



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 29, Number 3  
March 2000

## Dogwood 2000—15th Annual Dogwood Half-Hundred Hike

The Fifteenth Annual Dogwood Half-Hundred long distance hike, sponsored by PATC, will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2000.

This year's hike will again take place in the Lee Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. Both the start and finish will be at the Powell's Fort Camp. A combination of the Tuscarora Trail and other trails in the Massanutten mountains will be used to form a hike totaling approximately 50 kilometers (31 miles), configured roughly in a figure-eight.

An information package and registration form will be ready by the end of February. Participation will be limited to the first 250 applicants received on or before April 7, 2000. The registration fee will remain \$25. Participants will receive commemorative Dogwood patches. Finishers will receive a "finisher" rocker bar. Participants must be at least 15 years of age on or before the date of the event. Signed parental waivers are required for all participants under age 18. Packages may be obtained by writing the PATC, Dogwood Half-Hundred, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180; faxing 703/242-0968; calling 703/

242-0315, Ext 10 and leaving a voice mail request; or on PATC's website: <http://www.patc.net>.

For more information call Ric Francke at 703/356-2106.



## Hot Mountain-Short Mountain Natural History Hike

Most of you know that I've been leading monthly hikes for the Club for a while; since the mid 80's, actually. I advertise them as natural history hikes because, as we hike, we go out to learn more about the real world around us. One of the great things about hiking is that you never know what you're going to find. I used this line with much success with my own two children for many years. Of course, the great thing about that line is that it's so very true. This past January's hike, for example, was so full of highlights, I thought it would be nice to share them with you.

### January 22

Finally, our first snow is on the ground. I look forward to hiking in the snow, if it's not too deep. With a blue sky, the scenery has strong contrasts within it, beautifully clean and open. Even the air seems to have a clean edge to it. The shrub layer stands out against the white background. But the big draw of snow is investigating the tracks of the winter residents. I'm always impressed at the number of tracks that can be seen. It's a wonderful way to see how populated and active the woods are, even in the depths of the winter season.

### Our First Discoveries

Our group of ten started up the Pine Hill Gap trail, just north of Old Rag Mountain. We saw various tracks, including rabbit, squirrel, and numerous deer. And who will forget those subnivean (meaning they tunnel under the snow) shrews and voles. But it wasn't until we found the first bobcat tracks that we encountered our first highlight of the hike. This bobcat had joined the trail from the right side and gone up the trail, occasionally meandering off to either side until finally departing to the left, near the cement post at the summit, marking the turn of the former Hazel Mountain road.

We continued south along the Hot Mountain-Short Mountain trail, having lunch on a sunny southern exposure where the snow had melted, allowing us a dry resting place. Shortly later, back on the trail, I stopped in my tracks as some very large tracks crossed the trail in front of me. Bear tracks! Now we're talking. Yes, bear can be out in our woods this time of year. No, bear are not true hibernators, but they do tend to den up for most of the winter, from about January to April in the Shenandoah National Park. Normally pregnant sows den first, followed by sows with last spring's yearlings, and the

males last. (Interestingly, the order is reversed with the spring emergence.) However, a mid-80's study of 47 radio-collared bear in the Park revealed four bear that never denned at all throughout the winter (two juvenile males and two sows with last spring's young).

*See Hot Mountain, page 13*

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## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Walt Smith, 703/242-0693,  
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**VP Operations:** Tom Johnson

**VP Volunteerism:** Mickey McDermott

**Supervisor of Trails:** Peter Gatje  
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**Supervisor of Corridor Management:**  
Tom Lupp

**General Secretary:** Warren Sharp

**General Counsel:** Eric Olson

**Membership Secretary:** Terry Cummings

**Treasurer:** Dick Newcomer

**Recording Secretary:** Gerhard Salinger

### Sections/ Chapters

**Mountaineering Section:** Greg Christopoulos

**SMRG:** Bud Hyland

**Ski Touring Section:** Katherine Stentzel

**North Chapter:** Steve Koepfen

**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Martha Clark

**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Michael Groah

**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon

**West Virginia Chapter:** Jane Thompson

### Standing Committee Chairs

(Council Members)

**Blackburn Trail Center:** Chris Brunton

**Cabins:** Mel Merritt

**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf

**Conservation:** Mary Margaret Sloan

**Endowment:** Dick Newcomer

**Finance:** John Richards

**Grants & Donations:** Jack Reeder

**Hikes:** Tom Johnson, 410/647-8554,  
johnts@erols.com

**Internet Services:** Stephen Raia

**Land Management:** Anita Canovas

**Land Acquisition:** Phil Paschall & Eric Olson

**Legal:** Eric Olson

**Maps:** Dave Pierce

**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management  
Committee:** Charlie Graf

**Potomac Appalachian:** Bianca Menendez

**Public Affairs:** Terry Cummings

**Publications:** Aaron Watkins

**Shelters:** Charlie Graf, 410/757-6053

**Trail Patrol:** Kumait Jawdat

**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:**  
Lloyd MacAskill

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

**Archives & Library:** Carol Niedzialek

**Cabin Reservations:** Darlene Wall

**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Rick Rhoades

**Firestone Tract Management:** Shirley Strong

**Information/Sales Desks:** Marguerite  
Schneeberger

**Medical:** Dennis DeSilvey

**Vining Tract Management:** Howard Johnson

**Vienna Chamber of Commerce:** Patricia  
Driscoll-Smail

**Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:**  
Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

### Potomac Appalachian

**Chief Editor:** Bianca Menendez  
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**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

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**Pre-press:** Nancy Merritt,  
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## Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on January 11, 2000 at the Club headquarters. 21 Council members and 3 staff attended the meeting. The PATC membership stands at 7,000 with 110 new members registering in the last month.

### Five-Year Goals

The Council members met in small groups before the meeting to discuss five-year goals and their first year implementation. The goal setting process started last summer in the discussions of the Futures Group. Draft goals were discussed at a Council planning meeting held at Blackburn Trail Center in October. There are four goal committees: Trails and Lands, headed by Vice President Tom Johnson; Facilities, headed by President Walter Smith; Finance, headed by Finance Committee Chair John Richards; and Membership, Volunteerism, and Communications, headed by Vice President Mickey McDermott. Each committee discussed and redrafted goals that were then presented to Council. Sample five-year goals by committee include: develop a conservation plan, a land management plan, and a comprehensive plan for the Tuscarora Trail; develop plans for systematically renovating existing facilities and building new ones; provide a plan for a stable and increasing flow of funds to support a membership of 10,000 to 12,000 members and encourage the wise use of financial resources; and plan for the 75th anniversary of PATC, institutionalize the recruitment, training and manage-

ment of volunteers, and develop an information management and communications plan. The Futures Group will further discuss the goals document.

### Categories of Donors

The Council established categories of donors: Contributor (\$25 to \$99), Supporter (\$100 to \$499), Friend of the Trail (\$500 to \$999), PATC Partner (\$1,000 to \$9,999), Life Benefactor (\$10,000 to \$49,999), and President's Club (\$50,000 and above). Donors will be listed in the PA, and the donors in the highest three categories will be recognized at the annual meeting, while those in the highest two categories will receive special plaques.

### Cabins and Shelters

The Council approved \$10,650 additional funding for the renovation of the Blackburn Trail Center to complete the renovation started in 1995. The Council also approved the construction of a new shelter on the AT along the ridge north of Weverton Cliffs in Maryland. The shelter will be named in honor of Ed Garvey. The funds for the shelter construction come in part from funds unexpended in the building of the Ens. Phillip Cowall shelter and from funds given in memory of Ed Garvey. The shelter should be completed by June 2001. □

—Gerhard Salinger,  
Recording Secretary

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

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

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

**Phone #:** 703/242-0315

**To receive an information packet:** Extension 10

**To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith:** Extension 40

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

**Facsimile #:** 703/242-0968

**Club E-mail #:** Wriley1226@aol.com

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

### STAFF

#### DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

**Director of Administration:** Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) Email: Wriley1226@aol.com

**Trails Management Coordinator:** Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) Email: heidif@erols.com

**Business Manager:** Regina Garnett (Ext. 15) Email: rgarnett@erols.com

**Membership/Cabin Coordinator:** Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com

**Sales Coordinator:** Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) Email: patcsales@erols.com

## Walt's Notes

### A Marvelous Example of Preservation

Some say that we have only about five years left before development takes over the unprotected slopes of the Blue Ridge in Northern Virginia. If you were to drive west on VA Route 7 in the vicinity of the town of Round Hill, you would understand why there is immediate concern for protecting the Appalachian Trail, located on top of the ridge to the west of this area. The Land Acquisition Committee has been working in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust (formerly the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands) and other conservation organizations in order to find conservation-minded buyers who will agree to protect the land adjacent to the AT.

A recent purchase near Neersville, Loudoun County, by the Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation is an example of what is needed in order to preserve the AT viewsheds. PATC members Bob and Dee Leggett have a vision for the nine-hundred-acre property, which they will call The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. The center will be available for environmental organizations to use, and the surrounding lands will have hiking trails open to the public. Camping areas for Boy Scouts and AT through-hikers are also planned, along with other projects such as wetlands restoration, archaeological excavation, and wildlife and plant cataloging, all associated with the natural and cultural heritage of the area. This is a genuinely wonderful example of conservation on a tract of land that was being previously considered for development to include two hundred homes.



Photo by Walt Smith

*Portion of 900-acre Leggett purchase extends from AT Corridor to backyards of houses seen in photo near the road in the middle of the valley—also one mile north (left) of this photo.*

The Club will continue to do its part in protecting the Blue Ridge. For example, with the help of your financial support, we will close soon on the purchase of sixteen acres on the Blue Ridge in the vicinity of the Blackburn Trail Center and on a fifty-acre easement on the western slopes of the ridge near Ashby Gap. However, because of the vast amount of unprotected viewshed near the AT, we will achieve our goals only if we work in partnership with other organizations and private landowners. It is most fortunate when folks like the Leggetts, with like-minded conservation interests, appear on the scene and devote their time and resources toward such a worthwhile endeavor.

### Facilities Goals for 2000

The Council recently has been developing objectives and goals in order to meet the Club's needs in the future. One of the objectives in which you have indicated great interest in the past is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for Club members and the general public by constructing and maintaining shelters, cabins, and campsites along the AT and other trails. Therefore, the Year 2000 goals for meeting this objective are provided for your information:

- \* Remove the old Hemlock Hill Shelter (replaced in 1999) from the AT in MD and restore it on a site near the Tuscarora Trail in PA.
- \* Construct the Edward B. Garvey Memorial Shelter along the AT in MD near Weverton Cliffs.
- \* Complete renovation or major maintenance on Rock Spring Shelter (in SNP), Little Crease Shelter (GWF in Fort Valley, VA), the Highacre House roof (Harpers Ferry, WV), and the Meadows Cabin kitchen (near SNP).
- \* Complete renovation on the Blackburn Trail Center, (N.VA) and continue renovation of the Rosser-Lamb House on the Per-Lee tract (near SNP).
- \* Continue construction of the John's Rest and Tulip Tree cabins (near SNP).
- \* And to better administer all Council goals, complete renovation of the Headquarters building (primarily the second floor) in Vienna, VA.

