



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 29, Number 12
December 2000

Looking for a Tax Deduction?

Your assistance is needed in order to protect land adjacent to the Appalachian and Tuscarora trails. You may be entitled to take a significant tax deduction while gaining the satisfaction of contributing to

the perpetual preservation of a PATC trail. Contributions should be addressed to the Trails Land Fund, PATC, 118 Park St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180.

—Walt Smith



Why are these PATC members hiking on a road in Shenandoah County, Virginia? Because the Tuscarora Trail is not yet sited off the road and on protected land. PATC is currently negotiating for trail land in this area. Your financial support is needed.



Thanks to the contributions of PATC members, this view from the Tuscarora Trail in Hampshire County, West Virginia will be protected in perpetuity. The club closed on this forty-acre tract in May.

Gas Rationing During WWII Impacts Trail Clearing

Today's higher gas prices mean a hit to our collective pocketbook. But we can still get to the trail head on weekends because gas is available. Some of us may be unhappy, but we are unhindered.

At the start of World War II, however, for the small cadre of Club members who hiked and maintained trails, the war meant gasoline rationing. This was a blow to members who wanted to go out on the Trail. The sale of gasoline was controlled by the federal government, which rationed it with khaki-colored coupons. You were limited to the number of coupons based on your need to drive. Driving that was considered not essential or that did not support the war effort was banned. And driving to trail heads was not considered essential.

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Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

Officers

President: Walt Smith, 703/242-0693
Ext. 40, wsmith@visuallink.com
VP Operations: Tom Johnson
VP Volunteerism: Mickey McDermott
Supervisor of Trails: Pete Gatje
Email: PJGatje@aol.com
Supervisor of Corridor Management:
Tom Lupp
General Secretary: Warren Sharp
General Counsel: Eric Olson
Membership Secretary: Terry Cummings
Treasurer: Dick Newcomer
Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

Sections/Chapters

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SMRG: Peter Pennington
Ski Touring Section: Steve Brickel
North Chapter: Steve Koeppen
N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Martha Clark
S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Michael Groah
Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Judy Smoot

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Cabins: Mel Merritt
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan
Grants & Donations: Jack Reeder
Endowment: Dick Newcomer
Finance: Paul Dery
Hikes: Tom Johnson, 410/647-8554,
johnts3@juno.com
Internet Services: Stephen Raia
Land Management: Anita Canovas
Land Acquisition: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson
Legal: Eric Olson
Maps: Dave Pierce
**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management
Committee:** Charlie Graf
Potomac Appalachian: Bianca Menendez
Public Affairs: Terry Cummings
Publications: Aaron Watkins
Shelters: Charlie Graf, 410/757-6053
Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat
Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Carol Niedzialek
Cabin Reservations: Darlene Wall
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Rick Rhoades
Firestone Tract Management: Shirley Strong
Headquarters Facility: Orron Kee
Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite Schneeberger
Medical: John McNamara
SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:
Kerry Snow & George Walters
Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:
Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford
Vining Tract Management: Howard Johnson

Potomac Appalachian

Chief Editor: Bianca Menendez
jns-bianca@home.com
Contributing Editors: Marion Lee, Kathy Murphy
Designer: Linda Shannon-Beaver
Features Editor: Joanne Erickson
Forecast Editor: Joe O'Neill
JJO'Neill@visi.net

Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on October 10, 2000 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 23 Council members, 1 staff, and 1 Club member. The PATC membership stands at 6,940, with 107 new members registering in the month of September

Council Roles

The Duties and Responsibilities of Club Officers and Committee Chairs are being revised to align with the changes in organizational structure that allow for better representation of all Club functions on the Executive Committee. Changes include a Finance Committee headed by the Treasurer and one Tract Management Committee. It appears that the Trail functions may need more representation on Council. Chairs are to modify the descriptions by November so that the new Guide can take effect in January.

Volunteer Awards

The Council discussed volunteer awards and made nominations for Honorary Life Members and Honorary Members of PATC. These awards are made, when appropriate, for exemplary service to PATC by members and nonmembers respectively. Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Tuscarora Trail

A survey of some Council members indicates that establishing the Tuscarora Trail is an important Club action. The Tuscarora

Trail Committee will work to establish a database of land ownership along the Trail in Pennsylvania and also to plan locations of shelters.

Near-Record-Breaking Volunteer Effort in 2000

The Supervisor of trails reported that in FY 2000 PATC contributed about 31,300 hours of trail work. This is the second largest amount ever. The Supervisor of Corridor Management reported that 1,035 hours were spent monitoring PATC property along the AT.

Conservation Issues

The Council voted to make an offer to buy the Elder property adjacent to the Blackburn Trail Center. This purchase protects the view shed on the AT and at Blackburn. Part of the purchase is made possible by a donation from the estate of Philip Stone.

The Council agreed that the President should sign a letter urging Secretary of Interior Babbitt to consider the concerns of the environmental community when ruling on the land to be purchased to protect the AT on Saddleback Mountain in Maine. The Ski area has hired former Senator George Mitchell to represent them, and he is reported to have had an audience with the Secretary. □

*Gerhard Salinger
Recording Secretary*

HEADQUARTERS HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US FOR CABIN RESERVATIONS, MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, AND SALES

Address: 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Phone #: 703/242-0315
To receive an information packet: Extension 10
To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith: Extension 40
24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965
Facsimile #: 703/242-0968
Club Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
World Wide Web URL: <http://www.patc.net>

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) Email: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15) Email: rgarnett@erols.com
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) Email: patcsales@erols.com

Walt's Notes

As I indicated in my annual report, there are four areas that I feel need special attention if we are to achieve PATC objectives in the future: (1) maintaining our volunteer tradition, (2) protecting trail corridors and trailheads, (3) overseeing our facilities, and (4) planning for the future. In a sense, these subjects will always need attention. However, it seems especially pertinent to highlight these areas at this point in our history. For example, other non-profit organizations that obtain a membership of around seven thousand may have begun to transfer many of their functions from volunteers to a professional staff. The question for PATC, I believe, is to what extent can we maintain a volunteer tradition, especially at the leadership level. So, I wish to provide my assessment of how I think we stand in these four areas.

Maintaining Our Volunteer Tradition

The accomplishments of our volunteer overseers, crews, and committee members are very impressive. The annual report of 31,300 hours spent on trail maintenance is especially noteworthy. I call your attention to all of volunteer hours as indicated in the annual report. Please call the Club headquarters if you do not have a copy and note the many accomplishments that are occurring. All of them happen because volunteer leadership takes the time to plan for and supervise these important activities.

The Futures Group has discussed ways that the volunteer tradition may continue: for example, by combining meetings and changing the organizational structure so that committee chairs with similar goals may coordinate more easily. Also, the VP for Volunteerism, a member of the Futures Group, has coordinated with various committees in order to review ways to reward volunteerism, such as the previously announced change in cabin rental procedure, and the additional recognition through awards and publicity. Now, we will most likely need more staff in the future. However, in my view, the staff should be hired for positions that will support continuance of the volunteer tradition, rather than replace it.

Protecting Trail Corridors and Trailheads

I also call your attention to those portions of the annual report that reflect measures taken to protect trails. During the last twelve months, we have acquired more

land and conservation easements that protect the Appalachian and Tuscarora trails. You may also note that there is a very active program for monitoring the Appalachian Trail corridor. Next year these successful methods will be extended to the Tuscarora Trail as this trail corridor becomes more formally established. A very active group of PATC and National Park Service members, who manage the Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project, is gathering local support in Shenandoah County. Some county residents who are not PATC members are joining in the cause to protect the trail from development in that critical area. We hope that this organization may serve as a model in other areas where we need partnership with others who share our values and goals. In like manner, an informal Shenandoah National Park Boundary Trailheads Study Group is reviewing ways in which trailheads around the edge of the park may be protected, assuring availability for hiking in the future. Protection of trails continues to receive the highest priority during Council deliberations.

Overseeing PATC Facilities

We may read in committee reports about the construction of new shelters for hikers along the Appalachian and Tuscarora trails, as well as the many repairs being accomplished to our other facilities. One of the primary changes made during the past year, which may improve our ability to plan for and maintain our properties in the future, was the designation of a facilities coordinator on the Executive Committee. Beginning on January 1, the General Secretary will coordinate with respective committees all planning, financing, construction, renovation, maintenance, and disposal of all Club owned or managed facilities. The respective cabin, shelter, and construction committee chairs will be able to focus their attention primarily on the recruitment of volunteers and the operations of crews and overseers.

Planning for the Future

The purpose of the Futures Group is to research, develop, and recommend changes to the PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws that may be necessary in order to meet the challenges of the new century. This ad hoc committee was supposed to provide a final report to the membership this November. However, the group soon discovered that the mission was more complicated than we thought. Therefore, the charter has been extended

for another year. The group has been meeting monthly to consider such concerns as: how decision-making can be improved, how time can be saved for busy volunteer leaders, and how we can become more focused on dealing with the important issues. After proposing new mission and goals statements, which now drive the budget process, and some organizational and officer duty changes, which the Council adopted, the group is now focused on our vision for the future. Changes to the constitution and bylaws will not be proposed until this work is completed, and the Futures Group and Council have had an opportunity to observe how some of the structural and procedural changes are working.

