, the Gypsy Spring overseer tells me that cell phone reception is not reliable, so don't count on your boss calling during your vacation!

I love that you can drive right up to the door. Don't get me wrong, I'm a backpacker at heart. But when it's late, everyone's tired, and all you want to do is unload the car, backing up right to the steps is a dream! There is

*See Cabin, page 9*

# Four New Stars in the PATC Cabins System in 2004

Since May, four new incredible rental opportunities have entered the cabins system.

## Tulip Tree

Tulip Tree Cabin, which took eight years to build using only hand tools, is located on the western slope of the Blue Ridge between Sperryville and Luray. It provides a shady seclusion on the edge of the Shenandoah National Park. It is available at the rustic cabin rate of \$35 per night Thurs. - Sat., \$25 Sun. - Wed., and sleeps eight. It has two porches, a generous two-part main room, and a loft. It is convenient to Luray Caverns and other attractions in the Shenandoah Valley.

## Gypsy Spring

Gypsy Spring Cottage (*see article at left*) is on the northern edge of our system, west of Gettysburg, and was left to the club by Ray Fadner. This "drive-up" cabin offers all the conveniences of home with a full kitchen and bath. It is convenient to the AT and many hiking trails in Michaux State Forest. After an extensive renovation, it includes a large living/dining room, a large covered porch, a bunkroom, and a modern kitchen and bath. Rental rates are \$60 per night Thurs. - Sat., \$40 Sun. - Wed., and it sleeps eight. In addition to Gettysburg and other attractions in the area, it is also convenient to Liberty Ski area for winter fun.

## Vining Cabin

The Vining Cabin, at the southern extreme of the system, provides an experience of an original mountain homestead but with modern conveniences. Virtually all of the land visible from the cabin is part of the Vining property recently leased to PATC, giving an incredible air of seclusion. This seclusion, however, comes at the cost of a fairly easy 0.4-mile hike in, which we hope can eventually be reduced to 0.2 mile. The cabin itself consists of a 19th century one-room cabin with a bedroom on the second floor and a 1960s addition of stone and wormy chestnut which has a large multipurpose room, a Pullman kitchen with Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer, and one bath. Two porches and a deck orient this cabin to its 19th century outbuildings and environment. Trails connecting to PATC's Vining Tract are currently in the planning stage. Within a half-hour commute you can visit Charlottesville, several winer-

ies, and some really fine restaurants. Vining Cabin rents at the cottage rate of \$60 per night Thurs. - Sat., \$40 Sun. - Wed., and sleeps six.

## Johnson Cabin

Anyone who has visited the reconstruction of Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond will find the simplicity and silence of the Johnson Cabin strangely familiar. This compact log structure measures 8' x 15' with an 8'x8' porch. It is simply but efficiently furnished with a Hoosier cabinet for the kitchen and folding table and chairs so that the small space is very flexible. Two double-width bunks provide sleeping space for up to four people at the very economical cost of \$25 on weekends and \$15 on week nights, making it a great deal for couples or families. Within a short hike are two overlooks with great views over Mutton Hollow. Hiking around the Vining Tract and on old mountain roads also presents excellent recreation.

## Other Cabin News

The biggest reconstruction of the year occurred at Rock Spring Cabin. Shenandoah National Park enlisted the help of the National Park Services preservation training center for major structural repairs and a new cedar shingle roof on this 1937 CCC structure. PATC volunteers replaced windows, kitchen cabinets, and bunks to freshen up this popular cabin.

Catoctin Cottage also received a new kitchen, windows, bathtub, and structural repairs. The last worktrip for this project will install finished flooring and paint the exterior on Oct. 9 and 10, resulting in a greatly improved cabin. Worktrips are also regularly scheduled at Highacre, where the historic outhouse has received complete exterior restoration.

If you are interested in being involved in cabin projects or a position as a cabins overseer, please contact Pat Fankhauser at PATC headquarters at 703/242-0315 ext. 17 or pfankhauser@PATC.net. □

—Mel Merritt  
Cabins Operations Chair

## Cabin, from page 8

room to turn the car around half-way up the driveway, and even park a couple of extra cars. Caution though, as you pull into the driveway, you will need to park on a fairly steep incline while you get out to unlock the gate. If you have two cars, have your second car wait on the road with its blinkers on. There's not quite enough room at that point of the driveway for two cars while the gate is shut, since it swings out toward the road. Also, it's a sharp turn getting onto the driveway if you are coming from the east, so take it slowly there. The soil can be soft at the turn if you overshoot the gravel - don't go getting stuck! The driveway is a safe, easily navigable incline to the cabin.

Pets are not allowed at this cottage. The new furniture is just too nice.

## Hiking, Sightseeing Opportunities

The AT is currently accessible via road, (left out of the driveway - about a mile west to gravel parking lot). Plans are under way to blaze a trail directly from the cabin, but that may take a little while. A vast number of trails are accessible within a six-mile drive of the cabin, and getting there by bike would be a good option. The two most viable options for hiking are starting out from either Caledonia or Pine Grove Furnace state parks. Caledonia also offers a pool during the summer months.

A fun hike is on the AT just west of the cabin in the direction of the Anna Michener Cabin, which will be featured next month. Also nearby on or near the AT are Milesburn and the Hermitage cabins.

## And Don't Miss:

- Shippensburg is just a skip and a hop over the mountain and offers many small-town services. Also, Chambersburg is a good option for any services you might need.
- The historic Round Barn (with farmer's market) in Arendtville only about 15 or 20 minutes to the east, open May to October.
- The Liberty Ski area is conveniently nearby for winter recreation.
- Kiddie favorites were the Thaddeus Stevens Museum and iron kiln and playing in the stream at Caledonia.
- You can't skip Gettysburg if you've never been there. It's less than a half-hour drive to visit this historic town. We recommend the ice cream/coffee shop in the town center. □

—Linda Shannon-Beaver

## Chapters

### 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 southern and central districts of Shenandoah National Park, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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 Lee Sheaffer, ([thumpers@visuallink.com](mailto:thumpers@visuallink.com)) 540/955-0736.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See [www.ssvc.org](http://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 Michael Seth 540/438-1301.

### West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meetings at Highacre are on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot 540/667-2036 or e-mail [wvpatc@hotmail.com](mailto:wvpatc@hotmail.com).

### 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 ([berf@erols.com](mailto:berf@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 Andy Britton, ([tallandyb@aol.com](mailto:tallandyb@aol.com)) 703/622-1920, or Mack Muir ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto: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](http://www.capitalhikingclub.org)) and Wanderbirds ([www.wanderbirds.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.patc.net/activities/forecast.html).

- ^ Hiking Trips
- ~ Backpacking Trips
- . Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin/Shelter Work Trips
- A Ski Trips
- S 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.

### New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va., and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/349-2496.

### Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. – We meet every month unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Mack Muir ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)) 703/960-1697 or PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/chapters/mtn\\_sect](http://www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect).

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Business meeting - Last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Doug Sigman ([join@smrg.org](mailto:join@smrg.org)), 703/255-5034, or [www.smrg.org](http://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 ([wirley@patc.net](mailto:wirley@patc.net)) 703/242-0693 x11.

### Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. 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: Holly Wheeler ([trailpatrol@patc.net](mailto:trailpatrol@patc.net)) 301/486-1598, or see our section in PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

## October

### 1 (Friday)

#### **DEADLINE - November 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@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

### 2 (Saturday)

#### **S SPECIAL EVENT - In the Streets Festival Frederick, MD**

PATC booth will be set up in front of the Trail House Outdoor Store on South Market Street. Help will be needed to set up and take down the display and to man the display from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

### 2 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD**

The colors are starting to change in western Maryland. Get away from the city for a day of "work," comradeship and peace in the woods. We meet near Frederick, Md. at 9:00 a.m. Please bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

### 2 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA**

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **~ BACKPACKING TRIP - BP101 Class**

##### **Location to be Determined**

This is the overnight backpacking trip prepared for during the previous classroom sessions. You will be led by experienced backpacking instructors. INFO: John Browne (back2\_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645.

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CABIN WORK TRIP - The Shelter Crew Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Come on out and spend some time in the cooler air and help with shelter repair and maintenance. The Shelter crew will be doing maintenance on huts in SNP. We will overnight at the maintenance hut nearest to where we will be working. Bring water, food, work clothes and if you plan to stay overnight, your sleeping bag. INFO: Henry Horn (athike@aol.com) 301/498 8254.

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CABIN WORK TRIP - Southern Slackers Cliff's House, VA**

Put up a wall in the basement to secure the Southern Region's cabin supplies. If we get a big turn out, we'll take Weaver too. Then you can sleep at a great cabin. Look at the list of cabins you can visit this summer. Get off your duff and let me know when you can help out. Deal the same. \$10/week-end/person for the meals. Need cooks. Need workers. Need help. Oh, as Tom Hebert gets Eaton schedule together, we'll stop by and help out a few times. If I hear of other trips, I'll let you know. We need the help. A great way to visit cabins. How can you slackers complain about staying somewhere for free? SIGN UP NOW!!!!!! INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairathart@aol.com) 540/456-4760 (home) 540/248-7009 (work).

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CLASS - LNT Trainers Course**

##### **Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Conducted at a car accessible cabin. This fun week-end course will enhance your LNT back/front country knowledge and strengthen your skills to model and teach LNT ethics and practices to others. Instructors are LNT Masters from Trail Patrol. We will be day hiking. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Fee: \$30 (includes course material). INFO: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 (before 11:00 p.m.)

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)**

##### **Alexandria, VA**

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

### 5 (Tuesday)

#### **HIKE - Family Hike**

##### **Great Falls, VA**

Riverbend Park. Get outside to enjoy the fall weather! We will hike along the Paw Paw Passage Trail, and then follow the Potomac Heritage Trail along the Potomac River. The hike will be a kid-friendly 2.5 miles, and is jogging-stroller passable. There are some roots and muddy areas. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 571/242-3950.

### 5 (Tuesday)

#### **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

##### **Location to be determined**

Call for this week's hike location, meeting place and time. Briskly paced mountain hike of 15-17 miles with 3000+ feet of elevation gain. Joint hike with Sierra Club's MWROP. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

### 5 (Tuesday)

#### **MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.**

### 6 (Wednesday)

#### **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

##### **Greenbelt, MD**

The Easy Hikers will hike 4 to 5 miles in Greenbelt Park. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the Dogwood Trail parking lot. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Leave the Beltway at exit 23 for Rte. 201 south (Kenilworth Ave.), then exit again almost immediately for Rte. 193 east (Greenbelt Road). After turning left onto Rte.193, follow it 0.3 mile then turn right at a traffic light into Greenbelt Park. Follow curving entrance road 0.1 mile to stop sign. Turn left (twds. Holly & Laurel picnic areas). Go 0.9 mile to another stop sign. Turn left (twds. campground). Parking area is on right immediately after turn. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

### 6 (Wednesday)

#### **HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

##### **Location to be determined**

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to 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.

### 6 (Wednesday)

#### **MEETING - New Members (PATC), 7:30 p.m.**

### 7 (Thursday)

#### **HIKE - In Between Hikers**

##### **Great Falls, VA**

A moderate to fast paced 10 mile hike with a 5 mile option. This is a joint hike with Sierra Club. From I-495, exit 44W on Georgetown Pike for 4 miles to Old Dominion Drive. Turn right to Park Entrance. Fee is \$ 5.00 per vehicle or pass. Meet in front of Visitor Center. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. INFO: Nena Ewing (henricomeau@aol.com) 301/652 9147.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CABIN WORK TRIP - John's Rest Stanardsville, VA**

The TulipTree Cabin Construction Crew fresh from their recent completion of a unique and monumental project will be assisting in the completion of Johns Rest Cabin. Come and join these two outstanding cabin crews in completing another beautiful PATC rental cabin. Meet the "Who's Who" of PATC cabin construction and learn the ins and outs of cabin construction and restoration. We will have community meals for dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **CLASS - CPR and First Aid**

##### **Vienna, VA**

The Trail Patrol is hosting CPR and First Aid course at PATC Headquarters. The two-day course covers American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and First Aid. The students will learn basic first aid skills with hands-on time. Books and certifications are provided. The afternoon portion of the first aid class is designed with wilderness situations in mind. Time will be spent going over items in our first aid kits and packs. The students learn how to do basic splinting and bleeding control with supplies from their packs. The cost of each class is \$50 per day (\$100 for both days of CPR and first aid). The deadline to register for this class was Sept. 24. INFO: Ben Fernandez (TPTraining@patc.net) 703/327-9788.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **SPECIAL EVENT - Blackburn Pig Roast Round Hill, VA**

Blackburn Trail Center. Join us for this weekend of fun, food and family. See article and registration form on page 15 in this PA. INFO: Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/924-0406.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Ovoka Farms, VA**

AT between I-66 and Rte. 50. The Crew will add the final touches to the Ovoka Farms AT relocation project. Additional trail construction will tie the AT to the Sky Meadows State Park trail system. The new trail network will provide open areas and views to the east. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at project site. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Hoodlum's Ocktoberfest! Come celebrate the fall foliage season with the Hoodlums on their traditional Ocktoberfest worktrip. Lederhosen is optional. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

# FORECAST

## 9 - 11 (Saturday - Monday)

### ~ BACKPACKING TRIP - 202 Class Outing

#### Location to be Determined

Three days, two nights: Columbus Day weekend, Oct 9 - 11, 2004. Fee: \$40.00 for PATC Members; \$55.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Applicants must know the basics and have some backpacking experience. To receive a registration form and for all other information, contact John Browne (back2\_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645.

## 12 (Tuesday)

### ~ HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

#### Location to be determined

Call for this week's hike location, meeting place and time. Briskly paced mountain hike of 15-17 miles with 3000+ feet of elevation gain. Joint hike with Sierra Club's MWROP. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

## 12 (Tuesday)

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

## 13 (Wednesday)

### ~ HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### Burke Lake Park, VA

Five level miles around Burke Lake. Meet at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit West onto Braddock Rd. At your leisure, move into the left-hand lane (excluding left turn lanes) and stay in this lane. In 1.9 mi. from the Beltway, the lane you are in becomes one of a pair of left-turn lanes onto Burke Lake Rd (Rt. 645). Stay with it and make the turn. (Don't worry about the misleading sign before the preceding left.) Go 4.7 mi., then turn left onto Ox Rd. (Rt. 123). In 0.5 mi. (after passing the Golf Center), turn left into Burke Lake Park. Follow signs to the marina. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

