

# The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 28, Number 10  
October 1999

## 1999 PATC Annual Meeting and Celebration

*You are cordially invited to join the PATC Council and staff at PATC's Annual Meeting.*

**When:** Friday, November 5, 1999  
**Where:** Old Town Hall, Fairfax  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$15.00 per adult/  
\$8.00 per child under 12  
FREE without dinner

For this, the last annual meeting of the millennium, we are planning some extra special events and entertainment. This year we will be celebrating our outstanding volunteers with the Volunteer of the Year Award, Honorary Life Membership awards, and Special Achievement awards.

We are also bringing back the PATC talent show that was so well received a few years ago. And, in addition to the PATC talent, local comic and master of improvisation Jim Nieb will perform The 5 Niebinskis.

The meeting is a great time to visit with old friends and council members. If you want to learn about volunteer opportunities from committee chairs, they will be available all in one place at one time. Displays will show the breadth of volunteer activities and how you can get involved. And there will be special door prizes from our supporters.

A delicious buffet dinner is provided, and a cash bar of beer and wine is available. However, if you are not eating, there is no charge to attend.

**Directions:** Take I-495 North or South to I-66 West. Take the Route 123 South exit and proceed about two miles into Old Fairfax. Go left on Main Street (Route 236). In one block at University go left, the Town Hall will be in front of you. Park in the lots on the NW/SW corners of University and North Streets. There is additional parking in the Courthouse Plaza half a block up on the right.

**Metro:** Take the Orange line to Vienna. From Vienna metro station take the Gold 1-Cue Bus to Fairfax. The bus stops right across the street from the Old Town Hall at University and Main. Buses run until midnight. It's that easy!

Please fill out the attached form and mail it back to PATC by October 29, 1999.

### Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 per adult/\$8.00 per child for dinner.  
Mail to: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
118 Park Street SE  
Vienna, Virginia 22180  
Attn: Annual Meeting - Regina Garnett

NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 29, 1999.

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## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Walt Smith, 703/242-0693,  
Ext. 40, wsmith@visuallink.com

**VP Operations:** Tom Johnson

**VP Volunteerism:** Mickey McDermott

**Supervisor of Trails:** Peter Gatje

Email: PJGatje@aol.com

**Supervisor of Corridor Management:**  
Tom Lupp

**General Secretary:** Warren Sharp

**General Counsel:** Eric Olson

**Membership Secretary:** Terry Cummings

**Treasurer:** Dick Newcomer

**Recording Secretary:** Gerhard Salinger

### Sections/ Chapters

**Mountaineering Section:** Ozana Halik

**SMRG:** Bud Hyland

**Ski Touring Section:** Katherine Stentzel

**North Chapter:** Steve Koeppen

**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Martha Clark

**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Lynn Cameron

**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon

**West Virginia Chapter:** Jane Thompson

### Standing Committee Chairs

(Council Members)

**Blackburn Trail Center:** Chris Brunton

**Cabins:** Mel Merritt

**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf

**Conservation:** Mary Margaret Sloan

**Corporate Donations:** Jack Reeder

**Endowment:** Dick Newcomer

**Finance:** John Richards

**Hikes:** Tom Johnson

**Internet Services:** Andy Hiltz

**Land Management:** Vacant

**Land Acquisition:** Phil Paschall & Eric Olson

**Legal:** Eric Olson

**Maps:** Dave Pierce

**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management**

Committee: Charlie Graf

**Public Affairs:** Terry Cummings

**Publications:** Aaron Watkins

**Shelters:** Charlie Graf, 410/757-6053

**Trail Patrol:** Mickey McDermott

**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:**

Lloyd MacAskill

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

**Archives & Library:** Paula Strain

**Cabin Reservations:** Darlene Wall

**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Rick Rhoades

**Firestone Tract Management:** Shirley Strong

**Information/Sales Desks:** Marguerite

Schneeberger

**Medical:** Dennis DeSilvey

**Vining Tract Management:** Howard Johnson

### Potomac Appalachian

**Chief Editor:** Bianca Menendez

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**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

**Forecast Editor:** Joe O'Neill

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**Pre-press:** Nancy Merritt,

MeritMktg@aol.com

## Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on August 10, 1999 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 23 Council members, 3 staff, and 3 Club members. The PATC membership stands at 6,852, with 101 new members registering in the month of July.

### The Future at PATC

General Secretary Warren Sharp presented an overview of concepts for renovating the Headquarters building to make it more useful for Club activities and staff. The presentation was developed in discussion with Club member Bruce Berberick, a registered architect. Major changes in the plan included moving corridors to allow more rooms, reducing the kitchen in size, and adding an external stairway connected to the second floor. The ideas will be costed out and presented to the Council in the budget process.

Tom Johnson formed an ad hoc committee to determine the training needs of the Club. Training is done on an "as needed" basis. This committee is to determine what is done and what should be done, not only in technical training, but also in leadership and volunteer management skills. Tom also reported that PATC and ATC will provide some joint training using PATC's Blackburn Trail Center as well as ATC's Boiling Springs location. Club members Lauren Land and John Mihall, who are training professionals, are developing the effort.

The Futures Group is brainstorming five year goals for various clusters of Club activities to serve as a basis for discussion at upcoming

planning meetings. The clusters chosen are Hiking Trails, Educational Outreach, Volunteer Management, Information Management, Facilities Management, Financial Management, Lands Management, Conservation, and Fulfilling Responsibilities to Our Partner Organizations. Group members are supplying details for the discussion.

### Leave No Trace

PATC has been actively promoting Leave No Trace principles through Trail Patrol and other Club activities. "Leave No Trace" is the property of Leave No Trace, Inc. The Council voted to partner with Leave No Trace, Inc. in promoting the principles of the organization.

### Trail Lands Fund

The Council voted allocation of Trail Lands Funds to negotiate a treadway for the Tuscarora Trail in the town of Mauertown, VA between US 11 and I-81. Money was also voted to conduct an appraisal of a property adjacent to Blackburn Trail Center.

### Personnel Changes

Ed McKnew is resigning as chair of the Lands Management Committee due to a change of work assignment.

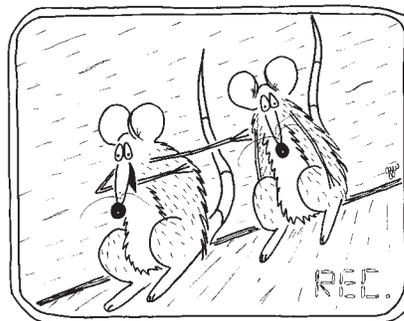
### CD-ROM

David Pierce demonstrated a pre-publication copy of the commercially developed CD-ROM of the AT. PATC is contributing its maps and trail guides in return for royalties. The four CD set will be available for around \$30 per CD. □

—Gerhard Salinger,  
Recording Secretary

### Tails from the Woods by George Walters

Against all odds, Louie somehow manages to steal a camcorder from within the cabin while everyone slept.



"...OK?... IS IT ON?... UH, THIS IS OUR FIRST HOME MOVIE... AND THIS IS MY BROTHER ERNIE... AND... NO, WAIT A MINUTE!... CUT!... I WANNA DO IT AGAIN!"

## Walt's Notes

**T**hank You George, Andy, Ed, And Matt!! There are thirty-seven Council positions listed on page two of this newsletter, all filled by volunteers. Without them, trails, cabins, shelters, hikes, skiing and climbing trips, rescue operations, the internet site, maps, publications, newsletters, trail protection, administrative and financial services, social events, and much more, simply would not happen. And so it is not lightly that I recognize the services of Council members who are departing their positions.

George Still has resigned from his post as Vice-President for Operations after three and one-half years, he being responsible for many things, from maintenance to family events. Andy Hiltz will soon be leaving his position as the creator, more than five years ago, and webmaster of our widely acclaimed internet site. Ed McKnew has resigned from his po-

sition as Chair of the Land Management Committee, a position that he organized and was created more than two and one half years ago in order to manage 3,600 acres of land, property either held in easement or owned by the Club. Matt Ogorzalek has decided that it is time for him to step down, after almost five years as Chair of the Cabins Committee. All four persons have filled other volunteer positions in the Club in the past, and they continue to serve in other volunteer positions such as overseers. I know that the membership joins me in thanking them for their excellent past and continuing service to PATC!

### New Council Responsibilities

Dick Newcomer was elected Chair of the Endowment Committee in August, filling an officer position left vacant since Bill Ladd's term ended in June. Dick continues to serve as Club Treasurer. Mel Merritt is the new

Chair of the Cabins Committee, coming to the position with experience gained from cabin construction and maintenance at the Vining Tract, as well as with his own construction company. The new Vice-President for Operations is Tom Johnson, moving up from the VP position for Volunteerism. Mickey McDermott, the current leader of the Trail Patrol, has been approved by the Executive Committee to become the new VP for Volunteerism. In accordance with provisions of the Constitution, the two new vice-presidents will serve out the balance of the term of their predecessors through the year 2000. Thanks to all for volunteering to help lead the Club during the ensuing months.

The Land Management and Internet Services committee chair positions are being advertised in the Notices section of this newsletter.

*See Walt's Notes, page 16*

## Backpacking 202

**I**ntermediate/Advanced Backpacking is for the weekend backpacker who wants to expand his or her understanding of backpacking and the special skills needed to plan and lead trips under challenging conditions, such as winter trips, trips to remote locations, and planning for a large group.

The course will provide opportunity for students to plan and execute a trip with facilitation and instruction by experienced instructors. Two pre-trip sessions will cover equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort, managing the unexpected, and leave-no-trace principles to protect our fragile backcountry environment. Class members will plan and direct most of the outing preparations. Instruction in trip leadership and backpacking skills application and development will occur in the field.

Course fees are \$45.00 for PATC members, \$60.00 for non-members. The fees are payable at registration.

The classroom instruction will be given at the PATC Headquarters located at 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA. Please note: space is reserved on a first-come/first served basis. Your space will be held upon receipt of your check.

For more information, contact: Joe Gareri, 202/756-7905, Larry Marcoux, 703/968-4771. □

*A course for Intermediate/Advanced Backpackers  
Learn how to enjoy hiking in the backcountry under challenging conditions  
Classroom instruction: Thursdays, October 7 and 21, 1999*

*7-9:45 pm*

*PATC Headquarters  
118 Park Street, SE  
Vienna, Virginia*

*Weekend Outing Options: November 5-7, 12-14 or 19-21, 1999*

### Registration Form Fall 1999 Backpacking 202

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

PATC Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_) No \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have hiking experience? No \_\_\_\_\_ Limited \_\_\_\_\_ Extensive \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have backpacking experience? No \_\_\_\_\_ Limited \_\_\_\_\_ Extensive \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$45 for PATC Members, \$60 for non-members

Please make check payable to PATC Trail Patrol

Mail your registration form and check to:

Mickey McDermott  
PATC Trail Patrol  
118 Park Street, SE  
Vienna, VA 22180

**club day**

# Don't Miss Club Day at EMS!

As a member of an outdoor organization, we know you love the outdoors as much as we do—and Club Day is our way to thank you for your contribution to the outdoor community. Stop by on Thursday, October 28 and gear up for another great season of fun in the outdoors.

