



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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A Long Walk Home – Barefoot Hiker Kicks Up Some Dust on the AT

Ask him his call sign, and he'll say "Tyvek." That's because much of his hiking gear is made from strips of the home insulating product that carries the Tyvek name.

But when you look at his feet, you'll see he is not wearing hiking boots. In fact, he's barefooted – and has been for the past 33 years. Ask him his story, and there's a whole lot more to be told than meets the eye.

Ron Zaleski, 55, a Marine veteran who served during the Vietnam era, decided some three decades ago that he would go barefooted as a silent memorial to those killed during the war.

He has been hiking the AT since May to draw attention to his effort to bring more awareness to the ongoing problem of soldiers who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and to raise money for counseling programs to help veterans returning from war. He is lobbying for a bill that would make post-war counsel-

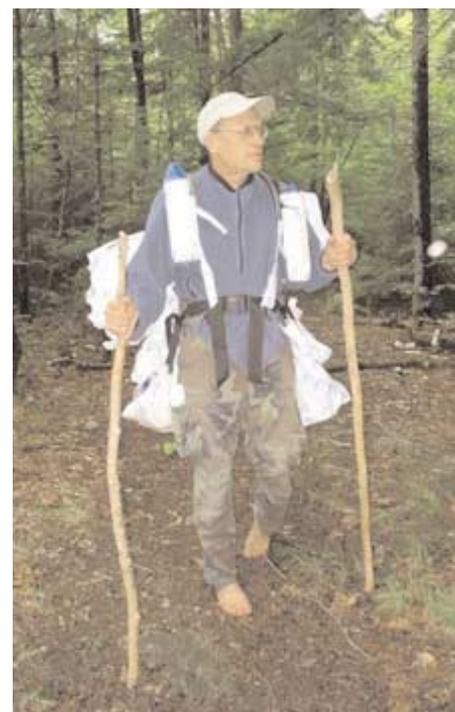
ing mandatory. In the course of his trek that started in Maine, Zaleski has gotten the attention of Navy veteran Jim McDermott, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington.

On the weekend of Sept. 23, Zaleski was at PATC's Bears Den Trail Center, which he found "warm and cozy," and he was happy to be able to use the phone there.

Zaleski has enjoyed his hike on the AT, although he said the trail was a little overgrown in Maine, and he found the blazes around Harper's Ferry a bit confusing.

He told the Bears Den staff that the funniest thing to happen to him on the hike occurred in Unionville, N.J., where he was stopped by a policeman and escorted to a motel; he was mistaken for a homeless person.

See Barefoot, page 4



"Tyvek" on his barefoot trek on the AT.



Annual Meeting/Dinner – You'll Want to Be There Tuesday, Nov. 14

Featured this year is Robert Kapsch, who will be speaking on the engineering achievements of the C&O Canal. We'll share dinner and elect club officers for the next two-year term. See page 17 for registration information and more details about this wonderful evening at the beautiful Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens. □

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Council Fire

PATC's regularly scheduled Council meeting was called to order Sept. 16, 2006, at the Blackburn Trail Center by President Tom Johnson. Administrator Wilson Riley announced that North Chapter (Pete Brown) had received a donation of \$500 from the Bank of Chambersburg, Pa., specifically for trail maintenance by North Chapter in gratitude for their maintenance of the AT, used by the Wellness Club of the bank.

Trails, Lands, Facilities

Vice President for Operations Bruce Glendening reported that the IT Committee is actively seeking a contractor to perform network administration. The expected cost would be around \$75/hour with an anticipated need of four to six hours/month. The redesign of the PATC Web page (front end) is being delayed because the PATC member who was doing this has accepted a position in Puerto Rico. This underscores the weakness in trying to rely on volunteer labor for this vital function. If PATC could integrate all parts of the IT system, it would save significant staff time.

The state of West Virginia had provided a recreational grant of \$14,200 to construct a bridge over Meadow Branch on the Tuscarora Trail. Walt Smith, Phil Paschal, and Susan Nelson worked with Jason Rainville and others to get this grant. The bridge is about 40 feet long, and PATC will need to build the bridge abutments.

Prince William Forest Park: Nine people have volunteered to be overseers. Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton believes this will be a significant development for PATC in that part of its coverage area. The park wants to have a signing event Nov. 19. Many of these people have not been active before. The park has about 37 miles of trail, with 15 on fire roads needing only some clipping and blazing.

Supervisor of Land Jim Peterson announced that all Loudoun County paperwork (certifications, easements, notifications) has been completed on the Blackburn lands tax credits. The appraiser advances to next stage with the Commonwealth of Virginia. There are three other properties PATC wants to pursue tax credits on: the Entry Run property, the Vining tract, and Great North Mountain. These credits can represent significant revenue for PATC.

Supervisor of Facilities Mel Merritt reported that there had been serious vandalism at David Lesser Shelter: windows broken out, sign-in box trashed, pickets on the railing knocked out, and they tried to set fire to the shelter. Local law enforcement has been notified.

Council approved a motion for the Vos tract shelter to be named the Dugan Hollow Shelter. This follows the PATC practice of naming shelters for geographic features on the PATC or county maps. Shelter Chair Henry Horn is planning a dedication of Dugan.

Council approved a motion to raise the dues for contributing couples to \$55 and sustaining couples to \$80. Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities Jane Thompson was planning to have displays on Sept. 30, Virginia Today being held at the McLean Community Center; 7 October "In the Streets," Frederick, MD; 7(?) October Mountain Festival, Elkins, WV; October 14/15; October 21/22 Balloon Festival, Millwood, VA. Ann Regan plans to have the Family Weekend at Bears Den. Jane received an e-mail from a climber who frequents Crescent Rocks near Rte. 7 and who has said he and his friends are volunteering to maintain the trail in that area; they would like some assistance in doing an initial clean up.

Chris Brunton reported that Harpers Ferry Historical Park asked for assistance in replacing protruding planking nails with stainless steel screws at the AT foot bridge attached to the railroad tracks over the Potomac; the Park is asking if PATC can provide the labor under the terms of an MOU it has with PATC. Look for an article about this work trip in next month's issue. There is a piece of property near Blackburn that is for sale. Hiking - Karen Brown reported that Dave Appel's Kings Canyon (CA) excursion was successful - a PA article should be forthcoming. See an article on Dave on page 4 of this issue. □

—Alan Day, Secretary

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 – Future Draft Picks

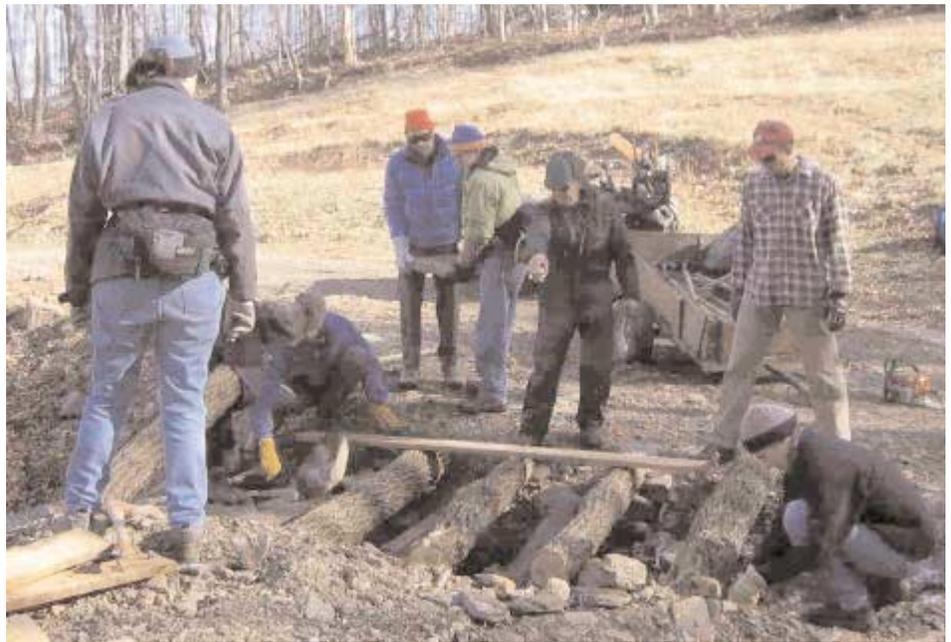
The next generation of PATC leaders is out there somewhere. It is our job to find them.

As for myself, I live by a few rules that help me find the Future Draft Picks, those people who will lead the club in coming decades.

Rule number one: Always keep your eyes open. The subject of recruitment should never be far from your mind. As you whale away at that brush, or dig out the biggest rock in the trail for a waterbar, watch your fellow crew members. Which ones seem to like this kind of thing? (I am not sure why anyone would enjoy trying to lift a rock the size of a small SUV, but I have noted that not everyone thinks as I do.) Most PATC volunteers start small. They become leaders only gradually. Keep a watchful eye out for prospects.

Rule number two: Do your homework. Talk to your prospect. Find out more about him (or her). Where does he or she live? Does he have a day job? What does he do? Does there seem to be time in his life for additional PATC responsibilities? Avoid the Cold Pitch – know who you are dealing with before you broach the subject of working in PATC.

Rule number three: Make sure the time is right. He might be a good prospect, but he might also have five kids and major responsibilities at home. If he has to work 12-hour days, the idea of going to meetings in the evening might not appeal to him. Your prospect and PATC might be a good match a



Any Future Draft Picks here?

few years down the road, but not right now. If the timing isn't right, stow this person's name away in your head and wait for the right time.

Rule number four: Bring him along slowly. "Why don't you run for vice president?" might be a little overwhelming. There is a hierarchy of tasks, and it is generally better to work into it, learn small jobs, and gradually take on more responsibility. Watch how he responds to the smaller jobs. If things go well, he might be ready for the next rung on the ladder.

Rule number five: Try to match the person to the right job, and be creative about the match.

The person on the other end of that rock might be a computer programmer or a lawyer, or he might work in marketing or publishing, or he might be a carpenter or a plumber. PATC has 6,500 members and needs volunteer help in just about every area of endeavor of a town that size.

Rule number six: Watch for the unusual. You might be surprised at what some people like to do. Our naturalist has discovered people who like to do water-quality monitoring or enjoy inventorying rare and endangered species. Our project to rebuild the old Rocky Run Shelter to the original CCC design has uncovered people who always wanted to do historic restoration and find that this is their opportunity.

Rule number seven: Be a talent spotter. It isn't enough to just recruit a warm body. Watch for people who have capabilities that the club needs. Don't be afraid to be selective.

Rule number eight (and this is the key rule): Never leave a volunteer waiting. If a person volunteers to work for PATC, take them up on it immediately. If they contact you by e-mail, get an answer back to them that same day if possible. If they show up for a meeting, don't let them out of the room without a job. Nothing irritates me more than losing a volunteer because no one ever got back to them once they volunteered.



Or here?

See Tom's, page 4

Serious Accident Sidelines Dave Appel

We have had some tragic news at Bears Den. Our wonderful senior volunteer and maintenance man extraordinaire, Dave Appel, had an accident on Wednesday, Sept. 20 while felling a tree for a friend. The tree shattered and slammed him onto some rocks. This broke his left arm, crushed his spleen and suffered massive internal bleeding. Thankfully, he was airlifted by helicopter from Mt. Weather to the trauma center at Inova Fairfax Hospital where he has received world-class care. He has gone through many procedures and surgeries. Dave is making improvements daily, but has a long, long road ahead. He is still in critical condition. If you would like information on Dave, please contact Vern Conaway (vernmarysue@hotmail.com or 571/215-9238).