## 13 (Wednesday)

### ~ HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to 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.

## 13 (Wednesday)

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

## 13 (Wednesday)

### MEETING - West Virginia Chapter (7:00) Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, WV

## 16 (Saturday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Trail Restoration (REI)

#### Sterling, VA

9:00 am. - 2:00 p.m. Ten Foot and Sharpshin Islands, Algonkian Regional Park. Join the Potomac Conservancy and REI to construct two Leave No Trace Campsites, improve foot trails, and remove non-native plants and trash on Ten Foot and Sharpshin Islands. Volunteers will help to improve recreational enjoyment of the islands which are owned by the Conservancy and provide a key link in water trails through the area. This is a perfect project for scout groups but volunteers of all ages are welcome. Volunteers with canoes or fishing boats are especially needed. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 16 (Saturday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew

#### Washington, DC

8:15 - Noon. The season is winding down, but you've still got a chance to get in with the hard-working crew for Rock Creek Park. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

## 16 (Saturday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

#### Appalachian Trail, MD

Don't miss the change of seasons, come out and join this event for fun "work" getting dirty in the woods. 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Please bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

## 16 (Saturday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

#### Tuscarora Trail, PA

INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

## 17 (Sunday)

### ~ HIKE - Raccoon Run/A.T.

#### Caledonia State Park, PA

Circuit Hike, easy to moderate, 10 miles in length. Come out to enjoy the crisp winter weather on what was the old AT (now Raccoon Run Trail) and the new AT. Views from Rocky Mtn. plus an old Native American tale at the rock outcrop. Yours truly will be telling the tale from this view. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@ininternet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

## 17 (Sunday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Gambrill State Park

#### Frederick, MD

Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance and relocation projects. Trail relocation. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

## 19 (Tuesday)

### ~ HIKE - Family Hike

#### Boyce, VA

State Arboretum of Virginia. Come explore one of the largest collections of trees in the southeastern U.S. Hopefully we will hit the peak color of the 350 Ginko trees. We will check out the large variety of nuts and pinecones. The Arboretum has more than half the world's pine species. Check out their Web site at [www.virginia.edu/blandy](http://www.virginia.edu/blandy). We will hike along the Virginia Native Plant Trail, down Dogwood Lane, and to the Ginko Grove. It will be a kid-friendly, jogging-stroller-passable hike of about 2-3 miles. INFO: Lauren Lang (94L@netzero.net) 571/242-3950 (Please call if I don't respond to your e-mail quickly).

## 19 (Tuesday)

### ~ HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

#### Location to be determined

Call for this week's hike location, meeting place and time. Briskly paced mountain hike of 15-17 miles with 3000+ feet of elevation gain. Joint hike with Sierra Club's MWROP. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.



## 20 (Wednesday)

### ~ CLASS - GPS 101 (REI)

#### Bailey's Crossroads, VA

This is a high level view of how GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers work and the things that affect their accuracy. We will review the features available in consumer GPS receivers and how to choose a model based on your intended activities. We will concentrate on Garmin receivers. We will also discuss batteries, water resistance, shock resistance and accessories. We will discuss software that is available to supplement GPS receivers, with an emphasis on mapping and waypoint management software. Our focus will be on Garmin and DeLorme software products. We will include software demonstrations. Finally, we will include a brief overview of online resources available to assist you in exploring this topic further. Free. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 20 (Wednesday)

### ~ HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### Rock Creek Park, DC

Embassy Hike. Hike 4-5 miles. (Bring lunch and water). We will meet at Pierce Mill and go via Melvin Hazen Trail to enclave of embassies near Van Ness St., N.W. We will then return via Soapstone Valley Trail. Pierce Mill is on Beech Drive at Tilden St. in Rock Creek Park. INFO: Harriet Rotter 202/363-5095.

## 20 (Wednesday)

### ~ HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to 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.

## 22 - 24 (Friday - Sunday)

### ~ BACKPACKING TRIP - Laurel Fork

#### Wilderness

#### Elkins, WV

Follow the trail of the beaver as we backpack 17 miles in the Laurel Fork North and South Wilderness. This easy to moderately paced trip (about 6 miles per day) (approximately an elevation Loss of 500 feet as we descend along Laurel River drainage) will take us along Laurel River on a combination of old wood roads, old RR grades and footpaths. Thursday night lodging is available at Laurel Fork Campground. We will leave from there to begin our trip. This wilderness is located east of Elkins, W.Va., and five miles south of Wymer, W.Va. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319.

## 23 (Saturday)

### ~ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Potomac Heritage Trail Loudoun County, VA

Come join us in constructing a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail along Goose Creek. The scenery is terrific and we will see some of the historic locks of the 19th century Goose Creek Canal. This is the first of three work trips to build new trail along the Potomac River and Goose Creek that will become part of the only national scenic trail to traverse a major metropolitan area. We will work from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No prior experience necessary. Tools and instruction will be provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Because we will park in a central location and be transported to the trailhead please register in advance. INFO: Ric Francke (rfrancke@potomactrail.org) 571/436-7801 (days) or 703/356-2106 (evenings until 10:00 p.m.).

**23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Rosser Lamb**  
**Stanardsville, VA**

Park Anderson and Peg Manuel have been carrying the load for restoration of the Rosser Lamb House for the past five years. Well now they are going to get some help. The Tulip Tree Cabin Construction Crew will be joining Park and Peg in their labor of love. Come on out and discover the chemistry that makes our cabin construction program so successful. There will be nearly unlimited opportunities to discover what goes into the restoration of a 90 year old farmhouse. Join us for a day of work on Saturday, an enjoyable dinner and an evening of socializing and breakfast on Sunday followed by another half day of work. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

**23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
**Dawson Cabin, MD**

NW of Hancock. Opening views is the task at hand for the work trip. Should be a great time for seeing the fall colors and enjoying cool evenings. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Dawson Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

**24 (Sunday)**  
**HIKE - Civil War History**  
**Harper's Ferry, WV**

We're going to do a repeat of a very popular moderate hike that we did back in March. Starting from the train station, we'll hike through town, past Jefferson Rock, across the Shenandoah River, and up to Loudoun Heights. From here, we'll descend to the highway, cross the Potomac River, and hike up the C&O towpath to the trail for Maryland Heights. After ascending Maryland Heights, we'll come back into town. There will be great views, and hopefully some fall colors will still be left in the trees. Approx. 11 miles. PATC map 7. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

**24 (Sunday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**  
**Appalachian Trail, MD**

This is another Sunday South Mountaineers work event ... getting dirty doing trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Please bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

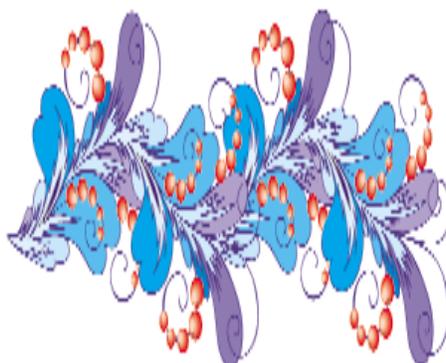
**26 (Tuesday)**  
**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
**Location to be determined**

Call for this week's hike location, meeting place and time. Briskly paced mountain hike of 15-17 miles with 3000+ feet of elevation gain. Joint hike with Sierra Club's MWROP. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

**26 (Tuesday)**  
**MEETING - SMRG**  
**(Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.**

**27 (Wednesday)**  
**CLASS - Backpacking Light and Fast (REI)**  
**Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

Is your pack too heavy? Did you carry too much on your last trip? An REI backpacking expert will provide excellent tips on lightweight backpacking techniques. Included are shelters, sleep systems, backpacks, food choices, and fuel efficiency. Come with tips to share with others. Free. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.