I look forward to a future that reflects the excellent PATC volunteer led trail protection and maintenance that the community has come to appreciate. May you have a joyful holiday season!

See you on the trail,



Shenandoah National Park Hires Archivist

*Shenandoah National Park, VA—
Shenandoah National Park*

Superintendent, Douglas K. Morris, announced recently that Harry G. Heiss has been selected to be the Park's first archivist.

Mr. Heiss was born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and received both a BA and MA from the University of Arkansas. He began his career as an archivist with the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, and from there moved on to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he developed and established that park's archival program. For the past ten years, Mr. Heiss has been an archivist with the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

—National Park Service Press Release

WWII, from page 1

PATCers Find A Way

Needless to say, gas rationing caused something of an upheaval in Club trail maintenance plans. Still, had members not figured out a way to work around rationing, many of the trails today would not exist. America's nearly four-year duration of war would have resulted in most trails becoming heavily overgrown and forgotten. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the Club's priority trail to be maintained was, of course, the Appalachian Trail. So how did those sturdy Overseers get the job done if there was no gas to be had?

The answer is ingenuity. One method was to hire a bus. Here's an excerpt of the Supervisor of Trail's report from the July 1942 Club Bulletin:

"The cooperative work trips by bus announced in the April Bulletin started off auspiciously with the one on April 26. [With the guidance of many officers] the affair moved with railroad time-table precision. Every Overseer of the sections covered was present in person or by proxy. Each was provided with a map showing the bus route in one color and the Trail to be walked and worked in another. Attached to the map were concise directions as to where the party would leave the bus, and where and when it would be picked up, the tools assigned each group, and the names of the workers....

"This first cooperative work trip by bus proved the plan to be thoroughly practicable. However, no sooner were we feeling that the situation was well in hand than it changed! No longer can we get chartered buses."

This blow was due to a step-up in gas restrictions as a result of the war. After all, 1942 was a pretty desolate time, a period

when Americans were not certain they were going to prevail over enemy powers. Every possible resource was put toward the war effort, and no one complained. It was that serious.

In some instances, Club Overseers were able to use public transportation. One such trip used the train to Harpers Ferry, where Club members were able to maintain about 15 miles of Appalachian Trail north and south.

In Celebration of PATC's History

Car Trip Travails

Car trips were still possible by frugal use of coupon rationing cards. There were several degrees of coupons, each level permitting purchase of a designated amount of gasoline, based on the holder's need to drive. (Key government and utility employees were permitted more gas due to their job requirements, for instance.) Those members with higher-purchase coupons saved up, and a car pool took off for the mountains about two to three times a month.

The private car trip worked, but it was limited in scope. For one thing, it meant the owner of the car could not use his gasoline for pleasure trips (unless whacking weeds was what he considered "pleasure," and in some cases it was). It also meant the maximum speed was 35 mph, a limit set by the federal government to slow tire wear. (Tires of that era were far inferior to today's. Worse, replacement tires were difficult to

come by due to a rubber shortage.) The lower limit meant, for instance, a drive to Sperryville took at least three hours.

Also, the sacrifice members made was more than the price and availability of gas and tires, it was loss of personal time. Most people in government or war-related jobs had to work six days a week, so the time available to do other necessary things was restricted if you spent your Sunday going out on the Trail. Not the least of members' concerns was the fact that work trips caused wear and tear on one's auto. No new cars were available after early 1942, all production having been converted to armaments.

With WW II coming on the heels of the Depression, most members had older cars to begin with. Furthermore, autos were not as reliable then, so operating an older car was a constant maintenance problem, even to the point of trying to acquire replacement parts, which were in short supply due to the war effort.

The final impact on trail clearing was more than a transportation headache. Many Club Overseers, including Lt. Commander Myron Avery, USNR, the Club's President, had to report to duty far from the D.C. area. A plea went out for more Overseers to cover those defending the country.

It was not the best of times, but at least one positive cultural change occurred that helped Trail Overseers during those dark days: the creation of Daylight Savings Time. □

(Author's Note: For more information regarding PATC during WW II years, read the fascinating book, Clearing Trail in Wartime, by Dave Bates, available from the Club Web site or at HQ.)

—Jack Reeder

Are you moving?!!

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

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

Name: _____ Effective date of new address: _____
Old Address: _____
New Address: _____ New Phone Number: _____

Building A Trailside Shelter

Although I backpack only occasionally, I'm a reasonably avid hiker, and I've passed many shelters along a wooded trail, dashing into a few to take cover during the storms that can come up very quickly in the mountains. Most of the shelters vary little from a basic theme: a raised platform with three walls and a roof. In a way, they're reminiscent of a stage—and certainly they do provide a setting for the little dramas of the trail. These are places where hikers, both known and unknown to each other, converge and converse: sharing stories, food, the sounds of their snores, and imparting "trail names": the nicknames long-distance AT hikers sometimes find themselves carrying along with all their other gear.

The shelters, though they usually fall within the boundaries of national parks and state forests, are really products of the hikers themselves. Though many don't know it, most of the shelters are built and maintained by volunteers. Many of these folks hail from one of the numerous AT clubs that also maintain the bulk of the trail itself.

I had been nagging myself for a while about not doing enough to put something back in terms of the trails I enjoyed and the shelters I occasionally made use of. Early this year, I took a look through the extensive listing of PATC work trips and other activities, and came upon a listing for the "Ed Garvey Log Shelter" construction project. The thought of contributing to the building of a shelter—created primarily with basic, old-fashioned hand tools—was very appealing, and then I took note that it was being dedicated to Garvey, whose name I recognized. I had read his book *The New Appalachian Trail* the year before, and it dawned on me that he must have passed away. Garvey was well-known for his efforts to support and promote the trail, lobbying Congress for the purchase of adjacent lands as well as inspiring many hikers with his books. He had even been dubbed "Mr. Appalachian Trail". I thought this project would be a very fitting way to contribute.

The project was also closer than I would have thought. Construction was taking place not on the AT but on county-owned land outside of Bowie, Maryland. The site has a surprisingly rural look to it, considering its proximity to Bowie, a rapidly developing city a mere fifteen minutes from either Washington, D.C. or

Annapolis, Maryland's capital. The location features a mix of woodland and open fields, and provides a protective buffer for the Patuxent River, which it borders. I later learned that the plan called for building the shelter here, disassembling it, and bringing the pieces up to the trail for permanent installation.

I first showed up to volunteer on a damp February day. I recall slowly driving up the gravel road leading to the work site, looking to my right and suddenly knowing I had found the place. Visible through the trees was the largest outhouse I had ever seen; in fact I first thought this would be the smallest shelter I had ever seen! This rather essential aspect of the project had been started in November and was now nearly complete. Standing there like a fortress wrought of 8" and 9" diameter logs, it foreshadowed a shelter that would stand out as a landmark on the AT.

Meet Frank Turk

One man was working at the site, Frank Turk, the project leader for the Garvey Shelter and a fellow with a self-professed passion for his work, as well as seven other log shelters on his resume. He explained the development of the project: how the idea for a shelter to honor Garvey had germinated at the dedication of another shelter some months earlier, and how it all just seemed to fall into place. The location selected seemed perfect: near Weverton Heights, Maryland, a few miles north of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Weverton Heights had been one of Garvey's favorite spots on the entire AT. Overlooking the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, it is, as Garvey put it, "one of the most spectacular views along the entire Trail."

To complement this special spot, a very special shelter was planned. Turk and PATC Shelter Chairperson Charlie Graf, with the help of Sharon Garvey and Kathleen Menendez, Ed's daughters, designed a structure certain to stand out. For one thing, it will be a large shelter—nearly 20 feet wide, up to 17 feet deep and standing perhaps 17 feet when completed. The design incorporates some unique features—the shelter will have two levels, the upper story leading to a balcony running two-thirds of the width of the back wall. Plans also call for a front deck, and other unique design elements, including a cantilever in front for improved roof support. Although the basic plans are set, they can

change-Turk experiments a bit as the construction goes along, and the result will likely be a structure born of a marriage of careful planning and creative tinkering.

During that first visit, however, the shelter made a more modest impression. Only three large logs had been placed, to mark the foundation. Turk took me over for a tour of the rest of the shelter-to-be: a large pile of logs a short distance away. These prime examples of good Maryland loblolly pine had been donated for the project by a local landowner.

Job Variety

The first task was peeling off the bark. Turk demonstrated the use of a tool best described as a garden shovel with a modified blade, then he handed it over. Though not lower-back friendly, the task was not without its charms. Rather like weeding a garden, it involved little thought and offered a great deal of satisfaction when the last bits of bark came off, revealing the light beige of the tree underneath, glistening with a patina of fresh sap.

