



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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December 1998

PATC Annual Meeting

The 1998 PATC Annual Meeting was held at the Elk's Lodge 2188 on the 6th of November. Attendees were treated to displays of various Club activities and a hearty dinner. A delightful musical treat was provided by the Opus String Quartet (a trio for the evening), featuring PATC member Laura Horstkamp.

The entire slate of candidates was elected by unanimous vote as none of the candidates were opposed for office. Other business included a review of the Club's financial affairs; distribution of the 1998 Service Awards (see the Service Awards article for names of recipients), Special Commendation Awards, and 50-Year Life Membership Awards; and speeches by outgoing President Sandi Marra and incoming President Walt Smith.

Sandi's speech was moving and heartfelt. She spoke of how fulfilling the experience of being President has been and that it was a great growth experience for her. Walt's invigorating speech focused on the direction the Club will take in future years and the importance of volunteerism (for a full text of his speech, see "Message from the New President").

For those of you reluctant to attend Annual Meetings in the past, rest assured that the necessary business was conducted swiftly and that most of the time was spent socializing and informally discussing Club activities. It was far from a "boring meeting" experience.

This was my first experience at an Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to see people I've met in other activities, to put

faces to the names who have submitted articles to the PA over the past few months, and to meet new people. It was a stirring experience being around so many people so committed to providing for the continued enjoyment of our area's trails, and it was especially moving to see the number of people awarded Service Awards and 50-Year Awards, honors not to be considered lightly. It's very easy to send in one's membership fee each year and not find the time to actually do anything with the Club. For those of you who don't get out as much as you'd like, I highly encourage you to look at the Forecast right now and choose a hike, work trip, or special event. Make new friends and spend time in the outdoors removing the cares of everyday life. And plan on going to the next Annual Meeting. □

—Bianca Menendez

Tom Floyd

Tom Floyd's name rings a bell with most of our 6,000+ Potomac Appalachian Trail Club members, although those who have joined the Club recently may know it only from its association with a trailside shelter near northern Shenandoah National Park (SNP), or in passing reference to the history of the Big Blue Trail.

People who have passed their silver anniversary mark with PATC might remember Tom starting out as an Overseer within a year or so of joining the Club in 1971, or leading a backpacking trip in the SNP the following year. In fact, it was 25 years ago this month that he began leading work trips on what eventually became a seven-mile relocation project on the Appalachian Trail, just north of the SNP.

In the beginning, the relocation crossed an 81-acre tract that Tom owned in Harmony Hollow, just outside the Park boundary. But the Trail easements he donated to PATC eventually became the core of land that was for-

mally incorporated into the AT corridor and the nucleus of the seven-mile relocation.

A spin-off from the relocation project was the development of the Tom Floyd Wayside, which is still in use along the AT. Although Tom did not lead the shelter crew that built it, he did provide the funds for its construction.

Longtime Trail Supervisor

Since Tom had also taken over the management of the Big Blue Trail project in 1974 and was coordinating the rest of PATC's trail work trips, it was not surprising that, by 1976, he was elected to the first of four consecutive terms as Supervisor of Trails. At that time, the challenge of the Big Blue project was to complete the remaining 66 miles of the trail, mostly across private lands.

This Tom was able to accomplish by 1981, relying not only on fellow Club members who were willing to lead or participate in work trips to build new trail, but also on his own leg-

endary folksiness and tireless research, which brought into being a trail route that turned off country lanes, wound around cow pastures and passed through farmers' wood lots.

See Tom Floyd, page 3

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Council Members, Chairs and Staff

Officers

President: Sandi Marra
VP Operations: George Still
VP Volunteerism: Tom Johnson
Supervisor of Trails: Peter Gatje
Email: PJGatje@aol.com
Supervisor of Corridor Management: Bob Butt
General Secretary: Warren Sharp
General Counsel: Randy Minchew
Membership Secretary: Lisa Still
Treasurer: Dick Newcomer
Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

Sections/ Chapters

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SMRG: Randy Rupp
Ski Touring Section: Katherine Stentzel
North Chapter: Steve Koeppen
N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Walt Smith
S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lynn Cameron
Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Jane Thompson

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Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton
Cabins: Matt Ogorzalek
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan
Corporate Donations: Jack Reeder
Endowment: Bill Ladd
Finance: Blair Staley
Hikes: Tom Johnson
Lands: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson, co-chairs
Legal: Randy Minchew
Maps: Dave Pierce
Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee: Charlie Graf
Public Affairs: Terry Cummings
Publications: Jean Golightly
Shelters: John Andrews
Trail Patrol: Mickey McDermott

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Paula Strain
Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Vacant
Cabin Reservations: Marilyn Stone
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Rick Rhoades
Firestone Tract Management: Vacant
Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite Schneeberger
Internet Services: Andy Hiltz
Land Management: Ed McKnew
Vining Tract Management: Howard Johnson

Potomac Appalachian

Chief Editor: Bianca Menendez
Email: bianca@moon.jic.com
Features Editor: Joanne Erickson
Forecast Editor: Joe O'Neill
Email: Joe_Oneill@prodigy.com

Headquarters

Tel: 703/242-0693
Fax: 703/242-0968
Email: WRiley1226@aol.com
24-hour Activities Tape: 703/242-0965

Staff

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11)
Email: WRiley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest
(Ext.12) Email: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15)
Email: rgarnett@erols.com
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser
(Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19)
World Wide Web URL: <http://patc.simplenet.com/>

Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on October 13, 1998 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 20 Council members, 3 staff, 3 Club members and 1 guest. The PATC membership stands at 6,241. There were 130 new members registered in the month of September.

Terry Cummings and Mary Margaret Sloan, Council members who also work for the American Hiking Society, briefed the Council on discussions at the meetings of the Congressionally appointed Board concerned with equal access for persons with disabilities. The Board is studying recreation, and of particular concern is accessibility of trails. Several categories of trails are defined, and the Board is developing scoping and technical requirements for access. There is a concern that the Board does not understand trails. The rules for access are being formulated, and there will be opportunities to influence the committee studying trails. There will also be a public comment period. The trails community is well-represented by various hiking organizations and by ATC.

Last May, PATC requested to become part of the Combined Federal Campaign. The request was turned down because the application was misinterpreted. Because the response was misdirected, PATC was denied the chance to request a review of the decision. The application will be filed again in the coming year.

The Council and the new Board will have a retreat on December 5 to develop a blueprint for what is to be accomplished in the next two years. The discussion will be based on issues discussed at a planning meeting held in August.

Alan Day described the videos he has shot of PATC-led hikes on trails near Washington DC. One video has been aired on Fairfax County Channel 10. Other videos will be shot for local distribution.

Vice President/Operations, George Still, will be interim chairman of the Shelters Committee as John Andrews has resigned for business reasons. George wants to reinstate the district manager system. Work on Range View cabin has begun.

Supervisor of Trails, Peter Gatje, reported that PATC members provided over 35,000 hours of trail work including work by 7 trail crews. The work was supervised by 18 very able district managers.

Charlie Graf was interviewed at the Tulip Tree Construction site by the Voice of America. The broadcast was heard by his nephew in Europe. □

—Gerhard Salinger,
Recording Secretary

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, EITHER... BUT IT
MAKES MY TONGUE TICKLE WHEN I LICK IT!"

Tom Floyd, from page 1

These landowner agreements were often accomplished with the proverbial handshake and with a lack of formal documentation, which was later to confound his successors.

Just prior to becoming Supervisor of Trails, Tom Floyd had agreed to serve as chairman of the Land Acquisition and Management Committee, which was then a sizable group of about 20 people with several officers. After holding this position for more than a year and discovering that being Supervisor of Trails was more than a full-time proposition by itself, Tom resigned the Lands Committee post in favor of continuing as Trail Supervisor. But in spite of this, he continued to make his mark in the Lands Committee's arena.

By 1987, Tom had been elected to his second term as Supervisor of Trails. During this hitch, he started up yet another seven-mile relocation project, this one on the Great North Mountain section of the Big Blue, south of Gore, VA. His contributions to this project included the many days spent out in the laurel thickets, locating the property lines that defined the boundaries of the trail easement.

Spreading His Wings

By the end of the 1980s, Tom's retirement from his career position as a personnel branch manager with the U.S. Department of Interior permitted him to spend more time traveling outside the PATC region. In fact, Andy Hiltz served as acting PATC Supervisor of Trails during much of Tom's last year in that office. During the Depression years, Tom's family had migrated to Arizona from the Ozarks of Arkansas, and he began spending a good deal of his active retirement in those two places.

He kept his cabin near Front Royal for a while, but eventually sold it and shifted his Virginia base of operations to another lot that he owned just below the Pinnacle Shelter on the Great North Mountain, usually making visits there during the spring and fall months, often while en route from his travels across the Northern states and Canada to his home in Springdale, AR. As was the case with his land holdings near the Appalachian Trail, Tom had donated most of his property in the Pinnacle area to PATC.