**27 (Wednesday)**  
**HIKE - Easy Hikers**  
**Wakefield, VA**

Lake Accotink Parks. A 6-mile, mostly flat, circuit hike. From Capital Beltway exit 54A, go west on Braddock Rd. At traffic light, about 100 yards beyond outer beltway, turn right into Wakefield Park and meet at first parking lot on left. Bring lunch and water. No pets. Hike starts at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

**27 (Wednesday)**  
**HIKE - Midweek Hikers**  
**Location to be determined**

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to 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.

**28 (Thursday)**  
**HIKE - In-Between Hikers**  
**Bull Run Mt. Natural Area, VA**

Hike 8 miles on forest trails with valley views from a scenic overlook. Joint hike with Sierra Club. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Take Interstate 66 to the Haymarket exit (Exit 40, US 15). Go South (left) on US 15, then turn west (right) at the stoplight onto Rt 55. Go 2.5 miles and turn right on Turner Road. Cross over I-66 and turn immediately left onto Beverly Mill Drive. Go 3/4 mile to the Friends of Bull Run Mountain House, on the left and park. No pets. INFO: Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com) 301/320-5509 or Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

**30 (Saturday)**  
**HIKE - K9 Trailblazers**  
**Owings Mills, MD**

Soldier's Delight. This will be a late afternoon hike. We'll hike at a moderate pace for a 4-mile loop through the woods and rocky serpentine barrens of Soldier's Delight. There will be moderate (200 ft) elevation changes on the trail. Along the way we'll visit abandoned mine sites where chromite was first mined in the United States. We'll also learn about the unique geology and ecology of the area and may even see the rare Fringed Gentian, which blooms this time of year. We'll end the hike at sunset with a Halloween story about a local ghost. Sturdy hiking boots with good ankle support are required. This is a joint hike with K9 Trailblazers, so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on a leash and scoop up after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead! Bring snack and water for you and your dog. Visit [www.k9trailblazers.org](http://www.k9trailblazers.org) for more details. INFO: Jeff Bolognese (jbolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

**30 (Saturday)**  
**HIKE - Natural History**

**South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
 This is a 9.8 mile hike through a very scenic region, with sandstone cliffs and fossils, wonderful overlooks, and long streamside stretches. Catch the last of the fall foliage season as we drop 1600 feet to Big Run, and make a number of stream crossings on Big Run and Rocky Mountain Run as we return back to our start. (Hike No. 22, Circuit Hikes in the SNP; 1996, 14th edition - Rocky Mountain-Brown Mountain). INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

**30 (Saturday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew**  
**Washington, DC**

(8:15 a.m.-Noon). After we fix some trails, we'll hold the Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation picnic. We'll provide the BBQ, but contact Mark to see what side dish you can bring. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

**31 (Sunday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Gambrill State Park**  
**Frederick, MD**

Trail relocation. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

## November

**1 (Monday)**  
**DEADLINE - December 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@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

**2 (Tuesday)**  
**MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.**

**3 (Wednesday)**  
**CLASS - Climbing 101 (REI)**  
**Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

If you are ready to learn the ropes in one of this country's fastest growing sports, then this is the evening for you! REI climbing gurus offer this primer on rock climbing. Topics will include an overview of climbing, equipment, safety, and training. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

**3 (Wednesday)**  
**MEETING - New Members (PATC), 7:30 p.m.**

**6 (Saturday)**  
**HIKE - K9 Trailblazers**  
**McLean, VA**

Turkey Run Park. We'll hike at a moderate pace for a 6-9 mile hike from Turkey Run Park, along the historic and scenic Potomac Heritage Trail to Ft. Marcy and back again with an optional out-and-back to Dead Run. The trail is mostly rugged wooded trails along the Potomac River with some stream crossings, a street crossing, and moderate (but steep at times) elevation changes (~300 ft). This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit [www.k9trailblazers.org](http://www.k9trailblazers.org) for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 410/381-7408 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

# FORECAST

**6 (Saturday)**

**SPECIAL EVENT - XC Ski Fair**  
Vienna, VA

It's time to think snow! The Ski Touring Section (STS) opens the 2004 ski season with its annual Ski Fair—your best opportunity to learn about and sign up for the great trips STS is considering for the 2004-05 season to destinations like Mt. Rainier, New England, Quebec, and St. Moritz as well as our closer favorites like Canaan Valley, the Laurel Highlands, and Tug Hill. Meet the trip leaders and prospective ski buddies. See new ski gear and try out specially-priced fleece wear. Hear about the Ski-Dance Weekend and other special events and training clinics. INFO: Susie Etchevery 202/244-2562 or Steve Bergstrom 301/564-9696 (12:30-4:30 p.m.).

**6 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Potomac Heritage Trail**  
Loudoun County, VA

Please join us on the 2nd of three work trips to construct a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. This time we will work along the Potomac River south of Goose Creek. Good prospects for seeing wildlife. We will work from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No prior experience necessary: tools and instruction will be provided. Please bring work gloves and water. As we will park in a central location and be transported to the trailhead please register in advance. INFO: Ric Francke (bfrancke@potomactrail.org) 571/436-7801 (days) or 703/356-2106 (evenings until 10:00 p.m.).

**6 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**  
Appalachian Trail, MD

The air is getting crisp, come out and enjoy the autumn colors. Work hard and get dirty like when you were a kid. Please bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

**6 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**  
Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

**6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)**

**CABIN WORK TRIP - John's Rest**  
Stanardsville, VA

The combined John's Rest and Tulip Tree Construction Crews will be working to complete another great PATC rental cabin located on Entry Run in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains near Shenandoah National Park. The end of the project is near but there are still several important things that need to be done. Don't waste this opportunity to contribute to the completion of the next great cabin to be added to our rental system. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

**7 (Sunday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**  
Appalachian Trail, MD

Another Sunday event from the South Mountaineers, making the Appalachian and Catoctin Trails in Maryland the best they can be. Please bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

**9 (Tuesday)**

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

**10 (Wednesday)**

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

**11 (Thursday)**

**HIKE - In-Between Hikers**  
Gaithersburg, MD

Moderately paced 9 mile hike on the Greenway Trail past remains of a mill, old dikes and canals. Meet at the Visitor Center in Seneca Creek State Park at 10 a.m. There will be a short shuttle. No pets. Take I-270 north towards Frederick to exit 10, Clopper Rd/West Diamond Ave., Rt. 117. After exiting, go right (west) on Rt. 117. Proceed approximately 2 miles on Rt. 117 to the Park entrance on left. You will see brown signs on Rt. 117 directing you to the Park. After turning into the Park, turn right at the sign pointing to the Visitor's Center. INFO: Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com) 301/320-5509; and (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965 before 9:00 p.m.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Should be nice bug free weather and beautiful fall foliage. The crew plans to add tread improvements and erosion control devices on the AT. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Rindt's house. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

**17 (Wednesday)**

**HIKE - Easy Hikers**  
Rock Creek Park, D.C.

We will hike about 4.5 miles walking south to Rolling Meadow Bridge where we eat lunch. Several up & downs on this hike. Meet at 10:15 am near Meadowbrook Stables on Beach Drive near East-West Hwy. (inside the beltway). Bring lunch and water. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (niedze@erols.com) 301/949-9729.

