



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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Annual Meeting Nov. 8 - Registration on page 3

Third Time's the Charm — 18th Annual North District Workshop

After two successive years of rain-damaged workshops, the weather gods turned a more favorable face to the 18th annual North District trail overseers workshop held this past September. In 2003, we had driving rain all weekend. In 2004, the workshop was canceled due to Hurricane Isabel. Apparently we paid our dues, for the weather was almost picture perfect for this year's event.

The workshop was held at Mathews Arm Campground where the tents-only loop was reserved for PATC's use. Catering was provided by Mark Nebhut, the brother of Elkwallow Trail Overseer and Hoodlum crew member Dave Nebhut. As I arrived Friday evening, Mark and Dave had already put up a canopy tent and were busy preparing the weekend's vittles. Many folks arrived during the course of that evening, and tents started sprouting up all through the area.

See North, page 13



The 'basics' crew standing behind a newly constructed rock waterbar on the Appalachian Trail.

Photo by George Walters

First Work Trip Scheduled for Nov. 5-6 for "Emergency" Tuscarora Trail Relocation

The Tuscarora Trail will be closed in West Virginia unless PATC completes a difficult, one-mile relocation by June 30, 2006. The trail is currently on private land, and it must be moved to the club-owned Lutkins Passage Tract, which is located adjacent to the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton and Tuscarora Trail Central District Manager Walt Smith make a special appeal to club members to support the Cadillac Crew as they undertake this vital assignment.

The first trail work trip will be the weekend of Nov. 5-6. The crew will overnight

at the historic Highacre House in Harpers Ferry where they will join in the Central District Celebrate Tuscarora festivities on Saturday evening.

I hope that as many as possible can consider providing support to the Cadillac Crew. Many of their work trips are composed of just a few standard attendees. Isn't this a good time to step up to help out? Please contact the Cadillac Crew leaders, Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351. Hope to see you out there, ☐

—Walt Smith,
past PATC president

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Council Fire

President Tom Johnson chaired the regularly scheduled PATC Council meeting on Sept. 13, 2005, at the Club Headquarters building. Tom introduced Chas Cartwright, who has been Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park since July. Chas expressed his appreciation for the work that PATC has done in building and maintaining the hundreds of miles of the AT and the side trails in the park as well as making PATC land available to SNP for a parking area at Old Rag. He also asked PATC members to set a good example by observing the park regulation that dogs be on a leash. He pointed out that a dog can be very threatening to people even if the owner thinks it is "friendly" and also mentioned that a loose dog is at significant risk from the estimated 600-700 bears in the park.

Director of Administration Wilson Riley reported that insurance is pending; we have partial renewals for workers' compensation and medical hazard insurance for volunteers. He also said that PATC, as a 501(c)(3), could not engage in political activities without endangering its tax-exempt status. Some unidentified person had left a substantial number of fliers at PATC Headquarters with a political message. Tom noted that a quorum was present this month in contrast to the August meeting, and therefore three actions that could not be addressed at that meeting were reintroduced by Bruce Glendening. Council approved 2006 Objectives; Duties and Responsibilities for PATC officers; and making the PATC representative to the Regional Partnership Committee a voting member of Council. Treasurer Ric Francke announced that the 2006 budget definition period had started on Sept. 1 and provided guidelines for preparation. He also stated that revenue continues to exceed expenses.

Trails and Lands

Council approved a motion presented by Supervisor of Land Chris Mangold to lease PATC property to SNP. This land was purchased by PATC expressly to lease it to SNP for a parking lot to replace the existing lot that is expected to become unavailable shortly. Construction of an access trail from the new lot to the main Old Rag Trail is planned as a 2006 trails project. There is an oral agreement that a water barrel at

the present site that provides water to the neighbor will be replaced with a feeder pipe that is to be buried. There is a proposal to donate some land to PATC adjoining the AT easement at Ft. Ritchie for conservation. When Ft. Ritchie was closed, the state of Maryland set up the PennMar Corp., a 501(c)(4) (not tax exempt), to dispose of the land. It planned to sell the entire site for development. Local citizens objected to this plan and have proposed donating some of it to PATC. ATPO turned down a similar suggestion in the past because the risk of unexploded ordinance from Ft. Ritchie was believed to be high and the land proposed previously was not visible from the AT. There is expected to be further definition of the specific proposal, and this issue will be addressed at a future Council meeting.

Facilities

Council accepted a bid for up to \$60,000 presented by Headquarters Chair Eliza Engle to replace the PATC Headquarters roof. The proposed Bears Den management agreement with ATC is still under discussion; a business plan is needed. Many of the issues that had caused PATC to withdraw from a formal relationship with Bears Den have been resolved. Bears Den now has a robust support group (Friends of Bears Den) and is using the Blackburn funding model so that it has been producing enough revenue to cover expenses.

Other Activities

Council agreed to join other area groups in opposing Georgetown University plans to build a banquet/boathouse on the site of the existing boathouse. This facility is proposed to be three times larger than the existing boathouse. The NPS and *Washington Post* have accepted this idea. Georgeanne Smale says it will impact the Potomac Heritage Trail as well as C&O/Capitol Crescent. PATC opposed an NPS-proposed superhighway construction back in the 1960s-70s where the C&O Canal is now. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas led a hike supporting the establishment of the C&O Canal Park on March 19, 1954, of which PATC participated. Please contact Supervisor of

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

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

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

World Wide Web URL: www.patc.net

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Potomac Appalachian

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Club Officers and chairs contact info:

www.patc.net/about/contact.html

or call the main club phone number.

Contact list published twice annually in the PA.

Tom's Trail Talk – Undaunted Leadership

Having read Steven Ambrose's "Undaunted Courage" (about the Lewis and Clark expedition) this summer, I am inspired to write about two examples of "undaunted leadership" in recent PATC history. The literary device is kind of corny, but the message is serious.

When I became president in 2003 I issued two challenges. The first was to protect the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania, and to find a place for a cabin that would support work crews on the Pennsylvania portion of the Tuscarora. The second was to convert PATC's antiquated cabin reservations system into a computerized system. Everyone agreed that these tasks were long overdue, but no one was willing to take the lead. (Following is a lot easier than leading.)

After several weeks, during which the North Chapter talked about the need for leadership, we got a leader. Jim Peterson stepped forward to put together a land acquisition, trail rerouting, and cabin construction project whose complexity almost defies the imagination. The trail project centered on U.S. Rte. 30 that crosses the Tuscarora Trail just east of McConnellsburg. I believe (but I've lost count) that there were five pieces to the acquisition package, each involving a different landowner. In addition, Jim found a large, 186-acre tract along Aughwick Creek north of Rte. 30 that would be ideal for a cabin site. The tract bordered the trail route, and thus would afford viewshed protection. Since PATC could not afford to buy the entire tract, Jim needed to find a conservation buyer for the remainder.

Many of you know the end of this story. The acquisition package near Rte. 30 was completed after two years of work, we (together with a conservation buyer) purchased the Aughwick Creek Tract, and over the 2005 Labor Day weekend the North Chapter began construction of the cabin. Although there was a substantial supporting cast (Pete Brown, Al

Black, others), Jim was the point man. Without him we would not own a single acre of ground up there, the trail would still be on roads, and the Silberman Cabin (a put-together kit that was donated to PATC) would be rotting away in a Pennsylvania field.

The second project was to get rid of the paper and pencil log book and get the cabins reservation system on computers. Once again, everyone knew what needed to be done, but who had the computer skills, and the personal drive, to do something about it? I had a little side bet with Shakun Ghare (the chair of the cabins reservation system) that we would find someone who would do the job before the end of my first term. Where we would find that person, I had no idea. (Neither did she.)

Out of the blue came Bill Steinhour, the overseer of the Bear Springs Cabin. He had found some commercial software that might do the job. Several hundred volunteer hours later Bill, assisted by José Rojas (the new Information Services Committee chair), Shakun, Pat Fankhauser, and others, launched the new system.

Beginning with Myron Avery in the 1920s, PATC has always found its leaders. It is a proud and remarkable tradition. A critical job confronts the club; someone steps forward. Volunteers flock to their side. The job gets done. We all come away with a sense of satisfaction. But we know, deep down, how it all came to pass. We were following a leader.

Last year PATC logged over 84,000 hours of volunteer service. Two leaders – Jim Peterson and Bill Steinhour – logged a whole bunch of those hours. Myron, step aside. □

—Tom Johnson

Registration for PATC's 78th Annual Meeting/Dinner

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2005, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens.

For more information, please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0315, Ext. 17, or pfankhauser@patc.net. Don't delay, space is limited.

Come on out and join us to celebrate 78 years!

Name: _____, oriental buffet entrée preference (choose one)

Vegetarian Lo Mein Sesame Chicken Beef with Broccoli

Name: _____, oriental buffet entrée preference (choose one)

Vegetarian Lo Mein Sesame Chicken Beef with Broccoli

Daytime phone number: _____

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$25 (individual) or \$40 (couple) for dinner. To pay by credit card list your credit card information below. If you wish to attend the meeting and not have dinner, please contact Pat Fankhauser and let her know you will be coming.

() Here is an additional \$78 to for the Trail Land Acquisition Fund for 78 years of service on the trails.

() Sorry, I can't attend the banquet, but here is \$78 to support PATC's Trail Land Acquisition Fund.

For 78 years PATC has led hikes; constructed and renovated shelters and cabins; mapped the trails; taught trail construction, safety, and conservation; and built and cleared the trails in rain, snow, and sunshine. Your contribution will be used to enhance those activities. Let's celebrate as we move into our 79th year!

VISA/MasterCard Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Please charge my credit card for \$ _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: PATC - Annual Meeting/Dinner 2005, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180 Attn: Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

Because PATC pays for dinners in advance, no refunds after November 4, 2005.

A Special Thanksgiving on Old Rag, 2004

It was Alan's idea to go there. He had hiked this mountain two times and was ready to do it a third. I was apprehensive about it because he said it would be difficult and quite challenging. Right up there with Three Ridges, and Three Ridges just about kicked my butt. I went online and read different journals that people had written talking about how difficult they found it to be. Lots of rocks to climb and even the people that are athletes; still had difficulties climbing the mountain.

Arriving at Shenandoah in the afternoon, we hiked to a campsite about a quarter mile or so from the parking lot. This would be our home base, and we would start off early in the morning. We were able to get our tent set up before the rain started and even ate a somewhat warm meal of pasta and aioli before the rain really started falling. My goodness, it was only 5:00 p.m.! Not much that you can do when it is raining outside and you are in the woods. Into the tent we go. An early night, yes, but 5:00 p.m. is early even for me. OK, so we lay there and talked about the climb, the weather, life, and the joy of the challenge. The rain continues to come down and we begin to wonder if it will keep coming down or if Mother Nature will grant us our wish for sunny skies tomorrow.

I don't know but I'm hoping. I think that we must have dozed here and there and chatted a little bit more. The rain is still falling but we are dry and thankful that our new tent is making it through another rainstorm. Suddenly I awake and it looks like there is a bright light shining in our tent. I wake Alan and we both look outside, it is beautiful. The moon is shining so brightly and the stars are winking at us. We joke about starting the climb now and being up there when the sun rises, but it is 2:00 a.m. It is tempting but we decide that tomorrow will be beautiful and perfect for the climb up!