### New Council Responsibilities

Thanks to the following for volunteering to help lead the Club by filling committee chair positions:

Anita Canovas, while Chair of the Land Management Committee, will be utilizing her experience as an attorney and as a past counsel on real estate transactions and land use matters. This committee oversees the use of land that is owned by the Club.

Steve Raia, as Chair of Internet Services, will have the opportunity to use his extensive experience in administering information services. The Internet Services Committee is responsible for the Club's web site and other information services in support of Headquarters operations.

It is a joy to work with the excellent expertise that all volunteers bring to the Council.

See you on the trail,

*Walt*



### ATC Announces 2000 Grants-for-Outreach

In April 2000, the Appalachian Trail Conference will approve matching grants to Trail-maintaining clubs for outreach activities that use or make people aware of the Appalachian Trail. Outreach activities are defined as programs that reach beyond traditional Trail-user groups to groups like at-risk youth, senior citizens, minorities, people with disabilities, and residents of communities along the trail.

This year's deadline is April 1. If you have a good idea for such a program, e-mail Mickey McDermott (Vice President for Volunteerism) at [jtmcd@erols.com](mailto:jtmcd@erols.com), or reach him at his box at PATC headquarters. But don't delay—time is short.

## If Rocks Could Talk and Random Thoughts

The other day during a daylong hike on the AT, my husband asked, “What do you think about while you are hiking?” My initial reaction was “That’s a loaded question. Do you really want to know?” That piqued his curiosity, and he said yes.

Well, the gist of what I was thinking just as he asked was of layers of sediment, which had been laid down billions of years ago beneath a tumultuous sea. Millions of years of heat and pressure caused the layers to become solid, buried far under the surface of the earth. At some point, the layers were thrust upward during the latest Appalachian orogeny (mountain creating event). Maybe it happened quickly, or maybe it took an additional million years. The rock layers were exposed to light and rain, snow and sunshine for the first time. The layers sat there for a few thousand years more, and, through erosion and settlement and freezing and thawing, a big rock became separated from its lay-

ers, becoming an individual. In a few thousand more years of leaves falling and mulching, year in and year out, the rock once again became buried under the surface, away from the light and weather.

Then, at some point, an acorn or a pine cone seed took root above the rock, and, over the years, as the little seedling grew above, its little roots reached down and encountered the rock. The roots branched out, looking for deeper purchase to anchor the future tree. The root went around the rock and headed on down into the depths. The tree put out more roots, which crept around the other side of the rock searching for more security, more nutrition. Eventually, the rock was lovingly cradled by little roots.

Over the years, maybe fifty, maybe two hundred and fifty, the tree grew, and the roots form an ever-growing basket around the rock. Maybe lightning struck, damaging the tree.

Maybe disease or bugs killed the tree. Maybe a huge, gusting wind caught the tree at full foliage, overpowering the roots. Suddenly, the rock, which had been buried in the dark for all those many years, was yanked from its resting-place by the basket of roots and thrust high into the air. There it sits, clutched by the root ball, as the seasons pass and hundreds of hikers pass by on the Trail. Weathering will wash away the soil encasing it, and, eventually, after years and years, the roots of the dead tree begin to rot. One day, all of a sudden, the roots will let go and the rock will fall to Earth, to begin to once again be buried by fall’s leaves. If rocks could talk, what a story they would tell!

I have my doubts as to whether my husband will ever again ask me what I think about while hiking! Would you like to hear my thoughts on the acorn’s point of view? □

—Niki Mason

## Frazier Discovery Trail Celebrated

When leaves drop from the trees, when the winds blow cold, you may think that Shenandoah National Park lies dormant until spring. Not so. Even though restaurants and other facilities are closed, late fall and winter in the Park are beautiful times, offering a very special experience to those who visit—silence and crisp fresh air, unimpeded views to east and west, uncrowded trails.

This year, Shenandoah National Park renamed a special trail in honor of the people who used to live near it—the Fraziers. The trail is the Frazier Discovery Trail, beautiful in every season but right now waiting to be discovered by those who know the special experience a winter hike can be.

As a boy, Floyd Frazier lived on Loft Mountain in what is now the South District of Shenandoah National Park. For generations, Fraziers had owned land on Loft Mountain, once known as Frazier Mountain. Today, Floyd lives in Orange County, Virginia but vividly remembers his life on the mountain. He remembers walking the path to the top—now the trail that bears his family’s name. Through this trail, Shenandoah National Park celebrates its former residents.

The Park also celebrates the present: this trail is here today, for everybody, young and old. It is a short (1.3 miles) loop with a moderate climb to panoramic westward views. In winter, you will discover ferns and mosses, enormous rock cliffs, coralberries, orange Asiatic bittersweet berries, young black locusts, old apple trees, and pines. You may find the hoof prints of a deer or even the deer itself. You may hear a pileated woodpecker hammering on a tree. When you’re looking west from the top of the mountain, you may see a raven or a turkey vulture soaring high above.

When Lance Frazier of Louisa, Virginia, grandson of Floyd, walked the trail with Park rangers in October, 1999, he touched the thorns of hawthorn trees, found small creatures in the water seeps under cliffs, counted tree rings, discovered mushrooms growing on trees, examined berries and tree sap, and—from the top—peered westward to the Allegheny Mountain Range in West Virginia. It was a true discovery hike!

Because you may want some guidance before you hike this trail, the Shenandoah Natural



*With Connie Rudd, Assistant Superintendent, Lance Frazier of Louisa, VA, examines a tree root along the Frazier Discovery Trail in Shenandoah National Park.*

Photo by John Mitchell

History Association (SNHA) has issued a new discovery guide—inexpensive (\$1.00), with a map, readable explanatory text, and truly spectacular photographs. It’s a guide you’ll want to keep. It’s also a guide that can serve as a vivid introduction to all of Shenandoah National Park.

For a copy of the guide or for more information, call SNHA at 540/999-3582. You may also purchase the guide at the trailhead—mile 79.5 along Skyline Drive. When they are open, all visitor centers will sell the guide.

Frazier, from page 4

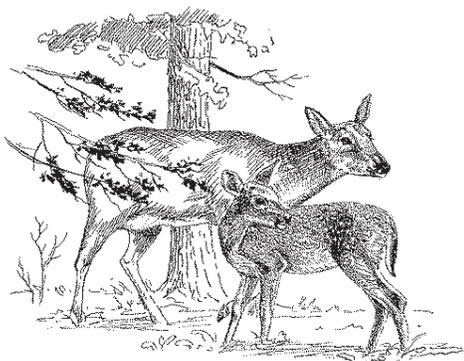
To reach the trailhead, you may enter the Park at Swift Run Gap on U.S. Highway 33, accessed from U.S. Highway 29 to the east and U.S. Highway 340 or I-81 to the west. From the Swift Run Entrance Station, proceed south along Skyline Drive for 14 miles to the parking area near the Loft Mountain Information Center (closed in winter). The trailhead is directly across the Drive. Those approaching the Park from farther south may enter at Rockfish Gap via U.S. Highway 250 or I-64 and then proceed north along the Drive for 26 miles.

During hunting season Skyline Drive is closed from dusk to dawn to help prevent poaching. Otherwise, the Drive will be open except when weather conditions make driving unsafe. Call Park Headquarters at 540/999-3500 to find out the status of driving conditions along Skyline Drive. □

—Joanne Amberson, Volunteer,  
Shenandoah National Park

### WANTED— Dogwood 2000 Registrar

We're seeking a volunteer to handle registration for the 15th Annual Dogwood Half-Hundred One Day Hike. This event will be held in the George Washington National Forest on the last Saturday of April (April 29). The person we're looking for will require a home computer and the skills to compile mailing labels, a tracking list for 250 registered participants throughout the event, and a final finishers list with completion times. If interested or for further information, please contact Dogwood 2000 Coordinator Ric Francke at 703/356-2106 or [fbfrancke@aol.com](mailto:fbfrancke@aol.com).



## As the Wheel Turns: Measuring Trails for PATC Guidebooks

### The Orange Monster

It is a simple but ingenious tool, with just a few moving parts. My wife calls it the “orange monster.” She isn’t fond of seeing it drip mud and water in our living room between jobs. After a few miles on the trail, its relentless clicking drills into your head like Chinese water torture.

“It” is the brightly colored measuring wheel that clicks off distances as PATC workers record landmarks for the next edition of your favorite guidebook. Each click adds a foot to the tally on its small, muddy gauge, and it works nicely on the paved, hiker-biker paths where it is sometimes used. But take it on the rock-hopping, poorly blazed trails that some guidebooks cover, and you have to apply Kentucky windage. And swear a lot. Or, to learn true humility, clamber up a boulder field onto a wind-ripped knob in sub-freezing winter temperatures, then take off your gloves to record a measurement.

### The Trials of Measuring Trails

Take the jobs that followed the January and September floods of 1996. Please. One trail into the Potomac Gorge led to an impenetrable tangle of uprooted trees, requiring a long detour and a second trip to verify distances. Another detour in the same area required bushwhacking up from a gully onto a ledge that turned out to be occupied by a small but aggressive snake. Another found footbridges on Western Maryland’s Green Ridge Trail washed out and blazes obscured to the point that long searches and drives around impassable points were required. A 7-mile stretch of trail became a series of 1- to 3-mile segments, with lots of re-starts. One detour turned up two lost and stranded hunting dogs so weak they had to be carried to our car—adding several hours to the trip for nursing, phoning, and driving to get the dogs back safely to their owner. Countless other times mud accumulated under the gauge or a stick jammed in the spokes, stopping work until the snag could be cleared.



Photo by Larry Broadwell

Graham Wiemer with the Orange Monster  
at Duncan Knob

### Anyone Interested?

So who would want to do this? Aside from those who enjoy suffering, trail guide work is recommended for those who really want to meet people on the trail. The wheel is a great conversation-starter. In response to the inevitable question “What is that and what are you doing here,” you’ll learn some good responses. My favorite: “I’m with the state transportation agency, and we’re planning to install toll booths.”

Also, imperfect as it may be, the wheel is also more accurate than a pedometer. It gives actual, on-the-ground distances that even a GPS cannot provide. This gives you ample experience comparing your estimates with more exact readings and improves your ability to assess time and distance from a map.