Tom's Canine Companion

PATC members who have been out on hikes and work trips with Tom are sure to remember his faithful companion, M.D. The name

was sometimes thought to be a reference to a medical background or simply an abbreviation for Mad Dog. It actually stood for Mountainburg Dog, from his birthplace in Arkansas. Unfortunately, M.D. succumbed earlier this year to a chronic fungal infection, which he probably picked up during one of his stays out in the Southwestern desert.

One humorous story that is sometimes told about Tom's canine companion revolves around the time someone was helping Tom dislodge a large boulder or log from a trail construction site. M.D. thought the "helper" was wrestling with Tom and had to be called off before he could cause any serious damage!

Other Accomplishments

Not to be overlooked is the fact that Tom is as much responsible as anyone for PATC's system of regional chapters. He served as president of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter and also had a hand in the establishment of the Southern Shenandoah Valley and West Virginia Chapters as well.

No account of Tom Floyd's trails career would be complete without some mention of his research and writing. The best example of this is his book, *Lost Trails and Forgotten People*, which was first published in 1981 as a history of the Jones Mountain area of what is now the SNP. Tom has also partially completed work on a historical description of the Big Blue project.

Beyond his election in 1986 to Honorary Life Membership in PATC for his other achievements, Tom should also be remembered for his advocacy of a hiking route linking the North Mountain portion of the Big Blue with the AT's own North Mountain stretch in southwestern Virginia. Although neither Tom nor PATC have had the resources to pursue this project, others have worked on it over the years and should eventually succeed in completing the link between these two trails. □

—Lloyd MacAskill

PATC Service Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients of PATC Service Awards. Thanks for all your hard work and outstanding commitment to the Club.

1998 Service Awards

Shakuntala Ghare
Wil Kohlbrenner
Sam Moore
Susan Nelson
John McNamara
Kerry Snow
George Walters
Rick Rhodes
Richard Canter
Charles Irvin
Liles Creighton
Andy Hiltz
Heidi Forrest
L. William Spach
Cliff Noyes
Barbara Marrow
Jon Rindt
Katherine Rindt
Topher Bill
Dan Dueweke
Frank Shelburne
Susan Cahill
George Schubert
Al Rogers
Tom Tamburo
Trudy Thompson
Fran Keenan
Fred S. Long
Bruce Nierwienski
Cindy Huebner

Mark Mitchell
Richard Stickley
Jim Sims
Esther Aulhouse
Pete Brown
Edward Franco
Al Manus
John McCrea
Bernie Stalman
Marie Grenan
Walter Wells
Carl Seese
Vernon Harvey
Patrick O'Keefe
Randy Buie
Wil Kohlbrenner
Frank Haas
Wally Spaulding

Michael Fleming
Lloyd Parriott
Mark Murray
Tamami Kusuda
Selma Kusuda
Frank Carlson
Patricia Carlson
Mel Merritt
Tom Jorgensen
Bob Leibfried
John Luck
Larry Huffman
Becki Swinehart
Tony Hoade
Amy Rue
Martin Juenge
Greg Huska

50-Year Life Membership Awards

Douglas R. Shanklin (Florida)
Wilfred E. Peele (Florida)
Katherine M. Laupp (Washington State)
Dorothy M. Mason (Maryland)
Mary E. Williams (Arizona)
Margaret K. Peterson (Maryland)
Winifred M. Lembeck (Maryland)

Special Commendation Awards

Dave Jorgensen
Evan Lally
Barbara Brown
Julia Hebden
Diane Resnick
Dave Fellers

Who Was Dickey?

Many of us have driven past or stopped at Dickey Hill while on Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Who was this person called Dickey? If you ask some of the residents of Warren County, you will receive different answers. In Harmony Hollow the response may be that it was named after Dickey Pomeroy. Over in the Browntown area the answer is more likely to be that Dickey Fish gave the mountain its name.

Dickey Hill goes back in years further than the Pomeroy or Fish families. I discovered a map of Gooney Manor in the Virginia State Library, which indicates that the mountain range south of Front Royal was known as Dickey's Hill as early as 1747. William Green, while supervising a survey crew of five, noted the features in the area when he drew a plat of Gooney Manor for Lord Fairfax in 1747-48. He submitted the results and illustrated them along with a list of inhabitants.

Green reported that the area around Dickey's Hill, from Happy Creek in the east to the western hills of today's Browntown valley, included only six settlements. At the time, two of the settlements were deserted, "being little or no other Improvements than small Cabbins built by Hunters." The map indicates that paths connected the locations of three other settlements, none with the name of Dickey. One settlement, established by William Orvins, who purchased his land from Sam Wilson, a hunter, appears to be adjacent to present-day Lands Run. George Neal, living along either Smith Creek or Broad Run, occupied another settlement. Farther to the west, Darby McCarty lived alongside Greasy Run. McCarty claimed that he also owned the sixth settlement, "lying below Orvins," which once was occupied by Joseph Richardson. None of these settlers had a patent from the Colony of Virginia, nor a grant from Lord Fairfax. Nor had anyone by the name of Dickey filed for any patents, grants, or deeds in the area.

The closest family by the name of Dickey recorded as living in the area was the Dickeys of Augusta County, who settled along Naked Creek in 1746. Lieutenant John Dickey served in the colonial militia and during the Revolutionary War. The Dickeys of Augusta County moved to Kentucky in 1786. Perhaps the Dickeys settled for a spell in the area of Gooney Manor, vacating the settlement later

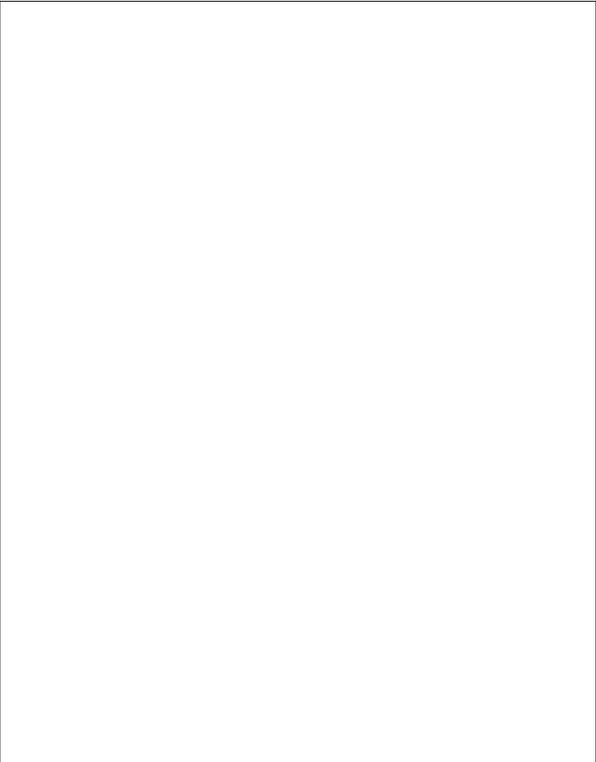
and moving farther up the valley prior to Green's survey in 1747-48.

However, there is another possible solution to the Dickey puzzle. In 1744, George Hume recorded a survey for the Frederick County Court, which established the boundary between Frederick and Augusta counties. The "dividing line" is shown on the Green Survey Plat. Hume records that his party established the line from the "Head of Hedgman (Rappahannock) River.... Crossing the points of the mountains and Happy Creek. Cross the South River of Shanadore [Shenandoah] at the Limestone Rocks below Richard Herrills bottom Cross Powels fort."

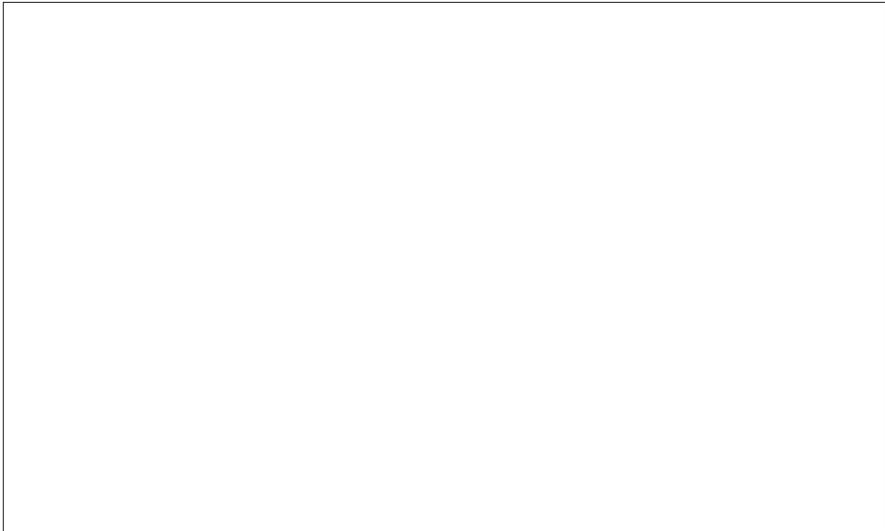
Surely Hume would have mentioned such a prominent feature as Dickey's Hill if the mountain had been so called in 1744. Perhaps it subsequently became known as Dickey's Hill because Richard Herrill had a settlement at the western base of the ridge.