## 20% Off Everything Thursday, October 28

Just bring proof of membership in an outdoor organization or this ad, and we'll take 20% off your entire purchase at EMS that day. It's just our way of saying—Thanks



Toll-free Customer Service (888) INFO EMS (463-6367)  
www.emsonline.com

Shop at the following EMS Stores, and bring your PATC membership card to receive 20% off on Club Day:

EMS Annapolis: 2554 Solomon Island Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401

EMS Towson: Towson Town Center, Suite 190, 825 Dulany Valley Rd., Towson, MD 21304

EMS Fair Lakes: Fair Lakes Center, 12997 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax, VA 22033

EMS Gaithersburg: Lakeforest Mall, 701 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877

EMS Tysons: Tysons Corner Center, 7954 Tysons Corner Center, McLean, VA 22102

### Patrons

Capital Hiking Club  
Center Hiking Club  
Potomac Backpackers Association  
Sierra Club, MWROP  
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

### Corporate Supporters

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports	Outdoor Adventure
Campmor	REI
Casual Adventures	The Outfitter at
Duron	Harpers Ferry
Hewlett-Packard	The Trail House
Hudson Trail Outfitters	Wilderness Voyagers

## Book Review:

*The Height of Our Mountains: Nature Writing from Virginia's Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley*, edited by Michael P. Branch and Daniel S. Phillipon. Foreword by John Elder. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. 421p. illus., bibl. index. \$39.95; \$18.95 paper.

Here, in single paragraphs or several pages, is how seventy explorers, scientists, novelists, essayists, journalists, statesmen, and a few ordinary folk have thought about the Blue Ridge from Harpers Ferry south to the New River. Captain John Smith's comments on Virginia of 1611 begins the book; to end it, a writer in a 1996 Appalachia remembers a boyhood climb up to the AT over a boulder stream a-buzz with one or more rattlesnakes.

A wide range of topics are covered: a future king of France has a poor opinion of Harpers Ferry; a nineteenth century tourist describes "cosseted women, climbing the Sharp

Top Peak of Otter;" James Madison tells his farmer neighbors they are destroying too much woodland; Darwin and Eileen Lambert seek a never-timbered wilderness at the headwaters of the Staunton River; a fly-fisherman dreams of fishing Moorman's River in April.

There's something for every taste here, and, if the selection offered is too short to satisfy, the editors tell you the book they found it from so you can read more. Or, if these pages whet your appetite for more, go to the Bibliographic Essay at the end where the editors refer the reader to several hundred more books.

But postpone reading the introduction until you've read more than one page of text; better yet, skip it entirely. It is an academician's attempt to explain the charm of reading about a region and landscape we know. The rest of the book, even "Notes" at the very back, are pleasant reading. □

—Paula M. Strain, Archivist



### CAMP COUNSELLORS NEEDED—APPLY WITHIN

If you are interested in working with at-risk women and children, PATC needs you. The Club is hosting a weekend event at Blackburn Trail Center on October 30 and 31. PATC members are needed to help with the events (hikes, campfire, discussions about ecology, etc.). For details, call Tom Johnson (410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com) or Eve Taglang (301/662-6811, etaglang@sfa.com, or Gtaglang@aol.com).

## PATC's Response to the Saddleback Mountain Environmental Assessment

The following letter from PATC President Walt Smith represents PATC's position, as voted on by PATC Council in August 1999, on the Saddleback Mountain Environmental Assessment. Mary Margaret Sloan, Chair of the Conservation Committee, coordinated this letter. The letter was copied to the congressional delegations in Maine, Maryland, and Virginia and the Appalachian Trail Conference. For more information about this issue, see the August PA ("The Trail Needs Your Help!" page 6) or ATC's website: [www.atconf.org](http://www.atconf.org)

August 30, 1999

Pamela Underhill, Park Manager  
NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office  
Harpers Ferry Center  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Re: Saddleback Mountain Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Underhill:

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club strongly supports Alternative One identified in the National Park Service's *Environmental Assessment for the Protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Across Saddleback Mountain, Franklin County, Maine*. As the preeminent long-distance trail in the United States, if not the world, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail deserves the best protection the National Park Service can provide.

We recognize that Alternative 2 protects the foreground viewshed of the trail, but we believe that the entire viewshed should be protected for its scenic and natural qualities and to preserve the hiking experience. Alternative One will allow the ski area to expand significantly and not affect the Appalachian Trail (AT) as a wilderness corridor.

PATC's interest in Saddleback Mountain stems from long involvement with the AT in the Mid-Atlantic region and also from our club's work on the AT in Maine, which began in 1933. In the early 1930s, PATC members scouted and blazed the northernmost section of the AT in Maine. We share Myron Avery, a club founder and our first president, with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, where he performed similar roles.

PATC was founded in Washington, DC by six members in 1927, and has grown to over 6,850 members today. During the past sixty years, strong partnerships have developed with several national, state and local parks and forests. In 1998, our volunteers contributed more than 35,000 work hours in maintaining 240 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 730 miles of other hiking trails in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important protection and conservation project.

Sincerely yours,

Walter M. Smith  
President

### Obituary

Helen R. Wiese (member 1958-1999)

Helen Wiese, PATC Treasurer from 1963-1966, died August 28. With Harold Wiese (member 1958-1990), she served on the Land Acquisition Committee during the 1980s. The two maintained the Keyes' Gap to Deer Lick section of the AT from 1963 to 1990, receiving the Twenty-Year Trail Maintainer award of the Appalachian Trail Conference in 1985. In addition, they

maintained the Jewell Glass House from 1972-1986 and were active in PATC's sub-groups, the Bushwhackers and the Allemand-Lefters. They also led at least two multi-week excursions for PATC: to the English Lake district and Norway's Trollheimen in 1968 and hut-to-hut hikes in the Swiss and Austrian Alps and in Norway's Rondane in 1970.

—Paula Strain

### Overseer Alert

Check your trails for hurricane-caused blowdowns.



# One Man's Manhattan Half Hundred

While I prefer hiking in the Blue Ridge, I often find myself in New York City on the weekends and must make the best of what is available. New York is a wonderful city to walk in, with its diverse neighborhoods and its 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week activity. But a walk is not a hike, and sometimes all I want to do is hike for hours, lost in solitude and deep in nature. Surprisingly, I found that I could approximate this experience without leaving Manhattan by following trails that hug well over half of the island's coastline.

Over the years I have hiked and biked the entire 32-mile route, but only in sections. I have never been quite sure that I could complete the PATC Dogwood Half Hundred, so I decided to test myself on this course, which is the same length but with good footing and no elevation changes.

I start out one cool, overcast Sunday morning in early June at the Chelsea Piers sports complex on the Hudson River at 23rd Street. At the Piers, there is a court, rink, or facility for just about any sport you choose, but my hike requires no special equipment: just comfortable clothing and a worked-in pair of running shoes. I do not need a backpack for food or water because I will never be more than a block or two away from a deli, bodega, or hotdog stand. And, for that matter, a subway or bus line will always be nearby in case I decide to bail out.

With these simple preparations I head south along the Hudson. The city is converting the abandoned piers and unused space from 59th Street to Battery Park at the far south end of the island into a long, thin park. The bike and walking trail is pretty much complete, making this stretch pure fun: I am fresh, the Hudson is slapping against the seawall, and the views stretch to the Statue of Liberty in the harbor.

## Seeing The Sights

The trail continues around the southern tip of Manhattan past the tourists lined up to pay for sightseeing boats and on to the Staten Island Ferry, where you can see the same sites for free, if not as close up. Now heading north, I reach the South Street Seaport where (another nice feature of urban hiking) you can find restrooms and a water fountain. Now comes one of the urban equivalents of a

breathhtaking mountain view: the sight of the Brooklyn Bridge arching gracefully over the East River to Brooklyn.

Soon I pass under the Williamsburg Bridge and can see for miles up the east side of the island. A beautiful sight but also the occasion to ask myself for the first time, "Do I really want to do this?" I have been walking for two hours at a steady, close to 4 mph pace without a break. I know that I will have to keep at this speed if I hope to finish before dark. I keep on.

---

*Hiking the coast of Manhattan provides several interesting views, and, yes, even wooded trails.*

---

At 34th Street, the trail finally comes to an end, and I have to hit First Avenue. Cross-town traffic is light on the edge of the city, so I rarely have to break stride as I quickly cover the mile up to the entrance to the East River Promenade at 59th Street. This trail starts out as noisy and narrow, squeezed between the river and FDR Drive, and then moves to the top of the highway. This part is relatively quiet and spacious, populated by the well-heeled residents of the Upper East Side. Gradually, though, the expensive baby prams disappear and the fishing poles come out as I move into Harlem.

At 125th Street the trail ends, and I have to face a choice. To keep next to the river means zigzagging on streets through a rough, decaying industrial area. I opt instead to cross over on 125th Street, Harlem's Main Street, for several blocks and then head north on the broad Lenox Avenue. The streets are full of dressed-up churchgoers, and the smell of Southern cooking, particularly that of the fried chicken coming from Sylvia's, makes me nostalgic for my home state of Georgia.

This is about the halfway point, but I continue without a rest, worrying that if I stop now, good sense might prevail and I will take the subway home. I resolve to take my lunch break at the far northern tip of the island, where I might be able to fool myself into thinking that the walk south is downhill and I can just coast home.

I continue on streets through Harlem and into the Dominican neighborhoods of Washington Heights. In both these areas I see much new construction and other signs of prosperity. Crime rates are now at a near all-time low. So walking in these areas is no longer much of a risk and, besides, who is going to catch up to me at 4 mph?

## Exploring Parks

In Inwood, the most northerly neighborhood, I buy a couple of tacos and two big bottles of soda and head for a park bench. Inwood Park is little known except to area residents, but it is one of the most pleasing parks in the city. The forest here was never cut, and old-growth trees tower over the paths and playing fields. The Spuyten Duyvil waterway threads a narrow passage here between the Hudson and the Harlem Rivers.

I finish my lunch in 20 minutes and start off again. The path that begins here will take me from 220th Street all the way down, with a couple of minor detours, to 72nd, a good seven miles next to the Hudson. At the start there is another of one of my favorite views: emerging from the giant trees is the bridge across the Spuyten Duyvil, a baby-blue lacework arch, framing the Hudson River with the New Jersey Palisades cliffs on the distant shore.

A couple of blocks separate this park from another little-known gem of a park, the Fort Tryon Park. It also has lovely wooded trail, but its crown jewel is the Cloisters, an authentic recreation of a medieval cloister, filled with the best art that Rockefeller money could buy. No time to look, though. I walk down Fort Washington Avenue, past my old apartment, and I am soon on the path that begins at the George Washington Bridge. Yet another wonderful bridge view: the GW is as brawny and muscular, especially from down under it, as the Brooklyn Bridge is elegant and refined.

The next few miles are marked by one long Hispanic block party, the air thick with the smells of barbecue and throbbing with Latin music. The state has built a huge park, complete with Olympic-size indoor swimming pools, on top of a new water treatment plant by the river, and neighborhood children are streaming in and out.

*See Manhaatan, page 7*

*Manhattan, from page 6*

Next comes a stretch of trail known only to the most intrepid hikers. At the 125th Street entrance to the West Side Highway, a narrow strip of dirt separates the highway from the river. Follow this little track up a couple of hundred yards, and there begins a neat little footpath, less than a foot wide, that winds along the river bank for a over a mile. At the end of this very unofficial path you will have to climb over a 4-foot wall to once again enter a sanctioned walkway. Riverside Park is where crowded West Siders go for some open

space and fresh air. One of its more unusual spots is the boat basin, where some people live year-round on houseboats. I take advantage of their Coke machine and take my second rest of the hike. At this point I am seriously tired but not otherwise uncomfortable: no blisters, sunburn, or dehydration.