For those of you who don't know Dave, he has been associated with Bears Den and Blackburn

trail centers for nearly 10 years. He helped with the renovation at Blackburn and was single-handedly responsible for the rehabilitation of the cottage on the Bears Den property. He coordinates volunteer activities at Bears Den, providing meaningful work for Boy Scouts and honor student outings among others.

Please join us in praying for Dave and his family as they work through this difficult time. □

—Sincerely, Friends of Bears Den

Editor's note: A recent e-mail (dated Oct. 3) about Dave's condition was very heartening: He has been moved to the Intermediate Care Unit. It was expected that he would need to be in the intensive care for at least a month, but count on Dave to beat that deadline. He was smiling and wanting to go for a walk and EAT! He has truly come a long way, but still needs our prayers.



Dave and wife Julia at the Bears Den Store.

Tom's, from page 3

All of the above apply equally to men and women. Club membership is nearly equally divided, and about half of all PATC hikers are women, but we have a dearth of women in leadership positions. I myself was recruited by a woman (Sandi Marra), who later became president.

We now have two women on the Executive Committee (out of 10 officers) – that is not enough, given their active involvement in the club.

PATC has a proud tradition of leadership going back to 1927. Earlier club leaders might not have thought about the problem of recruitment quite this way, but they were successful in getting talented replacements, decade after decade. It is a tradition to build on. □

—Tom Johnson

Barefoot, from page 1

Zaleski said his most memorable experience was when two Marine thru-hikers found him and talked with him about their experiences in the military.

On Sept. 27 Zaleski detoured from the AT to Washington, D.C., where he participated – barefoot, of course – in an informal congressional hearing on the matter with Rep. McDermott, Rep. Michael Michaud of Maine, and former Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia.

Afterwards, Zaleski went back on the trail, and he is determined to go all the way to Georgia and the terminus at Springer Mountain. Godspeed, Marine. Ooh-rah! □

—Tom Phillips



Gift a PATC Membership For the Holidays

Why not include your friends and family in contributing to our cause? For only \$30, you can give a gift membership for a single, \$35 for a family, and we will send the new member the December PA, along with a year's worth of newsletters, a gift card, and a lacquered PATC pin. Combined, these gifts have a total value of over \$35. You will not be charged the \$5 application fee, and with the increase in dues scheduled for 2007, you will be getting a bargain too.

Your gift will last a whole year and help us spread our message. To order call 703/242-0693, or go online to www.patc.net/membership. Happy Holidays! □

Ridgerunners Needed in 2007

PATC, in conjunction with ATC, wants to hire five Ridgerunners starting in April or May of 2007. If you like to backpack, are experienced hiking on trails, are good at interacting with people, and would like to get paid for it, then please contact us. We provide additional training, including wilderness first aid and Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics.

Starting in spring 2007, the PATC Ridgerunners will hike and backpack on their sections of the AT from SNP to Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania, staying near shelters and other facilities. Ridgerunners work each summer with the public, trail community, and officials along the AT to enhance the public's enjoyment of the trail and to help protect it. Their duties include:

- ❑ Providing general support to hikers and campers, including directions and other information;
- ❑ Educating hikers on the importance of minimizing their impact on the trails and surrounding resources;
- ❑ Inspecting the AT and trail-related facilities and reporting on their condition to PATC and others; and
- ❑ Performing light maintenance on the trail.

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

If you are interested in applying for a Ridgerunner job, please contact Chris Firme (TPRidgerunners@patc.net) 717/794-2855. The ATC application process for these positions closes in January 2007, so don't delay in contacting Chris about these positions. ❑



Before our work, about midway, the trail had collapsed into the river. Pictured is a 10-20' steep slide down to the river where the trail used to be.

“Social Trail” Gets a Treadlift

The Rosser-Lamb to John's Rest “social trail” that runs along Entry Run used to be the old mule-mail road. This trail was essentially impassible until our mid-September work trip.

We first cleared all the wasps, ticks, bears, snakes, and overgrowth and then placed several logs under and along the old trail bed. Then we hauled rocks to fill the large gaps. Finally, we cut down new tread and leveled the path. Not bad for three kids and an old man. ❑

—Chris Jones, Overseer, Entry Run
(upper and lower)



After photo shows three proud members of the Jones Mountain Crew: Ryan Jones, Will Lorenc, and Erin Jones.



Ryan and Chris Jones on the Upper Entry Run after building a step-over. Tough work with a cross cut and a maddock.



Hiker's Notebook

Common Name: Turkey Vulture, Turkey Buzzard, Carrion Crow, John Crow – Named for the domestic American turkey due to the naked red coloration of the featherless heads of both birds.

Scientific Name: *Cathartes aura* – The generic name is from the Greek *katharsis* meaning purification, purportedly in reference to its consumption of carrion that purifies the land of decaying flesh. The species name is probably from the Latin word for breeze and refers to the soaring of the bird in updrafts.

The turkey vultures use sight significantly augmented by an acute sense of smell to locate the decaying flesh of a carcass. They are attracted by the smell of mercaptan, a gas emitted during decomposition. The turkey vulture can detect concentrations in the range of parts per trillion and can discern the direction of their origin.

Turkey vultures have weaker beaks and talons than other raptors and are not well adapted to killing their prey. Although they have been known to eat young or weakened mammals and birds and even vegetative matter if carrion is scarce, this is quite rare. They will not approach a moving animal. They are surprisingly selective in their choice of meat. They will not eat carrion in advanced stages of putrefaction. However, they must wait for several days after a carcass starts to decay in order for it to soften enough for their beaks to be able to penetrate the hide. As with most scavengers, they prefer the flesh of the herbivore, as it is much tastier than that of the carnivore.

The digestive system of the turkey vulture has become adapted to the consumption of carrion that is infested with a profusion of bacteria and viruses. Their stomachs contain digestive acids capable of killing the microorganisms that would almost certainly sicken other animals.

The characteristic of circling vultures is not necessarily an indication of a proximate dead animal. Vultures circle in the use of updrafts to gain altitude while in search of food. The circling of vultures appears to some to be like the steam rising from boiling water in a kettle. A group of vultures is known as a kettle for this reason. ❑

—William Needham

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

Emerald Ash Borer is a New Threat

The emerald ash borer (EAB), an imported pest from Asia, has been found again in Prince Georges County. The small metallic green beetle, which attacks all species of ash (genus *Fraxinus*), was first identified in southern Michigan in 2002 and has spread into Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. In Michigan it has already killed over 2,000,000 ash trees.



In 2003, nursery stock infested with the larval stage was illegally shipped to a nursery near Clinton, Md. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) worked to eradicate the infestation by removing and destroying over 1,000 ash trees from a one-half-mile area around the nursery. In August of this year two trees were found with larvae in them, one a planted trap tree, the other a native tree outside the original eradication area.

In response to the new detection, MDA & USDA have implemented a new quarantine area in Prince Georges Co. The quarantine prohibits the moving of any hardwood firewood from the county, also no ash material, including nursery stock, cut logs, or lumber over one inch may be moved from the county. See the complete list of quarantine materials and a map of the area at the MDA Web site: www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/.

At this time MDA is conducting delineation surveys to locate all the ash trees within a two-mile radius of the two infested trees and assessing trees for the presence of any EAB life stages. It is anticipated that all ash trees within one and one-half miles will be cut and destroyed over the next few months.

I would hope that any club members from PG County will abide by the quarantine and not move firewood out of the county to one of our cabin areas. Again this is a very serious pest. □

—Tom Lupp, Chair, AT Corridor Mngt. Comm.

TAILS FROM THE WOODS by George Walters

LOUIE TAKES MARTIAL ARTS LESSONS



Ski Touring Section to Hold Fair

PATC's Ski Touring Section, the largest Nordic ski club in the entire Delmarva area dedicated solely to cross-country skiing, will hold its annual Ski Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4, noon to 4:30, at PATC Headquarters at 118 Park Street, Vienna, Va. Featuring more than two dozen public trips scheduled over the upcoming winter ski season, as well as work trips to help prepare much-used ski trails for the season, the Ski Fair is the premier event kicking off the cross-country ski season. Features include:

- *The PATC-STS Excursions to Yellowstone, New York's Tug Hill, Vermont's Stowe area, and eastern Canada.*
- *Where and when to ski on weekends in West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.*
- *Learn how to start XC skiing - new ski gear, ski safety, and ski care.*
- *Presentations on past trips, such as Le Haute Trace des Escartons in France, Bryce Canyon, Utah, and British Columbia's Mistaya Lodge, and interesting topics, including speakers from local outdoor clothing and fitness organizations.*



- *A great opportunity to meet STS trip leaders and members so you can learn about and sign up for trips on the spot.*
- *New and used ski gear for sale or swap by members and vendors.*

For more information on the 2006 PATC STS Ski Fair, contact Trip Coordinator Al Larsen (703/807-1639) or Vice-Chair Steve Bergstrom (301/564-9696). □

—Ralph Heimlich

Trail Patrol Proudly Presents Trail Patrol Training Weekend

Nov. 11, 2006, Glass House

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 things that you need to know to be part of the Trail Patrol.

There will also be three hikes (including a night hike!).

The class will be held at the Glass House in George Washington National Forest. Students are welcome to spend the night the night before and after. The cost is \$10 per person to cover the cost of food. Pre-Registration is required.

For more information or to sign up, Contact Saleena DeVore at tptraining@patc.net or 410/456-6861 □

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Audubon, Part I

John James Audubon is widely known for his historic work, "Birds of America." However, subsequent to this work, Audubon set out to conduct the same definitive work on all of the mammals of North America.

This work, ostentatiously entitled "The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America," was conducted in the last years of Audubon's life, from 1842 through 1846. His compatriot in this collaboration was the Rev. John Bachman, a figure also known well to today's birders. (The word "viviparous," meaning giving birth to live young, not eggs, was eventually dropped from the title by his son, John Woodhouse Audubon.)

In 1831, Audubon met Rev. Bachman, a pastor of the Lutheran Church in Charleston, S. C. A thorough scholar, Bachman was intellectually and emotionally involved with the study of natural history. Bachman was an amateur in natural history but was accepted as a reputable colleague by naturalists in both America and England. This is the same Bachman for whom a number of bird species have been named.

Audubon set out on a steamboat trip up the Missouri River in 1843. The purpose of the trip was to gather material for the "Quadrupeds" (four-legged) work. Audubon, now 58 years old, was quite physically challenged by this trip, which would be his last field trip. Although the expedition fell disappointingly short of scientific data, Audubon finally was able to visit the American West.

Audubon and Bachman described what to them were 56 species new to science. Truly, Bachman had been working with mammals before Audubon started his efforts, and it is Bachman who is properly credited with a majority of the new species. Over time, many of those species have been reduced in status to subspecies. However, the naturalists are still credited with the first descriptions of five species (armadillo, red wolf, Eastern small-footed myotis, hairy-tailed mole, and the harvest mouse).

By 1846 Audubon's eyesight had deteriorated to the point that about half of the illustrations for the "Quadrupeds" were actually done by his son, J. W. Audubon. Instead of the watercolors used in "Birds of America," he used techniques of watercolor combined with pastels, pencil, and oils in order to obtain the subtle colors and textures of the animals.

Originally published in three 28" x 22" imperial size volumes, the complete set cost \$300 when released in 1846. Three years after Audubon's death in 1851, a quarto edition came out in 1854 (measuring 7" x 10.5") under J. W. Audubon and Bachman and published by Audubon's other son, Victor Gifford Audubon.