Still, the charms of such a task fade with time and toil, and later that afternoon Turk took me off log duty to demonstrate the real meat and potatoes of log shelter construction and the part that really does require a great deal of care and calculation. The logs of the shelter must rest securely upon one another. To this end, an arc is carved into each log, to precisely match the curve of the log that will lie at a right angle below it. Turk showed me how, with compass and crayon, to draw the shape of the lower log onto the one that will top it. Once that was done, He chainsawed several notches straight into the area to be carved out. Then, as if to atone for the use of a motorized tool, he chiseled out the wood between the notches, using a chisel and a crude mallet handmade of wood. After that, it only took a bit of smoothing over with the chainsaw to create a surprisingly snug fit between the logs. The satisfaction found in a good fit is palpable, and this key procedure wonderfully blends brains, brawn and modern technology.

Perhaps the project's most dramatic task is the hauling of each new log to its place upon the others. As the walls of the shelter grow, the effort to bring the next log up increases. Using a rudimentary tackle system with a block and hand-hoist, each log

The Blackburns: Part II

[This is the second article in a three-part series recognizing "trailblazing" members Fred and Ruth Blackburn.]

Plot scenario: Washington public opinion seemed to be leaning toward turning a weed-filled C & O Canal into a scenic highway, a la Skyline Drive. PATC had a different, hiker-friendly vision.

January 1954 was the month the Washington Post endorsed making the C & O Canal a scenic highway and in which Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court challenged Post editors to hike it and become acquainted with its recreational values. "We accept!" responded Post editors in a headline. Planning for the hike began, with help from Audubon Society activist Anthony W. Smith, a friend of Douglas'. In a May 1954 Appalachian Trailway News story of the hike, Fred Blackburn wrote:

"Early in the planning the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club was consulted, but its officers did not participate actively until four days before the start. When it developed that the arrangements for transportation and meals had fallen through, the PATC officers stepped forward with suggestions. The result was that the specially equipped truck rented by the PATC (from Appalachian Trucks) was rented with a PATC member to drive (Bill Hersch); another PATC member (Bill Richardson) to purchase the pooled food supplies and serve needed meals; and another (Charlie Thomas) [who] went along to help. Each member of the party paid his [own] expenses."

In addition to Fred, who hiked a great part of the path, and the men named above, there were at least 10 more PATC members among the 39 participants of the hike. Grant Conway, George F. Miller, Colin Ritter, and Constant Southworth were among the "Nine Immortals" who hiked every foot of the path.

PATC hikers were not just enjoying a day in the woods, however. On the last night of the hike, PATC participants formed a committee to make recommendations on the future of the canal to the administration, and Fred was appointed as a member. When the committee's report opposing the highway was completed, PATC Council passed a resolution in support of the report and agreed to work with the committee in further opposition.

The Club also helped organized the Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council, which drew up long-range plans for the Potomac River Basin and continued to exist at least until the creation in 1961 of the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historic Monument, which preserved the C&O Towpath and saved it from becoming a highway.

Continuing Leadership Roles

When Fred, who had been in office since 1951, retired as PATC President at the January 1955 annual meeting, Council passed an unusual resolution of commendation. His obituary 45 years later remembered "his advance preparation of agenda and his fairness in presiding" when President.

Fred, however, was far from abandoning leadership in matters Trail-related. The Twelfth (1955) Appalachian Trail Conference in the White Mountains saw Fred serving on the Board of Managers as Secretary. He held that position, which grew in responsibilities, until the Board finally hired an Executive Director, Lester F. Holmes, also a PATC member, in 1969.

Conference business did not occupy all of Fred's free time. He chaired the Shelters Construction Committee, 1956-1957; was Property (Headquarters) Manager, 1953-1972; and was active with both the Photos and History Committees for a number of years. Fred backed up his leadership roles by supplying hands-on work on Club cabins. When in 1953 PATC converted a former mountaineer's home, Corbin Cabin, both Fred and Ruth participated in its rehabilitation. The cabin was dedicated in September 1954. Fred also participated in the building of Yellow Rose Shelter and the rehabilitation of Keyes' Gap and Tom's Run Shelters. In 1954, he and Alvin "Pete" Peterson began the construction of the Anna Michener Cabin.

As an interesting aside, it was during this period that the "trail-barrow" was invented. The trail-barrow was a two-wheeled cart that could hold building supplies and was pulled by two long poles along trails where motorized transport could not go. The only photo of it shows two men pulling and a third in the rear either pushing or balancing the load. It was undoubtedly a more practical bit of equipment than the better known Trail-e-o-Makus.

During this period, Fred continued to contribute to the visibility of hiking not only through his leadership roles in PATC but in helping to create similar Trail groups in other locales. At a joint PATC-Mountain Club of Maryland weekend, participants discussed the need for an organization of Pennsylvania Trail clubs, and Fred was part of the planning group out of which the Keystone Trails Association grew. For the next dozen years, Fred and Ruth, as well as many other PATC members, regularly attended annual KTA meetings.

Blackburns Go Off-Site

In 1965, the Blackburns led two two-week PATC excursions, back to back, in the Grand Teton National Park. Their son, Ted, was living near Jackson Hole, and he found a ranch-house that the Club could use as a base camp. The two groups took day hikes and sightseeing trips into both Yellowstone and the Grand Teton Parks. But the Blackburns also led 18 members on a five-day backpack into the Yellowstone backcountry to Two Ocean Pass. The backpackers remember the mosquitoes that followed each of us in a cloud about a foot behind as we walked and that settled on us en masse when we stopped.

Fred's pictures of these trips were featured in the PATC Bulletin. He was a good photographer and enjoyed the hobby. Another hobby of Fred's was riding trains. On at least one occasion, he was so immersed in his delight with the train that he left his camera behind when he disembarked.

Fred continued to write about Conference matters, problems affecting the AT, and the trails policy of George Washington National Forest in the Club quarterly as late as 1970, when he began to reduce his personal activities in PATC and instead supported Ruth's. Fred had retired from his government job in 1963 "though not from the AT," as the headline over the Bulletin story exulted. By 1970, the hearing problem he had long borne had begun to worsen (or his hearing aids were poor) so he became more reclusive, and Ruth became more active. The Appalachian Trail Conference bestowed Honorary Life Membership on Fred in 1972.

Ruth Comes Into Her Own

During Fred's presidency in the early '50s, Ruth continued to work with the

See Blackburn, page 13

Pinnacle Hike Wedding

The good Lord couldn't have ordered up a more perfect weekend for a wedding for Nick Williams and Joanne Lose. Nick was PATC's Central District AT Manager from 1990 through 1991. While hiking the Continental Divide Trail in 1998, he met a fellow through-hiker from Montana, and, by the end of the trip, cupid's arrows had struck home. Hawksbill Peak in Shenandoah National Park had always been special to Nick, and he currently maintains that section of the Appalachian Trail that follows from Hawksbill Gap to the Corbin Cabin Cut-off Trail. In August, he proposed to Joanne after taking her on an extended backpacking trip that went over Old Rag and then up Cedar Run Trail and the AT to the summit of Hawksbill. At the end of September, he and I talked about the possibility of holding the wedding on the summit, and, after some discussions with the Park and acquiring a Special Use Permit, the plans were in place.

The weather did not disappoint. Temperatures were in the mid-seventies under an azure blue sky accompanied by peak fall color on the high ridges of the Blue Ridge. It couldn't have been a more perfect day or a more perfect location for an outdoor wedding. So Nick in his perennial Patagonia shorts and Joanne



in her Tevas tied the knot at 2:45pm on the observation deck on Hawksbill with 30 friends and family in attendance.

After the ceremony, the guests hiked down to the upper Hawksbill Parking Area for some light snacks and refreshments. As the small celebration started to break up around 4:30pm, Dean and I realized we had some time to take in a short hike. Our original plan was to take a quick hike up Stony Man, but after arriving at the lower parking lot and not seeing any available parking spaces (even along the road), we decided the next best thing was some solitude on the much quieter summit of the Pinnacle. So we drove on, parking in the Pinnacle Picnic Area, and hiking north on the Appalachian Trail. The Park's recent overlook clearing efforts have re-opened

many views in the Park, and tremendous views they are.

Soon we had left the crowds and noise of the overlook far behind and disappeared into the woods to start the steady climb up the south ridge of the Pinnacle. After climbing for about a mile, we were rewarded with solitude and the tremendous views available from the rib of rock that forms the summit of the mountain. We were alone and in peace with the glorious colors of peak fall color bathed in the warm evening light.

It doesn't get much better than this folks. Perfect weather, great color, solitude and a hike to a tremendous evening view. This is what it's all about. □

—Andy Hiltz

Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: Fun With Filters, Part III



I remember a wedding I photographed many years ago. It was for some people I didn't know; I had been recommended to them by some friends of friends.

Before the ceremony I was setting up my equipment without much notice from the participants until I pulled a pair of nylon hose from my camera bag.