My last street detour is from 72nd Street to 59th Street, where I again pick up the Hudson Park trail, the one I started on much earlier in the day. This stretch, though not very park-like, keeps my interest because of

the ships. Being Sunday, the cruise liners are in, and I get to inspect several from very close range. There is also the giant aircraft carrier, the Intrepid, surrounded by a submarine and other craft, all part of the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum.

Finally Chelsea Piers comes into view, nine-and-a-half hours after I have last seen it. I have completed my Manhattan Half Hundred. Dogwood, you're next. □

—Jim Everett

## Club Purchases Farmer-Lockhart Tract—Your Help Needed

The Club will close soon on forty acres of land located in Hampshire County, West Virginia. This tract is needed in order to protect the Tuscarora Trail on the west side of Great North Mountain, west of Winchester, by increasing the very narrow trail corridor currently being used. The Farmer-Lockhart Tract includes the land where the trail makes

the steep ascent from the lovely Lucas Woods Preserve that PATC leases from The Nature Conservancy, east to the top of the ridge. The trail has some limited views at this point and it is located in interesting woods that vary from deciduous, with tulip poplar trees, to evergreen with mountain laurel. The purchase, costing \$35,000, will mean that the

current easements, varying in width from twenty-five to one hundred feet, will be replaced by ownership of a corridor more than four times wider, and switch-backs can be constructed that permit a more comfortable slope for hiking.



*Purchase means this long, straight trail segment can be replaced with a switch-back.*



*A view of West Virginia from the Tuscarora Trail on the Farmer-Lockhart Tract*

Club members who can help preserve the Tuscarora Trail are requested to send their donations to the Club Headquarters, making note that the donation is for The Trail Lands Fund—Farmer/Lockhart purchase. □

—Walt Smith

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday, summer, winter and in between. Hikes are about 8 miles. Trail maintenance is usually done on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Sprint parking lot, 2307 Hydraulic Road at 9 a.m. with food and water for the day. We hike trails in the Southern, Central and occasionally Northern Districts of Shenandoah National Park, and in George Washington National Forest. INFO: Jere Bidwell 804/295-2143, John Shannon 804/293-2953 or Lois Mansfield 804/973-7184.

### North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (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 Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com), 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on

upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@ininternet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page ([www.patc.net/north\\_ch.html](http://www.patc.net/north_ch.html)).

### 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 Martha Clark (mclark@visualink.com) 540/665-2101.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See **Forecast** for work trips and hiking events sponsored by the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. Most trips meet in Harrisonburg at the Cloverleaf Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m. Hikers from the DC area should allow about 3 hours to get to our region. INFO: in Harrisonburg, call Suzanne 540/269-4341; in Staunton or Waynesboro, call Vernon 703/886-9218, or Doris 540/885-4526.

### West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activi-

ties. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/865-5399.

### 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: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

### PATC Midweek Hikes

PATC's **Vigorous Group** hikes 8-10 miles at a fast pace; and the **Easy Hikers** hike 5-8 miles on trails with little elevation change. See below for scheduled trips; check the weekly tape (703/242-0965) on Thursday or Friday for any changes or additions.

### Other Clubs' Hikes

Capital and Wanderbirds hike on Sundays, traveling by bus and leaving from downtown, with suburban stops as well. Center Club, Northern Virginia Hiking Club and Sierra Clubs 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.

## 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 <http://www.patc.net>

### National Trails Day Events

### Hiking Trips

### Backpacking Trips

### Trail Work Trips

### Cabin/Shelter Work Trips

### Special Events

### Meetings

### Cross-Country Skiing

**Note to all hike leaders:** Please ask nonmembers 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

### PATC Council - Second Tuesday

7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome. INFO: Willson Riley (wrliley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

### Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Ozana Halik 703/242-0177 or see PATC's website ([http://www.patc.net/mtn\\_sect/](http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/)).

### Conservation Committee - Third Monday

7:00 p.m. For information on the Conservation Committee, or to join its meetings with the Piedmont Environmental Council or Virginia Planners, e-mail Mary Margaret Sloan at mmsloan@americanhiking.org or call her at 703/807-0746.

### The Futures Group - Third Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Meets to research, develop, and recommend to membership changes to PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws in order to meet challenges of the next century. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 703/242-0693 x 40.

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

### Meetings

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

### 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, educating 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 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: Mickey McDermott 703/866-0928 or see PATC's website (<http://www.patc.net/patrol.html>).

### 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: Terry Cummings (TCIVP@aol.com) 410/489-4594.

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (New Members meeting) - Second Monday

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Greg Huska (ghuska@rpihq.com) 703/241-4195 (w) or 703/567-7960 (h).

# October

## 1 (Friday)

### DEADLINE - November Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to jns-bianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

## 2 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15-11:30 a.m. This is the final stretch. Only one more month of work trips in Rock Creek Park. Don't miss out. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

## 2 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metro Cabin John Trail, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites for work on the Cabin John Trail. Bring lunch and water. We meet at the Cabin John Park tennis court parking lot just off Democracy Boulevard at 9 a.m. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

## 2 (Saturday)

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

Autumn is here. Enjoy the cooler air and inspiring colors of the leaves on this event. Tread repair or relocation work likely. Expect to get dirty and enjoy that process. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

## 2 (Saturday)

### HIKE - West Virginia Chapter Flatrock/Roaring Plains, WV

Flatrock/Roaring Plains ...sounds interesting. How did the area get its name? Find out as we take a hike through this often overlooked beautiful area next to its famous cousin, the Dolly Sods Wilderness in West Virginia. This hike will include 3 trails equaling about 12 miles with nearly a 2000 foot elevation gain, making this a strenuous hike. Camping is available at Canaan State Park nearby. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319.

## 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Broad axe, foot adze, draw knife, crosscut saw, half dovetail, hew, birds mouth, half-lap. These are all terms you will become familiar with if you join the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew in constructing a log cabin from the ground up using primitive hand tools. Did you ever consider how convenient it is to be able to go to the lumber yard and buy all of your building material, and then take it home and do your construction with power tools? We have to cut down our own trees and then turn them into building material using axes and broad axes before we can even start to build. Then all of our work is done with primitive hand tools. If you want to get a good appreciation of what our ancestors went through to build their houses or barns join this skilled hard working, fun loving crew. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

## 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

## 3 (Sunday)

### SPECIAL EVENT - ENS Phillip Cowall Dedication Ceremony

#### Appalachian Trail, MD

Please join as we celebrate the recently completed shelter on the Maryland Appalachian Trail. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

## 5 (Tuesday)

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

## 5 (Tuesday)

### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Bull Run Regional Park, VA

Brisk 18-mile hike along the Bull Run Trail from Bull Run Park to Fountainhead Park. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

## 6 (Wednesday)

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

## 6 (Wednesday)

### MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV

7:00 p.m. The remote Wind Rivers in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness are quite spectacular, as you will see in Paul Wilson's slide show of his backpacking trip in September 1998. Paul, Jane and 3 others went in from Pinedale, WY to Island Lake; then Paul and Wendy went over the Continental Divide to a rugged trip on the east side; meeting up with Jane at Cook Lakes. Jane will have some pictures to share, as well as Marcie who went to much of the same area this year. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

## 6 (Wednesday)

### HIKE - Easy Hikers Black Hill Regional Park, MD

We will hike about 5.5 easy miles in this park north of Gaithersburg. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Directions: I-270 to Exit 18. Left on Rt. 121 (Clarksburg Road) for 1.5 miles. Left on Old Baltimore Road for 1 mi. to Park entrance on right (Lake Ridge Road). Go 1.7 miles to the Visitor Center. Park in lot to the left of the Visitor Center under trees. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (niedze@erols.com) 301/439-1654.

## 7 (Thursday)

### CLASS - Backpacking 202 HQ, Vienna, VA

7:00 - 9:45 p.m. A course for intermediate/advanced backpackers. Learn how to enjoy the backcountry under challenging conditions. Classroom instruction on October 7 and 21; with weekend outing options on November 5-7, or 12-14, or 19-21. Fee: \$45 for PATC members, \$60 for non-members. Registration/INFO: PATC HQ/Trail Patrol 703/242-0315.

## 9 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew and Stonewall Brigade

#### Massanutten Mountain, VA

Both crews will work with Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE) an enthusiastic group of mountain bikers and trail maintainers. We will reshape part of the tread of PATC's Dogwood Half Hundred on Massanutten Mountain, near Powells Fort Camp. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971 or Hop Long (thefslongs@erols.com) 301/942-6177.

## 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

Join the Cadillac Crew for a weekend work trip at Morris Cabin. We'll be clearing the vista and repairing trail tread. Overnight at Morris Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by Oct. 2 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

## 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

October in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Warm days and cool clear nights. Autumn leaf watching time. But what do you know, all the Club cabins, the B&Bs and the local motels are long ago booked up. However, there is still room at the inn. That's "The Inn at Blackburn"! Sitting on the side of the mountain surrounded by big trees with a great view across the valley to Short Hill Mountain and we can accommodate you!. Our rates are very reasonable. Just a day's worth of work with the Blackburn crew under the apt leadership of Bruce Clendaniel. Lots of jobs, both inside and out. Shared meals and a great time to be had by all. Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

## 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CABIN WORK TRIP - Catoclin Cottage Thurmont, MD

Much work is to be done at historic (c. 1776) Catoclin Cottage. Please join us to help with replacing a window sill, pointing up brick/stone work, roof patching and painting, draining/flushing the water heater, general preparations for winter, and general cleaning. We will have "pot luck" lunch and dinner Saturday, and a woodsman's breakfast on Sunday morning. Would appreciate the help of persons experienced in mortar work and/or roofing repairs. Donations of LOW MAINTENANCE flowering plants for the front will be accepted for planting also. INFO: Jim Booker (jbeye@aol.com) 202/726-1550.

## 11 (Monday)

### MEETING - New members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.

## 12 (Tuesday)

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

## 12 (Tuesday)

### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Appalachian Trail, VA

A 22-mile hike along the AT from its crossing of VA Rt. 55 up to its intersection with the Dickey Ridge Trail in SNP, then mostly down paralleling Skyline Drive to the Front Royal Entry Station to the SNP Bailouts possible along the Drive. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

# FORECAST

13 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

**Wheaton Regional Park, MD**

Hike about 5 miles through Wheaton Regional Park, with a stop at the great green house and beautiful gardens. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take I-495 to the Georgia Avenue North exit. Travel north on Georgia Avenue for a few miles to Shorefield Drive (traffic light). Turn right on Shorefield to park entrance. Turn right at the entrance and meet near the miniature train ride. INFO: John Giblin 301/585-5172.

14 (Thursday)

 **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten North, VA**

If you only take one hike this fall, this should be the hike! This hike contains more views, more rugged trail, and an awesome view into a deep, narrow canyon. This six-mile relay hike will start at Elizabeth Furnace and some of the surrounding ruins that supported the furnace. At the top of the mountain we will proceed north on the East Massanutten Mountain Trail, passing striking views of Fort Valley and the Page Valley with Shenandoah National Park in the background. We will then travel down a steep, rugged trail, past weathered rock outcrops to the spectacular Buzzard Rock. This impressive rock cliff makes up the east rim of the canyon carved through Massanutten by Passage Creek. Finally, we will proceed to an open view of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. From this vantage point it is a short wooded downhill walk to the north terminus of the Massanutten East Trail. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/662-1524.

