



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 32, Number 12
December 2003

75 Years of Service

New Shelter on Shockey's Knob Nears Completion

The Shelter Crew's Story

Frank Turk's Shelter Crew has almost finished constructing the new shelter on Shockey's Knob. They began peeling the 27 loblolly pine logs in Bowie, Md., during the winter. Boy Scouts have helped with building the picnic table and the privy. Dedication of this shelter will be conducted on the 2,300-foot mountain in the spring.



The loblolly pine logs for the Shockey Knob Shelter were donated and delivered to the Bowie location last December by Wallace Johnson's logging firm. In January, the Shelter Crew began to cut and shape the logs. By May, the crew was ready to move to Shockey's Knob and pour concrete for the footers and piles.



By June, the crew was ready to haul the logs from Bowie to the bottom of Shockey's Knob by truck and trailer and to the top of the mountain by tractor and trailer.

The shelter was nearing completion in August when the Cadillac Crew stopped for a lunch break (see page 6). The crew was on Shockey's Knob to construct the trails leading from the Tuscarora Trail to the shelter.

See Shockey's Knob, page 6

Holiday Gift Memberships - Only \$25!

Why not include your friends and family in contributing to our cause? For only \$25*, you can give a gift membership, and we will send the new member the December *PA*, along with a year's worth of newsletters, a gift card, and a lacquered PATC pin. Combined, these gifts have a total value of over \$35.

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

* for new memberships only



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Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton

Budget: David White

Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

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Sales: Vacant

Shelters: Frank Turk

Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall

Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat

**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
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Potomac Appalachian

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Council Fire



The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held at Club Headquarters on Oct. 14, 2003. President Tom Johnson extended a personal thanks to the club's trails organization for its efforts in cleaning up after Hurricane Isabel. He noted that, as a result of their efforts, most of the Appalachian Trail was cleared of blowdowns and crews were beginning to turn their attention to blue-blazed side trails.

The committee chairs from the 2004 goals planning session presented brief reports to Council. The committees, which included those for facilities, finances, volunteerism, operations, and lands, submitted written reports outlining next year's goals for PATC.

Finance

Treasurer Gerhard Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for August 2003. He pointed out that the club's income is below expected for the year. However, he noted, the club has still earned more than it has spent. Mr. Salinger advised that the club continue to exercise caution in its financial matters.

Trails and Lands

Vice President of Operations Hop Long updated Council on the computer situation. He distributed a document instructing Council members on procedures for updating the Web site. He noted that nine volunteers

had responded to Tom's appeal for help with the club's computer system.

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton reported on the trip to the Ovoca property. The Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) purchased the 465-acre property from the Piedmont Environmental Council. Liles reported several officials attended the visit, including ATPO Ranger Bob Grey and PATC members Bob King, Liles Creighton, and Tom Johnson. The group walked the proposed relocation for the Appalachian Trail on the property.

Facilities

Council approved the allocation of \$2,100 from the Cabins Land Fund to finish Tulip Tree Cabin. Regarding the two storage units in the parking lot, Supervisor of Facilities Larry Marcoux encouraged Council members to remove anything of interest. The units will be removed by the end of the year.

Volunteerism

Supervisor of Membership Susan Nelson distributed the Membership Report for Oct. 14, 2003. Current membership is 6,752. Vice President of Volunteerism Mickey McDermott initiated the Honorary Life Membership Award process by asking non-Council members to leave the room, as well as candidates for the award. He then intro-

See Council Fire, page 4

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: Wiley@patc.net

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

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

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

Bus/Metro Directions to Headquarters: When taking Metro Orange line, get off at Dunn Loring station (not Vienna, the last stop). Outside the station, find the stop for Metrobus 2T westbound in the direction of Tyson's Corner. When the bus starts down Maple Avenue in Vienna, exit at the library just past Center St. Walk half a block in the same direction the bus travels, and turn right at Park St. PATC will be on the left only a few yards down from the corner. The fare is \$1.10, but you can ride for \$.25 if you remember to get a transfer ticket at your originating station.

Tom's Trail Talk

We Need Your Help

My column in August was an appeal for money to cover several large land purchases that the club had made or was about to make. Those purchases are the 24-acre Kestenbaum property adjacent to the trail-head leading to Old Rag Mountain, the 70-acre Johnson lands on the western boundary of the Vining Tract with its cabin and access to miles of hiking trails, and the 67-acre Hauvermale tract in West Virginia that helps continue the Tuscarora Trail in wilderness and affords hikers access to a water source. I'm pleased to report that several members have already contributed generously in response to my appeal for contributions to help replenish our land acquisition fund.

As a volunteer organization, our financial support comes primarily from our members. In addition to the contributions already received, four other club members have pledged to contribute up to \$12,000 in matching funds in support of our efforts. To take advantage of this generosity, we are launching a formal fund-raising campaign. This is the first such campaign since the mid-1980s when we appealed for help in raising funds to offset the purchase of the Little Orleans Cabin property. Additional information, at right, provides details on how you can contribute to our efforts. And, you will note, we are offering something in return.

All contributors will receive a copy of our updated PATC Cabins book due out in early 2004. Higher contributions provide higher rewards as our way of expressing our appreciation for your generosity. And, if you agree, we would like to publicly thank you, by name, in the pages of the *Potomac Appalachian*.

In addition to this direct appeal, we will be announcing other efforts to raise funds for our land-acquisition efforts. And, we would welcome your ideas as to how we can enhance our efforts. For example, we would appreciate being advised of the name of a business, individual, or nonprofit organization you know that might support our mission.

There is no better place for our money than in protecting forest lands. Please consider making a contribution today. □

—Tom Johnson

In Memoriam Cynthia Kerr

Aug. 12, 1983 – Nov. 8, 2003

We wish to inform the club membership of the tragic passing in Fairfax on Nov. 8 of Cindy Kerr, age 20, daughter of PATC Business Manager Monica Clark. Cindy was a graduate of Fairfax High School where she participated in several sports and made many friends with her bright smile and vivacious personality. She was attending George Mason University. Her loss has been felt deeply by the entire community. Her grieving family and many friends bade farewell at a moving service at St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church attended by club officers and staff. Donations in Cindy's memory may be made to St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Clark family during this time of grief.

Land Acquisition Fund Drive - Matching Funds Challenge

Club President Tom Johnson has highlighted the need for PATC to replenish the Land Acquisition Fund (see *Tom's Trail Talk* at left). The three purchases Tom refers to cost PATC more than \$400,000 and, without an infusion of funds to replace those expenditures, the club could miss opportunities to purchase other lands that further PATC's objective of providing wilderness experiences to its members.

In support of this effort, a challenge has been made by several club members. They have pledged to match contributions to the campaign, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$12,000. In addition, PATC will provide each donor who contributes at least \$25 with a copy of the revised PATC Cabins book due out in early

2004. Those who contribute \$100 or \$200 will respectively receive a short-sleeve/long-sleeve PATC T-shirt in addition to the Cabin book. Contributors of \$500 will receive free use of a PATC cabin of their choice for one night. A contribution of \$1,000 entitles the donor to two free consecutive nights in the cabin of their choice. (The only cabin not included in this offer is the Blackburn Trail Center.)

Please send your check and the Land Acquisition Contribution form (*below*) to President Tom Johnson, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-4609, to help the club reach and exceed the \$12,000 challenge made by PATC members, and replenish the Land Acquisition Fund. □

LAND ACQUISITION CONTRIBUTION

(Name) _____ (Telephone) (____) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) ____ (Zip) _____ (e-mail) _____

Yes, Tom, I support PATC's conservation efforts and want to help replenish the fund that finances the purchase of cabin and trail lands. Enclosed is my check to help meet the \$12,000 matching funds challenge.

() \$25.00 () \$100.00 — short-sleeve t-shirt size: ()

() \$50.00 () \$200.00 — long-sleeve t-shirt size: ()

I have contributed the following amount and would like to use the cabin designated on the date(s) I have indicated. Date(s) must be at least six weeks after the date contribution is received by PATC.

(An earlier date may be available but will require a call to the Cabin Reservation Desk.) (NOTE: The Blackburn Trail Center is not included in this program.)

() \$500.00 - Cabin: _____ Date: _____

() \$1,000 or more - Cabin: _____ Dates: _____
(Dates must be for two consecutive nights)

Make checks payable to: "PATC" and designate them for "Land Acquisition Fund"

Please indicate if you would like your name listed in the *PA* as having contributed to the Land

Acquisition Fund Campaign: (yes) _____ (no) _____

Signature _____

Date _____



Hiker's Notebook

Common Name: Oyster Mushroom (Looks like an oyster and has a fishy smell)

Scientific Name: *Pleurotus ostreatus* (from Greek pleura - Side and otos - ear and Latin ostreatus "rough like an oyster shell")

The oyster mushroom grows throughout the year in clusters on trees, stumps, and dead logs. It is characterized by a stem, or stipe, that grows out of the side and a "wing-like" fruiting body with widely spaced gills. It is usually white in the summer months and tan to brown in the winter months. It is an excellent edible and is one of the main specialty mushrooms among the 1 billion pounds of mushrooms grown commercially in the United States every year (80 percent of which are button mushrooms, *Agaricus bisporus*).

Potpourri: The oyster mushroom, like most of the other edible fungi, is highly nutritious. One large oyster mushroom contains 6 grams of protein (12 percent of MDR) and 4 grams of dietary fiber (14 percent of MDR). It is also an excellent source of B vitamins, particularly Riboflavin, important for good vision, and Niacin, important for digestive and neurological function. It has twice the amount of Riboflavin as 8 ounces of yogurt.

A single oyster mushroom has more potassium (764mg - 22 percent MDR) than a banana (467mg). It also has almost one-third of the MDR for selenium (27 micrograms), an essential mineral that works closely with vitamin E to reduce antioxidants and is believed to play an important role in preventing prostate cancer. There are no vegetable sources of selenium, so vegetarians must either take a mineral supplement or eat mushrooms. □

—William Needham

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

Shenandoah National Park to Close Skyline Drive At Night During Hunting Season

Portions of Skyline Drive, the famed mountain road through Shenandoah National Park, will be closed at night during hunting season, Park Superintendent Douglas Morris said. He noted that this is the 25th year that this closure has been undertaken to reduce illegal hunting activity within the park, a sanctuary for wildlife, during the Commonwealth's hunting season.