**20 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**  
Appalachian Trail, MD

Some of the most fun you will have being a volunteer. We work on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. Details subject to change after press time. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

**20 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**  
Tuscarora Trail, PA

INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

**20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)**

**CABIN WORK TRIP - Rosser Lamb**  
Stanardsville, VA

Park and Peg and their friends as well as members of the Tulip Tree Crew will be hard at work at Rosser Lamb House this weekend and can use your help. Opportunities for learning and making a contribution abound. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided for the cost of the ingredients. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

**21 (Sunday)**

**HIKE - Appalachian Trail**  
Smithsburg, MD

We'll do a moderate 12 miles along the South Mountain ridge in Maryland, starting from near the Cowall Shelter on Wolfsville Road, and continuing all the way to Washington Monument State Park. Two wonderful views will be seen along the way, at Black Rock Cliffs and at Annapolis Rocks. We'll need a volunteer or two to place cars at the beginning and end of this one-way hike. Approx. 12 miles. PATC map 5. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.net-com.com) 301/249-2210.

**21 (Sunday)**

**HIKE - Natural History**  
Great North Mountain, VA/WV

A Sunday hike avoids the hunters in this heath and hardwood forest region which includes a part of the Tuscarora trail. We'll hike 9.4 miles, with an elevation change of 1300 feet. Being a natural history hike, we'll talk about what is going on in the natural world at this time of the season. Wonderful views await us at White Rock Cliffs. (Hike No. 13, Circuit Hikes in VA, WV, MD, and PA, 2000, 6th edition - Racer Camp Hollow-White Rock) INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

**27 (Saturday)**

**HIKE - Moderate**  
Thurmont, MD

Wolf-Chimney Rocks Circuit, moderate hike 8.7 miles in length. Elevation change 500 feet. This is in the Catoctin Mountain National Park, and is a wonderful hike with some gorgeous views. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

**30 (Tuesday)**

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



## Annual Meeting Set for Nov. 9 at the Atrium

The annual banquet will be held Nov. 9 at the Atrium of Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Va. The speaker will be Scott Rimm-Hewitt, who played his tuba as he walked the Appalachian Trail. The cost of the banquet will be \$35 per person. Make your reservation now with Pat Fankhauser at PATC, 703/242-0315, Ext. 17. or fill out the registration form on page 5 and follow mailing directions on the form.

## It's Pig Roast Time Again!

Join us for the 21st Annual Blackburn Pig Roast, scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, Oct. 9-10, 2004. The organizers will be the same as always – Rick Portal with help from Tim Rahn and Nancy Hughes. Registration this year is once again being taken by Trailboss Chris Brunton and Sandi Marra.

As is the tradition, black beans and rice, potato au gratin, and apple crisp will accompany our Cuban-styled roast pig. Happy hour will lead off the evening with Rick's famous tamales. In addition, Tim will make sure anyone waking up Sunday morning still

hungry will be taken care of with his top-quality breakfast fare.

In keeping with our family-oriented events, we will have planned activities for children of all ages, culminating in our annual jack-o-lantern contest, complete with scary stories and prizes for all. Of course all attendees can take a hike along the "AT" or simply enjoy the changing leaves from our front porch.

Dinner will be served early evening on Saturday, but anyone wanting to participate in the Friday night Pig grease down and season-

ing (an event worth experiencing at least once in your life) are welcomed! Dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday are up to each individual.

Members and friends interested in attending the event should complete the registration form below and send a check for \$25 per person over 10 years old to Sandi Marra, 6245 Walkers Croft Way, Alexandria, VA 22315. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SANDRA MARRA. INFO: Chris Brunton, (703/924-0406) trailbossbtc@msn.com. □

### Blackburn Pig Roast — Saturday and Sunday, October 9-10, 2004

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each

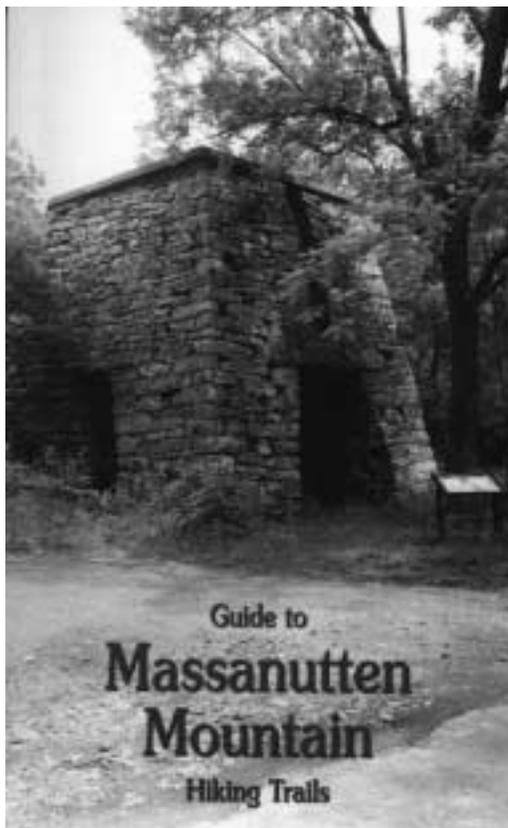
Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I will also be bringing \_\_\_\_\_ # children aged 10 and under (for whom there is no charge)

Include a \$25.00 payment per person for each reservation with checks payable to Sandra Marra and mail to:

Sandra Marra, 6245 Walkers Croft Way, Alexandria, VA 22315.

**IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Sandra Marra.**



## Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails

Every hiker in the PATC area needs this complete guide to the official Forest Service trails in the Massanutten Mountain Section of the George Washington National Forest. Escape the crowds in Shenandoah National Park by instead visiting the Massanutten area, with more than 50 hikes of varying difficulty, from the 71-mile Massanutten Trail circuit (described both clockwise and counterclockwise), to easy walks of less than one-half mile. One universally accessible trail (the Lion's Tale) is actually rope-guided for the visually impaired, with Braille signs.

Wil Kohlbrenner's third edition of the Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails is completely revised with all the information you need to safely enjoy these hikes. There are new diagrams showing mileage between trail intersections, and photographs of the scenery and wildlife by the author and Lee Sheaffer. A special chapter relates the colorful history of the area.

Previous editions of this guide should not be used because trails in the area have been extensively restructured. You need the 2004 edition.

PC 160 Member price: \$5.60

Non-member price: \$7.00

FROM THE PATC STORE

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Whence the Mussel

This new role as club naturalist is kind of fun. It's already exposed me to a number of different issues. For example, I was asked if I had any input as to the safe use of chlordane, an insecticide used for termite control, or in this case for carpenter ant control in one of our cabins. In as much as chlordane has been banned from commercial use in the United States since 1988, I was glad to be able to point our club in a more appropriate direction.

A more interesting situation arose when I was told a G1 species had been found just below our Vining properties. A G1 species is one where only five populations or fewer are known to exist in the whole world! It turns out we are talking about a mussel, known as the James River spiny mussel. So I spent two days in July wading through a stream with several U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists, members of The Nature Conservancy, and a few others, looking for this little creature.

### Tiny Targets

Searching for the mussels was like an Easter egg hunt. These mussels are about two inches long and generally look like clams (with notable exceptions: Clams are marine and mussels are freshwater). But they don't just lie on the sediment. In fact, the shell is totally submerged in the substratum. Only the two hoselike siphon tubes reach to the surface, one taking in water and suspended food sediments and the other expelling filtered water and waste products. You have to look for a pair of dark spots less than a quarter inch apart on the creek bottom. Over the two days, we found 223 notched rainbows, 22 Creeper or Squawfoot mussels, a number of an introduced species and, yes, seven of our globally-rare James River spiny mussel.