14 (Thursday)

 **HIKE - In-between Hikers**

**Wakefield/Lake Accotink Parks, Fairfax, VA**

A moderate 8-9 mile circuit hike. Meet at Wakefield Park at 10:00 a.m. Directions: Beltway exit 5, Braddock Road, west, then 1/8 mile right to the park entrance road and meet at the first parking lot on left. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

15 - 17 (Friday - Sunday)

 **HIKE - Bridge Day**

**New River Gorge, WV**

Hike 10 miles, jump off the New River Bridge to the trail 600 feet below, and hike back; jump optional. Travel to trail head by train and hike 3 to 30 miles, your choice, in the New River Gorge along the New River. The trail is flat except for one climb of about 600 feet. INFO: Mike Gingerich 703/590-3188.

16 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA**

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

16 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Natural History Hike**

**South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join Bob Pickett on the 7.9-mile Doyles River Trail. This circuit trail takes you along the Jones Run Trail down past the Jones Run waterfall to Doyles River. Then we'll proceed up the Doyles River past several falls and some mature hemlocks. After passing the spring box for the Doyles River cabin (and source of the Doyles River), we'll return to our starting point via the Appalachian Trail. RSVP/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

16 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - White Rocks**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

White Rocks hike. Eight steep miles in Shenandoah (up Hazel River, down White Rocks). Meeting just before 9:00 a.m. at Vienna North Metro and 9:45 a.m. in Warrenton. Parking at trailhead is minimal, so we'll try to carpool. Proper equipment required: 2+ liters water, minimal cotton, etc. Rain date: October 17. Call by Thursday — I'll call you back if you leave a message. INFO: Chris Tejrjian 301/652-4777.

16 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #18**

**George Washington National Forest, VA**

A moderately paced 16-mile hike, southwest of Front Royal from Elizabeth Furnace to Thompson Hollow. Elevation gain is 4200 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC maps G and 9. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **Oktoberfest TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums**

**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Come and help the crew work on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of the park in the cool Autumn weather and foliage. We will be working on treadwork and erosion control—rock steps, waterbars and the like. Tools and guidance will be provided. Bring work gloves, lunch, water, and a smile. Afterwards, the crew will retire to Indian Run Hut or Range View Cabin for a German style feast mit brew and celebrate the fall season in true Oktoberfest fashion. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, or spend the entire weekend—plenty of bunk and tent space. The crew meets at 10:00 a.m. at Piney River Ranger Station in the Park. Call for details. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA**

Come out and enjoy the end of the warm Summer weather by contributing to the construction of the first hewed-log cabin ever built by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Some of our old timers built a beautiful round log cabin in Pennsylvania called Michener Cabin, but never have we hewed our logs flat on the inside and outside. Hewing the logs flat adds considerably to the work necessary but the results are worth the effort. First of all hewing the logs gives a more pleasing aesthetic appearance because it is more finished looking and "crisper". In the old days barns and sheds were made of round logs but houses were almost always made of hewn logs. Secondly by hewing the logs and chinking properly, the hewn log house is more durable because the water drips off the flat surface of the log instead of running around the curved surface of the log and penetrating the chinking where it can cause rot. If you want to learn more about log cabin building join us this weekend at Tulip Tree Cabin. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

The Vining Tract crew meets once a month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs on any of the four rental cabins, to trail work and land management projects, to shoring up historic structures around the property. We're now relocating and

rebuilding an old barn for eventual use as an overseers' refuge. Come join us and lift a hammer, a paintbrush, or loppers, as well as a beer or two, in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726 or Larry Lang 703/631-9278.

18 (Monday)

 **MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.**

19 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

19 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**Prince William Forest, VA**

A 19-mile circuit hike in Prince William Forest in Northern Virginia, 20 minutes south of the Beltway. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

20 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

**Prince William Forest Park, VA**

About 7 miles, or shorter 5 1/2 mile option. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Turkey Run Education Center in the park. From the Beltway, take I-85 south 19.8 miles to exit 150B, route 619 west. Second right into park entrance. First left at Park Scenic Drive. Pass parking areas A, B, and C. After 1.8 miles on Park Scenic Drive, take left fork toward Turkey Run for half a mile to right turn on Turkey Run Road. Half mile to parking at Turkey Run Education Center. Bring lunch. INFO: John or Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026.

21 (Thursday)

 **HIKE - In-between Hikers**

**Great Falls, VA**

A scenic 9 miles at a moderate pace. Meet at Great Falls, Virginia. Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

21 (Thursday)

**CLASS - The Potomac: River of Life (REI) REI, College Park, MD**

7:30 p.m. Walking and paddling from Highland County, Virginia's Laurel Fork to Point Lookout, MD, would be a hard journey of nearly 400 miles. Some of that voyage would be through land and water of exceptional beauty and environmental quality, and some of it wouldn't. In past years, the Potomac has been named one of the most threatened rivers in the country. But from High Island, just above Chain Bridge, it's clear that the river is still the vital heart of the region. Matt Berres of the Potomac Conservancy will detail efforts to protect the river, and how we all can get involved. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

23 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro**

**Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC**

8:15-11:30 a.m. The grand finale. What kind of work will we attempt on the last work trip of 1999? You have to come to find out. Remember, we start early and end before lunch, giving you a great start to the fall weekend. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

23 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**

**Appalachian Trail, MD**

The beauty of the woods beckons. Enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn and "give back" to the Appalachian Trail. Tread repair or relocation work probable. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

23 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**

**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

From the vicinity of Chester Gap, experience a meditative hike (approx. four miles) to Fort Windam Rocks and Possum Rest Overlook, with an elevation change of 400'. This hike will include periods of silent walking meditation, as well as other methods for reducing stress and enhancing awareness. Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, and hopefully, an inner sense of quiet and contemplation as we hike through mature woods and enjoy the autumn views overlooking the valley. INFO: J R Strother 540/678-0423.

23 (Saturday)

 **MEETING - Appalachian Trail Conference Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (ATC) Boiling Springs, PA**

Annual ATC Mid-Atlantic meeting. We hope to have an informative meeting and look forward to the opportunity to discuss important issues with you. Please write or call for attendance and copy of the agenda and information packet. Note if you have particular issues you want on the agenda. INFO: ATC 717/258-5771.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

Join the Cadillac Crew for a weekend work trip at Muttontop Cabin. We'll be working on the grounds of the cabin. Overnight at Muttontop Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by Oct. 15 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **BACKPACKING TRIP George Washington NF, VA or Monongahela NF, WV**

Fall colors and air temperature will be prime for this moderate backpack of 16-18 miles. Exact location will depend if there is still a drought. We'll go close by to Massanutten if there is water and no fire restrictions; further west to West Virginia otherwise. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA**

October in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Warm days and cool clear nights. Autumn leaf watching time. But what do you know, all the Club cabins, the B&Bs and the local motels are long ago booked up. However, there is still room at the inn. That's "The Inn at Blackburn"! Sitting on the side of the mountain surrounded by big trees with a great view across the valley to Short Hill Mountain and we can accommodate you!. Our rates are very reasonable. Just a days worth of work with the Blackburn crew under the apt leadership of Bruce Clendaniel. Lots of jobs, both inside and out. Shared meals and a great time to be had by all. Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

26 (Tuesday)

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

27 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers Great Falls Park, VA**

The Easy Hikers will hike 5 miles in Great Falls Park. VA. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center and bring lunch and water. To reach the park, exit the Beltway (I-495) at Georgetown Pike (VA 193), go west 4.1 miles to park entrance on right. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

27 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Shenandoah Views (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Virginia's Shenandoah National Park is one of our nation's most pristine national treasures, attracting more than 2 million visitors a year. Unfortunately, air pollution is seriously affecting the health of the Blue Ridge ecosystem. Visibility is down to one quarter its natural range and acid rain has reduced native brook trout populations severely. The park's air quality is consistently in violation of the federal health standard for ozone smog. Jonathan Birdsong, of the Izaak Walton League of America will describe the impact that coal fired power plants have on the mountains, rural valleys, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, and how updating these plants may be the most cost-effective way to reduce air pollution in the region. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

28 (Thursday)

**CLASS - Shenandoah Views (REI) REI, College Park, MD**

Same as above event, but at REI, College Park. INFO: REI 301-982-9681.

30 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian or Tuscarora Trail, PA**

Location to be determined sometime in October. For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

30 (Saturday)

**CLASS - C&O Canal Photography (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Local Photographer Ed Neville will present a class on outdoor landscape and historical structures photography. This is a hands-on, participation intensive class. Print film, class materials and development services will be provided. Transportation from one objective to the next will be via bicycle on the towpath. Fee for the Class/Tour is \$75.00. Registration and INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

30 (Saturday)

**CLASS - Appalachian Trail Through-Hiker's Symposium (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Dreamed of thru-hiking the AT, but found the idea just a bit overwhelming? Hey, you can do this! Join other aspiring through-hikers for a day of discussions, demonstrations and data on planning, preparation and enjoyment of long distance hiking. Manufacturer's reps from Pur and Vasque will be available to discuss water purification and footwear for long haul comfort. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club will be available to discuss planning, maps and guidebooks, and hiker support along the trail in Northern Virginia. Local adventurer Nick Williams, who has thru-hiked the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and Continental Divide Trails, will present his Appalachian Trail slide program and share his wisdom gained over three decades of walkabout. Everyone will enjoy and benefit, even if you only day-hike! INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

30 - 31 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA**

The weather may be cool now and we are probably past the peak Fall color but the woods in Shaver Hollow are beautiful and peaceful. We won't disturb that peace and quiet with the raucous roar of chainsaws or motor generators. We work the old fashioned way, with primitive hand tools. Our work weekend will not contribute to your continued hearing loss from exposure to excessive noise. Preserve your hearing and join us at Tulip Tree Cabin building this one-of-a-kind log cabin. There is an additional benefit of copious aerobic exercise. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

30 - 31 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join the Blue and White Crew as we finish our tread repair project on the AT near Swift Run Gap. On Sunday we'll visit a side trail within the Central District. Weekend accommodations will be at the Muttontop Cabin near Standardsville, VA. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysno@sprynet.com) 301/570-0596 or Charles Hillon (hillon@erols.com) 703/754-7388.

## November

1 (Monday)

**DEADLINE - December Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to jnsbianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

 **MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV**

7:00 p.m. How should our chapter evolve in Y2K? Should we have monthly meetings, bimonthly or less often? On weeknights or weekends? With speakers or a hike? Or just do hikes and worktrips? Be there and be heard! We will be brainstorming to find out what people in the WV Chapter want. If you have input but can't be there, call Jane or e-mail your point of view to bear1952@hotmail.com. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

3 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers Seneca Creek State Park, MD**

Meet at 10:00 a.m. for a 5-mile hike from Riffle Ford Road to Seneca Creek State Park. Directions: From I - 270, take second of two exits to Rte. 28. Travel west, staying on Rte. 28 towards Darnestown. Continue straight, past the Rte. 124 intersection (Quince Orchard Rd. at Quince Orchard H.S.). Turn right from Rte. 28 onto Riffle Ford Rd. parking along the generous shoulders of the bridge over Seneca Creek, about 1 mile up from Rte. 28. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988.