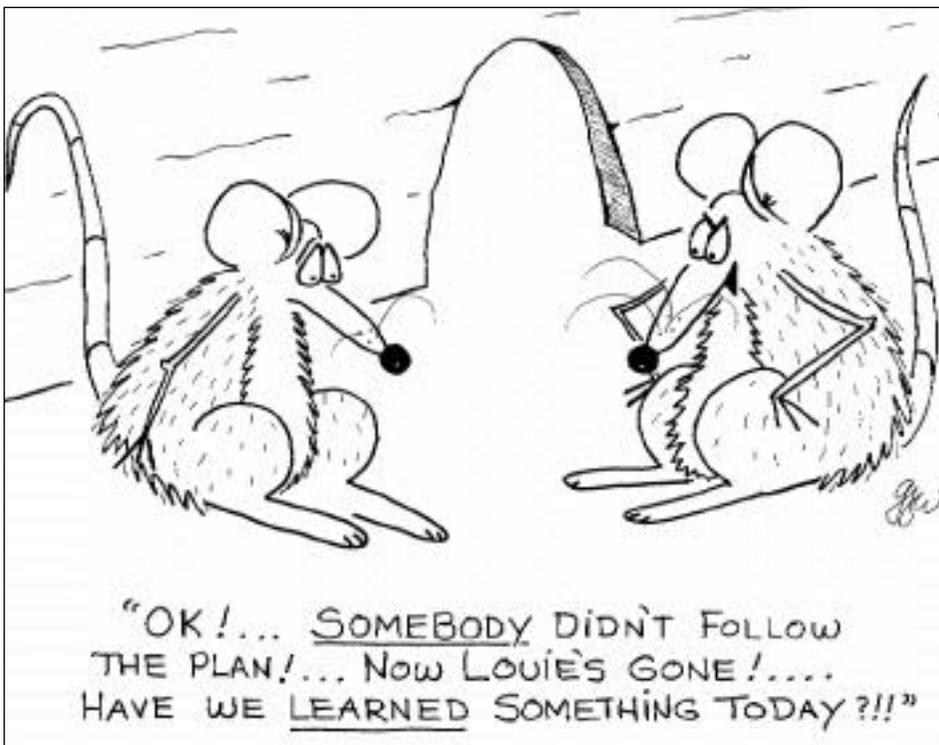
Needless to say, this raised a few eyebrows. Noticing the apprehensive looks, I quickly cut a swatch and stretched it over my camera lens to demonstrate how I use it to make an adjustable soft focus filter. I held it in place with a rubber band so I could stretch it loosely or tightly to control the effect. You can use black or gray hose for neutral color or, for a slight warming effect, use brown or tan. The photographs came out fine, but I noticed that the single ladies kept their distance.

Next Month: Why Black and White? □

The archive of Photo Tips and sample geocos can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips.html>

—Mike Karpie

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays—contact Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com), 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/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 Martha Clark (mclark@visalink.com) 540/665-2101.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See Forecast (or our link from PATC website) for work trips and hiking events sponsored by the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. Hikers from the DC area should allow about 3 hours to get to our region. INFO: in Harrisonburg, call Alvin 540/434-6244 or Lynn 540/234-6273; in Waynesboro, call Michael 540/943-8695; in Staunton, call Doris 540/885-4526.

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot at 540/667-2036 or wvpatc@hotmail.com.

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Steve Brickel 301/946-2520 or sbrickel@erols.com.

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 interest 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 Greg Christopoulos at greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov.

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

Capital and Wanderbirds hike on Sundays, traveling by bus and leaving from downtown, with suburban stops as well. Center Club, Northern Virginia Hiking Club and Sierra Clubs hike on both Saturdays and Sundays using carpools, which often leave from a suburban Metro stop. Schedules are available at PATC Headquarters and are published in area newspapers on Fridays.

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

-  Hiking Trips
-  Backpacking Trips
-  Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin/Shelter Work Trips
-  Special Events
-  Meetings
-  Skiing

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's goodwill trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Kumait Jawdat 202/328-8137 or see PATC's website (www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

New Members (PATC) - First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a new Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Terry Cummings (TCIVP@mindspring.com) 410/489-4594

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(New Members meeting) - Second Monday 7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: SMRG Operations 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Greg Christopoulos (greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov) or see PATC's website (www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect).

The Futures Group — Third Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Meets to research, develop, and recommend to membership changes to PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws in order to meet challenges of the new century. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Gerhard Sainger (evger@erols.com) or Walt Smith (wsmith@visalink.com), Co-Chairs.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday

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

December

1 (Friday)

DEADLINE - January Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

2 (Saturday)

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

NSVC History Hike or Jack Reeder's Knee-Walking, Eye-Poking, Head-Slapping, Foot Grabbing, Belly-Crawling, Mystery Bushwhack to our old environs near Beahms Gap. This one begins on Skyline Drive and descends east about one mile to what is one of the few meadows remaining in the Shenandoah National Park. See geology at its finest, including a hole in the ground and Cat Rock. Stop and have lunch with some old-timers (if we can find them) located in what will be one of the worst, most dense, and impossible traverses of tangle we have ever encountered. This is for those who like challenges. Limited to the first 12 who apply. Meet at parking area at Hull School Road, just south of Skyline Drive MP 28. Allow 3 to 5 hours. Trip will NOT proceed if it is snowing, or there is snow on the ground, or raining, or recent rain, due to the thickets we will encounter en route. Bring lunch, water, and wear layered old clothing. Time is short; act fast. INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

We may be putting the finishing touches on the roof by now, and maybe not. Whether we are working on the roof or not there is plenty of work to do. We may be chinking the logs and we will probably be building the wall to separate the back porch from the main room of the cabin above the log walls. At any rate we will be warm and cozy at meal times in our heated summer kitchen. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Annandale, 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 \$140. Registration is limited to 25 people. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

HIKE - Meet the Trail Patrol Weekend Michaux Forest and Caledonia State Park, PA

Learn how these adventurous, dedicated men and women monitor the Club's 1,000 miles of trails, help people, instruct them in safe hiking practices, and report on the conditions of the trails. Join us Saturday night at the Gypsy Springs cabin in the Michaux Forest. On Sunday, we'll go on an 11.3-mile educational patrol hike along the AT from Big Flats to Caledonia State Park (PATC map 2/3 and AT Guide to Pennsylvania-Vol. 5). If you just want to join the hike, meet us at 9:30 a.m. at the junction of Rt. 233 and Rt. 30. With a nip in the air, it will be a glorious hike. We will cover the essentials of becoming a Trail Patrol member the night before and during the hike. Supper and breakfast will be provided; bring your own lunch. Gypsy Springs has a fridge, water, etc. INFO: Chris Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 5:30 p.m.

3 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORKTRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

This is South Mountaineers' 19th and final event of the year. Thanks to all who came out and contributed in 2000. As usual, we meet in Frederick County. Bring water, lunch, gloves, and boots. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

4 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Join us for a 3 - 5 mile hike. We will hike down Donaldson Run to the Potomac Heritage Trail along the Potomac River. Babies and toddlers on up — all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

5 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Backpacking Maine (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. The name brings visions of a stern and rock-bound coast with small, neat fishing villages in the coves, or long canoe trips on the inland rivers and lakes. But there is great backpacking too. From Baxter State Park to Grafton Notch and Acadia, Maine has trails and unique natural areas protected for outdoor recreation. REI's Ed Neville will discuss some great destinations, accompanied by his excellent photography. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

5 (Tuesday)

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

6 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Backpacking Maine (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 12/5 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

6 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Saturday)

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

Overall Run Falls Loop, SNP. Join the NSVC on a moderately difficult hike to the highest waterfall in the park. We will begin by hiking up the Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail, gaining approximately 1150 feet in elevation, but with plenty of time to stop and admire Overall Run and the Falls. We will then return via the Beecher Ridge Trail. This hike of 8 or 9 miles, with the leaves off the trees, should afford some interesting views. INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

9 (Saturday)

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

Steve Bair, SNP Resource Specialist, is joined by Bob Pickett on another one of their interesting hikes through the Park. This year, they travel about six miles along the Hull School and Thornton River Hollow trails. This area is rich in cultural history and Steve has much information about the last inhabitants of this area that he has obtained from the Park resources. Join them for a very informative hike. Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

Annual Holiday Party - Cadillac Crew Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV

If you've been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us at Highacre in Harper's Ferry to help us celebrate the holidays! We'll stroll through the streets of the town, hike the trails and try not to spend too much money in the bookstore. Saturday, we'll buy our own lunches in town and Saturday night we'll have a big community dinner. Please call by 12/4 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

11 (Monday)

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

11 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike Lake Accotink, VA

Get away from the mall and into the woods! This 5 mile hike starts in Wakefield Park, follows Accotink Creek, then goes around Lake Accotink. We'll stop at a playground at the halfway point. It's jogger stroller passable. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

12 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Bear Awareness (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Most of us will never see a bear in the wild, but knowing what to do if we do come upon a bear can't hurt. REI's Veronica Marjerison, who has backpacked extensively from Alaska to Shenandoah Park, will discuss basic bear biology, incident prevention and incident management. Veronica will detail bear canister use, how to recognize potentially dangerous situations before they develop, and where to get solid bear information for your destination, so that you feel confident in evaluating your level of risk. INFO: REI 301-982-9681.