A reading of this publication today is noteworthy, not so much for its scientific content, but rather for a revealing look at the frontier lifestyle Audubon experienced during his adventures in pursuit of these mammals (certainly not unlike his birding expeditions). His are stories that reflect the state of the wilderness west of St. Louis during his time, and the rigorous onslaught of nature that so dominated both the lifestyles and ideologies of the mid-19th century American. To read the anecdotal stories of his contemporaries as they related their experiences to Audubon is to gauge a frontier society that lived by its hunting abilities and whose next meal was determined by what could be killed.

These, and many other ingredients, flavor Audubon's work. Allow me to provide some excerpts from his entries that exhibit the range of content in this surprisingly engaging book.

Wood-Chuck, Maryland Marmot, Groundhog

Regarding a house-captive groundhog, as related by Daniel Wadsworth:

"During several nights it attempted to escape by gnawing the door- and window-sills; gradually it became more quiet and suffered itself to be approached by the inmates of the kitchen, these being the cook, a fine dog, and a cat, so that ere many months had elapsed, it would lie on the floor near the fire, in company with the dog, and would take food from the hand of the cook. I now began to take a particular interest in its welfare and had a large box made for its use, and filled with hay, to which it became habituated, and always retired when inclined to repose. Winter coming on, the box was placed in a warm corner, and the Wood-Chuck went into it, arranged its bed with care, and became torpid. Some six weeks having passed without its appearing, or having received any food, I had it taken out of the box and brought it into the parlour – it was inanimate. I laid it close to the fire, and having ordered my dog to lie down by it, placed the Wood-Chuck in the dog's lap. In about half an hour, my pet slowly unrolled

itself, raised its nose from the carpet, looked around for a few minutes, and then slowly crawled away from the dog, moving about the room as if in search of its own bed. I took it up, and had it carried down stairs and placed again in its box, where it went to sleep, as soundly as ever, until spring made its appearance. The succeeding winter this animal evinced the same dispositions and never appeared to suffer by its long sleep. An accident deprived me of my pet, for having been trodden on, it gradually became poor, refused food, and finally died extremely emaciated."

Gray Fox

Regarding a fox particularly adept at losing the hounds at the top of a specific hill, the eminent lawyer Benjamin Yancey concealed himself near the declivity in order to discover his mode of baffling the dogs:

"The animal was accordingly put up and chased, and at first led the hounds through many bayous and ponds in the woods, but at length came running over the brow of the hill along the path, stopped suddenly and spread himself out flat and motionless on the ground; the hounds came down the hill in pursuit at a dashing pace, and the whole pack passed and did not stop until they were at the bottom of the hill. As soon as the immediate danger was over, the Fox casting a furtive glance around him, started up, and ran off at his greatest speed on his back track."

(In Audubon's account on red fox, a similar anecdotal story is presented with the red fox hiding over a bluff under some concealing branches until the hounds had passed, thus affording the red fox the opportunity to escape along its former path.)

Gray Rabbit

Known to us today as the Eastern cottontail, the following tells of how Audubon caught his samples:

"Whilst residing in the State of New York many years ago, we were desirous of preserving a number of rabbits during the winter from the excessive cold and from the hands of the hunters, who killed so many that we feared the race would be nearly extirpated in our neighbourhood, our desiring being to set them at liberty in the spring. At this period we had in confinement several weasels of two species existing in that part of the country

See Appalachian Nature, page 18

North District Hosts 19th Annual Trail Maintenance Workshop

We know there are different types of people in this world. When given a new gadget, some immediately start playing with it, while others reach for the instruction manual. Fortunately, PATC caters to both types. Anyone ready to take the plunge as an overseer can show up at work events, get some tips, talk to a district manager, and then head out on the trail. For those who like a more structured approach, or want to work with others at a comparable skill level, attending a workshop is the answer.

Members, Rangers Collaborate

The North District, with considerable help from a great group of SNP rangers, put on their 19th annual Trail Maintenance Workshop this past September. Shawn Green, C.T. Campbell, and Don Harvey of the NPS staff have been as good as gold in supporting this event, and they and their staff did a lot of work behind the scenes to make this workshop run smoothly. The full attendance included both beginners and experienced personnel. For novices, it was a chance to have someone start from the beginning in explaining aspects of trail work. For those with experience, it was a form of continuing professional education, with a chance to exchange techniques and debate approaches with peers. For everyone, it was a time to get a good dose of community and an overdose of excellent food provided by the Nebhut brothers.

Home base was Section "B" of the Mathew's Arm campground which the Park Service had blocked off for workshop use. With a number of the group already there from the night before, the workshop kicked off at 9:00 a.m. with C.T. leading the group through a session of JHA, or Job Hazards Analysis. There are all sorts of hazards out on the trail to which



Dick Dugan and NPS personnel prepare to kick off the workshop.



Steve Osbrach gets down!

anyone who has slipped on mossy rocks, disturbed a bees' nest, or run out of water can attest. Even when one is familiar with many of the hazards, it can be comforting to know that the enthusiastic guy nearby whacking away with a mattock has a nice review of safety practices fresh in his mind. Workshop leader Dick Dugan described the projects that each of three crews would be working on. The group then self-divided by interest and shuttled off to the various park sections to begin their activities.

Combining Work with Learning

The beginners' group target was the Upper Thornton River Trail. At the parking lot, Shawn from NPS spent some time talking about the PATC-NPS relationship and providing background on the types of trails in the park and the responsibilities of PATC and the Park Service. Peter Harris, PATC DM for the

blue-blazed trails in SNP North, then gave a tutorial on the various tools used in trail maintenance. Then it was off to work.

The trail had been somewhat neglected in the past and wasn't in very good condition, with sidehill slippage beginning to be a major problem. Two people were sent up the trail with swing blades and another with loppers to begin removing enough vegetation for the others to begin cutting the new sidehill tread. Peter spent a few minutes demonstrating the technique for digging sidehill, then the crew grabbed their pick mattocks and McLeods and got to work.

Impressive Results

It wasn't long before Peter realized he had an awesome bunch on his hands: The group did 325 feet of sidehill on Saturday, weeded and cut back brush on the entire trail, and rebuilt one rock waterbar as a demonstration. By this point, all but one of the group began to fade; Andrea "Energizer bunny" Rippe was the holdout. Returning the next day, one beginner reblazed the trail from top to bottom while the rest dug more sidehill and rebuilt two more rock waterbars. The enthusiastic group even put off lunch slightly to stop at the Piney River tool cache and clean the tools and get a power weeder demo from Shawn. In addition to all the learning that took place, the group's output was very impressive: three rock waterbars and 455 feet of sidehill from a group of so-called "beginners"!



The Nebhut brothers in action cranking out a Cajun Catfish feast.

See Workshop, page 9

Workshop, from page 8

One of the experienced groups, guided by veteran George Walters and park personnel Don Harvey and Steve Printz, worked on a variety of tasks on two different trails. On Saturday the crew worked on the Hazel Mountain Trail, removing blowdowns with a crosscut saw and installing about 20 log checkdams and waterbars. They also rehabbed approximately 300 feet of gullied tread via "bucket brigade." On Sunday the same crew worked on the steep lower portion of the Meadow Spring Trail and installed another 20 checkdams and waterbars in an eroded section of trail.

The other experienced crew spent the weekend working on a section of the AT from Gravel Springs up toward South Marshall. Leader Dick Dugan had scouted the area earlier and, concerned about a shortage of black locust logs, had positioned some at the trailhead. Faced with the thought of hauling the logs up the hill, the crew was more than willing to go along with C.T.'s thought that there were some appropriate logs to be found closer to the work-site. C.T. and his chainsaw did manage to find a number of proper specimens. To make the durable black locust last even longer, the crew stripped the bark with a two-handled, curved drawknife since bark can hold water and insects and hence hasten rot. By the end, locust logs were used to construct nine waterbars, four checkdams, and two steps.



Ranger CT Campbell explains safety regs as Richelle Brown and Kate Rudachille look on.

DON'T FORGET:
Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 14. See Absentee Ballot on page 22 for information about voting.

There was also quite an abundance of rock. Rock has the advantage of greater durability but the price is the extra labor involved to locate rocks that are the right size and shape to fit together and stay in place. With the aid of a couple of sturdy rock bars and some pick mattocks, an adequate supply of heavy, relatively flat rocks were located and moved into position. By the 15th rock waterbar, an important lesson had definitely sunk in: The heavier the rock, the more important the ability to visualize how rocks could be fit together and set them into position on the first try (or so). Final weekend tally for the group was 24 waterbars and 11 checkdams/steps, with all toes and fingers nicely intact. □

—Dick Dugan



C.T. Campbell from NPS walks the group through a Job Hazards Analysis.



Steve Osbrach advises Ranger Don Harvey on best wine for an especially tough piece of trail.



Hoodlum emeritus George Walters and Tex Herbel compare notes and hairlines.



Peter LeComte reports for work.



George Walters shows how it's done.



Don Upton, John Hampton and Catherine Kelleher take it all in - kind of.



Bob Brown and Andrea Rippe (right) follow unidentified district manager's (might be Dick Dugan himself!) instructions.