Who was Dickey Herrill? I don't know, except that I know that he didn't own the land. Captain William Russell, who lived east of the Blue Ridge, received a patent to the area

from the Colony of Virginia in 1735. He sold land in the vicinity of the Dividing Line, on the west side of the Shenandoah River, to Hugh Sidwell in 1740 and land east of the river to William Cloud in 1741. Richard Herrill may have been a tenant, or perhaps he had just settled down for awhile to hunt and farm, as did many other pioneers, without worrying much about patents, land



*Map of Gooney Manor,
Surveyed by William Green, 1747-1748*



Dickey Hill as seen from Lord Fairfax's Gooney Manor.

grants, deeds or any other such bothersome formalities. Before long, he too may have ended up in Kentucky.

The question of who was Dickey has not been solved, but we appear to be getting closer to the mark. □

—Walt Smith reprinted from Fall 1998
Northern Shenandoah Valley
Chapter newsletter

Sources: Augusta, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren County Court records; National Archives census records; O'Dell, Cecil, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, VA, 1995*; Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volumes VII and VIII, relating to the Dickey family of Augusta County; Virginia State Library, Index to Land Grants in the Northern Neck; Warren Times, A Warren History Feature, April 14, 1998.



Do you Know??

How many Headquarters has PATC had opened to the public?

Answer on page 6

Patrons

Capital Hiking Club
Center Hiking Club
Potomac Backpackers Association
Sierra Club, Washington Outings Program
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

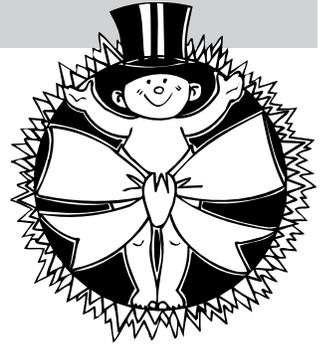
Corporate Supporters

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

50th New Year's At Allenberry

This year's get-together at Allenberry will start after lunch on Wednesday, December 30, 1998 and will end with a mid-day Pennsylvania Dutch dinner on January 1, 1999. There will be some entertainment, slides or lecture, on Wednesday evening, square-dancing after dinner on New Year's eve, if there are enough dancers to form a couple of squares, otherwise a high-class film followed by midnight revelry with punch. Hikes will be offered Thursday and Friday. Cost: \$165 per person double or \$185 single for two nights including all meals and a cham-

pagne party. Fee for one night will be \$90 per person double and \$100 for a single room.



To reserve: phone Bill and Helen Bryant 703-379-1888. Deadline for reservations: Dec. 9. □

Horse and Mountain Bike Update

On September 10, the Pennsylvania Division of State Forest Management hosted a meeting consisting of two representatives each from the hiking, equestrian, and mountain bike communities to discuss the issue of the use of 18 state designated hiking trails in Pennsylvania, including the Appalachian Trail, by the latter two groups. Warren Ely, Chief of the Division of Forest Management, chaired the meeting and has been the point of contact for comments regarding revisions to the Bureau of Forestry rules and regulations, which went into effect in the spring of this year. These revisions, the first in the past 25 years, originally included two provisions of keen interest to hikers: the prohibiting of horses and mountain bikes from the 18 state designated hiking trails and the adoption of "positive posting". Because of

the strong objections raised by equestrians and mountain bikers, these two provisions were omitted from the revised regulations, subject to further consideration.

I spoke with Mr. Ely about a week after the meeting, who told me that the meeting went well and that this committee would meet again early next year to continue discussions. Until then, the past policy of "negative posting," which means that horses and mountain bikes are free to use a hiking trail unless the trail is specifically posted against such use, will remain in effect for all of Pennsylvania's hiking trails. □

—Steve Koeppen, reprinted from News and Views, the newsletter of the North Chapter of PATC

ARE YOU MOVING?!!

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

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

Name: _____

Effective date of New Address: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

A Report on Long Distance Trails

When the National Trails System act was passed in 1968, there were only two long-distance trails: the Appalachian Trail (AT), approximately 2,100 miles long and in danger of losing parts, and the 2,600 mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), some of which existed only as a general route used by through hikers but not actually laid out as a trail. Today both trails are complete (the AT with 2,160 miles and the PCT with 2,650) and there are six other national scenic trails with a total 3,849 miles open to hikers out of a possible 9,404, and 12 national historic trails, whose walkable mileage has not been counted.

In 1968, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), with about 3,000 individuals and three dozen trail clubs as members, was the only organized group of citizens interested in foot trails. Today there are nine such organizations with a total of 38,940 members, though the ATC continues to be the largest with about 60 trail clubs as members and 24,000 individuals.

This report on 30 years of foot trail growth appears in the summer issue of *Pathways Across*

America and includes a number of statistical tables that will interest anyone concerned with foot trails.

Authors Steve Elkinton and Gary Werner note the PCT now needs to relocate parts in Southern California because of urban sprawl. The Continental Divide, which has only 800 miles officially open, is like the 1968 PCT was: its entire route is known generally and used by its through hikers, but much of its 3,200 trail miles is not actually on the ground. The North Country Trail, which will also be 3,200 miles long, has 1,480 miles blazed for the hiker. The Florida Trail, with an expected 1,400 miles, has 805 miles walkable—and has just solved two problems that have limited completing more of the desired mileage. The Ice Age Trail, to be 1,000 miles long, has 805 miles walkable. Only the 700-mile Potomac Heritage Trail lacks working sponsors and is hikeable only on the 12-mile section along the Potomac Palisades that PATC maintains and on the 184-mile C&O Canal towpath. □

—Paula N. Strain

Tip of the Month

Most cabin pots have been used on open fires/grills for years and years, and sport a thick layer of soot that likes to come off on everything-except the pot. So, if you are fortunate enough to stumble across a new, shiny, clean pot, you can keep it that way very easily! Before you put food or water in the pot, smear a thin coating of plain old dish soap all

over the exterior of the pot. Then fill it up and put in on the fire. During wash up, the soot will wash clean away. But, like any pot, save the soaped ones for LAST in the wash basin!! This trick works just as well at home on the gas or charcoal grill or on pots that have to wash up and go back in the pack. □

—Nancy Merritt

National Park Service Publications

The Park Service's "Economic Impact and Uses of Long-distance Trails" offers a tool for measuring and evaluating visitation along long-distance trails. Dr. Roger Moore and Kelly Barthlow tested the tool in a study of the 310-mile Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Two surprising results came to light: Most visitors did not know they were on the trail; once they did, they were eager to learn more about it. In 1995, these visitors brought in about \$16 million in "new money" to the counties along the trail.

"Wayside exhibit guidelines: The ABCs of Planning, Design, and Fabrication", also a free publication of the National Park Service, is a short manual written for NPS' trail partners to help them create top-quality, low-impact wayside exhibits appropriate to trail sites.

Both are available on request from the NPS National Center for Recreation and Conservation, 1849 C St., room 3606, Washington, D.C. 20240. □

—Paula Strain

Looking Back

20 Years Ago this Month....

Among the stories, poems, and photographs in a special holiday issue of the PA, Carleton Gooden reminisced about his recently completed section-hike of the AT. "...My chief satisfaction came from enjoying the amazing variety of natural wonders still available in the eastern United States for those who would rather see a dewy spider web at sunrise than the Taj Mahal at high noon..."

40 Years Ago this Month....

Paula Strain reported on a bill recently signed by President Eisenhower, ordering a bipartisan commission to complete a three-year study of the nation's diminishing outdoor recreational resources.

60 Years Ago this Month....

PATC issued a second edition of the map of the Shenandoah National Park-Southern Section, with each copy of the *Bulletin*. The second edition was occasioned by a trail relocation that rendered the first edition obsolete. SNP officials had begun issuing a new Guide Map to tourists entering the park, but this map did not show the "extensive system of foot trails. For that use, the PATC feels its maps are still supreme."

Answer:

Six. Shared office space at: 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, D.C.; 1620 H St. N.W. Washington, D.C.; 808 17th St. N.W. Washington, D.C.; and our own buildings at 1915 Sunderland Place, N.W. Washington, D.C.; 1718 N. St. N.W. Washington, D.C.; and 118 Park Street S.E, Vienna, VA.



Storm On The Blue Ridge

I found this hand-written story, on now-yellowed paper, while sorting through “old stuff” to throw out. It is the story of a 19-year-old Mountain Club of Maryland member making his last solo hiking trip before joining the Navy in May 1951.

Back then my equipment consisted of WWII surplus: a ski-mountaineering steel-tube frame pack, knee-length parka with fur ruff, GI Coleman stove, down-feather mix sleeping bag, and paratrooper boots. Of all the gear I carried, I have retained only the GI Coleman stove, and it still weighs three pounds. This was in the days before Goretex, Spandex, Rolodex, and Tex-Mex.