# FORECAST

5 (Friday)

❖ **SPECIAL EVENT - PATC Annual Meeting and Celebration**

Old Town Hall, Fairfax, VA

7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Come and celebrate at the final annual meeting of the millennium. Local great Jim Nieb will entertain with a hilarious improv/comedy act. There will be food, drink, door prizes and other entertainment performed by PATC members. Children are welcome. See notice in this month's PA for details.

6 (Saturday)

❖ **SPECIAL EVENT - Cross Country Ski Fair**  
PATC HQ, Vienna, VA

12:00 n. - 5:00 p.m. The Ski Touring Sections' annual salute to the new ski season. Members and non-members welcome. Full programs on where to ski - near and far; how to start, new ski gear, ski safety, ski care; ski exchange; and first opportunity to sign up for trips scheduled from December through March. INFO: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249 or Julie Nash 703/471-0854.

6 (Saturday)

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

It is easy to stay comfortable while doing trail work this time of year. The leaves are down; you can see the winter views. Bring lunch and water and join us for a fun, social and dirt-filled event. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

6 (Saturday)

**CLASS - Outdoor Leadership and Wilderness Risk Management (REI)**

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Much has been written over the years about wilderness survival, first aid, and outdoor skills. Comparatively little has been written about prevention, wilderness safety management, group dynamics and decision making and effective outdoor leadership. This class will cover planning, preparation, safety management, and risk assessment. It will also introduce participants to preventive search and rescue, time control plans, confrontation and intervention, and setting people up for success. Presented by Christopher Tate, Director of the Wilderness Safety Council. Class fee is \$75, and includes course materials and a copy of Outdoor Leadership, by John Graham. Registration/ INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

6 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Fox Hollow and Snead Farm Circuits. Enjoy a day appropriate for the entire family in the vicinity of the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park. Hike the 1.5-mile (300' elevation change) Fox Hollow Loop interpretive circuit of the former Fox family homestead including the family cemetery. Enjoy lunch in the picnic grounds and then hike the three-mile Snead Farm/Dickey Hill loop (500' elevation change) with Walt Smith, author of "The Last Orchard" (to be published), the story of the people who lived on Snead Farm. After passing through the farm (the barn is still standing in the former 250-acre orchard farm) we will see good views of the surrounding valleys and mountains from Dickey Hill. There will be ample opportunity to browse at the visitor's center. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678-0423.

6 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Fairfax Cross-County Hike #1**  
(PATC/NVHC/Sierra Club)

Fairfax County, VA

This is the 1st in a series of 3 hikes (11/6, 13, 20) co-sponsored by PATC/NVHC and the Sierra Club. Hike along Accotink Creek for about 10 miles at a 3 to 3.5 mph pace. Hike climbs out of the valley of Pohick Creek and then descends to Accotink Creek. Mostly flat and 95% off road. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Americana Park ballfield. Directions: Beltway exit 6, west, route 236, toward NOVA college, take the first left, then an immediate left again on the road to the park. Car shuttle required. Leader/ INFO: Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Chainsaw Certification (ATC)**  
Scott Farm/Mid-Atlantic Training Center,  
Carlisle, PA

Trail volunteers should be certified if they use a chain saw in their maintenance activities. These two-day courses will cover safety issues, chainsaw function and maintenance, proper use of equipment, and modern felling, limbing, and bucking techniques. Two-week advance reservation is required. INFO: John Wright (jwright@atconf.org) 717/258-5771.

6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter**  
Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

8 (Monday)

➔ **MEETING - New members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.**

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Fairfax Cross-County Hike #2**  
(PATC/NVHC/Sierra Club)

Fairfax County, VA

This is the 2nd in a series of 3 hikes (11/6, 13, 20) co-sponsored by PATC/NVHC and the Sierra Club. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Length 13 miles, mostly flat. Hike follows the upper Accotink Creek to Oak Marr Park and down the Difficult Run watershed to Oakton. 90% off-road. Car shuttle required. Leader/ INFO: Michael Hendler (mhendler@erols.com) 703/821-6488(w) or 703/476-7076(h).

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Land Navigation (REI)**  
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

This course teaches the skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is in the classroom, second on and off trail in Prince William Forest Park doing practical navigation exercises. Fee is \$60 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, and grid reader. Register early as space is limited. Registration/ INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - SNPS AT Crew**  
Appalachian Trail, VA

Bear Den Mountain revisited! Join Dave Thomas, Mike

Karpie and the rest of the gang for some waterbar fun in one of the most scenic areas in Shenandoah National Park. If you missed the Fun in the Sun Worktrip in August be sure you don't miss this one. Grassy balds and panoramic vistas make this event a real treat! INFO: Mike Karpie (bkpkr@erols.com) 540/899-2649.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

➔ **CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew**  
Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract crew meets the second weekend of every month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs on any of the four rental cabins, to trail work and land management projects, to shoring up historic structures around the property. We're now relocating and rebuilding an old barn for eventual use as an overseers' refuge. Come join us and lift a hammer, a paintbrush, or loppers, as well as a beer or two, in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726 or Larry Lang 703/631-9278.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Land Navigation (REI)**  
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

This comprehensive two day course teaches the skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises. The second day is spent on and off trail in Prince William Forest Park doing practical navigation exercises. The course fee is \$60 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, and grid reader. Register early, space is limited. Registration/ INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

14 (Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew**  
Massanutten Mountain, VA

On Massanutten Mountain, north half. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

15 (Monday)

➔ **MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.**

16 (Tuesday)

➔ **MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

20 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter**  
Tuscarora Trail, PA

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

20 (Saturday)

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

Tread repair or relocation work likely on this event. Bring water and lunch and expect to have fun getting dirty. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

20 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #19**  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A moderately paced 13-mile hike from Thompson Hollow to Browntown on the last leg of the Tuscarora Trail and Appalachian and Browntown Trails. Elevation gain is 2700 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC map 9. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

20 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - NSVC History Hike to Old Rag Post Office**  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter as we fol-

low Jimmy Brown, folk historian, with leaders, Jack and Carolyn Reeder, up Berry Hollow Road behind Old Rag Mountain in the Central District of Shenandoah National Park, while Jimmy tells us about his grandfather, postmaster W.A. Brown of Old Rag, Virginia, and the life they lived "in the good old days." Follow Jimmy while we bushwhack to the foundations of a few old home sites, stores, barns, springs, and at least one cemetery. Bring hiking boots, rain gear, lunch, and warm clothes. A short walk to the Old Rag flats with not too strenuous bushwhacking around the area. About 3 or 4 hours, rain or shine. INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

**20 (Saturday)**  
**👤 HIKE - Fairfax Cross-County Hike #3**  
**(PATC/NVHC/Sierra Club)**

**Fairfax County, VA**  
 This is the 3rd and last in a series of 3 hikes (11/6, 13, 20) co-sponsored by PATC/NVHC and the Sierra Club. Length 12 miles, mostly flat. A scenic hike that is mostly wooded beginning 12 miles south of the Potomac River and ending as you step into the Potomac. The hike includes a stream overlook, a horse farm, a rail trail, isolated pond and more. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Great Falls Visitors Center parking lot. Carpool fee: \$2.00. Leader/INFO: Mike Gingerich (gingerich@nrl.navy.mil) 703/590-3188.

**26 (Friday)**  
**👤 HIKE - "Busiest Shopping Day of the Year"**  
**Family Hike**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
 Crescent Rock Trail to Betty's Rock-Central Shenandoah. 4 to 5.5 miles (depending on experience/interests). Pack your child or bring the hardy young hikers. Leave DC metro area around 9:00 a.m. Limit 12 participants. INFO: John Butler (JohnButler@msn.com) 301/263-0141.

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

## Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee and from the goodness of their heart to the individual funds listed below.

Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to ensure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

### Donations received in August

Funds: G - General; T - Trail Lands; S/C - Shelters, Cabins, Cabin Lands; HQ - Headquarters Capital Repair; E -Endowment

Harold and Claudia Alderman	T	Lawrence Griffith	S/C	Lynn and William Limpert	G
Dennis M. Barry	G	Alan S. Goldberg	T	Robert Major	S/C
James Todd Barton	S/C	Ellen N. Holway	T	James and Marilyn Meek	G
Tim Duffey and Robin Mitchell	G	Andrew Jaques and Susan Darrow	T	Louise A. Robinson	T
Lois Dunlop		Carol and Carl Jones, III	G	Nancy and Thomas Rostek, Jr.	S/C
(in memory of Judy Johnson)	S/C	Jacqueline Kelly and Ernest Wright	S/C	Bernie Stalmann	T
Coralie Farlee	G	Phil and Debbie Kerchner	S/C	Patricia Todd	T; S/C
Floralie Felsenthal	T	Theresa Laughlin	S/C	Adam and Gale Wasserman	S/C
Judith and Randall Flynn	S/C	Jim and Melinda Lautenberger	T		

We are grateful for the following people who gave generously to the Trail Land Acquisition Fund in response to President Walt Smith's article in the July issue of the *Potomac Appalachian* and his call for help to preserve our trails: Paul D. Brettschneider and Mabel P. Tang, B. Bish.

A special thank you goes to Ms. Dolores S. Kaminski for her donation (and matched funds program donation) to the Shelters, Cabins, and Cabins Lands Fund in memory of her parents Stefan and Genevieve Kaminski. Ms. Kaminski states, "It is gratifying to know the Trail Club continues its valuable work so other generations can partake in the kind of wondrous experiences that still fill our imaginations after so many years."

For your information, the Combined Federal Funds Campaign Register number for the PATC is 7956 should you wish to participate in the federal government employee matched donations program. Please check to see if your organization offers a matched donations program, and include the pertinent application with your donation.

A brief note about DUES RENEWAL NOTICES. The expiration date on your membership card reflects the month in which I generate the dues notices. Your membership will not expire exactly on the date shown, but it will shortly thereafter if the dues notice remains unpaid after that month. I normally generate the dues notices sometime after the 10th of the month, so please be patient if you think your membership has passed the expiration date. If it passes a couple of months, then please contact me as there is a problem we need to correct. ☐

—Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

## New in the Library

*A guide to endangered and threatened species in Virginia*, by Karen Terwiliger and John R. Tate; abridgement by Susan L. Woodward. Blacksburg, VA, McDonald & Woodward Publishers, 1995. 110 pp, illus, \$14.95 paper. An affordable reference and field guide of the various species of plants, arthropods, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals of our region.

*Maryland's Catoctin Mountain Parks: an Interpreter's Guide to Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park*, by John Means. Blacksburg, VA, McDonald & Woodward Publishers, 1995. 168 pp, illus, bib. \$14.95 paper. Describes geology, biology, and history of the nearest mountain parks, with a last third describing trails (including portions of the Catoctin Trail within the two parks) but not possible hikes.

*Day and Overnight Hikes in Shenandoah National Park*, by Johnny Malloy. Birmingham, AL, Menasha Ridge Press, 1998. 125 pp, maps. \$12.95 paper. Clearly familiar with PATC maps and guides (two of the four sources cited are PATC publications), but carefully avoiding obvious duplication, the author lists 40 out-and-back walks, loop and overnight loops. More for the car visitor,

See Library, page 17

## GET AHEAD OF THE GIFT BUYING RUSH! WE'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF GREAT GIFT IDEAS.

PATC Coffee Mugs - PATC Water Bottles - Hiking Guides - Hiking Maps -  
ATC, PATC and Tuscarora Trail Patches - History Books - Rock Climbing Books -  
Trail Maintenance Books - AT Posters - PATC Ballpoint Pens



Also check out what's new in the store!