Photos by Wayne Limberg

Photos by Catherine Kelleher

From the PATC Store

PATC Publications

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	RETAIL	MEMBER
PA100	Map 1 (ed. 9, 1998) AT Cumberland Valley, PA (Susquehanna River to Route 94)	6.00	4.80
PA110	Map 2-3 (ed. 10, 2004) AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 94 to Route 30)	6.00	4.80
PA120	Map 4 (ed. 8, 2000) AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 30 to PA-MD State Line)	6.00	4.80
PA130	Map 5-6 (ed. 17, 2006) AT Maryland	6.00	4.80
PA140	Map 7 (ed. 14, 2004) AT Northern Virginia (Potomac River to Snickers Gap)	6.00	4.80
PA150	Map 8 (ed. 12, 2001) AT Northern Virginia (Snickers Gap to Chester Gap)	6.00	4.80
PA160	Map 9 (ed. 17, 2005) AT Shenandoah National Park (North District)	6.00	4.80
PA170	Map 10 (ed. 20, 2003) AT Shenandoah National Park (Central District)	6.00	4.80
PA180	Map 11 (ed. 14, 2001) AT Shenandoah National Park (South District)	6.00	4.80
PA190	Map 12 (ed. 10, 2006) AT GWNF Pedlar District (Rockfish Gap to Tye River)	6.00	4.80
PA200	Map 13 (ed. 5, 2004) AT GWNF Pedlar District (Tye River to James River)	6.00	4.80
PA210	Map D (ed. 4, 2004) Potomac River Gorge Area and Cabin John Trail	6.00	4.80
PA220	Map F (ed. 6, 2004) Great North Mountain-North Half (Virginia/West Virginia)	6.00	4.80
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PA240	Map H (ed. 4, 2004) Massanutten Mountain-South Half (New Market Gap to Mass. Peak)	6.00	4.80
PA250	Map J (ed. 2, 1997) Tuscarora Trail AT, PA to PA Route 641	6.00	4.80
PA260	Map K (ed. 2, 1997) Tuscarora Trail PA route 641 to Hancock, MD	6.00	4.80
PA270	Map L (ed. 3, 2004) Tuscarora Trail (Hancock, MD, to Capon Springs, WV, and Cacapon St. Pk.)	6.00	4.80
PA290	Map N (ed. 4, 2000) Rock Creek Park Area, DC	6.00	4.80
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
PB110	AT Guide Set #6 (AT Guide Book to MD and Northern VA with Maps 5-6, 7 & 8)	22.00	17.60
PB120	AT Guide Book #7 (ed. 12, 1999) Shenandoah National Park	10.00	8.00
PB130	AT Guide Set #7 (AT Guide Book to Shenandoah National Park with Maps 9, 10 & 11)	24.00	19.20
PB135	Guide to Great North Mountain Trails (ed. 1, 2001)	7.00	5.60
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PC100	Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park (ed. 15, 2005)	9.00	7.20
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PC116	The Tuscarora Trail North (Guide to Maryland and Pennsylvania) (ed. 3, 1997)	7.00	5.60
PC117	The Tuscarora Trail South (Guide to West Virginia and Virginia) (ed. 3, 1997)	7.00	5.60
PC120	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part A Northern Maryland Counties (ed. 4, 2001)	7.00	5.60
PC130	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B Northern Virginia Counties (ed. 3, 1993)	7.00	5.60
PC140	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C DC/Southern Maryland Counties (ed. 2, 1999)	7.00	5.60
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PC205	Pioneering Ascents (the origins of climbing in America)	14.00	11.20
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PC230	Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain (ed. 2, 1985)	7.50	6.00
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PC250	Shenandoah Heritage: The Story of the People Before the Park (6th printing, 2000)	10.00	8.00
PC260	Shenandoah Vestiges: What the Mountain People Left Behind (4th printing, 2001)	6.00	5.00
PC270	Shenandoah Secrets: The Story of the Park's Hidden Past (Revised 1998)	12.95	10.36
PC280	PATC Cabins Booklet (2004)	6.50	5.20
PC300	Wildflowers of the Potomac Appalachians: A Hikers Guide (1979)	2.50	2.00
PC310	The Blue Hills of Maryland (ed. 1, 1993)	14.00	11.20
PC315	Tales of Mountain Maryland (ed. 1, 2005)	17.95	14.36
PC320	Memories of a Lewis Mountain Man (1993)	8.00	6.40
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PE120	PATC Member Decal	N/A	1.00
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PE280	PATC Coffee Mugs	7.50	6.00
PE320	PATC Hat	12.00	12.00
XX420	The Appalachian Trail Fieldbook, 2nd Edition	4.95	3.95
XX700	Natural History Guide to Common Woody Plants of the GWNF and SNP (2004)	4.00	3.20
XX860	Rock Climbing	17.95	14.50
XX870	Grandpa's Mountain	4.99	3.99

From the PATC Store

Publications from Other Publishers

DESCRIPTION	RETAIL	MEMBER
50 hikes in Northern Virginia	13.00	10.40
Appalachian Trail Names (David Edwin Lillard)	16.95	13.50
Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion	10.00	8.00
Backpacker Magazine Guide to the AT	16.95	13.56
Camping and Backpacking with Children	16.95	13.56
Cross-Country Skiing	9.00	7.20
Finding Wildflowers in Washington/Baltimore Area	15.95	12.76
Food & Lodging Along the C&O Canal	3.00	2.40
Guide to the Mason-Dixon Trail System Map Series	15.12	12.60
Grandpa's Mountain (Carolyn Reeder)	4.99	3.99
Hikes to Waterfalls	3.00	2.40
Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest	12.00	10.00
Hiking Virginia's National Forests	10.00	8.00
Hollow Boy By Rayner V. Snead	13.95	11.16
Insiders Guide to Virginia's Blue Ridge	15.00	12.00
Lightly on the Land	19.95	15.95
Moonshiner's Son by Carolyn Reeder	4.79	3.99
Mountaineering First Aid	7.00	5.60
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails	10.00	8.00
Rock Climbing (A Trailside How-to Guide) (Don Mellor)	17.95	14.50
The 18 Cabins of Old Rag	6.00	6.00
The Appalachian Trail Backpacker	11.00	8.80
The C&O Canal Companion	23.50	19.60
The New Appalachian Trail (Ed Garvey)	14.95	11.95
The Potomac River and the C&O Canal	8.50	6.80
There are Mountains to Climb	12.95	10.36
Towns along the Towpath	14.00	11.20
Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal	14.00	11.20
Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance	14.95	11.96
Trails in Southwest Virginia	6.95	5.50
Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
W & OD Railroad Trail Guide	8.00	6.40
Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry	8.00	6.40

Walking The Appalachian Trail	16.95	13.56
Wilderness Navigation	9.95	8.00
Workbook for Planning Thru-Hikes	6.00	4.80
184 Miles of Adventure (C&O Towpath)	4.75	3.80

Appalachian Trail Poster Maps

AT strip map with forest green border 9" x 48"	3.50	2.80
AT Poster Map, Eastern Coastline	6.95	5.56

Other AT Guide Books with Trail Maps

AT Data Book (supplement to guide sets)	4.95	3.95
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Tennessee-North Carolina	25.00	20.00

Trails Illustrated Topo Maps

Shenandoah National Park	9.00	7.20
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Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday; summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles with some shorter hikes. We usually maintain trails on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Albermarle High School in Charlottesville 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.avenue.org/patc/future_hikes.htm. 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.net).

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Chapter

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

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 Dave Raboy (draboy@pattonboggs.com), or Vincent Penoso (vdotmatrix@gmail.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
-  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. Want to learn more about the club? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new). Refreshments served. Directions: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va., and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Georgeann Smale (membership@patc.net) 301/581-9584 or Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net).

Mountaineering Section –

Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. – We meet every month on the second Wednesday except for August, unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Dave Raboy (draboy@pattonboggs.com), or Vincent Penoso (vdotmatrix@gmail.com) or our Web site: www.potomacmountainclub.org

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

November

1 (Wednesday)

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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Wednesday)

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

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

1 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Lorton, VA

A one-way 4.5-mile historic and scenic hike at Laurel Hill, the former DC Lorton Prison area from Occoquan River to Silverbrook Road. Volunteers will carpool hikers to the trailhead. DIRECTIONS: From I-495 Capital Beltway, take I-95 south. After crossing the Occoquan River, take exit # 160 onto Rt.123 north and drive 1.5 miles (over the Occoquan River again) to park entrance on right. Go 1.5 miles to end of park road and turn right into large parking lot next to the ball fields. Bring lunch and water. Pets not allowed. Meet at Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road (Rt. 123) at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (hencom75@msn.com) 703/451-7965.

1 (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.

4 (Saturday)

HIKE – NSVC In-Between Hikers North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Jack Reeder History Hike in SNP. Another wondrous adventure bushwhacking with Jack. Come learn about the folks who inhabited the park, while visiting the remains of their homes and cemetery. Hike starts at 10:00 a.m. at Turnbridge Curve Parking Area on US 211. INFO: Betsy Fowler (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) 703/403-2919 or 540/933-6136.

4 (Saturday)

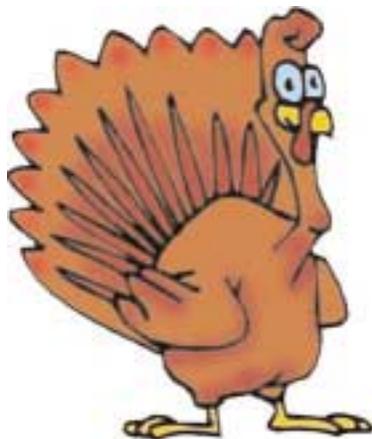
MEETING – North Chapter Arentsville, PA

3:00 p.m. North Chapter Fall at Gypsy Spring Cabin followed by supper. Reservations required for supper by Wednesday, Nov. 1. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

4 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT – Cross Country Ski Fair Vienna, VA

It's time to think snow! The Ski Touring Section (STS) opens the 2006 ski season with its annual Ski Fair - your best opportunity to learn about and sign up for the great trips STS is considering for the 2006-07 season to destinations like Yellowstone Park, Vermont's Stowe area, and eastern Canada, 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: Al Larsen (ALarsen120@aol.com) 703/807/1639 or Steve Bergstrom (skifisc1@yahoo.com) 301/564-9696, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers AT, 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.

4 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA

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

4 – 5 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Vining Crew Stanardsville, VA

The Vining Tract Crew can always use additional sets of hands with cabin and trail maintenance and construction of Butternut Cabin. Community dinner follows Saturday evening happy hour. Community breakfast on Sunday. Overnight at Conley Cabin. INFO: Hugh Robinson, (mes.htr@verizon.net) 703/525-8726.

5 (Sunday)

CLASS – GPS 202 (REI) College Park, MD

4:30 p.m. This class is for GPS owners using their GPS for hiking, geocaching, or staying iun-lost. We cover plotting positions and routes using the UTM grid system on USGS maps and charts, and terminology, using UTM, creating routes and waypoints and following plotted routes. Classroom exercise followed by field exercise, weather permitting. Participants should be familiar with the basic operation of their GPS, entering numbers and text and using the display screens. Try to review the video tape for your GPS prior to the class. Bring your GPS, owner's manual and fresh batteries. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

5 (Sunday)

HIKE – In-Between Hikers Springfield, VA

Enjoy the late fall in Pohick and South Run Valley Stream Parks with a 10-mile one-way hike at a moderate pace following the scenic water flow

from Mercer and Burke Lakes on its way to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For more information on the watershed, visit www.chesapeakebay.net and type in the hike or your zip code. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the cul-de-sac nearest 8730 Wadebrook Terrace, zip: 22153. Bring water and lunch but no pets. Joint event with Sierra Club MWROP. INFO: Henri Comeau, (HenCom75@msn.com) 703/451-7965.

7 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Sterling, VA

Come enjoy a kid-friendly circuit hike in beautiful Claude Moore Park. We will hike about 2.5 miles. We will picnic along the way, next to a pond. After the hike, we will enjoy the activities and turtles in their visitor center and/or visit the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum located in the park. Park Web site: www.co.loudoun.va.us/prcs/parks/claude.htm. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

7 (Tuesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Great Falls, MD

We will meet at 10:15 a.m. to hike about 4 miles from Carderock to Wide Water on the Towpath. Bring water and lunch. From Beltway take exit 41 onto Clara Barton Parkway towards Carderock. Take first exit and then turn left at Stop sign. Continue across the bridge into the park, then turn left and park at the end of the road. INFO: Helen Shaw 301/365-1933

8 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

8 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Friday)

HIKE – In-Between Hikers Rosslyn, VA

The In-Between hikers will celebrate Veterans Day with a hike along the Potomac River on the Potomac Heritage Trail in Virginia and the Towpath of the C&O Canal in D.C., including the crossing of both Chain and Key bridges. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Theodore Roosevelt Island off of northbound GW Parkway (there is no exit from the southbound GW Parkway). Easy walk from the Rosslyn Metro Station. Approximately 8 miles with some rocky sections and minor stream crossings. Bring water and lunch. This is a joint hike with the Sierra Club (MWROP). INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089

10 - 12 (Friday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Argow Cabin South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come help restore an old mid-1800's log cabin built by Confederate Soldier James Samuel Eaton. We will be replacing the old floor joists of the cabin and begin construction of the new privy. Communal meals for Sat. dinner, Sun. breakfast and Sun. lunch for a minimal fee. INFO: Jeff Testerman (jtest@ntelos.net) 434/589-2081.

11 (Saturday)

HIKE – Family Hike Fairfax Station, VA

Join us for a 4.5 mile loop around this pretty lake in Burke Lake Park. The trail is flat and mostly shaded but can take a long time with little ones. We hope to see many birds. The trail is jogging-stroller friendly.