I have not checked the miles per day, which when rereading the story today seem excessive, but then I was only 19. If you are a trail mileage nut or a fact-finder and find errors, please do not call me; it's only a memory now.

It all started on a beautiful sunny day in March 1951 when I reached the Shenandoah National Park Headquarters at about 12:30 p.m. After telling one of the Rangers that I planned to hike from the southern end of the park north to Panorama (a distance of about 71 miles) and planned to do it in six days, he suggested that I ride with another Ranger to Big Meadows.

At one o'clock on the dot the Ranger appeared, and I was off on what was to be the greatest adventure I had ever experienced! After saying so long to the Ranger at Big Meadows Wayside, I sat on the roadside in the warm sunlight and started a concentrated lunch of potted meat, Triscuit, apple juice, dried fruit and chocolate. The air was free of haze, and the ground was fairly dry. Very shortly I got a ride with an Interstate Commerce investigator all the way to Beagle Gap, where I decided to start my hike north.

The Hike Begins

Beagle Gap is five miles north of Rockfish Gap and about 2,500 feet in elevation where the Drive goes between Bear Den Mountain and Calf Mountain, both of which are grassy balds, typical of the mountains in the southern part of the Park. I started up Calf Mountain (2,830 feet) about 3:30 p.m. and had 4.7 miles to hike to Sawmill Run Shelter. The ascent was fairly steep, 300 ft. in 0.5 miles, but at the top I was rewarded with a beauti-

ful view to the south of the diminishing mountains and even Waynesboro. I turned and started the long descent to Jarman Gap (2,165 feet) where I crossed Jarman Gap Fire Road.

Then I hiked down an easy 300 feet in 0.3 miles to Sawmill Run Shelter where I ate supper and sat by the fire and watched the sun go down. The stars came out brightly, and the sky was a deep blackish blue. I went right off to sleep, but during the night a rat kept running over the frying pan left in the cabin and across the bedsprings overhead, and I woke up. It was 2 a.m., and as I looked for the stars, I suddenly realized that they were gone!

Trouble Brewing

By dawn the sky was dull gray, and I knew a storm was brewing. It was raw, and the damp air was penetrating. After an elaborate breakfast of dried fruit, instant Purina, and cocoa, I packed up and was on the Blue Blaze trail to the Appalachian Trail (AT) at 8 a.m. At 8:15 it started to snow. By the time I reached Turk Gap the snow had whitened the ground and it was pretty foggy on the higher points. A Maryland car passed me while I was standing at the Gap, but they didn't even see me.

On the other side of Turk Gap I took a rest stop, and when I started out again I saw a gray fox, which I checked by footprints in the snow. This was the only living creature I was to see for two-and-a-half days. Soon I crossed Skyline Drive and a little bit further crossed the trail down to Rip-Rap Shelter. I would have gone down, but it was snowing harder now, and there was a fairly strong wind. My position soon started to worry me. I had heard of people getting snowed in and freezing to death, and, although I had never heard of any such fatalities occurring in the Park, “there's a first time for everything,” I thought.

Missed Chance For Rescue

On I went, up, up, still snowing and getting deeper, and then down, intersecting the Calvary Rock Trail. Soon I came to Black Rock Gap where the AT parallels the road for about 0.4 miles, on a bank above the Drive. Of course the snow muffled all sound, and before I knew it, I heard the low whir of a truck going by. I ran to the edge of the bank and looked, but it was gone, leaving only fresh, sharp impressions from the tires. And it was heading north, too. I felt sick.

The Trail crossed the Drive again, and, as I stood there, the wind whistling around the bends in the road sounded just like an automobile horn. The snow was about four inches deep now and still coming down heavily. Up I went again but soon started down the side trail to Black Rock Shelter. I almost couldn't find it for it was pretty well buried in the snow. It was 1:30 p.m., and I had come 10 miles since breakfast, so I had a lunch of Triscuit, potted meat, soup, fly (raisin) cookies and chocolate.

It was frigid; my parka and pack were frozen stiff from the driving snow. My fingers soon became numb from handling the gas stove and the metal eating ware. I hiked on. It was starting to get dark, and it was an awful feeling knowing that the only way I was going to get out of this mess was to walk out or wait for the snowplow to come through.

The wind was very strong, driving the snow with such force that it stung the skin, and I soon had to walk backwards till the wind temporarily let up. About 6:30 p.m., I got to Browns Gap, and there the sign said Big Run Shelter—2 miles; Doyle River Cabin—3.5 miles. I had come six miles since lunch, so naturally I headed for Big Run, another downhill trip. I was getting really desperate. My eyes and ears were still playing tricks on me, seeing people and hearing bells; it was dark; I was cold; my feet were soaking wet; and here I was slipping, sliding, and stumbling, trying to get to Big Run Shelter.

I followed the Trail till I came to a rushing stream and the trail vanished into the choking gray of the snowy night. But the shelter had to be there, even if it wasn't shown on the map; it just had to be! I cursed the snow and prayed for help, but there was no kidding myself, I was in a pretty dangerous situation. I was wet to the skin and had no supper and no shelter.

Salvation For The Night

I soon realized that it was too dark to see anything in this storm. Standing there, almost rooted, not having the strength to move much further, I saw a large, dark shape that at first I took for a bear. It turned out to be the end of a huge log; a huge hollow log.

My prayers had been answered! With my ax, I knocked loose most of the rotted wood on the

See Storm, page 11

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays—contact Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com), 301/824-4942 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charles Irvin at 301/447-2848. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Springs cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris

Firme at 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppe (skoeppe @qis.net) 410/756-2916.

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 Walt Smith, 540/678-0423.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activities. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/ 865-5399.

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

December

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - January Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

1 (Tuesday)

MEETING - Trail Patrol Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, 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: John Moore (trailptrl@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>).

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

2 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Manassas National Battlefield Park, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike about 5 easy miles at

Manassas Battlefield Park. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Visitor Center. To reach the Visitor Center, take I-66 west from Beltway Exit 9 17.7 miles to VA 234 north exit. Go 1 mile to Visitor Center on right. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Bill and Helen Bryant 703/370-1888.

2 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Winter Backpacking REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Get your gear ready! The best backpacking season of the year is approaching. No bugs, no snakes, no crowds. With the leaves gone every ridge top affords stunning views, especially when cold fronts sweep in with clear Canadian air. But there is a price to pay for beauty. It's cold. You need to carry more clothing, food, fuel, and a heavier sleeping bag to stay warm. REI's Alexis Sanders will discuss winter gear, skills and tricks to keep your pack light to get the most out of winter. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

3 (Thursday)

CLASS - Winter Backpacking REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. See the above 12/02 REI class for details. REI's Erik Krukowski will discuss winter gear and skills to keep warm and keep your pack light to get the most out of winter. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

4 - 6 (Friday - Sunday)

BACKPACK TRIP - Assateague Island Assateague Island, VA/MD

Twenty-eight mile circuit hike on Assateague Island. Departing Friday night. Saturday we will begin the hike in the National Wildlife Refuge in Chincoteague, VA and hike up to the National Seashore in Maryland where we will camp. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewilcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

5 (Saturday)

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

9:00 a.m. This is the 19th and final advertised South Mountaineers event of 1998. We will work on what-ever is left! Tread repair is likely so plan to get dirty. Tools provided. THANKS to all who participated in the '98 campaign. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

5 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV border**

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Alexandria, VA

This sixteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is limited to 25 people. Additional information at website: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Join the world renowned Tulip Tree Cabin Crew in our endeavor to erect a 30' long log on top of the cabin wall. There will be no crane or other high tech equipment; just good old fashioned ingenuity and lots of muscle. There will be plenty of other interesting jobs too. With a little luck you may even get to see the local resident bear. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

6 (Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Trail Patrol Training Hike**

Want to know what PATC's Trail Patrol does? Here's your chance. Join John Dami on a training hike on Sunday, December 6. Reservations/INFO: John Dami 703/920-2422 before 10:00 p.m.

6 (Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Bluff Trail**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A long but relatively easy 13 mile hike along Bluff Trail, with lunch at Gravel Springs Hut. Return on AT. Moderate pace, 2000 ft elevation gain. You get great views from several promontories at this time of year. INFO: Tom Johnson 410/647-8554.

8 (Tuesday)

👤 **MEETING - PATC Council Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:00 p.m. - sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome, but members wishing to address the Council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

8 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

9 (Wednesday)

👤 **MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/).