- ✿ *Wilderness Navigation* by Bob and Mike Burns \$9.95 (\$8.00 mbr)
- ✿ *Rock Climbing (A Trailside How-To Guide)* by Don Mellor \$17.95 (\$14.50 mbr)

Call PATC Headquarters (703/242-0693) to place an order, have an order form sent to you, or just print out and fax us the order form from the PATC website: [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net). Don't delay...order today!

## Compulsion

I don't really understand why I like it. I get out of bed too early on Saturday mornings, sleepily dress, drag my husband out of bed, walk the dog, eat breakfast, pack lunch, head west. Slowly, we wake up as we drive, reminding each other repeatedly of the route, trying to spur our brains into action.

Eventually we reach the trailhead. A quick stretch and some sunscreen slathering later, the day begins. P.J. invariably takes the lead, trail map in hand, though I sometimes pass him as the hike unfolds. We trudge along, our legs realizing that they, too, need to awaken.

We walk through the morning air, stomping on decaying leaves, stomping on newly sprouted trees. My partner pulls ahead, even farther ahead around the next turn. I try to catch up, warming up so slowly. I seldom notice sights or sounds, just what is ahead of me on the path. Rocks, twigs, leaves, dirt. Not even looking for blazes marking the way unless my leader is con-

cerned, I walk along. Alone with my husband I think about my life, forget about my life; plan the next day, decide that I have already done enough for one weekend. Sometimes we talk; often we do not.

We reach the summit together. P.J. might point something out to me as we walk—a snake, a view—but I am always surprised when I independently make an observation. While I wait for him to adjust his pack, I might notice a young vine, gently curling into coiled circles as it grows. As we silently cross a field, the smell of mint might overwhelm me, bring back a memory, create a new one. My senses are usually too narrowed by the task at hand, though: finishing the climb, crossing the crest, navigating the switchbacks on the descent.

Our lunch spot will be along the ridge. At lunch we are still power-hikers. We eat quickly, ravenous and eager to press on. Gotta make good time. We take just a moment to

appreciate the view, maybe take a picture, and wonder why we don't live in the mountains. After eating, P.J.'s pack will be lighter, not mine. While we sit he asks, "Do you remember when we came around that corner and saw the \_\_\_\_\_?" My answer is no. All I saw was the path. I knew of leaves, him up ahead. Not much else, not usually. A few images might be in my head, general impressions of beauty or disappointment, little else.

When we resume the walk I lead, taking on the job of ensuring a good pace. We never know when we'll be able to get back out. The climb down is often difficult. My knees suffer if the trail is too steep. P.J. might pass me again, wanting to be able to break my fall, more afraid of heights for my sake than for his own.

This part is very quiet, more serene than the rest of the hike, even if we stay close together. My mind is still focused on the path—perhaps more so now, but peace comes with fatigue. □

—Shannon McClain

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**JOINED PATC BETWEEN 1950 AND 1980?** Your memories of your early years in the Club are needed in PATC Archives. What was the Club like then? What Club activities were most frequent? Most fun? Any format welcome—e-mail, handwritten, typed. Ask Archivist for a sheet of questions if you need help getting started. INFO: Paula Strain, 301/340-6895 or Archivist; 118 Park Street, SE; Vienna, VA 22180.

**Y2K? NO PROBLEM! 2002 IS THE PROBLEM UNLESS A PATCER WITH SOUND RECORDING EXPERTISE WILL VOLUNTEER ADVICE AND HELP.** 2002 is PATC's 75th anniversary. Archives has tapes of the programs of the 25th and 40th anniversaries, of a concert of the Club's favorite singer, Joe Winn, and of interviews with past presidents of the 1950-1974 period but has neither the equipment nor the knowledge of how to make them available for the 75th anniversary celebration. If you can help, call Paula Strain, 301/340-6895 or write Archivist; 118 Park Street, SE; Vienna, VA 22180.

**HELP - DO YOU ENTERTAIN A TRAIL CREW WITH MUSIC AND SONG, LOUSY JOKES OR GOOD STORIES?** Show off those talents at the PATC Annual Meeting and Celebration. We are looking for home-grown talent to perform at the annual meeting November 5th. Prizes will be awarded. If you want to perform or know of someone, please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693 ext. 17 or Terry Cummings at tcivp@mindspring.com.

**CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED** - apply within. If you are interested in working with at-risk women and children, PATC needs you. The Club is hosting a weekend event at Blackburn Trail Center on October 30 and 31. PATC members are needed to help with the events (hikes, campfire, discussions about ecology, etc.). For details, call Tom Johnson (410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com) or Eve Taglang (301/662-6811, etaglang@sfa.com, or Gtaglang@aol.com).

**OVERSEER WANTED FOR BLACK ROCK HUT.** Contact Charlie Graf at cagraf@aol.com for further information.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**MEMBER OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND** needed to assist with six other members, meeting bi-monthly, in managing the Club's \$3 million endowment that provides support for the Club's programs in perpetuity. Appointed by the President and approved by Council. Seeking member with strong financial and/or banking experience who will assist in making decisions affecting the Club's securities. Send resume to Walt Smith, President, Hq, Vienna, or e-mail wsmith@visuallink.com

**CHAIR, LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** needed to oversee administration, use, and maintenance of PATC-owned property. In coordination with other committees, recommends to Executive Committee and Council land management policy and appointment of Tract Management Committee Chairs; supervises development of Tract Management Plans; Member of Council. Send resume to Walt Smith, President, Hq, Vienna, or e-mail wsmith@visuallink.com.

**NEEDED: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**—a Club member to coordinate volunteer opportunities and place volunteers in jobs. There is currently no placement system to match volunteers with open tasks; you can devise and implement one. No experience needed, just a general understanding of Club activities and a willingness to work. Most work will take place at the headquarters in Vienna. Call Tom Johnson, vice president for volunteerism, at 410/647-8554, or e-mail him at johnts@erols.com.

**DISCOUNTS FOR HIKE LEADERS.** The PATC hikes committee will offer a \$60 discount (or 50% of the tuition, whichever is smaller) on Club-approved wilderness first aid or other applicable training courses to any leader who agrees to lead at least three official Club hikes in the 12 months that follow the training course. So if you have heard about a really terrific training course that might be of benefit to a hike leader, but hesitated to take it because of the cost, this offer might be right down your alley. For details, contact Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com.

**BEARS DEN HOSTEL,** owned and operated by the Appalachian Trail Conference, is looking for groups or individuals to help with general maintenance of the facility and grounds, in exchange for one night's free lodging. Bears Den is a stone lodge located 250 yards from the AT in Bluemont, Virginia. INFO: Melody Blaney or Patti Landovek, 540/554-9808

**THE SALES OFFICE** is looking for volunteers interested in working from 12:00 until 2:00 on Thursdays and/or Fridays. If interested, please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242/0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at patcsales@erols.com.

**NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OUTDOORS?** PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks — from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 11.

**PATC OVERSEERS** get BIG discounts from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: -Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville/Tidewater)-20% -Hudson Trail Outfitters (DC Metro Region) 15% -The Trailhouse (Frederick, MD) 15% -Casual Adventures (Arlington, VA) 10% -Campmor (Mail Order via PATC HQ) 10%. Check the back page of the PA for the latest trail, cabin, and shelter overseer opportunities. And 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.

**SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG)** is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. INFO: Martin Juenge 703/255-5034, then press #5.

**TOOL ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help sharpen and maintain tools at PATC Headquarters. INFO: Pete Gatje 703/242-0693 x13.

## HIKING VACATIONS

**COSTA RICA?** PATC members Tom and Steve Johnson (Los Dos Hermanos) will be leading another trip to the fabled land of jungles and volcanoes in February 2000 (theY2K Trip). A few spots still remain for this limited-edition boutique tour, but call soon for info/reservations - locally, Tom at 410/647-8554 (johnts@erols.com) and distantly Steve at SJohnson151@compuserve.com or johnsos@clemson.edu.

**HIKE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES** of Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean Coastline with AMC group April 23-May 11, 2000. For prospectus, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to trip leader and long-time PATC member, Donald Erbe, 129 Main St (B-11), Cornwall, NY, 12518 (fax 914-534-2368).

**DISCOVER THE LAKE DISTRICT IN ENGLAND.** An invitation to fellow PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing holiday in this beautiful corner of England. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty—land of Wordsworth, lakes and mountains. For more details contact Derek Teasdale on DTeasdale1@aol.com or write to 25 Queens Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 2JU, England (tel 0191-2520752) Call John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**FREE FIREWOOD!**—Available at Highacre. Anyone willing to come and haul any or all of the cut wood from the grounds around the house can have it for free. Necessary to let me know one week ahead of time. Call Pat Fankhauser, 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

**FOLDING KAYAK FOR SALE.** Folbot w/sail rig and conversion for one or two paddlers. Excellent condition. Sacrifice \$500. Dave Pugh at pughdave@hotmail.com or 703-319-8937.

## LOST AND FOUND

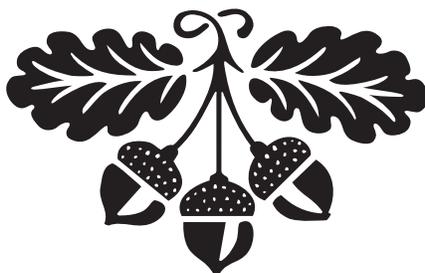
**FOUND.** Flashlight found at Fowler Hollow Shelter on Tuscarora. INFO: Keith Daly, 304/229-0110.

*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 3 months unless we are otherwise advised.*

## Obituary

Ellen King (member 1957-1999) and wife of Robert D. King, died February 10 after a long illness.

**CORRECTION:** The September PA ("Walt's Notes," p. 12) incorrectly noted that the Vining Tract is located off US 30. It is located off US 33.



## Waterbars versus Check-Dams

It's obvious that the purpose of waterbars is to divert water from the trail—to send it coursing down an alternate route downhill. And, clearly enough, waterbars must be cleaned out annually so they will do that job. They drain away the runoff as they do their work, and that causes sediments from the water to accumulate in them, right there, leaves included. Waterbars thus help to avoid washouts and keep the treadway in better shape.

Check dams (barriers that try to hold water back), in effect make a little waterfall during a heavy rain and do not divert water off the trail; check dams mainly slow it down and keep it from getting quite so much of a running start. The amount of water that flows on this particular section of the trail does not

get reduced by them; it just gets spread out over a cascade of descending levels, or steps.

These check dams of course also collect sediment because they are pools where much of the water temporarily stalls. So, each year they fill up as much as or more than waterbars do. The main difference between waterbars and check dams is the amount of water they allow to run downhill on the trail's treadway. Whereas waterbars divert the water, check-dams do not. Water coursing down the trail under gravity does not get absorbed by check dams even though their pools might make it look that way.

So why clean out check dams? Why indeed! To allow them to hold more water? That won't help, because they can't reduce the

quantity of it that will use the trail—in fact each dam will save a puddle in the middle of the trail for a longer time if it is cleaned out. No, the purpose of a check dam is to slow down the run-off, reducing the speed of its downhill onrush. The sediment that gets retained adds to the trail's soil; it may even cover rocks that otherwise would be there.