Armed with my newly gained experience, a few weeks later I took to the waters of Swift Run and Madies Run that go through PATC's Vining properties in search of this mussel.

It turns out that Virginia is a hot spot in the world for rare mussels. The Clinch, Holston, and Powell Rivers, located in southwestern Virginia, contain 31 federally listed Endangered and Threatened mussel species. Not only that, this region also hosts a number of endangered fishes as well. Some of these fishes are known as darters. You remember the snail darter from the 1970s, don't you? In addition, a number of endangered bats and plants are also found here.

Why are so many endangered species located in this distant corner of Virginia? It all has to do with the age of the community. While the Alps, Rockies, and Andes are about 60 million years old, our Appalachian Mountains are approximately 260 million years old. This southern Appalachians habitat, free from glaciers and other dynamic ecological change, has enabled evolution to diversify into a myriad of forms and species. In fact, the New River, contrary to its name, is the second oldest river in the world, with only the Nile River being older.

### Mussel Mode of Living

Mussels have played a valuable role in the lives of East Coast inhabitants, starting with the Native Americans, who used the mussel shells to make wampum, their form of money, or barter medium. Our society made use of mussel shells to make buttons until the advent of plastics in the 1930s. Now, mussels are being collected and sold to Asian markets. In the pearl farms of China, these shells are cut and shaped into round pearl replicas and placed into marine oysters. The oysters proceed to coat the mussel shell with a thin layer of mother-of-pearl. After two years, these are sold in the U.S. market as cultured pearls.

Mussels are very sedentary. These mussels, which can live to be 50 to 100 years of age, can spend years at a time in the same spot, content to filter food from the water with their siphons. Unlike migratory birds, ephemeral flowers, and hibernating animals, mussels can be found any day of the year in the same place. Mussels also have an interesting life cycle. Females release newborn mussels, called glochidia, into the water where they must find their way to the gills of a fish, where they will live for about three weeks as a parasite before dropping off the fish. Not just any fish will do. These glochidia are limited to a very few acceptable fish species.

### Mussel Enemies

Alas, all is not bright for the mussel community. In fact, through degradation of water quality, mussel populations have declined alarmingly in both abundance and diversity. It has been said that mussels are far and away the most jeopardized faunal group in the country. With 50 percent of all U.S. species receiving protection under the Endangered Species list, some 70 percent of all mussel fauna are in peril.

However, the biggest threat has yet to arrive in our Virginia streams. The zebra mussel, which has taken over much of the benthic community of Lake Erie, is rapidly approaching. This introduced species, which, through its filter feeding, has dramatically increased water clarity in the Great Lakes, has also removed the food from the waters that support the natural food chain, effectively removing many native mussels and game fish from hard-hit areas. Just this year, it has been identified in the upper reaches of the Susquehanna River in the Chesapeake Bay drainage basin. Most biologists agree, it's just a matter of time before they infiltrate all of our Eastern rivers, removing native species and clogging up water intake systems.

So, what happened on our mussel search on the Vining properties? It turns out that the sediment-rich depositions found downstream just don't exist in our upper reaches. In the course of just a few miles the stream had changed from a sluggish meandering stream of deposition to one of high energy, steep gradient, and erosion, with no mussels. Nonetheless, the search for the James River spiny mussel and its fulfillment has been a very satisfying experience and one of many adventures I look forward to completing. □

### 2003 Power Failure Reveals Role of Plants in Air Pollution

A recently released study by researchers at the University of Maryland shows that skies were dramatically bluer and the air was much healthier during the August 2003 blackout that hit the northeastern United States. The findings shed new light on the contribution of power plants to air pollution along the East Coast of the United States.

Atmospheric measurements taken by scientists some 24 hours after many power plants had essentially shut down found a 90 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide, a gas that leads to haze and acid rain, and a 50 percent reduction in smog, or ground-level ozone. The Maryland scientists also found that suspended particulate matter, the amount of light scattering particles in the air, dropped by 70 percent, and visibility increased by some 20 miles. □

—Bob Pickett

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**NEW PUBLICATIONS CHAIR NEEDED.** PATC is in search of a new chair for the Publications Committee. The selection will be made by mid-December, and the starting date is Jan. 1, 2005. The committee chair oversees production of PATC's publications (typically 4-5 per year), including guidebook revisions and occasional new books; supervises volunteer editors and preparation of press-ready copy, filling for copy-right, LC number and ISBN; updates publication descriptions on PATC Web site; budgets and manages the publications account. The chair is a voting member of PATC's Council. Familiarity with publishing software (PageMaker or Quark Xpress) is desirable but not required. Please refer questions and expressions of interest to President Tom Johnson (president@patc.net).

**ACRYLIC PAINTINGS FOR SALE** - of your favorite cabin or trail. All I need is your photo (unless I have already photographed it); reasonable rates and various sizes. Catherine Miller (chosejoy@starpower.com) 301/589-8524.

**BEARS DEN TRAIL CENTER** Manager/Hosts: Bears Den is searching for the right person or couple to take over as manager/host(s). Must have a strong desire to take care of guests, be very friendly, and be hard-working. Monthly stipend and lovely housing quarters in the stone mansion. No health benefits. Start date on February 1, 2005. Annual position with possibility of renewal for consecutive years. Hiking experience and outdoor interest a big benefit. Visit Bears Den Trail Center and speak to Dave Appel for more information at 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, VA 20135. 540/554-8708. Visit our website [www.bearsdencenter.org](http://www.bearsdencenter.org) for more information. To apply, send David Lillard (dlillard@blueridge-center.org) a letter of interest.

**DO YOU HAVE A UTILITY TRAILER?** Bears Den has need for loan or donation of a utility trailer as we now have to haul our trash barrels out to Route 601 each week. Please contact Dave Appel (info@bearsdencenter.org) or 540/554-8707.

## HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

**LOOKING FOR SOME WOMEN TO HIKE WITH:** Are any of you ladies interested in hiking sections of the AT - mostly by slackpacking, dayhiking and occasional overnight? I've finished about half. Let's compare notes. INFO: Stacy (dslabare@corlink.com.) 304/358-3154

## HELP WANTED

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE** needs someone proficient in desktop publishing (Quark and/or Pagemaker) to work with chairman in updating guidebooks. Adobe Photo Shop also helpful for scanning photos. Need to prepare final disk for printer. Minimal time requirement - only 2 or 3 publications per year would require your expertise. If you are interested or have questions, call George Meek, publications committee chair, (george@meekconsulting.com) 703/875-3021.

## FREE TO GOOD HOME

**FREE FIREWOOD** for the asking. A pickup truck full of cut and seasoned (by this fall) wood is available on a first come, first served basis. Kindling also available. Must get rid of it quickly. Please call Bernie Morgan at 301/864-1324.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**DAYTIME RESERVATIONISTS NEEDED** If you are available during the day to work a busy reservation desk, I've got an opening for you on alternate Thursdays. I really need to secure a volunteer every other Thursday afternoon between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. Will train. No pressure calls. Please call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 if you can help us out.

**DAYTIME AND EVENING CABIN RESERVATIONISTS NEEDED:** Openings are available to any individual who can give attention to detail, work independently, and work under pressure some seasons of the year. Daytime volunteers are needed on Thursday afternoon between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. Evening volunteers are needed to take one or two nights per month. We Need You Now! Call Pat Fankhauser for interview at 703/242-0693 or e-mail, pfankhauser@patc.net.