FORECAST

There is a playground near the end of the hike where we will stop and those that want can stay and play. Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelake/. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

11 (Saturday) HIKE – Long Distance New Market, VA

A 17-mile circuit hike that will begin at New Market Gap in Massanutten Mountain and proceed along the connector trail to the Massanutten Loop Trail. Ascending Waterfall Mountain, the hike will proceed along Kern Mountain to Jawbone Gap and cross Crisman Hollow Road to Duncan Knob. Total elevation gain 3,500 feet. Moderate pace, stopping at nature points of interest. Inexperienced hikers contact leader for details. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

11 (Saturday) HIKE – North Chapter Cowens Gap, PA

Three Springs, PA. Pa. Rte. 944 to Pa. Rte. 475, 6.0 miles on Link Trail. INFO: Christopher Firme (bcnfirm@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00.

11 – 12 (Saturday – Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Close out the season with the Cadillac Crew doing some erosion control on the AT in the SNP North District. 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@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

14 (Tuesday) HIKE – Family Hike Loudoun Heights, VA

Join us for a kid-friendly hike up to the Loudoun Heights overlook from Route 340. This short, but somewhat steep and rocky hike leads to a beautiful view of the town of Harpers Ferry. If trains are going by, we can watch them enter and exit a tunnel, and go across a bridge. This 1.5 mile out and back hike is designed for all ages, infant and up, but the trail is not jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

14 (Tuesday) HIKE – Family Hike McLean, VA

We will hike down the steep hillside in Turkey Run Park to the Potomac River and then along the river until we reach a stream with a cropping of rocks. We will hike back and up the hill. This hike is 3 miles and not jogging-stroller friendly. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpckjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

14 (Tuesday) MEETING - Annual General Members Meeting, 7:00 p.m. See page 17 for more details.

15 (Wednesday) HIKE – Easy Hikers Vienna, VA

An out-and-back 5-mile hike on natural and paved trails, mostly in Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Regional Park. We start outside of the park, about one mile from the entrance. DIRECTIONS: From I-495 Capital Beltway, exit 47A west onto route 7. Drive 4.5 miles through Tyson's Corner, turn left onto Beulah Rd. and go 2 miles to Meadowlark Rd. (pass the park entrance parking lot). Turn right at Meadowlark Rd and go less than 1 mile to Abbey Oak Drive, a residential area. Bring water. Lunch after hike will be at a nearby Vienna restaurant. Pets not

allowed. Park fee: 55 and over, \$2.50. Meet at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (hencom75@msn.com) 703/451-7965.

15 (Wednesday) HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined See Nov. 1 event for more information.

15 (Wednesday) MEETING - Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.

17 – 19 (Friday – Sunday) HIKE – Assateague Island Chincoteague, VA

Hike and camp amid sand, surf, and wild ponies. Easy day hikes with Center Hiking Club. Low camping fees and optional seafood restaurants. INFO: Ed Evangelidi (edevange@localnet.com) or Jan Zaal 301/468-1896.

18 (Saturday) HIKE – Natural History Hike North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

PATC's own cultural resource specialist, Len Wheat, leads Bob Pickett and friends on a hike on and off-trail in the park. At a destination to be determined, we'll do our regular sauntering around, looking for home sites and learning about the park's history. Approximately 3 to 5 miles will be covered, although, with some bushwhacking involved, this should be considered a moderately difficult hike. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

18 (Saturday) HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 15-mile circuit on the Slaughter, Appalachian, Bearfence and Conway River Trails to include the Devil's Ditch Falls. Total elevation gain is approximately 3400 feet. There will be over a mile of bushwhacking. PATC Map 10. Contact leader for details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716.

18 (Saturday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – Sugarloaf Mountain Comus, MD

We need help with tread work on a section of the Northern Peaks west trail on Sugarloaf Mountain in Comus, Md. We can use folks with all levels of ability, especially those with check dam and water bar building experience. Please contact Kathy Brumberger (kathybrum@comcast.net) 301/774-7412.

18 (Saturday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers Tuscarora Trail, PA INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

18 (Saturday) WATER QUALITY MONITORING Location to be determined

Continuation of the fall 2006 PATC water quality monitoring season. Monitor water quality by collecting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates residing in streams that run through PATC lands adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail. Location TBD dependent upon water levels. One or two of the three stream sites will be selected for monitoring about a week prior to October 15. The stream sites are located near Gore, VA; Hancock, MD; and Cowans Gap State Park (PA). Training for the assessment of physical features of the streams which affect the benthic communities will be held also. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

19 (Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – Gambrill State Park Frederick, MD

Ongoing trail maintenance projects at various locations within the park. Water bars need to be cleared, cribbing project on the Black and recently relocated section of the Blue trail need to be finished, and there are always a few water bars that need to be placed. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com); 240/777-7741; Eric Creter @ Gambrill State Park ecreter@dnr.state.md.us; 301/293-4170.

19 (Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers AT, 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.

19 (Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP – West Chapter Frederick, MD

Ongoing trail maintenance projects at various locations within Gambrill State Park. Water bars need to be cleared, cribbing project on the Black and recently relocated section of the Blue trails need to be finished, and there are always a few water bars that need to be placed. Hopefully we will get enough of a turnout to spill into two small crews for greater productivity. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or Eric Creter (ecreter@dnr.state.md.us) 301/293-4170.

21 (Tuesday) HIKE – Family Hike Great Falls, VA

Join us in Riverbend Park for a preschool-style scavenger hunt along this jogging-stroller passable trail. This 2.5 mile hike follows the Paw Paw Passage Trail down to a pond, then along the Potomac Heritage Trail along the river. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

22 (Wednesday) HIKE – Easy Hikers Triangle, VA

We will hike approximately 5 miles over gently rolling terrain in Prince William Forest Park. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Take I-95 South to exit 150B (about 32 miles from D.C.); then continue to park entrance, second right. Park at Visitor Center lot. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Sylvia Peterson (swholton2@cs.com) 202/547-8052.

22 (Wednesday) HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined See Nov. 1 event for more information.

26 (Sunday) HIKE – Sunday Hikers Washington, DC

Work off a little of that Thanksgiving Day turkey on this local, holiday-weekend hike in the southern section of Rock Creek Park. We'll hike approximately 7 miles, at a moderate level of difficulty. There are 7 at-grade stream crossings. Holiday travel woes will be avoided as we will be starting the hike from a nearby Metro station. No pets. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

28 (Tuesday) HIKE – Family Hike Round Hill, VA

Join us for a kid-friendly hike on the AT. This circuit hike will be about 2.5 miles long. We will hike up to Bear Rocks, where the young and young at heart can

climb up, over, and all around the rocks. Then we will hike over to Bear's Den Hostel, around the historical trail, and back to the rocks. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

28 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Silver Spring, MD

Hiking on the Northwest Branch Trail, we will hike on the northeast side of the branch. The trail on this side offers undulations along the branch. We will witness a lot of beaver activity on this trail. We will hike 2-3 miles (or as long as the group wants) on trail that is not jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpcjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

28 (Tuesday)

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

29 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Potomac, MD

We will do a circuit hike of about 4 miles in Blockhouse Point Park, with an ascent/descent total of about 100 ft. We should have good views with the leaves down. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the River Road parking lot, 2 miles beyond Pennyfield Lock on the left. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (cactus41@earthlink.net) 301/949-9729.

29 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

29 (Wednesday)

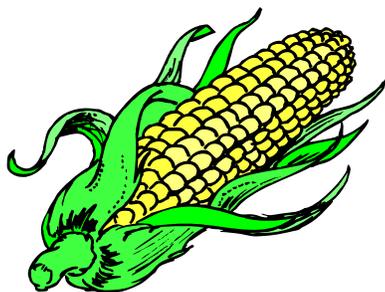
SPECIAL EVENT – 50 State Highpoint Adventures (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Whether you are a couch potato driving to Florida's 345-foot Britton Hill or a serious mountaineer climbing Alaska's 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley, there is an adventure waiting when you visit a State highpoint. Join Dave Green as he reviews 40 years of adventures that have taken him to the highest point of each of the fifty states. Learn about the Highpointers Club that is devoted to climbing and preserving state highpoints. It's not just the highpoint, it's also the adventure getting there. Keep Klimbin! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

30 (Thursday)

CLASS – Appalachian Trail Gems (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. Take a taste of the renown Appalachian Trail, the nation's longest marked footpath, and first national scenic trail, with Caleb McCallum, as he recounts his inspiring adventures and offers insight and advice for planning your own AT journey. With a slide show and special advice on ultra light trekking. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.



December

1 (Friday)

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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1-2 (Friday – Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT – NSVC Retreat Fort Valley, VA

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter will hold its annual retreat at Glass House. Meeting and potluck dinner on Saturday night. INFO: Betsy Fowler (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) 703/403-2919 or 540/933-6136.

2 (Saturday)

HIKE – Family Hike Centreville, VA

We'll do a 2 mile loop in Eleanor Lawrence Park. Jogging-stroller passable with some log stairs to navigate. The trail is wooded and mostly flat. We'll walk over to a pond that is filled with creatures. We can check out the nature center to explore after the hike. Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl/. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

2 – 3 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

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

3 (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; water, lunch, gloves, boots. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

5 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Introduction to GPS (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. Curious about GPS and wondering which model will fit your needs? This introductory clinic will show you how they work and what affects accuracy. We'll cover different features, uses, software, and new product on the market. A great lead-in class to REI Outdoor School GPS Navigation and Geocaching. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

5 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Great Falls, VA

Come join us for an exciting, kid-friendly hike. We will hike along the River Trail, with great views of the Potomac River along Mather Gorge. This 3-mile circuit hike is not jogging-stroller passable. After the hike, we will do a craft inside the visitor center. Web site: www.nps.gov/gwmp/grfa/. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

5 (Tuesday)

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

6 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Introduction to GPS (REI) Rockville, MD

7:30 p.m. Curious about GPS and wondering which model will fit your needs? This introductory clinic will show you how they work and what affects accuracy. We'll cover different features, uses, software, and new product on the market. A great lead-in class to REI Outdoor School GPS Navigation and Geocaching. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

6 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Vienna, VA

We will hike about 5 miles along Difficult Run on the Cross County Trail from Tamarack Park to Brown's Mill Road with one stream crossing, and return. If the weather is good, we can eat picnic style in the Park. Please bring water, lunch and a drop cloth or blanket. Directions: Dulles Access Road to Exit 14 South (Hunter Mill Road), one mile to Tamarack Drive, left on Tamarack to first right onto Horseback Trail, to the cul-de-sac. OR Route 66 to Exit 60 (Route 123), north to Hunter Mill Road turning left or north, three miles to a right on Tamarack Drive, to first right onto Horseback Trail, to the cul-de-sac at the end of Horseback. Meet at 10:15. INFO: Charlie Balch (CABalch@aol.com) 703/242-7277.

6 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

6 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Saturday)

HIKE – Long Distance Central District. Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 16-mile circuit hike that will ascend Leading Ridge Trail to the AT, proceeding north to connect to the Hazel Mountain Trail. The return will be via Hannah Run Trail and Crusher Ridge Trail. Total elevation gain 3,500 feet. Moderate pace, stopping at nature points of interest. Inexperienced hikers contact leader for details INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

9 – 10 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL 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.