From Nov. 10, 2003, through Jan. 4, 2004, Skyline Drive between Front Royal (Mile 0 at U.S. Highway 340) and Thornton Gap (Mile 31 at U.S. Highway 211), and between Swift Run Gap (Mile 65 at U.S. Highway 33) and Rockfish Gap (Mile 105 at U.S. Highway 250), will be closed daily between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. The central portion of the drive, between Thornton Gap and Swift Run Gap, will remain open for overnight access to Skyland Resort and Big Meadows Campground until those facilities close on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, respectively. Then, beginning Dec. 1, 2003, through Jan. 4, 2004, the entire length of

the Skyline Drive will be closed daily from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m.

Morris said, "By closing portions of the Skyline Drive, rangers will be able to concentrate patrols on problem areas and increase contacts along the park boundary."

Superintendent Morris also said there is a reward program to assist in combating illegal hunting in the park. "A reward will be paid to anyone who furnishes information which leads to the conviction of any person who hunts, transports, or attempts to transport illegally taken wildlife within the park," Morris said. Anyone with information about such activities should call the nearest ranger station or Park Headquarters (toll free, 800/732-0911, or 540/999-2227). The identity of persons furnishing information will be kept strictly confidential, and a person does not have to reveal his or her name. □

—Karen Beck-Herzog

Council Fire, from page 2

duced the names of the four candidates and read the written nominations for each candidate. Council then voted to award Phil Paschall, Dave Pierce, Chris Brunton, and Al Rogers Honorary Life Members of PATC. Council also awarded an Honorary Member Award, for the term of one year, to Christopher Moody for his assistance with the club's search for insurance coverage.

Other Business

Maryland AT Management Committee: Charlie Graf distributed minutes from the Aug. 28, 2003, meeting of the Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee.

Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat reported successful completion of several recent courses, including Backpacking 202, Leave No Trace Training, and Trail Patrol Training.

Blackburn: Chris Brunton reported the carriage house roof had been strengthened. And he stated \$1,000 had been collected from donations left by the public at Blackburn.

Cabins: Mel Merritt reported numerous items from the Cabins Committee, including minimal damage to facilities by Hurricane Isabel, Cliff's House renovations are complete and it is back in the rental system, Highacre has been painted, and Jim Stalk has been appointed to renovate Gypsy Springs Cabin.

SMRG: John Luck reported that Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group had again staged in Shenandoah National Park for a holiday weekend, over Columbus Day weekend, at the request of the park.

North Chapter: Pete Brown announced the Shockey's Knob Shelter is nearly complete and will be dedicated in the spring.

The October Council meeting was attended by 11 club officers, 10 committee chairs, three chapter representatives, one section representative, one staff member, and five other club members. □

—Secretary Georgeann Smale

K9TBs Take a Hike on the C&O Canal at Pennyfield Lock

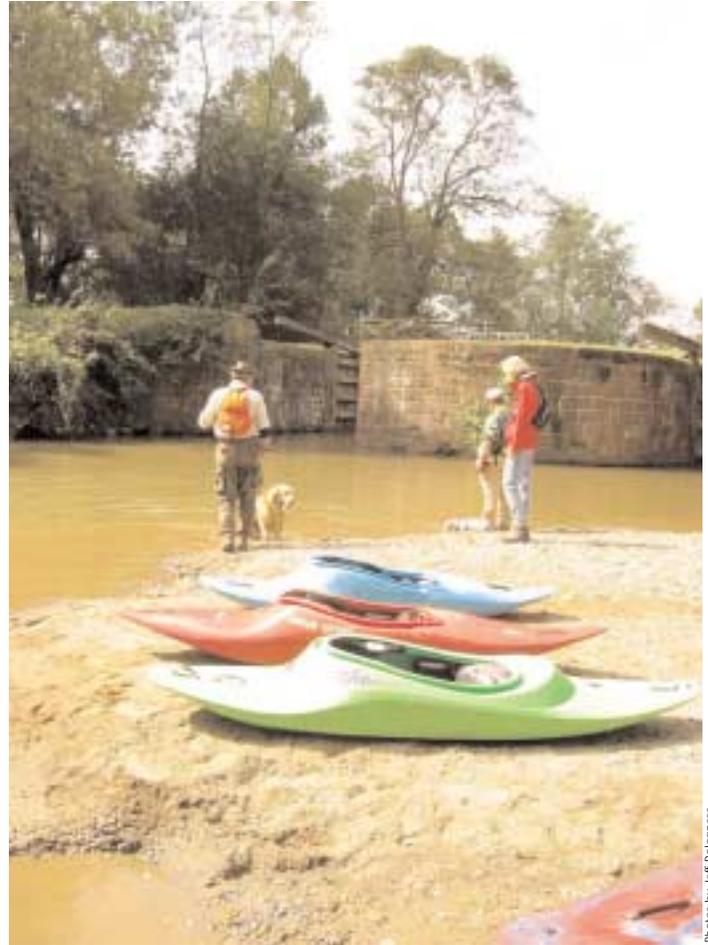
The weather for our Oct. 5 hike was clear and cool, and the foliage was turning colors. But the big celebration was for our newest official K9Trailblazers hike leaders: Diva, our mascot Corgi, whose cheerful presence is welcome on any hike; and Alice, one of our most enthusiastic and frequent participants. Alice successfully completed PATC Hike Leadership Training and today co-led her third K9TB hike! In recognition of her accomplishments, and with gratitude for her assistance, Pat crowned Alice with an official K9Trailblazers “leader’s cap” at the trailhead. Then Alice and Diva led us at a very respectable pace up, over, around, and through the remaining obstructions on the trails and back along the C&O towpath to the parking area, where Jeff presented homemade cupcakes frosted in chocolate and sprinkled with colorful little doggie bones. Cindy, who couldn’t make the hike, drove all the way from Baltimore to congratulate Alice, who was completely surprised and a delight to watch as she began to comprehend just how much we all appreciate her!

Meet the Players

Our hike began, as always, with food (Blue Dog Biscuits and Alice’s Milky Way bars today) and introductions. Jeff, and Pat with Mickey, joined Alice as co-leaders. It was good to have Jeanne with Tanka back on the trails with us. And we welcomed regulars Sarah and Eric with Toby and Poppy (and Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups to share); Karen with Loki; Joe with Hunter; and newcomer Virginia, who came dogless and not only performed “Honorary Auntie” duties with zest, she served as club naturalist as well! We distributed maps and discussed the many difficulties expected on the trails (courtesy of Hurricane Isabel), which turned out to be mercifully fewer and less daunting than those encountered during the preview a week ago. Then everyone took center stage to introduce themselves and their dogs before we set off in the mud which actually made sucking sounds as we waded through it before reaching higher ground.

Our hike traversed the few miles of the C&O between Pennyfield and Violet’s locks, two of the 74 locks on the nearly 185-mile-long canal used to ferry goods and people on barges between Georgetown and Cumberland, Md. Even at its start, the canal was

Wildlife sightseeing on the C&O canal.



Photos by Jeff Bolognese

Cooling off at Violet’s Lock.

in a race with the B&O railroad to open an efficient commerce route to the Ohio Valley. It subsequently lost that race and was bought up by its iron horse rival after a flood in 1889 forced canal traffic to an 18-month halt. This hike made a nice complement to our June hike in Patapsco Valley State Park, which ran along part of the original alignment for the the B&O Railroad.

Animal Sightings

But on such a beautiful fall day our thoughts were less on historical treasures and more focused on the natural ones. As we hiked, Virginia found us some pawpaw trees in season. The fruit has a tough skin filled with a smooth custard pulp reminiscent of mango. Very tasty! We saw skeins of geese overhead and some chipmunks and squirrels on the ground. We had a good look at a couple of deer. And a great blue heron was fishing in the canal. We first saw him standing motionless and later skimming along just above the water. On one stretch of the towpath there were turtles on many logs, nearly invisible until we got close and then suddenly they were everywhere as they dove into the canal. We also found a couple of abandoned vehicles from the early- to mid-20th century, and along the canal we looked for stone markers and found one we had missed last year. We also found the rusty sign directing people to contact Mr. Bond to get the key to a very rusty gate across an old road leading to water treatment plant substations.

See K9, page 8



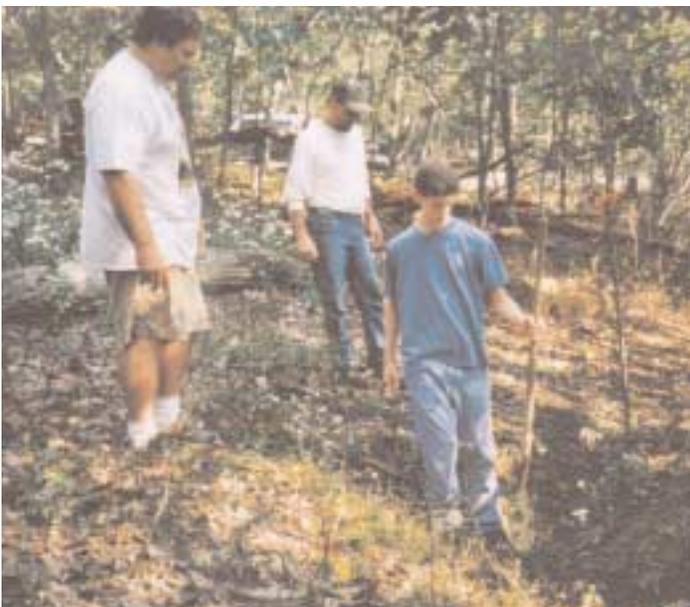
Boy Scouts from Troop 31, in Winchester, hauled lumber up the mountain and constructed the picnic table.



In addition to a picnic table, the shelter has a cooking and eating area on the deck under the roof.

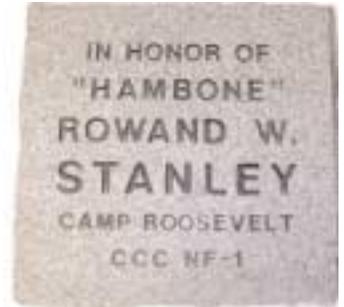
Jeffrey Beavers, Winchester Troop 9 Boy Scout, discusses where he will construct the privy with Shelter Chair Frank Turk and Shelter overseer AJ Michael. □

—Walt Smith



CCC History and Heritage

Two years ago the Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation formed to promote the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as the greatest conservation effort in American history. The legacy of the CCC has many interesting facets, and the most recognizable of those are forests, trails, and byways that are still enjoyed by millions of travelers and hikers every year.