**WE NEED SOMEONE TO HELP POUR PAINT** for trails and corridor workers. Contact Heidi Forrest (hforrest@patc.net) 703/242-0315 x12.

**DO YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR HANGING TOOLS?** We could use your help in the HQ Tool Room. Contact Liles Creighton (lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED:** We need volunteers with experience in creating sales materials and/or catalogs. If you are interested please send a note to Tim Hanlon, Sales Chair, care of Maureen Estes at MEstes@patc.net.

**REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:** Trail Crew Maintenance, DC-Based. Want some trail maintenance experience and exercise, but still sleep in your own bed? Is SNP just too far a drive? I've got all these problems and will try to fill a need by building a local-based trail crew. The Potomac River Trail Crew will work one day a month, mostly just 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The crew would begin its focus on the Potomac Heritage Trail on the Virginia side of the river, but the crew could also help in Rock Creek and Great Falls. INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703/532-9093 (night).

**C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK** is seeking volunteers for the Williamsport Visitor Center to staff the center and bookstore, and can include informal interpretation. INFO: Gloria Updyke (Gloria\_Updyke@nps.gov) 301/582-0813.

## CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS,

## AND TAX ATTORNEYS.

Virginia now permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit for cash. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The club needs your help writing proposals that would help the club save thousands of dollars.

Contact: Phil Paschall

(bettycox@erols.com), 540/882-3027.

Hurry - before the state changes its mind.

## CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

**DO YOU WANT TO BE A LANDOWNER** along the AT? Are you in a position to become a Conservation Buyer through the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust? Our program matches conservation buyers with people who are selling land along the AT. You locate your home or cabin out of sight from the Trail. All we ask is that you donate a conservation easement on the rest of the property. A conservation easement "runs with the land;" that is, no present or future owner can develop it! AND, because an easement is an irrevocable gift of a property right, you get a nice income tax deduction equal to the value of the easement. Contact Bob Williams, Director of Land Trust Programs, at [bwilliams@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:bwilliams@appalachiantrail.org), or at 304/535-6331, or write to P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

**LAND MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** The Land Management Committee is looking for volunteers with various skills to help out on several important projects. We are hoping to find members with the following professional skills that they can apply at PATC.

**GIS Specialist** - Help start and develop the club's GIS capabilities.

**Forester** - Assist committee in developing Forestry Plans for club lands. We have a process and existing leadership but have a lot of land to cover.

**Surveyor** - Assist committee members in identifying boundaries on our existing properties. Assist in purchasing of new properties identified for cabins and trail protection.

**Land Appraiser** - Assist the club in determining values of potential land purchases and conservation easements. Efforts are targeted in the VA, PA, MD and WV areas.

If you're interested in helping out in any of the above areas please contact Chris Mangold at [csm5749@yahoo.com](mailto:csm5749@yahoo.com).

## TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

**PATC OVERSEERS GET DISCOUNTS** from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater) - 20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro DC) - 15%, 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%, and The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry - 15%. 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. Be sure to have your membership ID or overseer ID ready when you shop.

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. □

## TRAILHEAD

**A**drier, cooler August has helped slow the weeds after this year's bountiful crop earlier in the spring and summer. By the end of August, a few telltale signs of brown and wilting weeds (always a welcome sign to overseers) began to appear. It won't be long before the district managers will start hounding overseers to clean the waterbars. Seems like the work is never done.

We are thankful for the near miss of a couple of hurricanes, but there are a couple more in the wings. We don't need another Isabel.

### ALT Allegheny Trail

On Aug. 28, Lloyd MacAskill and PATC President Tom Johnson traveled to the New Castle Ranger District office west of Roanoke for the Allegheny Trail's annual planning meeting. Also present were three West Virginia trail volunteers and five representatives from the U.S. Forest Service. The main focus was on plans to resolve the remaining landowner issues needed to permit opening of the last unfinished section of the Allegheny Trail (ALT) south of I-64. After remaining in limbo for several years, these problems will be worked on during the coming months.

At present, the ALT continues northward along Peters Mountain and the West Virginia-Virginia state line for 21 miles from its southern junction with the AT before coming to the gap section. The rest of the ALT is complete through West Virginia up to Pennsylvania where it connects with other trails. Closing these trail gaps has been receiving increased attention as a result of the interest in creating a longer hiking route through the western Appalachians.

### From the Supervisor of Trails

To all overseers: Subject, adding new or significantly modifying current trails. If you perceive a need to create a new trail or to relocate or otherwise significantly change an existing trail, coordinate with your district manager first. We are guided in our actions by our trail partners and multiple policies. The DM is familiar with them, or can contact or put you in contact with the appropriate people and obtain clearance for what you want to do. You may, of course, be told no. But, increasingly, rules and regulations and a clearance process for projects are taking hold in the world of government. If we violate their rules, we will have more restrictions put upon us.

To club members: Please determine if you can volunteer and devote time to the trails we maintain in the national forests and our own land in the west. This is a challenging and difficult task due to distance from our primary concentrations of members. I recognize that most people want a trail section close to where they live or work, but we need those who like a challenge and hard task. If you can meet the challenge and can spare the time, please call or e-mail me (410/573-0067, Lcrei@aol.com) or the pertinent district manager.

Compliments have been received again about the fine trail maintenance this year. Kudos to all who devoted their time helping the club maintain its standards and good reputation. Trail construction and maintenance is hard work but is appreciated by the public.

### Tiny and Lugger

The August Blue and White Crew trip was dedicated to our old buddy Tiny, who was

unable to join the crew for the festivities due to a prolonged recuperation from recent surgery. Best wishes to Tiny, who endured a very hard procedure. He's been a big asset to the crew, and we hope he can keep it up.

The Tiny-less crew visited the AT section just north of the Pocosin Cabin, cutting vegetation, repairing rootball damage, and rebuilding a section of damaged tread. Patrick Wilson unveiled the newly fashioned Locust Lugger, an advanced apparatus for moving large sections of waterbars-to-be from the locust mines to their new homes. The crew was able to cut, skin, and transport over 30 logs to the section near the cabin and to a damaged area near the Lewis Mountain Campground. Late afternoon downpours delayed the installation of the waterbars near the campground and forced the crew into the back of S.V. Dove's pickup for an impromptu crew pow-wow. Sunday morning the crew helped Patrick and his little friend Lugger cut and skin even more locust, this time on the Buck Hollow Trail.

### Finished Just in Time

Facing the arrival of Hurricane Charley, the Cadillac Crew proceeded undaunted to build turnpike tread on the Billy Goat A Trail near the Great Falls Visitor Center on the C&O Canal. The trail entrance off the C&O Canal is a chronically wet area whose only solution was to raise the tread using turnpike construction. Crew members discovered they had seldom-used muscles, as most of the morning was spent stripping logs for the turnpike retainer walls. The afternoon was spent hauling and placing fill material for the tread. Just

*See Trailhead, page 19*

*Before: (left) Chronically wet area on Billy Goat A Trail near Great Falls before Cadillac Crew construct turnpike. After (right): Turnpike on Billy Goat A Trail finished just before the arrival of Hurricane Charley's rain (notice water drops on camera lens).*



Photo by Vc Fickes

as the final load of material was placed, the predicted rains from the hurricane arrived. By the time the crew returned to the parking area, rain-soaked clothes replaced sweat-soaked clothes. A special thanks to Overseer Georgeann Smale who arranged for the Park Service to provide logs and fill material that made the job much easier.