10 (Sunday)

HIKE – North Chapter Appalachian Trail, MD

Starting in Burkittsville, we'll hike from Gathland State Park to Harpers Ferry WV. 10.0 miles. INFO: Christopher Firme (bcnfirm@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

10 (Sunday)

HIKE – Sunday Hikers Thurmont, MD

Join us for this moderate-to-strenuous circuit in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains. In addition to the spectacular vista from Chimney Rock, we'll see Cunningham Falls as well. Total elevation change is

FORECAST

approximately 1200 feet. No pets. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

10 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers' final event of 2006; 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 2007. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

12 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Intro to Snowshoeing (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. Don't let a little snow keep you inside! 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, and the trails are less crowded. And snowshoeing is a great way to get around. We'll show you how to select the right shoes and share some of our favorite destinations for the season. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

12 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Greenbelt, MD

We will hike a 3-mile circuit hike in the woods just off the Beltway and the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy. This hike is not jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpckjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

12 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Neersville, VA

Get away from the hustle and bustle at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, a serene 900-acre land in northwestern Loudoun County. We will hike about 2-3 miles, depending on the desires of the group. This circuit hike passes a small pond, continues along a beautiful stream, and passes several old cabins. The trail is jogging-stroller passable, with a few short, steep hills. Web site: www.blueridgecenter.org/. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

12 (Tuesday)

MEETING – PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

13 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Intro to Snowshoeing (REI) Rockville, MD

7:30 p.m. Don't let a little snow keep you inside! 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, and the trails are less crowded. And snowshoeing is a great way to get around. We'll show you how to select the right shoes and share some of our favorite destinations for the season. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

13 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Glover Archbold Trail, DC

Hike 4 easy miles along Foundry Branch from Van Ness Street, NW to Georgetown. After lunch in the Georgetown Park Mall Food Court, all decorated for the holidays, we will return to our starting point by Metrobus. Bring \$1.25 (or 60 cents for seniors) exact change for fare. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the parking lot of the National Presbyterian Church, Van Ness Street entrance. Please carpool – space on lot is limited. Directions: From Maryland take Wisconsin Avenue (MD Rte 355) inbound from the Beltway about 5 miles to a right turn on Van Ness. Go one block to church parking lot on left. From Virginia

cross Key Bridge, turn right on M street. Move immediately to the left lane, and turn left on 33rd street. Follow it until it merges on to Wisconsin Avenue. Proceed 2+ miles to a left turn on Van Ness Street. Church parking lot is one block on the left. Bring water. Hike is canceled if DC public schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089. Cell phone day of hike: 202/365-2921.

13 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

13 (Wednesday)

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

14 (Thursday)

HIKE – Family After-School Hike Loudoun Heights, VA

Join us for a kid-friendly hike up to the Loudoun Heights overlook from Route 340. This short, but somewhat steep and rocky hike leads to a beautiful view of the town of Harpers Ferry. If trains are going by, we can watch them enter and exit a tunnel, and go across a bridge. This 1.5 mile out and back hike is designed for all ages- infant and up, but the trail is not jogging-stroller passable. This hike is designed as a family activity, so an adult must accompany children. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

16 (Saturday)

HIKE – Family Hike Fairfax, VA

Join us for a 2-mile loop around Lake Royal that is jogging-stroller friendly, regular stroller passable. There are a few steps to go up and down. We'll hike around a beautiful lake, where we usually see a lot of wildlife. Mostly shaded with a few sunny areas. There's a playground half-way around where we will stop to play and snack. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

16 (Saturday)

HIKE – Natural History Hike North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Park Backcountry Wilderness and Trails Manager, Steve Bair, leads Bob Pickett and friends on a hike on and off-trail in the Park. At a destination to be determined, we'll do our regular sauntering around, looking for home sites and learning about the Park's history. More information next month. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511

16 (Saturday)

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

A 15-mile circuit in the 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 2800 feet. There will be less than a mile of bushwhacking. PATC Map 9. Contact leader for details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716.

19 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Leesburg, VA

Come explore the beautiful Rust Wildlife Sanctuary. We will hike down to a pond, through the woods and an open meadow. This kid-paced circuit hike will be about 1.5 miles long. The trail is jogging-stroller passable. Web site: www.audubonnaturalist.org/cgi-bin/mesh/sanctuaries/rust_va. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

20 (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.

20 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

26 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Family Hike Washington, DC

We will walk 1.5 miles around the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and out to the Anacostia River on the boardwalk to view the river's winter activities. If it is a mild, sunny day, we will find many turtles. This is stroller-friendly. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpckjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

26 (Tuesday)

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

27 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See Nov. 1 event for more information.

30 (Saturday)

HIKE – Family Hike Rosslyn, VA

Take a break from the holidays and get some fresh air. We'll do a jogging-stroller friendly 2-mile loop around Roosevelt Island. The walk is pleasant with pretty views and fun boardwalks. If it's not too cold we'll picnic in the memorial area after the hike. Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/this/>. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883. □



79th Annual Club Dinner and Meeting - Nov. 14 at the Atrium

Come out and join in the fun at our 79th Annual Meeting/Dinner! Mark your calendar now and sign up for PATC's 2006 Annual Meeting/Dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 14 in Vienna to celebrate our 79th year. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a social gathering, including a beer and wine cash bar, followed by a buffet-style dinner. The cost is \$35 per person in advance and \$45 at the door (children \$20). The event this year will again be held at the beautiful Atrium of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority located next to the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on Beulah Road in Vienna.

Our speaker this year will be Robert Kapsch, retired NPS Senior Scholar in Historic Architecture and Engineering. The author of *Canals and The Monacacy Aqueduct on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal*, he will be giving a presentation on the lost and forgotten engineering achievements of the C&O Canal. There will be displays from various commit-

tees featuring their activities. When you look them over, you just may find a new volunteer interest.

The Atrium is located next to the Meadowlark Gardens at 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court just off Beulah Road, Vienna, Va. Take I-495 to Northern Virginia to the Vienna/Tyson's Corner/Rte. 123 exit. From Rte. 123, turn right onto Courthouse Road. Then go through the stop sign and continue on Beulah Road. The Gardens are on the left. Shuttle service will be available at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Vienna Metro station. Please call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 if you will be using the shuttle service OR if you can volunteer to be the driver for this service.

Reserve your seat by completing and mailing the attached form no later than Nov. 1, 2006. Space is limited. As always, we will need a lot of volunteers to help coordinate a successful event. If interested, please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 or pfankhauser@patc.net ☐

Registration for PATC's 79th Annual Meeting/Dinner

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, 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. Space is limited. Come on out to help us celebrate 79 years!

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

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

Daytime phone number: _____

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$35 (or list your credit card information below) per attendee for dinner, \$20 for children 14 and under. 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 \$79 for the Trail Land Acquisition Fund for 79 years of service on the trails.

() Sorry, I can't attend the banquet, but here is \$79 to support PATC's Trail Land Acquisition Fund.

For 79 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 80th year!

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

Signature: _____

Mail to: PATC - Annual Meeting/Dinner 2006, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180 Attn: Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

Because PATC pays for dinners in advance, no refunds after Nov. 1, 2006.



"Heart and Sole" Help the Homeless Campaign

As this season of cold conditions nears, we think about how fortunate we are to be able to keep warm and dry. Yet we know there are those who are unable to obtain adequate clothing to be protected from the elements. PATC will accept CLEAN USED or NEW hiking socks, wool or otherwise, in the collection box in the front foyer of the Headquarters building in Vienna, Va., until Jan. 1. The collected socks will then be distributed to local churches and halfway houses. Please help with your gift of "Heart and Sole" to support and care for the homeless in our community. —Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

Chainsaw Course

Nov. 4-5, 2006

Shenandoah National Park Headquarters

PATC, in conjunction with SNP, will offer a fall chainsaw course at the Headquarters of SNP. Bunks and camping to be available at Tulip Tree Cabin Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. First Aid and CPR classes to be taught each day at 3:00 p.m. The First Aid and CPR classes will cost \$68.00, and students need to register with that instructor. For more information, contact Heidi Forrest (HForrest@patc.net). ☐

(long-tailed and short-tailed), in order to ascertain in what manner their change of colour from brown in summer to white in winter and vice versa was effected.

“We bethought ourselves of using one of each species of these weasels instead of a ferret, to aid in taking the rabbits we wanted, and having provided ourselves with a man and a dog to hunt the rabbits to their holes, we took the weasels in a small tin box with us, having first tied a small cord around their necks in such a manner as to prevent them from escaping, or remaining in the holes to eat the rabbits, whilst it could not slip and choke them.

“We soon raced a rabbit to its hole, and our first experiment was made with the little brown weasel [short-tailed]; it appeared to be frightened, and refused to enter the hole; the common species [long-tailed] although we had captured the individual but a few days before, entered readily; but having its jaws at liberty, it killed the rabbit. Relinquishing the weasel to our man, he afterwards filed its teeth down to prevent it from destroying the rabbits, and when thus rendered harmless, the ermine pursued the rabbits to the bottom of their holes, and terrified them so that they instantly fled to the entrance and were taken by hand. In this manner the man procured twelve rabbits alive in the course of one morning, and more than fifty in about three weeks, when we requested him to desist.”

Canada Porcupine

Audubon tells of a porcupine he kept for six months in Charleston, S.C.:

“It was occasionally let out of its cage to enjoy the benefit of a promenade in the garden. It had become very gentle, and evinced no spiteful propensities; when we called to it, holding in our hand a tempting sweet-potatoe or an apple, it would turn its head slowly toward us, and give us a mild and wistful look, and then with stately steps advance and take the fruit from our hand. It then assumed an upright position, and conveyed the potatoe or apple to its mouth with its paws. If it found the door of our study open it would march in, and gently approach us, rubbing its sides against our legs, and looking up at us as if supplicating for additional delicacies. We frequently plagued it in order to try its temper, but it never evinced any spirit of resentment by raising its bristles at us; but no sooner did a dog make his appearance than in a moment it was armed at all points in defence.”

American Bison

Numerous stories of buffalo hunts are offered. Recollections of their former range and abundance are melancholically produced. Audubon relates his experiences of seeing buffalo trying to cross frozen rivers, only to see them break through the ice and, in panic, desperately flail in the water before perishing. One account of Indians on board a steamship traveling up the Missouri River tells of the natives' desire to eat the floating putrid carcasses of buffalo, a ritual to preserve their lives. Hunting techniques and uses of the buffalo by the native Indians are also detailed.

Perhaps the most interesting is an account of Robert Wickliffe of Kentucky who provides Audubon his experience breeding buffalo with domestic cattle:

“The herd of buffalo I now possess have descended from one or two cows [female buffalo] that I purchased from a man who brought them from the country called the Upper Missouri; I have had them for about thirty years, but from giving them away and the occasional killing of

them by mischievous persons, as well as other causes, my whole stock at this time does not exceed ten or twelve. I have sometimes confined them in separate parks from other cattle, but generally they herd and feed with my stock of farm cattle. They graze in company with them as gently as the others. The buffalo cows, I think, go with young about the same time the common cow does and produce once a year; none of mine have ever had more than one at a birth.

“The approach of the sexes is similar to that of the common bull and cow under similar circumstances at all times when the cow is in heat, a period which seems, as with the common cow, confined neither to day, nor night, nor any particular season, and the cows bring forth their young of course at different times and seasons of the year, the same as our domesticated cattle. I do not find my buffaloes more furious or wild than the common cattle of the same age that graze with them.

“Although the buffalo, like the domestic cow, brings forth its young at different seasons of the year, this I attribute to the effect of domestication, as it is different with all animals in a state of nature. I have always heard their time for calving in our latitude was from March until July, and it is very obviously the season which nature assigns for the increase of both races, as most of my calves were from the buffaloes and common cows at this time. On getting possession of the tame buffalo, I endeavoured to cross them as much as I could with my common cows, to which experiment I found the tame or common bull (cow) unwilling to accede, and he was always shy of a buffalo cow, but the buffalo bull was willing to breed with the common cow.