There are several ways that we are trying to bring this vast story of heritage conservation into the forefront of community consciousness. Our first statewide effort to promote the CCC in Virginia comes in the form of a license plate. The CCC restored and constructed many roads and scenic byways, the most notable of which is the Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park. It is only fitting that the logo of the CCC is back on the roads of Virginia. Another effort is being placed on the sale of granite pavers that will be placed at the entrance of the proposed CCC Interpretive Center in Edinburg, Va.

As an organization that appreciates nature and all that it offers us in the way of recreation and conservation, we invite you to participate in these two great programs. These would be great gifts for the holiday season.

The license plate is a Virginia specialty plate. It costs \$10 in addition to your regular plate. Because we are in the beginning stages of the project, we are required to get 350 preregistered plates prior to production. This plate is designed to honor the CCC and conservation and is not specific to a location.

The granite pavers come in four different sizes and prices and fit a wide range of budgets. Any one can purchase these pavers, and they can be inscribed as space is allotted. These commemorative pavers will be placed directly inside the main entrance of the Interpretive Center, which will display CCC and conservation heritage and history. These pavers and license plates are perfect gifts for those who have a kinship to conservation and depression-era history. Proceeds will be allocated to the purchase of a CCC workers' statue. For ordering information contact Joan Sharpe, (sharpej@shentel.net) 540/984-8735. □

—Joan Sharpe, President,
Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation



Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Winter Migrations

December brings us both good news and bad. The bad news is that we are subjected to the shortest days of the year. The good news is that on Dec 21, the days start increasing again. Interestingly, the latest sunrise and earliest sunsets do not occur on the same day. In fact, the earliest sunsets occur in early December, and the latest sunrises occur in early January. This year, the earliest sunsets in Washington, D.C., occur at 4:45 p.m. from Dec. 5-11, while the latest sunrises occur at 7:26 a.m. from Dec. 30-Jan. 13. Between these two extremes, the shortest day is about Dec. 21.

Winter is definitely for the birds; at least, the migratory ones.

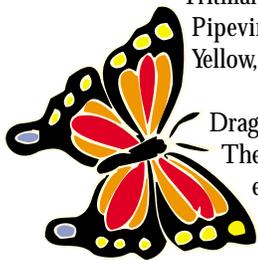
There are about 200 species of migratory birds that spend the winter in warmer southern climes, or, approximately half of the 390 known species that can be found in our Appalachian Mountains. Scientists use the term *neotropical migratory birds* to describe our migrants. Neotropical migrants are the species in which the majority of individuals breeds north of the Tropic of Cancer and winters south of that same latitude. This latitude is 23 degrees north of the equator and is found somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico, just north of the Yucatan Peninsula. The majority are songbirds (such as warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and vireos). There are also many shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, and terns), some raptors (hawks, kites, and vultures), and some waterfowl (teal).

Other Migrants

Migration isn't limited to birds, however. A number of butterflies migrate. We all are familiar with the monarch butterfly, known to fly over 1,800 miles from Toronto, Canada, to the nine high mountain sites in fir forests of central Mexico. Not surprisingly, while they have several broods during the summer, the last brood, which will migrate, is different. The energy available in the chrysalis is shunted toward the development of reinforced, robust wings, necessary for the long journey. What's sacrificed? Energy is taken from the reproductive parts of the butterfly. In fact, unlike the earlier seasonal broods, the reproductive parts will not mature until March!

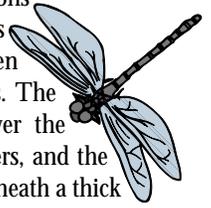
And how does this monarch know which way to travel? Research supports the belief that monarchs have an internal magnetic compass that reorients its direction 1 degree clockwise per day. With 360 degrees roughly equaling the 365 days in a year, such a theory fits the clockwise migration documented in the monarch's annual cycle.

Other butterflies migrate between our Mid-Atlantic states and the frost-free coastal zones of the southern Gulf States. These include the Common Buckeye, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak, Gulf Fritillary, Question Mark, Cloudless Giant Sulphur, Pipevine Swallowtail, Dwarf Yellow, Mexican Yellow, and the Sleepy Orange.



Dragonflies migrate as well! At least, some do. The known migrants who overwinter in southern Florida include the green darter and various species of skimmers, saddlebags, and gliders. Like birds (and butterflies), some-

times the fall migration takes the form of spectacular mass flights that can involve hundreds of thousands, even millions of individuals. However, not all green darners migrate. Two different populations of green darners live in Canada and the United States. The resident population breeds in the North over the summer. They lay their eggs in northern waters, and the nymphs spend the winter in that cold water beneath a thick layer of ice. In spring, they emerge from the water and spend the summer as adults.



The other population of green darners is migratory. They arrive from southern regions each spring to breed in the North. Their young emerge in late summer of that same year and migrate South during August and September. Not only that, but apparently the migratory population alternates generations between breeding in the North and breeding in the South.

Going Batty

Who else has left us for the warmer southern climes? It's hard to imagine mammals migrating, but let's not forget the bats. Of our 12 Appalachian species, three are migratory. These are the summer tree-dwellers, including the red, hoary, and silver-tipped bats. The other bat species are hibernators, who take up residence in caves or hollow trees – or buildings. The summer and winter roosts are normally different, but within a few miles of each other. Actually, all of our hibernating bat species have some members that migrate, and all of our three migrating species have some members that hibernate in their summer grounds.

Wintering habits of these three migratory bats are quite distinct and variable within each species. Apparently, male and female red bats migrate at different times and have different winter and summer ranges, gathering in fall for mating. Among the hoary bats, both sexes overwinter in the southeastern United States (southern Georgia and Alabama and northern Florida). In spring, the females travel north of the Mason-Dixon line, while the males either stay in the winter grounds or travel west to the southwestern United States, including southern California! And the female silver-tipped bats summer north of Pennsylvania and winter in Virginia and places to the south, along with the males, who don't tend to migrate North very much. (There are no known summer records of males or females of these bats in Virginia.)

With all this separation of sexes among the migratory bats, they have evolved a very interesting way of ensuring the propagation of the species. Called "delayed fertilization," females mate with the males (normally) in the fall, storing the sperm internally until the following spring, when they will inseminate themselves, enabling birthing at the appropriate time. This is different from "delayed implantation," a function in which the egg is fertilized immediately, but soon the egg is separated from the placenta, with all further growth arrested for several months until the egg is again united with the placenta, allowing the embryo's growth and birthing at the appropriate time. Delayed fertilization is practiced by bear, most of the weasel family, and those crazy armadillos. □

—Bob Pickett

K9, from page 5

When we arrived at Violet's Lock we found portable toilets and a number of dogs and horses. We also encountered an increasing number of cyclists on the towpath as the day wore on. It warmed up as the day went on, so we shed clothing as we plodded on and on and on. There was a small moment of big excitement when we were all able to agree that THOSE rocks are the ones on which we sat at Blockhouse Point. Last year we were confused, but this year different folks noted differing natural landmarks from the top, and when we put them together at the bottom we agreed we had indeed located the point. It felt good!

Canal History a Bonus

Our return took us past the remains of the Pennyfield House, which was a favorite fishing retreat for President Grover Cleveland. Although we didn't do any fishing on the hike, we all certainly shared the former president's sentiments. This section of the C&O Canal is a favorite hike of ours for escaping the distractions of everyday life into a unique world where natural beauty and American history both come alive. □

—Pat Fuhrer

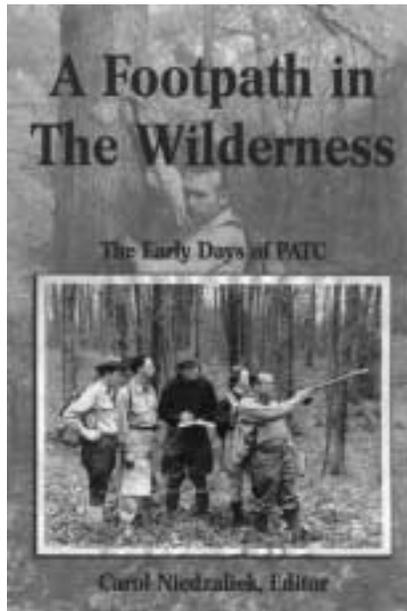
For more pictures from this hike, please visit http://www.k9trailblazers.org/cno_canal/cno_100503_report.htm

Alice receives her K9TB hike leader "crown."



Photo by Jeff Bolognese

"A Footpath in the Wilderness: The Early Days of PATC"



Just off the press, "A Footpath in the Wilderness", provides an intimate portrait of the founders and early members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club – their passion, their vision, their personalities, and their accomplishments. These stories about the club's early days are like time capsules put away 75 years ago. Most were written by the founding members and published in the *PATC Bulletin* in the 1930s and 1940s.

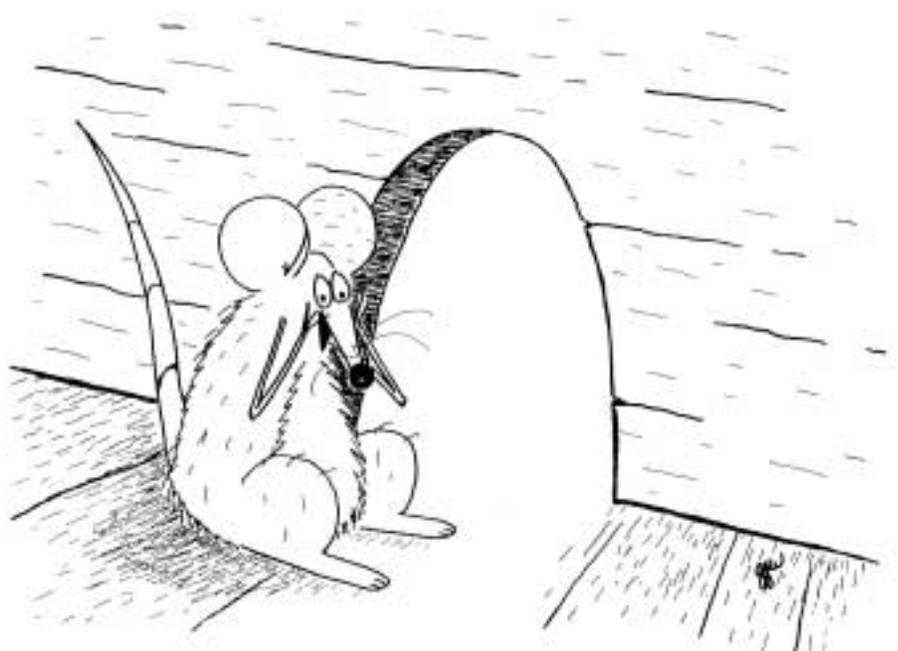
Archivist Carol Niedzialek has dug deep into the club's records to find articles, letters, journals, and essays to document the thoughts and actions of these pioneers as they campaigned for land, blazed trails, built shelters, and in the words of one, "... learned everything the hard way."