9 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Scotts Run Nature Preserve, Langley, VA

4-5 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. From Beltway (I-495) Exit 13, go W on Va. 193 (Georgetown Pike) 0.6 mi. to Swinks Mill Rd. and turn R into parking area. Please, no pets. Bring water and lunch. INFO: Hank Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

9 (Wednesday)

CLASS - The Waterfalls of Whiteoak Canyon REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. The jewel of Shenandoah National Park, Whiteoak Canyon Run tumbles and plunges over a series of breathtaking waterfalls within its steep ravine. Along with images of this beautiful area, there will be a discussion of the underlying geology and stream biology. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

11 - 13 (Friday - Sunday)

👤 **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - Cadillac Crew Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV**

If you've been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us at Highacre in Harper's Ferry to help us celebrate the holidays! We'll stroll through the streets of the town, hike the trails and try not to spend too much money in the bookstore. Saturday, we'll buy our own lunches in town and Saturday night we'll have a big community dinner (if we can talk Jon McCrea into coming down from Philly to prepare the turkey again). Please call by December 7 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

12 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail Hike # II-7 George Washington National Forest, VA**

Fetzers Gap, VA section. Van Buren Furnace to VA Rte. 11. 11.6 moderate-to-difficult miles with an elevation change of 1000 ft. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

12 (Saturday)

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

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.



12 (Saturday)

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

All are invited to join the NSVC on a five-mile hike on the Dickey Ridge Trail with about 800' in upward elevation change to warm up! From Skyline Drive we will hike at a slow pace up to the Shenandoah Valley Overlook for a view of the Valley and the mountains beyond. Leader/INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visualink.com) 540/665-2101.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 / 🏔️ **HIKE/SKI - Cabin Christmas Morris Cabin, Lydia, VA**

Escape the malls and parking lots for a crisp weekend in the Blueridge and the cozy warmth of the wood stove. We'll day hike and/or cross-country ski (if there is snow), and then spend evenings in Yuletide celebration. This has become an annual event (now the tenth), but newcomers are welcome. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

12 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Natural History Hike South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join Bob Pickett on a 7.5 mile hike that will include a visit to the well-preserved Mt. Vernon iron furnace, and then take us over Trayfoot Mountain, where we'll see the damage from the recent Halloween fire. Trail is of moderate difficulty, ascending and descending 1500 feet along the Furnace Mountain and Trayfoot Mountain Trails. This can be part of a weekend cabin trip if desired (see Natural History Weekend below). INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Natural History Weekend Massanutten Mountain & Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Got a free weekend and looking for day hikes and a PATC cabin for Saturday night? Bob Pickett leads a 7.5 mile hike on Saturday, starting at the historic Mt. Vernon furnace and continuing over Trayfoot Mountain, overlooking the recently burned Paine Run Valley. After the hike, retire to a PATC cabin for a chill dinner and an evening in the woods. Sunday morning will start with a full breakfast and, after "breaking camp", we'll take a 5.4 mile hike in the Massanutten Mountain to Kennedy Peak. Dinner and breakfast provided. \$10 per person will probably cover cabin rental and food. Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

13 (Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Natural History Hike Kennedy Peak, Massanutten Mountain, VA**

For those interested in a short hike, join Bob Pickett for a 5.4 mile hike from the New Market Gap along Route 211 to Kennedy Peak. Hopefully, good weather will afford great views. This can be part of the weekend trip mentioned above. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

14 (Monday)

👤 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

15 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

16 (Wednesday)

👤 **MEETING - PATC Shelters Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:30 p.m. (Third Wednesday of Each Month). Become involved in this vital club function, help formulate policy proposals and plan shelters-related activities for 1999 and beyond. Any PATC member may attend and have a voice. The general public may attend and observe and wish that they, too, could help steer this committee into the 21st century. Coffee provided; bring your own gossip. INFO: George Still (Stills2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.



FORECAST

16 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery County, MD
10:00 a.m. I-270 North past the exit to Father Hurley Blvd., north of Germantown. Exit NE (right) on Rte 121/ Clarksburg Rd. Continue straight on Clarksburg Rd across Rte. 355, about 2.5 miles from I-270, to parking lot on right hand side of Clarksburg Rd. 4-5 hilly miles may include giant ant mounds, one room schoolhouse, high meadows, and parallel streams. Bring lunch. Please call only if you need further information. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988.

19 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Pack your child! Parent/Child Hike. The Source. (South District, Shenandoah) Mile 81, 5.0 miles. Pace: a little less than 2 miles per hour. Recommended for children 6 months to 4 years (remember what they don't walk, you have to carry). Saturday December 19th. Depart DC suburban area around 9:00 a.m. INFO: John Butler 301/263-0141.

19 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

VA-WV border

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

19 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #8

Hancock, MD

A moderately paced 14 miles on the C & O Canal and roads from Camp Hardy County Park through Hancock, MD with less than 100 feet elevation gain. A car shuttle is required. PATC Map K. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack 703/339-6716 or William 703/256-6735.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin

Shaver Hollow, VA

This weekend is our crew Christmas party. There will be lots of celebrating, but never fear, there will be plenty of work too. The emphasis will definitely be on fun (you can make your own interpretation of that!). The resident bear is not invited to the party, but who is going to tell him to leave? So far he has been very cooperative and only hangs around when the crew is not present. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

21 (Monday)

👤 MEETING - Conservation Committee

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:00 p.m. INFO: Mary Margaret Sloan 703/807-0746.

22 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

29 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

29 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

29 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Alexandria, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike about 4 miles on the Mt. Vernon Bike Trail and in Old Town Alexandria with lunch at an Old Town restaurant. Afterward, hikers are invited to the leader's house for coffee and tea and dessert. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Belle Haven picnic area on the GW Parkway south of Alexandria. To reach the picnic area, take GW Parkway through Alexandria or Beltway Exit 1 south 1 mile and turn left at park sign. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

January

1 (Friday)

👤 DEADLINE - February Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

5 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - Trail Patrol

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, 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: John Moore (trailpatrol@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>).

9 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Roosevelt Island and Washington, DC

All are invited to join the NSVC as we explore the Potomac River area from the Arlington Cemetery Metro Station to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station, a distance of about eight miles. After noting monuments in the Arlington Cemetery area, we will pass through Rosslyn, hike around the Theodore Roosevelt Island, and cross the Key Bridge into DC. We will walk through Georgetown, enjoy lunch at Georgetown Park, hike along the C&O Canal towpath and the Potomac River, and eventually reach the Foggy Bottom Metro. Come and enjoy a change of scenery from January in the Valley. Leader/INFO: Betsy Fowler (efowler@logicon.com) 703/553-7833 (w), 540/933-6136 (h).

9 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Natural History Hike

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join Bob Pickett on an 8.2 mile loop along Little Devil's Stairs and Piney Branch Trail. This is a moderately difficult trail, ascending 1500 feet, and involves several small stream crossings and walking over wet/icy rocks. At least the nettles and poison ivy will not be a problem. Cultural resources, woody plants, mammals and geology will be discussed. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.



9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure: 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Got cabin fever? Put on your brand new thermal Christmas skivvies and come work outdoors with the Cadillac Crew! Weather permitting (meaning if we can drive up the mountain to the parking area) we're going to reclaim old trails so we can hike them in the summer. Overnight at Morris Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Please call by January 2 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

11 (Monday)

👤 MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

12 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - PATC Council

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:00 p.m. - sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome, but members wishing to address the Council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wiley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

13 (Wednesday)

👤 MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/).

14 (Thursday)

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

Legend states that Thomas Jefferson would celebrate his birthday every year by hiking Old Rag Mountain. Thomas Jefferson was lucky; he was born on April 13. However, in the great Jefferson tradition, and weather permitting, I will celebrate my birthday with the classic Old Rag hike. All are invited to climb the famous Ridge Trail, and return via the fire road on a day that will be cold and clear enough to inspire even old Tom Jefferson. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/662-1524.

18 (Monday)

👤 MEETING - Conservation Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:00 p.m. INFO: Mary Margaret Sloan 703/807-0746.

20 (Wednesday)

👤 MEETING - PATC Shelters Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. (Third Wednesday of Each Month). Appalachian Trail Guidebooks note that PATC shelters are among the nicest and most innovative to be found. Help us maintain a proud tradition and to raise the bar for other clubs to meet. Club members in good standing have a voice and a vote; nonmembers

may discuss and advise. INFO: George Still (Stills2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

23 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Who knows what the weather will be like this time of year, but you can depend on the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew to be hard at work, come rain, snow, sleet or

hail. We will be making floor joists, cutting down trees, making dovetail joints to install floor joists and all sorts of other interesting jobs. We work in the quiet winter woods with our primitive hand tools resurrecting skills used by our forefathers in their daily lives. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Want to be outdoors, but you're afraid to ski? Come work outdoors instead! Put on that new double-sided, polar fleece hat over your grown-out Christmas haircut and come work outdoors with the Cadillac Crew! Weather permitting (meaning if we can drive up the

mountain to the parking area) we're going to reclaim old trails so we can hike them in the summer. Overnight at Morris Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Please call by January 16 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

26 (Tuesday)

🚒 MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

Storm, from page 7

inside for as far I could reach and checked for critters. Then I partially inflated my air mattress, jammed my sleeping bag into the tree, threw my poncho over the opening and huddled underneath with my pack while I took off my boots. Wet clothes and all, I struggled into the bag and tried to sleep on my stomach to keep bits of rotted wood from falling into my face, but it was a dirty night. Finally, sleep relieved me of my worries and discomfort; I was almost warm.