But the best reasons are the reasons that we all joined PATC in the first place. To really learn a trail, nothing beats doing trail construction, maintenance, mapping, or guide writing work on it. Those who map and do the trail guides help more people appreciate the efforts of the trail builders and maintainers and help attract the next generation of PATC members. □

—Larry Broadwell

Interested in Working on Trail Guides? Contact Aaron Watkins at [awatkins@rcn.com](mailto:awatkins@rcn.com) or 410/740-7082

# Get Set for Spring at Blackburn Trail Center

## YEAR 2000 CALENDAR

Join us for a day or even the whole weekend on any of the following dates. Call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

March	11 - 12	Work trip
March	25 - 26	Work trip
April	1 - 2	Work trip
April	29 - 30	Work trip
May	13 - 14	Work trip
May	27 - 28	Work trip
June	10 - 11	Work trip
June	24 - 25	Work trip
July	8 - 9	Work trip
July	22 - 23	Work trip
August	5 - 6	Work trip
August	19 - 20	Work trip
September	2 - 3	Work trip
September	16 - 17	Work trip
September	30 - Oct. 1	Work trip
October	14 - 15	Work trip
October	28 - 29	Work trip



## Thanks to All our Caretakers at Blackburn

1982 through 1983 Randy Madres  
 1984 Bobby Lowrey  
 1985 Ann Bennett & Tim  
 1986 Zeb Van Houson  
 1987 Wade Anderson  
 1988 Hal & Ruth Washington  
 1989 Brian Hebdon & Julie Condecon  
 1990 Jack & Jan Eshelman  
 1991 Robin & Troy May  
 1992 Elizabeth McGowan & Don Looney

1993 Kevin & Kathy McGinnis  
 1994 Hal & Ruth Washington, Rob Laucher, Pat Ryan & other PATC Volunteers  
 1995 Marti Anderson & Wolff (JESTER) Alterman  
 1996 through 1997 George & Mary Sue Roach  
 Winter 1997/8 Don Youngblood  
 1998 Laura Poole & Morgan Lane  
 Winter 1998/9 Kenny Benson  
 1999 Bob Stubblebine & Courtney Mann

## Tails from the Woods by George Walters

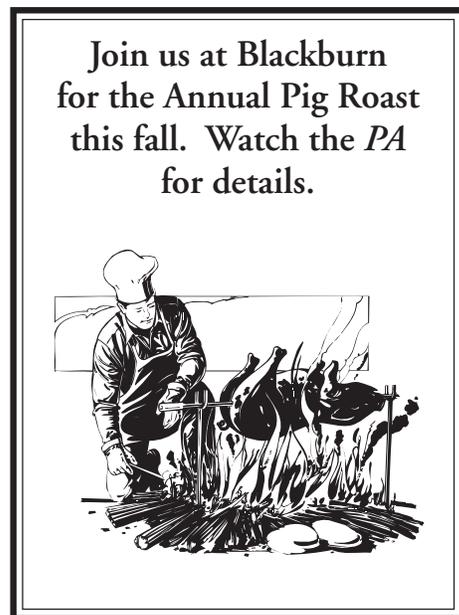
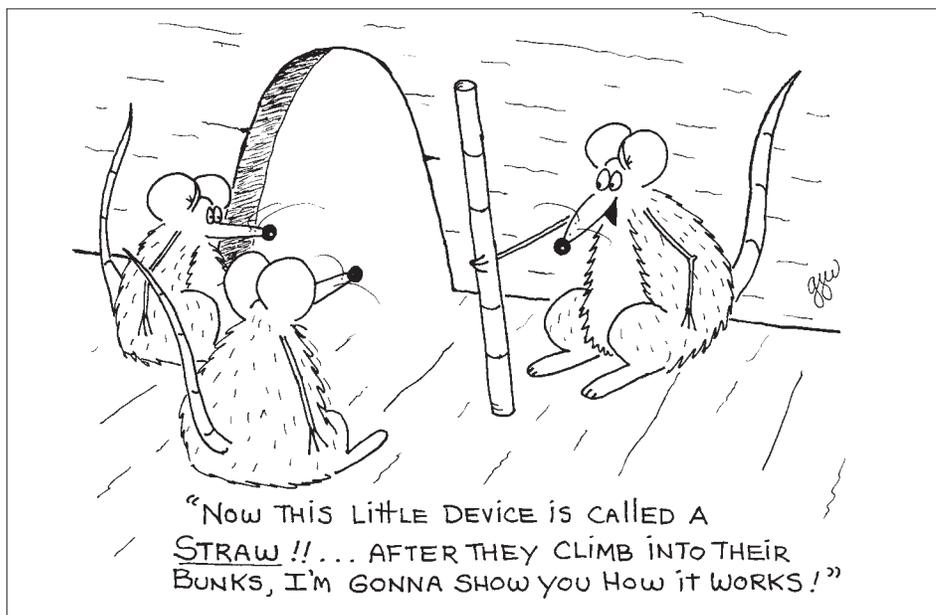




Photo by Wil Kohlbrenner

## Troop 284 and the Massanutten Crew

*Wil Kohlbrenner and his Massanutten crew have been working with Girl Scout Troop 284, supporting their projects and teaching them how to build and maintain trails. Pictured here are Scout leader Laura Fogle (in pink), Massanutten Crew members Kelli Watts and Randy Buie (on her right and behind her) and Dick Dugan and Mike Brown (in front) along with members of Troop 284.*



## New Categories For Donors To PATC

At the January 11, 2000 Council Meeting, a motion was passed to have all donations to the Club over the amount of \$25.00 be acknowledged in the *Potomac Appalachian* newsletter grouped according to the following categories:

CONTRIBUTOR	\$25	to	\$99
SUPPORTER	\$100	to	\$499
FRIEND OF THE TRAIL	\$500	to	\$999
PATC PARTNER	\$1,000	to	\$9,999
LIFE BENEFACTOR	\$10,000	to	\$49,999
PRESIDENT'S CLUB	\$50,000	and	above

Each donor will be acknowledged appropriately. For individual and corporate donors, additional recognition will be made the following ways:

- ❖ A plaque will be established in the lobby of the Club with small attachment plates for recognizing LIFE BENEFACTORS. That contributor will also receive a plaque from the Club.

- ❖ For each donation to the PRESIDENT'S CLUB, a special plaque will be put in the lobby of the Club recognizing the contributor. In addition, the contributor will receive a plaque from the Club expressing our appreciation for the donation.

- ❖ At the Club's annual meeting, a mention will be made of all contributors in the PATC PARTNER and above categories. These individuals (or corporate representatives) will be invited to attend the annual meeting without paying the normal fee.

*See Donors, page 15*

## Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: APS Cameras

The Advanced Photo System is the result of collaboration among five photo industry giants: Nikon, Fuji, Kodak, Minolta, and Canon. The goal was to develop a camera and film system that combined simplicity with high-quality results.

The major benefits of this system include:

- Drop-in Loading. No film leaders or re-winding. The negatives are returned inside the original film cartridge and the prints include a sheet of numbered thumbnail images that can be used in ordering additional prints.

- Three formats. A choice of three picture formats (4"x6", 4"x7", and 4"x11"). Unlike other cameras that offer "panoramic" formats, the negatives exposed in the "Panoramic" mode could be reprinted in either of the other two formats.

- Compactness. The cameras are generally smaller than typical 35mm cameras. This is due to the smaller 24mm film format. Unlike the 110 cameras of the 60's and 70's, the 24mm negatives are still large enough to yield high-quality prints and enlargements. One manufacturer offers a model that is so small it can almost hide behind a credit card, yet it includes a built-in flash and zoom lens!

- Scanning. There is a special coating on the film that simplifies scanning the images into a computer with the appropriate equipment.



For the serious outdoor enthusiast the APS cameras offer an excellent, lightweight solution.

Next month: The Truth about "Panoramic" Cameras.

Previous articles can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips> □

—Michael Karpie

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

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

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the **Forecast**. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

### West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for 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.

### Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and arm-chair types — we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those who want to learn the basics — we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Ozana Halik (mrkayak2@AOL) 703/242-0177.

### PATC Midweek Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

-  **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!

## Meetings

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

**PATC Council - Second Tuesday**  
7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome. INFO: Wilson Riley (wiley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

**Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday**  
8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Greg Christopoulos (greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov) or see PATC's website ([http://www.patc.net/mtn\\_sect/](http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/)).

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

**Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday**  
7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

## March

1 (Wednesday)

**DEADLINE - April 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 jnsbianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Wednesday)

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

1 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers Wakefield/Lake Accotink Parks, Fairfax, VA**

A mostly flat 6 mile circuit hike. Lunch option at nearby Kilroy's restaurant, 5250 Port Royal Road. Meet at Wakefield Park at 10:00 a.m. Beltway exit 5, Braddock Road, West then 1/8 mile right to park entrance road and first parking lot on left adjacent to ball fields. We go rain or shine and a reservation is not needed. Please, no pets. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

1 (Wednesday)

**Trekking Nepal, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Rockville Hudson Trail Outfitters**

Whether you have thought about traveling to Nepal or you just want to know more about the region, Hudson Trail Outfitter employee Judy Zouck has traveled to Nepal twice and is full of information to share with you. Judy will present a slide show and will provide you with basic information to get you started on your planning for your trip. INFO: Eric Stalzer 301/840-0650, Ext 26.

2 - 5 (Thursday - Sunday)

**SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Ski Mini-Week #3 Tug Hill, Upstate NY**

Join a dozen XC skiers enjoying the likely late lake-effect snowfall and cooler temperatures endemic to this area, as we stay at the All Season's Lodge in Sandy Creek (next to Lake Ontario). Options include: backcountry skiing; just touring the many trails in nearby Winona State Forest; or the commercial trails of Salmon Hills and Osceola STCs. Expect trip cost of \$100 (\$105 non-member), including 3 nights of lodging. INFO: Doug Lesar 301/587-8041.

4 (Saturday)

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

Join the South Mountaineers as they kickoff their 7th year of trail stewardship. Novices very welcome. We perform tread repair, blazing, blowdown removal, relocation work, or weeding; just anything that needs to get done on the AT or Catoctin Trail west of Frederick, MD. Bring water, lunch, gloves, sturdy boots and spunk. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Annandale, VA**

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

4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

**BACKPACK - Assateague Island Chincoteague, VA**

Twenty-six mile circuit hike on Assateague Island. Saturday we will begin the hike in the National Wildlife Refuge in Chincoteague, Va. and hike into the National Seashore in Maryland where we will camp on the beach. This is a strenuous hike. Besides the distance, we will need to carry all our water, and hiking on the beach tends to raise blisters. On the other hand, we can expect to see lots of wildlife including the famous Assateague Island ponies. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewilcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

4 - 5 (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.