"A Footpath in the Wilderness" gives a broad picture of how PATC started, flourished, and created a legacy of volunteerism that continues to this day. In the words of the "father" of the Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye, it is the "first chapter in a long story."

Illustrated with 20 historic photographs. List price \$9.00. Member price \$7.20. □

—Maureen Estes

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"THE LAST ONE IS CLIMBING INTO THE BUNK... PASS IT ON!"

“The Path” - a poem

This never-before published or publicly read poem was written and read by our guest speaker at the annual dinner: Robert (AT97) is also the author of the book, “On the Beaten Path,” and is currently the editor of Appalachian Trailway News, the newsletter of the ATC. It was the second of two poems from Robert that night, the first about his love for the AT.

i.

Unless you know to look, you'll drive on by,
and never see the track that boots erode,
the woods-hooded eyewhite stare splashed upon
a poplar trunk a few steps from the road;

only the clipped bluegrass yards, the lawn
ornaments and shorn boxwood, the swelling
impoundment of strip mall signage that backs
up these blacktop tributaries, smelling

of diesel and mown clover: billboard facts
of who you are and how you live that blur
outside your windows until you forget
the journey's end to which the signs refer.

Still, it awaits: the path – obscure and yet
impossible to miss once you have seen.
It slips into a corridor of woods,
insinuates its way within thin green-

framed margins, through suburban neighborhoods,
emerging at the skirt-edge of blue hills
that, as a boy, your father flew you once above.
You know that valley – know all its rills,

roads, hedgerows, that distant riverfront's
sycamore banks, the stippled orchard square
that's a wicker-woven basket for dreams –
and wonder if the path still leads from there.

ii.

MacKaye envisioned it, one of those schemes
we'd jeer today: a crackpot's windmill-tilt
utopia upon a mountain ridge.
But his America was that which built

the steel roads heading west, the Brooklyn Bridge;
that armed a million men to end a war;
a bull moose of a land that blundered on
insensible, intent, just as T.R.

shrugged a gunman's bullet off. No down-drawn
doubts or work camp breadlines stayed Avery,
or those who shouldered shovel, hoe and axe.
The age's ills – class wars, wage slavery,

Great Men, armed masses – these were simply facts
attesting to “the problem of living.”
Let militants and markets liquidate
themselves! for beneath all, unforgiving

gears turn, wires hum: machines that separate
head and heart, new efficiencies to chain
and not to liberate as Edisons
would have us think. Instead, this half-insane

idea: a footpath through the wild that runs
along the Appalachian spine and takes
the walker high enough to see beyond
straited circumstances, regret, mistakes.

iii.

Just south of Chestnut Knob, beside a pond,
they stop for lunch and watch the wind's quill-pen
inscribe its cursive in the grass atop
the bald ridge: five or six women and men

who every summer chop though catbrier, lop
encroaching limbs, settle stones, and mend stiles
from Poor Valley uphill to Walker Gap.
Their mountain garden runs some seven miles,

a dotted furrow on the contour map
that yields year-round its crop of muddy tracks
and braided bogwalks: scant produce, maybe,
for the price in poison ivy, sore backs,

and blistered hands, but they pay readily –
not just as some vague patriotic due –
and month on month return to knot the strands
of trail and lane and bridle path and view

into a single thread that tracks through stands
of pine and poplar, oak and spruce, that binds
two thousand miles of dreams, five million strides.
A way imagined, longer still, unwinds

beyond the miles they tend. That it abides
is recompense enough: a last walk out
when detours dead-end; a road not taken;
a coffered promise for the times of doubt.

iv.

Eight goose-down wound sarcophagi waken
with the birds as daylight rims the ridgecrests
and filters through a dew-wet hollow where
a lean-to hunkers, and at the forest's

veille resurrect themselves from their
mummy bags, prepare another long day's
campaign, assess tactics, matériel,
logistics for the battle of the blaze,

then off Katahdin-wards push on pell-mell.
Each day they quest, this band of errant knights
gone pricking in the pines for some sangrail
in Maine – a spring and summer's bug-swarmed
nights,

a fall of falls – and walk this crooked trail
to stop the crazing of their lives. They reek
of sweat and smoke, wear gaudy shells to turn
the storm away, take on new names, and speak

of aches, and boots, and food; and yet they yearn
to strip the armor from their hearts, to wash
themselves in mountain rain and air until
like the wild columbine and black cohosh

they need be only what they are, until
out of the stone-strewn ground they bloom again,
until the weathered sign on Baxter Peak
points back along the path to where they've been.

v.

You've started late. It isn't long till dark,
and you've been on the Trail for hours now.
McAfee Knob's postcard cliff-view, cloud-cowled,
was all blind grayness when you reached the brow;

the blue-blazed shelter shortcut nettle-fouled,
you climb Tinker Cliffs straight up the ridgeline.
Spent in ascent, you hump your sodden pack
up edged ledges split by rock-stunted pine,

until there's no up left, just the hogback
brink and the breathing fog that beckons you.
For once you do not pause to take it in,
afraid to stop, afraid to listen to

its whispered invitation, here where skin
and bones of earth and stone rend in timeless
compound fractures. You stumble on, descend
to the timbered shelter near the nameless

stream for a mouse-lousy night and the end
of one ordeal. When morning comes you will
hobble down to a sun-bright valley floor,
back where your car is parked next to the hill,

the road crossing, the passing traffic's roar,
the part of you that jokes of trees and earth;
you'll leave behind a better part, and try
not to forget just what the walking's worth.

—Robert Alden Rubin

FORECAST



Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact 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 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. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bcnfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page: www.patc.net/chapters/north/.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Lee Sheaffer, (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Bert Finkelstein 703/715-8534 or bertf@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 interests in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice

climbers. For further information contact Andy Britton, (tallandyb@aol.com) 703/622-1920, or (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/565-6704 x208.

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's 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 our section in PATC's Web site: www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol.



DECEMBER

1 (Monday)

DEADLINE - January Potomac Appalachian Material due to Editors'

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

2 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike Springfield, VA

Long Branch Stream Valley. Bundle up the kids and come get some fresh air. The path is regular-stroller friendly. We will stop at a playground at the halfway point and return along the same trail back to the cars. The hike is about 3 miles round trip with very little elevation change. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

2 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Shenandoah National Park, VA

Ascend Jordan River to Mount Marshall Trail, to Jenkins Gap then Appalachian Trail south to Bluff Trail with side trip down Big Devil's Stairs overlook, returning on Jordan River Trail. About 17 miles and 3000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Riley's Lock, Seneca, MD

Five-mile, easy canal hike. Bring lunch and water. Take beltway to River Road exit towards Potomac. Continue until River Road dead ends at Seneca and turn left at Riley's Lock Road and park at the lot by the canal. INFO: Harriet Rotter 202/363-5095.

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Call for location

The Midweek Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trailhead. INFO: PATC's voice hotline, 703/242-0965, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time, and leader.

3 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Saturday)

CLASS - Learn to Love Winter (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Anyone who has spent hours inching along in a traffic jam, while snow falls, or listened to the alarm cries on a winter newscast knows that society generally has a bad attitude regarding winter weather. But a forest cloaked in fresh snow is among the most beautiful things. And the skills necessary to be there safely and comfortably enjoying it open a whole new world! This lecture, discussion, and demonstration course will focus on outdoor activities that are unique to winter and can only be enjoyed in that one special season. Instructor Ted Fryberger will cover winter hiking, snowshoeing, crosscountry, alpine and telemark skiing, snow camping, and mountaineering and ice climbing, and the gear and skills necessary. He will also discuss fitness, wilderness navigation, and first aid. The class fee of \$60 includes the class and all

course materials. Registration is necessary to reserve a place in the class. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

6 (Saturday)

HIKE - Hidden Waterfalls Shenandoah National Park, VA

Ever thought you might like to see what those mysterious hash marks on the PATC map series of the Park, actually look like in real life? Here's your chance. This hike will view the falls coming off of Pollock Knob towards Buracker Hollow and the falls in Timber Hollow for a total of 8+ miles (2000 foot elevation gain). This series utilizes map 10. Experienced hikers only. Strenuous. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

6 (Saturday)

HIKE - History Walk Shenandoah National Park, VA

It's the return of Jack Reeder's famous history bushwacks. Learn the little known facts about the Shenandoah and it's inhabitants before the park was established. The hike will consist of a little trail walking and a good deal of bushwacking. Long pants, shirts and sturdy boots are recommended. INFO: Betsy Fowler (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) or (efowler@shentel.com) 540/933-6136 or 703/356-8336.

6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. Registration is limited to 25 people. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net> INFO: Christopher Tate (chris@wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

7 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The Mountaineers work on Sunday this time of year to avoid the hunting season on Saturdays. Avoid the mall as well and come out in the woods with us! INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

9 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike Great Falls, VA

Come join us for a 4 mile circuit hike along River Trail to Sandy Point and back along the Matildaville Trail. There are great views of Mather Gorge along the Potomac River. After the hike we will warm up in the Visitor Center where they have two snakes and some kids activities. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

9 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Prince William Forest Park, VA

20 minutes south of the beltway. Circuit hike of about 19 miles along the streams and wooded hills of this national park. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Snowshoeing! (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. It's not here yet, but Nelson's Farmer's Almanac is calling for a long, cold, snowy, invigor-

ating winter! And the best way to enjoy snow is on snowshoes. REI's experienced mushers will discuss and demonstrate snowshoe design, binding adjustment, footwear, stance, gait, turning, ascending and descending, and the use of poles. Participants will get the chance to try out our special snowshoeing simulator. Get a leg up on the best winter fun; Snowshoeing! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Glover Archbold Trail, DC

Hike 4 easy miles along Foundry Branch from Van Ness Street, NW to Georgetown. After lunch in the Georgetown Park Mall Food Court, all decorated for the Holidays, we will return to our starting point by Metrobus. (Bring \$1.20 (or 60 cents for seniors) exact change for fare.) Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot of the National Presbyterian Church, Van Ness Street entrance. Directions: From Maryland take Wisconsin Avenue (MD Rte 355) inbound from the beltway about 5 miles to a right turn on Van Ness. Go one block to church parking lot on left From Virginia cross Key Bridge, turn right on M Street, move immediately to the left lane, and turn left on 33rd street. Follow it until it merges onto Wisconsin Avenue. Proceed 2+ miles to a left turn on Van Ness Street. Church parking lot is one block on the left. Bring water. Hike is canceled if DC Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Call for location

The Midweek Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trailhead. INFO: PATC's voice hotline, 703/242-0965, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time, and leader.