12 (Tuesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Bear Awareness (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 12/12 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

13 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Great Falls, VA

Difficult Run loop. A scenic 4-5 miles over variable terrain. Meet at Great Falls Visitor Center at 10:15 a.m. Bring lunch and water. We go rain or shine and a reservation is not needed. Sorry, no pets. I-495 beltway exit 44 (old #13), go W. on Va. 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 4 miles, turn right at Old Dominion Road. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

15 - 17 (Friday - Sunday)

SKI TRIP - Kickoff Weekend Blackwater Falls, WV

Across the Blue Mountains in the Alleghenies, we try our luck at early snowfall or go to the yo-yo slopes. Stay at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge at cost of \$67/person (non-STs add \$5) for 2 nights stay. INFO: Mitch Hyman (MitchHyman@aol.com) 202/244-0148.

FORECAST

16 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Mason-Dixon Trail Series #11
Chadds Ford, PA

This moderately paced 16-mile hike from White Clay Creek, PA to Chadds Ford completes the Mason-Dixon Trail Series. Mason-Dixon trail maps 9 and 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

We will work a little and celebrate a lot. We have a lot to celebrate this year with the end of the roof work. We may take advantage of the dry cabin for part of our celebration. Tom and Elaina Carrol will once again be the Christmas party cooks. This is a must trip for Tulip Tree Cabin regulars. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 Cabin Christmas
Michener Cabin, PA

Escape the mobs, malls, and parking lots and spend a cozy Yuletide weekend in the country. We'll day-hike, cross-country ski (if there is snow), and share the camaraderie of the season with a group meal and holiday spirit(s). Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

17 (Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade
Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to work on the Tibbet Knob Trail. This popular area offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove or break up rocks in the tread. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (mgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

18 (Monday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike
Scotts Run Nature Preserve

Get away from holiday stress and get some fresh air. Bundle up your little one(s), and join us for a 3-mile circuit hike to a waterfall. Part of the hike is on an easy wide gravel path, other parts are on narrow rugged hiking paths. Babies and toddlers on up — all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631- 9278.

20 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers
Rock Creek Park and National Zoo

The Easy Hikers will hike about 5 easy miles on the Rock Creek bike trail to the National Zoo with lunch at a restaurant on Connecticut Avenue and then returning to Rock Creek Park. Meet at the parking area at Pierce Mill at the intersection of Beach Dr. and Tilden St. at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

19 (Tuesday)

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

22 - 26 (Friday - Tuesday)

👤 SKI TRIP - Ski Mini-Week #1
Tug Hill, Upstate NY

Get a jump on the holidays as we stay at All Season's Lodge in Sandy Creek (close to Lake Ontario). Enjoy likely heavy lake effect snowfall endemic to this area as we ski some of our favorites at nearby Winona State Forest, Salmon Hills and Osceola STCs. Estimated cost \$140/person (non-STS add \$5) includes lodging and 2 group meals. INFO: Steve Brickel (sbrickel@erols.com) or Peggy Alpert at 301/946-2520 (no calls after 9:30 p.m. weeknites please).

26 (Tuesday)

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

January

1 (Monday)

👤 DEADLINE - February Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

2 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

3 (Wednesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers
Seneca Creek State Park, MD

Four mile hike. Meet at Seneca Creek State Park Visitors Center at 10:15 a.m., or by prior arrangement only, at Shady Grove Metro Station. If Montgomery County schools are closed, hike is canceled. Otherwise, hike goes. Lunch will be inside, probably at Chevy's (Mexican Food) Restaurant. I-270 N to Clopper Road exit. Exit right from I-270 after I-370 exits, but before Montgomery Village. Exit ramp leads you onto Clopper Road in the direction of the Park. Look for park signs on the left, after you have passed Quince Orchard Road, and St. Rose of Lima Church (small, historical church is on your right). If you reach Great Seneca Hwy., you've gone too far. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988 (h) or 301/869-9291 x3 (w).

5 - 7 (Friday - Sunday)

👤 SKI TRIP - Cabin Wknd #1
Harmon, WV

We stay at a spacious cabin just 10 mi. south of Canaan Valley, WV. Ski trails in nearby Canaan State Park, Whitegrass STC, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods area. Cost for 2 nights stay is \$47/person (non-STS add\$5). INFO: Diane Weil (DianWeil@aol.com) 301/656-4347.

8 (Monday)

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

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers
Lake Needwood Mansion, MD

Meet at Lake Needwood Mansion, 10:15 a.m., or by prior arrangement only, at Shady Grove Metro Station. If Montgomery County schools are closed, hike is canceled. Otherwise, hike goes. Lunch inside; probably at The Red, Hot, and Blue, follows 4-mile hike. I-270 N to Shady Grove Road exit east. Exit from I-270 right access lanes after Route 28, but before I-370 exits. Stay far right on exit ramp, follow signs to Redland Road. Right at the next light after Crabbs Branch Way, onto Needwood Road. Pass entrance to Needwood Golf Course, and take next right on gravel entranceway to Needwood Mansion. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988 (h) or 301/869-9291 x3 (w).

12 - 15 (Friday - Monday)

👤 SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #1
Canaan Valley, WV

Join our group at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of the Park's resort amenities, such as indoor pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. Ski trails in the Park, or nearby at Whitegrass, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods. Cost is \$100/person (non-STS add \$5) for 3-nights stay. INFO: Ted Fryberger (tkfys@home.net) 410/312-2982.

12 - 15 (Friday - Monday)

👤 SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Mini-Week #2
Tug Hill, Upstate NY

Join a dozen XC skiers enjoy the likely heavy lake effect snowfall endemic to this area, as we stay at the All Season's Lodge in Sandy Creek (close to Lake Ontario). Options include joining in a local ski race, and just touring trails at Winona State Forest, Salmon Hills & Osceola STCs. Estimated cost \$110/person (non-STS add \$5). INFO: Robert Swennes 703/532-6101.

12 - 15 (Friday - Monday)

👤 SKI TRIP - New Germany State Park Wknd #1
New Germany State Park, Western MD

Stay at the quiet, comfortable, Mennonite-run Casselman Inn in Grantsville, MD, a few miles from the well-maintained ski trails in New Germany State Park. This spot is close to other skiing areas in Allegheny Front of Western MD, PA, and WV. Estimated cost is \$95/person (non-STS add \$5) for a 3-night stay. INFO: Jack Wise 410/256-3963.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

After a short break we are back at it again. With any luck the weather will be kind to us and not be too frigid or not bury us in snow. We will be at the cabin working if the roads are open. There is plenty of work that we can do in any kind of weather. We can work inside or outside depending upon the circumstances. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Shenandoah, VA

Cliffs House and Weaver Property, near Shenandoah, VA. Get out and enjoy winter as the crew continues clearing brush and undesirable trees from around Cliffs House and the Weaver Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Cliffs House. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

14 (Sunday)

👤 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Old Rag Mountain, VA

FAMOUS, OR INFAMOUS, OLD RAG BIRTHDAY HIKE. Here we go again, except this time it is on a Sunday. Me and the first 15 people to volunteer will climb Old Rag Mountain to celebrate a very important birthday; mine. I have done this for the last 6 years now and usually the weather gods cooperate and give us cold and clear weather with outstanding views, but in the event that the weather is inclement we will not do this hike because the lawyers get mad. Anyway, if you want to see Old Rag in all its winter time clear sky beauty, act fast because only 15 people can go. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

16 (Futures)

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

19 - 21 (Friday - Sunday)

❄️ SKI TRIP - Learn-To-Cross Country Ski Wknd #1 Laurel Highlands, PA

Catch XC ski fever with 20 other students and the help of expert volunteer instructors. Stay at quiet, motel-like facilities at the foothill of Laurel Mountain near Jennerstown, PA. Cost of \$70/person (non-STS add \$5) covers lodgings, breakfasts, & instruction. INFO: Dave Holton 202/364-7055.

19 - 21 (Friday - Sunday)

❄️ SKI TRIP - NATO Downhill Nordic Clinic Canaan Valley, WV

Two days of training in downhill Nordic skiing methods offered by professional ski instructors, both local and from North American Telemark Organization. Cover basic Telemark skiing to high-end hybrid freeheel techniques including: step, jump, and hop Tele's; linking smooth turns; and freeheel parallel. Round out your weekend skiing moguls, steep and packed surfaces, powder, tree, & trail skiing, skiing with a pack, weird snow skiing, & other backcountry skiing secrets. Clinic uses natural or man-made snow, if needed. Cost of two-day instruction is \$145/person, but will drop to \$116/person if sign-up 10 or more people. Cost for lodging is \$69/person for 2-nights at the Blackwater Falls State Park lodge. Meals, rental equipment, and area use fees extra. INFO: Jack Kangas (jackkangas@aol.com) 301/499-8758.