4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

**SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter**

**South Bowie, MD**

The logs have been delivered. Work continues every weekend through mid-March with something for everyone — young/old, skilled/unskilled; and a fire pit is available to warm food or water for hot chocolate/cider—(of course, the best way to keep warm is by peeling logs). Work begins at 9:00 a.m. —stay as long as you like. Bring work gloves, lunch, snacks and water. Tools are provided. Directions from Bowie, MD / Rte 50: 301 South about 5 miles; cross Rte. 214 and pass Wawa store on left; left on Queen Ann Rd. for 2.5-3 miles passing green 4-H sign; cross tiny bridge and take immediate right onto gated, gravel road and drive about 100 yards; the shelter is in field on right side of gravel road. We have permission to be at the worksite for scheduled work trips despite the 'No Trespassing' sign. INFO: Frank Turk (Frankturk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

7 (Tuesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - The Grande Traverse des Alpes (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Much like the European version of the Appalachian Trail, the Grande Randonnee 5 is a spectacular long distance hiking route that runs the length of Europe, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. The section that begins at the base of Mont Blanc and traverses the French Alps south to the Mediterranean is referred to as the Grande Traverse des Alpes. Truly off the beaten path, this is a part of France one is unlikely to experience any other way. Join Andrea Ellison, of Distant Journeys for an evening's trek across the high peaks and timeless rural villages between Chamonix and the sea. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

8 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers Prince William Forest Park, VA**

About 5 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Turkey Run Education Center in the park. From the Beltway, take I-95 south 19.8 miles to exit 150B, route 619 west. Second right into park entrance. First left on

Park Scenic Drive. Pass parking areas A, B, and C. After 1.8 miles on Park Scenic Drive take left fork toward Turkey Run for half mile to right turn on Turkey Run Road. Half mile to parking at Turkey Run Education Center. Bring lunch. In case of doubtful weather or for INFO: John or Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026.

8 (Wednesday)

**Trekking Nepal, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Fairfax Hudson Trail Outfitters**

Whether you have thought about traveling to Nepal or you just want to know more about the region, Hudson Trail Outfitter employee Judy Zouck has traveled to Nepal twice and is full of information to share with you. Judy will present a slide show and will provide you with basic information to get you started on your planning for your trip. INFO: Eric Stalzer 301/840-0650, Ext 26.

9 (Thursday)

**CLASS - The Grande Traverse des Alpes (REI) REI, College Park, MD**

Same as above, except at College Park. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

9 (Thursday)

**MEETING - Family Program Planning PATC HQ, Vienna, VA**

7:30 p.m. Help us plan year 2000 PATC activities for kids, teens, and families. INFO: Terry Cummings (tcivp@mindspring.com) 703/777-1066.

9 (Thursday)

**Trekking Nepal, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Towson Hudson Trail Outfitters**

Same information as above on Wednesday March 8, except at the Towson store. INFO: Eric Stalzer 301/840-0650, Exr 26.

11 (Saturday)

**HIKE - WV Chapter, Massanutten Trail Series #3 Massanutten Mountain, VA**

Third in the Massanutten East series. We're halfway done! This trail will be approximately 9.3 miles. 1200 foot elevation gain. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319.

11 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Tibitt Knob/Big Schloss Shenandoah County, VA**

Kicking off a series of hikes covering various areas in the George Washington National Forest, we will do an 11 mile hike in Wolf Gap Recreation Area. This out and back hike will traverse Tibitt Knob and Big Schloss, both with panoramic views of Trout Run Valley and the surrounding peaks. Elevation gain of about 1600 feet. Meet at Vienna Metro at 8:00 a.m. INFO: Todd Birkenruth (birky@earthlink.net) 703/318-7735.

11 (Saturday)

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

We'll return to the Sidewinder Trail near Elizabeth Furnace to rechannel a clogged drainage system. We'll rebuild the tread after many years during which heavy runoff used the trail tread instead of the drain. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.



# FORECAST

11 (Saturday)

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

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

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew  
Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

The Vining Tract crew meets the second weekend of every month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs on any of the four rental cabins, to trail work and land management projects, to shoring up historic structures around the property. We're now relocating and rebuilding an old barn for eventual use as an overseers' refuge. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or loppers, as well as a beer or two, in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center  
Round Hill, VA**

We are back on the job!! and we hope that you will be also!! We plan to finish the Blackburn renovation project late this year but still have lots to do and we need your help. The big jobs for this spring will be the installation of our standing seam metal roof, building sixteen new bunks, installing a new section of staircase, some interior trim work, sanding, painting, and basement digging (call Chris about this last one). Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew  
Shockeysville, VA**

Join us at Shockeys Knob where we're working on the Tuscarora Trail relocation. This weekend, we're going to check old trail for blowdowns and clear the leaves out of the drains. We'll also start cutting new tread for a new section out to Shockeysville Road. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at a local cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgairefairfax.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Have you ever made a half-lap joint held together with a wooden peg, or cut a birds mouth in a round rafter? Well "it ain't rocket science" but it is an art, a very complex art. There are no flat, or straight, or square surfaces to measure from. How do you do it and make everything fit tight? Join our crew at Tulip Tree Cabin and find out how we do it. There is no

experience necessary. We can use all skill levels. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial  
Shelter**

**South Bowie, MD**

The logs have been delivered. Work continues every weekend through mid-March with something for everyone — young/old, skilled/unskilled; and a fire pit is available to warm food or water for hot chocolate/cider — (of course, the best way to keep warm is by peeling logs). Work begins at 9:00 a.m. — stay as long as you like. Bring work gloves, lunch, snacks and water. Tools are provided. Directions from Bowie, MD / Rte 50: 301 South about 5 miles; cross Rte. 214 and pass Wawa store on left; left on Queen Ann Rd. for 2.5-3 miles passing green 4-H sign; cross tiny bridge and take immediate right onto gated, gravel road and drive about 100 yards; the shelter is in field on right side of gravel road. We have permission to be at the worksite for scheduled work trips despite the 'No Trespassing' sign. INFO: Frank Turk (Frankturk@aol.com) 301/249-8243 or Jim Skinner (Jskinner@erols.com) 301/588-8607.

13 (Monday)

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

14 (Tuesday)

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

14 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Sky Meadows State Park, VA**

Circuit hike from Sky Meadows State Park off Rt. 17 north of I-66. We'll do about 17 miles including an out and back on the AT and enjoy the expansive views from the upper part of the meadows. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/4515181 before 9:30 p.m.

15 (Wednesday)

👤 **Hike - Easy Hikers  
Great Falls, VA**

Difficult Run loop. A scenic 4-5 miles over variable terrain. Meet at Great Falls Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Bring lunch and water. We go rain or shine and a reservation is not needed. Please, no pets. Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

16 (Thursday)

👤 **HIKE - In-between Hikers**

**Fountainhead Regional Park, 19875 Hampton Rd.,  
Fairfax, VA**

A moderately-paced 8 miles near the Occoquan Reservoir. Mostly hilly terrain. (PATC *Hikes in the Wash. Region, Part B*, plus). Meet at first parking lot on the right, off of entrance road at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. We go rain or shine, and a reservation is not needed. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

18 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - North Chapter  
Link Trail, PA**

Link Trail Series #1. Tuscarora Trail to Meadow Gap (Pa. 475). 14.4 miles with an elevation change of 900 feet. A good hike with excellent views from the mountain tops. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

18 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter  
Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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

18 (Saturday)

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

This is a great time of year to do trail work; cool with longer days. Join us for a fun, social and dirty event on the AT in Maryland. Bring water, lunch, gloves, and boots. We meet in Frederick County at 9:00 a.m. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

18 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Natural History/Cultural Resources  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Bob Pickett brings in the heavy guns for a most unique hiking opportunity. Len Wheat, self-taught archaeologist, historian, malusologist and SNP bushwhacker, leads us through the woods around Pocosin Hollow for an interesting off-trail adventure in search of steam engines, saw mills, home sites and cemeteries. If that's not enough, Steve Bair, SNP natural resource specialist, will also be joining us (and looking for surveyor's tapes). We will hike about four to six miles through the woods on what would have to be considered a moderately difficult hike. We will also keep our eyes open for the first bloodroot, hepatica, and snakes of the season. Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Having a hard time getting out of the winter doldrums? (Want to know from whence came that term, "doldrums?") Well, at least you've built up your upper body strength, shoveling snow. Come out and help a crew of trailbuilders rebuild a section of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park! That's right! Dig, again! Have fun, moving and sifting dirt back into the treadway. Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Timber Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive. Overnight accommodations at Pocosin Cabin. Reservation/INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 703/443-1572.

21 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Hawk Campground, WV**

Out and back hike from Hawk Campground off Rt. 55 just inside West Virginia. We'll go north on the Tuscarora Trail for about a 16-mile round trip. This is a very pretty area. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

22 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers  
W&OD Trail, Arlington, VA**

Come join us for 4-5 miles on the W&OD Trail. Directions: From the Beltway take Rte. 50 or Arlington Blvd. east to Falls Church. Go right on George Mason Dr. Then right on Columbia Pike. Go to #4714, look for Goodwill store on left. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in parking lot ACROSS from the store next to Four Mile Run Dr. After the hike we will lunch at Pilin Thai Restaurant in Falls Church. INFO: Mary-Margaret McGrail 703/751-8126 or Pat Flanigan 202/554-3775.

23 (Thursday)

👤 **MEETING - The Futures Group, 6:30 p.m.**

23 (Thursday)

**HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter  
Big Schloss, George Washington NF, VA**

The original German settlers thought it was a castle in the sky. On March 23rd the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter will hike to one of the most outstanding rock formations in the valley. This six-mile hike is of moderate difficulty. We will start at the trailhead at Wolf Gap, hike up to the rocks, and then return the way we came. This is one of the few places in the Shenandoah where you can get an expansive panoramic view of the entire valley and of the Capon Valley in West Virginia. Bring warm clothes and a lunch, and enjoy the view as we stand on top of a castle in the sky. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

25 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter  
Veatch Gap, Fort Valley, VA**

Beginning at the Veatch Gap parking area, a short distance east of Fort Valley Road, Rt. 678, we will hike with Bill Melson, geologist, up to Veatch Gap on Massanutten Mountain and a short distance south on the Massanutten Mountain Trail before returning to our cars. The estimated distance is about six miles. The many rock outcrops along the trails are of the famous sandstones of the 400 million year old Massanutten formation, the time of the first land plants. You will learn to read some of the evidence of these ancient times in the rocks. See beautiful anticlines created during the folding of the Appalachian Mountains 230 million years ago. We will follow a portion of Morgan's Road, a road built during the Revolutionary War. Bring water and lunch. RSVP/ INFO: Bill Melson (mcmelson@erols.com) 540/933-6276.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Land Navigation (REI)  
Baileys Crossroads and Prince William Forest  
Park, VA**

This comprehensive two day course teaches the skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises. The second day is spent on and off-trail in Prince William Forest Park doing practical navigation exercises. The course fee of \$60 includes text, course materials, compass, map, and UTM grid reader. Saturday at REI Baileys Crossroads, Sunday at Prince William Forest Park. Register early. Space is limited. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center  
Round Hill, VA**