10 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, VA

11 (Thursday)

CLASS - Snowshoeing! (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:00 p.m. Same event as the 10th. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

11 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers Fairfax Station, VA

Fountainhead Regional Park, 10875 Hampton Rd. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROP. A mod/fast 9 hilly miles on bike trail side of the park. Meet at gate on entrance road at 10:00 a.m. No pets. Bring lunch and water. Rain or shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

13 (Saturday)

HIKE - K9Trailblazers Triangle, VA

Prince William Forest. Join K9TB for our annual "Holiday Hike". This will be a hike at a moderate pace for a 3-4 mile loop through Prince William Forest. We'll enjoy the seasonal weather as we hike wooded trails with minimal elevation change. The hike will be followed by hot cider, cookies, and other holiday treats. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome

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as long as you keep them on a leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trail head. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

13 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History Montgomery County, MD

Cabin John Trail. Join Bob Pickett for this local 9-mile hike along the Cabin John Creek. We'll get to know this naturally wooded valley and get a good work out as well. It's on our PATC Map D, which includes the Potomac Gorge area. We'll also discuss the local geology, look for the former mill sites, and talk about nature as we go. INFO/RSVP: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, WV

Annual Christmas Party!!! If you have been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us and help celebrate the holidays and another great year of trail work. The Crew will set up the Christmas decorations for Highacre, do some yard work, and there will be opportunities to visit historic Harpers Ferry and local hiking trails. A community dinner is planned for Saturday and Sunday breakfast will be provided. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Cabin Christmas Meadows Cabin, VA

Take a break from the season hysteria and escape to crisp winter dayhiking, yuletide merriment, or just relaxing by a cozy wood stove in the country. We can also cross country ski if there is snow, and we'll share a group meal Saturday evening with plenty of home-cooked food and Christmas spirit(s). Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze, 703/846-9207.

14 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers finale of 2003: the 21st work event in our 10th year. Thanks to all who volunteered this year. Enjoy the holiday season and see you again in 2004. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

16 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike Manassas, VA

Manassas Battlefield: Unfinished Railroad Loop. Get out of the malls, and come get some fresh air on this 3.6 mile circuit hike. Jogging stroller passable, some rocks, roots, bog bridges and two staircases to navigate. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

16 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Shenandoah National Park, VA

Interesting bushwhack down old trail to Butterwood Branch and Thornton River. Return on Thornton River Trail to Appalachian Trail to Pass Mountain Trail. 14 miles, 3400 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

17 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Lake Mercer, Springfield, VA

Five miles around Lake Mercer over paved and gravelled trails with minimum elevation change. Meet at South Run Recreation Center, 7550 Reservation Drive. Directions: Take Beltway exit 54A (Braddock Road.) west 1.4 mile to left on Burke Lake Road, 2.5 miles to left on Lee Chapel Road, 2.1 miles to left on Fairfax County Parkway, 0.2 miles to entrance on right. Meet at first lot. Starts at 10:15 a.m. No pets. Lunch at a local restaurant. INFO: Henri (henri-comeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

17 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Call for location

The Midweek Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trailhead. INFO: PATC's voice hotline, 703/242-0965, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time, and leader.

18 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Potomac Heritage Trail, VA

Hike along the Virginia bank of the Potomac from American Legion Bridge to Roosevelt Island. About 10 miles. Some rocky terrain and some stream crossings. A car shuttle to the trailhead will be arranged. Meet at 10:00 a.m. on the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot, immediately off the northbound George Washington Parkway just north of the Theodore Roosevelt bridge (there is no access from the parkway southbound). Bring lunch and water. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

20 (Saturday)

HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The seventh hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series with a 13-mile circuit with a total elevation gain of 4400 feet on Overall Run, Heiskell Hollow and Appalachian Trails. There is a 2.5-mile bush whack to the Greasy and Sterdley Falls. PATC Map 9. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham, 410/884-9127.

21 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Gambrill State Park

Frederick, MD

Continuation of on-going trail maintenance projects on the Black Locust trail. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Dave Jordahl (davejordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

23 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Enjoy climbing Piney Branch to Link Trail loop around on Sugarloaf Trail and Appalachian Trail, returning on the Piney Ridge Trail About 14 miles, 3000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

24 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers.

Roosevelt Island, VA and C&O Canal, DC

A total of five miles around Roosevelt Island, Key Bridge and the C&O Canal. Lunch option at a Georgetown eatery. Starts at 10:15 a.m. in the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot, immediately off the northbound George Washington Parkway just north of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (there is no access from the parkway southbound). No pets. INFO: Henri (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

24 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Call for location

The Midweek Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trailhead. INFO: PATC's voice hotline, 703/242-0965, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time, and leader.

30 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Stony Man to Hawksbill loop of about 12 miles and 2800 foot climb. View from the two highest peaks in the Shenandoah. Hike Appalachian Trail and scenic upper Whiteoak Canyon Trail and Passamaquoddy Trail. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

30 (Tuesday)

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

31 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Seneca Greenway, Darnestown, MD

10:15 a.m. Directions: From I-270, exit West on 28, follow past Berryville and Black Rock Roads. Just before the bridge over Seneca Creek., turn right into the parking. lot. If conditions permit, we'll hike south, a new direction for us, otherwise, we'll repeat the drier hike north. Bring lunch if the predicted high is over 32° F. If not, we'll dine at Fuddrucker's. INFO: Margaret Chapman (MargtChapman@aol.com) 301/869-9291(w) or 301/977-8988 (h).

31 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Call for location

The Midweek Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trailhead. INFO: PATC's voice hotline, 703/242-0965, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time, and leader.

JANUARY

1 (Thursday)

DEADLINE - February Potomac Appalachian Material due to Editors

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

6 (Tuesday)

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

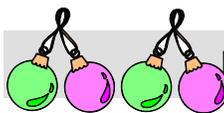
7 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

W&OD Trail, Vienna, VA

Five miles of mostly flat walking with a stop at the end for lunch at PATC office on Park Street. Meet at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street. Directions: From Beltway (I-495), west on I-66. Exit # 62, Nutley St. (VA 243) north toward Vienna. Continue to 4th traffic light intersection. Right on Maple Avenue (route 123). Right on Park Street, then about 2 blocks to Community Center on right. No pets. Bring lunch and water. Starts at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.





FORECAST

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

13 (Tuesday)
MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

14 (Wednesday)
HIKE - OLD RAG
 Shenandoah National Park, VA

Every year I spend my birthday summiting Old Rag, this year join me for the crystal clear views, cold air and solitude of Old Rag in the winter. As always, this hike is weather permitting. Contact: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736

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

14 (Wednesday)
MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m.
 Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, VA

17 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade
 Great North Mountain, VA/WV
 Meet at the "Y" intersection in Vances Cove; PATC. Map F coordinates G6 at 9:00 am. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Check with Hop Long before going to the meeting site. Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

24 (Saturday)
HIKE - The Hidden Waterfalls
 Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Hike 3. Ever wanted to see frozen waterfalls? Well now is your chance. We'll be hiking up Big Creek and Peters Point to view these waterfalls in their nearly frozen state. This hike length is approximately 5 - 6 miles with 1000 foot elevation gain/loss. This series utilizes map 10. Experienced hikers only. Strenuous. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
 Blackburn Trail Center near Round Hill, VA
 First work trip of 2004 the Crew will do some trail work and possibly tree work in the vicinity of the trail center. Specific projects are dependent on the weather but there is always plenty to do. Great place to get away from town in January. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

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

28 (Wednesday)
HIKE - Easy Hikers
 Vienna, VA
 About 4 miles at the W&OD Trail and Tamarack Park. Meet at the Clarks Crossing Park parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From Beltway, exit to Rt. 123 South. In 2.4 miles, turn right onto Beulah Road. After 1.6 miles, bear left onto Clarks Crossing Road. In 0.9 miles, park in the lot at the end of the road or on the nearby streets. Lunch after the walk will be at a restaurant. Hike will be canceled if the Fairfax County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659. ☐

PATC's Annual Dinner Celebration

Members of PATC celebrated their annual dinner on Nov. 11. If you weren't there you missed a fine time and you'll have to wait one more month to hear all about it since the photos did not make it

back by press time. But listed below and on pages 14 and 16 are some of the volunteers honored for their contributions to PATC. Look for lots of details about this wonderful evening in the next *PA*.

50-Year Members

Members who have been with the club for 50 years receive a framed certificate, a 50-year rocker bar, and automatic Life Membership.

Dave and Dorothy Bates

Dave Bates, one of PATC's Honorary Life Members, was the club's archivist for many years and is still considered one of the few historians for the club. He and his wife Dorothy moved to Ohio in 1998 to escape the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan area. Dave published two history books about the club, "Clearing Trails in Wartime," and "Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians, a narrative." Both books are still sold in the club's store. Dave and Dorothy were not able to attend the dinner, but their spirit was with all of us.

Ruth Durloo

Ruth has been an active volunteer for the club administrative office for the past 12 years, working every Friday, all day, as Pat Fankhauser's right-hand lady. She has also been active as a participant on club excursions and many other club functions. She was in attendance at the annual dinner. We wish her many more years as an active volunteer.



Appreciation Awards

Appreciation awards are granted to volunteers who have made a significant contribution to PATC, but are not members. The following were given Appreciation Awards:

Christopher Moody

Dave Goodlin

Andrew and Patricia Johnson

Anna Aubeda

Richard Biby

Greg Lewis

Elizabeth and Matt Allen

Dan Sunderlin

Rickie Fink

Steven Sunderlin

William Parlett and Sarah

Marianna Sunderlin

Clemmitt

Chris Sprague

James Thomson

Wallace Johnson

Jacob Braghini

Robert Wood

Luther Dill

Brad Black

Bob and Judy Dawson

Jim Stacy

Bryan Branscome

Honorary Life Memberships Awarded at Annual Meeting

David Pierce

Dave Pierce took over PATC's mapmaking duties in 1991, and for the past 12 years has made all of the club's maps. Not only does he map for PATC's AT responsibility, but makes maps for AT sections both north and south of the club's area, taking on the task of mapping for other clubs without this capability. He produces AT maps 1-13 plus seven others that cover other trails in the Mid-Atlantic states, a total of 20 maps.