And so today we wake up to what looks to be a great day. The air is cool; the sky is a little bit overcast but not bad. We drink our coffee and eat our Spanish tortilla, get our day gear together and off we go. The hike up is quiet and Alan and I are both off in our thoughts.

We are the only people on the trail for about an hour and wonder if there will be any others. We begin counting a few: a group of three coming down the hill. Man, they must have started early, it is only 8:00 a.m.!

Lots of rocks along the trail, but it seems to be OK. I'm not doing too badly. The switchbacks can get tiring but there is enough beauty around you that when you turn around, there is a new rock formation, or tree, or small creek to look at.

We keep pushing on. There is a slight chill in the air and it begins to drizzle. I hope it clears up. We are here and we are going to do this, and suddenly the clouds break and the sun comes out. Thank you MOTHER, thank you FATHER. The day is beautiful and made just for us.

Suddenly we are climbing over rocks and stepping over or jumping from one to another. It is fun, just like he said it would be. I'm beginning to have a little more faith in myself.

We are almost at the top now, and the breeze is blowing. The rocks and crevices are more difficult to climb on, over, or through, and it is tough when you have short legs.



What backpacker wouldn't enjoy a hot Thanksgiving day meal?

We get to this one rock and, to me, it's twice my size. I'm going to have difficulties climbing this one. He goes ahead of me and while I'm contemplating my next move as to HOW I'm going to get up there, he says, "a BEAR! my goodness, what a bear, get the camera." Hmmm, I look below me and there she is: Momma Black Bear.

OK, go, or this bear is going to bite you in the rear! Alan is in awe and the expression on his face is of complete wonder. There is momma with her two cubs. I'm yelling, "Gobble, gobble," and making as much noise as possible while looking at them at the same time. They are looking at me as if I'm a crazy person. I'm trying to jump on the rock, which I eventually am able to do, and the Momma Bear and her cubs are just doing their thing and jumping on another rock and taking off to go play somewhere. We are both amazed to have witnessed this and are even more thankful than before.

Oh, the top of the mountain is near, the challenges are getting even more difficult and the views are spectacular. The wind is whipping and the sun is shining. I'm doing it, we are doing it together, and we are celebrating this day together and are thankful to be in this environment. There is nothing to think about except for what is here and now. Seizing the moment – all of it – we've made it and we are here. I did it, we did it together!

Of course we are not alone on top of this mountain. We run into a few other people but there is enough space for everyone to have his own piece of the rock.

The hike down begins, and we are headed to the Byrds Nest shelter where we will have our Thanksgiving dinner, which we have carefully planned. Byrds Nest turns out to be a nice rock shelter and is definitely used frequently.

There is a picnic table that faces the woods, and there we lay out our table cloth (the sarong) and break out the pot to boil our turkey dinner. We are famished from the hike and dig into hot turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, and stuffing. Not the dehydrated stuff, homemade and yummy! Hey, we did it right. The sun is still shining and the wind has gotten colder, but we are dry and happy.

See Thanksgiving, page 8

Trail Patrol Proudly Presents
Trail Patrol
Training
Weekend
Nov. 12 - 13

If you are interested in joining the Trail Patrol, or really want to find out what it is all about, then this is your chance! Several qualified Trail Patrol members will teach you about Leave No Trace, The 10 Essentials, Map and Compass, dealing with the public, and other facts that you need to know to be part of the Trail Patrol. There will also be 3 hikes (including a night hike!).

The class will take place at the Glass House Cabin in George Washington National Forest. The cost is \$10 per person to cover the cost of food. Pre-registration is required.

For information contact: Saleena DeVore (tptraining@patc.net) 410/456-6861. □

**Seeking Hikers,
Editors, Authors**

The 4th edition of Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia is scheduled for revision and republishing during 2005.

The publications team is seeking the services of a hiker/author to revise/update this publication to meet the deadline of publishing the revised edition by the end of 2005.

Join the PATC publications team and combine your interest in the outdoors with some editing. Contact the PATC Publications Chair, Alex McLellan (publications@patc.net) (preferred) or 703/758-1057 (day) or 703/758-7411 (night). □

Council, from page 2

Membership Georgeann Smale for current status. Linda Volkert Rudy, a former PATC *Potomac Appalachian* editor, has moved back in the area to Elkins, W. Va., and wants to get involved in the PATC outreach efforts. She has started to generate interest. Jane Thompson wants to support the trails effort where the Allegheny Trail and Tuscarora Trail join.

Risk Management – Larry Marcoux said the risk assessment of the Hike Program was progressing and a PATC-wide incident report procedure was being prepared for ExCom review.

Potomac Appalachian – Linda Shannon-Beaver made one of her rare appearances at a Council meeting — she lives in Norfolk and makes a 3.5 hour drive to Council. Welcome Linda.

Cabins – Mel Merritt reported that work on the Silverman Cabin is in progress and that Pete Brown reported that there were eight courses up.

Maps – Dave Pierce said the Map Committee has one project left this year - it is converting the South District of the Shenandoah Park map to digital form.

West Chapter – Dave Jordahl was planning the chapter's first meeting of the season in Shepherdstown.

Ski Section – Steve Bergstrom has a full schedule of trips scheduled for the coming season.

AT Corridor – Tom Lupp reported that three houses had been removed.

Mountaineering Section – Ozana Halik is working with the American Alpine Club to address the new Great Falls National Park management plan that is proposing permit requirements and the closing of some existing rock-climbing areas; public awareness is minimal and there was a public hearing scheduled for Sept. 17. The section has sponsored a number of clinics and has a Web site and newsletter. They are also holding monthly meetings that are well attended.

Public Affairs – Tom Phillips has prepared a news release and two online press releases.

Trail Patrol – Katrina Hedlesky said there is a hike leadership training on Sept. 17; back-

packing training, and the ridgerunner's service has been extended.

SMRG – Steve Weiss reported that SMRG responded to one search, covering three days split between two weekends. They searched for a 79-year-old man in Nottoway County. The first weekend, 13 SMRG members responded. The second weekend brought out six members. The search was suspended without resolution. SMRG has been intensely planning a possible response in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. As a rough estimate, SMRG members have put in roughly 400-500 person-hours on this effort, including rapid acquisition of equipment and supplies anticipated for purchase in the longer term (note SMRG's trailer temporarily located in the PATC parking lot for the purpose of collecting supplies for this prospective mission). Bad news: We have run into a monumental bureaucratic/regulatory roadblock that probably prevents a response. Good news: The state convened a planning and management group to prepare for a possible response. SMRG was well-represented on this planning group, which organized and coordinated logistics and planning for all available SAR resources in the state of Virginia.

SMRG received a grant of \$2,500 from REI, specifically to purchase a vehicle-based radio for incident managers. In preparations for response to Katrina, SMRG had already purchased three of these units.

In October, SMRG will once again be stationed in SNP, on stand-by status, ready to provide rapid-response search-and-rescue services. This effort is under the direction of, and in support of, the law-enforcement ranger staff.

Publications – Alex McLellan is revising the "Washington Area Hikes."

Hikes – Karen Brown reported that the Lama Trek excursion was successful.

If any PATC member would like to become the librarian/archivist, please contact Alan Day at dayalan@nova.org. □

—Alan Day,
Secretary

Do You Have Something to Give to Dick's Dome?

This past July, late in the day after walking for about 10 miles, and with the very real threat of rain, my family and I came upon the infamous Dick's Dome (just south of Sky Meadows State Park on the AT) in hopes that there might be room at the "inn." We had to fight off a few critters, but were rewarded with a dry night's sleep, safely snuggled in this quaint dome of a shelter.

Dick's Dome is a bit different from the standard fare you come to expect from AT shelters after traipsing northbound through Shenandoah. PATC has erected some beauties through this area, and the long-distance hikers might be a wee bit spoiled by the time they come upon this strange accommodation. But the lullaby of the (very) nearby stream was music to our ears, and the prospect of a dry night had us very much hoping that we would be able to squeeze in beside some other poor walker.

This geodesic structure is much talked about on the trail, as it is unique and not always the best design for a large number of people (well, more than four). Also, it has competition nearby (Rod Hollow) for those looking for a dry spot for the night. But what it lacks in space, it makes up for in its fun design and beautiful surroundings. And according to its builder, land donor, and namesake, "Many times you reach your 'expiration date' for the day or need to seek shelter before the sun sets."

Dick George writes: "It's seen much wear since my twin sons and I built this in 1987 on our 10 acres adjacent to the AT, coming up from our Georgia home for a week to erect the unique structure. This coincided with PATC's 60th and ATC's 50th anniversaries. The 12' dome is designed around star plates to which all of the 2x4 struts are bolted. The outer plywood triangles are all identical, and we installed a heavy-duty hook at the top of the 10' high dome to hang packs. Getting materials to the remote site took much hauling and dragging.

"My Air Force Reserve assignment was in the Pentagon for seven years, and during this time I enjoyed many weekend PATC work parties. I discovered this site while accompanying Tom Floyd, then supervisor of trails, when he was selecting the relocation of the Trail through the newly acquired land between Front Royal and Linden. [This property is now part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.] Tom and his Tom Floyd's Wayside (12 miles from mine) were inspirations. Building and donating the dome was a way for me to show appreciation for the many happy miles I've hiked on the AT (I've packed from Springer into New Jersey in many stages over many years). My sons hiked much of this with me and later did a 10,000 km lap of the U.S. and Canada on bicycles. Son Sky is now vice president of CamelBak (www.camelbak.com) which makes water supply systems for backpacks."

Dick needs, and is asking for, our help. The outside of the dome was originally (and still is) covered with asphalt shingles. This alone is enough to give it the bad name some ungrateful hikers have stuck it with in the shelter logs. It's, well, it's ugly. The shingles, that is. And they are not wearing well. What Dick would like is for someone with architectural skill (or not) to come up with not only an idea for a better outer covering, but to also help in applying said surface. Dick's willing to foot the bill (depending on cost) as long as the material is maintenance-free and relatively inexpensive. If a one-day work party could be organized he expects it could be completed in a day or a weekend.



The siding of the Dome is in urgent need of replacement.

This renovation could be a good opportunity for us in the hiking community to repay and give our thanks for a very generous donation by this individual. Sometimes we fail to stop and think of the kindness of strangers as we journey through life, even when that journey is on foot and is a struggle. I'm so glad there are shelters from the storms along our way. But they didn't get there on their own. Is this a way we can give something back? Happy Trails! □

—Linda Shannon-Beaver and
Dick (Richard S. George)
rsgeorge@mindspring.com

Kudos From Gypsy Springs

After a full year of having Gypsy Spring Cottage in the rental system and experiencing first-hand the requirements of being cottage co-overseers, Al and I would like to thank all the users of Gypsy Spring Cottage for your constructive and kind words written in the log book and for taking extra care and pride in caring for the cottage during your stay and for leaving it in excellent condition for the next users. The added amenities you purchased for the cottage during your stay were much appreciated. It demonstrated how much you appreciated your stay at the cottage.

Al and I will continue to maintain Gypsy Spring to the highest standards in honor of its benefactor, Ray Fadner, for the use and enjoyment of PATC users.

Thanks to all. □

—Co-overseers: Al Black & Jim Stauch Jr.