We are back on the job!! and we hope that you will be also!! We plan to finish the Blackburn renovation project late this year but still have lots to do and we need your help. The big jobs for this spring will be the installation of our standing seam metal roof, building sixteen new bunks, installing a new section of staircase, some interior trim work, sanding, painting, and basement digging (call Chris about this last one). Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**BACKPACKING TRIP - GWNF  
George Washington National Forest, VA**

Spring is here and it's time to hike. Depending on weather and group size we'll head west for one of several locations in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. Planning a moderate total distance of 18 plus/minus miles. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew  
Thompson Hollow, Bentonville, VA**

Join the Cadillac Crew to help relocate the Tuscarora Trail off of a sunken roadbed. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Chez Rindt. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The rafters are going up now and the board on board siding is being nailed up on the gable ends. It's really looking like a cabin now. Every trip we make now results in exciting progress toward completion. Don't dismay though, there are plenty of opportunities for you to join the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew before the cabin is finished. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

28 (Tuesday)

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

28 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
MD/DC**

A 20++ mile circuit hike through a variety of parks in MD and DC. Should be excellent training for those planning to do PATC's Dogwood or the Sierra Club 100K hikes. Try it, you'll like it. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

29 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Exploring the Chesapeake's Eastern  
Shore (REI)  
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. From the Bohemia to the Pocomoke and Parramore to Pungoteague, the Eastern Shore abounds with opportunities to hike, backpack, paddle, bike, bird, fish, and explore some of the finest natural areas and oldest historical sites in the Mid-Atlantic. Local explorer, Earth scientist and photographer, Ed Neville, will take us on an evening's photo tour of some of the Eastern Shore's most interesting and out-of-the-way recreation destinations. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

29 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers  
Potomac Heritage Trail, VA**

Four to five miles on the Potomac Heritage Trail and Roosevelt Island. Meet at parking lot for Roosevelt Island. Drive north on G.W. Parkway or walk from Rosslyn Metro Station over pedestrian bridge across Parkway. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline LeMarie 202/484-2966.

30 (Thursday)

**CLASS - Exploring the Chesapeake's Eastern  
Shore (REI)  
REI, College Park, MD**

Same as above, except at College Park. INFO: REI 301-982-9681.

bianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Saturday)

**HIKE - WV Chapter, Massanutten East series  
Massanutten Mountain, VA**

Our next to last hike in the Massanutten East series will involve some more grand views of the surrounding countryside. Don't miss out on this 9-mile hike as we approach Camp Roosevelt, one of the last remaining Civilian Conservation Corps camps. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319.

1 (Saturday)

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

Don't be fooled, this is a work event of the South Mountaineers. But it's also a hobby ... maintaining the trails for hikers since 1993. Join our ranks and have fun with us in the woods; novices welcome. Bring water, lunch, gloves and boots. Tools provided. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

1 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Rattlesnake Den  
Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Dr. Isa Lye, a renowned herpetologist whose work on the Asian cobras is the world standard among scholars, and who is now a visiting professor at the University of Virginia, has agreed to take us to explore a rattlesnake den in the Shenandoah National Park. Depending on the progression of spring, the snakes should just about be active at this time. Hike is limited to 15 adults, and some strenuous bushwhacking will be required. All participants must wear sturdy boots, leather work gloves, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Dr. Lye will provide valuable information on the life and habits of the eastern United States' most famous pit viper. All interested inquiries should be made via e-mail only to: isalye@uva.edu or thumpers@visuallink.com.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center  
Round Hill, VA**

We are back on the job!! and we hope that you will be also!! We plan to finish the Blackburn renovation project late this year but still have lots to do and we need your help. The big jobs for this spring will be the installation of our standing seam metal roof, building sixteen new bunks, installing a new section of staircase, some interior trim work, sanding, painting, and basement digging (call Chris about this last one). Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter  
Appalachian Trail, PA**

Join the North Chapter April Fools trail crew and cure that cabin fever you caught over the winter. We will 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.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid  
Annandale, VA**

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

## April

1 (Saturday)

**DEADLINE - May Potomac Appalachian  
Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to jns-

# FORECAST

4 (Tuesday)

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

4 (Tuesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Massanutten Mountain, VA

13-mile end to end hike along the western ridge of Massanutten Mountain, following the now traditional Dogwood Route. We'll try for a brisker pace than normal on this one (17-18 minute mile). INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

5 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Saturday)

 HIKE - North Chapter  
Link Trail, PA

Link Trail Series #2. Meadow Gap (Pa 475) to State Games Land parking area for the Butler Knob section. (Pa 829). 6.0 miles with an elevation change of 300 feet. This is a short hike and for those who might be train buffs, there will be a stop at Orbisonia to see a narrow gauge steam engine in action. Also still in existence is the round table for turning steam locomotives in the yard. Hike followed by supper at a local restaurant. Come on out and enjoy the local history at its finest. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

8 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew  
Massanutten Mountain, VA

We'll continue to rebuild the sidehill tread of the Massanutten East Trail between Waterfall Mountain and the Scothorn Gap Trails. Hard work, but easy hiking to get there. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

 CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew  
Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract crew meets the second weekend of every month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs on any of the four rental cabins, to trail work and land management projects, to shoring up historic structures around the property. We're now relocating and rebuilding an old barn for eventual use as an overseers' refuge. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush or loppers, as well as a beer or two, in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin  
Shaver Hollow, VA

We're raising the roof! It's hard to predict exactly what we will be doing this weekend but it is a pretty sure bet that it is going to be mostly on the roof. If you are inclined to be fearless and like high places have we got a job for you! There will be a few jobs on the ground too for those of you like me that have a healthy respect for heights. Wherever you end up working, you can be assured that it will be interesting, exciting, and fulfilling. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

10 (Monday)

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

11 (Tuesday)

 MEETING - PATC Council.  
POSTPONED.

The PATC Council meeting has been moved to Saturday, April 15 at the Vining Tract. Time - TBA.

11 (Tuesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Massanutten Mountain, VA

A 13-mile brisk (17-18 minute mile) end to end hike along the eastern ridge of Massanutten Mountain south of Elizabeth Furnace. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

12 (Wednesday)

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

15 (Saturday)

 MEETING - PATC Council  
Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

Time - TBA. This meeting was rescheduled from Tuesday, 04/11.

15 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers  
Appalachian Trail, MD

You may find this day less taxing if you spend it in the woods with the South Mountaineers. Trail maintenance is FUN, a hobby for many, certainly not like doing taxes. Novices welcome. Bring water, lunch, gloves and boots. Tools provided. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

15 (Saturday)

CLASS - Outdoor Leadership & Wilderness Risk Management (REI)  
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This class looks at the other side of wilderness survival skills: avoiding the survival situation. This class covers planning, preparation, safety management, risk assessment, time control planning, and leadership. The class is taught by Christopher Tate, Director, Wilderness Safety Council. The course fee is \$75, and includes text, course materials, and a copy of Outdoor Leadership, by John Graham. Registration/INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Having a hard time getting out of the winter doldrums? (Want to know from whence came that term, "doldrums?") Well, at least you've built up your upper body strength, shoveling snow. Come out and help a crew of trailbuilders rebuild a section of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park! That's right! Dig, again! Have fun, moving and sifting dirt back into the treadway. Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Timber Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive. Overnight accommodations at Pocosin Cabin. Reservation/INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 703/443-1572.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Chainsaw Certification (ATC)  
Round Hill, VA

PATC Overseers: ATC will be holding a chainsaw class April 15-16 at Blackburn Trail Center near Round Hill, Virginia. Anyone who still wishes to use a chainsaw on the AT and has not gone through a course in the last two years must complete the two-day class and be tested on their skills in the field. If you have chainsaw experience and are interested please call me ASAP. Class space is limited to 15 people. INFO: Heidi Forrest 703/242-0693 x12.

18 (Tuesday)

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

18 (Tuesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Route 55, VA/WV line

An 18-mile circuit hike from the Rt. 55 VA/WV line south down the valley to Waites Run and then north on the Tuscarora Trail with one foot in West Virginia and the other in Virginia. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

22 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Earth Day  
Waynesboro, PA

Earth day activities at Renfrew Park, Waynesboro, PA. INFO: Kathy Seiler 717/794-5628.

22 (Saturday)

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

The Peak. Join the NSVC on a six-mile hike of moderate difficulty; four miles on unmaintained trails and roads and ascending 2000 feet. We will hike the Mt. Marshall Trail from the Rt. 625 trailhead, west of Washington, VA, until we reach Thoroughfare Gap. We then follow abandoned trails up to the summit of The Peak, stopping at viewpoints. We will descend toward the trailhead by using old logging and farm roads on the south ridge of The Peak, passing through the site of the old "Peach Valley Orchard", and stopping enroute to see the ruins of the cottage Aubrey Miller Wood built around 1900. Sketch map and historical information provided. INFO: Walt Smith, (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678-0423.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin  
Shaver Hollow, VA

As we approach each new stage of construction of this beautiful cabin there is a sense that the hard part is over now and the next phase will be much easier and go much faster. WRONG! It is all hard work and it is all complicated by the fact that we are doing things that modern man has forgotten how to do. Join our crew in the final stages (last 2 years) of the construction of this marvel of ancient engineering. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

25 (Tuesday)

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

25 (Tuesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Carderock, MD

A 16-mile out and back hike along the tow path from Carderock — to get the kinks out before the Dogwood. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

29 (Saturday)

 HIKE - WV Chapter  
Massanutten Mountain, VA

Okay guys, you've made it this far. Now for the final hike in the MME series. We'll start at Camp Roosevelt (a Civilian Conservation Corps camp) and finish in New Market making this a 9.3 mile hike. 600 foot elevation gain. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319.

29 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter  
Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

*Hot Mountain, from page 1*

**A Rare and Special Treat**

Two more minutes down the trail, a bird was flushed from my right, flew across the trail, and landed in a mountain laurel bush five feet in front of me. I found myself looking into the large yellow eyes of a saw-whet owl, with the remains of a northern cardinal in its talons. It quickly flew another ten yards away and posed for us as we took many pictures and looked closely with our binoculars. This owl is an uncommon winter visitor to the Park and a very rare treat to see at any distance, no less this close! And with a cardinal in its talons—what a treat! To give you an idea how uncommon these owls are in the Park, a former Park naturalist, Terry Lindsay, has just authored a book, *Birds of the Shenandoah National Park*, in which he states, “I heard one once in fall near Camp Hoover, but I have yet to see one in the Park.” Coincidentally, his recollection was from one of my monthly hikes, back in October of 1991!