Dave's maps have evolved into the best trail maps on the East Coast - possibly in the nation. His closest competitor, *National Geographic*, still does not produce the accuracy and level of detail of PATC maps. The precision is extraordinary, a result of thousands of hours spent field-checking information. His last re-publication, Map 10, resulted in hundreds of changes, even though the map had been revised only three years earlier. He measures trails to 1/100th of a mile, walking the course and using a measuring wheel much like Myron Avery used to do. Moreover, he never lets maps get too far out of date, and the most popular maps are republished every two to three years. He keeps meticulous track of stock levels and constantly refines his calculation of cost per copy, versus sale rate, versus the availability of storage, in order to maximize profits for the club.

No member of PATC has put in more time in service to the club over the past decade. Dave Pierce is seen at headquarters more often than anyone. He always attends Council, always provides input to club requests for information, and provides wise counsel to our sales staff and publications committee. There is no one more deserving of Honorary Life Membership.

Phillip Paschall

Phil Paschall is PATC's land buyer and has been the club's land buyer since 1978, an extraordinary quarter-century of service. PATC now owns more than 2,000 acres of land, and Phil Paschall has participated in virtually every major land transaction in the club's history. He is a living history book on land conservation - his expertise and historical knowledge simply can't be matched.

No one who understands the process of land-buying underestimates the amount of time required. To buy land requires a lawyer, and Phil is a lawyer. It is necessary to be thoroughly familiar with PATC's trails and the lands surrounding them, and he is. He participates at the front end of the process, in which the landowner is contacted and negotiations begin. This requires great tact on the part of the negotiator as well as a large dose of patience. Once the landowner decides to sell, there is price negotiation, surveys, presentations to Excom and Council, closing, etc. Each transaction requires huge amounts of time and a detailed knowledge of the process.

The *pro bono* legal time that he has donated to PATC is beyond calculation. If the club had to pay for his services it could probably not buy any land. Phil has become an institution, and Honorary Life Membership is long overdue.

Christopher Brunton

Of all PATC's district managers, Chris Brunton is probably the most highly thought-of. Moreover, he probably puts in more time on the trail than any other PATC individual. But he is rarely thought of apart from his role as overseer of Blackburn Trail Center. He has been the Trail Center overseer since its inception in the 1980s. His responsibilities as district manager extend from Harpers Ferry to Virginia Rte. 7, a stretch of trail that runs right by Blackburn. He is up at the cabin virtually every weekend, and almost always goes out on the trail from there.

His energy level is extraordinary. Chris is a dynamo of activity, working every waking minute to either improve the Trail Center or the trail itself. No one has ever seen him sit down even for a moment.

In the mid-1980s he became instigator for improving Blackburn. He helped to design a trail center addition that doubled the size of the complex, and is still going on eight years later. Over \$150,000 was spent on materials, which does not include the cost of donated volunteer labor. The only part of the job that was contracted was road improvements. In the process, Blackburn has become a true center of club training and social activity and a first-class facility without peer in PATC. Much of this improvement is owed to Chris Brunton's vision and his tenacious determination to push the project through to completion. Honorary Life Membership should be awarded without delay.

Alden (Al) L. Rogers

Al Rogers was an AT thru-hiker in 1993, which was his 70th year. His trail name was Old Smoothie, a reflection on his shaving habits while out on the trail. The following year he hiked the Shockey's Knob relocation easement with the surveyor and other PATC representatives and then became an active member of the Cadillac Crew, which constructed three miles of trail through the easement corridor and up onto PATC-owned land on Shockey's Knob.

In addition to maintaining and significantly improving the 5.6-mile section of the Tuscarora Trail south of Sleepy Creek Lake, he reopened an old trail further south, past the Shanghai Beacon on the high point of the Sleepy Creek area. Along with the Shockey's Knob project, this became part of the overall Tuscarora Trail relocation at the grand opening on July 8, 2000. For his accomplishments, he was recognized as the American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year for West Virginia in 2001.

Al has had some temporary setbacks: loss of an eye in a farm accident and, more recently, a year off due to cancer surgery and chemotherapy. In spite of everything, Al recently signed up for a new trail section, almost on the eve of his 80th birthday.

We would also like to recognize his service as a World War II Navy fighter pilot, landing on converted Liberty ships and other small targets and are most thankful for his survival. Through the course of his daily efforts, Al has become an outstanding trail overseer, and most trail managers would love to have a few more like him. □

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

SLEEPING BAGS, Mummy Style, Army surplus, Khaki color, 40% down, 60% feathers. 6 pounds. Excellent for very cold weather camping. Can be nested one inside another for extremely cold weather. \$40 each. Carl Quitmeyer, 703/978-4840.

LAWNMOWER NEEDED. Conley cabin's old mower has cut its last swath. If you have a reliable gas powered lawn mower, with a frame no wider than 24 inches, that is excess to your needs that you would be willing to donate to PATC, please contact Hugh Robinson, 703/525-8726.

HIKER WANTED for May 2004 day-hike in the Grand Canyon - from North Rim to South Rim. I have hiked solo in the Canyon for several years including day hikes from South Rim to Phantom Ranch and back. If interested, I can provide more info. Please contact Rama at 301/365-7326.

FOR SALE

ONE-MAN CROSSCUT: Quality saw, sharpened and set for hardwoods. Includes second handle and blade guard. Guaranteed to never run out of gas. Contact Dan Dueweke at 703/266-3248 or danjan3@cox.net.

BACKPACK AND GEAR: Great opportunity to outfit yourself with like-new items at reasonable cost - MountaSmith Frostfire III backpack, fits tall people well, 6037-7213 c.i. capacity; MSR WhisperLite Internat'l stove; MountaSmith Alouette dog pack for large dog; EMS down sleeping bag rated to zero; Karhu x-c 215 cm. skis w/150 cm. poles AND size 47 Heierling boots. And for family activity: Kelty child carrier with sun/rain hood, small zip-off day pack and large capacity detachable day pack; Burly D'Lite bike trailer for 2 children; Baby Jogger II stroller w/ sun shade, rain cover, basket, folds flat. Will donate 10 percent of sale to PATC. Joy Imel, 703/642-8350, 703/403-5206 or Ktjmel@aol.com.

HELP WANTED

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is seeking volunteers for the Williamsport Visitor Center. This is an opportunity to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for trails and the towpath, and to meet and greet visitors to the towpath. The positions involve staffing the visitor center and bookstore, and can include informal interpretation. We are looking for people who can volunteer as part of a regular schedule, even if it is only for half a day a week. Please call Gloria Updyke, 301/582-0813 or email Gloria_Updyke@nps.gov.

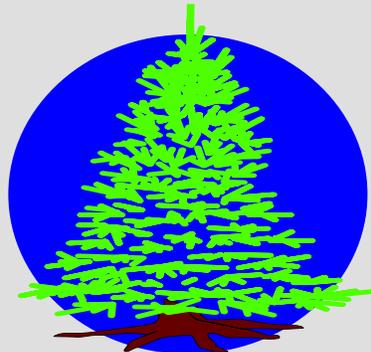
HELP WANTED: Help is needed for a new project at the Blackburn Trail Center. Work includes electrical, plumbing, drywall and painting. Volunteers may stay at the Center while working on this project and work may be done on weekends or during the week. We would like to get this project finished as soon as possible. For info call Chris Brunton at 703/560-8070 or e-mail at trailbossbtc@msn.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SALES COMMITTEE VACANCY: A person with experience in Sales and Marketing is sought to serve as chairman of the Sales Committee that oversees the pricing of products and services including maps, publications, resale items, and cabin rentals, and, in collaboration with other appropriate committees, recommends cost-effective changes in procedures. Interested people should send a resume to Wilson Riley, Director of Administration, at wriley@patc.net or fax it to 703/242-0968.

FURNITURE UPHOLSTERER NEEDED: Looking for an individual who can reupholster the settee and four chairs that belonged to Katherine Fulkerson (PATC's General Secretary in the 1930's and donor of Highacre). The furniture pieces are a wonderful addition to the setting of Highacre, but are in major disrepair. If interested, call Pat Fankhauser 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 or email pfankhauser@patc.net.

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



NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the club going! INFO: Wilson Riley, Wriley@patc.net or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

SALES OFFICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242-0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at mestes@patc.net.

NEEDED: PEOPLE to help plan and conduct our club events. If you are willing, please contact Susan Nelson, Supervisor of Membership (snelson@patc.net) 703/243-7867, or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters - 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, pfankhauser@patc.net.

CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX ATTORNEYS. Want to give something of value to the Club, but don't want to swing a Pulaski? Virginia has enacted a new law that permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit and reap a substantial cash infusion. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The Club needs you to help write the proposals that would help the Club save thousands of dollars. Contact: Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com), or phone 540/882-3027. But hurry - before the State changes its mind.

DONATIONS WANTED

LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED: PATC HQ needs a laptop computer and computer projector for presentations at conferences, meetings, and community gatherings. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Wilson Riley (wriley@patc.net).

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

PATC OVERSEERS GET DISCOUNTS from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater) - 20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro DC) - 15%, The Trail House (Frederick, Md.) - 15%, Casual Adventures (Arlington, Va.) - 10%, Campmor (mail order via PATC HQ) - 10%, and Weasel Creek Outfitters in Front Royal - 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.