19 - 21 (Friday - Sunday)

❄️ SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #2 Canaan Valley, WV

Join our group at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of the Park's resort amenities, such as indoor pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. Ski trails in the Park, or nearby trails at Whitegrass, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods. Cost is \$72/person (non-STS add \$5) for 2-nights stay, but drops to \$62/person if 1 double bed is shared. INFO: Douglas Lesar 301/587-8041 (no calls after 9:30 p.m. weeknights pls).

20 (Saturday)

🗺️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to work on the Tibbet Knob Trail. This popular area offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can notify you of a cancellation. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (mgrgnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

22 (Monday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike Burma Road and C&O Canal, MD

4-mile stroller friendly hike along the old road bed of Burma Road and the C&O Canal Towpath. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

26 - 28 (Friday - Sunday)

❄️ SKI TRIP - Laurel Highlands Ski Wknd Laurel Highlands, PA

Ski the Laurel Mtn/Highlands area near Jennerstown PA, one of the most reliable snow sites in the Mid-Atlantic hills. Also close to Hidden Valley and Laurel Ridge STCs. We stay in a local motel near Laurel Mountain at cost of \$65/person (non-STS add \$5) for 2 nights stay. INFO: Erma Cameron 703/273-4578.

26 - 28 (Friday - Sunday)

❄️ SKI TRIP - New Germany State Park Wknd #2 New Germany State Park, Western MD

Stay at cozy Martin House as we ski trails right outside the door for the bargain cost of \$24/person (non-STS add \$5). This spot is close to other skiing areas in Allegheny Front of Western MD, PA, & WV. INFO: Marci Schubert 410/536-5080.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The major structural work should all be done and we are beginning to do finish work now. Sounds easy doesn't it? Don't be fooled. Nothing is easy when you are working with nothing but primitive hand tools. There is plenty of work to do, of various kinds, requiring all sorts of skills and mostly lots of muscle. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

🗺️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Meadows Cabin, near Madison, VA

Weather permitting, the crew plans to clear and re-blaze a nearby trail to an overlook on Doubletop Mountain. The crew will also remove brush around the cabin remaining from a previous work trip. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Meadows Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

29 (Monday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike Rock Creek Park

4-mile hike in Rock Creek Park — Silver Spring. Babies and toddlers on up — all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

30 (Tuesday)

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

Congressional Funding of Natural Resource Challenge Helps National Parks in Virginia Fight Invasive Vegetation

Congressional funding of a major new National Park Service program, the Natural Resource Challenge, has enabled eight national park areas in Virginia to join forces to combat the assault of the alien invasive vegetation that most significantly impacts native species and ecosystems.

Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Douglas Morris says, "We appreciate the opportunity the Natural Resource Challenge gives us to fight against the most destructive invasives in our parks." Morris characterizes the advance of non-natives as a "silent green invasion." "We're recognizing the nature of that assault and are trying to respond accordingly," Morris added.

The goal of this 2-year project is to create a sustainable cadre of expertise within national park units in Virginia that can assess and eradicate, as necessary, treatable pockets of invasive vegetation in national parks within the State.

Forests are impacted by many exotic species; for example in the southern United States vines such as kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, and Asiatic bittersweet slow down or halt forest regeneration.

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect its park lands and resources for future generations. "Although the world will always continue the process of natural change, we must protect our national parks so they look and function as much as possible like the areas entrusted to us by the public through Congress. We cannot accomplish this mission without protecting native flora and fauna from the devastation caused by some invasives," says Morris.

Congress responded to the Challenge and in FY 2000 increased National Park Service funding to:

- expand the Natural Resources Preservation Program,
- establish 4 Exotic Plant Management Teams,
- initiate baseline inventory for all 32 identified Inventory and Monitoring networks,
- establish a national Division of Biological Resources Management, and
- strengthen programs designed to protect geologic resources in parks.

For more information about the Natural Resource Challenge, visit the web site at www.nature.nps.gov/challenge/nrc.htm. ☐

—National Park Service Press Release

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS. My dog, Katahdin, and I are writing a book on hiking/backpacking with a dog and I am looking for "tried and true" tips on: training your dog w/a pack, first-aid, dealing w/wildlife, food and nutrition, thru-hiking, and any other miscellaneous tips you might have. I would also like to receive your favorite short story about being on the trail w/your dog and a photo of you and your four-legged friend enjoying life on the trail. Please mail this information along w/your name, address, phone and e-mail address to: Melody "Midnite" Blaney, 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, VA 20135 (bearden@crosslink.net).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PATC CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2002. Vice President Mickey McDermott is in charge of planning. INFO: mcdermottj.aimd@gao.gov

THE SALES OFFICE is looking for volunteers interested in working as little or as long as you can manage it—Monday through Friday between 9 and 5 p.m. If interested, please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242-0693, ext. 19 or by e-mail at patcsales@erols.com.

PATC OVERSEERS get big discounts from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater)—20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro DC)—15%, The Trailhouse (Frederick, Md.)—15%, Casual Adventures (Arlington, Va.)—10%, Campmor (mail order via PATC HQ)—10%. Check the back page of the PA for the latest trail, cabin, and shelter overseer opportunities. All PATC members receive a 10% discount from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Be sure to have your membership ID or overseer ID ready when you shop.

HIKERS: Have you noticed locations along a trail that have good scenic views? Do you want this "view" location labeled on PATC hiking maps so future hikers can better plan their trips? It is best that the viewpoint is noticeable from the trail and is a year-round clearing. The process is simple: Make an enlarge photocopy of the appropriate section of the PATC map, place a "dot" at the correct location with an arrow pointing in the general direction of the view, and mail the suggestion to PATC, Attn: Maps.

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

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG) is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. No experience is necessary. INFO: SMRG Operations 703/255-5034, then press #5.

HIKING VACATIONS

ELEPHANTS, LIONS, WILD DOGS. The mobile camping safari in 2001 to Okovango Delta, Moremi, and Chobe Reserves, Victoria Falls, class reservations October 15. Projected costs are \$4,500 for a 12-day safari plus \$1,500 round-trip air. INFO: Paula Strain, 301/340-6895.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND. A clip-on watch, Levi's brand, wind-up, compass framed (but no compass), on Rocky Mountain-Brown Mountain Trail. Found August 12. If you're looking for it, contact Tim 540/289-6293 (h) or 540/298-1212 x4465 (w) or by e-mail at Hupp_Tim@msn.com

WANTED/FOR SALE /FOR RENT

ATTENTION CONSERVATION BUYERS. If you are interested in teaming up with like-minded individuals to purchase property along the AT, (1/2 mile from the trail) then look no further. There are 200+ acres of beautiful pasture and forested property in Bland, Virginia, at the base of Big Walker Mountain. If you would like to discuss this further, please call Melody Blaney, or Patti Landovek at Bears Den Hostel 540/554-8708, or e-mail us at bearden@crosslink.net.

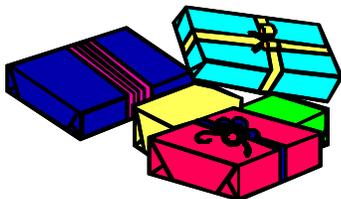
MAGAZINES FOR SALE. 20 years of PATC Newsletter, Virginia Wildlife, Natural History, Sierra Amicus, Audubon, and many others. Bargain-priced or free. INFO: Don Walsh 703/548-5742.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Attention Federal Employees. PATC is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. Please consider a payroll donation to PATC. Our 2000 Designation Number is 7956. Thank you for your support.

Notices are published free of charge for PATC members only. PATC cannot vouch for any of the advertised items. No commercial advertisement or personal notices unrelated to hiking will be accepted. Deadline for inclusion is the first day of the month preceding issuance of the newsletter. Notices will be run for 3 months unless we are otherwise advised.

The holidays are upon us. At this busy time of the year, please remember the PA deadline. Deadline is December 1 for the January issue and January 1 for the February issue.



Correction

Honorary Life Members List:

Our apologies to Mrs. Dorothy Walker, honorary life member since May 1970, who was listed as among the deceased. Mrs. Walker is in her nineties but is very much alive.

Mr. Harry Thompson, honorary life member since November 1992 was inadvertently left off the list. □

—Pat Fankhauser



Shelter, from page 5

is slowly raised with a great deal of effort, strain and care—each log can weigh several hundred pounds. Once the log reaches its proper height, it requires several hands to carefully coordinate its precise placement in preparation for marking and carving.