Well, that bird sighting—a once in a lifetime event—made my hike. I didn’t need to find anything more. But there was more in store. Not more than five minutes passed when I rapped on a tree with a cavity hole approximately twenty feet off the ground, like I always do. You never know what might appear. Out came a southern flying squirrel, the first one I’ve roused in about two years. Not that flying squirrels are uncommon. In fact, studies have found that many eastern deciduous forests have more flying squirrels than gray squirrels. You just don’t normally see them during the day.

**Discovering the History of the Park’s Former Inhabitants**

We traveled further into the Hazel Country area along the Hot Mountain-Short Mountain trail. This area was heavily populated during the early 1900’s. And, although most of the homes were burned to the ground to prevent squatters from taking up residence at the time of the Parks’ formation in 1935, the stone foundations and chimneys, stone walls and terraces, and overly mature apple trees show testament to their existence. Winter is the time of year to search for these cultural relics, and we were to see many signs of their habitation throughout the day, but let me tell you about our best find of the day.

If you look at the PATC Map #10 of the Central District, you’ll notice the trail makes a large loop to the west near the northern end of the trail. You’ll know when you get there

by the heavy growth of young ailanthus (tree-of-heaven) shoots overcoming the former open grounds along the trail (the former road). We were initially drawn off the trail to the west of the loop to investigate a metal object some 30 yards distant that turned out to be a metal basket (trash burning?). As we meandered through the area, we noticed a chimney another fifty yards to our south. After some scrambling, we found ourselves at a home site with three stone foundations and two chimneys. It was challenging—and fun—guessing the history of the site. Perhaps this one had been added to over the years to accommodate a succession of generations who made this site their home. Further inspection of the largest stone fireplace showed where the original open hearth had been filled in to allow for a more modern stove duct. For some great reading about these former residents, you should look for Carolyn and Jack Reeder’s *Shenandoah Secrets* or Darwin Lambert’s *The Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park*.

**Other Finds**

Our venture contained more highlights. Two more bobcat and two sets of bear tracks later, we came across the remains of a raptor’s dinner in the middle of the trail. The skull and a few feathers were all that was left of this prey, but it was enough for us to identify it as a yellow-bellied sapsucker, another winter visitor, this being one that will never return to its northern nesting grounds.

It was late in the afternoon as we bush-

whacked from the Nicholson Hollow trail, outside the Park boundary north to the former Pine Hill Gap road. Even here we came across tracks of our second ruffed grouse, a flock of about a dozen turkeys, and a fox.

All in all, quite a remarkable trip. It’s funny, Kurt Rowan and I had a pre-hike goal of finding coyote tracks in the Park. We didn’t find any, but you just never know what you’re going to find when you go out in the woods.

*(You can look up my field notes for this trip, as well as others over the past, at <http://www.patc.net/pickett.html>)* □

—Bob Pickett

**Backpacking 101**

A course for Beginning Backpackers (18 and over) presented by the PATC Trail Patrol. Learn how to enjoy overnight hiking in the backcountry safely, comfortably, and with minimum impact on the environment.

Classroom instruction—Monday, April 3  
Practical instruction—April 8 and 9  
Weekend Outing—May 6 and 7

There will be a fee for this course. For more information, call Kathleen Greve at 703/578-1312, weekdays 7-9 pm or e-mail at [kgreve@erols.com](mailto:kgreve@erols.com)

**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](mailto:pfankh@erols.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**FINANCE COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEER** with grant writing experience. If you have some experience writing grants and would like to help PATC, please contact John Richards, 703/642-1296 or ldapcr@aol.com.

**FOURTH YEAR OF THE KEYSTONE TRAIL CREW.** Keystone Trail Crew, sponsored by KTA, will be having three weeks of TrailCare in June. The workweek runs from Thursday through Monday. The dates are June 8 through 12, Quehanna Trail; June 15 through 19, Chuck Keiper Trail and June 22 through 26, Mid State Trail Southern Extension. Meals and lodging will be provided. If you can spare a week, volunteer a weekend, or come for just a day or two, please think about signing up. No volunteer will be turned away. Forward all inquiries to Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laffin, PA 18702, e-mail jnlhealey@aol.com, or feel free to call him at 570/655-4979. Detailed information and a map directing you to the respective campsites/campsites will then be forwarded.

**A COOK IS NEEDED FOR THE ABOVE TIME FRAMES.** This is a paid position and all pots, pans, etc. will be supplied, although the cook will be responsible for the purchase of the food. Cost of the food can either be reimbursed after purchase or given up front as a lump sum. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Joe at 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laffin, PA 18702, e-mail jnlhealey@aol.com, or feel free to call him at (570) 655-4979.

**HIKING PARTNERS WELCOME** to join PATC member for July-August trip to Colorado Weminuche Wilderness. Two or three night trip over continental divide trail with probable bushwhacking down drainage to hot springs. Dates approximately 7/31-8/3. Denver nearest airport. INFO: J Christian Adams, e-mail jcadams@erols.com

**LLAMAS FOR SALE:** a trail companion to help carry your gear. Please contact Noel Dingman for a visit to our farm. 301/831-1131, or halfaloaf@accessa.net

**WANTED: PATC MEMBER WITH SALES EXPERIENCE** to review the PATC sales effort at the Vienna headquarters. For more details please call John Richards at 703/642-1296 or email to LDAPCR@aol.com

**SNP-PATC TRAIL CREW WEBSITES.** The trail crews in the three Districts of Shenandoah National Park are on the web. Visit the sites to find out about upcoming worktrips, to see photos of previous projects, or to learn about opportunities in the Park. The addresses for the web pages are: North District: <http://www.patc.net/hoodlums/index.html> Central District: <http://sites.netscape.net/kerrysnow/homepage> and South District: <http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/districtnews/index.html>

**LOST: SILVER ARROWHEAD NECKERCHIEF SLIDE, 2 1/2" long, 1" wide, made with turquoise and coral.** Lost Saturday, January 15 between Pen Mar Rd. and High Rock. If found, please contact or send to: Jeff Hollis, Rt. 4, Box 261, Martinsburg, WV 25401, 304/263-6974 day, 304/263-6140 evening.

**PA INDEXER WANTED.** Is there any member out there with a computer at home and e-mail who can type the indexes for each month's newsletter? I have done January & February and can e-mail you a copy to see how it is done. I would prefer to just have each month's list kept together. I can work the year's index together. You could e-mail the list back to me at the end of each

month. Also needed is someone to type onto computer diskette the index from cards that already are in alpha order. Call Carol Niedzialek, Archivist, 301/439-1654.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**CALLING ALL PATC KIDS.** Do you have an interesting story to tell about a hike you took? Other kids in PATC want to hear from you. Send your stories to *Potomac Appalachian* Editor, PATC HQ, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, Va. 22180.

**NEEDED: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**—a Club member to coordinate volunteer opportunities and place volunteers in jobs. There is currently no placement system to match volunteers with open tasks; you can devise and implement one. No experience needed, just a general understanding of Club activities and a willingness to work. Most work will take place at the headquarters in Vienna. Call Tom Johnson, vice president for volunteerism, at 410/647-8554, or e-mail him at johnts@erols.com.

**DISCOUNTS FOR HIKE LEADERS.** The PATC hikes committee will offer a \$60 discount (or 50% of the tuition, whichever is smaller) on Club-approved wilderness first aid or other applicable training courses to any leader who agrees to lead at least three official Club hikes in the 12 months that follow the training course. So if you have heard about a really terrific training course that might be of benefit to a hike leader, but hesitated to take it because of the cost, this offer might be right down your alley. For details, contact Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com.

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

**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: SMRG Operations 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.

## HIKING VACATIONS

**DISCOVER THE NORTH UMBRIAN HERITAGE IN ENGLAND.** An invitation to PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing tour and explore the rich heritage of England's Bor-

der Country - from the Hills to the Sea, Romans and Christians, Castles and Battles, Stately Homes and the Great Outdoors. INFO: Derek Teasdale at Dteasdale1@aol.com or John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

**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. INFO: Derek Teasdale at Dteasdale1@aol.com or John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**WANTED: PA CONTRIBUTOR IS LOOKING FOR CAMERA EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE WORN OUT GEAR.** If you have Canon or Nikon 35mm SLR camera bodies or lenses (non-auto focus is fine) gathering dust in your closet, give me a call. John (703) 938-6505 or luckj@juno.com

**I AM IN SEARCH OF PROPERTY, PREFERABLY IN VIRGINIA,** in close proximity to the Appalachian Trail to be used as a retreat/hiker hostel. Existing buildings, barns, outbuildings, etc. are a plus, but not a necessity. If you know of property that meets these criteria, please contact me. INFO: Melody "Midnit" Blaney, 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Va. 20135, 540/554-8708, e-mail bearden@crosslink.net

**IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO CLEAN OUT YOUR LINEN CLOSET, DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD BATH TOWEL** that you're tired of looking at. Bears Den Hostel (owned and operated by ATC) will be happy to take it off your hands. The hostel provides bath towels for through-hikers, and after a hot summer, and a lot of sweaty hikers, our towels have more holes than towel. We are also in need of "loaner clothes" (t-shirts and shorts) that we also provide for the hikers while they are laundering their hiking duds. Please notify us if you have any of these items you would like to donate. On behalf of the Class of 2000 hikers, Thank You. INFO: Melody Blaney and Patti Landovek, Bears Den hostel, 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Va. 20135, 540/554-8708, bearden@crosslink.net

**CONSERVATION BUYERS WANTED:** PATC's Trail Lands Committee has a need for individuals interested in acquiring wilderness land to help insure the permanent protection of the trails in the PATC system. These private properties would be set aside for either the trail path itself or buffer land naturally preserving the trail environment. The buyer would have the option of placing a cabin on the land for the buyer's use and enjoyment, but the cabin would be sufficiently distant from the trail to insure privacy for both the cabin owner and the trail hiker. Donating a conservation easement over the property would result in the conservation buyer being entitled to take a significant tax deduction, while gaining the satisfaction of contributing to the perpetual preservation of a PATC trail. Inquires should be address to Phil Paschall, PATC Trail Lands Committee, 118 Park St, SE, Vienna, VA 22180.

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

### Donors, from page 7

A listing of Corporate donors will be made in the *Potomac Appalachian* newsletter. The listing will remain for a number of months based on the size of the donation:

- ❖ PATC PARTNER 3 months
- ❖ LIFE BENEFACTOR 6 months
- ❖ PRESIDENT'S CLUB 12 months

For individual donors (CONTRIBUTOR and above), a one-time listing will be made in the

month following the receipt of the donation. Donors will be given the option of having their names listed or not. □

## Cabins Corner: Tips for Cabin Rentals

At our first annual Overseer's Meeting in December, one of the major items of discussion was how to protect the cabins from unintentional harm caused by inexperienced or first-time cabin users. Unfortunately, the bulk of our labor and maintenance expenses are spent addressing this problem.