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, at the discretion of the editor, unless we are otherwise advised. □

PATC 2003 Service Award Recipients

Gary Abrecht	Jim Edmonds	John Hebbe	Gary Mendenhall	JR Roystone
Bruce Agnew	Barbara Elkus	Tom Hebert	Jim Merifield	Brian Rubendall
Susan Allen	Eliza Engle	Ralph Heimlich	Mel Merritt	John Ruppe
Terry Allen	Dave Erdman	John Held	Anniell Miller	Bill Ryan
Glen Athey	Joanne Erickson	Harry Henkel	Keith Monosky	Tom Ryan
Todd Athey	Gary Essington	Charles Hillon	Dale Morey	Alex Sanders
Esther Aulthouse	Aksel Falk	Mark Hingston	Kent Morey	Susan Schoen
Jim Austin	Melanie Falk	Mark Holland	Richard Morin	George Schubert
Charlie Balch	Ben Fernandez	Dan Holmes	Richard Mosteller	Micheal Seth
Larry Baldwin	Sherri Fickel	Tim Hupp	Karen Mosteller	John Shannon
Rick Barnard	Vic Fickes	Henry Horn	Peter Muschamp	Lee Sheaffer
Alvin Black	Robert Fina	John Horsley	Dave Nebhut	John Shoemaker
Herschell Blevins	George Finney	Dick Hostelley	William Needham	Georgeann Smale
Shirley Blevins	Chris Firme	Dave House	Mark Nelson	Mary Smith
Susan Bly	Beth Firme	Gregg Houchens	Rick Nelson	Judy Smoot
Jeff Bolognese	John Fletcher	Greg Howell	Robert Nelson	Kerry Snow
Alex Boekelheide	Bill Ford	Jennifer Hulsey	Carol Niedzialek	Bill Spach
Rita Bradford	Mal Fordham	George Ivey	Chris Nolen	Bernie Stalman
Harry Bridges	Kathy Foster	Carl "Bill" Jones	Cliff Noyes	Jim Stauch
Sarah Brion	Betsy Fowler	Carol Jones	Bob Oliver	Richard Stickley
Karen Brown	Pat Fuhrer	Thomas Jorgensen	Linda Oliver	Joe Stielper
Madison Brown	Erin Galbraith	Andy Kapfer	William Olson	Carol Stielper
Pete Brown	Frank Gallagher	Orron Kee	Joe O'Neill	Richard Stromberg
John Browne	Ray Galles	Leonard Keifer	Rhett Orndorff	Sybille Stromberg
Chris Brunton	Joe Gareri	Larry Knutson	Peter Oswald	Joshua Summers
Rick Canter	Dave Garman	Stephen Koeppen	Glenn Palatini	Jane Thompson
Eric Carlson	Peter Gatje	Kevin Kraditor	Steve Paull	Trudy Thompson
Jon Clarke	Shakun Ghare	Mike Kulik	Dave Paxton	Jack Thorsen
John Coffey	John Giblin	Lauren Lang	Steve Pebley	Carol Tolbert
Henri Comeau	Gale Gibson	Judi Langenhorst	Jim Peterson	Jim Tomlin
Herb Cooper	Harry Glenn	Bob Laughlin	Bob Pickett	Dave Trone
Joan Cooper	Bruce Glendenning	Joe Leahy	Catherine Pipan	Kathy Trone
Vicki Cornish	Ellen Glynn	Wayne Limberg	Roger Poore	Frank Turk
Karen Crawford	Nancy Gobrecht	Larry Linebrink	David Pugh	Jeff Van Pelt
Devin Creamer	Alan Gowen	Fred "Hop" Long	Karen Pugh	George Walters
Amy Crumpton	Charlie Graf	John Luck	Bob Rainey	Bill Weaver
Cathie Cummins	Christine Iffrig	Jack Luksik	Lisa Rainey	Steve Weiss
Keith Denson	Frank Haas	Peg Manuel	Donna Raleigh	Len Wheat
Mike Dixon	John Hagarty	Matt Marshall	Carolyn Reeder	Holly Wheeler
S. V. Dove	Hal Hallett	Ben Mayock	Jack Reeder	Karl Wilkerson
Kathy Doyle	Kusin Han	John McCrea	Marjorie Richman	Cliff Willey
Dan Dueweke	Maureen Harris	Bob McCullough	Jon Rindt	Patrick Wilson
Dick Dugan	Peter Harris	Kathy McDermott	Katherine Rindt	Kenneth Wood
Marilyn Dugan	Jim Harvey	George Meek	Paul Roberts	
Ruth Durlou	Karen Harvey	Charlotte Melichar	Hugh Robinson	
Mike Dyas	Richard Hayman	Bill Melson		

Trailhead

Normal trail maintenance in October gave way to a concerted effort to clear blowdowns on PATC trails from September's Hurricane Isabel. Herculean endeavors by overseers, trails crews, and our government partners have cleared the AT, most of our high-usage trails, and many of the side trails. At this time there are still isolated trails in designated wilderness areas and in the National Forest that may take a month or more to clear. The trails community is very appreciative of all the volunteers who contributed time and effort to clear the storm damage.

Message From the SOT

Liles Creighton, supervisor of trails, extends a commendation to all who worked long hours in promptly clearing Isabel damage. In recognition of your effort, Liles intends to narrate what was done in the January *PA*. In Navy parlance: Bravo Zulu.

Time spent in clearing trees may well have put lots of wear on saws, both chain and cross-cut. He suggests as soon as workload permits getting saws in for routine maintenance, examining chains for damage, getting new chains or sharpening old, etc. If saws are put away for winter, empty gas tank, pour out chain oil, and recondition saw. Crosscut saws should be cleaned, oiled, and sharpened, then hung or stored horizontally in a dry place. If they need reconditioning, then make known that need to the SOT, who will make arrangements for reconditioning. Other tools should be cleaned, sharpened, and oiled, then stored in caches or homes. Tools, broken helmets, etc. that need repair should be turned in to the tool room in Vienna.

The SNP-PATC meeting will be in late January, probably on the 24th or 31st, while the Lee District FS-PATC meeting will probably follow in early February. Both will be held in Vienna at club headquarters. Massarock Crew dates for 2004 will be June 6-11, June 13-18, Sep. 12-17, and Sept. 19-24. Dates for SNP crews are not yet set.

Honors

Trailhead would like to extend Hats Off to PATC's four newest honorary life members, who have all been involved for years in some aspect of trail work. Dave Pierce has been PATC's mapmaker extraordinaire, and Phil Paschall has provided a quarter-century of legal assistance for trail land acquisition.

Chris Brunton is well known as the manager of Blackburn Trail Center and the adjoining Appalachian Trail district in northern Virginia, and Al Rogers has been an outstanding trail overseer on the Shockeyes Knob/Sleepy Creek area of the Tuscarora Trail. Honorees in past years have spent their trail careers doing everything from cutting blowdowns to answering telephones, but all have shown unusual dedication to supporting PATC's overall efforts.

Tuscarora South

In October Carol and David Saah, assisted by Don White and some of his Acme Treadway Co. and both PATC and Wanderbirds Club members, began a relocation of a short, badly eroded section of the Tuscarora west of Cedar Creek. The section is now well cut through, and treadway building has begun.

Overseer Carol Saah, who is also a member of the Wanderbirds, has also initiated a "Wanderbirds Work Day" program, where one day a month Wanderbirds will come and do trail-maintenance work where needed. This is a great program, and Carol deserves great commendation for initiating this cooperative effort.

As to the Tuscarora and hurricane damage: it is horrible in some sections, not so bad in others. One tree down every 100 feet was not uncommon in the Massanutten area. It will be well into winter before PATC and Forest Service can clear all the trails.

Blue and White Work South and Central

The Blue and White packed up their chain saws and bathing suits in early October and headed to the sunny climes south of Swift Run Gap. The crew was joined by South District regulars, Keith Denson and Madison Brown, as well as three PATC trail patrollers. Hurricane Isabel had left her mark on much of the South District AT, and the crew deployed into four smaller groups to clear about 10 miles of the district. Hikers who are interested in seeing what a hurricane can accomplish when she's in a crabby mood might want to hike the AT section just north of Simmons Gap.

Late October found the Blue and White Crew back on its home turf, working just north of

Swift Run Gap, clearing the Saddleback Trail, the lower section of Laurel Prong, the upper section of Entry Run, and the Powell Mountain Trail. After a long day in the woods, the crew went in search of its lost anchovies at Sal's in Stanardsville. The celebration of the return of the prodigal anchovies was toasted by B&W Ladies Auxiliary Committee Co-chairs John Hebbe and Kerry Snow over a very delicate Chianti (Sal's Best). The evening was somewhat marred when Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Mark Holland dotted his doily with red wine and was forced by the protocol chair (Madam Charles Hillon) to switch to Bud on tap. The crew hopes to recover from this insult to decorum in time for its November work trip.

SNP North Side Trails

As of the end of October, PATC and SNP workers have cleared most of the North District blue-blazed trails. The chainsaw exemption for Thornton River, the Pineys, and Jeremys Run and the help of SNP's Don Harvey and crew made it possible. Other wilderness areas have, or will have, received the more time-consuming crosscut treatment.

District Manager Dick Dugan would like to stress the need for overseers to clean out waterbars. Every trail he has been on in the past month had clogged drains - worse than in past years.

Harpers Ferry/Ashby Gap District

District Manager Chris Brunton reports that the ATC's Mid-Atlantic Crew did double duty on their scheduled work trip to the district. Arriving a few days after Isabel, they initially cleared the road to Blackburn Trail Center that was still covered with many branches and trees. The crew then provided a sawyer and swamper to assist Chris in clearing storm damage from the AT while the rest of the crew attended to the original trail rehab project. When all was done, a very nice section of the AT had been rehabilitated and most of the AT in this district had been cleared of storm damage. The timing of this work trip proved to be very fortunate and very much appreciated, says Chris.

Potomac Heritage Trail Reopens

After a month's closure due to Isabel, the PHT finally reopened. Unfortunately, the

See Trailhead, page 18



Photo by Richard Stromberg

Trudy Thompson points out blowdown dangers to sawyers Steve Pebley and Jon Rindt and swamper Katherine Rindt.

Trailhead, from page 17

Park Service rejected a PATC offer to provide chain sawyers to help with cleanup efforts, and the public, including PATC, was banned from the trail.

Seeing how well PATC's relationship with SNP reopened many of its trails quickly, PATC is using this incident to encourage a closer partnership with the Park Service (George Washington Memorial Parkway-GWMP). Since GWMP's priorities are the Parkway and Mt. Vernon Bike Trail, they placed the PHT at the bottom of the list and ignored it for almost three weeks.

PATC hopes its efforts to prompt GWMP into action will result in a new Memorandum of Understanding that has been languishing unsigned in GWMP's hands for the past two years. After a winter working toward building a new relationship, PATC will be ready to hit the PHT come spring.

Stonewall Brigade Battles Isabel

The Stonewall Brigade did a 9.7-mile loop hike on Great North Mountain and cleared 5.1 miles with Coronas. As they descended the 3.3 miles of the Little Stoney Creek Trail (coming down from Sugar Knob Cabin), they counted 32 blowdowns. They cleaned up the tread and some small stuff, but left those biggies for someone with a chainsaw.