Since my first time volunteering, I've tried to come back at least once a month. On my second trip I had the pleasure of doing a smaller project, start to finish, as I and another fellow put together the picnic table that will sit out in front of the completed shelter. I've had the decidedly fun job of hooking up logs to the back of a car and hauling them through the field to bring them closer to the work site; and I've had the less enviable task of clearing out wood scraps and sawdust with a broom and a wheelbarrow. Each trip provides me with new experiences and introduces me to new people. Many people have volunteered for this project, responding to a call heard through many different channels.

Project Status

At the time of this writing, the shelter itself is perhaps four-fifths built. Once it stands complete in Bowie, the overall project will still be only half finished. The really fun part is yet to come, with a rather key question still unanswered—exactly how thousands of pounds of logs are going to make the trip up to Weverton Heights. Turk believes that his crew will either be able to gain access to an existing dirt road leading to the site, or perhaps they will make do using another road, a much older route currently overgrown with brush. The logs could also be helicoptered in, but only as a very last option.

Garvey's daughters, both artists, will put the finishing touches on the shelter that will bear their father's name. Sharon will create a sign for the front, and Kathleen will design a special box to hold the trail journal. In time, those pages will come alive with the signatures, comments, stories, doodles and ramblings of the wayfarers that pause in their journey to rest up, freshen up, and no doubt marvel at the unique haven they've come upon. That little logbook will record the future of the Appalachian Trail, from within a large log shelter that will pay homage to the trail's past. □

—Alan Hyams

Many thanks to Frank Turk for his assistance in the preparation of this article. He can be reached at Frankturk@aol.com or 301/249-8243.

Blackburns, from page 6

Programs Committee and returned, briefly, to the Cabins Reservation Committee. In 1959, she was elected General Secretary and held that position until 1963. She was an activist General Secretary, usually managing to make one job encompass the work of two. For example, when she gave Headquarters a thorough house-cleaning, she also developed a policy on retention of back issues of PATC publications. Another example comes from the hike she led from Jugtown to Bagtown. At the luncheon stop at Black Rock Spring, she divided the hikers into three parties, two of which would do the long and the short hikes. The third group would retrace their steps to check trail data for a new guidebook description.

Ruth continued to participate in the Michener Cabin work trips and also found time to assist in the transformation of Highacre from a private residence to a PATC rental property.

Ruth's activities elevated her to the position of PATC President in 1965, and she held that position through 1967. During her first year in office, a number of outdoor organizations proposed establishing wilderness areas in Shenandoah National Park. Both Fred and Ruth worked energetically to achieve that goal. The wilderness boundaries drawn up at that time were essentially those that eventually were adopted.

A huge issue faced by Trail Club advocates in those years was who owned the land that the AT crossed. Much of the Trail had been built on a handshake or a gentleman's agreement. As ownership changed from nearby farmers to city folks acquiring rural retreats, the privacy-seeking new owners forced the Trail to move to less desirable locations. The neighbors of Wilson Gap Shelter, for example, had already asked several times for the Club to move the shelter elsewhere. And the owner of the land on which it stood tore down Wolfe Shelter in Maryland.

In the face of landowner resistance, Trail supporters pursued federal assistance. At the Cashiers, N.C., meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (1967), attendees issued an endorsement of a bill calling for federal protection of the AT. Under Ruth's urging, PATC Council also endorsed the National Trails Bill in 1967. Present and past officers of PATC, as well as ATC officers testified before Congress on behalf of the bill, which became law in 1968.

But hiking groups did not rely solely on federal support. In 1966 a Keystone Trails Association meeting addressed landowner problems in Pennsylvania, and Alburn (Woody) Kennedy and James Denton were named to investigate the possibility of building a side trail to the AT west of the existing route and identify public and private ownership of the land it might cross.

And when John Oliphant succeeded to the PATC presidency in 1968, Ruth appointed a committee to look into the private landowners of AT land in the PATC region. Maurice A. (Gus) Crews was chairman, and Fred Blackburn was a committee member. Ruth herself spent a great many hours in the Records Rooms of Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland counties on which the trail touched, working out land ownerships from tax and other records.

At its meeting in 1967, ATC participants had approved the creation of an alternate AT to run from some point in Shenandoah National Park west and north to rejoin the existing route somewhere near the Susquehanna River. The Keystone Trails Association was assigned the responsibility of scouting and building a section north of the Potomac River; PATC was to take responsibility for the route south of the Potomac. Fred Blackburn and Jim Denton were given the task of selecting the route. They began work at once. In March 1968 on a work trip led by Fred and Jim, PATC built the first three miles of trail in the Shenandoah National Park, down Overall Run to the Park boundary at U.S. 340. Armed with information gleaned by Ruth and her committee, Fred and Jim continued scouting for alternate routes for the AT, reaching the Massanutten Mountains before both decided it was time for others (Dave Brownlie and Harold Wiese) to take over. In 1981, Fred painted the last blue-blaze on a completed trail from the SNP to the Potomac.

While all this activity was going on, Sexton Cabin, which had an unlucky history, burned for a second time in 1967, and both Blackburns participated in its reconstruction. When the entire Trail was finally completed, PATC attempted to name its half the Blackburn Trail, but the Conference ruled trails ought not be named for living people. By default, the trail's working name, Big Blue Trail (now the Tuscarora Trail), became its official name. □

—Paula M. Strain
Next month: Ruth's legacy.

Trailhead

The dry, warmer than usual, days of October were a welcome change after the rainy summer months. Instead of the wet grass and weeds greeting hikers, the crunching sound of dry leaves and smells of Fall announced the changing season. Great time for trail work - no bugs and less sweat. Reminds you why this volunteer thing is so much fun and renews the spirit.

Fires In SNP

As of November 1st, Shawn Green, Park Trails Coordinator, reports the two active forest fires at SNP continue to grow. Yesterday's (October 31) size estimate for each fire:

- ☐ Pinnacles Fire (which includes 2.5 miles of AT): 780 acres
- ☐ Old Rag Fire (Ridge Trail): 380 acres

There is no fire containment in sight. Current efforts focus on securing defensible fire lines along the park boundary as the Pinnacles Fire backs down the western slopes of the Blue Ridge into Page County. The Pinnacles Fire is also backing east into the Wilderness area of upper Hughes River drainage.

Over the next couple of days many more fire fighting resources will be arriving at the park to direct the spread of these fires. However, with the leaf litter so dry, these types of Fall fires can grow for days until there is significant rain.

The Blue Ridge have been 36 days without rain. This has made the leaf litter and duff layer very dry, but after a wet and cool summer, the springs along the AT and streams elsewhere are flowing at near normal levels.

The Park's Trails Staff will follow-up after the fires to identify any impacts to the affected trails related to the fire fighting efforts. We will do our best to see that the impacts are rehabed in a timely manner.

Thanks From Pete

Pete Gatje, outgoing Supervisor Of Trails, expresses thanks and appreciation for the wonderful support from all those in the Trails organization. This includes District Managers, Crew Leaders, Overseers, Trailhead Editor, and the many volunteers who contributed to the stewardship and maintenance of PATC trails. It has been a very rewarding four years and I know this excellent support will continue under the incoming (if elected) SOT, Kerry Snow.

NVA District Luncheon

District Manager Chris Brunton held an appreciation luncheon on Sunday, October 15 at the Blackburn Trail Center for the overseers in his Northern Virginia District. Supervisor of Trails candidate Kerry Snow attended and was introduced to the overseers. All enjoyed a fine chili cooked by Sandi Marra. Chris told his overseers that, thanks to their dedicated work, almost zero complaints regarding this district had been received during Pete Gatje's term of office, and he assured Kerry that he could expect the same high standards during his tenure!

Autumn Colors

The North District Hoodlums traditional Ocktoberfest work trip took place on a beautiful fall foliage weekend. All the Autumn colors were featured—brown bark being peeled off locust logs, brown soil being dug from the AT near Compton Gap, yellow check dams and waterbars being set into place, red banded McLeods and pick-mattocks swinging. And orange? That was the color of the lit pumpkin that watched over the Hoodlums' feast that followed at Indian Run Hut!

AT Assessment

Trail assessment of the AT in the SNP North District was completed on October 2-3. Karen Lutz (ATC), Don Harvey & Shawn Green (NPS), and John McCrea were joined by Jon Rindt on the first day and by Steve Bair on day two. Four prospective relocations were discussed and will be submitted for approval. The Park Service's ongoing vista clearing and its long-term effect on trail maintenance and trail ambiance were discussed as well. Several projects will be put into a five-year action plan to be cooperatively developed before year-end.

Deer Poles?

It had been reported this past summer that a deer had made a nuisance of itself at Gravel Springs Hut by attacking a hiker's underwear as they hung out to dry. Seems the deer has found hiker's underwear to be a great source of salt. Several through-hikers recently passed on the warning and suggested underwear be hung on the poles normally used to keep food away from the bears, and the idea seems to have caught on. One tale was told of a southbounder chasing a deer into the woods to wrestle him over what was left of his favorite T-shirt. Evidently some are even probing inside the

shelter hoping to grab a stray sock or two. So, hang 'em high at Gravel Springs!