New SNP Superintendent Notes PATC's Contributions and Support

PATC was fortunate to welcome SNP's new superintendent at the September council meeting. Mr. Chas Cartwright was gracious in his praise of our club's many contributions to that National Park, saying, "I'm used to a trails maintenance program in the west – which means that, hopefully, every 10 to 20 years, you get the chance to get into looking at the trail and see if it's still there or not. We have very few significant trails programs in the National Park Service in the west, with few exceptions. At Dinosaur National Monument we had no trails program – all of it was performed by volunteers but that wasn't a lot. We hadn't done the homework to cultivate that interest so that our trails were well maintained at Dinosaur. And then I come to Shenandoah, and I see within the park a fairly well-developed program, and yet I look in terms of hundreds of miles of trails, which I'm not used to, I'm used to maybe several dozen, and it doesn't take long to reach the conclusion that there's no way that we can maintain this trails system without your help.

"There's no doubt that the folks performing the bulk of that work for us – and I think work that's equal to or beyond the work that we perform in-house – are you guys, and I want to be real clear in saying to all of you that we really appreciate it; we couldn't get the job done without it. I have been out on the trails and benefitted from that high-quality maintenance. I've never seen anything quite like it."

With the budget cuts to many national parks, Shenandoah has lost many employees in the past four years. This has affected the park operations, primarily in the area of maintenance, which has been noticed by visitors. But because of PATC's trail maintenance contributions, the hiking experience has not deteriorated. "I like cruising along on these beautiful trails. Thank you very much for all the work you do. I know you take a lot of pride in your work, and it really shows," acknowledged Chas.

Chas noted that on a recent hike to the Old Rag area with Steve Baird he saw first-hand that the parking situation needed attention. He noted that without our involvement in the parking area, the quality of the hiking experience in that area would be much diminished. In the beginning the complexities of the whole issue were not apparent, but he found that "this project seems to have lots of little



Superintendent of SNP Chas Cartwright, fourth from left and facing the camera, met with Council to thank members of PATC for our help and support.

things that come up, the hurdles that we've got to figure out how to overcome. And we're still working on it, and I would like to tell you that sometime in the very near future we'll be able to move forward – but it's only because of your foresight in acquiring that property that we have an opportunity to improve the quality of the experience."

Finally, he noted that in a recent *PA* he was portrayed (incorrectly) as someone who was opposed to dogs in the wilderness. He explained that out west, where he has had most of his national park experience, rules about dogs are much more restrictive, and generally followed by the visiting public. However, this has been the exception in Shenandoah. He said, "I am very disappointed in the level of compliance of our visiting public. I'll be very honest with you. I would say that reading a quote about my position, that I don't think dogs belong in the wilderness, probably doesn't reflect my position. My position is I'm pro-wildlife.

"When it comes to dogs, and you know, here you are volunteering thousands of hours of work, but let's go beyond that, when it comes to obeying the rules, it's no different for you than it is for me. People see you out there on the trails and they have an expectation that you're either working for the park or that you're helping the park out. And I am just asking for your help in trying to educate the public. My desire is to get people to be compliant with the rules because they understand them and they understand that that helps pro-

vide a better experience. You spend a lot of time in Shenandoah and we appreciate it, and we also appreciate the fact that you are knowledgeable about what our rules are and that you help us enforce those rules. I like dogs. I grew up with a dog. Dogs are best experienced in parks on a leash, and I ask that all of you help us educate the public. It would never work if we use citations as a way of enforcing compliance. All of you know that our presence in the backcountry is less and less from year to year. It's almost nonexistent. In fact you are our presence in the backwoods as much as anybody is and so I'm just asking, soliciting your help in helping us provide a better quality experience in Shenandoah." Our trail stewardship must include supporting our National Park partners in their efforts at protecting wildlife, and providing all visitors with a safe, joyous experience.

Chas emphasized his desire to come to this park and this part of the country. He said, "My wife and I have gotten out at least once if not twice every weekend, and Shenandoah is a great place to be. I've wanted to come to this place. I've found Virginians to be incredibly gracious people, and the landscape of Shenandoah is something that becomes very endearing very quickly." □

—Linda Shannon-Beaver

Want to read the full text of Chas' comments to council? Go to www.patc.net/resources/pa/chas

Work Hard. Play Hard. Volunteer in the Great Outdoors

I've been heading up a band of under-achieving nonprofessional, headstrong hard-working volunteers for a couple of years. Sitting around the campfire at Meadows, after the day was done, I realized that nearly every one of these had "drug their feet" in the beginning.

I ask for people to "bring a hammer." Two people waited to join in a work trip because they did not own a hammer and thought it was a requirement (I always carry five on a work trip).

One guy had worked on his own house for 15 years, but didn't think he would be helpful because he was not a professional carpenter or builder. We have a professional who comes out once in awhile, and he's not really all that much better than we are. I talk on the phone all day so I claim my eye-hand coordination is good – at least I don't hit myself in the head with the receiver, so that makes me an expert at hammering.

The reasons go on and on. I smoke. My husband says I'm not enough of a dedicated tree hugger to get in with that group. I like to have a beer in the evening, and I was sure that would be taboo. I might screw something up, and I didn't want to get kicked out. Blah, Blah, Blah.

HELLO. We have 7,000 or so members, and what, you think all these trails, shelters, huts, outbuildings, park cabins, and PATC rental cabins, including the five that are under con-

struction and not even rentable, are all kept up, maintained, and worked on by the five to six people this club pays a salary to?

Get real. PATC is about helping, enjoying, getting out there, and doing what you like. I have a couple that comes to five to six work trips of mine a year. They are not members. He claims if he became one, I would not let him take his two-hour Saturday afternoon stroll. I have people buying tools that they will never use if they aren't working on a cabin. The votes say that the best weekend cook of last year was a male.

If you have ANY thought of helping, just go for it. It doesn't matter what division you pick up, and it really doesn't matter how much work you do, or how good you are at it.

If you are nervous about helping out or having some fun, give me a call or e-mail. I will have about 15 work trips this year. Come for a few hours, a day, a night, or a weekend. You will not be the only girl, the only one with kids, the only one with a dog or cat, or the only one who couldn't build a house single-handed. I have used six-year-olds to deliver Kool-Aid, and I've had an 87-year-old do the cooking. Can't you fit in somewhere? □

—Thomas C. Jorgensen

Southern Regional Cabins Supervisor

Hairatheart@aol.com

Article reprinted from Dec. 2002 Potomac Appalachian

BEYOND THE CALL

Saturday, April 2, was the day for the scheduled work trip of the North Chapter on the AT. Pete Brown had scheduled turnpike work on the trail, as well as a little sherpa work for those who would attend.

Due to the continuing rain, which had started Friday night, accumulating about an inch by Saturday morning and with the prediction of more on the way, Pete abandoned the turnpiking project and went to plan "B" which was to carry about a ton of metal roofing a half a mile uphill to the Quarry Gap shelter site where it would be used to replace the existing roof. The rain continued throughout the day. The access trail to the AT was flooded with six inches of water in some places, but the crew continued on the mission making many, many trips to carry the roofing materials up the hill. By late afternoon the task was completed and all retreated to the Gypsy Spring Cottage to a warm fire and a hearty meal.

My sincere thanks to those who answered this challenge: Al Black, who had the metal bent and transported to the drop-off point; Pete Brown, for the use of his crew; Al Manus and newcomers Ed Sabin, Shirl Smith, Tracy and Dylan Marlow, and, of course, Ester Althouse, for keeping the cottage warm and serving us a wonderful feast.

Of course the rain stopped after we finished, with accumulation in excess of two inches!

Again, thank you all for going above and beyond the call of duty. □

—Jim Stauch, Quarry Gap Overseer

Thanksgiving, from page 4

We take some time to appreciate what we have done, the beautiful day that we've had and all of the natural wonder around us. Both of us are truly thankful to have been able to make this trip together and to enjoy this special meal in such a special place. We are both beaming with happy feelings and all that we can tell each other is how wonderful things are and how fortunate we are to be able to experience this.

The climb down is slow and long, but we are both still in that state of euphoria where it goes by quickly. Along the way there are a few sprinkles of snow flurries, and the temperature continues to drop.



Food preparation is a breeze at Byrds Nest shelter.

By the time we make it down to the fire road, we know we are almost to our camp. The fire road is flat and makes the walk appear longer and seems to tire you out more. When we finally get to our campsite, it is a quick dinner, some hot chocolate, and in the tent we go.

The temperature has dropped about 20 degrees, and now it is quite cold. It is early and we are beat and we attempt to get comfortable and make it through the night. I know we will be cold but never as cold as our Harpers Ferry trip where the temps got so low that our water froze solid! We manage to keep warm wearing our hats and snooze off and on until the next morning. Once again the morning is a cold one, but the sun is out, and for that we are grateful. As we pack our things we both reflect on yesterday's hike and ponder what and when our next trip will be.

I'm really glad that we were able to make this trip, and it will stay etched in my mind and in my heart for many years. A special Thanksgiving? You bet! □

—Fabie Mariscal and Alan Dudley

Profile of the Ski Touring Section (Part One of Two)

One of the most vibrant organizations within the PATC constellation is the club's cross-country ski section. For over 30 years, when warm-weather hikers begin hollering up for the winter, the trail skiers dust off their equipment and wait for the world to turn white. And when it does, they rule.

This article focuses on cross-country (Nordic) ski locations available within a few hours' ride of Washington, D.C. A follow-on article will highlight more distant locations the Ski Touring Section (STS) has gravitated to for excellent wintertime skiing. People interested in cross-country skiing should check out the section's Web site (www.patc.net/chapters/ski/). It contains a wealth of information on the seasonal outings of the section. Back issues of the STS newsletter, *Upslope*, bubble with the excitement of skiers reporting on wonderful snow

treks they have recently experienced or are planning for the next season.

When it snows in the city and suburbs, people who own cross-country ski equipment can quickly enjoy a transformed world. There is something fine and surreal in skiing from home a mile or more to a local restaurant or pub that is still open and not having to worry about traffic jams and crowds. The world is transformed into something simpler and purer. Local bike trails (including the C&O Canal Towpath), parks, battlefields, and golf courses are ideal locations in the Washington area for serendipitous skiing.

The main problem in the mid-Atlantic states is the unpredictability of the snow. By organizing trips to outlying locations more favorable to regular snowfalls, the section improves the chances that one can ski on a more scheduled basis.

Probably the premier location within several hours' drive of Washington for Nordic skiing is Canaan Valley in West Virginia. At least three venues in the valley cater to cross-country skiing, and there is always the option of back-country trekking on rural roads and logging trails. Most cross-country skiers visit White Grass, a ski complex exclusively devoted to the Nordic form of skiing. Check out the Latest Report link on the center's Web page (www.whitegrass.com/) and you'll get a sense of the lyrical heights that this kind of skiing can drive people to. Yes, colored leaves in the fall are nice, but what they really mean to a skier is that winter (and snow!) are coming. The STS also runs weekend trips each season to Blackwater Falls State Park (www.blackwaterfalls.com/) which has a fine set of trails and a Bavarian-style main lodge high above the Blackwater River. Canaan Valley State Park also offers well-marked ski trails and a very comfortable lodge and outlying cabins. The downhill skiing slopes in Canaan Valley are nearby for people who may want to do downhill (Alpine) skiing on the same trip or work on their Nordic telemark turns.