When I woke, I squirmed out of my sleeping bag, which was wet down one side from the sleet beating through a crack in the tree. It was a struggle to get my frozen boots on but I persevered, and after a couple of frozen chocolate bars, I packed up my equipment and started up the mountain. It was still snowing, and when I finally reached the Drive, it was almost impossible to tell where the road was. I was back at Browns Gap now, and, as I looked out across the mountains, silent and still with their cover of snow, I wondered what the outcome of this situation would be. The best thing to do would be to hike on until I came to a shelter where I could cook and get some real sleep, both of which I really needed.

After crunching a mile through the crusted snow, I came to a place where I could look down through a gap and see the valley below. And what I saw made my heart jump. It had not snowed down in the valley at all. The snow stopped halfway down the mountainside, and I really felt isolated up here in my own little world of ice, snow, wind and cold.

Glancing back over my shoulder, I spied an old abandoned house sitting west of the Gap.

I oriented myself and started back over the same mile I had just traveled. This old house was really a gift, and I intended to hole up there until I got rejuvenated. The wind was blowing with blizzard force up the mountain side and through the Gap, drifting the snow into deep mounds. My footprints would soon be obliterated, so I wrote a note saying that I was in the old cabin and put it in my red hat. This I tied to a road-marking sign post in case anyone came by while I was in the cabin.

Bushwhacking is never much fun, but try it sometime through deep snowdrifts, brambles over your head and going downhill. Finally, I was much relieved to see the cabin. It was probably of mid-1800s vintage, with four rooms and pantry, and from the upstairs window I had a commanding view of Skyline Drive. Soon after getting wood and water, I had dinner started and a roaring fire in the ancient fireplace. It was now about 1:30 p.m. and 24 hours since I had had anything substantial to eat. So I ate some of everything I had: soup, crackers, candy, meat, rice and cocoa. I tried drying my sleeping bag and some wet socks by the fire.

Later I decided to crawl into my sleeping bag and take a nap until suppertime for I really needed sleep. When I woke it was dark, so I missed supper and went back to sleep. When I woke again at 6 a.m., sunshine peeked from behind breaking clouds, and it had stopped snowing. Soon I was packed up and heading for Simmons Gap Ranger Station, 11 miles north.

I think I will always remember the old house and wonder who built it and lived in it and what they would think about it being a haven for a snowbound hiker. (If anyone has an idea of what house this was and if it is still standing, I'd be interested in hearing about it.)

End Of The Journey

Refreshed and fortified, I bushwhacked back up to Browns Gap, retrieved my hat from the signpost and started hiking north up the Drive. Soon the AT crossed the Drive, and I decided to hike the trail. The snow was over 14 inches deep and three feet in drifts. It was clearing and cold, and the wind started howling again like the sound of the truck I had heard on Tuesday. Only this sound became more intense and changed to a scraping sound. I turned to look, and there was a huge snowplow followed by a pickup truck going down the Drive. I dropped my pack and raced through the snow, hollering and whistling, but the plow was making so much noise the driver didn't hear me and passed on by.

At that point I turned my attention to chasing the pickup, and finally it stopped. The driver drawled, "Whatcha doin' up here, boy?" It was a good question, and, after getting my breath and pack, I told him my story. He got a big kick out of me sleeping in the old hollow log. He took me to Swift Run Gap from where I hitchhiked to Luray. After cleaning up at a gas station, I got a ride to Park Headquarters with—by sheer coincidence—the Ranger who had driven me part way down the Drive at my hike's start. I told him and his partner my story, and they said they were glad I'd held out, because they were thinking about finding me after the storm was over, frozen stiff somewhere along the Trail. I told them I had thought about the same thing.

Finally, I headed home, ending happily the greatest adventure of my young life. □

—Carl G. Bock

Message from the New President, Annual Meeting, PATC, November 6, 1998

It is a great honor to be president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. This Club has an excellent reputation because of the vision and dedication of the people who have served it in the past. I will do my best to live up to that tradition.

Who are we and where are we going?

During discussions last spring with the nominating committee, many of you raised issues which relate to these questions. Are we primarily workers or hikers? Can we keep our volunteer tradition alive? Can we continue to attract sufficient membership in order to meet growing needs? In view of the commercial growth and expanding population, can we protect the Appalachian Trail, and other trails?

The Washington metropolitan area has changed considerably since the early pioneers of this Club rode out in the bus to the Blue Ridge to work on the trails. Back then, before World War II, each crew member paid \$2.60 for the bus transportation and dinner. \$2.60 was a lot of money to spend back in the 1930's. When you think about it, they made quite a sacrifice in order to go dig in the dirt. It was also a more taxing journey then, on narrow, winding two-lane roads. Today we whisk out there in comfortable cars, on four-lane highways.

But more has changed than just transportation. And the changes seemed to be accelerating faster than we may be realizing. For example, most of us have noticed the growth since the '80s in Loudoun County, one of the ten fastest growing counties in the nation. And it continues. In the Washington Post in October there was mention that MCI World-Com, Inc. is building an office campus in Loudoun for twenty thousand employees! In the same article, mention was made that the Orbital Sciences Corporation, a satellite and rocket maker, was also expanding its operation at nearby Dulles Airport. What affect will this business expansion have on the Blue Ridge to the west, harboring the Appalachian Trail? All these new people have to live somewhere near their employment.

Moreover, on the other side of the Appalachian Trail in a developing major distribution center for the east coast, near the Virginia inland port along US Route 340, Fam-

ily Dollar and Kohls department stores opened up their new east coast distribution centers during the last year. Under construction now is a new distribution center for Ferguson tractor and a new assembly plant for Hyundai trucks. All these new workers must also live somewhere nearby, most of them probably in the valley.

My friends, we must attempt to foresee what is happening in the areas around our beloved trails. We can not afford to be complacent.

Will our children's children in the year 2098, one hundred years from now, look back and say that it was our generation that let the good viewsheds of the AT go without doing enough? Will that future generation in 2098 look around Shenandoah National Park, and bemoan that there are so few trailheads? Or, will the future generations look back, and marvel that we had vision, and that we were able to plan a little, gather together some financial support, and set aside the necessary acreage for the enjoyment of future hikers. I believe that our children's children are counting on us. And we do have the capability to do just that: plan, gather financial support, and set aside land for the protection of the trail.

What is the status of those issues you raised earlier in the year?

The current executive committee, began to address the issues during an informal planning session in August at Blackburn. During that August session, I made a commitment that the organizational structure of our Club would be addressed during the next two years. We will examine how we might improve our organization in order to meet the challenges of the next century. A future's group will be formed, which will meet on a monthly basis beginning in January. If there are changes necessary to the constitution and bylaws, the amendments will be brought forward for your consideration at the annual meeting in two years. At next year's meeting, we will update you on our progress. If you are interested in participating in the future's group, please let Wilson Riley know so that we can advise you of the meeting arrangements.

Planning for the future on other issues will also continue. In December, the entire council will determine the priority of other issues

and begin to solve the most important ones.

The August planning session also raised a question as to whether we can keep the PATC's volunteer tradition alive, and concurrently meet our responsibilities toward building and maintaining trails, cabins, shelters, and toward preserving the land in vicinity of the trails. Can volunteerism carry all current Club activities into the 21st century?

As I indicated earlier, the pioneers of this organization went through considerable expense and effort in order to develop our volunteer tradition. We must not cast that tradition aside lightly. I believe that there are ways to continue volunteerism. I believe that we can search within us to continue to regard the volunteer as the soul of this organization, as the essence of our spirit.

I invite each of us to think about why we volunteer. Some of you may be sympathetic to my initial reason for joining the Club in 1991. I had been hiking on the trails for many years and I thought that it was pay-back time, time to contribute something to their maintenance. But as the months went on, I realized that getting away to the mountains and working on a trail was healthy, even therapeutic, and a much more important reason for volunteering than my initial one. And today, from my campsite at 2,700 feet along the Half Moon Mountain Trail, watching the sun set over the West Virginian mountains, I can't imagine not having such a marvelous opportunity. To those of you here tonight, who do not have the benefit of a mountain site, I suggest that you see your PATC real estate agent, Heidi Forrest, and see what property is still available.

But the real reason I stand before you tonight as a volunteer has to do with legacy, leaving a hiking legacy for my grandchildren which is at least at the level of quality as I found it. As we deal with these significant issues during the next two years, I ask for your support in making our volunteer system work. I ask that we go forward together, with singleness of purpose, to leave a quality hiking legacy for our children's children.