As a result, we are working on producing individual Cabin Operation Manuals for each and every cabin. We are also developing more specific language for the cabins booklet and exploring ways to provide information that will be sent to first-time users with their cabin rental confirmation and keys, etc. The idea is for cabin renters to be good stewards of the Club's valuable assets. Our problem will be getting people to read the information provided them.

For those of you contemplating renting a cabin in the near future, first off it is important to read as much information about the cabin before you leave for your visit! In reading condition reports, overseers are often amused by how many renters expect the Club to provide toilet paper, candles, etc.! By reading the cabins fact sheet that came with the key, or the Cabins Book, which can be purchased for \$4.00 (\$3.20 for members) plus \$2.00 postage and 14 cents Virginia tax if mailed to Virginia residents, renters would be better aware of items they need to bring along.

The following are some general tips that apply to all cabin use.

### Check-in

Try to get to any unfamiliar cabin as close to the 4:00 check in time as possible, so you have time to familiarize yourself with the cabin's stove operation and locate important things, such as the corkscrew or the spring, before darkness sets in.

### Stoves

Be careful when using the cook stove not to start a fire in the oven instead of the firebox, a common mistake. If uncertain, test it first by burning a piece of paper before laying up a fire.

Burning a mixture of different woods will usually give you the best fire. Do not cut green wood. It will not burn. Never use charcoal briquettes in any cast iron stove. They burn too hot and will turn a good stove into scrap metal. If you notice the stove glowing red, it is too hot and at risk of being irreparably damaged. Close down the air supply and do not add any more wood until it stops glowing.

### Trash

Pack trash bags so you can pack out all your trash. Do not use the cans in cabins marked "PAPER" or "FOOD" for trash! They might be a typical metal "trash" can, but they were purchased and have been used exclusively (cleanly) for either food storage or paper storage. Please remember to remove everything that you bring to the cabin! The next occupants will not need the catsup packs, twist ties, plastic silverware, or wine bottles! Don't dump any trash, no matter how small, in the privy. The pits are hand dug and maintained by volunteer effort only. Using them for a garbage dump is a particularly unsocial act.

### General

Don't leave water in the containers provided at the cabin. It could become contaminated before the next occupants arrive.

Please treat the cabin as you would your property! Don't carve your initials in anything. Don't drip wax all over and be especially careful about fire.



Your careful consideration of your own use of the cabin will make the overseer's job easier. This will allow them more time to make improvements resulting in a better cabins system for us all. It will also provide the people who follow you into the cabin a more enjoyable and safer experience. □

—Mel Merritt,  
*Cabins Maintenance Chair*



## Review

Ross, Cindy. *Hiking: A Celebration of The Sport And The World's Best Places to Enjoy It*. Richard Ballantyne/Byron Press, 1992. 184p. illus. \$12 paper.

Cindy Ross, an end-to-ender of both the Appalachian and the Pacific Crest Trails and a speaker at the AT Conference hosted by PATC, writes about the pleasures of hiking as she finds them and intersperses her story with information and advice useful to a beginning hiker or backpacker. The last forty pages contain lists of the suppliers, magazines and other sources beginners want to know, and descriptions twenty-five hikes in six continents, compiled by John Harlin, editor of Summit. Not surprisingly, many of those hikes are on or around mountains.

This is a light-hearted book. It would make a good present for that relative who doesn't understand why you hike or the younger friend who needs to be interested in the sport. Cindy did the illustrations herself. □

—Paula Strain

## Thinking about Submitting Articles to the Newsletter?

Is there a particular type of article you'd like to see in the *PA*? Maybe you have a Notice or Forecast item you'd like to submit. The following are some guidelines on submitting material to the newsletter.

### Know the deadline!

As you're reading this, I'm already working on the April issue, the deadline for which is the end of the day, 1 March. Each deadline is published in the Forecast each month, in case you forget the date. Believe it or not, this is not arbitrary pickyness on the part of me or past editors. I spend about a week putting the newsletter together, then it goes through layout, proofing, printing, labeling, and mailing. Everyone in the process has their own time requirement and deadlines. This means I need your material by the first so I can get the process rolling. If everything goes smoothly, you get your newsletter more or less on the 1st of the month.

### Format for Submitting

I vastly prefer submissions composed on a computer, and I'd really love it if you e-mail me ([jns-bianca@home.com](mailto:jns-bianca@home.com)). This saves me an enormous amount of time I would otherwise spend scanning. My word processing program reads nearly every document file under the sun, so the program you use really doesn't matter. I'll contact you if I have problems with your file.

I do prefer if you stick to boring, normal fonts, like Arial or Times New Roman (10 or 12 point are fine). I also prefer block style text, no indents in paragraphs, and one line space between each paragraph. Use tabs instead of spaces to line up columns of text. Don't worry if it doesn't look perfect; just do enough to convey how you want it to look. You can write little notes in brackets about particular formatting requirements.

You only have a typewriter? No problem. Type neatly and avoid actually writing on the paper. I promise I will not think less of you if there are some typos, so you don't have to retype a whole page. Just leave the mistakes, and I'll fix them. Make sure your page is in the typewriter straight, so scanning it is easier.

If you can't e-mail me, please mail things to HQ and address it to *PA* Editor. If you don't have e-mail, but you have written your ar-

ticle on computer, I'd appreciate a file on floppy disk so I can just cut and paste.

### Photographs

Photographs in the *PA* work best when the printer scans them, so if you can part with your photo for a while, I'd prefer you send me the actual photograph. You will get it back around the second week of the month of the newsletter it appears in. If you can't part with it for that long, let me know, and we can work out an alternate arrangement.

As for what kind of pictures come out best, black and white pictures scan much better than color. If you're taking pictures where there's a lot of contrast between light and shadow, use a flash (yes, even in broad daylight) to even out the light in your picture.

Check out Mike Karpie's monthly "Photo Tips" column for more hints on taking outdoor pictures.

### Length

For a feature article, anywhere from 500-1,000 words is acceptable. Longer articles will usually be split across multiple issues. Short news items are usually 250-500 words. If you've got a quick notice that needs some extra attention, let me know, and I'll have it set off in a box.

### Special Comments on Forecast and Notices

Forecast items are events sponsored by Club members. Our wonderful Forecast Editor, Joe O'Neill, spends a tremendous amount of time on the Forecast. It may not seem like a big deal, but Joe receives all kinds of submissions, in different formats, at different times of the month. Sometimes people have to change their schedules, so he has to scramble to make sure the Forecast is correct. So it's especially important to make it easy on Joe and get your Forecast items submitted by the 1st of the month before the month you want them published.

Joe usually publishes a full two months' worth of PATC events, so you can submit your May events now for the April issue (if you get them in by the 1st of April). But you don't have to wait. If you know you have an event in the future, go ahead and submit it now. Joe keeps a database of all activities.

If you have to change a date at the last minute, Joe works with Amy Skrowonek, who is in charge of the Forecast on the website, and Andy Kapfer, who does the audio message you can call in to, to make sure that the information is kept up to date. Please let me or Joe know as soon as you know you need to change something so that more people know as soon as possible.

Please always include the full name of the PATC member sponsoring the activity as well as a phone number.

Notices are also a service provided to PATC members, and you can submit just about anything you want to let Club members know about or ask their help with. Make sure there's a full name and contact information. I will run the notice for three months unless you tell me otherwise. Please, please, please let me know if you want to cancel your notice or if you have a special requirement to extend the notice.

### Last Thoughts

The newsletter is a volunteer effort, which means you're an important part of putting it together and making sure it serves your needs and those of other Club members. Why don't you consider writing and submitting an article? It's really not hard. Think about the last time you talked about the subject that interests you, and jot down your thoughts. I'll work with you to make it a great article. □

—*Bianca Menendez*  
Editor



[www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net)

## Review

Waterman, Laura, and Guy Waterman. *Backwoods Ethics: Environmental Issues for Hikers and Campers*. W.W.Norton & Co., 1993. 280p. \$14 paper.

**H**ailed, when first published in 1979, as something “all new adventurers in the natural world should absolutely read,” the revised edition, published in paper just this year, is better focused and organized than its predecessor. It is indeed a book to recommend to new and to experienced venturers in the natural world—of the northeastern United States.

That is its shortcoming—it focuses on the mountains of New England and the Adirondacks (New York’s other mountains, the Catskills and Shawangunks, get only passing attention). The New Englander authors know well the problems of New England foot trails, many of them well over one hundred years old, and the degradation of the alpine summits of their peaks. Stewardship in which citizens maintain trails and work cooperatively with land managers is the solution proposed—one applicable everywhere but illustrated in the text only by New England examples. Even the authors’ attempt to broaden

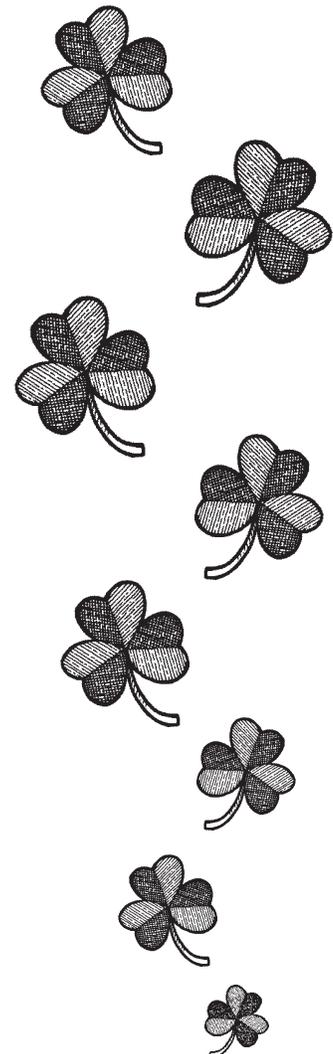
the picture by including the Appalachian Trail and the AT through-hiker fails to look south of the Hudson River.

Those of us living outside New England will find the discussion of four unresolved behavioral issues of some use. First, the need to practice low impact bushwhacking has, in our more favorable climate, yet to become a serious problem, but it is one to be aware of. Second, bringing one’s dog into the woods is an unresolvable issue: both sides have strong opinions. Third, the “in your face” attitude toward other users and the managers of the areas where they climb by the rock-climbers of the 1990s is deplored by the Watermans, who hope the attitude will change as the present generation of climbers matures. The fourth issue, winter camping, which the Watermans declare is permissible only if there are two feet of snow cover, is a non-issue in the mid-Atlantic region.