The STS also offers ski trips each year to the Laurel Highlands area of southwestern Pennsylvania. An annual event cosponsored by the STS in the highlands area is the Ski-Dance Weekend over the Presidents Day holiday in mid February (www.skidance.com/). The weekend combines contra dancing in the evening with Nordic skiing during the day – a combination guaranteed to wear you out with a smile on your face.

In Maryland, the Section for many seasons has hosted cross-country skiing weekends at New Germany State Park which is west of Cumberland. New Germany has a variety of open woodland trails that are suitable for skiing, as well as skiing options along the Savage River and the adjacent state forest. The New Germany area offers some delightful lodging and dining options, including the Mennonite-run Casselman Inn in Grantsville, Md.

This list only scratches the surface regarding great places to ski in the mid-Atlantic area. But since snow is, at best, unpredictable, the STS has developed trips to more distant places where snow is the rule during the winter. More on that in next month's article (or check out the STS Web site if you can't wait). □

—Rob Swennes

Event	Ski Location	State	Start	Return	Ski Days	Notes
1	***Ski Fair***	PATC-HQ	5-Nov	5-Nov	0	Ski Fair
2	White Grass (Trail Prep)	WV	18-Nov	20-Nov	0	Work Crew
3	Laurel Highlands (Trail Prep)	PA	2-Dec	4-Dec	0	Work Crew
4	White Grass	WV	9-Dec	11-Dec	2	Season Opener
5	White Grass	WV	16-Dec	18-Dec	2	Pre Holiday Escape
6	Tug Hill	NY	29-Dec	2-Jan	4	New Year's Trip
7	Local Pick-up trip	snow	2-Jan	2-Jan	1	
8	Blackwater Falls	WV	6-Jan	8-Jan	2	
9	Laurel Highlands	PA	6-Jan	8-Jan	3	
10	Tug Hill	NY	13-Jan	16-Jan	3	MLK
11	New Germany	MD	13-Jan	16-Jan	3	MLK
12	Laurel Highlands	PA	13-Jan	16-Jan	3	MLK
13	Canaan Valley	WA	13-Jan	16-Jan	3	MLK
14	Canaan Valley	WV	19-Jan	22-Jan	3	
15	Camp Sequanota	PA	20-Jan	22-Jan	2	Learn to Ski
16	Laurel Highlands	PA	20-Jan	22-Jan	2	
17	Blackwater Falls	WV	20-Jan	22-Jan	2	
18	Blackwater Falls	WV	27-Jan	29-Jan	2	
19	Local Pick-up trip	snow	28-Jan	28-Jan	1	
20	Blackwater Falls	WV	3-Feb	5-Feb	2	
21	Local Pick-up trip	snow	4-Feb	4-Feb	1	
22	Whitegrass	WV	10-Feb	12-Feb	2	
23	France		10-Feb	19-Feb	7	President's Day
24	Garmisch, Germany		11-Feb	20-Feb	7	President's Day
25	Ski Dance	PA	17-Feb	20-Feb	3	President's Day
26	Canaan Valley	WV	17-Feb	20-Feb	3	President's Day
27	Elk River Touring	WV	24-Feb	27-Feb	3	
28	Local Pick-up trip	snow	25-Feb	25-Feb	1	
29	Bryce Canyon National Park	UT	1-Mar	5-Mar	3	
30	Rangeley Lakes Loppet	ME	1-Mar	5-Mar	3	Gliding Gourmet

Please note that this trip schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Cancellation policies may result in trips being closed out earlier than expected;
please reserve space early.

Massive Private Building Threatens Potomac Gorge and C&O Canal Park

The Potomac River Gorge within C&O Canal National Historical Park is threatened with private development. If you use the river or park, we need your help!

The National Park Service plans to transfer wooded, waterfront land upstream of the Key Bridge to Georgetown University for an exclusive, private boathouse.

At nearly 20,000 square feet, the structure would be enormous – seven times the size of the nearby, historic Washington Canoe Club. The new building would destroy trees and habitat; threaten the riverbank, C&O Canal, and historic structures with erosion and flood damage; and potentially harm water quality. The 70-foot docks would alter the river flow, deny access to recreational boaters, and interfere with the Olympic kayak and canoe teams that train in this section of the Potomac.

Yet the National Park Service claims “no significant impact”!

How you can help today: Voice your opposition in e-mails to National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, at fran_mainella@nps.gov. Demand that the Park Service:

- Preserve national parkland for public use, not develop it for private facilities.
- Build private boathouses outside of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.
- Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the boathouse proposal that considers alternative sites outside the national park.

How you can help later: Sign up to be notified when the National Park Service issues its draft Environmental Assessment for public comment, by e-mailing the National Park Service at NCR_Georgetownboathouse@nps.gov. Submit comments demanding a full EIS that considers alternatives. The law requires an EIS when the potential impacts are “significant.”

How you can get updates: Sign up for periodic updates and independent notification of the EA public comment period from the Defenders of Potomac River Parkland, c/o Sally Strain at seawalk@starpower.net. The Defenders is a coalition of 16 citizen organizations opposed to the Park Service proposal. See their Web site at www.savethecanal.org.

More background: In the 1980s, the National Park Service pledged to develop a plan for boathouses along the Georgetown waterfront that would accommodate both public and private interests. However, the current plan would transfer prime parkland that extends beyond the boathouse zone to one private entity – Georgetown University – for its exclusive use.

This proposal offers no public benefit and would heavily impact recreational kayakers and canoeists, bicycle commuters, recreational bikers and hikers, anglers, and other park users.

The National Park Service has supported the private boathouse plan without considering alternatives and evaluating the impacts on the human and natural environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Public outcry and a lawsuit prompted the Park Service to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), a minimal document. However, the 15 citizen organizations listed below believe the law requires the Park Service to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that considers alternative sizes and locations, such as locations downstream on previously developed waterfront, or on the Anacostia River. An EIS is required whenever the potential impacts are “significant.”

Many letters and comments will be needed to defeat the current plan and force the Park Service to consider alternatives. Please voice your opinions and help save the Potomac Gorge and C&O Canal National Park!

The Defenders of Potomac River Parkland support preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and building public and private boathouses on already developed riverbank outside of the C&O Canal National Park.

The Defenders are:

- American Canoe Association
 - American Hiking Society
 - American Whitewater Association
 - Audubon Naturalist Society
 - Canoe Cruisers Association
 - Citizens Committee to Save Laurel Lakes
 - C&O Canal Association
 - Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail
 - Friends of the Earth
 - League of Women Voters of DC
 - National Parks Conservation Association
 - Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
 - Potomac Conservancy
 - Potomac Pedalers Touring Club
 - Sierra Club, DC Chapter
 - Washington Canoe Club
- Sally C. Strain, DC Coordinator
Defenders of Potomac River Parkland

Trail Overseers - Appointed in September

Trail District Managers

Don White SNP South Appalachian Trail
Tate Heuer Massanutten South

Shelter Overseers

Clay Birkett Rod Hollow Shelter
Chris & Becky Miller Big Mountain Shelter – PA Tuscarora

Trail Overseers

William Blonkowski Tuscarora Trail - PA 233 to Bill Miller Trail
James Martin AT - South End of Waterline to Bear Hollow Creek
(Co-overseer)

Laura Armstrong & Fred Stober Lower Hawksbill Trail & Salamander Trail

Carol & Joseph Stielper Massanutten Mt. Trail - Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt
Tate Heuer Massanutten South Trail - FR 375 to Pitt Spring
Catherine Kelleher Big Schloss Cutoff Trail
Larry Knutson AT - Buena Vista Road to Pen Mar



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PA300	PATC Elevation Profile of Appalachian Trail (Pine Grove Furnace to Rockfish Gap)	2.75	2.20
PB100	AT Guide Book #6 (ed. 16, 2000) Maryland and Northern Virginia	8.00	6.40
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50 hikes in Northern Virginia (1998)	13.00	10.40
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Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance 2000	14.95	11.96
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Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
W & OD Railroad Trail Guide (1996)	8.00	6.40

Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry (1994)	8.00	6.40
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 Make checks payable to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC).
 Do not send cash, stamps, or C.O.D. orders. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.
 Orders may be shipped by UPS or First Class Mail.
Please include Shipping and Handling costs to expedite your order.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Order Subtotal	S & H Cost
Up to \$10.00	\$2.00
\$10.01 to \$25.00	\$4.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00	\$6.00
Above \$50.00	\$8.00

ITEM #	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL

Name: _____
 Shipping Address: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (h): _____ (w): _____

Order Subtotal _____
 5 % Sales Tax (VA residents only) _____
 Shipping and Handling (see above) _____
 Grand Total for Order _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Visa MasterCard
credit card number expiration date (mth/yr.)

Signature: _____

North, from page 1

The workshop began Saturday morning with our customary introductions and a brief discussion of work and trail tool safety by SNP's C.T. Campbell. C.T. noted that in 18 years the workshop had only one incident requiring medical treatment, an allergic bee-sting reaction, and this safety record for over 3,000 hours of trail work was quite an accomplishment!

The workshop was attended by 19 PATC overseers and the number was fairly evenly divided between new overseers and club veterans. The participants broke into two crews who were transported to the worksites in park vehicles. The "basics" crew, led by SNP's Shawn Green and PATC's Dick Dugan and me headed to the AT section between Elkwallow Gap and Ridge Crest. The "advanced projects" crew, led by SNP's Don Harvey and C.T. and PATC's Peter Harris, proceeded to the Harris Hollow Trail.

On the AT section, the "basics" crew went over as many aspects of trail stewardship as possible, from blazing techniques to constructing waterbars. In the course of the weekend, this crew managed to build approx. 30-40 locust or rock waterbars and check dams and several hundred feet of sideslope cutback up the hill to the ridge. Many thanks to Dick, Peter, and Steven Osbrach for providing cut locust lengths in advance for this work!

Meanwhile, over on the Harris Hollow Trail, the "advanced projects" crew had a very good reason to return to the campground each day covered with dirt and mud. In an e-mail to me



Photo by Stan Turk

(L to R) Dave Nebhut and Dick Dugan discussing the finer points of trailwork.

after the workshop, Don Harvey stated: "Did we get a lot done! On the Harris Hollow Trail, we constructed three rock turnpikes - 40 ft., 15 ft., and 12 ft. long; three rock culverts; 40 ft. of lateral drain; 15 ft. rock crib; 15 ft. rock tread; and regraded 185 ft. of tread." Not too shabby for one work weekend!

Saturday evening back at the campground, Mark treated us to a great meal featuring grilled salmon, cooked "just perfectly" as Steven mentioned at the dinner table. Stan Turk provided the crew with great evening

entertainment in the form of a "drive-in movie" when he pulled out his laptop PC and began displaying the many digital photos he had taken during the course of the day. Mark's soft blues music and the crackling campfire provided the perfect backdrop to the campground scene.

It may have taken three years to get it "just right" for the workshop, but this year's event was a great success by all standards measured. I'd like to thank all the participants who helped make it possible.

I'd also like to thank the NPS folks: Shawn, Don, C.T. and Steve Bair, who made a guest appearance this year, for all the support and guidance they have provided to me and the club over the years for this annual event. These guys are super! PATC is very lucky to have these dedicated individuals behind our common cause.