“The full blood is not as large as the improved stock, but as large as the ordinary cattle of the country. The crossed or half blood are larger than either the buffalo or common cow. The udder or bag of the buffalo is smaller than that of the common cow, but I have allowed the calves of both to run with their dams [mothers] upon the same pasture, and those of the buffalo were always the fattest; and old hunters have told me, that when a young buffalo calf is taken, it requires the milk of two common cows to raise it. The bag or udder of the half breed is larger than that of full blooded animals, and they would, I have no doubt, make good milkers.

“The domesticated buffalo still retains the grunt of the wild animal and is incapable of making any other noise.

“The buffalo has a much deeper shoulder than the tame ox, but is lighter behind. He walks more actively than the latter, and I think has more strength than a common ox of the same weight. I have broke them to the yoke, and found them capable of making excellent oxen; and for drawing wagons, carts or other heavily laden vehicles on long journeys, they would, I think, be greatly preferable to the common ox.

“The mixed breeds are of various colours; I have had them striped with black, on a gray ground like the zebra, some of them brindled red, some pure red with white faces, and others red without any marking of white.

“I was informed that at the first settlement of the country, cows that were considered the best for milking were from the half blood, down to the quarter, and even eighth of the buffalo blood. But my experiments have not satisfied me that the half buffalo bull will produce again. That the half breed heifer will be productive from either race, as I have before stated, I have tested beyond the possibility of a doubt.”

(More from Audubon's publication next month. For my complete review, you may go to www.bobpickett.org and click on Appalachian Mammals.) □

Trailhead

Trail maintenance, like hiking, is one of those activities that can be done by pretty much anyone with the inclination, initiative, and time to pursue it. To some, a key challenge is not the work itself, but finding the motivation to get out regularly on the trail, especially with all the competing demands for attention. Over the past eight years, Jon Rindt has helped to motivate many with the great mix of news, tips, stories, and practical advice he assembled for each month's Trailhead section. As with building a trail, the finished product we all enjoyed was the result of a lot of behind-the-scenes work and careful planning, as well as execution. For all of the many trail activities Jon Rindt has done to date, the one that may have the most appreciative audience is his editing of the last 97 months of Trailhead. So when you're on your trail, yet again cleaning out the fall leaves from your waterbars, you can thank Jon for helping you with the reasons why you're out there.

Commuters, Don't Try This

PATC veterans and fresh faces alike took advantage of the splendid September weather to perform much-needed maintenance on the Whittier Trail in Rock Creek Park. Years of storm runoff from 16th Street had eroded the trail and left several old checkdams in need of repair. Led by Overseers Elizabeth McGowan and Don Looney and Ranger Ken Ferebee, the Rock Creek work crew attacked the problem by installing waterbars, adding new

checkdams and fixing the old ones. Crew members even had time to discuss the impending collapse of sections of the Valley Trail into Rock Creek. No solutions were agreed upon, but several were explored, including tying vines to nearby trees so hikers could practice their Tarzan technique. Perhaps next year.

Safe Passage

Rain can be an annoying issue for hikers as well as crew leaders. When rains forced a group of backpackers headed out to PA's Black Forest to rethink their destination, they chose the Trout Run Valley in George Washington National Forest as a nice substitute, and one through which the storms had already passed. However, they faced a different obstacle: trying to get across the swollen Trout Run.

Soon hikers won't have to contrive a circuitous route that avoids a crossing. The Forest Service has begun construction of a bridge across Trout Run at the north end of the Long Mountain Trail across the road from the big Bucktail Trail parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates B,14). District Managers Hop Long and Jim Tomlin believe the bridge will significantly improve the attraction of the trails nearby. The Run is a big impediment, and nearly uncrossable, during wet times. The new bridge will make the Long Mountain Trail a realistic, dependable way for Great Eastern Trail hikers to

avoid the crowds on Mill Mountain Trail if they wish. It also ensures the viability of several shorter circuit hikes in the area. Completion is expected later this year.

Battlefield Dispatch

PATC offers a great opportunity for doubling up on pastimes in the form of Civil War history and trails. The storied names of Spotsylvania, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Fredericksburg each have at least one PATC-maintained trail that lets visitors experience the topography of the battlefield while minimizing the impact on the land. District Manager Frank Haas gets to revisit history more than most with his regular routine of running all the trails in his district. He sees not only the condition of the trails but also the evidence of their use throughout the year: tracks in the mud when it rains and tracks in the snow during winter.

Anyone faced with upkeep of a heavily trafficked area, such as one with large signs for people to stop and read, should take a look at the special footing installed on part of the Gordon Flank Attack Trail at The Wilderness. The big drawback to this durable surface was expressed by one of Frank's overseers, who is also resource manager for the park: "Boy is that stuff expensive."

District Manager Meeting

Sept. 20

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton reviewed some of the key activities in process to support PATC's trails mission and general goals. The trails mission purpose is to provide and expand in urban, suburban, rural, and mountain settings public hiking and backpacking trails and opportunities to enjoy special places. The club will be taking on some responsibilities in the Prince William Forest Park, which will also provide a new venue for some workshops.

PATC will also be helping with construction on a five-mile section of the Great Eastern Trail, which includes some areas on roads. Through a lot of hard work on Walt Smith's part as well as others', a grant of \$14,200 has been received to build a bridge for the Tuscorora in West Virginia. The club will need to provide a 20 percent match.

See Trailhead, page 20



Photo by Charles Hillon

Massarock veterans John Howard (foreground) and Eric Motzno constructing a pier at Trout Pond.

Trailhead, from page 19

Among the training events sketched out for next year were a couple of chainsaw classes, a traditional tools workshop, and an overseer workshop. Alex Sanders, the recently appointed DM for the District of Columbia, reported being in the enviable position of having overseers for all trails in his district, with a waitlist. Who knows, maybe that's a bit of the Redskins ticket mentality kicking in – if you think you might be interested, make sure you get your space before there's nothing left.

Massarock Tackles Trout Pond

Working with the Lee Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, at Trout Pond, W.Va., the September Massarock Crew constructed two handicap-accessible piers and trail. The lake had been lowered prior to the crew's arrival. Liles expressed great pride on this ability to help provide accessible trails, which in this case allows those who are handicapped to enjoy the fishing at Trout Pond. Liles encouraged members to identify other areas that might be suitable for accessible trails.

Massarock works two weeks each in June and September. Many crew members return season after season, including most recently John Howard and Eric Motzno. Next June the crew expects to resume trail construction on Great North Mountain, while camping on the mountain each week.

Summer Crew Works on Broad Hollow Again

While you were, I hope, enjoying a stretch of late August sunshine at the beach, the North District Shenandoah Trail Crew, under the expert leadership of SNP Trail professionals Don Harvey and Steve Printz, attacked the storm-ravaged Broad Hollow Trail with picks, McLeods, and rock bars. This was the third time the North District summer crew had worked on this trail. Not only was the trail familiar, but the experienced crew consisted of "old-timers" who now know each other so well that the jokes don't have to be told before they start laughing at (or with) each other.

Significant improvements were made to the second stream crossing on Broad Hollow, putting in rock steps, a 60-foot retaining wall, and deepening the stream channel. The area below the stream crossing had been completely washed out and was barely recognizable as a trail. Understandably, it required much work: lateral drains, rock waterbars and checkdams, rock cribbing, 20 rock steps, and 125 feet of rehabbed tread.

At the end of each day, the crew – dirty, tired, and poison ivy-covered – limped back to Pinnacles for a brew, a shower, and hopefully a second wind, before sampling the cuisine of area restaurants. They must have had fun; everybody wants to come back next year! Many thanks to Dick Dugan, Susan Schoen, Steve Osbrach, Dale Welter, and Madison Brown. Also, the crew appreciated

help from District Manager Mel Ellis, Broad Hollow Overseer Jack Price, and Dave Nebhut. Time to start rethinking those summer vacation plans?

Blue and White Crew Keeps Rolling

The Blue and White Crew is another group that doesn't shy away from tough tasks. The Friday Contingent of the Blue and White Crew took advantage of cool weather and low water in late September to install stepping stones across Hannah Run on the Nicholson Hollow Trail. Dan Dueweke, Mel Ellis, Charles Hillon, and Patrick Wilson used an oversized TU-28 griphoist to move boulders almost fast enough to surf them into position. A sophisticated rock basket made of chain ensured that even the heaviest rocks could be moved safely and efficiently.

The crew began two new projects in September. For the first, the crew joined AT Overseer Ray Galles on his trail section near the Pocosin Cabin for a major tread overhaul. The section had been badly damaged by the historic Madison County flood of 1995. Some of the trail repairs that followed the storm were showing signs of wear. The crew replaced deteriorating waterbars, re-graded long sections of tread, and installed numerous new erosion-control devices.

On Saturday evening, the crew celebrated the 80th birthday of S.V. Dove. A longtime crew member, S.V. is widely credited with bringing a higher standard of quality to crew efforts and for teaching by example. S.V. routinely puts younger crew members to shame: carrying more gear, digging more dirt, skinning more logs, and telling more stories. The crew owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to S.V. and wishes him happiness and good health in his next 80 years.

After dinner, Melanie and Joe presented a slide show of their recent hike in Colorado. Chris followed with a description of his efforts to launch the Mayfield Center for Marmot Behavioral Studies, an initiative designed to assist both Western backpackers and the yellow-bellied marmot by encouraging behavior beneficial to both.

On Sunday, the crew began work on its second project: a short stretch of the AT near the Jewell Hollow Overlook. The small group was able to install two large rock steps and regrade the short stretch of tread before morning tea.



Photo by Jon Rineci

Cadillac Crew members Vic Fickes, Jim Hutzler, Bill Ford, George Still, and Gary Esslington stand by a barrier they and others constructed to hopefully discourage ATV access to AT corridor near Blackburn Trail Center.

See Trailhead, page 21

SNP Central District Volunteers

Log Some Serious Hours

The 2005-2006 work tally for the SNP Central District exceeded last year's impressive numbers. Each part of the District (AT, Side Trails North, and Side Trails South) increased its work output this year, with the grand total exceeding 10,500 volunteer hours. Many thanks to all Central District trail overseers and crew members for a job very well done. Two volunteers deserve particular commendation. Both Mike Dyas and Patrick Wilson contributed approximately 1,000 hours each during the reporting year. Patrick was able to make this contribution while maintaining a full-time position on the faculty of a Virginia university, an extensive travel schedule, and family commitments. Special thanks to both Patrick and Mike.

Watch Those Regs

Now that we're in the middle of hunting season, it is especially important to check the rules in the area where you are going. Pennsylvania District Manager Pete Brown warns that you need to wear blaze orange on Pennsylvania state land between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15. In addition, all open fires are prohibited from Oct. 1 through Dec. 1 and from March 1 through May 25, as well as at any other time when the fire danger is listed as high, very high, or extreme.

Bulldozer Recovery

On a nice weekend in early September the Cadillac Crew ventured to Blackburn Trail Center to assist Chris Brunton. The crew is



*Serious new "stepping boulders" installed by the Blue & White Crew.
Photo by Patrick Wilson*



Photo provided by Dick Dugan

North District Shenandoah Trail Crew with the SNP's Don Harvey.

never quite sure what projects Chris has in mind. Last year it was a bog walk. This year they were led to an area that had been invaded by a bulldozer. Earlier in the summer, a wildfire on the western side of the ridge resulted in fire crews using a bulldozer to create firebreaks. The fire crews bulldozed an old roadbed up to the ridge then dozed for about a quarter mile parallel to the AT. Needless to say, the terrain was roughed up considerably, and ATVs were taking advantage of the easy access to the AT. The project: Build a barrier to discourage ATV access and cleanup some of the damage. The crew has now added bulldozer recovery to its resume.