*Backwoods Ethics* is worth your attention, but use PATC’s ethic of being considerate of others and of the land should be your advisor on proper wilderness behavior. Although drawn up in the 1970s, it applies as well today as it did then. □

**A new addition to the sales store is a detachable neck lanyard. This gives the hiker a carefree way to carry and keep up with their keys. Our lanyard has gold lettering on a black background, reading “Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.”**

**You may purchase your lanyard either by mail at headquarters for the low price of \$5.00 each, shipping and handling not included.**



## Trailhead

Toward the end of January snow arrived in PATC country, temporarily closing the Skyline Drive and limiting trail access and maintenance activity except for very robust individuals. But, keep your fingers crossed, no ice storm yet. On the other hand, by the time you read this, trail crews will be rising from their slumber and raring to go.

### PATC/SNP Trails Meeting

Pete Gatje, Heidi Forrest, and SNP district managers met with Park Service's Steve Bair, Shawn Green, and district trail crew chiefs in late January at PATC Headquarters for their annual coordination of plans and activities for 2000. Among topics of interest were improved communications between PATC and the Park Service, PATC use of fire and administrative roads, issues of boundary trailhead access, and potential trail projects.

Steve Bair highlighted changes being considered for the Wilderness/Back Country Management Plan. Proposed changes included a more backpacker friendly policy for camping. Previous policy required campsites to be out of the sight of trails and streams and promoted campsite dispersion. This policy has resulted in a proliferation of campsites and increased damage to the ecology. The new policy would promote use of previously used campsites and reduce the required distance from trails to 20 yards.

Karen Lutz, from the ATC Mid-Atlantic Office, discussed the AT assessment process. The assessment, initiated in the early 90's, is now entering the final phase, which is the assessment of the AT in the SNP. The process begins with a detailed map survey followed by walking inspection of the trail to identify, locate, and catalog trail features such as springs, shelters, vistas, and needed trail improvements.

Mickey McDermott, PATC Trail Patrol Chairman, discussed Trail Patrol and Ridge Runner training and policy. He also reviewed the process by which reports on trail conditions/problems will be passed to the district managers and ultimately to overseers.

Joint activities were coordinated and some planning dates for 2000 are:

Central District Trails Workshop - June 3 - 4  
North District Trails Workshop - September 9-10

Look for registration announcements in the *PA*.

South District Summer Crew - July 30 - August 11  
Central District Summer Crew - August 13-25  
North District Summer Crew - August 27- Sept. 8

Remember that SNP district summer crews run for six consecutive one-week sessions and are limited to six volunteers each session. These are popular activities, so get your reservations in early if you plan to participate. Applications will be available this month.

### Chainsaw Workshop

ATC will be sponsoring a chainsaw workshop at Blackburn Trail Center on April 15-16. The workshop is intended primarily for those chainsaw operators who would operate outside of the SNP and the national forests. This class is filled, but there is a waiting list.

### SNP South Blue Blaze

On the past three monthly worktrips, crews from the Charlottesville Chapter have cut blowdowns on blue blazed trails in the South District of SNP in areas with extensive dead oaks that continually fall across the trails. In late October a crew cut blowdowns on the Trayfoot Mountain Trail between Blackrock and the Summit. In early December a crew returned to the same portion of the Trayfoot Mountain Trail with a two-person crosscut saw to take out several large blowdowns that the October crew had left, leaving it blowdown free—for the moment. On January 15, a crew cut innumerable blowdowns on the Rocky Mountain-Brown Mountain Trail between Skyline Drive and the overlook on the first summit of Rocky Mountain. All of these blowdowns occurred since the end of September. On these worktrips other crews worked on the Furnace Mountain Trail and the AT between McCormick and Rockfish Gaps.

### Modern Miners

With intense study of global weather patterns and the waning El Niño effect, the Massanutten Crew correctly predicted balmy temperatures on January 8th. A dozen of us met in Edith Gap on Massanutten's east ridge, admired the view of the Blue Ridge on the horizon, then descended into Crisman Hollow. We transformed the upper end of the

Camp Roosevelt section of the Massanutten East Trail.

The trail was littered with large rocks and closing in with brush. We got the brushing done, moved most of the rocks off the trail, and built tread around the immovable ones. A couple of very large rocks with seams were left for a later trip with a big sledge.

We paused on the way out to admire the 150-year old work of earlier trail builders, by walking into a deep pit mine dug by miners that were supplying iron ore to Caroline Furnace. Our modern trail runs across the flat top of the tailings dump and then circles back to descend across the face of the tailings. The smooth tread at the top of the tailings and the sidehill tread that is cut into the soft face of the tailings is in marked contrast to the rough tread on an otherwise steep and rocky mountain slope.

### Blue And White Restart

Kerry Snow says the Blue and White Crew will start their 2000 season on March 25-26th at the Rock Spring Cabin. Also, the 2nd Annual SNP Central District Workshop is scheduled June 3-4 at the Pinnacles Research Station (watch for details in the *PA*).

### Trail Crew to End Winter Hiatus

The Rock Creek Park/D.C. trail crew will begin year 2000 worktrips in April this year, with the first coming on Saturday, April 8. The work trip season runs until October, and National Park Service Ranger Ken Ferebee, who coordinates the trips, reports he has a number of trail tread projects in mind for the coming year. Among the projects is also a reroute of the Pinehurst Branch trail where the like-named creek it follows has asserted its dominance. Winter weather and high winds have also had an impact on the trails, requiring overseers to get out extra early to get the trails in shape for the year. As always, the crew meets at 8:15 on Saturday mornings at the Rock Creek Nature Center and works until noon. It is the best free aerobic exercise session available in D.C. We take all comers and try to keep all hands busy.

### Tower Power

The Rock Creek Park cellular tower dispute over Bell Atlantic's plan to place two towers in the Park ended late last year when a re-

## Trailhead

gional governing body that has final say over federal parkland relented to the telecommunications company's persistent efforts. Construction on the towers was quietly underway by the beginning of 2000. Bell Atlantic's proposal was opposed by a number of community groups and the D.C. government. Bell Atlantic enlisted the help of Congress by getting Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-SD) to attach legislation to a must-pass budget bill that demanded the towers be allowed despite local opposition.

### North Chapter Reports

Charles Irvin reports the PATC North Chapter had a very busy 1999, and it looks like 2000 will be just as busy. This past year, all but one of the district AT shelters were stained and some shelters received needed repairs. A highlight of the year was bridge work on the AT which included building a new bridge and rebuilding another plus tread work on bridge approaches. Several trail relocations to avoid rocky areas on the Tuscarora Trail were completed including a series of switchbacks at Cowans Gap.

One of the coming year's projects involves

putting up signs on the AT near PenMar that describe local trail history. The chapter will continue to work on reopening the old AT out of Caledonia State Park. When completed this project will create a ten-mile circuit hike. This year's major project for the Tuscarora Trail is a new shelter. Just clearing blowdowns on the 185 miles of the Tuscarora trail is an annual project in itself says Charles.

### Eager Beaver Circuit Hike

Here's something different for a day hike using PATC Map F. Ascend the Peer Trail in Wilsons Cove and turn left when it meets the Tuscarora Trail near the top of Sugar Knob. After descending into Racer Camp Hollow take Racer Camp Hollow Trail to the left (blazed orange). It will come to the end of Forest Service Road 371C. Follow the blazed road approximately one half mile to the intersection with the Old Mail Path Trail (blazed pink)—this trail is labeled Paddy Mountain Trail on some maps. Turn left onto the Old Mail Path Trail. At the point this trail crosses Cove Run, some really eager beaver builders have created a huge dam of twigs, sticks, mud and leaves impounding an estimated third acre of water. Con-

tinue on the trail to the Forest Service Road, 371C again. Turn left, follow the road through the locked gate, and return to your car.

An alternate route is to follow the Tuscarora Trail from the top of Sugar Knob to the saddle between Little Sluice Mountain and Paddy Mountain. Turn left on the pink blazed trail and descend along the west side of Paddy Mountain to the FSR. Continue as above.

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



*PATC member Randy Rupp, snowshoing during the late January Storm.*



Photos by John Luck

## Volunteers - Appointed February 7, 2000

### Trail Overseers

Sybille & Richard Stromberg  
Laura & Jim Douglass  
Kristi Smedley & Will Olson

David Farinholt  
Dick & Nancy Batiste  
Linda Witkin & Michael Cohn  
William Jayne

Dickey Ridge Trail - Low Gap to AT  
Hot Mountain - Short Mountain Trail  
BROT - Wolf Run Shoals Road to  
Fountain Head Park  
Upper Pass Mountain Trail  
Pocosin Hollow Trail  
Salamander Trail  
Rose River Loop Trail

Bill Spach  
Robert & Lauren Dern [co-overseer]  
Patrick & Ulrike Wilson  
Tim Hupp  
John B. Godfrey [co-overseer]

AT - Fisher Gap to Big Meadows Amphitheater  
AT - Beagle Gap to McCormick Gap  
Upper Buck Hollow Trail  
Rocky Mt - Brown Mt. Trail  
Holly Trail  
Pine Trail  
Whittier Trail

### Shelter Overseers

Larry Hodapp  
Rick Bruckschen

Bearfence Hut - SNP  
Boone Run Shelter - GWNF

# TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings February 7, 2000. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

**SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZE ( Map #9)**  
[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876 or  
E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]

**Big Devil Stairs Trail (co-overseer)**  
Bluff Trail to Harris Hollow Trail [2.30 miles]

**SHENANDOAH CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (Map #10)**  
[CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388  
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com]

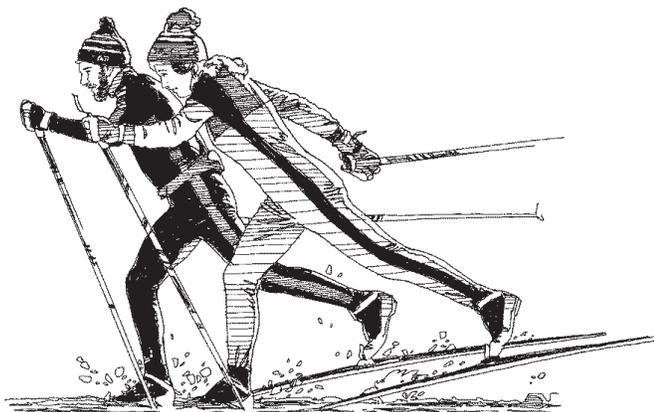
**Bettys Rock Trail**  
Overlook to Rocky Outcrop [.30 miles]  
**Millers Head Trail**  
AT to Millers Head [.80 miles]

**GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN (Map # F)**  
[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177  
or E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com]

**White Rock Trail**  
Tuscarora Trail to White Rock Cliff [0.20 mile]  
**Gerhard Shelter Trail**  
Tuscarora Trail to Gerhard Shelter [0.10 miles]

**MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)**  
[CALL WIL KOHLBRENNER at 540/477-2971  
or E-mail: wmaxk@shentel.net]  
[Massanutten North District Manager]  
**Massanutten Mt. East Trail**  
Habron Gap to Kennedy Peak Trail [3.60 miles]

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)**  
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477  
or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]  
**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]



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