The Saws You Didn't Hear

What with all the post-Isabel hubbub and chainsaw smoke, one might think that the storm impacted only front country trails. I can

testify that the wilderness trails saw their fair share of downed trees. It's just that the back-country overseers applied more muscle and sweat to remove those blowdowns with axes and crosscut saws, and in doing so, accomplished their tasks with quieter tools. Corbin Mountain Trail was but one example where numerous large trees and tree crowns blocked the path, and the steepness of the trail made detouring difficult. Into this mess walked Dan Dueweke, Jack Price, and CMT Overseer Mike Dyas. Starting out at dawn on a fine Sunday morning, the crew spent the day clearing the fallen timber, one branch or trunk at a time. The old dry oaks gave up their sawdust easily, but the locusts and green shagbark hickories occasionally fought the sawyers to a draw. By day's end though, the trail had been cleared of dozens of blowdowns and the old tools oiled and put away.

Stream Crossing Notice

Many step rocks that had been used for stream crossings got washed away or repositioned during the hurricane or the heavy rainstorms that followed. Hikers would be wise to bring sandals to wade the streams, since it will be next summer at the earliest before the trail crews can rework those stream crossings.

ATC Chainsaw Certification Course

ATC chainsaw trainer, Peter Jensen, taught a course for new sawyers at Pine Grove Furnace on Oct. 25-26. The course followed the Forestry Service curriculum specified in the recent MOU between them, NPS, and ATC.

Pete Brown, DM for Pennsylvania trails, stated that the course was the best ATC chainsaw certification training he had seen. It included the latest limbing and bucking techniques, dealing with spring-poles by shaving the compression side, and felling using an open-face notch with a hinge formed by bore-cutting. That's right! Felling! Quite a change from prior certification training. It should be pointed out that felling was a limited part of the course given on the last day. It's a good skill to know but most trail work involves bucking blowdowns, and that's what the course emphasized. As expected, safety was emphasized for all aspects of cutting. It was good to see Peter Jensen demonstrate how safe techniques make for efficient cutting and avoiding problems.

There were eight students in the course, although it could have accommodated 10. Everyone received the Forest Service's "Chain Saw and Crosscut Saw Training Course Student's Guidebook." And, for the first time, ATC gave PPE to those completing the course. Actually, only four hardhats were available to be given out but everyone was able to order items they needed, including hardhats with face and ear protection, chainsaw chaps, protective gloves, and first-aid kits.

Anyone who thought about going to the course but didn't missed not only good training but also great food. Esther Aulthouse fixed meals for everyone, so you know the food was good and no one lost weight. We even had apple pie with breakfast.

Furnace Mountain Trail Improvement

The Furnace Mountain Trail at its western end crosses Madison Run just before it connects with Madison Run Road. This stream crossing, in the past, has been a problem. It is fairly broad, and there were no natural features to use as stepping stones. On Oct. 4, a crew of overseers (Rhett Orndorff, John Ruppe, Jack Turnbull), led by Southern District Manager Pete (aka "Gripmeister") Gatje, fixed all that. Eight large boulders were maneuvered into place from their natural locations in the stream using the famed grip hoist, aided by crowbars and just plain muscle power. As is usually the case, these boulders made their way along the stream bed an inch at a time to their selected positions. This stream crossing is now perfectly straightforward. If you have ever shied away from this

See Trailhead, page 19

Trailhead, from page 18

trail because of this stream crossing, you may be shy no more! It should also be noted that this trail is clear of blowdowns from the western end at least to the summit of Furnace Mountain.



One-Mile Run Trail

One-Mile Run Trail in the southern district of SNP is little used but worth a visit. It offers a variety of terrain with both an open and airy ridge and several miles of cascading stream. Though it is maintained as an out-and-back hike, many of us feel that, in general, the view on the return is always different enough to make such trails attractive.

There are four distinct sections starting from the drive at the Two-Mile Run Overlook (walk a hundred yards south to the trailhead): an oak-covered ridge with summer glimpses and winter views to east and west; a steep drop to One-Mile Run with a spring and seasonal feeder to the run along the bottom hundred yards (note how it goes underground); two-and-a-half miles of lovely stream-side walking with ferns, hemlocks, cascades, and fish to watch; a plain vanilla, relatively "pedestrian" walk out to the boundary, probably skipped by most visitors. It is the ridge and the stream that are most attractive.

Old maps show the ridge trail continuing straight out Two-Mile Ridge, though I have not been able to find any traces other than old yellow blazes along the existing trail. There is a picturesque grove of Table Mountain Pine just uphill of the turn down to the run and legal but dry campsites straight ahead along the saddle leading to Two-Mile Ridge.

There are many appealing campsites along the run, of course. But be prepared for much stream-hopping: The trail crosses the run about a dozen times.

The trail along the run follows an old road that comes in from the valley, adding "cultural interest," as they say. I've scouted the area around its upper reaches for signs of habitation, with no results. The lowest section, seldom visited, would be handy for emergency access, of course, and does traverse some nice open woods (good hunting I am sure). As for links to other areas or trails, a fairly easy bushwhack is possible to the west across Bearwallow Run and on to the Brown Mountain Trail, Big Run Portal Trail, or Rockytop Trail. There are pits from iron mining just north of the word "Brown" in Brown Mountain Trail (PATC Map 11, ed. 14, 2001). Another possible bushwhack would be north around Two-Mile Ridge to Two-Mile Run and up the run to the Rocky Mount Trail. I really have to try that some day. Have fun!!

In short, I welcome you to a trail that I never tire of visiting. Please give my work added purpose!

—John Ruppe, *One-Mile Run overseer*

Finally, A Couple Dry Weekends

Views at Mutton Top during a work trip in May were nonexistent due to constant fog, clouds, or rain. It was a welcome change for the Cadillac Crew work trip in October when there was no rain, views were abundant, and the fall foliage added color. During the extended Columbus Day weekend, the crew was able to clear blowdowns from Isabel on the Vining Tract trails between the cabins and the Perimeter Trail. Removing a leaner over Morris Cabin provided a special challenge to the sawyer, Steve Pebley.

Also in October the crew completed a connector trail between Tulip Tree Cabin (Charlie Graf's second home) and the Crusher Ridge Trail into SNP. Thanks to help and advice from Darwin and Eileen Lambert, whose presence the trail crosses, a suitable route was

selected. Future cabin users now have access to the AT and trails in the SNP via the Crusher Ridge Trail.

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@shentel.net. □

**Book Review:
"Rock Creek Park"**

"Rock Creek Park," by Gail Spilsbury. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Backcountry Guides, 2003, 50 b&w photos, 6 diagnostic maps, \$21.95, hardcover.

This is a beautifully made book, a collector's item. The book contains a history of Rock Creek Park from its conception in 1902 through its history to contemporary time. The public park movement gained momentum in the mid-19th century, helped along by the Olmstead family. The book includes an extensive history of the Olmstead family going back several generations. The Olmsteads were landscape architects who made great contributions to public space policy in urban and park planning throughout the United States. Several photographs of archival paintings going back to the late 1800s are fascinating for the horses and buggies going through Rock Creek's fords. The bridges' histories are interesting, too – Boulder Bridge built in 1902 and Pebble Dash Bridge over Broad Branch, replaced in 1960. The author is an editor at the Freer and Sackler Galleries, and a few PATC members made some contributions to the book. □

—Carol Niedzialek

Volunteers Appointed – October

Shelter Overseers

- Russell Kitchner Rock Springs Hut - SNP Central District
- Bill Tyler Calf Mountain Shelter– SNP South District/ATPO

Trail Overseers

- Kisan Han Robertson Mountain Trail
- Judi Weaver Massanutten Connector Trail
- Gillian Sunley Thornton River Trail [Lower]
- Norma Job AT - Frazier Discovery Trail to Loft Mt. Camp Store

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Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

Shelter Overseer Wanted

Call Frank Turk, 301/249-8243
E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

Overseer Pinnical Shelter - Tuscarora Central District

Co-District Manager Wanted for

SNP North AT – Map 9

Front Royal to US Rte. 211

Call John McCrea, 610/352-9287
Email: mcreajf@aol.com

District Managers Wanted for

SNP Central Side Trails (North End) – Map 10

US Rte. 211 to Old Rag

Call Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248
E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

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

Tuscarora Pennsylvania – Maps J & K

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

Call Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

E-mail: peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

Harpers Ferry / Ashby Gap AT & Blue-Blazed – Maps 7 & 8

Call Chris Brunton, 703/560-8070

E-mail: trailbossbtc@msn.com

Appalachian Trail

Trans Mountain Trail to Duke Hollow (1.3 miles)

Rod Hollow Shelter Trail

AT to Rod Hollow Shelter (0.2 miles)

Fishers Hill Loop Trail

AT to AT (1.0 miles)

SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9

Call Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391

E-mail: rdugan@bellatlantic.net

Piney Branch Trail [lower]–Co-Overseer

Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed, north end – Map 10

Call Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@cox.net

Corbin Mountain Trail – Co-Overseer

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad
(4.4 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed, south end – Map 10

Call Steve Paull, 703/361-3869

E-mail: stevepaull@yahoo.com

Jones Mountain Trail

Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail (2.8 miles)

Rose River Loop Trail - Co-Overseer

Rose River Fire Road to Horse Trail (2.7 miles)



CORRECTION

We reported that the price for the Holiday Gift Membership was \$30.00. This was incorrect. The correct amount is \$25.00. Any gifts purchased at the incorrect price will be rebated the difference. We apologize for this error.

SNP South AT - Map 11

Call Dennis DeSilvey, 434/295-8825

E-mail: dldesilvey@pcvmed.com

Appalachian Trail - Co-Overseer

Beagle Gap to McCormick Gap (1.8 miles)

SNP South Blue-Blazed – Map 11

Call Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309

E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

Rocky Mount Trail

Skyline Drive to the upper intersection of the Gap
Run Trail (2.2 miles)

Tuscarora Central – Map L

Call Walt Smith, 540/678-0423

E-mail: wsmith@visuallink.com.

High Rock Trail

Packhorse Trail Road to Tuscarora Trail (2.3 miles)

Tuscarora South – Maps F, G, 9

Call Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247

E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net

Tuscarora Trail

Hawk Camp to VA/WV 55 (3.6 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Great North Mountain – Map F

Call Hop Long, 301/942-6177

E-mail: theFSLongs@comcast.net

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Tibbet Knob Trail

Wolf Gap Campground to SR 691 (2.4 miles)

District Manager for DC Metro – Map N

Call Mark Anderson, 202/462-7718

E-mail: dc.trails@verizon.net

Normanstone Trail

Wis. Ave. to Rock Creek Park (0.8 miles)



The Potomac Appalachian

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