After 18 years, I've decided to "retire" from hosting this event and turn the baton over to more capable hands and I hope the annual North District workshop continues well into the future. Many, many sincere thanks to all past and present who helped make this workshop a successful and worthwhile venture. I lose count when I think of all the club's overseers, future district managers, and terrific folks who have passed through this door. Long live the North District Workshop! □

—George Walters



Photo by Stan Turk

Dave Nebhut and C.T. Campbell wrestle a rock out of the mud on the Harris Hollow trail.

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See www.ssvc.org or the one linked to the PATC Web site for descriptions of hikes and work trips. We usually hike in the southern and central districts of the SNP and in the GWNF. Contact the listed hike leader for information about a specific event, or contact Michael Seth 540/438-1301.

West Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

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

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

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). 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: Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com) 301/581-9584.

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

7:30 p.m. – We meet every month on the second Wednesday except for August, unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Ozana Halik (mrkayak1@verizon.net) 703/242-0177 or our Web site: www.potomacmountainclub.org

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good-will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, and strive to educate the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking, and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications, and personal equipment. All Trail Patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Holly Wheeler (trailpatrol@patc.net) 301/486-1598, or see our section in PATC's Web site: www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol.

November

1 (Tuesday)

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

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

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers Wardensville, WV

George Washington National Forest, Great North Mountain WV, Wardensville WV. Climb Bucktail Cutoff Trail to Pond Run Trail to Waites Run Rd., returning on German Wilson Trail with view from Half Moon Lookout. 14 miles 2500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Arlington, VA

The Easy Hikers will take a 5-mile hike on the Four Mile Run and W&OD Trails. Bring water and Lunch. Meet at the Barcroft Recreation Center parking lot. Directions: Take I-395 to the Shirlington exit, take S.Arlington Mill Dr. until it ends at Walter Reed Dr., turn right on Walter Reed Dr., go one short block, turn left onto S.Four Mile Run Dr., go to second stop light and turn left into Barcroft Recreation Center parking lot. INFO: Dick Rogers (rogersrw@aol.com) 703/979-1270.

2 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

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

2 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT – XC Ski Fair (STS) Vienna, VA

12:30-4:30 p.m. It's time to think snow! The Ski Touring Section (STS) opens the 2005 ski season with its annual Ski Fair at PATC HQ in Vienna. This is your best opportunity to learn about and sign up for the great trips STS is considering for the 2005-06 season to destinations like Le Haute Trace des Escartons in France, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and Bryce Canyon, Utah, as well as our closer favorites like Canaan Valley, the Laurel Highlands, and Tug Hill. Meet the trip leaders and prospective ski buddies. See new ski gear and try out specially-priced fleece wear. Hear about the Ski-Dance Weekend and other special events and training clinics. INFO: Susie Etchevery 202/244-2562 or Steve Bergstrom 301/564-9696.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a. m. - Noon. We're extending the work trip season into November as a new tradition. Come help us close out the year. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW

park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee (ken_ferebee@nps.gov) 202/895-6221.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

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

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA

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

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Land Navigation (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

This comprehensive, two-day course teaches all skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises concentrating on topographic map reading and interpretation, position plotting, compass fundamentals, declination, and azimuth. The second day is spent in Prince William Forest Park, primarily off-trail, engaging in practical navigation exercises of increasing complexity. The course fee is \$95 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9700.

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew Hedgesville, WV

This is an emergency trail work trip in the Lutkins Passage area. The Cadillac Crew will begin constructing a relocation of the Tuscarora Trail on PATC-owned property in order to prevent closure of the Tuscarora Trail. We will overnight at Highacre where we will join in the Celebrate Tuscarora night festivities. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

6 (Sunday)

HIKE – Sunday Hikers Accokeek, MD

This is an unusually easy and pleasant 5.7-mile hike for the Sunday Hikers. We'll visit Piscataway Park, in southern Maryland, for a hike that includes views of Mt. Vernon across the Potomac River, a Piscataway Indian burial ground, a lighthouse, natural habitat for ground-nesting birds, and even views of Ft. Washington to our north. The hike includes some walking trails around the National Colonial Farm. There is a small park entrance fee. Elevation change is negligible. Bring your camera! INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

6 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – West Chapter Frederick, MD

Ongoing trail maintenance projects in Gambrill State Park, on the Black Locust Circuit trail and the Catoctin (Blue) trail. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center just past the entrance of the High Knob Day Use Area (at top of the mountain). Bring water, lunch or snacks, hat, sunscreen, and boots. Tools will be provided. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.

8 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Hike high along the AT from MP 15.9 (between North and South Marshalls) to Panorama. 17.5 miles and 2500 ft. elevation gain. Several crossings of the Skyline Drive where any dropouts could be accommodated. INFO: Cliff Noyes (hclmnoyes@yahoo.com) 540/373-8267 or Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

8 (Tuesday)

SPECIAL EVENT - PATC Annual Meeting Vienna, VA

Come out to meet your fellow members for a little dinner and entertainment. Get that registration form (page 3) in ASAP! INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0315, x17.

9 (Wednesday)

CLASS – AT Journeys (REI) Rockville, MD

7:30 p.m. Join our AT specialists, David Schroeder and Gary Roberts for tales and tips from the East Coast's most famous trail. Discover the legends and lures of the road, the unique towns and traditions. We'll help you get started whether you're going the distance or taking the trail in bits and pieces. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

9 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Great Falls, MD

Five-mile hike from Old Angler's Inn to Great Falls, via the Gold Mine Trail and return via the C&O Towpath and the Berma Road Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot across from the Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Blvd. From I-495 Beltway, go west on Clara Barton Parkway to its end at MacArthur Blvd. Continue west one mile and turn left into the parking area across from the Old Angler's Inn. INFO: Mitch Helbrecht (helbrecht@msn.com) 703/535-3236

9 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

9 (Wednesday)

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

11 (Friday)

HIKE – Cacapon State Park Berkeley Springs, WV

Enjoy Veteran's Day with a 7-mile hike, at an easy pace, with a 1,300 foot elevation gain, to the top of Cacapon Mountain from the Park Lodge. We will stop for the views and enjoy nature as we discover it. Participants should bring water, lunch, and hiking gear appropriate considering the weather. PATC Map L. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 540/678-1043.

11 (Friday)

HIKE – In Between Hikers Arlington, VA

Spend Veteran's Day on the Potomac Heritage Trail, (VA/DC) to Chain Bridge and over to C&O Canal for return trip. About 9 miles. Some rocky sections and minor stream crossings. Lunch stop on the towpath. Meet at 10:00 a.m. on the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot off the northbound George Washington Parkway. Easy walk from Rosslyn Metro Station. Joint hike with Sierra Club. INFO: Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com) and Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

FORECAST

11 (Friday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Water Quality Monitoring
Gore, VA

Spend Veteran's Day monitoring water quality of streams running through PATC property by examining the aquatic invertebrates that reside in the stream. Volunteers should have attended one of the training sessions this fall (Sept. 25 or Oct. 15) to participate. However basic training in collection, sampling, and identification can still be provided to first-time volunteers, with the caveat that they would attend one of the Audubon Naturalist Society's (www.audubonnaturalist.org) training sessions at a later date. The program will be continued next spring. The stream site is adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail near Gore, Va. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

12 (Saturday)

✂ HIKE – Rose River

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Strenuous circuit hike starting at the Rose River Fire Road and proceeding up the Upper Dark Hollow Trail to Doubletop Mountain. Return via Camp Hoover, the original presidential retreat on the Rapidan Fire Road. Approximately 16 miles and 3500 feet elevation gain. Moderate pace. Inexperienced hikers contact leader for requirements. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

12 (Saturday)

MEETING – Northern Shen. Valley Chapter
Woodstock, VA

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter dinner and meeting at Postcards Restaurant, Ramada Inn, 1130 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA, 6:00 p.m. Chapter dinner, business meeting, and presentation by chapter member. Reservations required. INFO: Betsy Fowler (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) 703/556-3655 or 540/933-6136.

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Vining Tract
Stanardsville, VA

Come join us on the Vining Tract for a weekend of cabin construction and trail projects. The logs are in place at the new Butternut cabin, and now it's time for chinking. We also have trails to build and maintain. Community meals. Overnight at Conley. INFO: Hugh Robinson (mes.htr@verizon.net) 703/525-8726.

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Trail Patrol Training Weekend
Waterlick, VA

This weekend event, to be held at PATC's Glass House Cabin, will cover the classes you need to become a Trail Patrol Member. The students will learn about Leave No Trace, The 10 Essentials, Map and Compass, and other things needed to be a successful Trail Patrol member. There will also be three hikes, including a night hike. Pre-registration is required. The cost of the class is \$10 to cover the cost of food. INFO: Saleena DeVore (tptraining@patc.net) 410/456-6861.

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Close out the season with a work trip to repair some "deficiencies" on the AT in the SNP. Weather should be cool (no bugs) and the foliage still showing some color. Community meals on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Overnight at Rindt's house. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

13 (Sunday)

✂ HIKE – North Chapter
Newville, PA

Blue Mountain section: Colonel Denning State Park/PA Rt. 233 to PA Rt. 74 - 10.8 miles - difficult hike. Elevation change of 1000 feet. We will climb out of the valley and past the second shelter to be built on the Tuscarora Trail, the Wagon Wheel shelter. We will have a long hike on the ridge with some views to the west. We will have views of the Cumberland Valley from Flat Rock Vista which is also a good hawk-watching spot but not as good as Waggoner's Gap on Rte 74. INFO: Christopher Firme (bcnfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 (after 6:00 p.m.)

13 (Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – West Chapter

Frederick, MD

Ongoing trail maintenance projects in Gambrill State Park, on the Black Locust Circuit trail and the Catocin (Blue) trail. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center just past the entrance of the High Knob Day Use Area (at top of the mountain). Bring water, lunch or snacks, hat, sunscreen, and boots. Tools will be provided. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.

15 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Winter Hikes (REI)

Fairfax, VA

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

15 (Tuesday)

✂ HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Stony Man to Hawksbill loop of about 14 miles and 2800 ft. climb. View from the two highest peaks in the Shenandoah. Hike AT and scenic upper Whiteoak Canyon Trail and Passamaquoddy Trail. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

16 (Wednesday)

✂ HIKE – Easy Hikers

Washington, DC

We will hike a circuit in Rock Creek Park, about 5 miles walking south to Rolling Meadow Bridge, where we eat lunch. Several up and downs on this hike. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on Beach Drive – 3 parking lots south of Beach Drive and East-West Hwy. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (cactuss3@earthlink.net) 301/949-9729.

16 (Wednesday)

✂ HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.