As usual, the food, comradeship, and solar shower at Blackburn made all the work worthwhile. Speaking of food, Bill Ford's Jambalaya was a real treat as only a true Louisianan can create.

Fighting Back Against Invasive Species

Overseers should be on the lookout for invasive species taking over their trails. Not sure what these troublemakers look like? Visit: www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/ for a pictorial of your woodland enemies. The site also provides suggestions for prevention and control of each plant, such as when they should or should not be cut or hand pulled.

SNP overseers have an extra weapon to call in. If they find one of these noxious weeds getting established along the treadway, a quick note to James Akerson, supervisory

forest ecologist (James_Akerson@nps.gov), might just nip that vegetation in the bud. James is certified to apply pesticides/herbicides within the park and is on the lookout for Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, mile-a-minute vine, autumn olive, and Japanese barberry.

The easiest way to communicate the location of a patch of invasive weeds is to take a map of your trail, put an X where the invasive is, and send the file attachment to James. Many SNP trails can be downloaded from the Blue and White Crew Web site: <http://blueandwhite-crew.org/trailmgmt/trailinfo.php>. Printouts or copies of marked maps can also be mailed to James at: James Akerson, 3655 US Highway 211E, Luray, VA 22835

Remember, you know your trail better than anyone else and will likely be the first to spot intruders where they shouldn't be.

"Gang" Activity Benefits Dickey Ridge Trail

The fact that the temperature was only in the 70s on the beaches in Montego Bay didn't deter nine Hoodlums from attacking an erosion problem on the Dickey Ridge Trail on their Jamaican-themed work trip. In spite of the sultry weather, the crew installed 27 checkdams and waterbars, rehabbed another four, and sawed and pre-positioned more than a dozen locust logs for a future work trip.

See Trailhead, page 22

Member Notice: Election Rules

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, PATC members will elect officers to the PATC Executive Committee. See the October *Potomac Appalachian* for the names of persons recommended by the Nominating Committee. Elected officers will serve for two years starting Jan. 1, 2007. Members in good standing may vote either in person, at the annual meeting, or by absentee ballot. Those wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot in writing, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. In order for absentee ballots to count they must be received at the Club Headquarters in Vienna no later than 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2006. Nominations other than those proposed by the Nominating Committee may be made by petition. For instructions on this procedure, contact Wilson Riley, Director of Administration, at the Club Headquarters. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. □

Absentee Ballot Request

Please send me an absentee ballot for the November PATC officer election. I understand that this ballot must be returned to PATC Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. Nov. 14, 2006.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mail to: Wilson Riley, Director of Administration, PATC Headquarters, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180. **DON T FORGET:** Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with this form. * To vote in this election you must either attend the Annual Meeting (paid registration not required) or request, by mail, an absentee ballot and return it to HQ either by mail or in person by 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 14.

Trailhead, from page 21

Between last year's work trip to this section – when a Hoodlums Crew of 13 installed 40 structures – and one additional trip in the near future, this very popular hiking trail should soon be in top condition. The Hoodlums' gang leader, Dick Dugan, was conveniently out of town entertaining his grandchildren at Disney World, but that didn't stop his cohorts from carrying on in his

absence. After a hugely successful and productive day, the Hoodlums retired to Indian Run Hut for a feast that included jerk chicken and Jamaican potato salad, washed down with ice cold liquid refreshments, mon!

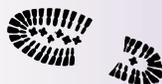
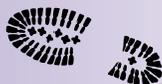
Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Catherine Kelleher at cckelleher@earthlink.net. □

Volunteers Appointed in September

Trail Overseers

Lee Howell **Whitehaven Trail – Glover-Archbold Trail to Wisconsin Ave.**

Donald Upton **Dickey Ridge Trail – MP2.1 to Snead Farm Road**



Help Wanted, from page 24

New overseer opportunities available soon on the beautiful trails of Great North Mountain. A little further from DC, but no poison ivy!

Contact Jim Tomlin for more information.

Jim Tomlin, 301/713-3265 x 141

jftomlin@gmail.com

Halfmoon Trail

Trout Run Road to Tuscarora/Pond Run Trail
(3.2 miles)

SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D

Liles Creighton, 410/573-0067

kb3jmf@comcast.net

Cabin John Trail

Seven Locks Road to River Road (0.5 miles)

Cabin John Trail

Bradley Boulevard to Democracy Boulevard
(1.5 miles)

Woodland Trail

Gold Mine Loop to Anglers Spur (0.7 miles)

Valley Trail

Gold Mine Loop to Anglers Spur (0.6 miles)

River Trail

Gold Mine Trail to Towpath (1.0 miles)

BULL RUN OCCOQUAN TRAIL

Dave Fellers, 703/560-2171

Fellers_2000@excite.com

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Route 28 Parking to Little Rocky Run (1.5 miles)

MUTTON HOLLOW – MAP 11

Hugh Robinson, 703/525-8726

mes.htr@verizon.net

Ken Williams, 703/836-8134

ken409@comcast.net

Chimney Trail

Waymond's Barn to Meadow Trail (0.1 miles)

CCC Road

Snow Mt. Road [Rte. 626] to Western boundary
(1.0 miles)

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help Tell Our Club's Stories!!

PATC's Public Affairs Committee is looking for two volunteers to help promote the club, its activities and how it benefits the PATC service area to the public using media outlets such as print, broadcast and online. What's needed? Some enthusiasm for the club and a willingness to pitch story ideas to reporters. The ability to write would be an extra asset. For more information, call Tom Phillips, 202/434-4813, or e-mail him at tom.phillips@siemens.com. Thanks!

Wanted – Web Designer

PATC plans to redesign its Web site and needs an experienced volunteer to lead its effort. Commitment is a minimum of 4 hours per week to implement a total Web site redesign. If interested, please e-mail IT Committee Chair Steve Sharp, SteveITPlanning@comcast.net.

Be a giver, not a taker!

Volunteer programmers needed to design and build Web applications. Willing to donate time writing PHP, Perl, SQL, and Java code? Current projects are: 1.) expanding Web-based cabin reservations and 2.) creating Web interfaces for internal databases. Interested? E-mail Matt Novinger at mnovinger@patc.net.

Cabin Reservation Volunteers Needed

We need help on the cabin reservations desk on weekday evenings and Thursday and Friday during the daytime. If you think you're the person to help us out, just come by Headquarters or call Pat Fankhauser 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Make a difference, call today. □

FOR SALE

Dagger sea touring 2002 kayak, "Savannah." Great for beginner or intermediate paddler. Excellent condition: 14.5' long x 25" wide x 13" deep, 53 lbs, rudder, polyethylene, and mango/red color. Includes Aqua Bound Expedition paddle (220cm), and Snap Dragon spray skirt. Great deal at \$300. Mike Darzi at 301/593-4551 (eve).

Yellowstone Ski Tour, Feb. 24 - March 1, 2007. Full package XC excursion at the Canyon Skier's Yurt Camp in YNP near the Yellowstone Canyon. The camp is run by Yellowstone Expeditions, a concessionaire of the National Park Service. Bring your own equipment. Everything else is provided including heated double occupancy sleeping huts, bedding, shower, cedar sauna, guides (ratio of 1 to 4 guests), heated out-houses, all meals and transportation into the park from West Yellowstone. INFO: www.YellowstoneExpeditions.com. Price is \$1,610 and also includes round trip air into Bozeman, round trip ground transportation to West Yellowstone, and one night in West Yellowstone. Call Donna Brother at 703/435-8315 for further information.

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. □

LOST AND FOUND

A 14-year-old boy who is hemiplegic was backpacking with us 8/21/06 on the AT from the Ed Garvey Shelter to the Youth Hostel at 19123 Sandy Hook Road. He evidently lost an extremely valuable Jewish religious item from his backpack. The item is in a dark blue velvet bag about 8 x 8 inches, with Hebrew writing on the front. Please contact Robert Kreitman (kreitmar@mail.nih.gov).

FOR SALE

Used Bibler "ToddTex" I-Tent/poles, in great condition; green tent weighs 4 pounds; \$275. Used North Face "Starlight Extreme" tent/poles & NF ground cloth, in great condition; green 4-season tent weighs under 5 pounds; \$80; used Sierra Designs Stretch Dome tent/poles in fair condition; old-style tent weighs 7 pounds; still waterproof but aged; \$25. Contact ATC life member Nick Williams, 703/321-9783 (najwilliams@aol.com).

Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Needed

CORRIDOR MONITOR OPENINGS

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SHELTER CREW IN MD

Henry Horn, 301/498-8254
ATHike@aol.com

NEW - Dugan Hollow Shelter - VA - PATC
Map L [E2]

OPEN TRAILS - CONTACT THE DISTRICT
MANAGER FOR THE SECTION THAT INTERESTS
YOU.

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

Opportunity to work long hours with no pay or
benefits. Generous allowance of blisters, sting-
ing/biting insects, and poisonous plants. Special
provision for rain and mud. Little or no super-
vision. Work hours optional. Location some-
where on the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania.
No certification from your doctor or hospital
required.

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

Appalachian Trail - Co-Overseer
US 30/Caledonia SP to Rocky Mountain (2.5
miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] - [4WD required]
Hemlock Road to Mountain Rd (4.9 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 Lincoln Trail (4.3
miles)

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

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

Appalachian Trail
High Rock to Sand Spring (1.4 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Fent Wiley Hollow to the Old Woods Road (1.0
mile)

Appalachian Trail

Trans Mountain Trail to Duke Hollow (1.3
miles)

Appalachian Trail

Duke Hollow to Southern Glasser Cabin Trail
(0.9 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Southern Glasser Cabin Trail to Ashby Gap
(1.6 miles)

ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BB [RTE. 50 TO SNP] - MAP 8, 9

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

Barking Dog Trail

AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte 604 (0.34 miles)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT BLUE-BLAZED - MAP 9

Peter Harris, 540/349-2595
peter.harris@lmco.com

Pole Bridge Link Trail

Piney Branch Trail to Keyser Run Fire Road
(1.0 miles)

Lower Jeremys Run Trail - 2 Co-Overseers

8th Ford of Jeremys Run to West Park
Boundary (3.5 miles)

Fork Mountain Trail - Co-Overseer

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END] - MAP 10

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

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

Catlett Mountain Trail

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail
(1.2 miles)

Robertson Mountain Trail - Co-Overseer

Old Rag Fire Road to Weakley Hollow Fire
Road (RM) (2.4 miles)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [SOUTH END]- MAP 10

stevepaul@yahoo.com

Laurel Prong Trail

AT to Fork Mountain Trail (2.8 miles)

TUSCARORA CENTRAL - MAP L

Walt Smith, 540/967-3058
waltermunroesmith@hotmail.com

Millrace Trail

High Rock Parking Area to Tuscarora Trail (1.4
miles)

Frye Path Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.4 miles)

Laurel Run Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.5 miles)

Rock Cave Trail & Overlook

at The Pinnacle (0.1 miles)

TUSCARORA SOUTH - MAP F, G, 9

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

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Sherman Gap to Veach Gap (3.1 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Veach Gap to Morgan Rd. / Massanutten split
(1.0 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Morgan Rd. / Massanutten split to US 340 (5.5
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)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN - MAP F

See Help Wanted, page 22



The Potomac Appalachian

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