Finally, I should like to suggest that as we think of ways to make the volunteer system work, let us not forget that in addition to work, volunteers should experience fun. If volunteers

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

PATC DOGWOOD HALF HUNDRED: The premier endurance hike on the east coast needs your help. Give something back to the trail by volunteering to watch a checkpoint, arrange logistics, cook, make phone calls, assemble and mail packets, or just clean up afterward. This unique trails happening WILL NOT HAPPEN in 1999 unless volunteers are found NOW! Please take one small step now to make this 50-K hike a reality. Phone Tom Johnson for additional information or to volunteer. 410/647-8554

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: PUBLICATIONS CHAIR
Seeking person to oversee all major PATC publications to assure professional editorial and production standards. A great opportunity to use your creative mind! Works closely with the Appalachian Trail Conference, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, the PATC Council, and the Maps Chairperson. Handles administrative requirements as well as editing and design of publications. Please contact Walt Smith: wsmith@visuallink.com, or 540-678-0423.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: The PATC Shelters Committee is looking for trouble-please get involved and help us find it. Volunteer opportunities abound for EVERYONE. Overseers are needed for more than 10% of PATC-maintained shelters, and volunteers are sought for administrative duties and for renovation and construction trips. This dormant club function will set an active and vigorous pace in 1999 and will provide a mark that other Trail Maintenance Organizations will strive to meet. Committee meetings will be held monthly on the third Wednesday of the month (see the Forecast) and are open to anyone ranging from the rabidly interested to the morbidly curious. Club members in good standing may vote on any raised issue, non-members are free to participate in an advisory capacity. For information, or to satisfy your Shelters Cravings, contact George Still at (703) 425-3884 or email at "Stills2@aol.com".

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CUTE FURRY ANIMALS, vicious creatures, and pests. Animal encounters in the wild will be the theme of an upcoming *Potomac Appalachian*. If you're an expert in any type of animal area hikers would likely encounter and would like to write an article, please contact the Editor, Bianca Menendez, at bianca@moon.jic.com or 703/823-1835.

DEAF TRAIL WORKERS. PATC's Massanutten Crew has an interpreter who will volunteer her time if there are deaf members who want to maintain trails with us. We work the second Saturday of the month. Call a week ahead so that we can send our usual newcomer material about what to expect on a work trip. Interpreter: Kelli Watts 202/543-4618 (tty). Crew leader: Wil Kohlbrenner: 540/477-2971 (relay).

PATC MEDICAL COMMITTEE Looking for Help Newly-appointed medical committee chair for PATC needs assistance with computer presentations for wilderness medicine classes. Will work at PATC HQ in Vienna. No equipment needed - just some time and expertise with computers. Call Dr. John McNamara at 703/528-4519.

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

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

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

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

THE INTERNET SERVICES COMMITTEE is searching for an individual interested in doing two small video authoring projects for the PATC website. The goal is to develop two short streaming video movies that will appear on PATC's opening page. Interested individuals should have a video camera, computer, and video authoring tools that produce content that can be viewed without external plug-ins (such as Real Audio G2). Contact Andy Hiltz (ahiltz@idsonline.com) 703/764-0121.

FOR SALE

SHENANDOAH RIVER LAND/ BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN LAND 10.19 acres of wooded land for sale, 557 ft. frontage on the Shenandoah River with natural canoe put-in, in Jefferson County West VA, 90 minutes from the DC area. Birds, wildflowers, views, great retreat abutting a 500 acre rolling pasture, \$69,900. Contact Anne McCormick (owner) 505/624-2434 or Cricket Morgan, agent for Greg Diden Realtors, 304/876-6400, evenings 304/725-6670.

PURE MAPLE SYRUP. PATC Life Member relocated to the Berkshires makes his own. A quart shipped within the USA is \$18.00, and makes a perfect gift. Contact me for a brochure. Tom McCrumm, 755 Watson-Spruce Corner Road, Ashfield, Massachusetts 01330, 413/628-3268.

HIKING VACATIONS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

The PATC store would like to ask our members for their opinion. We would like to have your suggestions as to what you would like to see available for sale in our store. You can send your suggestions to the PATC Headquarters to the attention of Maureen Estes, Sales Coordinator. We appreciate your feedback and hope to receive some helpful suggestions.



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. PLEASE let us know when your notice is no longer applicable.

are not enjoying what they are doing, then they will ask, what's the point. Let us reflect on what makes being a PATC-er both rewarding and enjoyable, and resolve to put those ideas into practice.

I look forward to serving you, and working with you, and having fun with you, during the next two years. Thank you. □

—Walter Smith,
incoming President

Bear Island and Billy Goat Trail Get Tender Loving Care

Those of you familiar with the dramatic scenery and rare flora and fauna on Bear Island along the Potomac River, where the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) helps manage Billy Goat Trail, will be heartened to learn of recent conservation efforts there by the Nature Conservancy, with help from the National Park Service. These efforts are a direct result of joint ownership and the

partnership formed by these two organizations in 1996, with the goal of preserving the ecological riches of the island, described by the Conservancy as a "natural treasure."

The list of endangered species found on Bear Island is unusually long, and with the high volume of city hikers from the Washington

See *Bear Island*, page 15

Trailhead

Remembering History

As Trailhead goes to press, we are still celebrating a couple of events that occurred barely a week apart. Earl Shaffer, the original AT through-hiker, completed his 50th anniversary through-hike at Mt. Katahdin on October 21st, just a few days shy of his 80th birthday. Eight days later John Glenn, another trailblazing American hero well into his 70s, blasted off into space again, 36 years after his pioneering orbital flight.

Actually, we in PATC don't have to look very far to be reminded of what our seniors can do. Anyone who has ever been out on the trail with a Charlie Irvin, Dick Terwilliger, Ed Garvey or Al Rogers, and has tried to keep up with them, has learned the lesson well!

Other long-time PATC members might have turned to less active pursuits, but have written volumes about the things they have learned while out on the Trail. Nearly all of the original AT trailblazers have gone to their rest by now, but there are still many with us who were very much involved in the movement to protect the AT in the 1960s and 70s. If you should happen to find yourself out on the trail or at some other PATC function with one of our old-timers, don't hesitate to ask them about some of the things they have learned and done over the years. They would be happy to share their knowledge and thoughts with you!

Now that December is here, there are bound to be the inevitable reminders of Pearl Harbor Day from 57 years ago. As fate would have it, a couple of our Cadillac Crew regulars who can sometimes be found working side by side, were both eyewitnesses to that event. Al Rogers was a teenager in Oahu at the time, and Larry Hatakeyama was living on another of the Hawaiian Islands. Both became very much aware of the outbreak of armed combat. We can all be grateful for the more peaceful times today that allow us to devote our efforts to trail work.

Hoodlums' Oktoberfest

The North District Hoodlums had a full house for their "Oktoberfest" weekend. In addition to the sixteen folks who showed up, a group of nine students from George Washington University came out to join the work crew. The Hoodlums volunteered to assist George Still in the Range View Cabin renovation

work, but it quickly became apparent that there were more workers than needed in the limited space that the cabin provided. As a result, Bernie Stalman and John Shoemaker led trail crews on each end of the Piney Ridge Trail, building water bars and check dams. Back at the cabin, the old flooring and support structure was removed and demolished in short order. Several "artifacts" were discovered under the floor including an old hearing aid and some chewed polypro underwear apparently carried below by mice. A glass jar "time capsule" was also found, which appeared to date back to the sixties. It is assumed this was placed when the floor was last renovated. After examining the newly exposed foundation, Mike Ritoli drew up a sketch for a new floor and joist system with assistance from Mike Etheridge, the cabin co-overseer.

At day's end, the crew retired to Indian Run Hut for a feast of German food und bierhaus music, in keeping with the seasonal theme, and the Hoodlums patiently waited for George Walters' "Koernigsberger Klops" (German meatballs) which seemed to take forever to cook. The weekend's weather was outstanding and the changing fall foliage in the SNP provided a perfect backdrop for a great worktrip.

Blue and White Crew Help out on Staunton River Trail

The Blue and White Crew revisited the Staunton River Trail on October 24th and 25th to continue the rebuilding project started last year. The project involves installing crib walls, widening the trail across the heavily damaged areas, building stone steps, and putting in erosion control devices. Crew regulars (Charles Hillon, Kerry Snow, Susan Cahill, Mike Dyas and Ron Kutz) were joined by Don Watts (a Massarock veteran), Cliff Willey (overseer of Indian Run Trail and the Corbin Cabin), Steve Paull (overseer of Catlett Spur Trail), Dan Ross, Steve Barton, and Mr. and Mrs. S.V. Dove. Mr. and Mrs.

Dove were instrumental in the original opening of the Staunton River Trail (officially abandoned by the National Park Service after the flood of 1995) and now volunteer as co-overseers on the Lower Staunton. The couple has made many trips this summer and made major improvements in the treadway in addition to accomplishing the routine overseer tasks (weeding, clipping and cleaning waterbars). Hikers who are once again able to appreciate the beauty of the Staunton River watershed have Mr. and Mrs. Dove to thank for the hard work and long hours they put in on the trail. The B&W Crew retired to the Mutton Top Cabin for dinner and rest Saturday night, where they enjoyed the spectacular Blue Ridge foliage and sunset and got to visit with Cadillac stalwarts Jon Rindt and Big Chief Don White.