19 (Saturday)

✂ HIKE – Natural History Geology Hike

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Smithsonian geologist and PATC member Tim Rose leads Bob Pickett and company to the Falls of Big Creek on the west side of the Park. As time allows, we'll bushwhack along other local streams where there are many different rock formations. I would expect we'll hike about seven miles with about 500 foot elevation gain. Come learn about the geology of the region and other natural wonders of the season. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

19 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Stonewall Brigade

Woodstock, VA

The November trip is tentative depending on hunting season and subject to being canceled. Let us know you plan to attend so we know to expect you. The trip is also subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Visit: www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/stonewall/stonewall.html. INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

19 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Water Quality Monitoring
McConnellsburg, PA

Monitor water quality of streams running through PATC property by examining the aquatic invertebrates that reside in the stream. See event on Nov. 11 for more information. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

19 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

20 (Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Everyone goes home happy and a bit tired from South Mountaineers events. We start at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Why not join us? Bring water, lunch, boots, and gloves. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

20 (Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Water Quality Monitoring

Hancock, MD

Monitor water quality of streams running through PATC property by examining the aquatic invertebrates that reside in the stream. See event on Nov. 11 for more information. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

22 (Tuesday)

✂ HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Ascend Jordan River to Mt. Marshall Trail to Jenkins Gap then AT south to Bluff Trail with side trip down Big Devil's Stairs overlook, returning on Jordan River Trail. About 17 miles and 3,000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

23 (Wednesday)

✂ HIKE – Easy Hikers

Gaithersburg, MD

About five fairly easy miles over rolling terrain in Seneca Creek State Park. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit to I-270 N. In about 10 mi., take Exit 10 (for Rt. 124 West and Rt. 117 West). Follow the signs for Rt. 117, which becomes Clopper Rd. (and is still Rt. 117). In 2.1 mi., turn left into the inconspicuous park entrance. In 0.1 mi., take the first right toward the park offices (Visitor Center). In 0.1 mi., park at the end of the road. Hike will be canceled if the Montgomery County public schools are closed due

to inclement weather. Bring lunch and water. No dogs. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

23 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

29 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Climb Buck Hollow to the AT south to Pinnacles, return via upper Hannah Run Trail and Hazel River Trail to White Rocks then bushwhack 1.5 mi. down the old wagon. 14 mi. 3,500 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

29 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Wednesday)

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

7:30 p.m. Well sure; ultralight is easy in the warm seasons. But in the winter you need a stove and extra fuel, plenty of warm clothing, more food, and a heavier tent and sleeping bag. You can't skimp on safety. However, there are plenty of ways to really reduce your load, from better planning and better available weather forecasts, to much lighter gear that still keeps you warm and comfortable. Join AT through-hiker and veteran ultralight hiker and backpacker, Brian Chenoweth for an evening exploring how to make winter adventure safer and more fun by reducing your load. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

30 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers
Great Falls, MD

Four-mile easy circuit hike through woods including old gold mine, Great Falls Tavern, and falls overlook. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at parking lot on MacArthur Blvd. across road from Angler's Inn. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Paul Van Order 703/536-4378.

30 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

December

1 (Thursday)

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

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

3 (Saturday)

CLASS – Couples Ultralight Backpacking (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Yes! You really can enjoy backcountry adventures together safely and comfortably and have more fun! Instructors Alan Dixon and Alison Simon of Backpacking Light Magazine believe most couples can travel the backcountry with 14-16 lb. packs for a 3-day trip and still be warm, comfortable and safe. Their techniques and light-gear discussions are valuable to all backpackers, especially to women, and couples wishing to start, continue or resume backcountry hiking adventures. Registration is necessary. The \$25 fee includes the class and all course materials. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.



3 – 4 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid (WSC)
Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this 18-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate (ctate1@webmentor.com) 703/836-8905.

4 (Sunday)

HIKE – Sunday Hikers
Great Falls, MD

We're going to tackle the infamous Billy Goat Trail on this early-December hike, and add a loop around Great Falls Park to see the gold mine as well. The total distance will be about 7.5 miles, with minimal elevation change. However, the Billy Goat is a tough trail, with plenty of rock scrambling to do. This hike will be cancelled in the event of icy trail conditions. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

4 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

Join us for a fun-filled event involving dirt and teamwork. Newcomers always welcomed. We meet in Frederick County, Md., at 9:00 a.m. Please bring layers if it is chilly. Bring water, lunch, gloves, and boots. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739 0442.

6 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Map and Compass 101 (REI)
Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. This clinic will cover the basics such as understanding map symbols, orienting the map and compass, triangulation, declination adjustment, and reading terrain features. Participants are encouraged to bring their own compasses. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

6 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb Rose River Fire Rd. connecting to scenic Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to AT south to the Lewis Falls. Return via Rapidan Fire Rd. & Dark Hollow Falls Trail – 18 miles 4,300 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

6 (Tuesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Intro to GPS (REI)
Rockville, MD

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

7 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Snowshoeing 101 (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. It's not here yet, but the almanac is calling for a long, cold, snowy, invigorating winter! And the best way to enjoy snow is on snowshoes. REI's experienced mushers will discuss and demonstrate snowshoe design, binding adjustment, footwear, stance, gait, turning, ascending and descending, and the use of poles. Get a leg up on the best winter fun: Snowshoeing! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

7 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

7 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Saturday)

HIKE – Long Distance

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

17-mile circuit hike starting at Pine Hill Gap and ascending Hot Short Mountain. Return via Nicholson Hollow Trail and Robinson Mountain. Last 4 miles on Fire Road through Nethers. Elevation gain 4000 feet. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

10 – 11 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew
Harpers Ferry, WV

If you have been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us and help celebrate the holidays and another great year of trail work. The Crew will set up the Christmas decorations for Highacre on Friday night, do some yard work on Saturday and Sunday, or some trail work nearby, and there will be opportunities to visit historic Harpers Ferry and local hiking trails. Community meals on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Overnight at Highacre House. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

11 (Sunday)

HIKE – In-Between Hikers
Frederick, MD

Join us in Gambrill State Park for a late autumn hike in this scenic section of the Catoctin Mountains located in central Maryland under an hour's drive from Washington. The trails in this park offer beautiful views of the city of Frederick, Middletown Valley, South Mountain, and beyond. This moderately-paced, 8-mile hike will feature several steep climbs on rocky trail mixed with long stretches of easy, level ridge walking. Total ascent will be near 1,600 feet. Hike leaders: Bryon Lawrence and Susan Frey. INFO: Bryon Lawrence (bryonlawrence@hotmail.com) 301/668-6446.

11 (Sunday)

HIKE – North Chapter
New Bloomfield, PA

Blue Mountain section: PA Rte 74 to PA Rte 34/Sterrets Gap. 9.4 miles-moderate hike. Elevation change of 500 feet. We will have some road walking before hiking back towards the ridge. We will be hiking back onto the ridge, which will take us to

FORECAST

Stretts Gap on Rte 34. We will also be hiking through one of the State Game lands SGL 230. No hunting on Sunday. INFO: Christopher Firm (bnc-firm@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

11 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers' final event of 2005; please bring lunch, water, gloves, boots, and layers for the chillier air. Thanks to all who volunteered this year. Enjoy the holiday season and see you again in 2006. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

13 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Intro to Snowshoeing (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. Don't let a little snow keep you inside. Snowshoeing is easy and fun. We'll show you how to select the right shoes for your needs – whether you're training or sightseeing. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

13 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Hike high along the AT from Panorama to MP 49.2 (Fisher Gap). 15.5 miles and 3,500 ft. elevation gain. Several close approaches to Skyline Drive where any dropouts could be accommodated. INFO: Cliff Noyes (hclmnoyes@yahoo.com) 540/373-8267 or Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

13 (Tuesday)

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

14 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Backpacking 202: Winter (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. The Mid-Atlantic region is not Antarctica. With good planning and preparation, proper gear and clothing, and good camping and hiking skills, winter in the backcountry can be very enjoyable. Clear air, solitude, great wildlife viewing conditions, and tracks in the snow are things everyone should experience. Join us for an enjoyable evening preparing to go outdoors for the winter! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

14 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Intro to Snowshoeing (REI) Rockville, MD

7:30 p.m. Don't let a little snow keep you inside. Snowshoeing is easy and fun. We'll show you how to select the right shoes for your needs – whether you're training or sightseeing. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

14 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

14 (Wednesday)

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

17 (Saturday)

HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 17-mile circuit on the Appalachian, Bluff, Jordan River, and Mount Marshall Trails with about a one-mile round trip bushwhack to the falls on the Jordan River. Total elevation gain is 3,000 feet. PATC Map 9. A 12-mile option is possible with a car shuttle. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127

20 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Overall Falls. From Thompson Hollow climb Overall Run, view the falls, continue to Mathew's Arm and Elkwhallow, returning via Beecher Ridge. 16 miles and 3,500 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

21 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information.

27 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Little Devil's Stairs. Ascend the stairs to Keyser Run Rd, to AT south over Hogback for views, then descend Piney Ridge Trail to return on Hull School Trail. About 13 miles and 4,100 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

27 (Tuesday)

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

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers

Washington, DC

A 4.5-mile hike from the Ellipse to Union Station. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Smithsonian Mall Metro. View National Christmas Tree, then walk to base of Lincoln Memorial, down Smithsonian Mall by World War II Memorial, to U.S. Capitol to see Capitol Holiday Tree. End at Union Station, decorated in holiday splendor, and enjoy seasonal model train display. Eat lunch in food court before dispersing. INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See November 2 event for more information. □

The Trailworker's Mantra

*I weed my trail once every year;
The plants grow high, and brush is thick.*

*There really isn't much to fear,
Cut those weeds, and cut 'em quick.*

*The flowers on these plants are nice,
But some are green and flower-free.
The ivy with the leaves of thrice
Hangs low from branches on this tree.*

*Weeds are good, but plants are bad,
I know you'll find this really rich.
My hands and arms are really sad,
With blistered skin and a nasty itch.
—From an AT Overseer (wink, wink)*

Overseer's Hymn

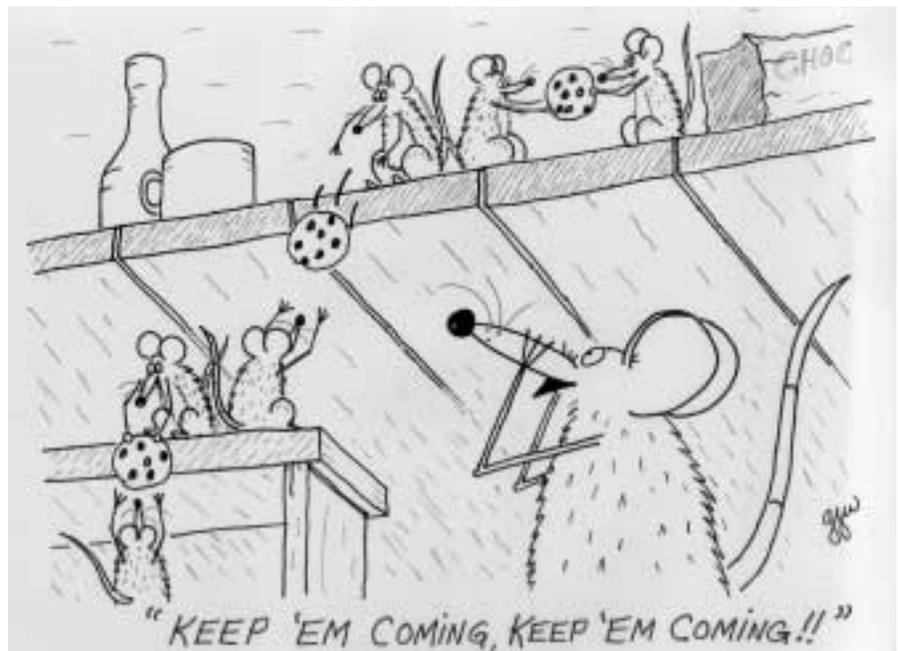
(Or, an on-the-fly ditty)

*When I die, and close my life,
Take me to that trail of mine.
Bring my child and bring my wife,
Cold or hot, I will not mind.*

*No need to spend a lot of time,
No need to hike uphill that far.
It surely would be mighty fine,
Enshrined for good as a waterbar.*

—Andy Hiltz

TAILS FROM THE WOODS by George Walters



Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature

From a naturalist's point of view, November is not a very glamorous month. The days are short and often wet. Nature is basically ready for winter, but winter has not arrived. So, let's try something different.