North Chapter Activities

Charles Irvin reports it has been a very busy summer and Fall for the North Chapter. We are just about to complete the new Tuscarora Trail shelter at the Wagonwheel in Colonel Denning State Park. All that remains for this year's major project is the privy. The shelter, moved from Maryland this spring, was built in nine weeks with sixteen workers and over 300 volunteer hours. One of the few shelters on the Tuscarora Trail, it is a welcome addition and should see a lot of use.

With help from the Chapter, an ATC trail crew installed rock steps and drains on the AT north of Caledonia State Park. Additional work on the AT included shelter maintenance.

The Chapter is also working on the Gypsy Spring Cabin left to PATC by Roy Fadner. Somewhat frustrating, it has taken one and a half years to get an electrical contractor to rewire the cabin. A new sink, cabinets, and bunks have been installed. Charlie anticipates the cabin will be ready for the PATC cabin system by the end of next year.

From D.C.

With the wet summer fading away, the D.C. trail crew turned to a major fall project to bypass a perpetually wet spot on the Melvin Hazen Trail, a short access trail that passes through some towering virgin tree growth just west of Rock Creek Park in D.C. Under normal circumstances these pesky spots would be built up with dirt and shovel. This problem, however, demanded carpentry skills. Crew members spent October building a wood walkway over the trouble spot. The job required the sinking of numerous posts in postholes and then the formation of a plank walkway. This project was the last in year 2000 for the D.C. crew. The year 2001 schedule will resume in April with a slate of 10 to 12 work trips next year.

The D.C. trail crew is pleased that the Club has voted to honor two important leaders in the modern development of hiking trails in Rock Creek Park and other parks in the metropolitan D.C. area. Honorary life memberships were awarded to Philip Barringer and Walter Wells this fall as part of the Club's ongoing effort to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the PATC. Barringer oversaw the

Trailhead

overhaul and improvement of hiking trails in Rock Creek Park in the late 1970s and early 1980s. After fixing existing trails and building some new ones, Barringer went on to other trail projects and to be a PATC president. Wells has been a fixture of the D.C. crew for many years and has put sweat equity into many of the city's trails in addition to his work heading a Sierra Club trail project in Prince William Park.

Flying Wedge

Hop Long, Steve Pebley, and Wil Kohlbrenner were clearing blowdowns on the south end of the Duncan Hollow Trail on Massanutten Mountain. They came upon a 20" green hickory, squarely across the tread, hip high.

Wil started the cut from the top, then drove two wedges in to keep the kerf open. A little deeper into the log, the kerf closed around both wedges and trapped the saw bar in the log. The wood was still green and the tremendous weight of the log compressed the soft wood around the wedges.

Always prepared, our crew got out a spare bar and chain, removed the power unit and mounted the spare bar and chain on it. With all wedges and one bar and chain already stuck in the log, the sawyer cautiously began again at another location on the log, four feet away from the first cut. As the second cut neared completion, the log began to buckle and lower itself to the ground. This relieved the pressure on the first cut.

Hop reports one of the wedges popped out of the log, went twenty-five feet up into the air, and landed off in the woods nearby. We were all wearing hardhats, but never expected our hardhats to be protection from a falling wedge!

Lessons learned: Green wood is much more compressible than a dry old snag. Green wood also has moisture that acts as a lubri-

cant between the wedge and the wood. A smooth-sided wedge has no "grip" in green wood. Our smooth-sided orange wedges have been retired. Only yellow wedges with "teeth" on one side will be used in the future.

Busy Month For Blue and White

October was another two-work-trip month for the Blue and White Crew. On the 7th, the Crew joined the ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew to rebuild a cribbed set of switchbacks on the AT near the Pocasin Cabin. The ATC Crew had journeyed from Boiling Springs, Pa., with their rock shaping tools, prepared to craft a new set of stone steps and crib walls. The Blue and White "rock bullies" brought brawn, rock bars and Saturday night dinner. The project was a great success. Stop by and check out the "Pocasin Obelisk" when you're in the neighborhood.

On the weekend of the 28th and 29th, the B&W regulars celebrated their Third Annual October Vining Trip. Saturday and Sunday found the crew continuing their AT rehab project just south of Bootens Gap. The Crew cut about 1/2 mile of new sidehill and installed several new rock waterbars (by the rock work architectural firm of Dueweke and Wilson). Saturday dinner at Muttontop featured the award-winning chili of C.T. Campbell (ably assisted by another member of the Shenandoah Chili Chefs, John Kinde). Breakfast chef Dan Dueweke's "mountain man" omelets convinced the crew to replace the weekend slogan "Road Kill, It's Not Just For Breakfast Anymore", with the more appropriate, "the Cap'n Come Through In A Clutch".

Cadillac Does Tracts

With deer season limiting trail work in the wilds of West Virginia in October, the Cadillac Crew turned to work on PATC's Vining and Firestone Tracts. On Vining

Tract, the crew began clearing and marking a new trail that will follow the perimeter of the tract along the boundary with SNP and adjacent landowners. The new trail will extend the existing trails and add interest to users of the four picturesque cabins on the tract.

At the request of Firestone Tract Manager, Shirley Strong, the crew removed a large ash tree adjacent to the Shairer Trail Center. The beautiful tree was unfortunately beginning to damage the cabin foundation. The task required the technical expertise of arborist Fran Keenan who led the crew in the successful removal without damage to the cabin. The day was topped off with hand-cranked ice cream provided by Richard and Sybille Stromberg.

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

**Attention
Federal
Employees!
PATC's Combined
Federal
Campaign
Number is 7956**

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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Volunteers - Appointed November 3, 2000

Co- District Manager

Hal Hallett SNP AT Central District

Trail Overseers

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Melanie Falk | Laurel Prong Trail |
| Stephen Paull | Powell Mountain Trail |
| Gregg Kneipp | Lee Drive Trail - Lansdowne Valley Road to Prospect Hill |
| Gregg Kneipp | Chancellorsville History Loop |
| Frank Haas | Chancellorsville History Loop |
| Robert Cooper | Potomac Heritage Trail - Water Tower to Live Oaks Drive |

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings 11/03/2000. Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

**ASHBY GAP/RTE. 638 AT & BB-MAP 8
(RTE. 50 TO RTE. 638)**

CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004
or E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

Trico Tower Trail

AT to Trico Towner (0.50 miles)

Manassas Gap Shelter Trail

AT to Manassas Gap Shelter (0.10 miles)

SNP NORTH AT-MAP 9

CALL JOHN MCCREA AT 610/352-9287
or E-mail: mcreajf@aol.com

Appalachian Trail

Overseer positions available. Call for details.

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (MAP #10)

CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com

Mill Prong Trail

AT to Mill Prong Horse Trail (1.00 mile)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (MAP #10)

CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876
or E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com

Leading Ride Trail

Skyline Drive to Park Boundary (1.30 miles)

SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZE (MAP #11)

CALL LOIS MANSFIELD AT 804/973-7184
or Email: lem@Virginia.edu

Rocky Mountain Run Trail

Big Run Portal Trail to Rocky Mt.-Brown Mt. Trail (2.7 miles)

Rockytop Trail [Co-overseer]

Big Run Portal Trail to Big Run Loop Trail (5.70 miles)

Schairer Trail Center Trail

Eaton Hollow Overlook to Schairer Trail Center (.46 mile)

Blackrock Hut Trail

AT to Blackrock Hut (.2 mile)

TUSCARORA SOUTH-MAP F, G, 9

CALL RICK RHOADES AT 703/239-0965
or E-mail: RTRhoades@aol.com

Tuscarora Trail

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail (2.90 miles)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN-MAP #F

CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177
or E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com or mgrgnmd@hotmail.com

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Gerhard Shelter (0.10 miles)

MASSANUTTEN NORTH-MAP #G

CALL WIL KOHLBRENNER AT 540/477-2971
or E-mail: wmaxk@shentel.net

Massanutten Mt. North Trail

Scothorn Gap Trail to Waterfall Mt. Trail (2.0 miles)

Massanutten Mt. North Trail

Waterfall Mountain Trail to US 211 (1.8 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH-MAP #H

CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477
or E-mail: weschmidt@aol.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

Fridley Gap Trail

VA 868 to Cub Run (2.60 miles)

Areas Where Hunting is Permitted

- 3,500 acres of undeveloped wilderness adjacent to PATC's Olive Green Cabin in Cunningham Falls State Park, Thurmont, Md.
- Thompson Wildlife Management Area in Fauquier County, Va.

See the November PA for the list of hunting areas.

—Pat Fankhauser

Mail delays frustrating you? Can't wait to receive the next newsletter to see what's in the Forecast?

The website version of the Forecast is usually updated after the newsletter is printed. The newsletter is also usually posted faster than the postal service can get to your mailbox. Check out www.patc.net for the latest information on PATC activities. You can also call the activities tape at 703/242-0965.



The Potomac Appalachian

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