Massanutten Crew Helps Girl Scouts during Glass House Weekend

Wil Kohlbrenner and the Massanutten Crew worked a two-day weekend in October, with dinner and sleepover at Glass House. Saturday, the crew loaned its expertise to Girl Scout Troop 274 from Woodstock. The girls have been maintaining the Mine Gap Trail for the last two years, and have permission from the Forest Service for a major relocation. The crew worked with the girls, teaching them how to build sidehill. This trail relocation is their Silver Award project. Sunday the crew worked with the PATC overseer rebuilding sidehill on the Sidewinder Trail.

Keith Kipling Takes a Break from Through-Hike to Assist Cadillac Crew

Keith "Hard Core" Kipling, a southbound through-hiker from Lorton, VA, stopped to assist the Cadillac Crew build a rock bar and lateral drain on the AT north of Little Hogback Overlook in early October. After several hours of hard pick and rock work, Keith turned down an invite for supper at Indian Run and continued south. Later, when the

Volunteers - Appointed in October

Trail Overseers

Warren Price
Bill Gettins

Tuscarora Blue South - White Rocks to Cedar Creek
Co-Overseer AT- Woodrow Road to Shippensburg Road

Shelter Overseers

Mike Karpie

South River Maintenance Hut - Central District Shenandoah National Park

Trailhead

crew finished for the day and headed to Elk Wallow Wayside for the mandatory blackberry milkshake, Keith, who had arrived earlier, finally accepted the invitation to partake of Katherine Rindt's beef stew and corn bread muffins. Rarely do hikers stop to help work crews on the trail, let alone provide an evening of interesting trail talk. Keith started south from Mt. Katahdin, ME on the first of July and hopes to reach Springer Mountain, GA in early December. Good luck Keith.

Identity of Mysterious Pruner Revealed

If you have been working the AT in SNP, you may have noticed that someone has been cutting overhanging brush on your section of the trail. On closer inspection you may realize some of the pruning is higher than can be reached with loppers. Someone with a pole pruner chainsaw has done some serious work along the trail. A call to Don Harvey, North District Trail Crew Chief, revealed that Shawn Green had requested the Park Service trail crews to clear the lower hanging branches from the summer growth and hazardous hanging branches from last winter's ice storm. They plan to do this for the entire length of the AT through SNP. On behalf of SNP AT overseers, thanks for the extra help and a head start for next year.

New Trail in Rock Creek Park!

Mark Anderson, District Trail Manager for DC, reports a rare opportunity to build new trail in Rock Creek Park, the country's oldest national park. The project involves the re-routing of a short section of the Theodore Roosevelt Side Trail from its current location along Rock Creek, where the stream is close to claiming portions of the bank, to a safer location uphill. After two work trips in October and one in November, the tread for most of the relocation is near completion. In addition to the usual backbreaking shovel work required to cut a trail, volunteers have moved numerous stones up a steep bank to the new trail. Moving the stones has been difficult, because of steep terrain in the Rock Creek gorge. Teams of up to 6 workers have been required to carry the rocks in slings. Check the *PA* Forecast for additional work trips beginning in March 1999 to finish this project.

A group from the Unitarian All Souls Church in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood of Washington, D.C. has become a regular sight-

ing on Rock Creek Park work trips. With as many as 15 volunteers, the group has helped improve the trails three times in the past year and is expected to return in the New Year. The power of the group has been evident, because the number of volunteers on a work trip is more than double when the group attends. The amount of time spent on several projects has been significantly cut because of their efforts to improve the trails nearby their homes.

Special Kudos

Trailhead wishes to give major applause to Jack Meiners and Mary Massey for their dedication and sustained commitment (13 years' worth!) as overseers for a 2.3-mile segment of AT in the Linden area. Their long-time efforts towards keeping the "Trail" open are sincerely appreciated by PATC and the entire trails organization. Much thanks for a job well done!

Chainsaw Certification

Overseers require certification before operating chainsaws on trails in national parks or national forests. In March 1998, the ATC, National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service signed an MOU to standardize chain saw training requirements so that volunteers, once having completed the necessary training, may use chainsaws anywhere on the Appalachian Trail in Park or Forest Service lands. An exception is when the Trail passes through designated wilderness areas where power equipment is prohibited. Currently, the process

involves attending a Park Service or Forest Service chainsaw workshop to become a sawyer-in-training. Trainees are then expected to refine their skills under the supervision of a certified sawyer. This is followed by a certification test with chainsaw instructors to demonstrate the sawyer-in-training has achieved sufficient skills in chainsaw safety and cutting techniques. Heidi Forrest, PATC Trails Coordinator, is working with both organizations to schedule workshops and certification test periods for PATC overseers. Workshops are scheduled at least once a year, and certification test days are scheduled at least several times a year. Individuals can make special arrangements with the Park Service for certification testing. The certification is good for four years, after which you are subject to a re-test every four years to maintain certification. Under the new agreement, overseers who attended sponsored workshops in 1997 or 1998 must pass a certification test. Overseers who attended workshops prior to 1997 must complete the new procedure. Contact Heidi if you have questions on the certification process or check the *PA* for announcements on when and where chainsaw workshops will be conducted in the future.

Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 7861 Colonial Village Row, Annandale, VA 22003 or to jkrindt@erols.com □

—Jon Rindt, *Trailhead Editor*

Bear Island, from page 13

area, it is not surprising that special efforts are under way to take further inventory of these species, monitor their unfortunate demise and alert the public to the fragility of the island. To forward this effort, the conservancy is about to publish a new brochure to educate hikers and others who wander from the C&O Canal towpath onto the island's rich flora.

The brochure should be available later this year at the Park Visitor Center near Bear Island. It will include a self-guided tour along with a map showing the approximate location of cactus, certain wildflowers, wood frogs, turtles, the red eft, butterflies, heron, and warbler. The brochure will caution hikers not to collect living organisms and to stay on marked trails.

Much has been written about Bear Island, with several good references available at the store at Great Falls National Park in Virginia. The island's Billy Goat Trail is a two to three-hour trek, best hiked with a friend during the week. Further guidance and background information on the island can be found in the April 1998 issue of PATC's *Potomac Appalachian* (available on e-mail at markmu@erols.com). Hikers will note one or two littered areas on the island, so don't be surprised if you run into fellow PATCers with bags helping to alleviate this nuisance. □

—Mark Murray
Overseer, Billy Goat Trail



TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings October 30, 1998. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

VIRGINIA NORTH AT (Map #7 & 8)
[CALL CHRIS BRUNTON AT 703/560-8070]

Appalachian Trail
Loudoun Heights Trail to Gov. Stevenson Junction [.40 miles]

VIRGINIA SOUTH AT (Maps # 8 & 9)

NEW AT SECTIONS

[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004]

Appalachian Trail
Dick's Dome Shelter Road to Parking Lot #8 Side Trail [1.3miles]

Appalachian Trail
Pipeline to the Davenport Meadow [1.2 miles]

Appalachian Trail
South end of the waterline to Bear Hollow Creek [0.9miles]

Appalachian Trail
Bear Hollow Creek to Route 522 [0.8miles]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail
TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail
Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]

Morgan Run Trail
Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail [1.4 miles]

TUSCARORA BLUE - SOUTH (MAPS # 9, F, G & H)
[CALL RICK RHOADS AT 703/239-0965]

Tuscarora Trail
US 340 to SNP boundary [1.10 miles]

Tuscarora Trail
Glass House Trail to Elizabeth Furnace [2.20 miles]

Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee to the individual funds listed below. Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to insure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

Donations received in October

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

Neale Ainsfield and Donna Sieckmann	HQ	John A. Keeney	S/C
Elizabeth Arndorfer and Clint Smith	T	Elsie and Robert Kinsey	HQ
Henri D. Bartholomot	G	Frank M. Manion	HQ
Albert and Anita Brauer	T	Michael R. McCaffrey	T
John T. Braun	E	Robert Oaks	G
Victoria and Michael Cornish	T	Carol Ann and Thomas Ogorzalek	S/C
Kathy Corish	S/C	Alan and Cynthia Plisch	T
Margaret and Robert Dennis	G	Jack and Carolyn Reeder	T
Patricia and David Small	G	William and Nancy Ragsdale	G
Mitchel S. Hyman	T	Joseph and Lisa Ratajczak	S/C

Life Memberships can be obtained by sending \$500 in one sum, or you can make four monthly payments of \$125 each. Don't forget that the spouse of a current Life Member can obtain Life Member status by paying \$250, which is half the regular Life Membership fee. All Life Member payments go directly into the Endowment Fund and is totally tax deductible. ☐

—Pat Fankhauser,
Membership Coordinator

Thanks also to the following groups who have given recent donations to the Club:

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