I've been writing articles for three years now. While some of my articles discuss a number of seasonal activities, most have tended to focus on a particular group of plants or animals. In fact, this was not a subconscious decision. I envision creating my own Web-based collection of articles organized by taxonomic order. A visitor to this Web site will be able to view this "family of life" and read about any area of their interest.

So, what is this family of life? By focusing my articles on the details of any single group, I inadvertently de-emphasize the obligatory relationship between the group and the rest of its environment. It makes it too easy to view any given animal as living its life free of contact with the rest of the natural world. But that ignores the complex web of life that affects all life forms, including man. As John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the universe."

The family of life is the story of how all living creatures have evolved together to create a community that benefits the community as a whole, as well as each individual member within the ecosystem. It is a system based on energy conservation. Every life form has in common the three basic needs to eat, survive, and reproduce. And to those species which most efficiently utilize their energy sources goes the success of their having progeny.

In a mature community, no single species can dominate. The diversity of species competing for limited resources performs the necessary checks and balances to preclude any one species from playing a significant role in the energy and resource utilization available to the community. The growth potential of any given community is determined by its natural resources. These limiting natural resources include nutrients, both organic (plant and animal matter) and inorganic (soils and rocks), and water (presumably air and sunlight are not limiting factors).

Research shows that there are more species of everything in an old-growth forest compared to young forests – more trees, more wildflowers, more birds, more salamanders, more mammals, and more insects, ferns, mosses, lichens, fungi, etc. These complex, intertwined systems are better at recycling nutrients, generating clean water, limiting floods, and fending off environmental stresses.

All told, presently, there are 113 known elements that make up every gram of matter on earth. Of these, only 16 elements are required by all organisms, while most plants require 23 different nutrients to flourish. Through the processes of chemistry plants assimilate nitrogen from soil, and with it create amino acids and proteins to form larger molecules, the basis of all life forms. The earth and everything on it is made of these limited elements and, with most of these elements invested in subterranean rocks and soils or in otherwise unusable forms, our natural ecosystem has evolved elegant methods of making these limited building blocks available through recycling.

Our native forests have evolved a complex equilibrium, or balance, between the plants and animals and the destructive insects, fungi, and

diseases that prey on them. Adequate defense mechanisms have been developed that limit the destructive potential of any one predaceous agent. In this manner, the natural ecosystem remains intact.

The natural systems of nature are being stressed by man's technology and sheer population growth. Human-caused factors, including forest fragmentation, changed demographic structure, altered habitat, pollution, and favoring of certain "domesticated" species of trees have had significant impacts on the natural communities. However, it is the introduction of invasive, exotic species that may have the most profound impacts on our forests. Introduction of exotic diseases, insects, mammalian herbivores, and competing vegetation has had the best-documented effects on genetic diversity (of forest ecosystems), reducing both species diversity and intraspecific diversity. Many of these introductions have been greatly augmented by various intrusions into forest communities, such as forest fragmentation, roads, and timbering.

The appreciation and protection of our natural communities has been the focus of many noted environmentalists of the 20th century. Teddy Roosevelt was the first president to believe that the land, water, minerals, and forests were held in trust by the government. They were not to be sold or given away to the highest bidder. Rather, they were to be used in moderation, and ultimately protected and passed on to future generations. Teddy was largely influenced by his contemporary, John Muir, founder of The Sierra Club in 1892, which was the first major organization in the world dedicated to using and preserving wild nature. Muir was concerned with the protection of nature both for the spiritual advancement of humans and for nature itself.

Benton MacKaye, who gave birth to the concept of the AT in 1921, also championed the protection of wilderness areas. In 1935, he joined Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold and others to found The Wilderness Society. His concept of wilderness protection was described as "geotechnics"; the relationship between humankind and the natural environment. It was his belief that "The Appalachian Trail is not merely a footpath through the wilderness, but a footpath of the wilderness."

Aldo Leopold had his own concept of respecting nature. His was a "land ethic," which he says "simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land." To him, a conservation ethic "changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it."

One of PATC's key benefactors, Darwin Lambert has articulated his thoughts on the relationship of man to nature. His concept is called "earthmanship," which is a way of living life with a minimal impact on nature and a minimal use of natural resources. Darwin's beliefs also suggest a spiritual ethic, where man recognizes both his roots in nature and his need for timely visits to the outdoors for the rejuvenation of one's soul.

Whether one calls it geotechnics, land ethic, or earthmanship, each of these writers is espousing a realization that man must recognize his dependency on nature, for both his physical as well as his spiritual self-preservation. And it is in the wilderness that one can best find fulfillment in the beauty of nature.

See Bob, page 22

TRAILHEAD

The trail maintenance season is rapidly coming to an end as weeds begin to wither away and the summer trail crews have completed their work. The cool, colorful days of fall say “take a hike” and enjoy the fruits of your labor, especially after the hot days this past summer doing trail work.

Toward the end of summer it has become increasingly dry in some sections of PATC land. If it stays this way, fire conditions will be of concern. The Forest Service has already had to put out a fire that burned seven acres on the east side of East Massanutten Mountain, south of Veach Gap. The Massanutten Trail in that area was used as the west fire line.

Buck Hollow Youth Project

On National Public Lands Day, Sept. 24, Overseer Patrick Wilson led a crew of seven teenagers and two adults on an expedition up Buck Hollow to install log waterbars on a steep, eroded section of trail. In exchange for learning how to “dog pile” the night before, Patrick instructed everyone in the safe and effective use of every tool from a pick mattock to a clinometer and reluctantly shared his “nerd sheet” that charts waterbar slope as a function of trail slope to a 10th of a degree. Every single participant showed remarkable aptitude and enthusiasm, and the crew boasted several perfect waterbars at the end of a satisfying day’s work.



Photo provided by Patrick Wilson

Patrick Wilson, Matt Covington, Tabitha Tatum, Bob Agee, Carter Chassey, Liz Chassey, Sarah Cave, Charlotte Cave, Rick Chassey, and Jordan Whiley (not pictured) hoist a locust log that’s about to become a waterbar on Buck Hollow Trail.

Stonewall Brigade Works Big Schloss Cutoff

The Big Schloss Cutoff Trail is a convenient connector trail between Forest Service Rte. 92 (in the valley of Little Stoney Creek) and Mill Mountain Trail on the ridge of Great North Mountain. It intersects Mill Mountain Trail about a mile north of Big Schloss.

A superb crew of nine Stonewall Brigade volunteers arrived promptly at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 17 for the regular third-Saturday-of-the-month trip. The crew had a very enjoyable

day clearing and maintaining the BSCT. The triumph of the day was the thorough defeat of an obstructing blowdown encountered about a half mile into the roughly two-mile trail. Following a careful inspection of the multiple-tree pileup, an order for the cutting was determined, and the crosscut and Corona saws were deployed.

Some 30 minutes of lumberjack work later, the trail was completely cleared, and the debris strong-armed into the surrounding woods. A small celebration ensued, with a couple of great photo ops and a lot of self-congratulation on a job well done, and then the crew continued on to the summit of Great North Mountain, and the intersection with the Mill Mountain trail.

Many thanks to the fine crew of volunteers, Claudia, Dorothy, Jeff, Johanna, Krista, Lee, Roy, and a very special thanks to Catherine, who made the decision to become overseer of BSCT after working on it with the Stonewall Brigade. Welcome to the Great North Mountain Overseer Corps, Catherine!

On the following Sunday, Catherine and crew leader Jim Tomlin returned to the trails to do crosscut sawing on the sadly neglected Long Mountain Trail. Twenty-one blowdowns were dispatched over the course of a long day. Hop Long and Jim returned on the following Friday with a chainsaw to remove the final 12

See Trailhead, page 21



Photo provided by Jim Tomlin

Stonewall Brigade Crew removing blowdowns and vegetation on the Big Schloss Cutoff Train on Great North Mountain.

Trailhead, from page 20

blowdowns on Long Mountain Trail. Hop and Jim's timing was perfect, as they arrived back at their cars just as a torrential, early-afternoon downpour began.

Billy Goat Trail Gets Causeway

Overseer Georeann Smale, assisted by the Cadillac Crew, rebuilt a rock causeway through a drainage area periodically flooded by backwater from the Potomac River. In addition, the crew used rebar to anchor logs to limit erosion and provide better footing on the steep access to the causeway. This popular trail, known for its difficult ups, downs, and rock scrambles, is a distinct change from the nearby C&O Canal Towpath. In fact, it was a real challenge just to carry tools to the work site. Numerous hikers of all ages came through the work site with the "wat ya doin'" comment. It appeared that it was just a bunch of people rolling big rocks in the mud. But, as the day progressed, the causeway began to take shape, providing a means to keep your feet dry except in high water conditions.

News from the DM Meeting

On Sept. 28, the SOT called the district managers and trail crew leaders to PATC Headquarters to start planning for the 2006 trail season. Some of the topics of general interest to the trails community follow.

PATC is providing additional protection for volunteers. If someone is hurt while working

on trails not covered by VIP/VIF or state equivalent programs, a PATC policy is in place that provides \$5,000 of secondary medical coverage.

Changes have been made to the district manager list. Don White is now district manager for SNP South AT. He replaces Dennis DeSilvey who has moved to Maine. Tate Heuer is the new district manager for Massanutten South. Someone is needed to replace Mark Anderson as district manager for D.C. trails.

There will be a lot of emphasis next year on relocations in the Tuscarora Northern and Central Districts. One difficult relocation at the northern end of Sleepy Creek must be completed by June 30. Keep an eye out for work trip announcements in the Forecast.

Watch for opportunities to sign up to work on the seasonal Massarock and Shendoah Park trail crews. The SOT promises more advertisements for next year.

An updated "Trail Leadership Manual" was distributed. The "Overseer Manual" is being updated. Kerry Snow is working to get these documents available online on the PATC Web site.

Frank Haas has created a backpack frame to carry a chainsaw and first aid kit. It weighs less than 25 pounds, not including fuel. He

has promised not to patent his idea and is willing to share it with anyone who would like to build his own.

In Defense of Man's Best Friend

Pete Gatje has discovered a good reason to bring a dog on the trail. It happened when they stopped for lunch at the intersection of the Gap Run and Rocky Mount Trails in late September. His dog found a shady spot to rest while three of them had a lunch break. Suddenly, the dog bolted with bees chasing her trying to work through her fur and bite her. Thanks to her warning, they all got out of there in a hurry. No one got stung by the bees including the dog. Apparently, a bear had destroyed their nest recently and they were in a foul mood. If they had not been alerted by the dog, they would have surely been stung numerous times.