So when a check dam fills up with sediment, is that a bad thing? Does that allow more water to flow faster down the trail? Oddly enough, the answer is “no.” The dam, together with its accumulated, backed-up sediment, still will slow down the flow and thus check some of the erosion, and it will do that job just as well when the dam is full of sediment as when that sediment will have been cleaned out and a deep pool created instead. □

—Thurston Griggs

*Walt's Notes, from page 3*

### Getting Crowded on the Blue Ridge?

As the population in the area increases, and more hikers appear on the trails along the Blue Ridge, some Beltway resident hikers are beginning to drive a little farther to get away from the crowds. Many hikers are finding far fewer people on the trails by driving an additional thirty to sixty minutes and finding themselves on the Tuscarora Trail, perhaps near the Lucas Woods Preserve, or The Pulpit (as featured in this and the previous *PA* issue), or in the South District of Shenandoah National Park, or the southern part of the Massanutten Mountains. However, the less populated area I wish to write about at the moment is the Great North Mountain-Wolf Gap area (see *PATC* Map F; if you don't have one, Great North Mountain is the range to the west as one is driving south on I-81 from Front Royal to Edinburg, VA), and how the hiking opportunities out there are changing.

### Great North Mountain Beckons You

I spend two nights in my tent most months during the hiking season along the Half Moon Mountain trail, where I am the overseer, and I must say that, if you like wilderness without hearing dogs barking and vehicles traversing roads and without driving all the way to Dolly Sods, then you may wish to consider hiking and backpacking in the

vicinity of Great North Mountain of the George Washington National Forest. I see a few people on weekends; on weekdays almost no one.

If you have not hiked in this area I suggest you review some of the hikes described in the *PATC Circuit Hikes* book. However, please note that the Peer Trail, described on page 39, may be abandoned soon and is reported to have several blow downs, making passage difficult. While you are looking at pages 38-39, you might note that there is a new side-trail leading from the intersection of the Half-Moon and Pond Run trails west to a good view of Trout Run Valley and the ridges seen to the west. While abandoning the Peer Trail, *PATC*ers Wil Kohlbrenner, Hop Long, and others re-opened the Racer Camp Hollow trail (illustrated on page 42); except that now it connects to Forest Road 371C and the Mail Path trail (called Paddy Mountain trail on Map F) instead of Wilson Cove. You might consider using these trails to complete a circuit when using the Tuscarora Trail, perhaps from the route 713 trailhead, or from Sugar Knob cabin. For the old timers who remember all the crossings along Pond Run, you might wish to hike it again since many crossings were eliminated with the latest trail relocation.

### The Trout Run Valley Circuit

For backpackers, Wil Kohlbrenner pointed out an opportunity that had eluded me. Wil related how a hiker once described his favor-

ite backpacking trip that circumvented Trout Run Valley by using Crack Whip Furnace Trail (being renamed the Long Mountain Trail) on Long Mountain and the Mill Mountain and Tibbet Knob trails on Great North Mountain. At the northern end of the Crack Whip Furnace trail, you may walk north on Trout Run Road until you reach the trailhead for the Bucktail Trail (Half Moon Cutoff Trail on Map F). (The Forest Service has plans to relocate the Crack Whip Furnace Trail so that it connects with the Bucktail Trail.) After reaching the Bucktail Trail, hike east using the Half Moon Trail to reach the Tuscarora and Mill Mountain trails, thus completing the circuit. I have not hiked this circuit that appears to be about twenty-five miles in length. Perhaps some member might be interested in backpacking, before or after the hunting season, on what I am calling the Trout Run Valley Circuit, and then describe the adventure in the *PA* for the rest of us.

As Jean Golightly wrote in the Introduction of *Circuit Hikes*, there are many “lovely places filled with flowers, clear cool streams, waterfalls, rocks, cliffs, overlooks and wildlife. THEY'RE NOT ALL IN THE SHENANDOAH!” You can enjoy solitude in the wilderness by driving just a few additional minutes. You don't have to be with a crowd on the Blue Ridge. Try Great North Mountain.

See you on the trail,



### Library, from page 13

though the overnighters will satisfy those backpackers who do so infrequently.

*Shenandoah National Park: an Interpretative Guide*, by John A. Connors. Blacksburg, VA, McDonald & Woodward, 1988. 214 pp, illus., maps, bib. \$14.94 paper. The longer first half gives natural and cultural history, particularly good for the mountain people, the CCC, and Park chronology. A road log beginning at US 340 and Dickey Ridge makes up the last half, with description of trails leaving the Drive, though an exception is made for the Old Rag trails. Eleven of the fifty-five sources cited are PATC authors or PATC publications.

*The New Appalachian Trail*, by Edward B. Garvey. Birmingham, AL, Menasha Ridge

Press, 1997. 106 pp, illus. (Appalachian Hiker III) \$14.95 paper. Ed describes his 1990 hike of the AT (Springer Mountain to Susquehanna River, Mt. Katahdin to Gotham, N.H. omitting the Susquehanna-New Hampshire section because of a slower pace), gives advice to potential through-hikers, and adds new information on the AT Conference. Chapter 12, "Trail Acquisition and Management," is probably the most complete account we will get of how non-political hikers in PATC and elsewhere got the 1968 and 1978 National Trails Acts passed and created a protected Appalachian Trail. This is NOT a revision of Ed's earlier books.

NOTE: PATC library books may be borrowed for short loans by members with special permission. Get that permission from Archivist/Librarian or the office staff.

Some of the above books are also sold by PATC. Call PATC headquarters, 703/242-0693, or see the website, [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net), for an order form. □

—Paula Strain, Archivist

## Mike Karpie's Outdoor Photo Tips

### Single-Use Cameras

For the occasional photographer the Single-Use Camera can be a useful tool. There are several types that you will find in most stores. If the package is labeled "Outdoor" it is likely that the camera will not include a flash. "Indoor" or "Indoor/Outdoor" cameras usually have a built-in flash that operates on a single "AA" alkaline battery.

Both types will work well under ideal lighting and even cloudy weather, however, I would recommend the cameras with the built-in flash for outdoor use. When hiking we are often in mixed lighting, part sun and part shade, due to the trees overhead. Film has a difficult time dealing with such harsh contrast, so it is desirable to use the flash to "fill in" the shadow areas. This creates more uniform lighting and a much more pleasing

result. Also, photos with harsh, contrasty lighting are difficult to print in newsletters!

You will notice that I refrained from calling this type of camera a "disposable". There is a good reason for this. Most responsible photo labs will recycle the used camera. Before you turn in the camera to the lab you may remove the AA battery and use it in a pager, clock or remote control. Since the battery was used for less than 30 flashes it is likely to have plenty of power left, thereby giving you another opportunity to recycle!

You will find some photos taken with a single-use camera at the following web site: <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/5633/BRwntr.html>

**Next month: Composition 101**

### ARE YOU MOVING?!!

Did you know that the Post Office charges PATC 50 cents every time they let us know a member has moved? You can help save money and get information to you faster just by telling us yourself.

Please fill out the following form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. You can also call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693 or e-mail her at [pfankh@erols.com](mailto:pfankh@erols.com).

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

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

New Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Good Luck Matthew

Three years ago, I met Matthew Work, a shy 15-year old. He was working with the South Mountaineers on a hot and uncomfortable day, weeding near Turners Gap, MD. His zest for life and the natural world was quickly evident, and his interest in trail work obvious. Over time, Matthew became a regular of the South Mountaineers work crew in Maryland and became an overseer here as well. He was the one that was whistling in the woods. His confidence increased after joining an SCA three-week trail building crew near Mt. Rogers, VA.

Working with the South Mountaineers would be only the beginning for Matt however. He became involved with the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and worked on their trails as well. Within PATC, he became known for his indefatigable spirit and joy of our work. He moved on to work with other crews and groups within PATC and has become a model member of our Club in his teen years. Matt's future is very bright. If he keeps his unbridled enthusiasm for trail work, forestry, and life in general, he will be a visionary that will be an inspiration for all who meet him.

For now, PATC has "lost" Matt. He has run off to college in the plains of Iowa. I get the feeling that we have not heard the last from Matthew Work. For now, all I can say is good luck, Matt. Study hard. The South Mountaineers will miss your drive and energy, spunk and enthusiasm, joy and appreciation of the natural world. And all of PATC loses without you home in Maryland. Good luck at college; we will leave the light on for you.

—Rick Canter

## Trailhead

With no major storms this summer, PATC trail maintainers are experiencing what could be called a normal season of brushing trails and clearing a few blowdowns. Erosion has been minimal because of the lack of rain, so those waterbars and drains installed earlier this year haven't been tested. In spite of the hot, dry conditions, inspired trail crews were active in August doing a lot of preventive work rather than damage repair. Even with the arrival of some thunderstorms in late August and a near miss by hurricane Dennis, drought conditions still persist. Hopefully, we will have received enough rain in September to reduce a potential fire hazard later this fall.

### Planting Artificial Trees

The SNPS White Crew (Shenandoah National Park South District AT) focused on the grassy balds of Bear Den Mountain during the month of August. Early in the month Larry Linebrink, special guest Allen Poole (from Manteo, NC), and Mike Karpie planted posts along the AT to help hikers navigate around the cluster of towers at the summit. The following week, Mike Karpie returned to paint the blazes on the posts because "somebody" had forgotten to bring white paint the first time! Our special thanks to Shawn Green of the National Park Service for the initial survey of the site and the supply of 4x4" posts. After the posts were in place, Keith Denson joined Mike Karpie for a quick side trip (about ten minutes) to Calf Mountain to tackle a blowdown.

The last weekend of the month found the group at it again for the "Fun in the Sun" work trip. The project involved mowing the entire length of the trail over the mountain and installation and rehab of waterbars on the north slope. Dave Thomas, the overseer for that section, headed the mowing operation while Keith Denson, Larry Linebrink, Buz Groshong, and Mike Karpie worked on the erosion control effort. The group also knocked out some waterbar rehab work near the summit of Loft Mountain. The NPS provided accommodations for the group at Dundo Campground. A satisfying grilled steak dinner was served up by Mike Karpie at the campground Saturday night.

### New Kind Of Erosion?

George Walters reports that the current drought has been a double-bladed sword for

the North District AT. While the dry weather has kept undergrowth and weeding requirements down a bit along most trail sections for the last month, the tread has turned to dust in many areas. This has resulted in a different kind of erosion not due to the action of water, but to the effects of boots kicking up the dry, loose soil. In August, over a dozen North District Hoodlums built checkdams and waterbars on the AT near Compton Gap and worked on the new Range View cabin privy before retiring to Indian Run Hut for their "Jamaican" feast of Jerk Chicken, Pepperpot stew, spicy fish and "rice and peas". Was it worth the trouble? Noooo problem, mon!

### Chance Meetings

Wil Kohlbrenner took a new trail worker, Michelle Morris, up the Big Schloss Cutoff Trail recently to introduce her to trail work and to do some waterbar fixup before hurricane season. (The trail has about every kind of erosion control measure possible: outsloped tread, grade dips, dirt waterbars, rock waterbars, curtain drains, herringbones, lateral drains.) They arrived at the crest by noon and happened to meet Jeannie Campbell of the Cadillac Crew, having lunch at the campsite.