### White Oak Staircase

The Central District Summer Crew followed fast on the heels of the Blue and White weekend. Commencing on Sunday, the crew consisted of Mark Holland, Mike Fleming, Stan Turk, John Hebbe, Kerry Snow, Jerry Gross, Pete Curran, and Cliff Willey. Shawn Green (SNP trails coordinator) and Pete Gatje (former PATC supervisor of trails) welcomed the crew to SNP during dinner at Skyland Lodge on Sunday evening. Work began at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, led by Central District Trails Supervisor C.T. Campbell and his crew of Shenandoah trail professionals. Over the course of the next five days, the crew built a winding stone staircase near the base of the White Oak Canyon Trail's lowest falls, replacing a badly damaged trail section that had deteriorated over the years. Although crew members kept a keen eye out, nightly visits to local dining establishments failed to detect the mysterious "man in the shadows," reputed to haunt the kitchens of Luray restaurants (in fact, the crew was unable to find even the shadows).

### Hoodlums Get Soaked

In August, the North District Hoodlums trail crew turned out 10 hardy souls despite the dark skies and ominous weather forecast. We managed to rebuild 20 or so log waterbars on the AT on the north flank of Pass Mountain before the heavens opened up. A thoroughly soaked crew retired to the home of George Walters and Maureen Harris near Sperryville in lieu of Indian Run hut to clean up and dry out (with the help of a washer and dryer) and proceeded to "rough it" with a fine Jamaican meal served up under roof.

### Blood, Sweat, and Tears on the PHT

Confronting the best growing season in years, the Potomac Heritage Trail became an overgrown weedy mess this summer. Overseers Alex Sanders, Ric Francke, and Bruce Glendening did not despair as they attacked the worst section near Theodore Roosevelt Island, but the power weedwackers quickly broke under the pressure. Hand swing-blades took up the slack as the three slogged along for hours clearing a passable area through the fast-growing kudzu and porcelain berry. Hikers in shorts cheered as the thorny bushes were cleared away and the PHT again became a pleasant experience rather than a chore. Enterprising overseers likewise opened other areas of the PHT, and the beast of summer growth was defeated, only to wait for another day.

### Corps Arrives at Blackburn

Chris Brunton reports a group of young adults from Washington, D.C., scheduled a work trip outing to Blackburn Trail Center early in August. They are part of the Americorps/Earth Conservation Corps organization. Chris wasn't sure just what to expect, but the group really impressed him. The group, consisting of about 20 corps members and three leaders, built a series of locust log steps and dug some side hill on the south access blue-blazed trail leading from the center up to the AT.

### Tuscarora South District

Carol Saah and her Wanderbirds continue their monthly worktrips and, as such, have been a huge help on Tuscarora Trail sections without overseers. If you hike Fetzer Gap to Cedar Creek or Three Top

Mountain, you owe them thanks. And these are in addition to the two sections that Carol and her husband David maintain! By the way, there are several sections of the Tuscarora that need overseers. This lesser-used trail network (lots less than the AT) has wonderful views and a good chance for solitude. Sounds like a great opportunity. Contact Rick Rhoades. The Tuscarora needs you!

### SNP South District Summer Crew

District Manager Pete Gatje reports Dave Fellers' PATC Summer Trail Crew did a great job during their August workweek. They cleaned out a remote burn area of Rockytop Trail that had gone wild this year. Vegetation was so bad this year that Pete thinks he will probably lose three or four overwhelmed overseers. The summer crew also did fine work on an eroded fire road that is the start of the Trayfoot Trail near Blackrock Parking area.

### Black Phase

While conducting a trail assessment of the AT in the SNP North District for the ATPO, Michelle Miller of ATC's Mid-Atlantic Region, accompanied by Overseers Jon and Katherine Rindt, observed a timber rattlesnake crossing the AT near Piney River Ranger Station. The three-foot-long snake, first detected by Michelle's dog Hazel (glad she was on a short leash), started to coil into a defensive position before deciding to cross the trail to continue on its business. Timber rattlesnakes have both a yellow and a black phase during which their color is distinctly different. This snake was obviously in its black phase.

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 [jkrintd@shentel.net](mailto:jkrintd@shentel.net). □



*Timber rattlesnake (black phase) observed crossing the AT during an ATC trail assessment in SNP North District.*

Photo by Jon Rindt

#### POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

(UPS-440-280) ©2004, 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.

# Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

## Corridor Monitor Openings

Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340  
tlupp@erols.com

**Keys Gap South – VA - PATC Map 7**

**Buzzard Rocks - VA - PATC Map 7**

**High Knob -VA - PATC Map 8**

Shelter Overseer Opening

**Shockeys Knob Shelter – WV - Map L**

Frank Turk, 301/249-8243  
FrankTurk@aol.com

**Trail Overseer Openings.** Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

## Tuscarora Pennsylvania Maps 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. No certification required.

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140  
peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

**Harpers Ferry/Ashby Gap – Map 7 & 8**

Chris Brunton, 703/924-0406  
trailbossbtc@msn.com

**Loudoun Heights Blue Trail [lower]**

Loudoun Heights Orange Trail to Rte. 340 (1.6 miles)

**Ashby/Possoms [Rte. 50 to SNP] - Map 8, 9**

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743  
laparriott@hotmail.com

**Appalachian Trail**

2nd creek crossing to pipeline (1.2 miles)

**Appalachian Trail**

Va. 602 to 4H access Trail (0.7 miles)

**SNP North District AT – Map 9**

John McCrea, 610/352-9287  
mccreaif@aol.com

**Appalachian Trail**

Jenkins Gap to Hogwallow Gap (1.7 miles)

**SNP Central Blue-Blazed [north] - Map 10**

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248  
danjan3@cox.net

New overseer opportunities available soon. Choice trails rich in Shenandoah history. Don't miss this rare opportunity to stake your claim.

**Corbin Mountain Trail – Co-overseer**

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad (4.4 miles)

**SNP Central Blue-Blazed [south] - Map 10**

Steve Paull, 703/361-3869  
stevepaull@yahoo.com

**Jones Mt. Trail**

Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail (2.8 miles)

**Saddleback Mountain Trail**

AT to AT (1.4 miles)

**Salamander [Naked Top] Trail**

Hawksbill Summit to AT (.7 miles)

**Mill Prong Trail**

AT to Mill Prong Horse Trail (1.0 miles)

**SNP South AT - Map 11**

Dennis DeSilvey, 434/295-8825  
dldesilvey@pcvmed.com

**Appalachian Trail**

Riprap Trail Parking Area to Hairpin Switchback (1.5 miles)

**SNP South Blue-Blazed - Map 11**

Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309  
pjgatje@aol.com

**Furnace Mountain Trail [upper] - Co-overseers**

Furnace Mountain Summit Trail to Trayfoot Mountain Trail (2.0 miles)

**Wildcat Ridge Trail**

Wildcat Ridge Parking Area to Riprap Trail (2.5 miles)

**Tuscarora Central – Map L**

Walt Smith, 540/678-0423  
wsmith@visuallink.com

**Tuscarora Trail**

Yellow Spring Road to Capon Springs Road (3.7 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail - [on road/blazing only]**

C&O Canal to Ruth Morris Forest (3.9 miles)

**Tuscarora South – Map E, G, 9**

Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247  
rrhoades@shentel.net

**Tuscarora Trail**

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Doll Ridge to Rock marker (1.5 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Cedar Creek to Ridge Crest (2.8 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Ridge Crest to Fetzer Gap (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)



**The Potomac Appalachian**

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