Section of Bog Walk Completed

A combination of hearty souls joined DM Chris Brunton on an impromptu work trip in September to complete a section of the bog walk started in August on the AT north of Rod Hollow Shelter. While some volunteers dug in the locust sills and installed the footboards, others accomplished the arduous task of carrying heavy 10 to 12 ft. oak planks a half mile to the work site. It wasn't much of a bog due to dry weather this summer but great for building a bog walk. The payoff will be in the spring, and other wet periods, when the boggy area becomes a giant mud flat. The trail had become 10 to 15 ft. wide in spots as hikers attempted to get around the mud and exposed roots. It will be an interesting study to see how fast the area will recover.

Last of the Summer Crews

Around the end of August, most overseers are thinking about finishing up the weeding seasons on their trail sections. But six forgot about weeding for a week and took up McLeods, picks, and rock bars to do some treadwork as the last of the Shenandoah Summer Crews this year. Susan Schoen, Madison Brown, Steve Osbrach, Dale Welter, Ben Fitzgerald, and Dick Dugan formed a hard-working but fun-loving crew under the always expert guidance of our north district NPS trail crew leader, Don Harvey. The prospect of some dirty rock work on lower Jeremys Run Trail was so enticing that they even lured Dave Nebhut, north district overseer and a veteran of many crew weeks, out to the trail on his birthday. Rumor has it that they worked him so hard, he lost his boots and



Photo by Jon Rindt

Cadillac Crew pauses for break after helping Georeann Smale (lower right) rebuild a rock causeway on the popular Billy Goat Trail near Great Falls.

See Trailhead, page 22

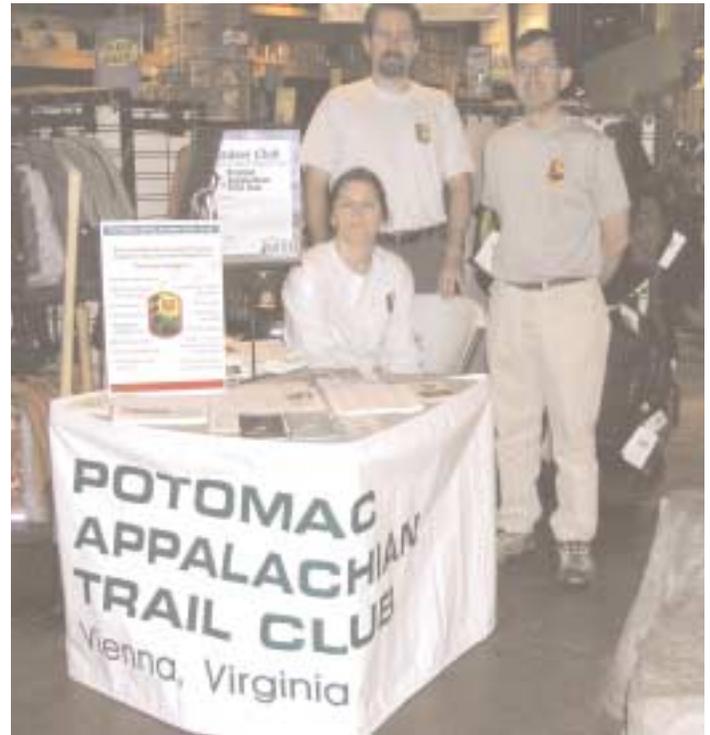
PATC Shows Itself at the Outdoor Club Extravaganza

PATC joined 12 other organizations in participating in the Outdoor Club Extravaganza held at Hudson Trail Outfitters' Pentagon Row location on Sept. 24. HTO staff often get inquiries from their customers for recommendations on ways to get involved with the great outdoors, so Stacey Cohan, HTO's service operations manager, put the event together to allow outdoor clubs to reach potential members directly to attract more people to volunteer for club duties, rather than concentrating only on increasing membership.

PATC members James Thompson, Eliza Engle, and Murry Moskowitz spent several hours at their table (located in a prime location at the entry to the store's sales floor), passing out information brochures and outlining the many volunteer opportunities the club offers.

The event also gave the PATC folks a chance to talk with members of the store's knowledgeable staff, and to share stories and contacts with representatives from the other groups invited to participate. HTO offered a 20 percent discount to members of the participating clubs on purchases made in the store that day. PATC would like to extend special thanks to Stacey Cohan and the rest of the good folks at Hudson Trail Outfitters for inviting us to participate in this terrific opportunity. We hope to partner up with HTO for future events, both in their stores as well as out in the field. □

—James R. Thompson



James, Eliza, and Murry tell visitors about PATC at HTO's Outdoor Club Extravaganza.

Trailhead, from page 21

still hasn't found them! What a great way to spend your birthday! The crew worked three of the days on lower Jeremys Run where there is always erosion control work to be done, especially during and after years of large storms. They cleared blowdowns, improved the stream crossings, constructed rock steps and checkdams, built and cleaned waterbars, installed rock cribbing, constructed several lateral drains, and regraded many yards of tread. While they were able to make substantial improvements to the trail, their sense of accomplishment had to be tempered by the knowledge that there will always be future projects needing more work on a trail that follows a major stream down a mountain.

With the threat of the remnants of Hurricane Katrina making a visit to the park, the crew stayed nearer the van and Skyline Drive one day and were able to rebuild checkdams and waterbars on the AT near Gravel Springs. And on Friday, tired but undaunted, they did the same type of work on the Meadow Spring Trail.

Once again, the restaurants of Luray and Sperryville received a large cash infusion from NPS/PATC to feed a hungry bunch of trail workers. Every night, although weary from the day's work, the crew managed to find the energy to clean their plates, order dessert, and give the waitresses a hard time! The crew this year was a wonderful group of people who worked well together and had a lot of fun, showing once again that trail work and a good time go together!

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

Bob, from page 19

PATC is aggressively pursuing the protection of its resources. Through the Land Management Plans, PATC is identifying the natural resources that exist on the properties it owns or maintains. Monitoring of rare and endangered species along the AT corridor and water-quality monitoring on PATC-owned lands are but two of the relatively new programs initiated for the identification and protection of our natural resources. PATC also actively promotes Leave No Trace. These practices and principles are based on an abiding respect for nature. The basic tenets are found in another Aldo Leopold quotation, located on the first page of the *Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics*, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Even the recent name change in our Appalachian Trail Conservancy speaks to the new emphasis in the 21st century. A conservancy protects natural resources. □

Next month: Hiking trails, wilderness, and new directions for PATC.

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PATC Tract Managers Needed

Volunteers needed to manage PATC owned Lands. Several locations available. Properties are up and down the AT in Virginia and Maryland and along the Tuscarora In Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. If interested please contact Chris Mangold at 301/898-7979 or e-mail at csm5749@yahoo.com.

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

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

Computer Help Wanted

Don't want to get your hands dirty? If not there's still a way to help your club. If you're computer savvy, think about assisting PATC in planning and maintaining its information technology system. We've bought new computers and need members' expertise in bringing the club into the 21st century. If you have any of the following skills and are interested and available, please contact Vice President for Operations Bruce Glendening at info@patc.net for further information. We are in search of professional programmers with training and skills in the following:

*Microsoft Access Exchange 2003 HTML Small Business Server 2003
Webmaster MS-SQL Server ASP Networking in general*

TRAIL OVERSEER DISCOUNTS

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

ARCHIVE HELP WANTED: The Archivist needs help in transferring files from file cabinets to archive boxes, and moving the boxes onto shelves in the Archives Room. Please call or write Carol Niedzialek, 301/949-9729, cactuss3@earthlink.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at events to help at the PATC booth. Would you like to share your joy of hiking and help spread the word about PATC and its mission to preserve hiking trails? PATC will greatly appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about our organization. Through you, we will be able to extend our outreach and membership efforts. Events we currently need help at are listed in the *PA* under Visit PATC at an Event Near You! If you are interested in volunteering for one of these events, future events, or speaking engagements, contact Jane Thompson, supervisor of information, education, and activities, jayteehike@yahoo.com or 301/349-2496. PATC needs you to talk trails!

PATC Swap Meet

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

HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

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

Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

CORRIDOR MONITOR OPENINGS

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

Wilson Gap -VA - PATC Map 7
Ashby Gap South -VA - PATC Map 8

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SHELTER CREW IN MD

Dicks Dome Shelter - Northern VA - Map 8
Henry Horn, 301/498-8254
ATHike@aol.com

Trails open - Contact the District Manager
for the section that interests you.

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

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

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

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - Co-overseer
Hemlock Road to Mountain Rd (4.9 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - Co-overseer

PA 233 to Bill Miller Trail (3.9 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - Co-overseer

Bill Miller Trail to Cowpens Rd (4.7 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - Co-overseer

Cowans Gap State Park to US 30 (6.7 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - Co-overseer

US 30 to PA Rte. 16 (1.9 miles)

HARPERS FERRY / ASHBY GAP AT & BB - MAP 7 & 8

Chris Brunton, 703/924-0406

trailbossbtc@msn.com

Appalachian Trail

Loudoun Heights Trail to Powerline
(2.3 miles)

ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BLUE-BLAZED

[RTE. 50 TO SNP] - MAP 8, 9

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743

laparriott@hotmail.com

Appalachian Trail

VA 55 to VA 638 (2.1 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Tom Floyd Wayside to SNP boundary

(1.1 miles)

Barking Dog Trail

AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte. 604

(0.34 miles)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT APPALACHIAN TRAIL

- MAP 9

Dick Dugan, 304/856-3511

rdugan@frontiernet.net

Appalachian Trail

SNP boundary to Compton Gap (2.0 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Beahms Gap to Pass Mountain Hut Trail

(1.9 miles)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT BLUE-BLAZED

- MAP 9

Peter Harris, 540/349-2595

peter.harris@lmco.com

Thornton River Trail (lower)

Skyline Drive to Hull School Trail

(2.9 miles)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END]

- MAP 10

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

danjan3@cox.net

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

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [SOUTH END]

- MAP 10

Steve Paull, stevepaull@yahoo.com

Lower Hawksbill Trail

Hawksbill Mt. To Hawksbill Gap (0.9 miles)

Salamander Trail

Hawksbill Summit to AT (0.7 miles)

Entry Run Trail (lower)

John's Rest Access Road to Park Boundary

(1.7 miles)

Entry Run Trail (Upper)

Park Boundary to Pocosin Fire Road

(0.8 miles)

TUSCARORA CENTRAL - MAP L

Walt Smith, 540/678-0423

wsmith@visuallink.com

Tuscarora Trail

Yellow Spring Road to Capon Springs Road

Tuscarora Trail

Southern Rockfield to Pinnacle Powerline

(2.3 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH - MAP H

Tate Heuer, 202/255-6055

tate@wth2.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR

65) (3.3 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) to Fridley

Gap (2.3 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Fridley Gap to Boone Run Trail (3.1 miles)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN - MAP F

Hop Long, 301/942-6177

theFSLongs@comcast.net

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

BULL RUN OCCOQUAN TRAIL

Dave Fellers, 703/560-2171

Fellers_2000@excite.com

Bull Run-Occoquan Trail

Soccer Fields to Bull Run Marina (2.0 miles)



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Telephone: 703/242-0315
Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

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