During lunch, a novice backpacker, Mike Shear, came along and joined the conversation. Mike got so interested in the discussion of trail work, the peculiarities of trail crews, crew members, etc, that he stashed his gear along the trail and joined Michelle and Wil for an afternoon of work with picks, rake, shovel and buckets. The trail is ready for whatever comes, and Mike and Michelle are contemplating future work trips.

### Blue And White Weekend

In August, the Blue and White Crew revisited their rehab project on the AT near the South River Maintenance Hut. More "cut and fill" sidehill repair was done, in addition to fine-tuning the grade on the previously rebuilt trail. The day was hot and despite injuries (see the Crew website <http://sites.netscape.net/kerrysnow/homepage> to check out Dr. Ron Kutz performing reconstructive surgery on Mrs. Dove), the day was an unqualified success. Dinner was enjoyed at the Blue Moon Restaurant, a current Crew favorite. Sunday, the Blue and Whiter dismantled a dam that had been built by hikers

as a crossing point on the lower section of the White Oak Canyon Trail. The Crew replaced the poorly built stream crossing with two large rocks that will allow hikers to cross without scouting both sides of the stream bed.

### Central District Crew Weeks

The first week of Central District Summer Crew was "a great week," according to NPS Trails Supervisor C.T. Campbell. Crew members Pete Curran, Sheri Woodruff, Ray Galles and Kerry Snow, made up for their small numbers by enhanced muscle and sweat activity. The Crew moved approximately nine tons for dirt and gravel (with drywall buckets) to improvement projects on the White Oak Canyon Trail. The projects, near the top of the first falls, were designed to remedy erosion and tread degradation. The Crew installed locust steps, removed a large culvert pipe, and dug sharp rocks from the treadway. In addition to the White Oak project, the crew installed numerous checkdams and waterbars on a section of the AT near the Lewis Mt Campground, resank a culvert pipe near the South River Picnic Ground, and sawed a monster blow-down on the Cedar Run Trail using a two-man crosscut.

The second week of the Central SNP Crew was just as productive. The crew, composed of Jim Hannon, Charles Hillon, Elizabeth McDonald, Carol Niedzalek, and David Walkup, continued the first weeks excellent work by tackling a series of trail improvement projects on Crescent Ridge, White Oak Canyon, the AT [South River], and Old Rag. Again, SNP Rangers C. T. Campbell and Jeff Minor were very appreciative.

### Stopping Ailanthus

Revisiting the Vining Tract in August, the Cadillac Crew worked on previously cleared areas around Morris Cabin and the ruins between Morris and Muttontop. These areas were cleared less than a year ago, but, due to the fast growth of ailanthus and locust trees, wineberry and blackberry vines, it looked like several years of growth. A second project involved brushing out a trail from the small meadow south of Muttontop to the old Cliff Trail. Howard, the tract manager suggested this trail be established so Cliff Trail hikers wouldn't have to cross private property adjacent to the PATC boundary. The crew will add blazes to this link trail next trip. Crew regulars were joined by several new volunteers

## Trailhead

including Jules Hanslovsky from East Lansing, MI, who joined the crew prior to a hiking vacation in SNP.

### Shockeys Knob Relocation

Lloyd MacAskill, District Manager for Tuscarora (BBNO), reports rapid progress on the Shockeys Knob relocation project during a late August work trip. With the help of the 17 members of the Cadillac Crew, the new trail was extended clear across the PATC lot to the boundary on the north side. The crew will be spending its last one or two work trips of the year in this area finishing treadwork through the stretch that has already been cleared out.

One constraint is the uncertainty over whether the new trail will cross over the prop-

erty line from the point where it now ends and continue on up into the saddle in the ridge north of Shockeys Knob. The trail could also be built entirely on the PATC side, but that route would be steeper. The saddle route has already been flagged and used twice for group hikes this year. PATC has permission to hike across this private land to the north but not at this time to make improvements to the existing trail system there. This

issue could already be resolved by the time the Trailhead goes to press, or it might be late winter before the landowners are able to get out and look at the alternatives.

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@erols.com](mailto:jkrintd@erols.com). □

## Volunteers - Appointed September 7, 1999

### Trail Overseers

Chad Bradford

Catoctin Trail - South Crossing Catoctin Hollow Road to Hamburg Road

Robert Stubblebine

AT- Buzzard Rocks to S. Blackburn Trail

Dick Dugan

AT- Elkwallow to Ridge Crest Elkwallow Trail

Mike Sutherland

Tuscarora Trail - Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap

## PATC Archives Completes A Major Project

Fifty years to complete a PATC project? Isn't that a bit much even for volunteers? Was it worth doing? Those who have to find out exactly when something occurred in PATC think it was. The project of indexing PATC's news-magazine, even when unfinished, has paid for itself in time and frustration saved many times over.

Back in 1949 and 1950, the Club's History Committee took on the project of indexing PATC's quarterly *Bulletin*. Their work, printed and published in 1950, covered the first 19 volumes of the *Bulletin*, 1932-1950. The project languished until the 1960s, when a PATC member who had moved to upstate New York and was helping create the Finger Lakes Trail and the F.L.T. Conference took on the indexing of the next years of the *Bulletin*, 1951-1965. Only the subject part of the index was published, due to Club finances.

In 1994, PATC Librarian Mary Morgan and husband Bernie, PATC Archivist, planned the binding of the first 24 years of the *Potomac Appalachian*, which had replaced the *Bulletin* in 1972. They asked Paula Strain to produce an index. With the assistance of Wil Kohlbrenner, the "Hasty Index to Vol. 1-24, 1972-1995" was created and bound with the issues themselves for the PATC library and easy consultation.

The gaps—the never-printed name and place indexes of the years 1950-1965, the unindexed final years of the *Bulletin* 1966-1972, the *Potomac Appalachian* issues from 1996 to the present, and the eight annual *Potomac Appalachian Magazines*—were tackled. The last index, that for the *Potomac Appalachian Magazines*, has just been added to the Archivist's reference shelf. It's now going to be easier to find out when that side-trail in Pennsylvania was re-opened, when Rock Spring Cabin got a new stove, when Ed Garvey was PATC President.

The PATC members who were responsible for completing the 50-year project are Julie Hebden, Cheryl Hunter, Steve Johnson, James Lynch, Wil Kohlbrenner, Dianne Rennack, and Paula Strain.

In about a year from now, another volunteer or two is going to be needed to take the notes for each issue of the *PA* from January 1996 through December 2000 and combine them into a five-year index to continue this guide to the Club's past. □

—Paula Strain

### Attention Federal Employees

PATC is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. Please consider a payroll donation to PATC. Our 1999 Designation Number is 7956. Thank you for your support.

#### HEADQUARTERS

##### HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH 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

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

**To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith:**  
Extension 40

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

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

**Club E-mail #:** [Wriley1226@aol.com](mailto:Wriley1226@aol.com)

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

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**Sales Coordinator:** Maureen Estes (Ext. 19)

Email: [patcsales@erols.com](mailto:patcsales@erols.com)

# TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings August 8, 1999. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

**NO VIRGINIA METRO (Map # D)**  
[CALL PETER GATJE AT 703-255-4705]  
or Email: pjpgatje@aol.com

**Potomac Heritage**  
Donaldson Run to Gulf Branch [1.30 miles]  
**Bull Run-Occoquan**  
White Garage to Wolf Run Shoals Road [2.40 miles]

**NO VIRGINIA NORTH AT& BB (Maps #7& 8)**  
[CHRIS BRUNTON AT 703/560-8070]  
**Crescent Rock Trail**  
AT to Crescent Rock [0.60 mile]

**NO VIRGINIA AT& BB (Maps #8 & 9)**  
[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004]  
or Email: emcknew@aol.com  
AT - Davenport Meadow Parking to Dick's Dome Shelter Rd. [1.30 miles]

**AT - Co-overseer**  
Powerline to south end of the Waterline [2.40 miles]

**SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZE (Map #9)**  
[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876 or  
E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]

**Pass Mountain Trail (upper)**  
Pass Mountain Hut to "break point" [1.48 miles]  
**Dickey Ridge Trail**  
Front Royal Entrance Station to MP 2.1 [1.90 miles]

**SHENANDOAH CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (Map #10)**  
[CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388  
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com]

**Buck Hollow Trail (upper)**  
Buck Hollow Stream to Skyline Drive [1.70 miles]  
**Cat Knob Trail**  
Laurel Prong Trail to Jones Mountain Trail [.50 mile]  
**Cedar Run Trail (lower)**  
White Oak Canyon Trail to 2<sup>nd</sup> stream crossing [1.50 miles]  
**Corbin Mountain Trail (co-overseer)**  
Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fire Road [4.40 miles]  
**Hot Mt.-Short Mt.**  
Hazel Mountain Trail to Nicholson Hollow Trail [2.10 miles]  
**Jones Mountain Trail**  
Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail [2.80 miles]  
**Jones Mountain Trail**  
Fork Mountain Fire Road to Cat Knob Trail [.80 mile]  
**Pocosin Hollow Trail**  
Pocosin Fire Road to East Park Boundary [2.80 miles]  
**White Oak Canyon Trail [1st section]**  
Skyline Drive to First Waterfall Viewpoint [2.30 miles]

**SNP SOUTH AT (Map #11)**  
[CALL MIKE KARPIE AT 540/899-2649]  
or Email at BKPKR@erols.com  
AT- Jarman Gap to Beagle Gap [2.50 miles]

**AT - Summit of Calf Mountain to Beagle Gap [.90 mile]**  
**AT - (co-overseer) - Beagle Gap to McCormick Gap [1.80 mile]**

**TUSCARORA [BBNO] (Map # L)**  
[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL at 703/978-4070  
or E-mail: LloydM3160@aol.com]

**Tuscarora Trail**  
Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]  
**Tuscarora Trail**  
Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.30 miles]

**TUSCARORA [BBNO] (Map # F, G, 9)**  
[CALL RICK RHOADES AT 703/239-0965  
or E-mail: RTRhoades@aol.com or rick.rhoades@leadscorp.com]

**Tuscarora Trail**  
Shawl Gap to Sherman's Gap [2.50 miles]

**MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)**  
[CALL RANDY BUIE at 540/622-6476  
or E-mail: todd.r.buie@trw.com]

**Massanutten Mt. East Trail**  
Waterfall Mountain Trail to US Rte. 211 [1.8 mile]  
**Massanutten Mt. East Trail**  
Milford Gap to Indian Grove Ridge Trail [1.40]

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)**  
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477  
or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]  
**Massanutten Mountain South Trail**  
TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]  
**Massanutten Mountain South Trail**  
Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]  
**Morgan Run Trail**  
Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail [1.4 miles]

**GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN (Map # F)**  
[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177  
or E-mail: the FSLongs@erols.com]

**White Rock Trail**  
Tuscarora Trail to White Rock Cliff [0.20 mile]

**DC METRO (Map # N)**  
[CALL MARK ANDERSON AT 202/462-7718]

**Pinehurst Branch**  
Oregon Avenue to Western Avenue [1.00 mile]  
**Dunbarton Oaks**  
Whitehaven Street to Rock Creek Park [1.00 mile]  
**Valley Trail**  
Military Road to Boundary Bridge [2.20 mile]  
**Battery Kemble**  
MacArthur Blvd. To Loughboro Road [1.00 mile]

## POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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